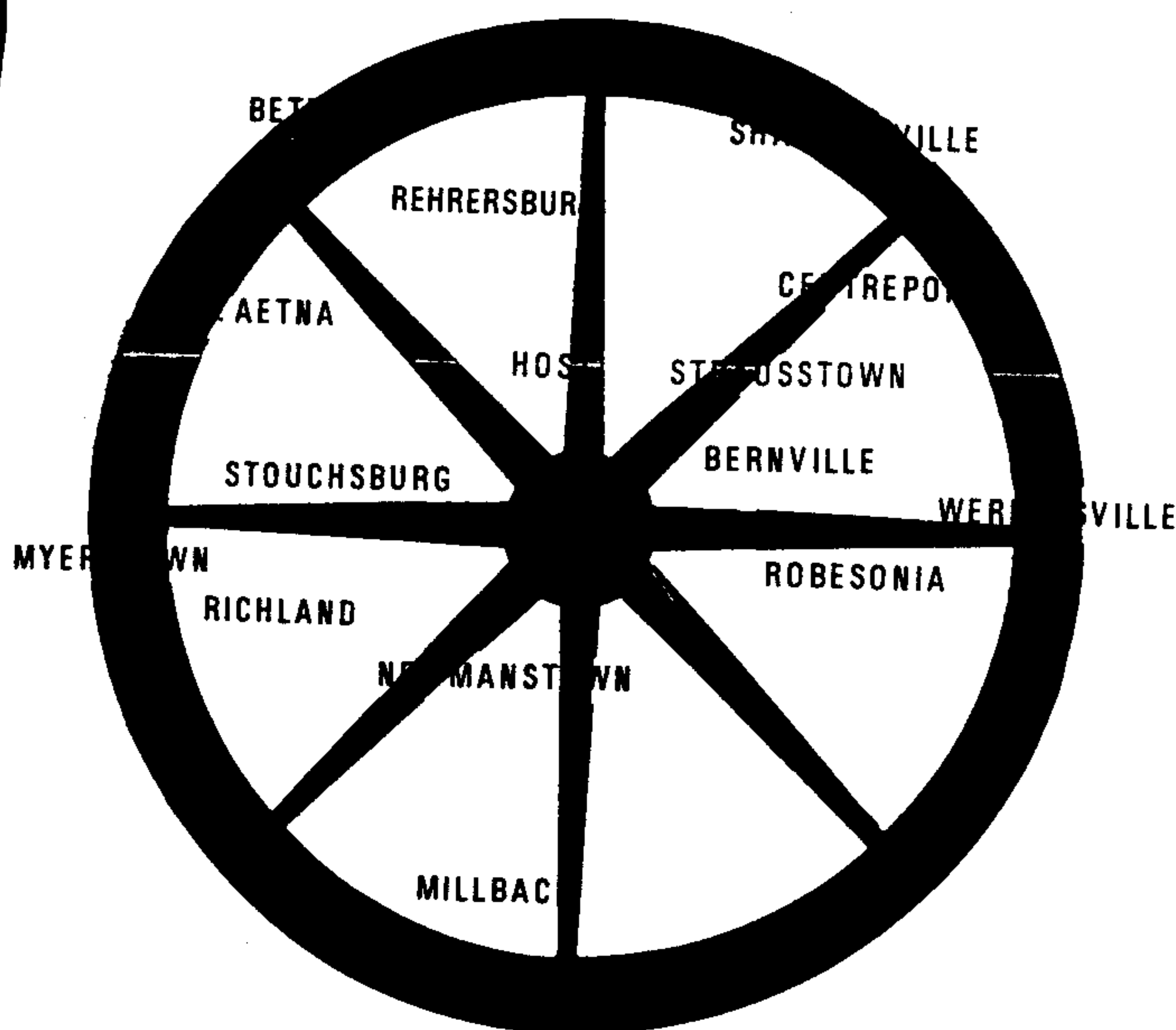


The Hub of the Gulpehocken



Earl W. Ibach, Author

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Dr. William Moore

1810--1872

Dr. William Moore, one of the leading medical practitioners of Womelsdorf for thirty-two years, was born in Reading July 28, 1810. Upon serving his apprenticeship with Dr. J. W. Gloninger of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, Dr. Moore received his doctors degree from the Medical School of the University of New York, March 29, 1836. Dr. Moore came to Womelsdorf in 1840, following a short term of practice in Jackson, Mississippi. He undoubtedly received word that Dr. William Gries was leaving town following his crippling accident and saw a golden opportunity to acquire a goodly number of the former physician's patients. He purchased Dr. Gries' beautiful house and office at the southeast corner of Second and High Streets and continued to render the same skillful and courteous service as his predecessor.

Dr. William Moore, like most members of his ancestry, was a devout Scotch-Irish-Presbyterian, occupying various official positions of that denomination's Church and Sunday Schools.

In 1843, Dr. William Moore was elected to fill the unexpired term of Burgess Peter Womelsdorff, upon the latter's death. From 1865 through 1867 he filled the office of Treasurer on the Town Council and served on the Board of Directors of the Farmers National Bank in Reading. Other pursuits in the life of Dr. William Moore from which he derived a great deal of pleasure, were the agricultural world. He took great pride in the growing of various species of choice fruits and the breeding and raising of fine live-stock. In addition to these most beneficial activities, Dr. Moore achieved one other worthwhile objective having a benevolent effect on the community and that was the founding of a public library in Womelsdorf. This was accomplished shortly before his death, which occurred in his home in Womelsdorf on May 23, 1872. Appoplexy was the cause of his demise.



Dr. William Moore

When in 1870, the Berks County Medical Society dissolved because of a factional dispute over an attempt to expel one of its distinguished colleagues, Dr. William Moore was elected President of the newly reorganized Berks County Medical Association at a meeting held on January 3, 1871, in the home of Dr. John B. Brooke, No. 44 North Fourth Street, Reading.

His funeral was attended by members of both Berks and Lebanon County Medical Societies to which he belonged and an estimated two thousand persons from Womelsdorf and the Tulpehocken area. Appropriate Resolutions were drawn up by the Berks County Medical Association reflecting upon the fine character and virtues of the deceased. He lies buried in Zion Cemetery this place.

Dr. John M. Stephen

1823--1898

Dr. Stephen, the son of Professor Walker and Janet (nee Borthwick) Stephen, was born in Waynesburg, Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1823. When the family moved to Womelsdorf, Dr. Stephen was less than two years of age. His early education was conducted under the guidance and direction of his father. Later he was most ably prepared further for his life's work, studying medicine with the learned Dr. William Moore of this borough.

Dr. John Stephen received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1849. Like most of his professional colleagues, Dr. Stephen accepted his civic responsibilities and served one term on Town Council in 1855. In 1867 he helped to found Williamson Lodge 307 F & AM in Womelsdorf and had the privilege of serving as its first Worshipful Master. Shortly thereafter, Dr. John M. Stephen removed to Reading, pursuing his chosen work in that city. He died on January 7, 1898 in Reading and his remains repose on the family plot in the Union Cemetery, Womelsdorf.