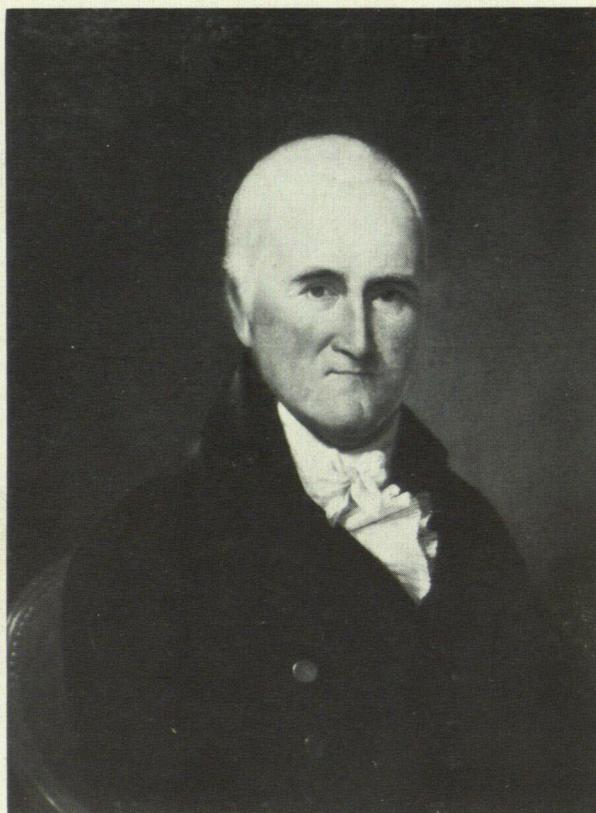


# THOMAS LEIPER

Scottish Patriot  
of the  
American Revolution



REVOLUTIONARY HERO

1745 - 1825

PORTRAIT BY REMBRANDT PEALE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY HILDA LUCAS

BICENTENNIAL EDITION

1976

# THOMAS LEIPER

Revolutionary war hero, inventor, builder of first permanent railway in America, instrumental in construction of one of the earliest canals, Presidential Elector in 1809, Member of Philadelphia Common Council and eventually its President.

DECEMBER 15, 1745 – JULY 6, 1825

No. 499

*John Ashhurst Leiper*

by

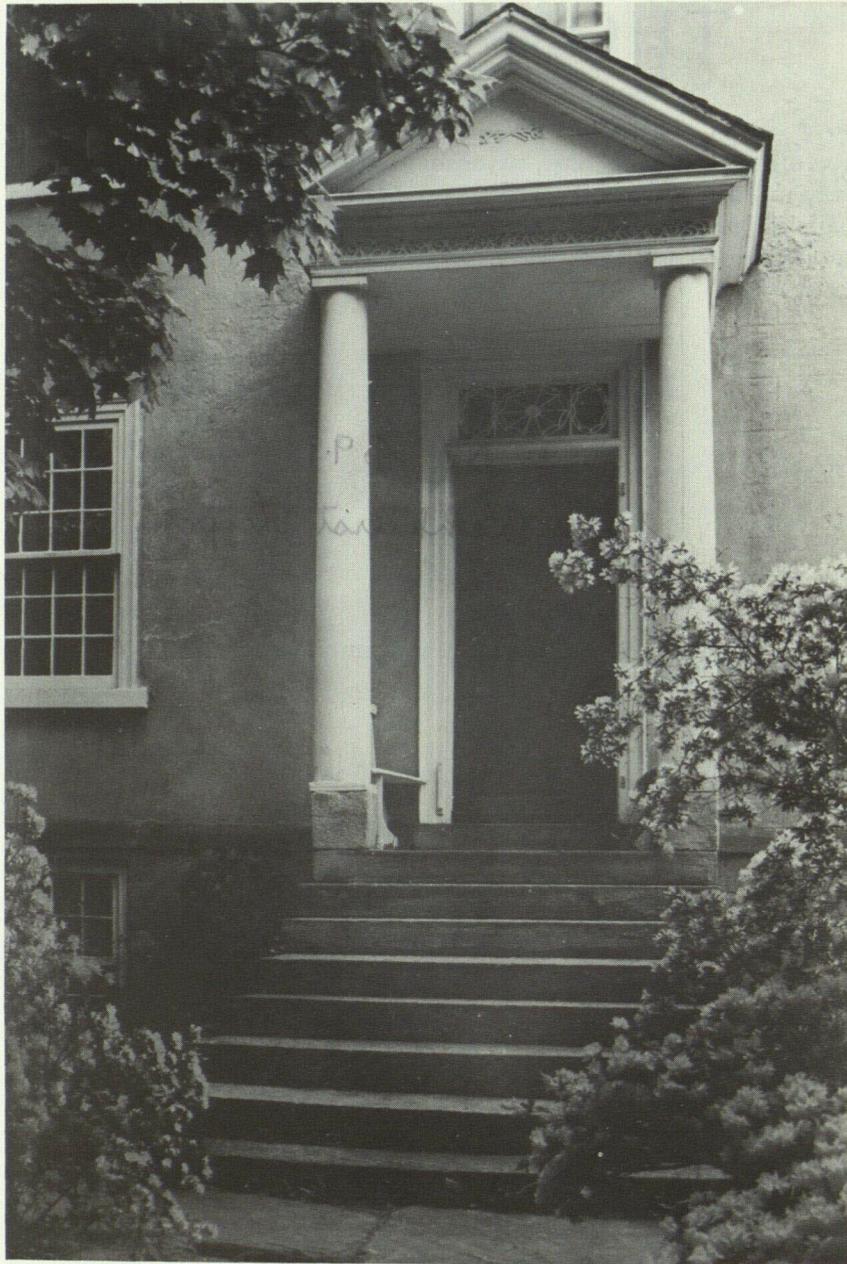
JOHN ASHHURST LEIPER  
Great Great Grandson



Published by  
Historic Delaware County, Inc.  
Wallingford, PA 19086



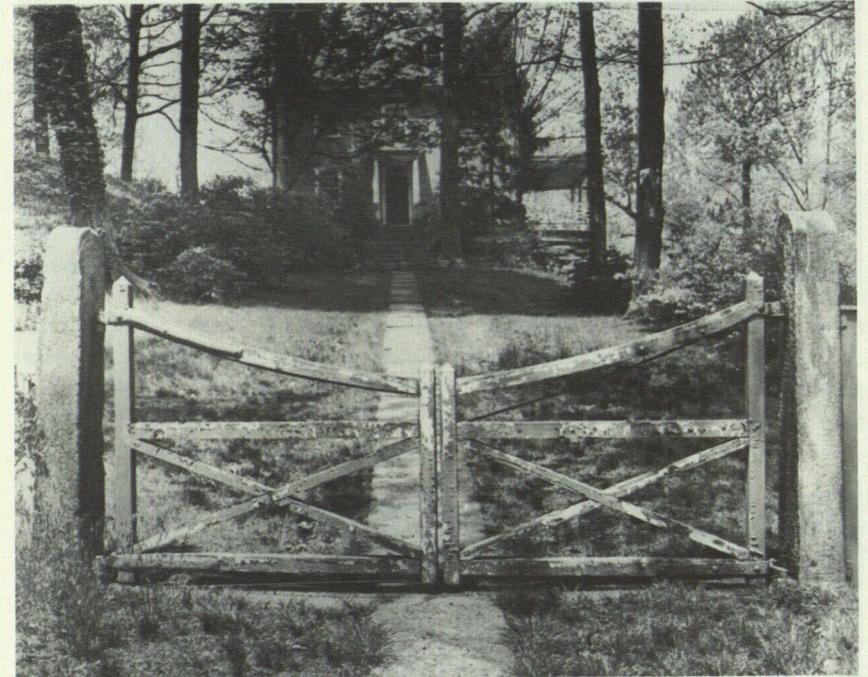
Printed by  
Graphic Arts Department  
of  
The Church Farm School  
Glen Loch, Pennsylvania  
1976



*Historic Doorway to Thomas Leiper House*  
 Home of Scottish Patriot has what Wallace Nutting claimed to be the most beautiful doorway in Delaware County. Over the portico is a wooden ornament of tobacco leaves. The pavement at either side of the front stone steps is of marble brought to America in one of Leiper's ships.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Historic Delaware County, Inc., expresses its gratitude to the many sources that furnished the material for this booklet, without which it could not be authentic. Much of the data was obtained from a feature article that appeared in the North American Newspaper in 1912, by Frank Willing Leach. The names of all other sources appear appropriately throughout the context of the current booklet, Thomas Leiper, Revolutionary Hero.



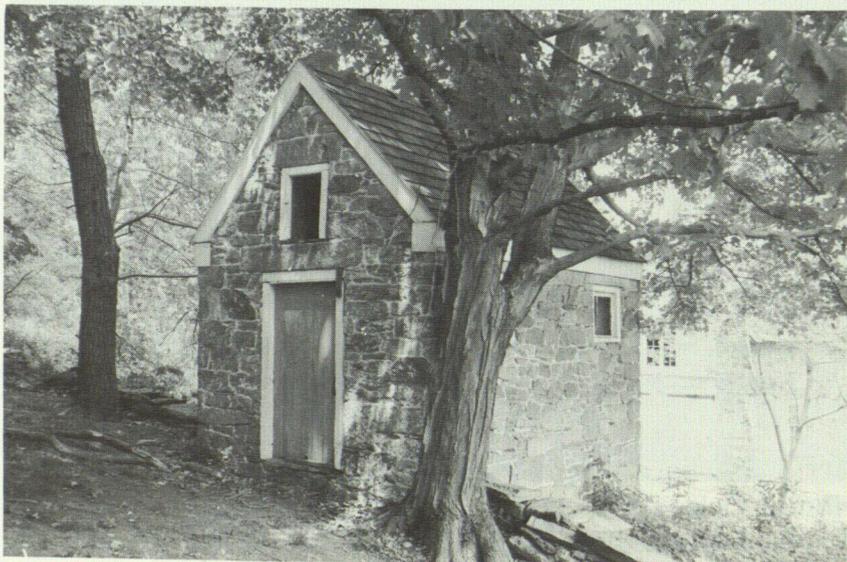
*Entrance gates to the Thomas Leiper House*  
 The gates are supported by heavy posts of granite from the Leiper quarries. They automatically close in perfect alignment after a visitor passes through.

The proceeds from the sale of this booklet will be used by Historic Delaware County, Inc. toward the restoration of the 1785 Thomas Leiper House, "Strathaven Hall," Avondale Road, Wallingford, Pennsylvania, 19086.



*First Private Bank in America*

*Here Thomas Leiper paid some of his employees. Built of Leiper granite, the building has twenty-inch stone walls and narrow four-inch windows for gun protection and to keep would-be intruders out.*



*"The Necessary"*

*Front entrance, used by members of the family. The building is of Leiper granite from quarries on the place.*

## F O R E W O R D

This booklet, sponsored by Historic Delaware County, Inc., is intended to cover only the highlights of the life of Thomas Leiper, who had a long and illustrious public and private career.

Emigrating to America from Scotland in 1763, when he was an orphan and only 18, Leiper soon established himself as a Philadelphia merchant in the tobacco and snuff business, from which he amassed a fortune before the Revolutionary War.

He was one of the first to advocate a rupture with England and contributed 5,000 pounds from his personal funds to help sustain the Revolution.

He also helped organize the First City Troop, Philadelphia Cavalry and took part in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth.

Thomas Leiper was a friend of Thomas Jefferson and like Jefferson he was an inventor. In 1776 he bought his first land, a colonial plantation, in Nether Providence Township, Chester now Delaware County, Pennsylvania and established two snuff mills there. Four years later he bought adjoining stone quarries, from which he shipped granite up and down the entire Eastern Seaboard.

Leiper's move from the city to the country and entry into the quarry business inspired him to introduce a machine to break and grind oyster shells, saw stones, thresh grain and make cider. His outstanding contribution in that period and ours was building the first practical railroad in America. It carried the stone down Crum Creek to his landing at tidewater on Ridley Creek, whence it was shipped in sloops to various points of destination. Later he was instrumental in construction of one of the earliest canals.

Subsequent to his establishing his snuff mills and quarries, Leiper built his country home in Avondale, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, though still and always maintaining a residence in Philadelphia. There are two false windows for esthetic balance in the country house and a strange feature in the basement, leading to speculation. Was he the architect?

Thomas Leiper was a presidential elector in 1809, a founder of the Bank of North America and he subscribed \$100,000 to the stock of various canals and turnpikes in Pennsylvania, "when he hardly could hope for a return."

He never took pay for positions he held in public life.

Henry Simpson, long deceased, who was a member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, says in his book, "The lives of Eminent Philadelphians Now Deceased," 1859:

"History may be written in the biographies of two classes of men: Those whose times make, and those who make their own time. To this latter rarer class belongs Thomas Leiper."



*Mill Workers Cottages*

*The building with three doorways and three chimneys had accommodations for three families in the front and three families in the rear. The building (right foreground) only partially seen had accommodations for two families in front and two families in the rear.*



*Side View Showing Addition of the Thomas Leiper House  
The feature of this view is the double chimney construction on the right side of the roofline, with the inclusion of a room of adequate size as seen by the 16-pane glass window.*

THOMAS LEIPER  
Scottish Patriot  
of the  
American Revolution

On a bright, sunny day in September, 1809, a crowd of local townspeople had gathered in the large yard of the Bull's Head Tavern, Third Street above Callowhill, in the Northern Liberties, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Some citizens were there merely out of curiosity; others for a specific purpose of great significance to the City of Philadelphia and the nation.

Thomas Leiper, distinguished patriot, soldier and financial backer of the American Revolution, was about to test his experimental railroad, the first successful one in the United States.

He believed it would revolutionize the transportation of heavy burdens and also would be an economical and valuable substitute for canals.

Under the direction of a millwright named Somerville, from Scotland, workmen were putting the finishing touches to construction of the experiment.

As described in the Aurora of September 27, 1809, it consisted of "two parallel courses of oak scantling, four feet apart, supported on blocks of wood or sleepers eight feet from each other." It extended the length of the tavern yard, about 65 feet.

The objective was to see if a single horse, under the handicap of a path of loose earth to walk upon and an ascent of one and one-half inches in every three feet, could haul up a four-wheeled wagon loaded with "95½ hundred weight, or 10,696 pounds."

There to judge and certify success or failure of the experiment, were Professor Robert Patterson, of the University of Pennsylvania; Callender Irvine, superintendent of the U. S. Mint; and John Glenn, agent for Thomas Leiper.

With the last hammer blows of construction, a hushed lull replaced the babble of voices of the townspeople.

The silence was only momentary. When the horse chosen for the ordeal was led out and hitched to the wagon, voices no longer remained silent. People began placing bets with one another.

"Two to one he'll never make it," said one burly chap, referring to the "nag," not to Thomas Leiper, who was held in great esteem by his fellow townsmen.

"I'll take you up on that wager," said a somewhat emaciated young man eagerly. Many other citizens placed bets and put up money.

Now the moment of truth had come. Failure or success? The

horse and the judges would decide that. Thomas Leiper was a man of such principle that he would not rely on his judgment alone in a matter of importance.

The horse, touched gently with the whip and given the command "Get up" from the driver, strained on the traces to no avail.

With another prod from the driver, horse and wagon began to move the tremendous load slowly up the incline, gaining increasing momentum.

This successful turn of events brought forth shouts of acclaim from the townspeople. "Hurrah! Hurrah!" they shouted.

The novel experiment of Thomas Leiper was now a great success, as attested to by the U. S. Gazette of September 29, 1809, which said:

"Nor can we close this brief notice of an interesting work without paying a merited tribute of applause to the patriotic enterprise of the gentleman who has been the first in America to engage in it and we hope he may derive as much advantage from it as such an example to the public fully entitles him to."

Thomas Leiper was motivated by the fact he owned quarries in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, from which he shipped stone to points along the Atlantic Seaboard.

In the Aurora of September 27, 1809, Leiper and his son, George Gray Leiper, who later became a distinguished Delaware County judge, invited proposals for contracts "for digging part of a railroad from our quarries on Crum Creek to our landing in Ridley, Delaware County, Pennsylvania."

The distance and level, ascertained by Reading Howell, was "exactly three-quarters of a mile."

The advertisement also declared an accurate statement of the quantity of digging required could be seen from the plot in Leiper's possession calculated by Mr. Howell.

Leiper said he wished to contract for the making and laying the rail part of the same, consisting of wood, a specimen of which, as furnished by Messrs. Large and Winpenny, could be seen by applying to them at their manufactory, adjoining the Bull's Head in Second Street, in the Northern Liberties.

"The scantling for the same will be furnished on the ground -- I wish to progress in this work immediately."

For more particular information he directed bidders to apply to George G. Leiper, on the premises, or to Thomas Leiper, Tobacconist, No. 374 High Street.

The wording of the document dispels any notion that Thomas Leiper used stone for rails on his three-quarter mile railway, as he distinctly specified "wood" for the "rail part."

John Bryce got the contract. He advertised in the Aurora for

laborers, saying the work would be "a very easy process," since he had the use of three oxen and they would plow from 10 to 15 inches deep. Therefore nothing but shovels would be required for three-fourths of the way.

The track was built and Leiper stone was carried over the wooden rails to Ridley Creek tidewater where the stone was loaded on sloops and taken downstream to the Delaware River and out to sea. Oxen, instead of horses, were used to pull the wagons.

Many public and private buildings -- banks, insurance companies, schools and colleges, etc. -- now dot the Atlantic Seaboard, reminders they were built of Leiper stone, a form of granite.

The stone, in the Philadelphia area, may be seen at Fort Delaware, Girard College, Swarthmore College and the Chestnut Street Bridge over the Schuylkill River. The old Pennsylvania Railroad's "Chinese Wall" that used to run along Market Street was built with Leiper stone, and miles and miles of it were used in construction of curbstones along city streets.

Thus was created and put to practical use the first permanent railway in America. The only other attempt up to this point was a short piece of track constructed in Boston in 1807 by Silas Whitney, but it was only a "temporary affair used in the grading of Charles Street."

A Historic Site survey made by the WPA in 1935, now in the possession of Delaware County Historical Society, Wolfgram Memorial Library of Widener College, Chester, Pennsylvania, says the Leiper railroad "was laid in a loop form, one side for the ascent and the other side for the descent. The wheels were made of cast iron with flanges and the ascents were graded inclined planes. The superstructure was of white oak, with white oak cross ties and leather strips."

The Historical Society also possesses numerous receipted bills of lading of early vintage for shiploads of Leiper stone, with the names of the sloops on which the stone was shipped. They had been saved by members of the family, including the late Miss Margaret Dale Leiper.

Thomas Leiper was of Scottish ancestry. The Session Book of Avondale, Scotland, states he was born December 15, 1745, at Strathaven, parish of Avondale, shire of Clydesdale, Lanark, Scotland.

According to family tradition the founder of the clan in Scotland was a French officer who crossed the channel in the suite of Mary, Queen of Scots, when she landed at Leith, August 19, 1561. He is said to have taken up his residence in Lanark.

Though such may have been their origin, the Leipers absorbed in their new environment all the essential elements of the Scottish

character and in time became true sons and daughters of St. Andrew, with all the dominant characteristics which individualized the denizens of that rugged country.

The father of the American emigrant, Thomas Leiper, was also Thomas Leiper - - or as some authorities give his name, Andrew (his middle name) Leiper - - who, in the early part of the 18th century, was living at Strathaven, in Clydesdale.

By his wife, Helen Hamilton, a daughter of Hamilton of Kype and a great-granddaughter of John Hamilton, of Stanehouse, he had three other sons and two daughters. The Hamiltons comprised one of the most notable, distinguished houses of Scotland. Certain members had played major roles in the history of that country.

With such a background the younger Thomas Leiper, whose brothers, James and Andrew had emigrated to America, was well equipped to venture forth into the new world.

He had been educated at the best schools of Glasgow and Edinburgh, his father having designed that his son should enter the ministry. This purpose, however, was not shared by the young man. In 1763, an orphan of 18, he determined to follow his next older brother to America and there seek his fortune, his oldest brother Robert having inherited the parental Scottish estate.

In his own words Thomas Leiper set forth this eventful change in his life as follows:

"I sailed from Scotland in April 1763, landed in Maryland in June, went to Port Tobacco and resided as assistant in Mr. John Semple's store. But in the fall was compelled by the fever and the ague to go to Ocoquan, but fever and ague remained with me the whole winter. In the spring took up my line of march for Frederick County where the fever and ague left me without the assistance of medicine. From Frederick in the spring of 1765 went to Philadelphia and have remained ever since."

Leiper's residence in Maryland where, as in Virginia, the chief staple produced was tobacco, naturally led him to identify himself with that industry. Upon his arrival in Philadelphia, then the commercial center of the American colonies, he established himself in that line of business.

With his cousin, Gavin Hamilton, who was largely engaged in the exporting of tobacco and other staples, the two men opened a Tobacco Manufactory and warehouse at "Mr. Bartram's Stone Building between the Head of Front and Second Streets, by the new Market Place."

They also opened a shop on the east side of Second Street between Market and Arch Streets, nearly opposite the Baptist Meeting House.

On August 8th, 1765, they advertised in the Pennsylvania Gazette

that they would sell both wholesale and retail, that the quality of the tobacco and workmanship would upon trial be found equal to any manufactured in Great Britain, and that they intended to manufacture snuff, Rappee, and out of their several kinds, Tobacco as the Nature of the Benefits would admit of it.

This partnership was dissolved in a few years, however, and Leiper went into business for himself.

Meanwhile Leiper and Thomas Jefferson, later author of the Declaration of Independence, had developed a close and warm friendship. Each admired the other and each admired the integrity of the other. They had had happy business relations with each other.

Jefferson grew tobacco, which Leiper bought to make snuff and Leiper later rented a house in Philadelphia to Jefferson when he was Secretary of State.

Recognizing the advantage of a home manufacturer of tobacco goods over the exportation of crude material, Leiper opened mills for the manufacture of snuff and other tobacco commodities and in the years intervening between his arrival in Philadelphia and the breaking out of hostilities with Great Britain he had amassed a considerable fortune.

Before the Revolution, the principal tobacco house having been interdicted, Leiper seized the opportunity to push his enterprise and soon became the principal factor in the Philadelphia tobacco trade.

The first U. S. Census, published in 1790, lists Thomas Leiper as "head of a household of 7 free white males, of 16 years and upwards; 3 free white males under 16 and 5 free white females, living in a house on the east side of N. Water Street, between Market and Race."

Abraham Ritter, in his "Philadelphia and Her Merchants, Water Street - - Market to Arch," some years later wrote:

"Our old familiar citizen, Thomas Leiper, in the year 1795, found himself at home at 9 North Water Street, next above Messrs. Bohlen (Bohl Bohlen, a Hollander, and his brother John, first importers of Wessep's Anchor Gin, then 7 North Water Street)."

Ritter pointed out that Leiper was an eminent tobacconist, subsequently on the south side of Market Street above Eighth Street, where the statue of a Scotch Laddie at the door, in the act of taking a pinch of snuff, silently and significantly, announced the sale of snuff, tobacco and cigars within.

The proprietor, he said, was known in his *sortie* by his measured and independent gait and his fanciful neck gear of a red bandanna handkerchief, drawn around from the back of his neck, folding the ends under his vest, showing the red border, and ever and anon

signalizing Thomas Leiper; "which permit me to say was not without its effect upon his very respectable appearance."

The property referred to by the "First Census" and by Ritter as Leiper's home was "a large and expensively built house and at least a part of his business (dock, warehouse, shop)" according to Thomas Leiper Kane, a grandson, long since deceased, who remembered seeing it.

Leiper's patriotism kept pace with his energy and sagacity as a merchant. During the Revolutionary period he was always a vigorous advocate of national independence. His services, both military and civil, were of a distinguished character. He was always found a leader in the advancement of the cause to which he had concentrated his best energies.

At the start of hostilities he and twenty-seven other patriotic young men met in Carpenter's Hall, Nov. 17, 1774, and organized the famous Light Horse of the City of Philadelphia, still in existence though now known as First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry.

Leiper was made First Sergeant of this historic command, a post he held for twenty years. In 1794, when the Whiskey Insurrection called the Troop into active service, he was advanced to Second Lieutenant. Moreover, he was treasurer during those two decades.

The Light Horse, even when not in actual service in the field, was frequently called upon for special duty, such as receiving the Commander-in-Chief, General Washington, upon his visits to Philadelphia and in providing escorts when large sums of government money was transferred.

In connection with "special duty" service Leiper collected a fund for open resistance to the Crown. During the Revolutionary War he was engaged in action in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth and along with Robert Morris, known as the financier of the Revolution, gave a large sum of money to further the patriotic cause.

Leiper's service in the Revolution prompted Henry Simpson to write of him in *The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians Now Deceased* as follows:

"He (Leiper) belonged to the same set of 'Scotch Faction' as the lamented (Hugh) Mercer by whose side he was when the general was shot down at Princeton and he naturally favored the nomination of Colonel Innes to Command of the Continental forces.

"But after the appointment was conferred on Washington, that great man could not boast through all the army a more sincere and zealous or more unwavering friend."

When the Revolutionary War appeared inevitable, no one locally knew too well how to make saltpeter or niter mix with stubble and sulphur to make gunpowder, then sorely needed.

Scharf & Westcott's History of Philadelphia states: "Ammunition and arms were still deficient in supply (1776) and far below the urgent demands for them. The Secret Committee of Congress bargained to pay Oswald Eve and George Loesch to manufacture gunpowder for them at eight dollars per hundred weight, Congress supplying the nitre."

A premium was offered for saltpeter and instructions published in regard to the methods of manufacturing it from offal, manure, tobacco, etc.

A committee was appointed to superintend a public saltpeter factory set up in a house on Market Street (then High Street). Its members were Owen Biddle, George Clymer, John Allen, James Mease, Lambert Cadwalader and Benjamin Rush.

"Thomas Paine made many experiments toward improving and facilitating saltpeter manufacture and so did many other individuals in a private way - - "including Master Samuel Bryan, aged 13, who made half a pound of saltpeter."

Ground-up charred dogwood was one of the best forms of stubble used in early times to make gunpowder. Willow and alder also were sometimes used.

Powders made from dogwood charcoal were preferred because they burned more rapidly than powders from willow and alder charcoal.

It was at this early period when the Revolutionary War seemed almost a certainty that Thomas Leiper converted certain of his mills into powder factories.

Out of eight factories the Committee of Safety of the First Continental Congress advised be converted to powder mills and bullet factories, five belonged to Thomas Leiper.

One was at Manayunk, one at Falls of Schuylkill, three on Crum Creek, Lower (now Nether) Providence township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, where Leiper owned snuff mills.

Ashmead, in his History of Delaware County, describes the location of the mills without mentioning Leiper's name, but otherwise identifying Leiper by his Number 5, 1st Sergeant and Treasurer of the First City Troop of Light Horse, Washington's bodyguard."

Lead also was scarce. Leaden weights in the standing clocks of Germantown were finally appropriated, as were lead pipes from many houses in the city.

Leiper was one of the first men in Pennsylvania to advocate a rupture with the mother country. While the Declaration of Independence was still only heard of in whispers, Leiper had raised a fund for open resistance to the Crown. It was also his fortune to be one of the last to lay down his arms.

The autumn and winter of 1776 was perhaps the most gloomy

and desperate period of the Revolution; desertions from the army were constant and alarming, whilst disaffection was rife amongst certain classes of people, so states the official record of the First Troop Philadelphia Cavalry.

Fort Washington, with 2500 men had been captured, and Fort Lee abandoned with its valuable military stores; Washington driven from Long Island, and New York in possession of the British forces who were threatening Philadelphia.

The American army, reduced in number by capture and desertion, was at this time without regular cavalry and but partially provided with artillery; was deficient in transportation and without tents, tools, or camp equipage; the men were half clothed, debilitated, by disease, disheartened by misfortune and wearied by constant marching and fighting.

Under such circumstances Washington determined to retreat slowly through New Jersey and place himself at the Pennsylvania shore of the Delaware River.

Leiper was at both Princeton and Monmouth during the winter of 1776 - 77.

In January 1777, fresh from the victories on Christmas Day at Princeton that halted the disastrous series of 1776 losses, Washington's army moved into Morristown.

There behind the curving North Jersey ridge that would shield an army when troops traveled on foot and horseback, they spent the winter.

Washington stayed in Colonel Jacob Arnold's tavern.

In the 1776 retreat from Princeton the Troop, under the immediate direction of the Commander-in-Chief, was ordered to cover the rear of the army, a "highly honorable and responsible duty." It was the last to cross (the Delaware River into Pennsylvania) and was so closely pressed by the enemy's vanguard, that the latter reached the river before the Troop had effected a landing on the opposite shore.

Washington's headquarters were removed to Newtown. The Troop also was quartered there, "its members daily employed by the Commander-in-Chief in such services as naturally developed upon such a command."

December 25th, the Troop re-crossed the river with Washington, at McKonkey's ferry, about eight miles above Trenton.

The passage was made "difficult and dangerous by storm, darkness and floating ice," and the boats upon which the Troop had embarked, "not being able to reach the shore, the men were compelled to take to the water and force a passage, amid the floating ice, with their horses."

A reconnaissance by the Troop a few days previous to this, had

led the country people to suspect that the Hessians were to be attacked shortly. The Hessian commander was so advised.

Actually, an attack did take place, but it was one that was not ordered by Washington. It was a night attack upon Hessian outposts by a company of Virginia troops under command of Captain Anderson:

This attack having been met, the confident Germans were lulled into fancied security. The American army was unable to reach Trenton during the night as intended and the enemy, exhausted by their Christmas revels and watching, retired "leaving only a few pickets on guard."

When broad daylight came, the slumber of the Hessians had been undisturbed, their patrols reported "all quiet" and the night watch had turned in, leaving sentinels at their several posts, to retain communication between the right wing and the left.

"The storm beat violently in the face of the Americans, the men were stiff from cold and a continuous march of 15 miles, but now when the time of attack came, they thought of nothing but victory."

Marching in two columns, the right under General Sullivan, by the river road, the left under the Commander-in-Chief, Washington, by the Pennington road, the army reached Trenton at eight o'clock and the attack was made simultaneously.

The Troop was attached to the head of the column under Washington and, acting as his bodyguard, had the satisfaction of witnessing the surrender of the Hessian force.

After the battle the main body of the army recrossed the river with the prisoners and munitions captured. The Troop remained on the Jersey side to patrol the river and the Pennington roads, until dark, and then crossed the river into Pennsylvania, under cover of night, with or without their horses as they might be able.

On December 30, Washington recrossed the Delaware at the head of his army and occupied Trenton.

December 31, Colonel Joseph Reed, Adjutant General, was sent with an escort of twelve members of the Troop, one of whom was Thomas Leiper, to reconnoitre the enemy, "of whose exact strength and position Washington was ignorant." The mission was fruitful. The detachment examined the country around Princeton, captured a foraging party and their wagon train, without loss.

The information about the enemy, gleaned from the prisoners, was of great importance and led to the brilliant victory at Princeton and Morristown.

The gorgets or breastplates captured with the British officers on this occasion (Princeton reconnaissance) "were worn in 1824 by William J. Leiper and John Lardner, sons of the original members, on the occasion of the reception of General Lafayette and are now in the possession of the Troop."

When this Troop's term of service expired January 23, 1777, Washington gave them a discharge over his own signature, saying he took the opportunity of returning his most sincere thanks to them for their essential service to the country and to him personally during a severe campaign.

"Though composed of gentlemen of fortune," he said, "they have shown a noble example of discipline and subordination and in several actions have shown a spirit and bravery which will ever do honor to them and will ever be gratefully remembered by me."

Samuel Morris was Captain of the Troop; Joseph Budden, second lieutenant; John Dunlap, cornet and Thomas Leiper, first sergeant.

Washington's discharge by no means meant that the Troop would not see further action - - action carefully documented by the History of the Troop from its organization to the centennial anniversary November 17, 1874.

In the preliminary movements before the Battle of the Brandywine, September 11, 1777, Washington was perplexed in ascertaining the enemy's movements.

This remained the case until about two o'clock in the afternoon of the day before the battle, when a party of the Troop, which had been out all day reconnoitering and skirmishing with the enemy's advance, reported to Head-quarters that Cornwallis had formed a junction with Knyphausen with the evident intention of crossing the Brandywine Creek above the advancing and in two columns on Washington's right.

To meet the emergency the Commander-in-Chief took post upon the high ground north of the creek above "Chad's" Ford, from which position he was obliged to withdraw when the defeat of the other position of the American army was discovered.

After the battle the Troop retired with General Maxwell to Chester, where it remained until the next day as a rallying force for detached parties, and then fell back with the army to Philadelphia.

The morning of the Battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, was so dark from heavy fog that General Armstrong, who was first upon the ground with his command, could not make the attack upon the enemy with any certainty. The Troopers to recognize each other in the fight, wore a piece of white paper in front of their caps.

During the skirmishing that took place the Troop captured a Hessian Lieutenant and some prisoners. News of the retreat of the main body of the army having reached General Armstrong, he called in his forces and fell back to his former position.

On December 12, 1777, the American army went into winter quarters at Valley Forge. The Troop was then divided into detach-

ments and went to various points, where their services would be most valuable.

Part of the Troop was with General Lafayette on the 18th of May, 1778, when he displayed brilliant strategy, deceiving the enemy completely. The general, with 2500 men and eight guns, crossed the Schuylkill River and took a position on Barren Hill.

On the night of the 19th, General Grant, at the head of 5300 picked Englishmen, attempted a surprise of the Americans, when General Lafayette by sending out small parties, as if they were the heads of attacking columns, deceived his antagonist and re-crossed the Schuylkill at another Ford without loss. These tactics took the pressure off other nearby hardpressed American forces.

June 18, 1778, the British evacuated Philadelphia and General Arnold took command of the city the following day.

In retrospect the winters the American forces had to endure were almost a greater enemy than the opposing armies. Many American soldiers, their feet shorn of shoes and with blankets wrapped around them, fought bravely and valiantly for the American cause.

They got "a gill or rum a day and six and two-thirds dollars a month," but they felt victory for the American cause priceless.

General Joseph Reed, Washington's military secretary and adjutant general of the Continental army, according to Scharf & Westcott's History of Philadelphia, said the City Troop "particularly distinguished itself at Princeton," capturing double their number of dragoons.

As Treasurer of the First Troop Leiper bore the last subsidies of the French to the Americans at Yorktown.

This was a momentous period. A recasting of lines - - social, commercial and political - - followed. Many Philadelphians had been found wanting in lack of support for the American cause. The test came when Howe's army had, in September, 1777, taken possession of the city. All true patriots had abandoned Philadelphia. Only those with Tory proclivities had remained. They found themselves in an embarrassing position when the liberty-loving Americans returned in June 1778.

As a result of all this, a group supporting the American cause formed the "Patriotic Association." The members agreed "to support each other in disclosing and bringing to justice all Tories within their knowledge."

Thomas Leiper was a subscriber to the principles and declarations of the society. His signature was next to that of Thomas Paine, who later became a celebrated author, with his "Age of Reason."

Aside from his services in the field as an officer of the Light Horse, Leiper also played a prominent role in the historic "Fort

Wilson affair." Some disgruntled militiamen made a riotous attack upon the house of James Wilson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Wilson, in his capacity as a Philadelphia lawyer, defended some Tories accused of treasonable practices. A mob of militiamen, members of a command in a condition of semi-demoralization, made an attack on Wilson's house at 3d and Walnut Streets, October 4, 1779.

Wilson's friends barricaded the doorway to his home with tables, chairs and anything they could grab and before the rioters had rallied "General Joseph Reed, president of the Supreme Executive Council, made his appearance on the scene," according to a news account of the time. This is also reported in First City Troop annals.

General Reed was followed soon after by Major Lenor, the two Majors Nichols, Thomas Morris, Alexander Nesbitt, Isaac Cox and Thomas Leiper, of the Light Horse who, together with the troopers belonging to Colonel Naylor's regiment, whom they had met on the way, wheeled suddenly around Chestnut Street and charged upon and dispersed the mob.

Conditions in Philadelphia that year were more trying than at any other period of the Revolution. Scarcity of money, the practical cessation of all foreign commerce, resulting in the depletion of all food products from Abroad - - all brought poverty and sickness.

Local merchants, being characterized by a degree of sordidness scarcely ever before equaled, raised the prices of provisions to a prohibitive degree, even, locking up their stores, in anticipation of still higher prices.

A committee was formed through a public election to regulate sale of provisions, fix prices, etc. Thomas Leiper was a member of the committee, "which carried the city by a vote of 2115 to 284."

It was recognized that the existing condition of affairs was largely due to the unpopularity of the Continental and State bills of credit, about the only money then in circulation. Steps were taken later in 1779 to stop the emission of this paper currency and to raise funds by popular house-to-house subscriptions. Thomas Leiper, from the Dock ward, was a member of the committee to correct those unfavorable conditions.

In 1780 monetary conditions having improved little, such a period of demoralization prevailed that a collapse of the revolutionary cause seemed imminent. This was largely due to the money stringency and the absolute emptiness of the Continental Exchequer. Because of this Washington's army was on the point of disbandment.

Patriotic Philadelphia came to the relief of the Commander-in-Chief. The Pennsylvania Bank was organized under the leadership

of Robert Morris, its doors were opened for transaction of public business July 7, 1780, and with the fund thus subscribed the Continental Government was financed and supplies for Washington's army were forthcoming.

Thomas Leiper was one of the subscribers to this enterprise. The amount he gave was 5,000 pounds.

Another important step taken in 1780 was formation of the Whig Association, organized for the purpose of preventing all intercourse with the Tories and suspected persons. Leiper was a member of the executive committee of that organization.

With the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, the war was practically brought to an end. Leiper's activities thereafter were confined mostly to his private business.

But so active had he been in public affairs and so apt had been his equipment for public service during the Revolution that, almost until his death, he was prominently identified with current happenings, official and semi-official in their nature.

As early as 1785, Leiper had been an advocate of the proposition - - later so popular with the masses - - that Federal control should be exercised over interstate as well as international commerce.

On June 20 of that year he had participated in a public meeting at the State House to consider "means of relief from the present state of trade and manufacture" and he was placed on a committee at that time appointed "to prosecute the subject before Congress and the Legislature." Jared Ingersoll was chairman.

In 1798, Leiper organized an independent Troop Light Horse - - "The Horse of the Legion," of which he was made Major. He was motivated by two occurrences - - the threat of war with France and the uprising, against Federal authority, known as the Fries Rebellion.

Politically speaking, this period was a strenuous one, the French Revolution having precipitated an organized movement in America for the overthrow of the Federalists, the dominant party in the United States at that time.

Philadelphia, then the national capital, was the hotbed of the anti-Federalist movement and in the Quaker City the Republican party - - later known as the Democratic party - - had its birth; Thomas Jefferson being the sponsor and high priest.

Leiper soon became one of the most aggressive leaders and with William Duane, Dr. Michael Leib and other prominent Republicans (later known as Democrats) controlled events in Philadelphia for a number of years.

Subsequently, when the Federalist party was practically wiped out and the triumphant Democracy in Philadelphia was split into the McKean and the anti-McKean factions, Leiper then became a leader of the latter.

When Thomas Leiper bought 414 acres of land for his quarries, his country home and other projects in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, about 1776 he and his heirs created what in time became a self-sustaining community.

He had already established his quarries, with a few mills and workers' cottages when, in 1785, he built his Delaware county home. "Strathaven Hall," a complex of seven stone buildings on high sloping ground overlooking Avondale road and Crum Creek.

Both "Strathaven" and "Avondale" are names taken from his native heath in Scotland.

The main house, of Colonial architecture, has what Wallace Nutting claimed was the finest doorway in Delaware County.

The entrance, about five feet above the ground level, is protected from the elements by a two-column portico reached by eight stone steps, each about six feet wide. The bottom one ends with a scroll at either end, exactly like those in front of the Governor's palace at Williamsburg. Over the portico is a wooden ornament of tobacco leaves.

Built on the upper level of a grass-terraced walk, above what now is a grass-covered carriage drive, the mansion consists of three stories and a basement. One steps inside to a small reception room. The music room and large dining room in back of it open out on the porch, with chippendale railing, similar to that at Jefferson's "Monticello." A breakfast room and a large kitchen have closed-in fireplaces, the last being the walk-in variety.

Here, at "Strathaven Hall," the first nine presidents of the United States are said to have visited before, during, or after their terms of office. Here, too, Thomas Leiper entertained many other of the most successful and influential men of their time.

On the second and third floors are five bedrooms, two ancient baths and storage rooms. The basement floor, thought to have been originally an office and counting house for the snuff mills of 1779 (over which the house was later built), has two very large fireplaces and two handsome big paneled doors leading out to the driveway under the porch.

Of the original seven buildings, only the barn and old ice house no longer remain. The barn was torn down for the expressway, the old ice house at an earlier date.

The old ice house symbolized the practical thinking of Thomas Leiper, who utilized a 15-foot boulder for the rear wall. The boulder forms part of the bottom of a cliff.

The other buildings, the first private bank in America and the "necessary," or privy, are on the same upper level as the main house.

The bank building, with twenty-inch stone walls and narrow,

four-inch wide windows, built that way for rifle or gun protection and to keep any would-be intruders out, was where the workers were paid periodically.

The "necessary" is of interest, with the upper side for the family and the lower side for domestic help. Each side has four holes, with small holes for children and a partition between each side.

The two buildings on the lower level of the carriage drive are the carriage house and the smokehouse.



*The Carriage House*

*The famous actor, John Drew, vacationed in Leiper's Carriage House for parts of two summers when he was manager of the Arch Street Theatre in Philadelphia.*

With the establishment of his quarries, Leiper built snuff mills, powder mills, a wagon house, two stone barns, a log house, a log smith shop and a store. Like other American innovators he introduced much of the machinery himself - - to break and grind oyster shells, saw stones, thresh grain and make cider.

For the year 1798, Lower Providence Township records show the property, including the 414 acres, the main house, the springhouse and 14 other buildings, had a "\$9,525 Pennsylvania Direct Tax Valuation" and a "\$10,474 Revised Tax Valuation," with a notation - - "This was the highest noted in many townships."

Under what now is the Sproul Road viaduct were workmen's cottages, snuff mills and former powder mills, according to Wentworth Simmons who, for fifty-five years, was associated with the Leiper heirs in managing a water business from springs on the Leiper place.

Thomas Leiper was known as a deeply religious man, of Presbyterian faith, an indication he had absorbed in his early youth a good deal of the teachings expounded by his father.

"It's not surprising that in due course of time a building on the Leiper property would be utilized for religious purposes," Mr. Simmons said.

The Leiper family already had the Leiper Presbyterian Church, founded in Swarthmore, Pa., in 1818. Thomas Leiper was a pew holder in both First and Second Presbyterian Churches in Philadelphia, and he was the first person to institute free church pews.

"But a building already constructed on the Leiper place was utilized by making the second floor a place of worship and a Sunday School room, with an outside stairway so as not to disrupt use of the first floor as a town hall and for other purposes," Mr. Simmons said.

It was attended by quarry workers, members of their families and other workers until gradually the mills and the quarries, one by one, went out of business for one reason or another.

Thomas Leiper contributed \$100,000 in subscriptions to stock of canals and post roads in Pennsylvania, "when he could hardly hope for a return."

In 1791, eighteen years before his "first railroad," he had sought permission of the State Legislature to build a canal down Crum Creek to tidewater on Ridley Creek. His request was rejected as "visionary, ruinous to other property owners and ahead of the times," but 33 years later, in 1824, the year before his death, Leiper renewed his request and this time it was granted.

The assembly powers who earlier had thought Leiper a "chimerical Visionary," were now convinced in view of the railroad's success that the canal might have been a good idea after all.

Part of the Leiper Canal was to be the old mill race - - enlarged - - leading from McIlvain's dam to their mill which stood just below the 'Big-road' passing through the town of Ridley, (now Leiperville), according to *Martin's History of Chester*.

With permission now granted by the Legislature and Thomas Leiper being dead, George Gray Leiper revived the project and the canal was built in 1828-29, when the railroad was abandoned after eighteen years of service.

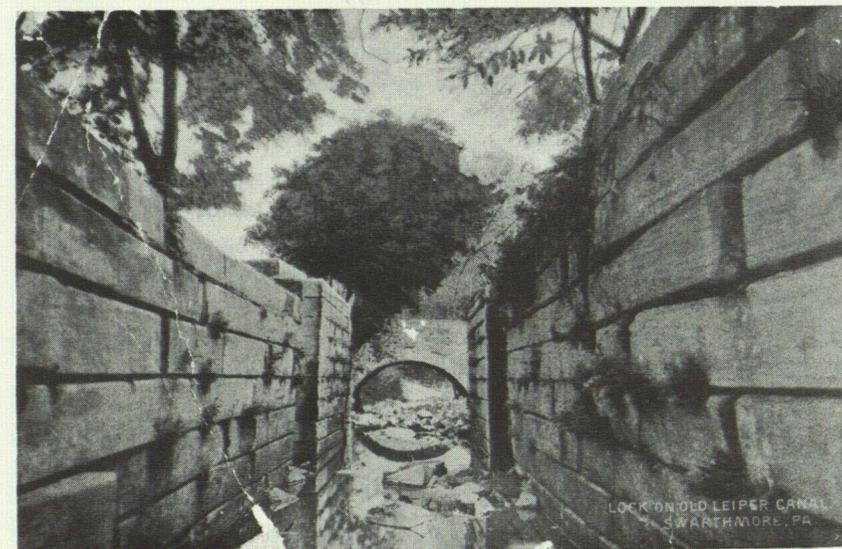
The canal had two locks, each marked by a stone. One was the Thomas Leiper lock, the other the Elizabeth Leiper lock, with their names cut in the stones. Elizabeth was then Thomas Leiper's widow.

William Strickland, celebrated architect, engineer, who later built the Delaware Breakwater, built the Leiper Canal.

The cornerstone of the first lock was laid August 16, 1828. The

event produced the following comment in the "Upland Union" newspaper, August 19, 1828:

"Amidst the group (of participants) was Mrs. Elizabeth G. Leiper, the aged and amiable consort of Thomas Leiper, who had first projected this great work. She had lived to see what was first suggested by her husband."



*Lock on the Old Leiper Canal*

*Leiper canal, completed in 1829, four years after Thomas Leiper's death, fulfilled a dream he nurtured even before he built his first railway. It was built by his oldest son, George Gray Leiper, and was used to ship stone from the Leiper quarries.*

The boat that carried the first passengers on the canal was the William Strickland, named in honor of the builder.

With the opening of the canal in 1829, the "first railroad" was abandoned, but was later re-established as a siding to the Leiper Quarry on Crum Creek, under what now is the Sproul road viaduct. The canal was in use until 1852, when it was superseded by a modern railroad.

The Thomas Leiper bronze plaque, commemorating the "first railroad," was removed from the Sproul Road bridge for safe keeping when the highway was widened about 1940.

It had been placed on the bridge in 1923 by the Delaware County Chapter, D A R at dedication ceremonies attended by Governor Sproul and members of the Leiper family. Recently, fastened on a millstone, weighing five and one-half tons, at the foot of the hill inside the gates of the Thomas Leiper House, it was rededicated by the Delaware County Chapter, D A R.

The millstone had been abandoned and was completely hidden by underbrush and a large tree coming out the square center of the millstone. Originally it was used to grind oyster shells.

In 1791 Thomas Leiper rented to Thomas Jefferson, then Secretary of State, the large four-story house, with stables, at 274 High Street, a location later changed to 806 Market Street.

Leiper had built the house and Jefferson liked it because it suited his tastes, was close to his office at 307 High Street and was near President Washington's house at 190 High Street. Besides, it was ideal for elaborate furnishings Jefferson had brought back with him from Paris. During his five years in France as Ambassador, he had accumulated six gold leaf sofas, fifty-nine chairs upholstered in blue and crimson damask, velours d'Utrecht and red morocco.

He also had numerous clocks, scientific instruments, a large collection of books and draperies which alone had cost him more than 5,000 francs. His belongings filled more than eighty large packing cases.

Jefferson remodeled the rented house to include a long gallery for his books and a large dining room, where he entertained lavishly.

Here he settled into the same kind of bachelor existence he had led before going to France. His wife, the former Martha Wayles Skelton, a widow when he married her, had been dead nearly ten years and he had never gotten over it.

It was almost as if he wouldn't be interested in having any other woman come into his life. He couldn't be, though his intimate friends thought he would marry again. Nevertheless he entertained his most intimate friends in a lavish way.

He also gave audience here to the many citizens who had personal business with him.

Because he had been Ambassador to France, Jefferson had inhibited some notions of refinement, which it may be supposed did not altogether agree with simple manners of the age, says *Sharf & Westcott's History of Philadelphia*.

Among other matters "he introduced a fashion of sleeping apartment altogether unknown to our forefathers." This was by having a recess, for a bedstead, connected with the rooms occupied for everyday business. The recess might be so closed in daytime that its use would not be suspected.

The apartment, constructed (by his landlord, Thomas Leiper) for Jefferson's use, was between the breakfast room and the library and offered a double convenience, according to the time the philosopher awoke.

If he did not "unclose his eyes until the tinkling of the bell warned him that the morning meal was ready, he could turn out at once into the breakfast-room. If, however, he awoke before the

viands were upon the table he might amuse himself in the library by looking over philosophical work and by other mental amusements."

On the south side of the house Jefferson erected a veranda, which "was very pleasant in summertime."

Being of an investigating mind, "the philosopher, while living in the house, tried a philosophical experiment, which did not come up to his theories.

"Reasoning on the fact plants may be preserved in hothouses in winter merely by the warmth of the sun striking through the glass, the sage of Monticello, arguing on the supposition that men require no more calorie than plants," tried the experiment as to whether he could do without heat in winter other than that yielded by the sun's rays, which were to be admitted by properly fitting up the south veranda (with glass).

Unfortunately for the philosopher, practical knowledge satisfied him that men who walk about are not precisely similar to plants in pots, and the experiment was declared unsuccessful.

On December 9, 1792, Jefferson wrote to his landlord, Thomas Leiper, that he would give up his Philadelphia house in three months. He had already made known he would leave office in March.

Leiper, during the War of 1812 and the preliminaries leading up to it, was as conspicuous in his patriotic devotion to duty as he had been during the Revolution and the domestic struggles of 1794 and 1798.

His personality was so strong and virile that he commanded immense respect. Lacking in height - - he was about five feet seven inches - - his stature was measured by his integrity, wisdom, alacrity and forthright manner. Of florid face, he was handsome and exuded charm.

When word reached Philadelphia in June, 1807, that the British man-of-war, "Leopard," supported by the "Meiampus" and the "Bellonia," had attacked the American ship, "Chesapeake," off the Virginia Capes, resulting in the deaths of four of the crew of the American ship and the wounding of 18, a mass-meeting was held in the "State-House Yard," Independence Square.

As a result a committee of defense was formed, with Thomas Leiper a member. That same year Leiper was appointed one of the commissioners "to sell the powder magazine at Walnut and Ashten Streets and to build one less than a mile from the city, to hold ten tons of powder, and one or more over four miles distant to hold large quantities."

Fortunately the war scare passed over, but unfortunately it returned five years later and was not so easily dispelled. Jefferson tried to stave off the war right up to the end. Madison didn't know

when, finally he gave in to the war hawks in Congress and asked for a declaration of war "that the British government had finally capitulated to the economic weapon of embargo and had revoked the order to Council."

By the time word came by slow Atlantic ships, it was too late. Had there been an Atlantic cable to carry the news there would have been no war of 1812.

Jefferson wrote to Thomas Leiper June 11, 1815 that "the continuance of the embargo for two more months would have prevented the war."

In 1813, Leiper, then President of Philadelphia Common Councils, was named by that body as one of the commissioners to cooperate with the Committee of Defense.

On August 25, 1814, came the startling news of the capture of Washington by the British. It was believed Philadelphia was the objective goal of the enemy. A mass meeting was hastily held in the State House yard, presided over by ex-Governor McKean.

A committee of Resolutions was appointed. Its members were Thomas Leiper, Jared Ingersol, Charles Biddle, John Sergeant, John Goodman, Robert McMullin and John Barker.

As a result of this meeting a "Committee of Defense" was appointed, with Charles Biddle as chairman. The other members were Thomas Leiper, Thomas Cadwalader, Manuel Eyre, John Sergeant and Joseph Reed.

Contrary to expectation, the threatened invasion of Pennsylvania did not materialize, but the Committee of Defense was kept busy for some months, with a vast amount of work being done for the anticipated visit of the British army. But it never came.

Now, with the war over and local conditions back to normal Thomas Leiper resumed his political activities, which had already included service as a member of City Council in 1801, as its president, 1802-05, and again as a member, 1808-10. During the decade following the peace settlement he was active in most of the movements of the time.

On June 12, 1823, he presided over a meeting of Democrats concerning the pending gubernatorial contest between John Andrew Shulze and Andrew Gregg. Later that year he headed the delegation chosen to attend the convention to be held at Huntingdon, Pa., to form the electoral ticket in support of Jackson for the Presidency. Leiper headed the list of nominees for the presidential elector and was duly elected the ensuing fall.

On September 28, 1824, a reception was held at the State House for Lafayette, who arrived in a barouche drawn by six cream-colored horses. It was his only trip to America following the Revolution. The First City Troop was part of the honor guard. Thomas Leiper took an active part in making the arrangements.

The following day the State Society of the Cincinnati waited upon Lafayette in Independence Hall, where Major William Jackson delivered a welcoming address.

When Andrew Jackson was first elected President the Hickory Club No. 1 held a banquet at Thomas Heiskell's Indian Queen, January 8, 1825. Leiper presided at the affair and also offered one of the toasts.

At a meeting presided over by Leiper on January 1, 1802, at the District Court room, "The Pennsylvania Improvement Co.," an organization devoted to inland communication was formed. Leiper was named a member of the committee to promote the enterprise.

Others appointed were Alexander James Dallas, Matthew Lawler, Guy Bryan, Robert Patterson, James Vanuxem and Andrew Pettit.

Leiper's railway, seven years later, and still later his canal, were the outgrowth of that meeting.

The Thomas Leiper railway is commemorated on a memorial walk of stones leading to the Old Trappe Church, at Trappe, near Collegetville, Pa. The walk was begun in 1928 to commemorate highlights of the U. S., Pennsylvania and Lutheran Church history, according to the pastor, John McConomy.

The church, actually the Augustus Lutheran Church, became a registered national historic landmark in 1968. Each stone in the church walkway is etched with a name of historic importance. The stone for the railway is from the Leiper quarry.

As early as 1767 Thomas Leiper had become a member of the St. Andrew Society, was chosen its secretary in 1773, served as an assistant vice president from 1786 to 1802 and was vice president from 1803 to 1819.

He was one of the organizers and a vice president of the Pennsylvania Society for the Protection of the Public Economy, formed in 1817; also a founder and first officer of the Franklin Institute.

What manner of a family man was Thomas Leiper?

He was kind, charitable, tender and loving (*K C T L*) - - Kind, Charitable Thomas Leiper, he well might have been called.

Perhaps no better way illustrates this point than to repeat here an incident that happened right after he was married. Thomas, then 33, had taken his 16-year old bride home on their wedding night, to his house in center city.

The evening wore on, all the servants had gone to bed and the bride began to cry.

"Thomas, I'm frightened, I want you to take me home" - - her parents' home she had just left.

Thomas said very kindly and sweetly:

"All right dear, If you feel that way I'll take you home, to your parents. I love you dearly, I want to make you happy."

He went out to the stable and hitched up the horse, ready to comply with her request. But they hadn't gone far in the carriage before Elizabeth asked him to turn back.

"I, too, love you Thomas. You are so mindful of my wishes I think I had better stay with you the rest of my life" and they lived happily ever after and had 13 children.

Thomas married Nov. 3, 1778, Elizabeth Coultas Gray, daughter of George and Martha (nee Ibbetson, or Ibison) Gray, of Gray's Ferry and Whitby Hall, Philadelphia. Of the 13 children born to Thomas Leiper and his wife, Elizabeth, three sons were named Thomas, after their father, but all three sons died in infancy.

Her father, George Gray, was a member of the Whig Party and a noted man in his day. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly from 1772 to 1775, and again, after the Revolution, when he was made speaker of that body. He also was the author of the celebrated "Treason Resolutions," of 1775, and served as a member and chairman of the Board of War, beginning with March 13, 1777.

He operated the Ferry on Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. Gray's Ferry Bridge is now where the Ferry made the crossing and is named after George Gray, who died January 22, 1800.

Mr. Gray had a summer home, known as the Yellow House, at Thornton, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. In the late summer of 1777, when the British Army began its campaign from the Elk River to Philadelphia, Mr. Gray decided to keep his wife and children at Yellow House that they might avoid the perils of war, which he believed were coming to Philadelphia.

Ironically, September of that year, the Battle of the Brandywine took place. The Yellow House is now the Thornton Market and Post Office, not far from the Brandywine Battle-field.

Elizabeth Gray Leiper's mother, Martha Coultas Gray, during the Revolution, inadvertently founded the organization known as the "Gray Ladies."

She took food, comforts and needs to captured wounded American soldiers. The demand for her voluntary services was so great she enlisted friends to help her. When she made her rounds among the wounded they welcomed her and her friends as Miss Gray and her Ladies or, as they said, "The Gray Ladies are here."

This service prompted a group of American soldiers who had been prisoners of the British to subscribe to the following tribute testimonial to Mrs. Gray after the war.

"We, the Subscribers, Officers in the American Army, now non Prisoners in Philadelphia, think it our duty in this manner to testify the obligations we are under for Mrs. Martha Gray, wife of George Gray, Esq., for her unwearied attention to the distress of the

numerous sick and wounded soldiers in confinement, supplying them at great expense with food and raiment, constantly visiting and alleviating, by her attention, their wretched condition and in every circumstance interesting herself in their behalf. As we have been Eye Witnesses to the above, we hereunto set our names:

John Hannum	Luke Marbury
Col. Chester County Militia	Co. 11th Baltimore, Md. Militia
Pers. Frazer	W. Taliaferro
Lt. Col. 5th Penn. Reg't	Virginia Battalion
O. Towler	
Major 6th Virginia Battalion."	

The following pen-picture of Thomas Leiper was drawn by a grandson, long since deceased:

"Having extensive and in many cases an intimate acquaintance with most of the leading men of the day, the house of Mr. Leiper was the abode of unostentatious hospitality. Himself temperate, almost abstemious as to diet and drink, he rejoiced to see his guests enjoying the good things of the table.

"In personal attributes he was noticeable for comeliness of countenance and grace of figure. Slightly above the medium height, with a square and compact frame and finely proportioned limbs, his appearance showed the possession of both strength and agility.

"His countenance exhibited an ample and perfectly fair forehead, dark brows, bright and thoughtful eyes of a hue between hazel and a dark blue, finely cut and expressive features, with a remarkable clear and ruddy complexion, traits combining to produce a visage indicative of intelligence, firmness and benignity.

"These peculiarities he retained to extreme age, as can be seen from the portrait which, when seventy years old, after much persuasion he consented to have taken by the late Rembrandt Peale. The manly beauty of face and form obtained for him the cognomen of the 'handsome Scotchman.'"

Thomas Leiper died July 6, 1825. His widow died August 12, 1829. They are buried in East Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where their graves are marked by an obelisk.

The issue of Thomas and Elizabeth Coultas (nee Gray) Leiper were as follows:

Thomas	Helen Hamilton
Thomas	James Gray Sproat
Martha Gray	Jane Du Val
George Gray	Ann Gray
Elizabeth Coultas	Julian Dunlap
Thomas	William Jones

Samuel McKean

Executors' Acct. of Estate of Thomas Leiper  
1825

Sales	
J. N. Hood for House No. 9 N. Water St. Nov. 1	7,600.00
E.S. Burds for 42 ft. of ground High east of 13th st. Nov. 24	5,600.00
Nov. 24 do for 1 foot & privilege of Alley back of above	600.00
Nov. 24 Chas Keen for estate on Market east of 11th st. & corner of 13th and Market, on acct. of G. G. Leiper	30,866.66

1826

Lot in Filbert east of 11th st. less \$15 for Taylor	3,735.00
Frederick Kone lot on Marble east of 11th st.	4,000.00
Stephen Girard lot on 11th south of Marble	5,600.00
Wilson Land near Steubenville, Ohio Sep 4	2,351.75
J J Janeway Land in Kingsessing Sep 5	744.00
S M Leiper House No. 276 High St. Sep 5	15,000.00
do Lot corner Filbert & Juniper St. Sep 5	5,000.00
Owen Sherriden Lot in Filbert west of 8th & stone house & lot \$1,000 Oct 2	5,100.00
Joseph Hackney on acct Warren Cty Lands	717.50

1827

Sarsfield Clarke, Feby 10, Ohio Lands	502.49
Joseph Hackney on acct sales Warren Cy Lands 10 Sep	789.75
S E Fottorall Lot corner Arch & Juniper Sts on Oct 6	8,333.33
Interest on Geo G Leiper's Bond Feby 1	618.17

1828

Joseph Hackney on acct Warren Cy Lands	325.00
Sarsfield Clark on acct Ohio Lands	178.47
County Commissioners damages at Frankford	50.00

1798 Pennsylvania Direct Tax

Thomas Leiper Lower Providence, now called Nether Providence

One dwelling house  
414 acres  
Valuation \$9525  
Revised valuation, \$10,477  
(This was much the highest noted in many townships)  
House was 36.5' x 30' of stone  
2 stories high  
22 windows  
408 lights  
It was on Springfield Road – (the road from Chester to Springfield) and in good repair. (Note that it does not say that it was new. It is said to have been built in 1785.)

1 Kitchen 30' x 17' stone  
2 stories

Springhouse 16' x 16', stone and new

OUTBUILDINGS ON PLACE

414 acres mentioned again  
Stone barn, 41' x 31'  
Stone wagon house 31' x 19'  
Stone barn 43' x 29'

Stone snuff mill 50' x 29') in good repair and on a strong stream  
Stone snuff mill 22' x 18')

Stone drying house 25' x 20'

Log House – 25' x 14', old building lately repaired

Log smith shop, 18' x 15' – old

Adjoining properties, Daniel Sharpless, Roger Dicks, John Crozer, William Pennock

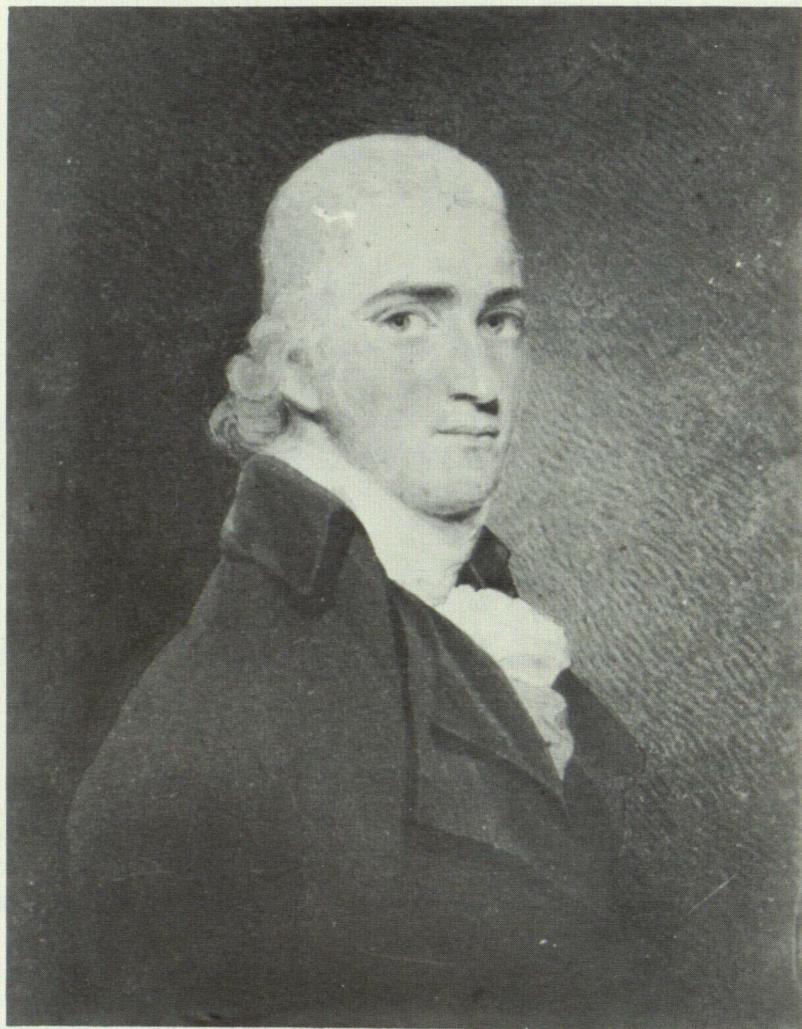
William Pennock was the assessor for part of Lower Providence and Springfield Townships. Conditions as prevailing on Oct. 1, 1798.

Other houses owned by Thomas Leiper –  
30' x 18', stone occupied by Cowpert MacCarty  
2 stories, 12 windows, 156 lights, on Springfield Road  
New and in good repair.

Michael Brown. Greer and More and Leek and Mervin also in stone buildings belonging to Thomas Leiper.

If old, then repaired

*For further information contact Delaware County Historical Society  
Old Court House, Chester, Pennsylvania*



Thomas Leiper

From a watercolor, miniature type, portrait signed "R. F. 1799" by Robert Field. Submitted "Courtesy of Mrs. A. Waldo Jones (Eliza Leiper Woolford), Vinings, Georgia."

