

Number 7

The Pastime Printer

FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA, DECEMBER 1957



GREETINGS FROM SKYLINE BEND

Nearly two thousand years ago, on the first Christmas Eve, the Star of Bethlehem gleamed as the symbol of the most sublime event in history. Watching and waiting that night those Three Wise Men had Faith in their hearts, Faith serene and invincible. Every worthwhile human achievement has been in some measure based upon Faith. The professional man, the captain of finance and industry, the artist, the craftsman at his task, all need Faith to carry on. The true spirit of Christmas is evidenced best by expression of Faith in our fellowmen and in worthwhile things.

The Pastime Printer † December 1957

Number Seven of an amateur publication, typeset by hand and wrought off for his friends by STEVE L. WATTS at Skyline Bend Farm, BOX 226, FRONT ROYAL, VA.

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

To fellow members of the Retired Officers Association, the Society of the Fortieth Infantry Division, the Seattle Club of Printing House Craftsmen, the Typophiles, the Type Directors Club, the T&H Calendar Critics, the National Amateur Press Association, the Jack London Amateur Press Club, and

To former shipmates of the *USS Tennessee* (armored cruiser), *Mississippi*, *Brooklyn*, *Columbia*, *Absaroka*, *New Mexico*, *Arkansas*, *Arizona*, and the tank steamer *SS Sucrosa*;

To soldiers of the Infantry, Artillery, Signal Corps and the US Constabulary, *compañeros*, and to the other army of printers, typefounders, salesmen and mechanics who shared their know-how and friendliness with us through the years:

A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS, YOU ALL!

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APPRECIATION: To Commander Victor A. Moitoret, U.S. Navy, and his Goodwife Rowena, our thanks for a drawing and halftone cut of "Boondockerschloss." We don't know the name of the artist, who evidently worked from a snapshot taken when the porch and yard swarmed with National Amateur Press Association members on July 7. Vic and Rowena are prime movers in amateur journalism and printing, even during service abroad.

We couldn't resist trying to print the cut in this issue. Halftone ink was too oily for Warren's Olde Style, the only stock on hand in sufficient quantity for this issue, so ink was taken from our old-faithful can of dried-up offset black and doctored with a *soupeçon* of alumina hydrate. We don't brag about our presswork on a platen jobber, but hope your copy is one of the better ones.

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CORRECTION: After printing Shop Notes for this number, it dawned upon our limited intelligence that the type dress of the reprinted back page ought to be changed to avoid confusing any reader who saves copies of this budget of song. 30 pt. Stationers Semiscript and 6 pt. Modern Roman 64 caps are used instead of Cloister Black and Card Mercantile. The red initial is a home-made substitute for Johannes Troyer's ornament used last year.

'ROUND THE MOUNT'IN

♣ If the gentle reader thinks this number a little heavy on the personal side, let it be remembered that nothing about PASTIME PRINTER is controlled, not even its circulation. For fifty years our life was "ordered and shaped and bound, and kept to its rule and line," but now we can get away with our own ideas, even to setting lines of type both flush-left and flush-right in a single paragraph, just to see how they might look in print.

♣ And because occasionally we attempt to overawe poets and peasants with high-sounding technical stuff like *Typorhythms*, such shadowboxing should be taken with a grain of salt. This Nature Boy makes no pretensions to erudition, stands for no office, has no animal at service and ain't mad at nobody, suhl!

♣ Locally, the upper Browntown Valley is called "Round the Mountain." We say "up south" and "down north," because the Shenandoah River runs northward to the Potomac and our own Gooney Run flows northward to the Shenandoah. The Watts wickiup is not on the 'Round the Mountain road, but is "up on the mountain," two miles east of Browntown village.

♣ Browntown now is back in the Union. The way we heard it, an inspector went and giggered the postoffice for failure to display our National Color during hours prescribed by the regulations governing same. Now Browntown, where the Foot Cavalry of Old Jack marched to surprise the Yankees at Front Royal, has sent her sons to win two first-magnitude wars and a parcel of lesser fracasas (without too much help from the Yankees) in these latter times. But flagwaving, naturally, has been regarded as the normal function of the County Seat, the railhead where our Chamber of Commerce is located. Howbeit, when the deficiency report was presented, corrective action was initiated, and Old Glory waves o'er the grocery.

Shop Notes for Typelovers



♪ *Description of Christ*, in our December 1956 number, brought so many requests that a second printing was made. Since a score of subsequent requests were not supplied, the page of type has been reset to a measure of 22 ems pica. It was hoped that a narrower measure would eliminate divided words, but one word was divided to avoid wide spacing and loss of texture. Changing any word was unthinkable. Types are 18 point Cloister Black and 6 point No. 4 Card Mercantile, with Troyer Ornament; body set in 12 point Modern Italic No. 64, opened with 1 point leads.

This dubitable *Epistle of Lentulus* was anciently ascribed to a legendary predecessor of Pontius Pilate as being a report to his emperor, Tiberius Caesar, and the Roman Senate.

♪ *The Watts Name in Olde England* is exhibited as a curiosity. One rarely sees as much hand-composed *nonpareil* in these days of *automation*. The use of small caps was an expedient, 'W' being in short supply. Happen there be any reader interested, this chronology purports to set forth the derivation of our family name from Rainier le Fleming, called *Rainier de Wath, Chevalyr*, through *Wathes, Wattys and Wattes*.

♪ *Something Old and Something New*. We combined our oldest and newest types in setting up Shop Notes and Scuttlebutt headings. Shooting off our mouth in the past, we argued that some pre-De Vinne freaks could be mixed with modern designs. Now we hope to prove it, wishing we could stand behind an armored door when Emil Klumpp and Jan van der Ploeg see how Murray Hill has been compromised. MH is the vertical semiscrypt Emil drew for American Type Founders Company, which Jan backed for translation into metal. It rang a row of bells.

Those ribbony mortised initials came from the Baltimore plant of Schneidereith & Son, master printers for upwards of 109 years. Pinmarks on the letters read *Johnson Foundry, Phila., Rd. 2215*. Possibly these initials are as old as Schneidereith's plant. Johnson & Company became MacKellar-Smiths & Jordan in 1867. One thing is plain to Old Ich. The joker who cut the mortises in the initials never heard about our point system—that's for sure.



Skyline Bend Scuttlebutt

*"November blows and wintry snows
Don't find us any glummer,
We still can shirk our proper work
As well as in the summer."*

THEY CUT DOWN THE HOG-KILLING TREE. When the Wattses came to Skyline Bend, back in 1947, we heard people here mention the Hog-killing Tree. Unwilling to display our ignorance, we assumed it must be some giant species of the Venus Flytrap that grows in *poconson* areas along the Carolina coast. Our nonchalant patience was rewarded when a former resident remarked that the high price of bacon could be ignored if we had a tithe of all the good hogmeat that had been triced up on that locust tree near the old watering trough. Nothing but sawbriers seemed to grow there, the ground around the tree being saltier than Lot's first wife. Dying by slow degrees after some heavy limbs broke off and crashed into the yard, the landmark had to come down. Now it is only a pile of firewood.

¶ The watering trough had to go, too, when rot undermined its watertight integrity. Aside from its usefulness as a fountain at which horses and mules satisfied their honest thirst, the flume at the trough brought spring water closer to the kitchen before the installation of plumbing. We heard a tale about the former owner chewing a couple of visiting preachers. They policed up there for dinner. "Don't use soap in that trough—my mules won't like it!"

¶ We went to North Carolina for the family reunion, then Miz Gincy drove up No'th to stay with our grandson while Don took Doris to his native Caliprunia. Ye Scribe stayed here to do a lot of chores he had dodged all summer. But our October Colorama interfered with daytime work, and little was accomplished.

¶ Thinking to acquire great merit, he put a high gloss on an old iron skillet in the kitchen. Wails of anguish resulted. "It took ten years to *condition* that skillet!" Back to the woodpile, Stevie.



A Time to Count Our Blessings

THE PRIVATEER PRESS and its house organ, THE PASTIME PRINTER, both fared exceedingly well in the first year of existence, through the generosity of numerous wellwishers. While avoiding (as we believed) any posture of the scrounger and freeloader, a crack about "inferior wampum" possibly was interpreted as a distress signal.

We are much obliged to Ralph Babcock for many items needed to start the shop. And to many other benefactors for encouragement to keep this venture going. Here is an incomplete list of their names:

J L Alexander, John Anderson, J Anderson III, Fr Wm Anderson, Chas Antin, Richard Archer, Paul Ashby, John Averill.

Wm Barnard, Clem Battershell, Paul Bennett, Chris Beran, Lucian Bernhard, W Turner Berry, Amos Bethke, A R Bink, H & L Blumenthal, Ralph Bishop, James Blake, Frances Black, Ed Blank, Manuel boyFrank, Stanislas Boyer, Don Brown, Kenneth Burchard.

John Carroll, Sol Cantor, Thos Cleland, Herman Cohen, Carroll Coleman, Ray Cuddington.

R F Da Boll, John De Pol, Frank DeWitt, Victor Downs.

James Eckman, Henry Evans, Robert Farrar, Charles Felten, Edward Frey, Warren Fuller.

Ben Gates, Paul Giesey, Elmer Gleason, J C Graves, R Greenlee, Ralph Green, John Guzy.

Reid Hammond, Carl Hertzog, F T Hinkel, Gordon Holmquist, E H Hugo, H H Hunt, W Harsha.

L Joachim, Fridolf Johnson, R M Jones and many other Joneses [cap jays are running low].

R R Karch, Arnold Kates, Cort Kay, J T Keating, Lawton Kennedy, Lewis Kingsley, Bernie Kress.

R L Leslie, S Lasky, Alex Lawson, Roger Levenson, Mark Loftus.

D W MacPhee, George McKay, Wm McKeown, Nicholas Meyer, John Michaels, J Murray [3].

H Nack, M Neel, Fr P F Nager, Reginald Orcutt, Wm Osborn, Wally Ostroot, Beecher Ogden.

L B Paddock, G H Petty, Jan van der Ploeg, F J Planck, Chas Pont, Frank Petrocelli.

Ernest Rapa, W M Reece, Jack Rittenhouse, Ward Ritchie, Ian H Robertson, Hubert Royce.

Albert Schiller, Ward Schori, Wm Schneidereith, D B Scoggin, Joe Shearn, Willis Shell, H Frank Smith, R G Silver, M Spagnola, S S Swink, Herbert Simpson, Dan Solo, Harold Steele, B Stephens.

F L Toon, Jos Thuringer, W O Thorniley, Anthony van der Tuuk, H Verploegh, Ferd Voiland.

H Wallingford, Eric Webb, J M Wells, J F Weiler, J L Weygand, R Wentz, Harvey Willens.

The Watts Name in Olde England

SIMON DE WATH anno 1350

Son of Ralsnier le Fleming and Ada, the daughter of Thomas de Bethune. He was the father of John DE WATH or WATHES, of Eston, County Worcester.

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JOHN DE WATH anno 1370

Son of Simon DE WATH of Eston, County Worcester; possessed considerable landed property in Yorkshire, temp Edward III. He married Emma, daughter of Sir Hugh Galafree. Father of William WATHES of Eston.

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JOHANNES WATTS anno 1379

Mentioned in *Watts Family and Its Name*.

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WILLIAM WATHES OF ESTON anno 1397

Son of John and Emma Galafree DE WATH and was living in Worcester anno 1397. He married Blanche, daughter of William de Wellesbourne, was father of Sir Thomas WATHES of Eston.

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SIR THOMAS WATHES OF ESTON 1420

Son of William and Blanche WATHES of Eston. Served in the French wars, and was frequently mentioned in the Acts of the Parliament of Paris as 'Sir Thomas WATHES de Eston' and as 'Sir Thomas de Eston, Chevalier Anglois.' He had a grant from King Henry V in 1420 of the Seigneurie of Langeais on the Loire, the forfeited possessions of the Vicomte de Brosse, who had deserted the English faction. Sir Thomas married Isabeau, a daughter of Bertrand Goyon, Seigneur de Merignon, and widow of Amboise, Vicomte de Thouars. Died 1424, leaving a son, Simon WATHES of Eston.

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SIMON WATHES OF ESTON anno 1424

Son of Sir Thomas WATHES of Eston and his wife, Isabeau. Mentioned 7 Henry V, circa 1424. Married Margery, daughter of Thomas de Stotesbury, County Northampton, and left a son, Sir Richard WATTS.

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SIR RICHARD WATTS anno 1467

Fought under the banner of York at the battle of Wakefield, 29 Henry VI, 1467. He died of wounds, leaving by his wife, Isabel Stafford, a son and heir, Thomas WATTS.

THOMAS WATTS anno 1471

Son of Sir Richard and Isabel WATTS. He was plaintiff for the recovery of a manor in County Northampton, anno 1471, the last year of Henry VI. By his wife Alice, heiress to an estate at Beby, in Leicester-shire, he left three sons and a daughter.

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JOHN WATTES OF BEBY anno 1511

Eldest son of Thomas and Alice WATTS. Resided at Beby, County Leicester. Party to a deed of surrender of the Manor of Mykelham, 2 Henry VIII, 1511. By his first wife, Magdelsine, daughter and heiress of Thomas Berkeley of the City of Worcester. John WATTS had a son, THOMAS WATTS, Esq., of Beby, his heir. By a second marriage he left two sons, John and Francis.

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ADAM WATTS anno 1519

Mayor of Winchester in 1519, and again in 1520.

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THOMAS WATTS, ESQ., OF BEBY 1535

Aged 24 in 27 Henry VIII, 1535. In 2 Elizabeth, anno 1560, upon the final suppression of the religious houses in England, this Thomas WATTS had a grant of the lands and lordship of Blakesley in Northampton, which had been the possessions of the order of Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem. His first wife's maiden name was Crouch. They had issue a son, William WATTS. His second wife was Catherine Sulyards of County Essex. He died 1593, aged 82 years.

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WILLIAM WATTS, ESQ. anno 1614

Married Mary, a daughter of Lord Chief Justice Montagu. Died at Blakesley, 1614.

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JOHN WATTES OF LEICESTER anno 1619

Son of John WATTS of Beby by a second marriage. Father of Thomas and Stafford WATTS of Barleston, County Leicester, by his wife, Elizabeth Everards, descended from the house of Dethic, Derbyshire. His brother, Francis WATTS, was father of Hugh WATTS, Francis WATTS and Robert WATTS. John WATTS died anno 1619, and was buried in St. Martin's Church, in the City of Leicester.

THE *Description of Jesus of Nazareth*

BY A ROMAN GOVERNOR OF JUDEA

THERE LIVES AT THIS TIME IN JUDEA a man of singular virtue whose name is **Jesus Christ**, whom the barbarians esteem as a prophet, but his followers love and adore him as the offspring of the immortal God. He calls back the dead from the graves and heals all sorts of diseases with a word or touch. He is a tall man, well-shaped, and of an amiable and reverend aspect; his hair of a color that can hardly be matched, falling into graceful curls, waving about and very agreeably couching upon his shoulders, parted on the crown of the head, running as a stream to the front after the fashion of the Nazarites; his forehead high, large and imposing; his cheeks without spot or wrinkle, beautiful with a lovely red; his nose and mouth formed with exquisite symmetry; his beard, and of a color suitable to his hair, reaching below his chin and parted in the middle like a fork; his eyes bright blue, clear and serene, look innocent, dignified, manly and mature. In proportion of body most perfect and captivating: his arms and hands delectable to behold. He rebukes with majesty, counsels with mildness: his whole address, whether in word or deed, being eloquent and grave. No man has seen him laugh, yet his manners are exceedingly pleasant, but he has wept frequently in the presence of men. He is temperate, modest and wise. A man for his extraordinary beauty and divine perfection, surpassing the children of men in every sense.

LENTULUS.