

CHESTER TIMES – April 13, 1887 – FERNWOOD – A Brisk Little Delaware County Town

Fernwood is the first station reached on the Media branch of the Central Division of the P. W. & B. Railroad after the train crosses Cobb's Creek – the dividing line between Philadelphia and Delaware County. It is in Upper Darby Township and came into existence here shortly after the organization of the Fernwood Cemetery Company, about the year 1870 or '71.

STARTING THE TOWN – Upon the completion of the cemetery it was determined to establish a village nearby, and to that end Price J. Patton and William J. Kelly purchased of Amos Bonsall fifty-seven acres of land adjoining the cemetery, which was laid out into streets and lots. The proprietors erected two houses on Fourth Street in 1872. In that year Adam Tracey purchased a lot and built a house in which he established the first store in the place. Since then the growth of the place has been rapid. Fernwood is no longer a little obscure village, but a smiling town of over 120 inhabitants, which number in every year is increasing.

WHO LOCATE HERE – Fernwood is designed chiefly as a place of suburban residence for Philadelphians - a place where they may escape high taxes and enormous rents, and at the same time breathe the fresh air of heaven and escape the hot walls and dusty streets of the overcrowded city. The railroad facilities of the place are unequalled and it is accessible from the city every hour, and it is but thirteen minutes ride from the heart of the city to the running streams of this part of Delaware County.

IMPROVEMENTS, ETC. – Among the improvements of the place may be mentioned a large summer hotel, owned by Frederick Morse capable of accommodating guests; a hall and a lodge of Masons, over a hundred strong; a handsome and commodious brick church, the property of the Methodist denomination, and a fine, large public school. Near the station is the residence of Mr. Amos Bonsall, one of the crew who accompanied Dr. Kane in his perilous expedition to the North Pole. The streets of Fernwood are fifty feet wide and the town is greatly laid out. Lots are generally 20 x 100 feet and range at very favorable figures.

THE CEMETERY – Fernwood Cemetery, containing about 120 acres and fronting on the pike, brings many thousands to the place every year. It is said to be one of the finest burial grounds in the country. It contains the resting place of over twelve thousand quiet sleepers, and on an average, seven interments are made here daily. Over thirty thousand lots have been sold mainly to Philadelphians, and by the care stone, last year, as shown by the official report of the railroad company, over 60,000 persons visited the place.

A walk through the place is productive of much interest, but we have said enough about so grave a matter for one day, and what we saw and heard there from the gentleman superintendent we reserve for a future article.

BUSINESS PLACES – Fernwood has quite a number of important stores and business houses doing a good business. The brick yard of the Bartram Brothers, the coal yard and feed warehouse of S. B. Bartram, the lumber yard of J. Alfred Bartram, the general store of William B. Evans, the drug store of Robert M. Newhard, the dry goods and notion store of Mrs. L. Wilson, the grocery and provision store of T. G. Pearson, the bakery and confectionery of Frederick Haines, and the marble yards of J. F. Wood, John Kennett and J. Bye, with the large summer hotel of Frederick Morse mentioned above, include the leading industries of the place and vicinity. We have only room to refer to a portion of these in detail today. Stories of the others will appear in a day or two.

BUSINESS OF S. B. BARTRAM – A very important business house of Fernwood, and one of the oldest established in Delaware County, is that of Mr. S. B. Bartram, dealer in coal, lime, cement, flour, feed, hay, phosphate, ground bone guano, etc. His yard and warehouse are located on the Baltimore Pike, about half way between Lansdowne and Fernwood Stations. The business has been established since 1861 and has been in the Bartram family about seventeen years. Mr. S. B. Bartram came into possession of it about ten years ago. He keeps a large stock and has facilities for handling the goods

quickly at a little expense, and is able to offer his stock at the lowest possible prices. In the coal department he keeps the very best quality of Lehigh and Schuylkill coal, and delivers it anywhere in Lansdowne, Fernwood or roundabout/

Mr. Bartram was born and raised in this vicinity and is well known in Upper Darby Township and is a son of Mr. J. B. Bartram, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens in this part of Delaware County.

BRICK YARD OF BARTRAM BROTHERS – The brick yard of T. E. Bartram Brothers is one of the most important industries of Fernwood. It is located on the railroad opposite the lumber yard, which is also owned by one of the firm, as noted below. The Messrs. Bartram came into possession of the yard a year ago. Their yard contains two kilns and a number of workmen are employed making hand-made bricks. The clay found here is unequalled and the bricks produced are of the best quality. The trade of the firm in the brick lies is rapidly increasing with the growth of the demand for a better class of houses all along the line of the Media railroad by suburban residents and settlers. The yard of the Messrs. Bartram has a capacity of about 12,500 hand-made bricks daily during the brick season, and they employ about thirty hands in all departments.

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