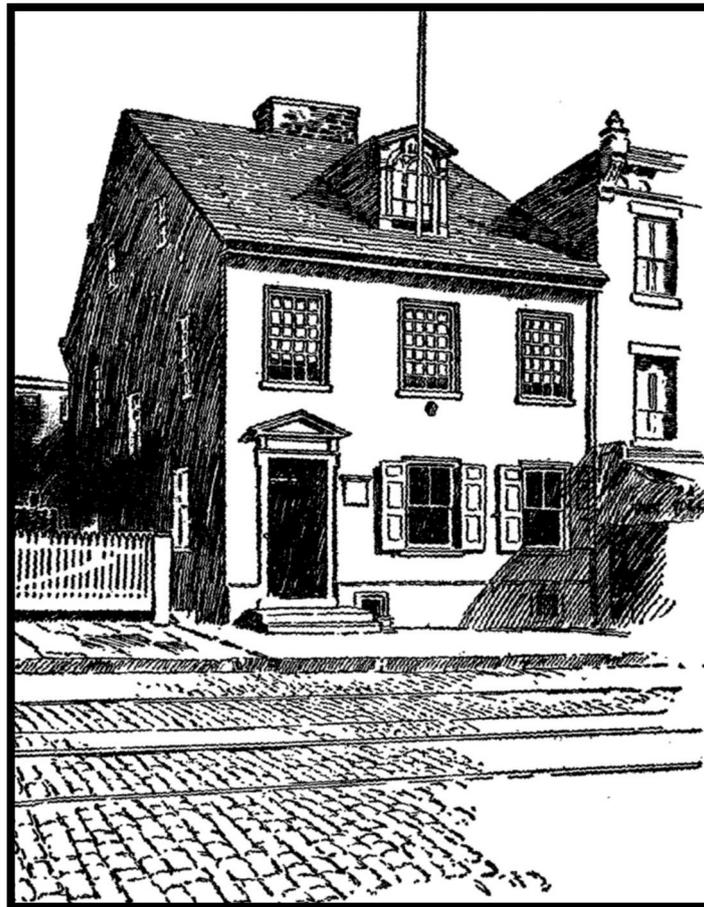


Tyntesfield, the Cunard Connection.

The Cunard family were of German origin descended from Thones Kundreds of München Gladbach. The family settled in Germantown, Philadelphia and changed their name first to Cunreds and then to Cunard. Sir Samuel's grandfather, Abraham Cunard, was a Quaker.

On April 18th 1688, only five years after Germantown was founded, the First Protest against Slavery in America was drafted in Thones Kundred's house at 5109 Germantown Avenue. The petition was written by practicing Quakers to the local Quaker governing body in Dublin, Pennsylvania. Francis Daniel Pastorius, drafted the petition which he signed together with Garret Hendericks, Derick up de Graeff and Abraham up de Graeff. The settlers in Germantown came from a country unaccustomed to slavery and the German settlers produced the finest linen goods in the region utilizing no slave labour.

The Germantown Meeting agreed a petition based on the Bible's Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," urging the abolition of slavery. It argues that every human, regardless of belief, colour or ethnicity has rights that should not be violated. Yet half of the British Quakers in Pennsylvania including William Penn owned slaves. It was not until 1776 that all Quakers were banned from holding slaves.



Thones Kundred's House

Sir Samuel Cunard founded the Cunard Shipping Line from Halifax, Nova Scotia. His father was loyal to Britain and after the American Declaration of Independence the family left Philadelphia to settle in Canada.

On July 4th 1840, the first Cunard Mail Ship, the R.M.S. Britannia sailed from Halifax bound for Liverpool and a great Royal Mail Shipping line was born.



Sir Samuel Cunard died in 1865, Lady Mary Bache Cunard, his daughter in law in 1866, and Sir Edward Cunard in 1869. This left Sir Edward and Lady Mary Cunard's seven children as orphans. They were brought up by Jane Erin McEvers, their remarkable grandmother, at Nevill Holt in Leicestershire. She lived to the ripe old age of 88. Her eldest grandson was Sir Bache Cunard. He married an American heiress, Maud Burke and they had one child - Nancy Cunard. Maud left her husband, changed her name to Emerald Cunard and had a long lasting relationship with Sir Thomas Beecham. Her sister in law, Annie Cunard was an artist who trained at the Académie Julian in Paris. She portrayed the Indians and negroes that she encountered, during a visit to her American family in 1883, in a series of vivid water colours.

As a young woman before the Great War, Nancy Cunard joined the Bloomsbury Group and had love affairs with T.S. Elliot, Leonard Woolf and Wyndham Lewis. She associated with Roger Fry and Augustus John. During the war, she had romantic encounters with officers on leave and married an Australian officer, Sydney Fairbairn in 1916, but the marriage did not last. After the war she associated with the Dada and Surrealist sets. In 1920 she went to live in France in an apartment on the Île St Louis in Paris, and eventually bought a house, Le Puits Carré at La Chapelle-Réanville near Vernon on the River Seine. In 1928, she set up her own Printing and Publishing House called "The Hours", and published books by many authors including Iris Tree, Samuel Beckett, Havelock Ellis, Norman Douglas, Harold Acton, Richard Aldington, Robert Graves, Ezra Pound, Lewis Carroll and George Moore. Nancy was a style

icon of the 1920s famed for her many African bangles worn on her slender arms. She was photographed by ManRay, Tristan Tzara and Cecil Beaton.



Nancy Cunard

In 1927, in Venice, Nancy Cunard met Henry Crowder, a pianist with an American Negro Band. Thus began a seven year love affair which transformed Nancy's life. Her mother was appalled that Nancy should have a negro lover. Nancy responded with a booklet - Black Man and White Ladyship. She asked why her mother might mix with Maharajahs, while her daughter was not supposed to socialise with negroes. Nancy's growing interest in African, Caribbean and Afro- American art, music, poetry, literature and culture led to the production of an extraordinary book - Negro. Nancy became an outspoken advocate of black rights particularly in the United States. Her defence of the Scotsboro Boys, falsely accused of rape, was legendary. Nancy was appalled by fascism and travelled to Ethiopia to support Haile Selassie against Mussolini.

When the Civil War broke out in between the Falangists and the Spanish Republic, she went as Guardian correspondent to Spain. She fought with the Republic against Franco and with her friend and lover, Pablo Neruda produced a book of Poems in support of the Republican cause. She met and befriended Pablo Casals and Ernest Hemingway. She also encountered Pablo Picasso. She published the results of her literary questionnaire to writers and poets, "Authors take sides in the Spanish War" in the Literary Review. Out of 147 responses, 126 supported the Republic, 12 were neutral and only 5 supported Franco, the most prominent of whom was Evelyn Waugh. When the Republic was defeated by Franco, she worked among the refugees in France providing food and help whenever she could. In 1940 she left France to go and live in Chile with Pablo Neruda. Returning from Chile via Mexico, Nancy worked for the BBC and Free French in London. When she returned to France, she found that her home had been trashed by the Nazis and the collaborating local mayor. She continued to oppose Franco and to write books and poetry, but later life saw her encounter nervous breakdowns, anorexia and emphysema. She died in Paris in 1965 and her ashes were interred at Père La Chaise Cemetery in Paris.

David Hogg