

tenhouse family. The mill was rebuilt by the Rittenhouses and was carried on very successfully for many years by William and his son Claus, and then by Jacob Rittenhouse, and then by the Markles. At last it was changed into a cotton-factory.

"It was not, however, until February (then called Twelfth month) 9, 1705, that the Rittenhouses had any deed for the mill property. The land was owned by Samuel Carpenter, and on 'the ninth day of the Twelfth, called February, in the fourth year of the reign of Queen Anne,' in 1705, Carpenter leased the premises, containing about twenty acres, to William Rittenhouse for the term of 975 years from the 29th day of September, 1705, at a rent of five shillings sterling per annum. Such is a brief sketch of the first paper mill in America.

"As stated before, the Rittenhouses were members of the Mennonite Church, as were most of the Hollanders,<sup>1</sup> who settled in Germantown, where they organized a church as early as May 23, 1708, which still exists."<sup>2</sup>

In an article on "Mennonite Emigration to Pennsylvania," by Dr. J. G. De Hoop Schaeffer, of Amsterdam

<sup>1</sup> And many of the Palatines.

<sup>2</sup> The first meeting held in Germantown was held in the fall of 1683, by the Mennonites and Friends, in the house of Dennis Conrad,—Dennis or Tony Kunders, more properly Anthony Conrad. Said house is yet standing on Germantown Avenue opposite Manheim Street. It is said that Penn preached there, but we have no history to prove such; it is merely supposition. It is a well-known fact that Penn was in America, and frequently in Germantown at that time; therefore many historians state it as a fact. From that time the Mennonites held their meetings in private houses until 1688, when they entered the first public protest against slavery in America. In the same year William Rittenhouse arrived and settled in Germantown, and was elected their regular minister, and in 1701 was ordained Bishop. In 1708 they built their first meeting-house of logs; in the same year, 1708, Bishop Rittenhouse died, and two new ministers were chosen, namely, the Bishop's son, Claus (or Nicholas) Rittenhouse, and Dirk Keyser. The second and present house was built on the same lot, in 1770, of stone, and is still standing.