

The Spring Garden Soup Society

The First 100 Years

Chapter One

At the Spring meeting 1974, our Vice-President, Mr. Fulton Samson, asked me if I could compile a figure that would represent our total charitable contribution over the past 122 years. I thought it best to start with our old records beginning in December 1851. When I drew the first minute book from the storage box, I was just appalled to find the entire leather binding full of worms and the book just about falling apart. I took the book home, treated it with colorless DDT and proceeded to repair it. The minutes were all legible and written in beautiful penmanship. The credit for our having these records is due to the efforts of our late President, Mr. William R. McKeldin. He was head of the Atmore Mince Meat Company for many years and the Atmore family did very much for our Society. I was under the impression that the Atmores founded it, but this is not so. Mr. Fredrick Atmore was elected to the Board of Managers September 20, 1852 about eight months after the first meeting. The first meeting was held at Commissioners Hall on Spring Garden Street in December 1851. There were 35 persons present and their purpose was to organize the Spring Garden Soup Society. They felt the need of a Soup House in the Spring Garden district. At this meeting they elected the following officers:

President:	Mr. James Peters
Secretary:	Mr. William Stocton
Treasurer:	Mr. John Dohnert

They decided to raise funds by selling Annual Memberships for \$1.00 and Life Memberships for \$20.00. About half of the original group bought Life Memberships and the others Annual.

The first order of business was to choose a suitable location for the Soup House. In those days Spring Garden Street was a nice suburb of Philadelphia. Beautiful homes along a fine wide street. Beyond this and within the city limits were many farms.

A committee was appointed to attend to the incorporation of the Society. It was also decided to have monthly meetings to be held in the evening. The second meeting was held January 1852 in the same location. Treasurer's report showed \$910 received, \$414 spent, balance \$496 in the treasury. The committee on purchase of ground recommended a lot on the north side of Buttonwood Street east of Broad Street. It was 32 feet wide, 50 feet deep and also an adjoining lot Whitehall Street 40 feet wide. The lots could be purchased for \$3.00 per front foot for the first and \$1.50 per front foot for the adjoining one. Mr. Samuel Sloan, architect, agreed to draw up plans for the Soup House free of charge. Motion was carried to purchase the lots.

I do not know whether this research into our history will yield enough information for me to give an accurate figure of our total charities. However, it is fascinating and interesting to review the events of 122 years ago. With your permission I will continue this and report at our next meeting.

Chapter Two

At our last meeting we reviewed some of the more important doings of our Society in 1851 and 1852. We learned of the original organization, the raising of funds and purchase of two lots on Buttonwood Street for the purpose of erecting a Soup House. The balance in our Treasury on October 7, 1852 was \$793.00. The Real Estate Committee recommended the signing of a contract to erect a two-story brick building complete with all plumbing facilities for \$2,021.00. The motion was accepted. But, everything was not so smooth, because Judge Campbell, one of the Board members, looking at the architect's plan said: "Why are you covering over the three foot alley in back? While the present people at City Hall do not object, a new administration could make you tear down the entire north wall and open up the alley". Mr. Sloan said: "We have covered up several alleys and have had no trouble. By doing this we will get at least 5 more feet in depth for your property". The Board of Managers were not happy about this and they asked Mr. Sloan if he would revise the plan to keep the alley open. He agreed.

Cresson & Co. iron works presented our Society with a 90 gallon black iron soup pot. Another pot, just like it, was ordered from Cresson & Co. No price for this was mentioned in the records. It was decided that when the Soup House opened the hours of distribution would be

from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., Sunday was excepted. During the meeting December 1852 the Ladies Auxiliary of the Spring Garden Soup Society was formed. They were the wives and daughters of the Board.

There were 12 members present at the meeting held in Commissioners Hall on Spring Garden Street January 1853. It was decided that deeds for the Soup House be given to the Treasurer for safe keeping. The problem of a suitable housekeeper was considered. There was to be a room and bath on the second floor for the housekeeper. A motion was made to ask the collector for Life Memberships to make an accounting of his collections. Donations of three barrels of flour, three rugs, two long handle soup ladles were received. The Committee on Supplies was asked to have flour made into bread. Mr. George Sweeney donated 90 fire bricks and fire clay for the stoves. 1000 regular bricks and 10 bushels of lime were also given. The stoves were to be built low with iron grates, tippable to dump ashes into an ash pit built in the cellar. Butter & McCarthy contributed 2 doz. tablespoons and four spittoons. Four tons of coal were donated. There were many problems to be solved and more money raised before the Soup House could be formally opened. Most difficult was supervision and management. The flow of supplies had to be coordinated and timed to arrive when needed. During a later meeting that year it was decided that soup would be sold for 4 cents a quart to those who could afford to pay. Tickets would be issued 25 for \$1.00. Those persons who were destitute would be given tickets free after it was established they could not pay.

The Soup House was formally opened March 21, 1853.

Chapter Three

In May 1853 the Committee on Real Estate recommended renting part of the Soup House to the Northern Home for Friendless Children for \$120 per year with the understanding that some of the Ladies of that home help with making the soup. On December 1, 1854 most of the cost of the soup building had been paid and the balance in the Treasury was \$93. It was decided to distribute two slices of bread to each quart of soup on Saturdays and any other day not to exceed twice a week.

December 10, 1855, part of the ground rent principal was paid leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$235.03.

There were several periods during 1856 when the Soup House was obliged to close due to lack of funds. Receipt of a legacy for \$500 from Mr. Jasper Coke put them back in operation. In 1857 finances improved somewhat and the board decided to distribute bread with soup each day. A committee was appointed to meet with committees from other soup houses in the City in order to standardize the making of soup. This was an effort that was doomed to failure from the very beginning for a number of reasons. First, each soup house had difficulty in getting supplies of meat and vegetables and often had to take what was available from their source of supply, even though it differed from the standard ingredients. Our Society was fortunate with meat through the Atmore family. Potatoes were basic ingredients. Other vegetables were seasonal and not available at all times. Refrigeration was dependent on ice and there was very little around except in winter. Second, the soup houses in Philadelphia did not love each other. There was jealousy and bad feeling between different organizations. There were many disputes as to territorial boundaries.

During 1858 the House had to close twice for insufficient funds. In 1859 a number of Life Memberships were sold bringing the balance in the Treasury up to \$1,377.39. These memberships were sold by a professional solicitor for a 10% commission. The year 1860 was again a problem. The sales of Life Memberships fell off. Expenses were higher both for food and supervision. In 1861 a resolution of thanks was given to Dr. J.H. Seltzer and Mr. Frederick Atmore for their work in procuring the passage of a bill through the State Legislature exempting the Society's property from taxation. The year 1862 was marked by an agreement between the various Soup Societies in Philadelphia defining boundaries for their operation: Spring Garden Society from Delaware Ave. to the Schuykill River and from Market Street to Spring Garden Street. It was agreed to amend the By-Laws that any legacies or monies received in large amounts, not needed for immediate expenses, be invested to return an income to the Society. The first investment was in City of Philadelphia 6% Bonds. Total at this time: \$4,500. It was resolved that making and distributing soup be discontinued during May, June, July, August, and September because of difficulties in handling perishable foodstuffs in the hot weather. Other foods, however, would be distributed.

During 1863 and 64 on account of the Civil War, operations were somewhat curtailed. A number of U.S. 5% War Bonds were purchased for the investment fund. In February 1865 the price of a quart of soup was raised to 6 cents from the previous 4 cents per quart.

This about covers the events in the first 15 years of our history. The officers at the beginning of 1866 were:

President:	Mr. James Peters
Secretary:	Mr. Frederick Atmore
Treasurer:	Mr. Thomas Mathis

Chapter Four

During the year 1866, the Board of Managers held meetings twice a month. The aftermath of the Civil War was causing a general let-down in the economy and new problems for the Society. The most pressing one was to continue raising funds sufficient to keep the Soup House in operation. In April the Committee on Supplies was authorized by the Board to close the Soup House whenever they deemed it advisable. It was closed for seven months and then reopened January 3, 1867. Consideration was given to a proposal to erect a bath house adjacent to the Soup House where poor persons could take a shower before receiving their soup. This proposal was put in the hands of a Committee for further study. At the October 11th meeting, the Committee reported the cost of bathing facilities would be about \$8,000.00, including all fixtures and the erection of a suitable bathhouse in the rear of present building. No action was taken on this because funds were not available.

On the 19th of August 1869, a startling event occurred. A Mr. M. Homer, without the knowledge or consent of any member of the Society (the Soup House was closed for the summer), took possession of the property, used the soup caldrons, coals and stoves for his own purposes in the manufacture of tomato ketchup. This went on for over a month before he was prosecuted and evicted for trespassing. The Real Estate Committee was given the power to sue Mr. Homer for damages. During the five months in 1869 that the Soup House was open, the whole amount of soup distributed was 46,340 pints and 6,175 pounds of bread.

At the meeting April 8, 1870, it was reported that Mr. M. Homer, who used the Soup House to make ketchup, had no assets to pay the \$250 in damages to the Society. The judge sentenced him to three years imprisonment. During the year 1870, the amount of soup distributed was 53,461 pints and 5,970 pounds of bread. The expenses to do this averaged \$20.04 per day. A campaign of solicitation of funds produced over \$2,000 and the financial pressure to continue the charity was greatly eased.

February 20, 1872 was marked by the death of Mr. James Peters who served as President of the Society since February 27, 1852. A resolution of appreciation for his devotion to this organization was sent to his family. At the April meeting, Vice President, Mr. John M. Ogden, was unanimously elected President, Mr. D. R. Erdman, Vice President, Mr. Thomas Mather, Treasurer and Mr. Fredrick Atmore, Secretary. The Treasurer's report showed \$10,800 City of Philadelphia 6% Bonds in the Investment Fund. This had been built up by legacies and other gifts during the preceding five years. The interest from these bonds was of great help in paying the expenses. During the year 1874, total distribution of soup was 128,066 pints and 28,324 pounds of bread.

The Spring Garden Soup Society was now a well-established and respected charitable organization in the City of Philadelphia.

Chapter Five

In this research into the highlights of the history of our Society in articles written to date, over the period from the founding of the organization in 1850 to the end of 1874 covering the first twenty-five years, one fact stands out, namely, the immense amount of work involved in running a soup house. It could never could have been accomplished if it had not been for many volunteers who gave their time and means free. This included the officers, members of the board of managers, their families and friends. There were many donations of food and money. Tending two large coal fires, preparing vegetables and meat for soup pots, baking loaves of bread from the barrels of flour given, treating the long line of destitute people as if they were human beings and were welcome. Many of these stood in the cold winter wind without warm clothing. Many had walked several miles to the Soup House. They were hungry. When you think of the quantity of soup dispensed in 1874 during the five winter months – 128,066 pints, the quantity of bread baked in the ovens amounting to 28,324 pounds, each person receiving two slices with each pint of soup, one can only marvel at the size of the undertaking and the amount of work those dedicated persons accomplished.

During the winter of 1875, the Soup House was open for distribution from December 16, 1874 to March 27, 1875. The whole amount of soup distributed was 88,110 pints and 20,782 pounds of bread. In April the Committee on Property submitted an estimate for \$641.50 to replace the two stoves and two iron kettles. It was accepted and the work would be finished

before the next opening of the Soup House. A bill for potatoes amounting to \$85 was paid and the balance in the treasury was \$292.77. Several legacies and other gifts brought the Investment Fund up to \$15,715.

In 1876, 91,360 pints of soup and 14,668 pounds of bread were distributed. \$2,000 in the Investment Fund was used to purchase 7% Bonds of the City of Pittsburgh. Two hundred dollars were appropriated to provide for the remaining years of Lydia Winner, the matron of this Society for the past 25 years. Her age and failing health prompted this action. For the sum appropriated she was admitted to the Baptist Home, 17th & Norris Streets, for life. This was done in October 1877. This year 153,610 pints of soup and 26,652 pounds of bread were distributed. Alfred and Mary White were appointed for joint services as matron with a salary of \$10 per week and living quarters on the second floor included free as long as they performed the duties satisfactorily. The Committee on Supplies contracted with F. Rommel for bread at 3-3/4 cents per pound. The amount of soup distributed in 1878 was 111,550 pints and 17,304 pounds of bread. Beef was being obtained from Chas. Miller Co. for 6 cents per pound.

During the year 1879, 121,700 pints of soup and 17,304 pounds of bread were distributed. This year was marked with sorrow by the death of Mr. Frederick Atmore, Secretary, with a record of faithful service to the Society for 27 years. At a later meeting that year, Mr. David S. Creswell was elected to the Secretaryship. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$925.75 in the current fund as of December 15, 1879.

In 1880 it was reported that the original stone from which Life Membership certificates were made was no longer in existence. There were no more certificates available and the Treasurer was asked to find out how more of them could be procured. The Real Estate Committee reported that gas mains had been laid along Buttonwood Street and they would look into the advisability of lighting and heating with gas instead of coal.

The amount of soup distributed in 1880 was 53,722 pints and 6,070 pounds of bread. The Treasurer's Investment Fund report showed a total of \$20,140 invested in U.S. and Municipal Bonds. During the year 1881, 50,585 pints of soup and 6,950 pounds of bread were distributed. A motion to connect with Philadelphia Gas Works was approved for lighting purposes only. The first month's bill for this was \$10.

During the year 1882, 28,360 pints of soup and 8,455 pounds of bread were distributed. The Treasurer's report showed the Investment Fund totaled \$24,600. This included \$5,000 Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore R.R. 5% bonds recently purchased.

Mr. Robert E. Atmore was unanimously elected to the Board of Managers. In October, Mr. John M. Ogden, President, died. His faithful work and many acts of kindness would be long remembered. On February 23, 1883, a Committee was authorized to draw up a new edition of the Constitution and By-Laws. This season 39,036 pints of soup were distributed and 9,610 pounds of bread. The following officers were unanimously elected:

President:	Mr. William McClary
Vice President:	Mr. Thomas Marsh
Treasurer:	Mr. Thomas Mather
Secretary:	Mr. Hall Engles

Mr. Eli Krupp's name was stricken from the list of managers for non-payment of dues.

The total amount of soup distributed in 1884 was 32,664 pints and 9,020 pounds of bread. The amount in the Investment Fund reached \$32,000 due to several legacies. The Fleishmann Baking Co. donated a total of 980 pounds of bread at different times during the season.

The total amount of soup distributed in 1885 was 33,308 pints and 11,820 pounds of bread. In 1886, 29,332 pints of soup and 11,134 pounds of bread were distributed. The amount in the Investment Fund at this time totaled \$37,000. In 1887, 22,424 pints of soup were distributed and 8,089 pounds of bread. At the April meeting in 1888, Mr. Thomas Mather, Treasurer, resigned on account of failing health. He had served faithfully for 24 years and his resignation was accepted with regret. The Board of Managers appointed Mr. John A. Riter to fill the unexpired term of the former Treasurer. The amount of soup distributed during 1888 was 28,216 pints and 10,380 pounds of bread. The amount of soup distributed in 1889 was 27,000 pints and 9,702 pounds of bread.

A motion was offered by Mr. Chapman that the Committee that was appointed to revise the Constitution and By-Laws insert a clause to allow the Society to distribute coal among the worthy poor living in the district in addition to soup and bread. The motion was approved.

Besides the distribution of an enormous amount of soup and bread, this 15 year period in our history was marked by the building up of the Investment Fund from \$15,700 in 1874 to \$37,000 in 1889.

Chapter Six

In September 1890, a legacy was received from Mr. George S. Pepper, deceased, for \$5000 to be held in trust and the income used for the work of the Society. During the season of 1890, 22,488 pints of soup were distributed and 6,687 pounds of bread. Total in the Investment Fund was \$41,800.

On the advice of counsel, it was decided not to alter the Constitution or By-Laws to allow giving of coal as well as bread and soup, but rather to appropriate \$300 for this purpose from funds to be collected this year by the collectors who would tell each donor for what purpose the money would be used.

In 1891 the Spring Garden National Bank failed. \$533.61 of the Society's money was lost. Also a \$2,300 bond and mortgage was affected because the mortgagee lost his money and could not meet the interest payments. On a motion of the Treasurer a new bank account was opened with the Fidelity Safe Deposit Co., a predecessor of the Fidelity Bank. Total soup distributed was 23,562 pints and 6,842 pounds of bread in 1891.

At the meeting in February 1892, the Committee on Coal presented a bill from the Jarden Coal Co. for \$110. This was for 22 tons of coal delivered to poor families. It was paid. In March a bill for \$125 was paid for 25 tons distributed. During this year, 29,478 pints of soup and 12,970 pounds of bread distributed. The amount in the Investment Fund reached a total of \$48,425.

In January 1893, Mr. Jonathan Pugh, a collector for the Society, offered a judgement note for \$294.87, the amount he owed for collections. He had no funds to pay the amount. The note was accepted and he was told his services were terminated.

The Vienna Bakery Co. was thanked for their liberal gifts of bread during the season. Distribution in 1893 was 30,408 pints of soup and 19,111 pounds of bread and 134 tons of coal. The Investment Fund this year reached \$52,300.

In January 1894 a generous gift from Mr. John Baird was received. It was 425 pounds of coffee to be distributed to the poor. During the winter months 59 tons of coal, 109,092 pints of

soup and 54,200 pounds of bread were distributed. The securities in the Investment Fund were now valued at \$51,300, a reduction from the previous year due to the failure of a mortgage.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred White, co-matrons of the Soup House, were relieved of their duties June 1, 1895. During this season, 116 tons of coal, 70,712 pints of soup and 37,920 pounds of bread were distributed. Mrs. Mary Clabby was appointed the new matron.

In the year 1896, 79,200 pints of soup and 36,131 pounds of bread and 126 1/2 tons of coal were distributed. The price of coal having risen to \$5.75 per ton, it was decided be required to pay \$1.25 per ton for each ton distributed.

In 1897 distribution was 111,720 pints of soup, 52,900 pounds of bread and 64 tons of coal. Value of securities in the Investment Fund was \$51,800. A default in the payment of interest on \$2,000 Newton and New York Railway Co. 5% bond caused concern of the Board of Managers and a Committee was directed to investigate and determine what action should be taken.

In 1898 the Board was notified the \$2,000 bond and mortgage of John Hitchcock was in default. It was decided to place this in the hands of an attorney to make final collection by foreclosure or otherwise. Distribution was made of 104,200 pints of soup, 49,860 pounds of bread and 40 tons of coal.

In 1899, 96,200 pints of soup, 47,235 pounds of bread and 40 tons of coal were distributed.

In 1900, 105,400 pints of soup, 48,250 pounds of bread and 44 tons of coal were distributed.

In 1901, 106,600 pints of soup, 47,350 pounds of bread and 39 tons of coal were distributed. The officers at this time were:

President:	Mr. William McClary
Vice President:	Mr. Joseph Lamborn
Treasurer:	Mr. John A. Riter
Secretary:	Mr. Hall Engles

In December of this year the Society was shaken by the deaths of the President and Treasurer within three days of each other. This caused a temporary paralysis in the operation of the Soup House. No checks could be issued to pay accumulated bills. The first meeting of the

Board of Managers failed for a lack of quorum. The executor of the Treasurer's estate refused to turn over the books nor the keys to the safe deposit box, which contained the securities of the Society, until a new president and treasurer elected. The Soup House was forced to close during the month of January 1902. Finally a meeting was held and Mr. Charles Savidge was elected the new President and Mr. Townsend Willits, Treasurer. At this meeting Mr. Craig Atmore was elected to serve on the Board.

Later in 1902 there were distributed 72,600 pints of soup, 37,925 pounds of bread and 83 tons of coal. The total of securities in the Investment Fund at this time was \$59,900.

Chapter Seven

In 1903 the baking of bread in the Soup House was discontinued and all bread distributed was either bought or donated from different bakeries. This year 74,800 pints of soup, 34,170 pounds of bread and 74 tons of coal were distributed.

In 1904, 69,700 pints of soup, 39,320 pounds of bread and 46 tons of coal were distributed.

In 1905, the total Investment Fund reached \$67,300. This year 67,400 pints of soup, 29,800 pounds of bread and 52 tons of coal were distributed.

In 1906, 73,420 pints of soup, 38,015 pounds of bread and 53 tons of coal were distributed.

In 1907, 78,630 pints of soup, 37,150 pounds of bread and 67 tons of coal were distributed. The total in the Investment Fund reached \$69,600.

In 1908, 75,490 pints of soup, 54,655 pounds of bread and 72 tons of coal were distributed.

In 1909, 77,620 pints of soup, 55,174 pounds of bread and 48 tons of coal. On October 22, 1909 the death of Mr. Robert E. Atmore was suffered. He was the senior member of the Board in length of service and will long be remembered for his work. His nephew, Mr. Robert C. Atmore, was unanimously elected to the Board. The securities held in the Investment Fund now totaled \$71,200.

The year 1910 was marked by the death of Mr. Townsend Willits, Treasurer. He was succeeded by Mr. Hall Engles, the former Secretary. Mr. Charles Savidge, President, asked to be

relieved of his duties on account of failing health. This year 85,200 pints of soup, 28,656 pounds of bread and 47 tons of coal were distributed.

In 1911, Mr. Joseph Lamborn was elected President, Mr. William R. King, Vice President and Mr. Hall Engles, Secretary and Treasurer. Distribution was made of 78,200 pints of soup, 22,452 pounds of bread and 42 tons of coal.

In 1912, 72,420 pints of soup, 29,970 pounds of bread and 44 tons of coal were distributed. The securities in the Investment Fund totaled \$76,800.

In 1913, 73,560 pints of soup, 23,873 pounds of bread and 49 tons of coal were distributed.

In 1914, the securities in the Investment Fund reached a total of \$78,200. During this year 71,860 pints of soup, 19,340 pounds of bread and 46 tons of coal were distributed.

In 1915, the Committee appointed to revise the By-Laws completed their assignment. The vote was postponed until the next meeting to allow time for the members of the Board to study changes. This year there was distribution made of 72,890 pints of soup, 19,640 loaves of bread and 41 tons of coal.

Chapter Eight

In 1916 the new set of By-Laws was adopted and spread on the minutes. They are essentially the ones we are using today. Mr. Hall Engle, Secretary for many years died in October 1916. He also served in the office of Treasurer. Mr. John Engard was elected Treasurer to succeed him. Dr. John L. Yard was elected Secretary. Distribution was made of 74,960 pints of soup, 21,480 pounds of bread and 46 tons of coal.

In 1917, 46,320 pints of soup, 14,663 pounds of bread and 38 tons of coal were distributed. Total of securities in the Investment Fund was \$81,100.

In 1918, 17,960 pints of soup, 4,197 pounds of bread and 28 tons of coal were distributed. The sharp drop in the quantity of distribution was due to a lessening of demand during the last year of World War 1. The employment rate was high.

In 1919, 21,870 pints of soup, 6,420 pounds of bread and 29 tons of coal were distributed. Balance of securities in the Investment Fund reached \$85,300.

In 1920, 14,570 pints of soup, 4,382 pounds of bread and 32 tons of coal were distributed. In April 1920, Mr. John Engard resigned as Treasurer on account of failing health. Mr. Freeman Stroup was elected to succeed him.

In 1921, 15,680 pints of soup, 4,732 pounds of bread and 29 tons of coal were distributed.

During the year 1922, 20,200 pints of soup, 7,382 pounds of bread and 31 tons of coal were distributed. The officers in 1922 were:

President:	Mr. Joseph Lamborn
Vice President:	Mr. Jesse E. Thomas
Treasurer:	Mr. Freeman Stroup
Secretary:	Mr. John L. Yard

In 1923 there were distributed 9,850 pints of soup, 2,428 pounds of bread and 2 tons of coal. No coal was available until after March 23rd on account of a strike. Total of securities in the Investment Fund \$88,600.

In 1924, 14,570 pints of soup, 4,370 pounds of bread, and 7 1/2 tons of coal were distributed. The total amount in the Investment Fund reached \$90,600.

In 1925, 23,430 pints of soup, 10,006 pounds of bread, 150 baskets of potatoes and 40 1/2 tons of coal were distributed up to April 1st when the Soup House closed for the season. However, in August 1925 it was reopened. No soup was made during this second opening, but 2,953 pounds of bread, 21 baskets of potatoes, 397 pounds of stewing meat and 32 additional tons of coal were distributed.

In 1926, 19,940 pints of soup, 12,915 pounds of bread, 45 baskets of potatoes and 23 tons of coal were distributed. During the summer, although the Soup House was closed, they continued to serve supplies to 27 families, distributing 7,820 pounds of bread, 2,599 pounds of stewing meat and 4 tons of coal. These were delivered direct by the dealers to families.

In 1927, 26,000 pints of soup, 16,759 pounds of bread, 66 baskets of potatoes were distributed up to April 1st when the Soup House closed. During the summer months further distribution was made from dealers of 12,451 loaves of bread, 4,600 pounds of stewing meat, 914 quarts of milk and 30 baskets of potatoes. These were delivered direct to needy families.

During the year 1928, 26,055 pints of soup, 19,689 loaves of bread, 36 baskets of potatoes and 44 tons of coal were distributed from January 3rd to April 23rd. Gas was now being used for cooking instead of coal and the house was wired for electric lighting.

In 1929, 18,050 pints of soup, 14,750 loaves of bread and 33 tons of coal were distributed. The Society mourned the death of the President, Mr. Joseph Lamborn, age 82, who served the Society faithfully for 29 years. The new officers elected in November were:

President:	Mr. F. P. Stroup
Vice President:	Mr. William Powell
Treasurer:	Mr. S. L. Bailey, Jr.
Secretary:	Rev. A. M. Strayhorn

Chapter Nine

In 1930, the beginning of the Great Depression, which lasted for a number of years, put a great strain on the Society's resources. It was necessary to spend part of the principal of the Investment Fund several times to meet the needs. During this year, 41,000 pints of soup, 20,180 loaves of bread, \$1,162.48 worth of milk and 32 ½ tons of coal were distributed.

In 1931, \$4,000 of Liberty Bonds from the Investment Fund were sold and the money given to the Family Society under the direction of Miss Constance Biddle. This Society distributed food in the Spring Garden District, but did not operate a soup house. The donation helped them cope with a situation never experienced before. The Board of Mangers of our Society, after long debate, decided to close the Soup House permanently and put the building up for sale. This method of dispensing charity had become obsolete and too expensive to continue. \$2,253.14 was spent for milk delivered to needy families direct from a dairy, \$783 worth of bread was given the same way and 35 tons of coal.

In 1932, 9,286 quarts of milk at 11 cents per quart, 53 tons of coal at \$12.50 per ton. Half the cost of a ton of coal was now being collected from the recipient. 9,413 loaves of bread direct from a bakery and \$4,000 from the sale of Liberty Bonds was given to the Family Society. Miss Biddle reported that the donation was spent entirely for milk.

In 1933, 14, 125 quarts of milk at 9 cents a quart, 13,750 loaves of bread at 4 cents per loaf, 37 1/2 tons of coal and 1,300 pounds of stewing meat costing \$98.63 were distributed. The

death of Mr. Craig Atmore was a great loss to the Society. His father and grandfather had also served the Society for many years.

In 1934, the Soup House remained closed but the Society gave 19,772 quarts of milk, 21,754 loaves of bread, \$185.65 worth of stewing meat and 90 tons of coal delivered directly to the needy families. This year the Fidelity Trust Company was given charge of all the securities in the Investment Fund by a custodial agreement. The fee charged for this service was 2% of the income payable quarterly. The balance of income turned over to the Treasurer with a statement four times a year. Changes in the portfolio could only be made by an order from the Finance Committee.

In 1935, many disbursements were made. \$1,102 was spent for milk, \$337 for bread, \$150 for meat and a record amount of coal, 146 tons, costing \$1,517.

In 1936, the Society had been spending more money since 1931 than was received. This was on account of the depression. It was resolved by the Board that expenditures in the future be limited to the income and even less so that the principal fund could be built up now that depression years seemed to be over. This year a notice was received from the Fidelity Trust Company that their charge for handling our trust account would be raised from 2% to 4%. The Board considered this an excessive increase, 100% in two years was almost unbelievable. It seems that all the banks did this about the same time and since the Society had been dealing with Fidelity so many years (since 1891) they did not want to make a change. Mr. W. R. McKeldin was elected Secretary to fill the vacancy of the death of Dr. Strayborn.

In 1937, distribution was made of \$356 worth of coal, \$1,806 worth of milk, \$237 worth of bread, and \$74 worth of meat. Officers at this time were:

President:	Mr. A. K. Comly
Vice President:	Mr. Robert C. Atmore
Treasurer:	Mr. Samuel Bailey, Jr.
Secretary:	Mr. William R. McKeldin

Chapter Ten

In 1938, Mr. Frank H. Lawley was elected to the Board of Managers. He was destined to become a very valuable member of the Society. During this year there was distribution of \$1,908.18 worth of milk, \$256.34 of bread and \$53.00 of meat. In addition, 127 tons of coal at

half price costing \$636.36. President, Mr. A. K. Comly, reported the best arrangement that could be made with the Fidelity Trust Bank was a 4% service charge on the custodial account.

In 1939, Mr. A. K. Comly, President, died. Mr. Frank B. Rowe was elected the new President. A short time after this Mr. Samuel L. Bailey, Treasurer, also died. Mr. Frank H. Lawley was elected Treasurer to succeed him. Disbursements for relief were as follows: milk \$1,720.18, bread \$201.37, meat \$26.00 and coal, net cost, \$756.80. Total value of securities in the Fidelity custodial account was \$85,500.

In 1940, disbursements for relief were \$1,233.31 for milk, \$211.11 for bread and \$781.65 for coal. Mr. Philip H. Peterson was elected to the Board of Managers.

In 1941, a new roof was placed on the property at 1329 Buttonwood St. and other repairs to the house. This year \$637.95 was spent for milk, \$96.94 for bread and \$980.15 net for coal.

The officers in 1941 were:

President:	Mr. Frank B. Rowe
Vice President:	Mr. Lester W. Dykeman
Treasurer:	Mr. Frank H. Lawley
Secretary:	Mr. William R. McKeldin

During the year 1942, 4,573 quarts of milk were distributed. In addition \$778.11 was spent for coal. Mr. Frank B. Rowe, President, died this year. He succeeded by Mr. Andrew W. Christian.

In 1943, there were distributed 6,159 quarts of milk and 95 tons of coal. In addition, \$150 was given to Calvary Church, Germantown, to buy milk and bread for the Calvary Seaside Home for Children. Mr. George J. Dixon was elected to the Board of Managers and also Mr. George F. Lammey. The old Soup House property at 1329 Buttonwood Street was finally sold, after five years of effort, for \$3,000, subject to a mortgage of \$1,500.

In 1944, Mr. William R. McKeldin resigned as Secretary of the Society. Mr. George J. Dixon was elected Secretary to succeed him. There were distributed this year 7,267 quarts of milk, 44 tons of coal, and \$150 to Seaside Home for Children.

Chapter Eleven

During the year 1945, distribution was made of 6,600 quarts of milk and 67 tons of coal. Also \$150 was donated to the Seaside Home.

In 1946, distribution was made of 10,520 quarts of milk, 59 tons of coal and \$150 to the Seaside Home.

In 1947, distribution was made of 8,560 quarts of milk, 53 tons of coal and \$150 to the Seaside Home.

In 1948, there were distributed 8,737 quarts of milk and 35 tons of coal. Also \$150 cash grant to the Seaside Home for Children. On a motion by Mr. Lawley, seconded by Mr. Richmond that the agency agreement with the Fidelity Trust Company be terminated and the handling of the mortgages be transferred to C. Harry Johnson, Inc. He was a well-known Philadelphia realtor and a member of the Board. The motion was carried.

In 1949, the motion to have C. Harry Johnson, Inc. handle the mortgages in the Fidelity Trust Company agency was rescinded at Mr. Johnson's request. This year there were distributed 10,700 quarts of milk, 62 tons of coal and \$200 to the Seaside Home. Frank O. Schilpp, Esq. was elected to the Board.

In 1950, President Andrew W. Christian died. Mr. William R. McKeldin was elected to succeed him as President.

The total value of Principal Funds owned by the Society in 1950 was \$102,900. Of this total, \$37,900 was invested in mortgages. This was causing concern to the Board because they required so much servicing and in the past had experienced some losses. During this year, there were distributed 10,150 quarts of milk and 48 tons of coal. \$200 was given to the Seaside Home for Children.

In 1951, there were distributed 9,140 quarts of milk and 42 tons of coal. This year the Society lost by death, the chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. H. Warren Richmond. He had served faithfully for many years. The hiring of Mrs. Alfred Hirshberger to supervise the work of assistance was approved by the Board, with an expense allowance of \$25 per month.

In 1952, there was distribution of 10,370 quarts of milk costing \$2,269.69 and 73 tons of coal.
The officers at this time were:

President: Mr. William R. McKeldin
Vice President: Mr. Lester W. Dykeman
Treasurer: Mr. Frank H. Lawley
Secretary: Mr. George J. Dixon

INVESTMENT FUND HISTORY

There was no Investment Fund in the first ten years of our history. Even legacies had to be used to pay for the Soup House and to keep it in operation. It was necessary to amend the Constitution and By-Laws in 1862 to allow the Society to invest legacies and surplus money that was not needed for immediate expenses. The growth of the Investment Fund was as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Market Values</u>
1862	\$4,500.00
1872	10,800.00
1882	24,600.00
1892	48,425.00
1902	59,900.00
1912	76,800.00
1922	88,600.00
1932	81,300.00
1942	85,500.00
1952	102,900.00

Conclusion

This completes the historical highlights for the first 100 years of the Spring Garden Soup Society. It is surely an honorable record and one we all can be proud of.

Returning to the original purpose of this series of articles, I have calculated the following summary of the total charities the Society rendered during the first 100 years:

Soup:	3,838,842 pints	1853 to 1932
Bread:	1,402,044 loaves	1853 to 1942
Meat:	13,495 pounds	1925 to 1939
Potatoes:	348 baskets	1925 to 1928
Coffee:	425 pounds	1894
Milk:	259,956 quarts	1927 to 1952
Coal:	3,035 tons	1892 to 1952

In addition to these, cash donations were made to other charities as follows:

\$4,000 to the Family Society in 1931

\$4,000 to the Family Society in 1932

\$1,300 to Calvary Seaside Home – 1942 to 1950

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Peterson

Philip H. Peterson, Treasurer

August, 1975

Acknowledgment: Retyped in December, 2000 by Marabeth Veloski.

Proofread by Elizabeth Montanti.

Highlights in the History of the Spring Garden Soup Society After the first One Hundred Years

Chapter One

The Society, founded in 1852, made a remarkable record of charitable work in Philadelphia during the first century of its existence. The purpose of this series of articles is to make available to the Officers and members of the Board important information about events and decisions that were made in prior years. For example, when the Soup House was permanently closed in 1932, it was a difficult decision for the Board to make with no precedent to guide them. It was a question then, whether the Society should be dissolved and the funds turned over to the State, or whether the Society could be continued doing some other charitable services under the Constitution and By-Laws.

In addition to this, it is our purpose to find the total amount of charity dispensed by the Society from 1852 to the present time. We will therefore start with the year 1953. The Finance Committee recommended the investment of \$5000 in U.S. Government Bonds. The Board approved. Distribution the year was 14,483 quarts of milk, 125 tons of coal and \$200 cash grant to Calvary Seaside Home.

In 1954, Mr. Lester W. Dykeman, Vice President, resigned because of poor health. Distribution was made of 13,140 quarts of milk, 71 tons of coal and \$200 to the Seaside Home for Children.

In 1955, Mr. George M. Metter was elected to the Board of Managers succeeding Mr. C. Harry Johnson. Mr. Frank O. Schilpp was elected Vice President succeeding Mr. Lester Dykeman. Distribution was made of 15,720 quarts of milk and 62 tons of coal.

In 1956, Mr. J. Edgar Spielman was elected to the Board. Distribution was made of 15,416 quarts of milk and 101 tons of coal. This year Mr. Walton Gibb, Jr. was elected to the Board.

In 1957, 13,135 quarts of milk were distributed and 18 tons of coal.

In 1958, 12,136 quarts of milk and 14 tons of coal were distributed. Mr. Gordon Smyth, chairman of the Finance Committee, recommended the sale of \$14,000 U.S. Government "K" Bonds held by the Society and the proceeds invested in good common stocks. The motion was carried. This year, Mr. Fulton W. Samson was elected to the Board of Managers. The Board was saddened by the death of former Vice President, Lester W. Dykeman. The officers at the end of 1958 were:

President: Mr. William R. McKeldin

Vice President: Frank A. Schilpp, Esq.
Treasurer: Mr. Frank H. Lawley
Secretary: Mr. George J. Dixon

Chapter Two

In 1959, distribution was made of 17,524 quarts of milk and 7 tons of coal. Mr. Fulton W. Samson investigated the Family Aid Society with the thought this agency might handle the distribution for us. He reported that this organization is not the answer and is of no interest to our Society.

In 1960, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. W. T. Hall, reported that due to the illness of Mrs. Nellie Hirshberger, no report could be made. This year there were distributed 15,759 quarts of milk. Within a few days after Mr. Hall's report the Board was shocked to hear of his death.

In 1961, the total investment in the Fidelity custodial account was \$128,022. Distribution was made of 15,640 quarts of milk. Mr. McKeldin and Mr. Lawley placed all the old records of the Society in a storage box at The Fidelity Bank. Mr. Lawley had charge of the key.

Mrs. Nellie Hirshberger was confined to a nursing home and Mr. J. Edgar Spielman suggested that her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Alfred Hirshberger, Jr. be appointed to take her place as an investigator for the Society with an expense allowance of \$40 per month. The motion was approved.

In 1962, distribution was made of 10,408 quarts of milk. Mr. H. W. Jackson was elected to the Board, and Mr. Walton Gibb Jr. was elected Assistant Treasurer.

In 1963, Mr. W. Dewees Yeager and Mr. Thomas J. Liggett, Jr. were elected to the Board of Managers. Distribution was made of 11,104 quarts of milk. The Finance Committee reported the total value of investments held by the Society reached \$142,520. The increase was due mostly to higher market value of common stocks invested in several years ago.

In 1964, the market value of the Society's securities rose to \$159,549 due again to increased prices of common stocks. Mr. Eldon Smith was elected to the Board. 17,249 quarts of milk were distributed. Mrs. Alfred Hirshberger, Jr. was a guest at the November meeting and read a very interesting report.

In 1965, 16,993 quarts of milk were distributed. The market value of securities held by the Society dropped to \$148,455. Mrs. Hirshberger's allowance was increased to \$45.

In 1966, 16,820 quarts of milk were distributed. The value of securities dropped to \$140,205.

In 1967, 17,450 quarts of milk were distributed.

In 1968, 16,383 quarts of milk were distributed. The market value of securities dropped to \$135,414. The Board was saddened by the death of President William R. McKeldin in September. He had been a member of the Society since 1915 and had served faithfully as Secretary as well as President. Mr. Frank H. Lawley addressed the Board at the November meeting and asked to be relieved of the office of Treasurer. He suggested that Mr. Philip H. Peterson was qualified to do the work. At a meeting the following officers were elected:

President:	Mr. Walton Gibb, Jr.
Vice President:	Mr. Fulton W. Samson
Treasurer:	Mr. Philip H. Peterson
Secretary:	Mr. George J. Dixon

Chapter Three

In 1969, total market value of securities owned by the Society fell to \$131,285. A further drop in common stock prices was reflected. 15,379 quarts of milk were distributed. Mrs. Alfred Hirshberger, Jr. was present at the November meeting and gave the Executive Committee report in Mr. Spielman's absence. A motion was approved raising Mrs. Hirshberger's allowance to \$50 per month. President Gibb appointed Messrs. Peterson, Bowers and Schilpp to look into revising the by-laws and printing a new supply of booklets.

In 1970, the Society was saddened by the death of Mr. Frank H. Lawley who served faithfully for many years. He was Treasurer for 29 years. His work will be long remembered.

A further drop in value of the Society's securities was reflected. The total now was \$117,516. Mr. Peterson presented a report of the Committee for examination of the by-laws. It was the unanimous feeling of the Committee, except for a few minor changes, that the Articles & Amendments be reprinted as they were in the old booklet. On motion by Mr. Evans, the report was accepted and \$168 was appropriated to print 100 booklets. Distribution was made of 15,819 quarts of milk.

In 1971, the total market value of securities held by the Society was \$150,580, a sharp rebound from year before, due primarily to increased value of common stocks. Distribution was made of 15,241 quarts of milk.

A resolution was proposed that the Society transfer and assign to Anderson & Co., nominee for the Fidelity Bank, all securities in the Custodial account. This move was opposed by our Treasurer. He knew that Anderson & Co. was purely a fictitious name and there was no company at all. It was used by the bank for their own convenience in handling accounts. Mr. Peterson opposed this because he did not think the Board of Managers should give up any part of their control of the fund. However, the resolution was approved. At the next audit of the Society's finances the Audit Committee, headed by Mr. Charles H. Smith, was appalled to learn they could not audit anything held by Anderson & Co. They could not even see any of our securities. The only thing they could get was verbal assurance from one of the Vice Presidents that the bank would stand responsible for any misdoings of Anderson & Co.

Chapter Four

In 1972, distribution was made of 18,060 quarts of milk. Mr. Eldon Smith submitted his resignation from the Board due to reasons of health. The resignation was regretfully accepted. Mr. Gibb reported the death of Mr. J. Edgar Spielman who served the Society faithfully and was Chairman of the Executive Committee. Mr. E. Stanley Bowers, Jr. was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee to succeed Mr. Spielman. Mr. Charles T. Wakefield and Mr. Eldon Smith, Jr. were elected to the Board of Managers. Total of securities owned by the Society was \$147,334. The yearly dues of members were raised to \$5.00 per year effective November 1973.

In 1973, distribution was made of 13,771 quarts of milk. Mr. John K. Young was elected to the Board of Managers.

In 1974, distribution was made of 12,854 quarts of milk. The Treasurer was authorized to invest in an appropriate Savings Account such monies not needed for the current Fund. The initial deposit of \$1000 was made in the Fidelity Bank 5% savings fund. The interest to be credited at the end of December each year.

The year 1975 is fresh in the minds of the Board of Managers. It was marked by a number of events. The market value of the Investment Fund recovered over 10% from the low point in 1974 closing with a total of \$134, 626.25. Mr. E. Stanley Bowers, Jr., chairman of the Executive Committee, reported that Sealtest Foods, Inc., who have been distributing milk for us for many years,

had decided to give up this service. Fortunately, Breuninger's Dairy Co. agreed to take over this work and have since done a very good job of distributing milk for us.

The Board was saddened by the death of Mr. Charles T. Wakefield. He was one of our newer members and a highly respected man in charitable work. At the November meeting of the Board, Mr. Philip H. Peterson, Jr. was elected a member. Distribution this year was 13,670 quarts of milk.

Continuing the history of our Society from 1953 to end of 1975, I have compiled the figures showing the distributions made during this period. They are as follows:

333,535 quarts of milk
398 tons of coal (1953 to 1959)
also: \$400 given to Calvary Seaside Home for Children

When we add these items to the totals shown in the First One Hundred Years booklet, we have a grand total of charities from 1852 to 1975 as follows:

Soup:	3,838,842 pints
Milk:	593,491 quarts
Bread:	1,402,044 loaves
Meat:	13,495 pounds
Potatoes:	348 baskets
Coffee:	425 pounds
Coal:	3,433 tons

CASH GIFTS

Family Society	\$8,000.00
Calvary Seaside Home	1,700.00

Since the closing of the Soup House in 1932, much of the excitement and hard work was removed from our activities. The will to continue is still strong, but at present we are satisfied with the distribution of milk because we know it reaches the entire family which is in need. The distribution

has been done faithfully and we hope it will continue, so that in the year 2052 those persons in charge can point with pride to the Bicentennial of the Spring Garden Soup Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Peterson

Philip H. Peterson, Treasurer

February, 1976

Acknowledgment: Retyped in December, 2000 by Marabeth Veloski.

Proofread by Elizabeth Montanti.