

**THE BULLETIN**  
*of*  
**RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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*Headquarters and Museum*

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## PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL HISTORY

It is heartening to a very-very volunteer society such as ours to occasionally find a new member whose personal interests and professional skills inspire them to undertake a research project which adds to our knowledge of local history. Such a study, and an expert one it is, comes from Dr. Gertrude Leighton, of the Bryn Mawr College faculty, whose legal training gave her practice in title searching and the assembling of a dossier of evidence to tell a good story. We are proud, in this *Bulletin*, to present what we hope will be the first of many studies of local land titles by Dr. Leighton.

Our President, Caroline Robbins, has also found time to give an account of two remarkable Radnor Township residents whose accomplishments wrote the brightest chapter in the long history of "Spring House," the eighteenth century property which they occupied, a house visited by this Society in October, 1951, and described in detail by F. J. Dallett in *The Suburban and Wayne Times*, issue of August 20, 1959. Miss Robbins, whose learning, energy and charm guide the destinies of the Radnor Historical Society, with its strength of 225 members, has inspired many times this number of future historians during her teaching career at Bryn Mawr College. In 1959 she published *The Eighteenth Century Commonwealth*, a distinguished history of the Whig tradition and Liberal thought in England.

The chief accomplishment of our Society during the year past was the publication in the autumn of 1959 of the *Old Radnor Engagement Calendar for 1960*, a twenty-four page booklet which reproduced eleven delightful pictures of local interest from the files of the Society. The Calendar was sent as a Christmas present to many places in this country and abroad.

Room remains only to repeat our yearly plea for MORE RESEARCHERS, MORE SPEAKERS, MORE LISTENERS, and, especially, MORE MEMBERS, at only \$3.00 a year. Please subscribe to your community Historical Society and send your check to:

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## NOTES ON "THE PLOUGH" AND "THE SORREL HORSE" TAVERNS ON OLD LANCASTER ROAD



The "Sorrel Horse" Tavern, Conestoga Road, Ithan, succeeded or incorporated an inn, "old" in 1734, known as the "Plough," 1743-1787, and as the "Sorrel Horse" from 1794 until it was demolished after this photograph was made (by J. K. Heilner, in May, 1909).

Between the 13th milestone and Radnor Friends Meeting on Conestoga Road, then Old Lancaster or the King's Road, the weary traveller of 1767 could have stopped for "cyder" or "cherry bounce" at one of two taverns. What were their names and where were they located? Recent acquisition by the Agnes Irwin School of the large handsome eighteenth century stone house, formerly the property of George H. McFadden, at the corner of Ithan Avenue and Conestoga Road has revived an interest in this question. Local inhabitants (supported by the McFadden tablet on the bridge over Kirk's Run) say the Irwin School property was the original "Sorrel Horse Tavern". Julius F. Sachse, however, in his *The Wayside Inns on the Lancaster Road* maintains that this was "The Plough", mentioned in the distance tables from Philadelphia in the provincial almanacs for the years preceding the opening of the new Lancaster Turnpike in 1794. A more recent "Sorrel Horse Tavern" is known to have existed on the north side of Old Lancaster Road, half a mile west of the Irwin School property and just east of the juncture with Mill Road. This two and a half storied stone building with porch on two sides (and the twenty-two acres on which it stood) appears on the Ash and Hopkins maps of 1848, 1870, and 1881 variously titled as the "Sorrel Horse Tavern" and "Sorrel Horse Hotel".

It has since been demolished and replaced by the present houses. But even after 1897 when it was acquired by quarry owner Charles B. Quigley, it continued to be operated as a tavern. More than likely the building was enlarged over the years or perhaps there were several buildings with the same name on this site as the long history of the twenty-two acre tract — originally twenty-one acres — will show.

The core of the story of these two properties lies between the year 1734 and 1897. During that time the Irwin School land, which Anderson Kirk called "Highland Farm" after he bought it in 1858 (it was then a plantation of a hundred and thirty eight acres largely on the south side of Old Lancaster Road) changed hands by deed six times, twice in the eighteenth century. The other property lying in a southeasterly direction from Spring Mill Road across Old Lancaster Road and invariably identified as containing twenty-one acres (the additional acre appears in the deed of 1813) changed hands six times in the eighteenth century and five times in the nineteenth. These deeds show conclusively that the traveller going west in 1767 if he stopped at "The Plough" went past "Highland Farm" and down the hill to the twenty-one acre tract. For on November 16th of that year David Rees (variously "Reese") "Innholder" and his wife Rachel conveyed to Joseph Norris, "Yeamon" of Plymouth, for three hundred and forty pounds and five shillings, twenty-one acres of land including appurtenances "commonly now known by the name and addition of the sign of the Plough Tavern by the Lancaster Road in the Township of Radnor."

In September of the previous year, Aubrey Harry "Yeoman" and licensed proprietor of a public house, conveyed with his wife Sarah their hundred acre tract at the top of the hill — later "Highland Farm" — to Michael Stadleman (variously "Stadleman") "Innholder." The conveyancer in this transaction was less generous in his description. We are told only that the land, which was sold for the high price of eight hundred pounds, included "all and singular messuages [dwellings], tenements and buildings." Whatever he received in the way of buildings, Stadleman was apparently not satisfied. Two years later in 1768, according to the date stone, he built the central part of the existing house. Although the later deeds do not mention the name "Sorrel Horse", other evidence — the petitions for licenses issued yearly to proprietors of taverns and public houses in the township — suggest this was probably the "Sorrel Horse" tavern and was a successor to one operated by Aubrey Harry who was first licensed in about 1756. The circumstances of how "The Plough" of the eighteenth century became the "Sorrel Horse" of the nineteenth, and why Stadleman's eighteenth century "Sorrel Horse" ceased to function as a tavern leads us back to the beginning of the story of "The Plough."

In 1734 Joshua Evans who had lately inherited a two hundred acre plantation called "Pinifinon," part of the lands of his grandfather John Evans, sold twenty-one acres of this property — the first appearance of the twenty-one acre tract of our story — to David Evans, probably his brother. David Evans seems thus to have acquired "The Plow", as it is referred to in one of the license petitions of that year as an "old lycenced house" belonging to David Evans. Evans was apparently an indifferent innkeeper. His repeated requests for a license to sell "Cyder and Beer" were rejected by the Court of Common Pleas at Chester in 1734, 1737 and 1738. He pleads for the support of his family and children and is granted a license yearly beginning 1739, only to fall into misfortune again in 1743 when his house "commonly known by the name of the Plough Tavern" together with its "Fishings, Fowlings, Hawkings" — and its twenty-one acres — was sold by the Sheriff of Chester County for a debt of thirty eight pounds fourteen shillings and seven pence. This debt David Evans owed to his brother Caleb who was himself to suffer the same fate fourteen years later when his lands, later called "Woodstock", were acquired by James Hunter. The beneficiary, for a hundred pounds, of David Evans' loss

was David Rees of Haverford township. It was perhaps a questionable investment since Sheriff Benjamin Davis had found on the affirmation of "Twelve Honest and Lawful men" that the tavern was "not of a clear yearly value" to satisfy the debt within a seven year period. Nevertheless Rees did not dispose of the property to Norris until twenty-four years later during which interval he shared the role of publican with Richard Barry who had been in possession of the premises when Rees took over; Rees himself was licensed in 1765. By that time business had improved, no doubt the result of the new influx of travellers moving westward to which Ashmead in his history of Delaware County refers. In any case, Rees sold the tavern to Norris for three hundred and forty pounds and five shillings — the same twenty-one acres he had bought for a hundred pounds.

The year 1794 found James Elliott "Innkeeper" in possession of the twenty-one acre tract. He had bought it from Richard Miles whose immediate grantor had been Norris' widow. Elliott's appearance at the foot of the hill heralds an important event in our story: the union of "The Plough" and "The Sorrel Horse". For both before and after that year, as the licenses and license petitions show, Elliott was dispensing "spirituous liquors" in "small measure" at a tavern called "The Sorrel Horse". Since in 1787, seven years before he acquired title to the twenty-one acre tract, the name "Plough" disappears from the record, it may be safely assumed that Elliott transferred the name "Sorrel Horse" on taking over the new property. Any conjecture that he was doing business after 1794 at some other place — taverns were frequently leased to licensees — is dispelled by the fact that during the next hundred and three years six of the eighteen or more tavern keepers whose licenses bore the name "Sorrel Horse" were also title holders of or enjoyed dower interest in the twenty-one acre tract. The first of these was Elliott's widow, Sarah, who was granted her license in 1810.(1)

There remains the question of where Elliott was located as proprietor of the "Sorrel Horse" during the six years before he purchased "The Plough." In this the deeds are of little help but a number of other facts lead to interesting speculation. In the first place, in this period Elliott might have presided at the establishment he later purchased since "The Plough" was vacant after 1787. If he came down the hill to the twenty-one acre tract in 1788, the year he first received his license, he could have brought the new name with him then rather than in 1794. But Elliott was not the first to use the name "Sorrel Horse." This distinction belongs to John Whitman (Witmar) who applied for a license in 1782. He was succeeded under the same name by John Webster in 1784 and by Elliott himself four years later. Wherever these men were located, in the case of the first two it was certainly not at the twenty-one acre tract. Until November 1787 "The Plough" was still a going concern under a variety of innkeepers and a variety of names — "The Plow and Harrow", "John Wilkes" — but not the "Sorrel Horse."

Meanwhile what was transpiring at "Highland Farm"? It is not too fanciful to suppose that all three, Whitman, Webster and Elliott, succeeded each other at Stadleman's new house — whose elegance struck Whitman's fancy and produced the name "Sorrel Horse Tavern". In support of this it appears that Stadleman had died by 1782, or shortly thereafter, as shown by the fact that his "Estate" was seeking to recoup losses arising from depredations of British soldiers in the late war. 1782 was also the year of Whitman's first license (Stadleman's last license was granted in 1775). There

(1) The others were: Elizabeth Thomas (License: 1824; Title—with her husband, William Thomas: 1815), John Mullin (License: 1839; Title: 1835), Philip Kirk (License: 1840; Title: 1841), Eliza Kirk (Philip's widow, License: 1851), Rachel Kirk (one of the heirs of Philip Kirk, sister of Anderson Kirk, License: 1877), Charles B. Quigley (Title: 1897). The following were title holders but not tavern keepers: Heirs of James Elliott (John Elliott, James Elliott, Mary Pugh: 1810), Thomas Taylor (1813), William Thomas, senior (1815), William Thomas (By dissent sometime before 1835).

were at the time only four licensed taverns in the township: "The Plough" under the proprietorship of Paul Shereadin (also Sharading), "The Spread Eagle" under Alexander Clay, "The Unicorn" under Robert Kennedy, and "The Sorrel Horse" under John Whitman. The geographical location of the first three of these is already known. Moreover, twenty-five years earlier in 1757 when only three taverns were in existence, Aubry Harry at "Highland Farm" was in charge of one of them, the others being "The Plough" (Richard Barry) and "The Unicorn" (Thomas Tucker). The juxtaposition of both name and location thus point tantalizingly at "Highland Farm." Unless it lay vacant between 1782 and 1794 the conclusion seems inescapable that it was the site of the "Sorrel Horse."

That "Highland Farm" was without a proprietor in these years seems unlikely, enjoying as it had under Harry and Stadleman at least eighteen years as a successful hostelry. It is more probable that 1794 marked the turning point in its career as an inn. In that crucial year, when Elliott bought "The Plough", the building of the new Lancaster Turnpike was completed and thereafter Lancaster Road and the taverns along it fell into comparative disuse. Drivers, waggoners and stagers turned their trade elsewhere. If we recall that David Evans in one of his baleful petitions to the Court spoke of "The Plough" as a "small place," it seems reasonable to suppose that Elliott now saw the wisdom of removing from Stadleman's large establishment — and taking its name with him.

Whatever the probabilities of these conjectures, Elliott's "Sorrel Horse Tavern" on the twenty-one acres was a successful venture long after "Highland Farm" had closed its doors to the traveller. Indeed the latter property seems to have suffered the fate of absentee ownership until it was finally sold in 1811. Stadleman died intestate leaving a daughter, Elizabeth, as his sole heir (a son had died in his minority). Elizabeth married Thomas Paul and subsequently lived in Sussex County, New Jersey, although husband and wife continued to own lands in Radnor. In any event, after her father, or after Whitman, Webster and James Elliott, as the case may be, "Highland Farm" never again supported a tavernkeeper. From 1811 when the ninety-nine of the acres inherited by Elizabeth were conveyed to Isaac Leedom, until 1897 when George H. McFadden took title to Anderson Kirk's "Highland Farm", the plantation seems to have developed progressively as a farm. Isaac Leedom, "Farmer," set about enlarging the property through purchases from John Rudolph, of "Belle Aire," who had acquired through Sheriff's sale the lands of Thomas Paul, Elizabeth's deceased husband. Leedom increased the acreage to approximately the hundred and thirty eight acres which Anderson Kirk purchased in 1855 from the widow of Isaac's son, George Leedom.

One can speculate how the land looked to the traveller: oak and walnut trees on the north side of Lancaster Road, open fields on the south where an indestructible Black Walnut Stump marked for several generations the southern boundary above Jesse Brooke's Grist Mills on Ithan Creek. No doubt, somewhat earlier, when the party of young people mentioned in Sachse's *Wayside Inns* stopped at "Straddleburgs" (Stadleman's?) on their way from the "Admiral (now "General") Warren" to Philadelphia in 1773, they may have paused by the "marked white oak" "near the lands of James Hunter". This tree which is described in Elizabeth Paul's indenture to Leedom may well be the magnificent white oak now standing on the north side of the property, about fifteen yards from "that certain stone message" which was once Stadleman's house.

While it is only a strong possibility that this building was the original "Sorrel Horse Tavern", there is no doubt that it was not "The Plough". Even Sachse's distance tables showing distances between the various taverns and landmarks do not really bear him out. According to these "The Plough" was located three quarters of a mile and

forty-eight perches beyond the 13th milestone in the direction of Radnor Meeting. A casual measurement indicates that Stadleman's house is situated only three to four tenths of a mile beyond that point, while the distance to the approximate site of Rees' "Plough" is eight tenths of a mile or three quarters of a mile and sixteen perches, a not alarming discrepancy.

GERTRUDE LEIGHTON



The Stadleman Tavern, built in 1768, was evidently known from 1782 1794 as the "Sorrel Horse." Later "Highland Farm," it now forms the nucleus of the Agnes Irwin School, Conestoga Road and Ithan Avenue, Rosemont. Shown here in photo of 1886.

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## ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY, 1959 - 1960

### MAY 23, 1955

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Mill Grove, the John James Audubon shrine, in Montgomery County. Following the business meeting which was held outside the house on the hill, overlooking the Perkiomen Creek, Mrs. J. D. Northwood, Curator, spoke about Audubon's associations with Mill Grove and the bird life of his time and of today.

Re-elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term were Miss E. Dorothy Finley, Mrs. Malcolm G. Sausser, Mrs. Gertrude Ware Case, Francis James Dallett and George Vaux. At a meeting of the Board of Directors held following the meeting, the officers elected were President, Miss Caroline Robbins; Vice-President, George Vaux; Secretary, Francis James Dallett; Treasurer, O. Louis Ehmann, Jr.

### OCTOBER 10, 1959

The Hagley Museum and the restored milling community about it on the banks of the Brandywine Creek, near Wilmington, Delaware, was visited by the Society on its annual outing. The beauty of the natural wooded setting, the technical and artistic excellence of the exhibits presented by the Museum and the perfect autumn weather made the trip one of the most delightful in the history of the Society.

### DECEMBER 2, 1959

Caroline Robbins, President of the Society, spoke most learnedly and humorously on "European Travelers in Pennsylvania in 1794," to a meeting of the Society held in St. Mary's Parish House, Wayne. Many of the original travel works used by Professor Robbins were on display.

Refreshments were served through the continuing, untiring efforts of Mrs. Edward W. Westhead, Mrs. Richard Tunis, Mrs. Gertrude Ware Case, Mrs. O. Louis Ehmann, Jr., and Miss E. Dorothy Finley.

### JANUARY 13, 1960

The beautiful Radnor residence of Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Barringer made a fine setting for a talk by Miss Frances K. Talbot, of Philadelphia, on "Antique Needlework." Miss Talbot illustrated her commentary on ecclesiastical and secular needlework with a series of coloured slides, including some of examples of the church hangings woven by her brother, William R. Talbot, and herself.

Members of the Society brought needlework pictures, samplers, antique sewing boxes, and bits of antique clothing to the meeting for discussion.

### March 10, 1960

Mr. William M. Fletcher, of Rosemont, assisted by his wife, told the history of Radnor Methodist Church, founded in 1780, to a meeting of the Society which was held in the Church hall on Conestoga Road, Rosemont.

The interesting account given by Mr. Fletcher was written from the voluminous manuscript archives of the church, which were on display. Members of the Society visited the Church itself at the conclusion of Mr. Fletcher's talk.

Mr. Dallett spoke on the history of the township on April 21 on a bus tour sponsored by the League of Women Voters for newcomers to the community.

## "FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND PEACE": *The Winsor Sisters*

On July 25, 1959 at their home, 658 Brooke Road, Wayne, two sisters died within an hour of each other, one after a long illness, the other from the shock of her beloved companion's death. Mrs. Edmund Cadwalader Evans and Ellen Winsor were born and brought up at Haverford, educated at the Galbraith School in Delancey Place in Philadelphia and except for European travel and vacations spent their lives in the tri-county (Montgomery, Chester, Delaware) area of the Delaware Valley. Since the death of Edmund C. Evans in 1934, the sisters had lived together in a series of laughingly named houses, "The Monster", "The White Elephant", and "Finis" (as they renamed "Spring House" on Brooke Road) among them. After consultation with the Commissioners they bequeathed the last of these to Radnor Township as a social and cultural center where their own philosophy of friendship, love and peace without discrimination as to race, color or creed, would be actively practised. Three months after their death the township authorities decided they could not accept the house. It is still uncertain who will eventually profit by the legacy and what will be the fate of the colonial stone house and its three acres of garden situated on the rising ground above Route 252 and not far from the old Philadelphia and Western Wayne-St. Davids station.

Henry Winsor, grandfather of Ellen and Rebecca, was born in Duxbury, Massachusetts and spent his early life in and out of Boston on matters connected with the shipping business. In 1852 he moved to Philadelphia to take charge of a prosperous line of small coastal steamers the family firm was about to establish between the two ports. He became president of the incorporated Boston and Philadelphia Steamship Company in 1872 and this flourished and created the family fortune. He was also a director of the Insurance Company of North America and other Philadelphia corporations. Rebecca Evans loved the sea. It was in her blood she said, and added, "I am hoping that in the next life I shall be a mermaid and have a little tail which can flip-flap." This gay wish was expressed not long since when she and Ellen were as often before spending a summer at Edgartown on the island of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts, away from "the horrors of Main Line life" as they expressed it.

James Davis Winsor, Henry's son, married Rebecca Chapman. They had five children two sons and three daughters. Mary was born in 1872 and died in 1956; Rebecca in 1877; Ellen in 1881. Rebecca married in 1911 Edmund Evans, an architect, but had no children. Mary attended classes at Bryn Mawr but none of the three graduated from college though all were extraordinarily well informed and widely read. As young women they travelled but Mary complained that they were overchaperoned and saw mostly tombstones and churchyards. At home, if Ellen may be believed, the family loved to talk and read and their ideas developed in a happy atmosphere. Their father, she once related, let them all say what they wished and discuss anything they chose. Ellen's description somewhat modifies Mary's public statement that "the greatest curse in the world was to born a girl in a genteel family."

Soon after 1900 Mary was breaking out of the conventional debutante routine and working to remedy social injustice to women. She became head of the Limited Suffrage League in 1910 and was by that time also active in the birth control movement. Before the vote was given to women Mary was imprisoned in 1917 for sixty days for picketing the White House, had gone on a hunger strike, suffered solitary confinement and gloried in the martyrdom endured. A year later there was an affair in Lafayette Square in Washington and in 1921 a mass meeting for birth control education in New York. Mary worked for the abolition of child labor and early advocated the addition of women to the police force. In 1920 she ran for Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania on the

Socialist ticket. In later life she withdrew from active campaigning, lived a while on the Bryn Mawr College Campus and at the end was installed at the Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia. She remained sympathetic to the sufferings of her sex but was not involved in many of the other causes which occupied her sisters until their death. She had perhaps inspired them earlier and later watched them from the side lines.

Ellen and Rebecca shared causes and these were many. They also shared a disposition to shock the conventional and startle neighbors. Even as a child Rebecca was independent. When her playmates were inscribing the usual saccharine verses in an autograph album, she firmly wrote "The boy stood on the burning deck when all but he had fled." Neither of them attended church. Rebecca spent twenty years trying to get her name off the books at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr but gave up finally as successive rectors turned the other cheek by ignoring her wishes! The two ladies were ready to defend those they thought suffered persecution in any form and to rescue the oppressed. Though they could be violently "anti" all sorts of things, they could also bear opposition if it were firm, good-natured, humorous. Even warlike activities might be ignored when mitigating circumstances like the bombardment of London explained this otherwise poor behaviour. "Do you really eat meat?" they asked me once. "Moderately, as the means of a school marm permit," I replied. Ellen dissolved in laughter and the argument was over. Ellen much more than Rebecca loved a joke but both had a quite wild sense of the humorous.

The sisters were very strict vegetarians. During the Second World War they gave up even eggs, butter and milk. They loved to have parties; lunches, teas more rarely, receptions after concerts, dinners. The food was abundant though pure in their sense of the term. There was sherry, mushrooms, salads, corn or nut concoctions, sandwiches, cake and cookies in profusion and enormous servings of elegant ice cream as well as coffee, all of them if this were an evening affair, passed around by themselves and by Katherine Ford their Irish helper and for twenty-five years their chief of staff. Their own appetites were small. Often they seemed not to eat at all but they loved their guests to enjoy themselves. A party at the Winsors was fun. Arriving, one might wonder indeed at the miscellany of folk, young and old, men and women, white and black, socialite, teacher, musician, housewife. But the sherry and then the food broke the ice and when all were fed and seated around the room, one or other of the sisters would open conversation by asking Roland Hayes to talk of his experience in Germany after the first World War or by leading some other musician to a discussion about life in the Paris academies, or drawing out someone else they knew to have choice and funny anecdotes. Questions and comments would follow and in due course all sorts of topics would be introduced. No one failed to contribute, if not voluntarily, then in response to a firm question. Eventually it would be comfortably apparent that the party was over and everyone would leave wondering how time had gone so fast.

At smaller gatherings Ellen and Rebecca would talk more themselves about some book they had read or some cause they were furthering and they always bore in mind their guests' foibles and favorite topics though in a more free and easy way than at the larger gatherings. I remember visiting "The White Elephant" with an English niece who was delighted to see in front of the fire (as we walked into the large room) a pair of evening shoes with elegant sparkling buckles. After the greetings had been exchanged she remarked, "What pretty shoes." "Yes," replied Rebecca, "I hoped you would notice them. I don't like wearing them but wanted you to know I had them for the occasion." At times when coming to the seats looking over the garden we would find the ladies with papers between them and it took much ingenuity to avoid their importunities to sign some petition to President Eisenhower or another dignitary.

Politics cropped up in conversation. The Winsors could not be called politicians, nor members of any party. They were, they declared, anarchists and wanted everyone to do what he pleased. Warmongers were despised and Secretary Dulles was regarded as one. A vast scrapbook contained carefully arranged clippings juxtaposed to show up inconsistencies, pompous utterances and unflattering portraits and annotated without inhibitions by themselves. McCarthy was despised. So were the Communists. At the time of the disturbances at Little Rock they wrote many letters. They thought Eisenhower was wrong in violating states rights by sending in federal troops. He should instead have gone himself and led a Negro child by the hand into the school. Maybe their imagination outran practical politics but one wonders?

Men were equal. Distinctions for color were wrong. Ellen had worked as a young woman for the N.A.A.C.P. but in 1917 when they supported the war effort she resigned. The organization should have stuck to its single purpose, she thought, but she continued interest in its work. American society itself, the Winsors thought, was based on "unjust principles." Their own, and the right principles were those of Henry George, author of *Progress and Poverty* and proponent of the idea of a single tax in true eighteenth century French physiocrat manner — a rent on the community for use of resources. Letters from the Winsors were often stamped "Don't pay" such and such tax, sometimes on the grounds of the military use to which it would be put, sometimes because of the nature of the imposition itself. Presumably they paid their taxes but I feel sure with many protests and commentaries as they did so.

During World War I Edmund Evans suffered a great deal for his objections to military activity. With tears in her eyes ten years after her husband's death, Rebecca told me about the wicked cruelty of Main Line Christians. Part if not all of the sisters' dislike of organized religion sprang from a belief that even among the Quakers who shared their pacifist ideas theology led to intolerance and persecution. "Peace Pilgrim"



SPRING HOUSE

This Federal period house at 658 Brooke Road, Wayne, was the home of Mrs. Evans and Miss Winsor.

was much admired. She was a dedicated eccentric who set out to demonstrate her belief in non-violence by tireless marches from coast to coast relying on the hospitality of like-minded persons as she walked and talked.

The Winsors deplored violence not only against man and against those fishes, birds and mammals commonly eaten by man but also against the insect creation and they tried to secure signatures for a petition to prevent the Township from spraying caterpillars and the like from the air. Rebecca once wrote a letter to the local press which began effectively she thought and I must admit I did too. "I sat in a Maine sea food restaurant opposite a pair tearing apart the baby they had just boiled alive and picking its bones." The moral of course being reached that lobsters were ill-treated. Organic gardening was another passion. Whether it was this method or native talent or both I do not know but the Winsor flower beds though not extensive in later years were always filled, gay and fragrant. Rebecca particularly loved gardening.

The sisters had a perennial interest in art and artists. They owned works by Julius Bloch who for a while made his home with them first out on Yellow Springs Road and later in Radnor. He had made their acquaintance in Bryn Mawr during the lifetime of Edmund Evans. They had paintings by Horace Pippin (and left two to Bryn Mawr College) and by other artists like Edward Loper of Wilmington. Katherine Ford also painted and occasionally hung one of her productions. Books provided relaxation and pleasure. It was always fun to bring them a book and discuss it afterwards. Within the last half dozen years they had joined a group reading Dante in Italian. Great admirers of Albert Jay Nock, Rebecca with Ruth Robinson, in 1958, brought out a volume of his essays *Snoring as a Fine Art*. This contained (among others) a sketch of the life of Henry George. On the whole it would be fair to say the Winsors were more interested in ideas and persons than in literary form and poetic experiments but they read widely all their lives and fell on article or biography with lively pleasure when it introduced a new friend to them. They also edited a book "Land, Labor and Wealth" which contained collected passages from writers on these subjects whom they admired.

The keenest pleasure and most abiding interest was music. Perhaps the worst of the diseases of old age for both Ellen and Rebecca was increasing deafness, ameliorated in the elder by an aid but towards the end preventing either sister enjoying the sounds and harmonies they had loved so long. They had a wide musical acquaintance. As World War II developed they determined to counteract its influence by arranging concerts in Wayne. In the fall of 1941 plans were made and in April 1942 the first concert of the Tri-County series was given in the auditorium of the old Radnor High School (now the Junior School). A list of helpers then and as time wore on would fill the page. Rebecca's sister-in-law, Essylt Evans, Mrs. John F. Meigs (now Mrs. Clarence Tolan), Mrs. Craig Atmore and her daughter Molly (Mrs. Edward Ten Broeck), first chairman of the Association, Mrs. Charles Howson and her daughter Margaret, Sylvine Savage and Miss Forde of the Bryn Mawr Music Center, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Hendren, well-known Radnor music teachers, Miss Mazie Hall and many more. Julius Bloch supervised the design of posters and announcements and a dozen musical Main Liners served on program committees. While at all times the music committee contained Philadelphians and others, the day to day work of the Association was largely done by people living in the suburban area. It was war time, and they were able and willing.

No group ever ran as long and as successfully without constitution, rules, patronesses, tickets or favours to anyone. Three, four, even five free concerts of first rate music might be offered annually, a youth festival was arranged and as time went on childrens' concerts also. The Winsors were busy all the time, begging, arranging, getting up sales of cake and rummage, running open house day in the Great Valley, telephoning,

auditing, entertaining. They did everything but give way to suggestions about tickets, regular subscriptions, order of any kind. This they did not want, lest anyone should be turned away who wanted to hear good music.

I have often wondered what impression Tri-County business meetings made. These were held at Mrs. Atmore's as often as anywhere and all and sundry arrived with box lunches and enthusiasm. We met in a bustle of neighborly greeting. Very soon Molly Ten Broeck or one of the "ladies" would call for silence and we tried to crunch our food softly. Mazie Hall would read minutes and maybe a treasurer's report would be heard. Then things grew lively as ways and means were debated and the noise grew deafening as the music committee reported future programs. At the same time those who were not eating were addressing postcard announcements and others might be sorting out posters for distribution. Arrangements in no particular order and often very vaguely outlined were made for meeting artists, passing the famous Atmore mincemeat buckets, now emptied of their former sweetmeats and ready for the cash collection, keeping the gallery quiet, buying the bouquet for Miss Marian Anderson or other female artists, and so forth. Conversation was general and incessant. Suggestions poured from the Winsors and from the assembled "committee". Cries from the chair for silence were sometimes successful, sometimes not. But accounts were kept, money was collected, concert's were given. The enthusiasm of the Winsors and their imperious assumption we should all do our jobs overcame all obstacles. As their health grew worse and their attendance impossible, the meetings were less fun and if more orderly, on the whole less effective. Times had changed in the eighteen years. The first, second, third groups have almost vanished, but very devoted disciples inspired by the Winsors carry on the work. The list of famous names and ensembles presented by the Tri-County Association grew: Hayes, Anderson, Willy Kappel, Virginia Lewis, the Curtis, Budapest and Hollywood Quartets, William Kincaid and Edna Phillips from the Philadelphia Orchestra (always dear to Ellen's heart) and of course, latterly, soprano Anna Moffo from Wayne, earlier a performer in the youth festival. The audience changed somewhat. More music students from the city came out and perhaps fewer young people from Wayne. Imitators and rivals followed success. The future of the concerts like that of the Brooke Road house is yet to be determined.

To paint a portrait in print is nearly impossible. The sisters were three or four dimensional. Passionate, pig headed on some things both trivial and important, impractical yet with overriding energy and determination to carry out cherished schemes, worldly yet idealistic. It is hard to seize on the essence of the character that endeared them to their friends. They grew older, thinner, emaciated, frail but I at least could never think of them as really old or perishable. They sparked, laughed and declaimed with such liveliness that any encounter was stimulating. Nothing ails us they would say, but old age. Even though that laid Ellen low in those last months and often before, it did not stop the flow of suggestions pouring from the telephone and still expressing something of the boundless and youthful energy and elan. The sisters were *agin* so much and so many. Yet they were *for* so much more than most everyday folk because everything was enormously important to them. They were not bored except by indifference and routine. Individuality is sometimes believed to be a lost characteristic of the frontier or the society of an earlier period. We live in an age of conformity. Until the Winsors died Radnor enjoyed them and their nonconformity. They loved life, liberty, happiness in all its manifestations. They sought to fill the "sterile vacancy," as they phrased it, of Main Line life with new and vital interests. Whether or not the house on Brooke Road may be used for social and cultural activities carried on in peace, friendship and love, the thought and memory of its two latest owners should long be an inspiration to their neighbors in Radnor Township.

## LOCAL FURNITURE: A CHEST OF 1736

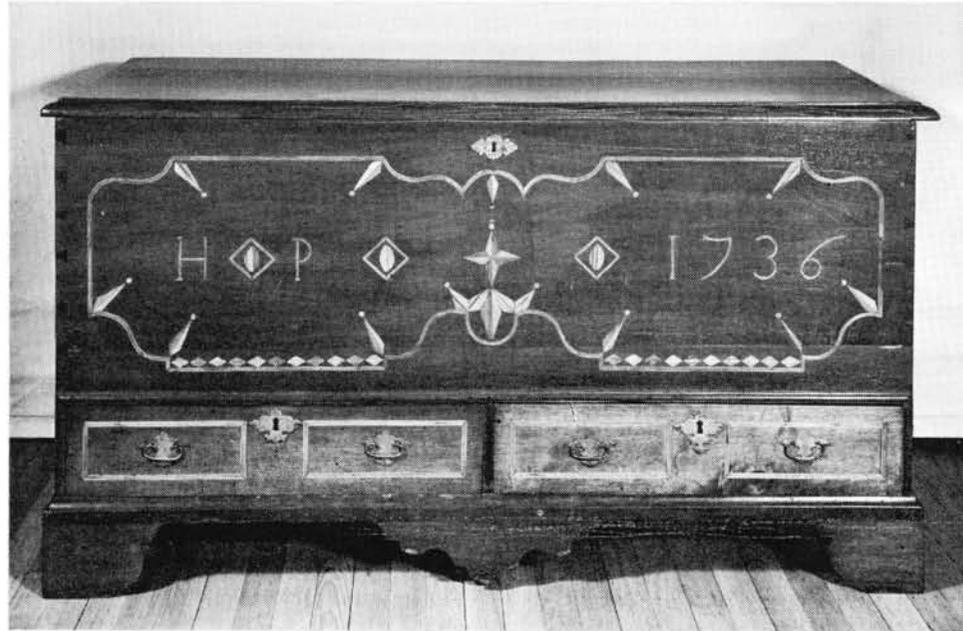
A remarkable example of local eighteenth century cabinet work is a walnut chest of 1736, which has survived two centuries of use in the same family. The provenance of the chest was never lost through migration for, until quite recently, it was long an ornament of "Rehobeth Farm," Devon, Charles W. Walker's ancestral house in the nearby Great Valley, and is now in the possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. Bray Hoffman, at Bryn Mawr.

The chest, which stands 27" high and has a lid measurement of approximately 20 3/4" x 48", is of finely grained walnut with white cedar as a secondary wood, and is inlaid on the front in holly. It has an overhanging, bevelled top, rounded bracket feet and a carved, scallop drop centered at the bottom. Beneath the main storage area of the chest are two drawers. The moulded brasses consist of an escutcheon at the top and two handles and an escutcheon on each of the drawers beneath. They display floral patterns and, with the exception of the top escutcheon, are original.

The chief interest of Mrs. Hoffman's family chest is in the inlaid decoration on the front. This is carried within a scalloped rectangle above the drawers, which are themselves ornamented with double rectangles of three banded inlay. Within the scalloped rectangle appears a unique if rather naive design incorporating darts, diamonds, stars and the original owner's initials and date, H P 1736.

The chest claims our attention as a transition piece between the sophisticated work of the Philadelphia cabinetmakers of this early Georgian period and the somewhat coarser and more elaborately ornamented productions of the Pennsylvania German craftsmen working in Lancaster, Montgomery and Berks Counties. Nothing quite like it has heretofore been found in the Philadelphia-Chester County area.

The initials on the chest stand for Hananiah Pugh (1716-1768), of Merion, then in rural Philadelphia County, who, after his marriage, moved to Upper Merion Township, where he farmed and kept a tavern, being listed as "Innholder" at his death. The



The Hananiah Pugh Inlaid Walnut Chest dated 1736. A remarkable example of early local craftsmanship.

chest was made for Pugh as a young bachelor, before his marriage, and evidently stayed with him throughout life, for only one "Chest", valued at 10 shillings, appears in the inventory of his estate, among a quantity of substantial furniture and Delft china, also listed at low figures for the appraisal (Administration Papers No. 67 of 1768, Office of the Register of Wills, Philadelphia).

Pugh's daughter Mary (1757-1813) married Isaac Walker, of "Rehobeth," in 1775, and Pugh's widow went to live with the Walkers, evidently taking the chest to the house which was to be its home for generations to come.

Mrs. Hoffman also displays a handsome, cherry-finished walnut gate leg table. This has an oval top and unusually bold legs which incorporate a seldom-seen varied double ball and disc turning. Also a mid-eighteenth century heirloom from "Rehobeth," and quite probably a product of Chester County, the table was used, tradition says, by General Greene of the Revolutionary Army, when he made his headquarters at "Rhoeth" during the Valley Forge encampment.

F. J. DALLETT

## RECENT ACCESSIONS

### Books, Pamphlets and Newspapers:

*Constitution and Rules for Regulating the Association of Newtown, And parts adjacent, in Delaware County for Detecting Horse Thieves . . .* (West Chester, Pa.: 1818). Purchase.

*One Hundred and twenty-fifth Anniversary, Radnor Methodist Church* (1908). Gift of the Church.

*"Old Radnor" Methodist Episcopal Church* (1931). Gift of the Church.

3 Committee reports on *A Borough for the Town of Wayne* (1894-1895). Gift of Mrs. William B. Linn.

*Charter, By-laws, House Rules and Members of the Radnor Hunt* (1887). Gift of Mrs. Thornton Oakley.

*An Historical Account of the Old Carr School House (and Grace Memorial Chapel), Tredyffrin Township, Chester Co., Pa.* Gift of Herman P. Lengel.

19 Year Books of Radnor High School. Gift of Miss Mary Carter, Principal.

John Fanning Watson, *Annals of Philadelphia*, 3 volumes (1887). Gift of Mrs. Frances Kennedy Whyte.

Horatio Gates Jones, *History of the Lower Merion Baptist Church* (Philadelphia: 1892). Purchase.

*Wayne Argus* (1897), 2 issues. Gift of Miss F. Neail Randall.

Hubertis M. Cummings, ed., *Pennsylvania Board of Canal Commissioners' Records* (Harrisburg: 1959). Gift of State.

Civil War broadside of a "Union Meeting" in Radnor Hall, 1862. Purchase.

Manuscript Minute Book of Men's Club of Wayne, 1913-1921. Gift of Albert A. Ware.

Deed for house and lot on Bloomingdale Avenue, Wayne, 1882. Gift of Mrs. Mary Dotterer Harbison.

Watchman's rattle of North Wayne Protective Association. Gift of Mrs. W. H. H. White.

Metal cream whipper. Gift of Miss F. Neail Randall.

## NEW MEMBERS — Since our last printed list

Mr. and Mrs. Warren J. Baker, Jr.

Mrs. Emily Behr

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Emlen

Frank A. Harrington

John A. Harris, IV

Dr. Gertrude C. K. Leighton

Miss Isabella A. McKnight

Mrs. John W. McPherson

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert F. Schiffer

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