

WALKING DOWN MEMORY LANE ON... DELHI STREET
By Marie-Line Germain, Ph.D. (with insights from Jerry Silverman)
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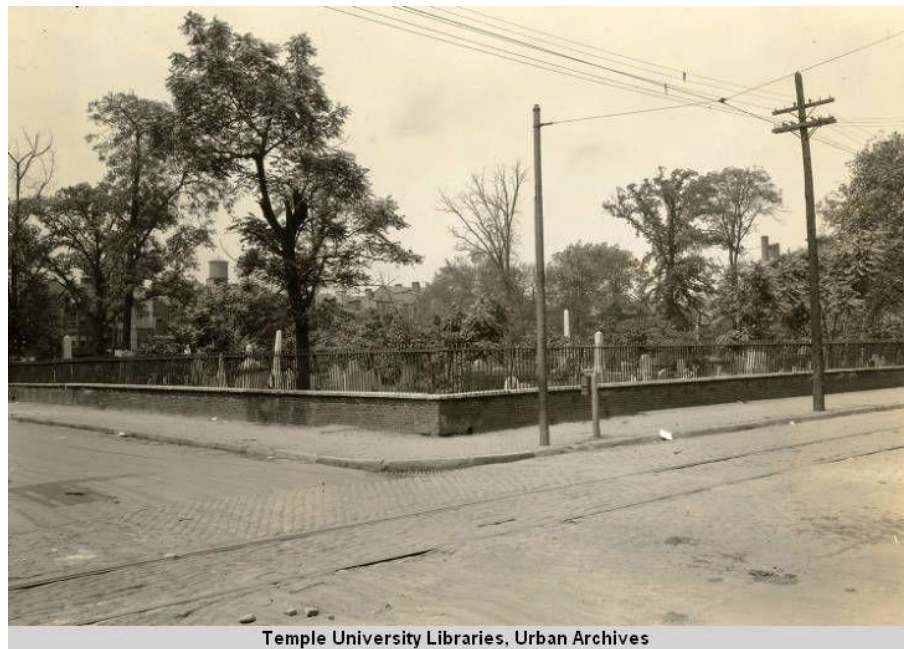
In this newsletter series, *Walking Down Memory Lane On...*, we shed light on the history of our Bella Vista street names based on the records available.

This month, we focus on **Delhi Street**.

Numerous Philadelphia street names were consolidated in 1854 and standardized in 1897. Numerous streets were renamed Delhi to eliminate multiple names throughout the area. Prior to that, the section of S. Delhi Street running between Bainbridge Street and South Street was called (Ann and) Ronaldson Street, referring to the cemetery in that location. In his 1920 book *Travels in Philadelphia*, Christopher Morley describes the Ronaldson cemetery: "The little notice about the recreant Master Taffy was strangely appropriate for this queer little district of Hutchinson, Delhi, Irving, and Manning streets, for it is just what in London would be known as a "mews". It is a strange huddle of old brick houses, full of stables and carpenters' workshops, with agreeable vistas of chimneys attic windows, and every now and then a gentleman of color leisurely bestraddling a horse and clumping along the quiet pavements. (...) The next time George Gibbs or John McIntyre writes a tale of mystery and sleuthing, I hope he will use the local color of Delhi street" (Morley, 1920, p. 52).

Changes to delhi.			
Old Name	New Name	Year Recorded	Location
Boyer	Delhi	1897	Ludlow to DeGray Sts., w. of 9th St.
Craig	Delhi	1910	N fr Susquehanna, W of 9th (circa)
Ernst	Delhi	1897	Ernst to Ellsworth Sts., w. of 9th St.
Graig	Delhi	1897	Susquehanna to Dauphin Sts., w. of 9th St.
Kelly	Delhi	1897	Ludlow to Ranstead Sts., w. of 9th St.
Prospect	Delhi	1897	Thompson to Jefferson Sts., w. of 9th St.
Ronaldson	Delhi	1897	Bainbridge to South Sts., w. of 9th St.
Sisty	Delhi	1897	10th to Montgomery Sts., w. of 9th St.
Stewart	Delhi	1897	Montrose to Fitzwater Sts., w. of 9th St.
Vandevveer	Delhi	1897	Irving to Locust Sts., w. of 9th St.
Lejee	Delhi	Unknown	Diamond to Dauphin, W. of 9th
St Stephen's	Delhi	Unknown	Ludlow to DeGray, bt 9th & 10th

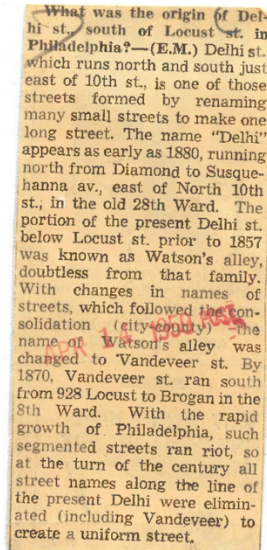
Source: PhillyHistory.org



Temple University Libraries, Urban Archives

Ronaldson's Cemetery was obliterated in 1950. Most burials were moved to Forest Hills Memorial Park, 101 Byberry Road, Huntington Valley, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Records are incomplete so it is not known for sure whether or not all burials were removed. The land is now used as the Frank Palumbo Recreation Center and Playground.

Despite an extensive search and inquiries to numerous City of Philadelphia departments, Temple University, and several historical societies in the area, I have been unable to find an explanation for the name "Delhi". Oftentimes, street names were given after a notable resident; we can only assume that Delhi might have been the name of a resident on that street.



Source: Delhi Street article from the Philadelphia Bulletin. April 15, 1959

In our next newsletter, we will discuss a notable (and quite incredible!) place on Delhi Street: The William & Letitia Still House at 625 South Delhi Street.

References

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