

East Falls Past--January News

The Fallser, January 2007, by Wendy Moody

January 24, 1901 – Our Police Protection – Although there has been an increase in the number of police patrolling the large territory included in the district of the substation at the Falls, the force in toto includes nine patrolmen. What is termed one beat takes in as much territory as is comprised in the new Thirty-first district, which has some 30 odd officers, yet this district – beg pardon “beat” – is protected during the entire day by one solitary officer who does a tour of 12 hour duty. At night the tour is divided into two shifts...the officers are mounted, but just consider a man on horseback for twelve consecutive hours... Is this the kind of protection our people are paying taxes for...in a district numbering 10,000 souls? The force is utterly inadequate and our business people should demand that we be given the protection which the extent of such a district requires. *Weekly Forecast*

January 12, 1930 – Three quarters of a century ago, Hannah E. Longshore, M.D., the first woman physician here, drew a raucous crowd when she hung out her shingle. The crowd expressed its contempt. “A ‘she’ doctor!” The expression summed up the opinion of an age intolerant of all feminine endeavor...she was ignored, condemned, sneered at. Druggists refused to fill her prescriptions. Despite insults and handicaps, Dr. Longshore went quietly about her work of healing. Then the tide inevitably turned. She won the love and respect of the public that had condemned her and even established a lucrative practice. Dr. Longshore was one of the first eight graduates of the Women’s Medical College. *Record*



January 18, 1934 – Trustees of Old Academy held their quarterly meeting last Monday night. Despite the fact that the city has failed to provide the residents of Falls of Schuylkill with a recreation center, the people of “the Falls” can point with great pride to the fact that on Indian Queen Lane stands the oldest community center in Philadelphia. Old Academy was paid for by contributions made directly by the men and women who lived in its vicinity. It was erected by William Moore Smith, a son of Dr. William Smith, first provost of the University of Pennsylvania – and his wife, Ann, in the year 1816 and completed in 1819. The provisions distinctly stated that the building should be used for recreation, education and worship. There was a clause that if the Trustees failed to meet in January of any year the land would revert to the donors, or their heirs.

Suburban Press