

Winter 2021

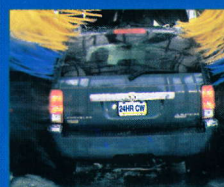
KING OF PRUSSIA NEWS

Information for
the Community



**24 HOUR
CAR WASH**

AT FRANKLIN MAPS



**ALWAYS
OPEN!**

333 S. Henderson Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

SEE COUPON ON PAGE 23

est. 1953

KING OF PRUSSIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

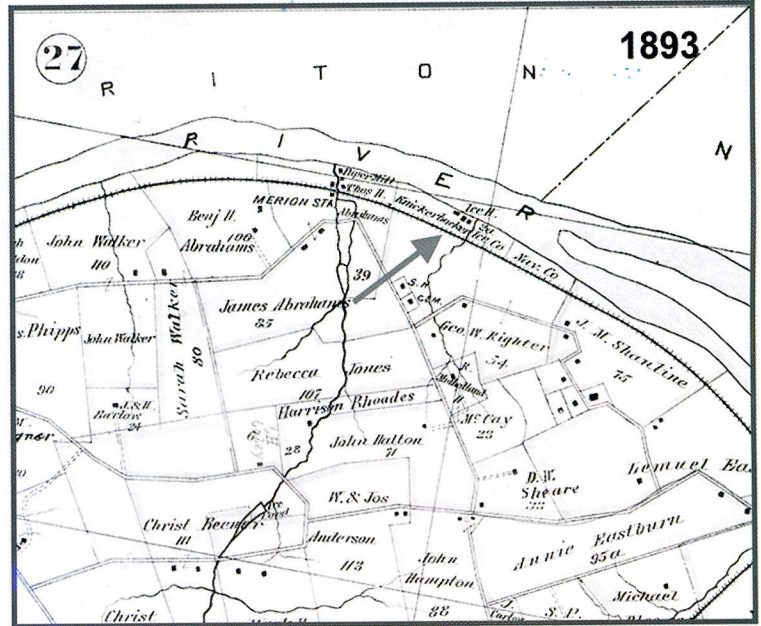


*Preserving Upper Merion's Past
To Enlighten Its Future*

In Upper Merion Township, the Knickerbocker Ice Company was well known. The largest of several sizable ice houses were located along the Schuylkill in the Abrams section of Upper Merion Township. The company was the leading ice company in the Philadelphia area and employed four to five hundred men through the late 1890's.

In 1899, the Knickerbocker Ice Company shipped 2,000 carloads of twelve inch ice from the Abrams site. In the early 1900's, ways were created to use electricity to refrigerate foods. The days when families relied on the iceman and iceboxes were

KNICKERBOCKER ICE COMPANY



On November 11, 1894, one of the large icehouses caught fire. Even though the icehouse was built partially of stone, it was destroyed since there was no volunteer fire company in Upper Merion. Bridgeport Fire Company Number One responded to the alarm with its horse-drawn apparatus. The building was consumed. A shift in the wind saved the other icehouses and two dwellings for the company employees. One of the stone walls of that building can be seen in the picture to the left, taken in the spring of 2005. The building measures about 30' x 60'.

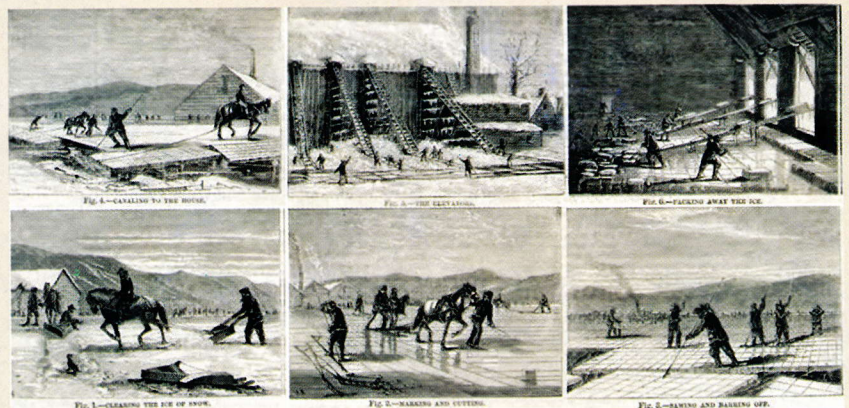
drawing to a close. By the 1920's, refrigerators were affordable to most families and took the place of iceboxes, putting an end to the ice cutting industry. Today, the Abram site lies in ruins.

* * *

*The above is an excerpt from the Winter 2013 issue of the King of Prussia Gazette's article, **The Knickerbocker Ice Company History**. The Gazette is the quarterly publication of the King of Prussia Historical Society. All members receive a copy via post. Please support us by becoming a member.*

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THE ICE HARVEST



Over the course of three weeks, workers had to clear, mark, cut, saw, float, lift and pack ice that would last until the following winter.
(Illustrations courtesy of American Agriculturist)