

# GRAHAM, ANDERSON, PROBST & WHITE

INCORPORATED

ARCHITECTS · ENGINEERS

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## Notes about The Triadelphia Bell.

Three brothers -in-law, Caleb Bentley, Isaac Briggs and Thomas Moore, who had each married a daughter of Roger Brooke of Brooke Grove, established Triadelphia, this means three brothers, in 1809. At one time the population of this town was around four hundred. There was a large factory for making cotten duck and other cotten fabrics, a grist mill, saw mill, store, Bank, church, school, forge, cobbler shop, cooper shop, cabinetmaker, Odd Fellows Hall and a Post Office.

By 1868, a disastrous flood and several bad fires made serious changes in the town and in 1889, the flood usually known as the Johnstown Flood, wrought such havoc that the last townsmen moved away and Triadelphia was deserted, the ruins of which now lie at the bottom of beautiful Triadelphia Lake.

It is not definitely known when the bell was put up on the West end of the large Factory building but it was presumably after a fire and flood in 1868. This bell was swung from a yoke in the cupola and was moved from the deserted town of Triadelphia to Sherwood School in August 1902.

A party of Sandy Spring girls was camping in the old Lansdale house, which was partly destroyed in the flood of 1889, we used to climb (precariously) to the top of the old factory building and sit around the old bell watching the flocks of pigeons who rather resented our poaching on their preserves.

Alice Vedder Farquhar, principal of Sherwood School, suggested buying the the old bell and taking it to Sherwood School. Mr. Thomas Lansdale, who owned the property at that time, agreed to sell it to Sherwood for \$50.00 and it *did* not take long to collect the money which was donated by the neighborhood people.

The very heavy bell was lowered from the cupola on top of the old factory through the kind offices of Malcoln Farquhar, Frank M. Hallowell and J. Hillis Robinson with the help of several others and was brought to Sherwood. A tall oak tree was topped and the bell hung in a fork of the tree and rope lead from it to a corner of the school building. It was used to call the children before school and at noon and recesses.

When the old building was replaced by the fine new brick building, opening there in September 1909, the bell was hung in the gable facing the public road but under the roof and intirely out of sight where it was used until that building was condemned and plans for the present fine buildings were made. Mr. Remaley had the bell taken down and it was sent to Rockville for safe keeping until some further plan could be made for its use.

Now it hangs in a very suitable stone turret in front of the Sherwood High school building and the old timers will thrill to hear its ~~its~~ beautiful deep tones ring out once more.

Alice Vedder Farquhar.

The building of the turret where the bell now hangs was financed by the late Peter Garland Higgin, one of her many philanthropic endeavors for this community. *The Lansdale*