

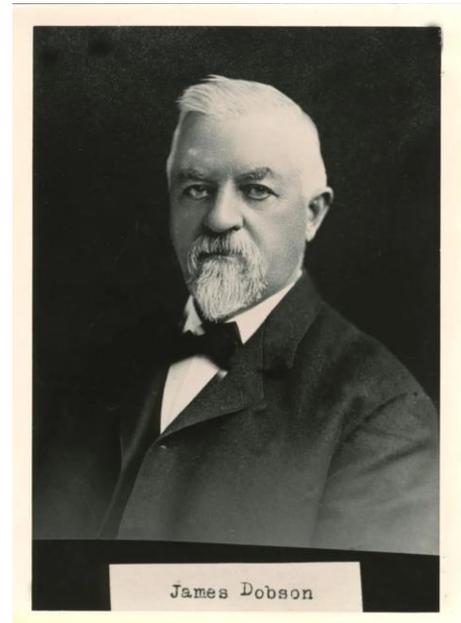
East Falls Past—March News

The Fallser, March 2006, by Wendy Moody

Below are three excerpts from articles that appeared in March issues of old East Falls newspapers:

March 4, 1926 - James Dobson 89 Years Old -

James Dobson [*photo*], East Falls' leading citizen, will celebrate his 89th birthday on Saturday. The family will assemble in honor of the occasion. The employees of various mills...will also send flowers..."Boss Jim," as he is lovingly called by his employees, was born in England in 1837 and came to this country about 17 years of age...After accumulating \$125, the boy felt he had sufficient capital to start a business of his own. With his elder brother John, Dobson moved to Manayunk where they started their business and, shortly after, settled at Falls of Schuylkill. John Dobson married Sarah Schofield and in 1862 his brother James was wed to Mary Ann Schofield. The two brothers married



daughters of the man for whom they had first worked. Mr. and Mrs. James Dobson are the parents of five daughters (and two of their daughters married two brothers...). When Mr. Dobson was 35, the home at which he now resides, known as Bella Vista, was built at 33rd St and Abbottsford. Each evening James and his wife may be seen engaged in their regular game of whist... *East Falls Herald*

March 24, 1932 - Breck Parents Observe 4th Anniversary - Members of the Breck Home & School Association received a genuine musical treat ...when the Sunday School Orchestra of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer presented a quartet of classical numbers at the Samuel Breck School, Krail and Crawford Streets. This group of musicians...gave four splendid interpretations in a manner befitting more advertised orchestras...Previous to the music, little Miss Lyda Pola, a diminutive reader, recited "Playing Actress" and "My Dolls" to the great delight of those who heard her. Following the election of officers, A. C. Chadwick, Jr. of the Suburban Press displayed the Dr. Charles K. Mills collection of lantern slides relative to the early history of the Falls. *Suburban Press*

March 9, 1933 - "First Lady" Pays Visit - One of the nation's most prominent characters, whose portrait has been seen in hundreds of newspapers throughout the land for the past four years, was driven in a motorcar up the East River Drive, and along the beautiful Wissahickon, to Chestnut Hill, over Midvale Avenue, and down Henry Avenue to Nicetown Lane with no one in this section recognizing her. It was Mrs. Herbert Hoover, who had left to...start her trek back into private life toward California. Mrs. Hoover was forced to wait an hour and forty minutes for a train from the West

Philadelphia Station of the Pennsylvania RR to take her to St. Louis. She was besieged by admirers, while in the waiting room, and so...the station master came to her rescue. He escorted Mrs. Hoover and her party to a limousine which toured through Fairmount and out to Chestnut Hill. Returning to the station in time for the train, Mrs. Hoover's only comment...was, "It was lovely!" *Suburban Press*