

"Mr. Thomas, in his 'History of Printing,' says that there was neither dam nor race for this mill (Vol. I, p. 20), but my neighbor, Mr. Nicholas Rittenhouse, a lineal descendant of the first papermaker, informs me that this must be an error. His father, also named Nicholas Rittenhouse, who died in 1857, at the age of eighty-three years, told him that there was a dam, and that it was located on the property now owned by Mr. H. H. Houston, in Germantown, adjoining the Township Line. From this dam there was a race, which crossed the Township Line and carried the water to the mill. Had there been neither dam nor race, the mill could not have been washed away by a freshet, as it was about ten years after its erection.

"The most active man next to the founder was his son, Nicholas (Claus), who appears to have been a very intelligent person, and who was a preacher among the Mennonites.¹ As all students of Pennsylvania are aware, Bradford moved to New York in 1693, but he still retained an interest in the paper mill, and no doubt got much of his paper from Rittenhouse. In 1697 he rented his share of the mill, the one-fourth, to the Rittenhouses. The original lease is in my collection, and it seems he was to receive as his rent seven reams of printing paper, two reams of good writing

became vested in his son and heir-at-law, the said Nicholas (or Claus) Rittenhouse. Claus Rittenhouse, as he signed his name, says in his will: "I give, Devise, and bequeath to my eldest son, William Rittenhausen, All and Singular that piece or parcel of land situate in the said Roxborough Township and joining North Easterly to German Town line, containing twenty acres of land (which I purchased of Samuel Carpenter) together with the Paper Mill." See will of Claus, p. 71. The deed says: "It was agreed between the said Samuel Carpenter, of the one part, and Robert Turner, William Bradford, Thomas Tresse, and said William Rittenhouse, in behalf of themselves and others who undertook to build a paper mill, Assigned all their right and interest therein to the said William Rittenhouse;" so the above will shows that from the above date the Rittenhouses were the sole owners of the paper mill.

¹ In the Germantown Mennonite congregation.