

# The George Kemble House -- 1836

Located at the corner of Appleton and Walker roads, it was said the George Kemble house was built in the grandest Federal style and with the finest materials of any Chester County house. It was a side hall, two-story brick dwelling with two rooms on each floor.

George bought the 2-acre parcel from John H. and Charlotte Morrison on April 24, 1834. The house was completed in 1836, but until 1841 he leased the house to Charles P. Bye, MD for his medical practice. George moved into the house in 1841 and lived there until his death in 1856. Upon his death the property moves to Samuel Kimble, Sr. and then Samuel and Whizzie Kimble. It was sold outside the family 1890.

Two additions were added onto the dwelling over the years. In 1964 a one story stucco addition (kitchen and bath) was added to the west side. In 1974 a one-story board and batten addition (large den) was added to the southwest side.

The George Kemble House was the first Franklin Township house certified as a county historic resource on Sept. 29, 1989. The owners Robert and Betty Matousek at the time pursued this designation and worked to enlighten other historic property owners about the importance of this process.



*The George Kemble House, 1836*

## About George Kemble

John Kimble purchased 187 acres from the McKean homestead in 1783. George was the youngest son of John and Mary (Chambers) Kimble, born July 13, 1788. He had 4 brothers and 2 sisters. Only George and his brother Samuel stayed in Franklin Township their whole lives.

George Kemble was a local tannery merchant, specializing in saddles and harnesses. He opened the first Kemblesville Post Office in 1823 at his store (white two-story building next to Weir's Auto Shop).

He was instrumental in organizing the petition to annex what is now Franklin Township from New London Township in

1852. His son Davis conducted the survey for the annexation.

The Village of Fox Chase was changed to Kemblesville in honor of the two Kemble (Kimble) brothers – George and Samuel. The spelling of the village vacillated over the years, settling with George's spelling.

The 1829 Tax Assessment shows George Kemble being taxed on 55 acres, building, 2 horses, 2 cattle, and a storekeeper. A dog is listed, but not taxed. The 1838 Tax Assessment taxes George for 130 acres, buildings, 2 horses and 4 cattle.

The Village Record on April 29, 1856 published George's obituary as follows:

*On the 23d inst. George Kimble of Kimblesville, Chester co...was extensively known and highly esteemed, and was the kind father of a large family. He lived to see a flourishing village, and a finely cultivated country around it, where in his youthful day all was desolate. Death met him very suddenly. Retiring to rest in usual health, before the morning his life was at an end.*

*Source: "Historic Documentation of the George Kemble House," Chester County Historic Preservation Office, September 1989, supplied by current owners Matt and Tracy Schreiner.*