THE BULLETIN
of
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume II  Spring, 1965  No. 5

Incorporated April 30, 1948

Headquarters and Museum

THE FINLEY HOUSE
Beech Tree Lane and Bellevue Avenue
Wayne, Pennsylvania

Visitors Cordially Welcome. Telephone MUrray 8-2668.

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RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT
APRIL 30, 1965

RECEIPTS

Balance Cash — April 30, 1964 $ 599.19

Dues:
1964 $129.00
1965 474.00

Advertising

603.00

Interest — Sausser Trust

102.50

Dividends — Finley Stock

220.00

Borrowed Money

589.50

Pro-Rata Portion Taxes — Finley Estate

412.00

Stationery and Printing

10,100.00

Return Insurance Premium

146.88

Contributions:

General $ 60.00

Finley House 5,082.34

5,142.34

Total Receipts

17,921.12

DISBURSEMENTS

Stationery and Printing $ 158.33

Bulletins

368.75

Insurance

17.00

Real Estate Taxes

495.55

Telephone

79.60

Gas and Electric

66.95

Water

21.50

Fuel

385.36

Lawn Care

125.00

Snow Removal

7.00

Interest on Borrowed Money

188.38

Sewer Rental

10.00

Repairs:

Finley House $11,174.72

Wagon Shed

3,979.23

Miscellaneous

15,153.95

Total Disbursements

17,222.97

Balance Cash

698.15

$17,921.12

SOME RADNOR ROOTS IN RADNORSHIRE
By Francis James Dallett

I

If a resident of Radnor Township happened to be asked to identify in general terms the ethnic background and characteristics of his community, he might be expected to classify Radnor Township as a WASP (white Anglo-Saxon Protestant) community. United States Census figures would suggest that the township in which he lived had something of a British complexion. Our local place names, the Parish of the Episcopal Church, the Radnor Hunt and the Devon Horse Show, all the obvious trappings, would of course be in his mind. If, on the other hand, we asked a visiting Briton to characterize us, it is highly unlikely that he would notice in the social patterns of Radnor Township in its citizens any particular British coloration.

The visitor would, of course, be quite right, sociologically, Radnor has the polyglot character one would expect in an American suburban township but 15 miles from a city of two million people. While the names of some of the 18th century families of Radnor still persist, Pugh, Thomas, Mathew, Brooke, Sitter and Matlack, one is today far more conscious in Radnor of its energetic Italian-American population, of recent groups of refugees from Hungary and Poland. There have been Chinese residents of Wayne since before World War II and natives of Egypt, France, Sweden and Germany are part of this community today. A Russian Imperial princess lived in St. Davids for many years and a rug merchant from the Middle East has a conspicuous business here. Negroes have own property in town and there are families with names of Thomas, Crail, a free mulatto, sold three and a half acres of land to Anthony Smith, also a free mulatto.

For religion, Radnor, founded by Welsh Quakers and Anglicans, has enjoyed the contributions of the Roman Catholic Church for a century and a quarter, houses each of the leading Protestant churches and has Jewish and Buddhist householders today. If one looks at the Greenwich of the golf clubs on a Sunday morning it is probable that he would think there had been little real change in Radnor since 1724 when the Reverend Robert Pemberton, rector at St. David's Church, reported to the Bishop of London:

The initial settlement of Radnor Township was 95 percent Welsh and for a century Radnor was overwhelmingly homogeneous in national origin and in occupation; virtually every citizen engaged in farming, milling or the building trades. In 1788, Radnor had 53 householders own-
Radnorshire is an inland county in South Wales, and in the dioceses of St. David's and Hereford, bounded by South Wales on the east, by Brecknock on the south and south-west, by Cardigan on the north, and Montgomeryshire on the north. Radnor is the Saxon or English name of the area which originally bore the old British name of Maesyfed or "moist field." Radenmere appears in Domesday Book for the first time. It derives from the Saxons words rade or road and mern, and means "county of narrow roads."

Radnorshire is the highest county in Wales and is generally hilly, wild and lonely. It is today and has always been one of the most sparsely populated county in England and Wales; there are 30 people to a square mile. There is not a factory chimney in the entire county. It comes as close to being unspoiled and primitive just as it was three hundred years ago as any province in Europe from which settlers came to the New World.

Radnorshire is not truly mountainous like North Wales but has an endless variety of hills and wooded slopes and farming valleys. In 1681 William Penn set apart 30,000 acres in the name of the Welsh Barony, for sale to Welsh proprietors or "adventurers." An additional 30,000 acres was reserved for sale in smaller lots to actual settlers. The Welsh proprietors who subdivided their patents and organized the companies of settlers who purchased from them were largely well-to-do Quakers from Merionethshire, but his purchasers did and these men were the first pioneers of Radnor Township.

It was because of the 14 settlers from Radnorshire that the new wilderness community west of Merion and Havordford was called "Radnor." It was entirely un-settled by the end of 1683 but by 1684 the Welsh had arrived in Radnor and also in Newtown. By 1686 an independent Friends Meeting was established in Radnor, meetings being held at the houses of John Evans and John Jarman.

Of the 14 purchasers from Radnorshire, five were gentlemen, three were weavers, three were gloves, one a carpenter and one a mariner. The fourth, Margaret James, of Newchurch, was a spinster, but she was married before she came out to the brother of one of the weave purchasers. The names are all familiar: Evans, Jones, Hughes, James, Morevil, Cooke, Olliver, Hall, Kimsey and others, (which must be an error for Cornog).

Three of the purchasers came from Nantmel: their leader, John Evans, (died 1707), gentleman, whose holding of 350 acres was the largest; Ellis Jones, weaver, and the carpenter, David Kinsey, probably the first American ancestor of the author of the Kinsey Report. Richard Miles, the weaver whose brother married the lady purchaser, came from Llanhafangel Helygen, and Edward Jones, gentleman, from St. Harmon, both adjoining parishes to...
Nantmel. David Meredith who had been imprisoned as a Quaker was from Llanbister, Radnorshire. He joined the Forces in 1679 and it was from Llanbister, Radnorshire, that he first saw the Battle of Worcester. He was later imprisoned as a Quaker when he refused to renounce his faith. Both he and his wife, Mary, were from Llanbister, Radnorshire. They were of Welsh origin.

The families of Llanbister, Radnorshire, were soon joined by others. The first was the family of Mr. and Mrs. John Evans, who came from Glamorgan. They were of Welsh origin, and their arrival in Nantmel was in 1697.

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the ancient tribes, not all built near the church and market place as in England. There is nothing here in the nature of a village street. As House, the Radnorshire historian, has pointed out, “the Saxon village is here replaced by the tribal settlement of Celtic origin.”

On the sheep dotted hills of Radnorshire are many carneddau or cairns erected by the druids; two of the largest are in Nantmel, occupying the summit of Gwystedyne and the other that of Camo Hill.

This then gives some idea of the mountainous and primitive Radnorshire parish which in a sense was where Radnor Township, Pennsylvania, began. It is to John Evans and his son-in-law John Morgan that we owe two of the very few original Welsh property names which have survived in our own Radnor. John Morgan called the house which he built about 1715 ‘the Saxon farmstead from which John Morgan chose the name for his farm in America, stands high on a hill at the northern edge of Nantmel parish.

In the period 1821-1833 the farms adjacent to thiscroft and some shepherders cottages in the vale on the Dulais stream below it housed 315 inhabitants who were loosely formed into an agricultural “township” called Vaenor. This unit and its name have long since been forgotten but the tiny house from which the name came and from which the Morgans came to Radnor still stands and is still called Vaenor (sometimes spelled Vaynor). To see it and other sites associated with the men who founded this community one must go to Radnorshire as I did in 1963.

Driving to Radnorshire from Bristol, the English port on the River Avon, take the A-44, the main highway through the county, takes you to Nantmel. Nantmel is a large, whitewashed cottage in the vale on the Dulas river valley from the church. The west side contains a 16th century block although the gables were added in the 19th century. Inside are an ancient beamed ceiling with carved bosses and splendid panelling. Llwynbarried Hall is a large, whitewashed gabled house on a river terrace of the River Ithon, lying in the vale. The lower part of the tower is 13th century but the rest of the church was much restored about 1870. A notable feature is a lychgate.

In the churchyard I noticed stones to the families of Evans, Jones of Penmaen am Rydd and Morgan Morgan (died 1661 aged 68). In the church is a small mural tablet to the Evans family of Llwynbarried Hall, one of whom was High Sheriff of Radnorshire in 1819; it bears their arms of three black boars heads in a gold field. It is possible that John Evans, leader of the Nantmel settlers in Radnor Township, stemmed from this family. Llwynbarried Hall is a large, whitewashed gabled house on a river terrace of the River Ithon.

In the valley a half mile away are the ruins of the Cwmhir Abbey. This is one of the most romantic spots in Wales and one feels close to history standing beside these ruins which once housed the largest church and monastic foundation in Wales. The abbey is a small church on the other side of the valley from the ruins. It has a 13th century tower and a large, whitewashed barn like the farm on the Ithon. The house is divided into three flats, all available for summer rental if anyone is interested in the good life without many material com-

sylvania, one passes through Monmouthshire into Brecknockshire. Here the Black Mountains begin. The hills near Talgarth with bare summits and wooded lower slopes are not unlike the bleak Welsh Mountains of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Continuing northwest into Radnorshire one arrives at Llandrindod Wells, the most important spa in Wales, a small sleepy town with old-fashioned hotels. Llandrindod is on the River Ithon and just outside, on the road to Llandaff, Llanhafangel Helygen and Nantmel, is a bridge over the Ithon. Again it all looks familiar; Ithon Creek in Radnor Township could double for the River Ithon here. Within a stone’s throw of the bridge is a 17th century farmhouse with its typical long barn, standing on the banks of the river, next to Glan-Ithon Farm and near the ruined Castell Glan Ithon.

The A-44, the main highway through the county, takes you to Nantmel. A handful of roadside cottages above the river makes up the “village.”

Nantmel Church stands on a hillside north of the main road in a situation resembling the Church of St. Peter’s in the Great Valley. The hills rise behind it and the church faces another escarpment across the valley. The summit of Camo Hill, behind the church, is the site of one of the iron works. The Church of St. Cynilo in Llanfihangel Helygen parish, is on land granted in 1254 by the Bishop of St. David’s to his canons. The tower is 13th century but the rest of the church was much restored about 1870. A notable feature is a lychgate.

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Ty Faenor at Abbey Cwmhir, near Nantmel, Radnorshire.

Forts! A farmhouse near by called Gwyllion was a lookout point for a Roman camp on the Ithon in Llanhafangel Helygen parish.

North of Nantmel Church in the valley on the other side of the hill is the parish of Abbey Cwmhir. Here is Ty-Faenor, a Welsh country house built in the reign of Charles I as a summer residence for the Powells, who mentioned in the rhyme “Never a park, never a deer.” Ty-Faenor, a modern corruption of Ty-Maeur, meaning “Manor House,” was used as a court for the manor of Gollen and to the court leet would have come some of the very Nantmel men who settled in Radnor Township. This house was known intimately to our founders.

Materials for the building of Ty-Faenor including a carved oak staircase were from the ruined Abbey near which suffered spoliation in 1536. Since 1818 a Griffin has lived here and the house has been used on Sundays ever since as a Wesleyan chapel. On the Sunday I visited the place friends of the family were arriving for worship.

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There is only a wagon track up to the house across fields and bogs full of sheep. Basically one story house of three rooms, its roof was raised and dormers inserted as late as 1910. The house itself dates from about 1600.

A fragment of old masonry on the ground story remains to suggest its exterior appearance in the days of the Morgans; the walls are now largely of brick. The interior is much more interesting. The huge inglenook fireplace in the great room remains as do two structural ceiling beams, all of the beginning of the 17th century. The walls are plastered and the long, low ceilings still carry hooks and nails for drying meat in generations past. Vaenor is still a primitive, working farm. There are breathtaking views in every direction from the house.

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ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

Over the past year the Radnor Historical Society has seen many changes. With the ownership of the Finley House came responsibilities, expenses, and pleasures. The annual budget, formerly some $800, suddenly jumped to $17,000, as will be seen in the Treasurer's Report on page 2. Capital expenditures for repairs to the House, for completing the Wagon House, and for installing an apartment for the resident-caretaker, amount to some $15,000. Of this, the normal running budget will probably amount to $2,500, this next year.

The work on the House has been finished, as have the Wagon House, Conestoga and Pittsburgh, and the caretaker's apartment. The Collection is gradually becoming unpacked and displayed. Regular visiting hours will soon be announced.

A plea for financial aid brought in approximately $5,000, from members and friends. Because a debt of $10,100 is still outstanding, further contributions will be especially welcome.

While work progressed on the Houses, the Society held five regular meetings.

April 28, 1964

The seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Community Room of the Wayne First National Bank. The loaned and Loan Association at 8:00 P.M. Frankel James Dulleff, former President of the Society, welcomed Mrs. George B. Tatum, Chairman of the Department of the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Tatum talked on "A Search of European Gardens," describing gardens visited by him in England and France. His slides clearly showed the Egyptian influence on Roman gardens, the architectural aspects of Renaissance gardens, the imaginative use of water in many gardens. His talk covered gardens in Italy, Germany, France, England, and Austria.

November 17, 1964

At a meeting held in the Senior High Lounge of the Wayne Presbyterian Church at 8:00 P.M., Mr. and Mrs. John Nacy showed slides of Chester County houses, describing each briefly. The slides were the property of the Chester County Day Committee. Among the houses pictured were: Waynesboro, the Avondale Brick House, the Pennock House in West Marlboro, the London Grove Meeting House, and Old Mill. Mr. Nacy also gave a short talk on Sugartown (Schuylertown) of which he is writing a history.

January 23, 1965

In the Community Room of the First Wayne Federal Savings and Loan Association at 8:00 P.M. Mrs. Albert Wolf described for the Society the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876, illustrating her talk with pictures of Centennial Buildings (part of the Society's Collection) and with a "Bird's Eye View" (brought by Mrs. Henry Ecroyd and later given by her to the Society). Mrs. Wolf, mentioned the ten million visitors, the facilities created for the housing and entertainment of guests, the Notables who attended, the miscellaneous wonders on display. The meeting adjourned for refreshments at 9:30.

March 23, 1965

"The North Wayne Protective Association: the First 80 Years" was the topic of Arthur H. Noss, Secretary of that Association, at a meeting held in the Community Room of the General Wayne Library at 8:00 P.M. Five Board members whose terms expired in 1964 were reelected for three years terms; Richard W. Howe, Emil Ehmann, Jr., James C. Masey, Miss Caroline Robbins, and Mrs. Per-Olof Therian.

October 21, 1964

The Society met in the Winser Room of the Memorial Library of Radnor Township at 8:00 P.M. Theo. B. White, new member of the Board of Directors, introduced Dr. George B. Tatum, Chairman of the Department of the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Tatum talked on "A Search of European Gardens," describing gardens visited by him in England and France. His slides clearly showed the Egyptian influence on Roman gardens, the architectural aspects of Renaissance gardens, the imaginative use of water in many gardens. His talk covered gardens in Italy, Germany, France, England, and Austria.

NORTH WAYNE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

By Arthur H. Moss

In 1880 Drexel and Childs acquired a tract of land in Wayne and embarked on a joint venture in real estate development. The members were concerned that the official founding date of the Radnor Township. What happened to this venture and the community which it fostered? There are indications that there were a total of twelve houses, not all of which were occupied by 1885. A year later Drexel and Childs agreed to pay for one-twentieth of any improvements made by the Association. "North Wayne Avenue," a name of 1880, and "Nort Park" were clearly identified. It is the change of Radnor from a rural, agrarian society to an urban oriented suburb.

Mr. Moss was introduced by Charles P. Tunis. At the Annual Meeting the membership was increased to 42 members whose terms expired in 1964. These included: Mrs. Malcolm Sausser. The five Board members voted that the official founding date of the Radnor Historic Society was May 9, 1885. By the third meeting on May 9, 1885, a resolution of the Association reflected the undeveloped quality of the community. For example, on June 24 the Association formed a committee "to have the foundations of the porches reset again" and to "arrange the sewers, the water supply, malarial influences;" and they sought to have the swamps drained. The Association succeeded in having the swamps removed.

Mr. Allen was selected president, H. J. Hoey, vice-president, W. E. Sharps, secretary and W. G. Sentman, treasurer. Messrs. Brown, Beness and Newbold were selected to the executive committee. These seven men being "all those present, everyone thus become an officer."

The Association had its origin on the evening of May 9, 1885 at the home of F. Louis Allen when, to quote the minutes, "the residents of the North Side of the RR at Wayne met...to discuss the merits of a scheme to organize a club for the further benefits of said property owners." They discussed the possibility of an electric fire alarm system, and "sundry other arrangements." These matters being "fully ventilated," it was decided to select officers.

At the third meeting on May 19, 1885, a constitution was adopted, the name North Wayne Association was selected, and the members voted that the official founding date of the Association, and incidentally all dates and assessments, would start from that date.

At this time Drexel and Childs' North Wayne development was very new. North Wayne Avenue, the one clearly identifiable street, had been opened and others projected. A board walk bordered the avenue for at least part of its length.

The membership of the community is further reflected in an effort to change the

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The first activities of the Association reflected the needs of the community. For example, on June 24 the Association formed a committee "to have the foundations of the porches reset again" and to "arrange the sewers, the water supply, malarial influences;" and they sought to have the swamps drained. The Association succeeded in having the swamps removed.

The Association urged Drexel and Childs to complete the unfinished houses and formed a committee to try to get the Nor North Wayne Avenue macadamized. This committee soon gave up, but later in the year, residents in turn, quickly acquired a community consciousness and a sense of unity which led them to form an association for their mutual benefit. Originally known as the "North Wayne Association" and later the "North Wayne Protective Association" this grouping of neighbors survived and continued to function.

In 1964, 80 Years" was the topic of Arthur H. Noss, Secretary of that Association, at a meeting held in the Community Room of the General Wayne Library at 8:00 P.M. Five Board members whose terms expired in 1964 were reelected for three years terms; Richard W. Howe, Emil Ehmann, Jr., James C. Masey, Miss Caroline Robbins, and Mrs. Per-Olof Therian.

By the third meeting on May 9, 1885, a constitution was adopted, the name North Wayne Association was selected, and the members voted that the official founding date of the Association, and incidentally all dates and assessments, would start from that date.

At this time Drexel and Childs' North Wayne development was very new. North Wayne Avenue, the one clearly identifiable street, had been opened and others projected. A board walk bordered the avenue for at least part of its length.

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Local Buildings Destroyed Within the Year

Left: Lancaster Avenue, east of Chamounix Road.
Right: Lancaster and Pembroke Avenues.
Below: Three views of St. Katharine of Siena Church, Wayne.

—all photographs by J. C. Massey.
name of Wayne. Originally the Association decided it would support the name "Drexel," but after confering with Mr. Drexel's representatives it decided to support "Windermere." This effort died aborning; there is little further reference to the subject in the minutes. Despite its other activities, the major early efforts of the Association were to light the streets and provide fire protection.

On May 22, 1885 the members voted to obtain an electric alarm system from the Philadelphia Electric Company at a cost of $126. From then until December 1904 when all the systems were abandoned due to "the absence of a telephone system," which renders it within the power of any member of the Association to specify communication with the central telephone system" the topic of a satisfactory fire warning system was to be a problem which never completely solved.

This first alarm system apparently consisted of a crude battery in each house, the battery being nothing more than a jar containing acids and filled with water, with two lead plates and filled with acid, connected to other houses and batteries by wires activated by some type of instrument. As a charter member, Mr. Newbold, left town during late 1885 the Association was quick to order equipment and wire. Despite the expense of $126, the minutes of October 20, 1885 refer to the installation of "the electric system," which was virtually a squatter on the property. The Association had already had one fire house, referred to as "engine house," apparently belonging to Drexel Wood. The Association was refused permission to wall off a part of this building so the decision was made to place the parlor and billyard on a lot opposite Mr. Bensell's house which would put the building at the Southwest corner of Eagle Road and North Wayne Avenue. It was estimated that the installation would cost about $45.00. The Association was virtually a squatter on the property owning no equipment and being 72, a fair index to the growth of Wayne parents; by force of circumstances in having to depend on a "telephone" which "renders it within the power of any member of the Association to specify communication with the central telephone system" the topic of a satisfactory fire warning system was to be a problem which never completely solved.

Even before this alarm system was removed, the Association had already completed its first fire house, referred to as "engine house," apparently belonging to Drexel Wood. The Association was refused permission to wall off a part of this building so the decision was made to place the parlor and billyard on a lot opposite Mr. Bensell's house which would put the building at the Southwest corner of Eagle Road and North Wayne Avenue. It was estimated that the installation would cost about $45.00. The Association was virtually a squatter on the property owning no equipment and being 72, a fair index to the growth of Wayne parents; by force of circumstances in having to depend on a "telephone" which "renders it within the power of any member of the Association to specify communication with the central telephone system" the topic of a satisfactory fire warning system was to be a problem which never completely solved.

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The minutes of October 20, 1885 refer to the necessity of perfecting "the electric system" and state that they were almost useless. We again thought that rackets would answer as well as anything as they had to have them on the shelf. Hence the members voted to return to the electric alarm system which the Association arranged to do in the Fall of 1887.

On other aspects of fire protection the Association proceeded rapidly. Mr. Childs donated 500 feet of hose and a hose cart was purchased, costing thirteen dollars. A 25 foot ladder, six whistles, an axe and buckets were also procured.

At first this equipment was housed in a building referred to as the "engine house," apparently belonging to Drexel Wood. The Association was refused permission to wall off a part of this building so the decision was made to place the parlor and billyard on a lot opposite Mr. Bensell's house which would put the building at the Southwest corner of Eagle Road and North Wayne Avenue. It was estimated that the installation would cost about $45.00. The Association was virtually a squatter on the property owning no equipment and being 72, a fair index to the growth of Wayne parents; by force of circumstances in having to depend on a "telephone" which "renders it within the power of any member of the Association to specify communication with the central telephone system" the topic of a satisfactory fire warning system was to be a problem which never completely solved.

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According to an Annual Report in 1887 "An alarm that is alarming and yet unerring. We need it for personal protection and we need it to call assistance on any occasion when assistance is actually needed, and no one knows just when that occasion will be."

He continued in the employment of the Association until October 1886 when he was fired. A special committee re­quested the president to turn to the electric alarm system which he was to work from 10:00 A.M. to 12 noon and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. in the summer, and have the lamps lit and turned to another purpose he was employed for a full year and was assigned duties of removing snow from the boardwalk. Newhouse was also "to respond to the call of anyone whistling for assistance."

During its first year the Association commenced two other activities. It experimented with "mechanical alarms" and "fire engines," meaning the equivalent of today's cross walks. Several board crossings were constructed and an effort was made to have the railroad do the duty. This failed because the railroad would not bear half the expense.

In February 16, 1886, the problem of street and rubbish disposal was referred to the Executive Committee, and a system devised which continued until 1948 when the Township commenced this service.

Also during this time Drexel and Childs gave one hundred trees to the Association to plant along Wayne Avenue. In March 1887 the Association adopted the sugar maple as its official tree after rejecting the Norway maple, a decision still evidenced in Wayne streets.

In short by the end of its first few years, the Association had undertaken in embryonic form most of the activities it was to carry on at a later date. The name "Wayne Avenue" had been adopted by force of circumstances in having been born of North Wayne parents; by the latter I refer to Miss Mayhew and Louis Allen, resigned from the Association. His resignation was accepted with the ultimatum that he pay his share of the electric system. After the fright had passed, he tried to resign in October. Finally a special informal meeting was held to discuss the matter. Electric Light other charter member resigned, and the president moved to disband the Association. The motion to disband was lost; therefore, disagreements seem to have diminished.

After the furor in 1887 the contract for the street lamps was renewed without much trouble in 1888, and probably thereafter, although periodically the Association would appoint a committee to consider the best means of street lighting. The minutes regularly contain complaints about overcharging and erratic service but little else. The actual number of lights being paid for is not mentioned again until June 1883 when the number is recorded as being 37. In 1887, a fair index to the growth of Wayne parents; by force of circumstances in having to depend on a "telephone" which "renders it within the power of any member of the Association to specify communication with the central telephone system" the topic of a satisfactory fire warning system was to be a problem which never completely solved.
Master Wood, making total population - 60, not including hired help.

There are other indices of the growth of North Wayne. The last special committee on macadamizing North Wayne Avenue is mentioned in the minutes of May 2, 1888 and presumably the street was paved shortly thereafter. In November of the previous year the need for a crossing at Walnut Avenue was mentioned, and in the spring of 1888 the need for street lighting and fire plugs on Walnut Avenue received the Association's attention. North Wayne was expanding out Walnut Avenue and Walnut Avenue set a precedent. Thereafter it was almost automatic that street lighting and fire plugs expanded with the community. At about the same time the triangle at the intersection of North Wayne Avenue and Walnut Avenue is first mentioned and shortly thereafter was, in effect, taken over by the Association. Through the years it was planted with flowers, then barberry bushes and a flagpole, the Paoli Boy Scouts assuming responsibility for the flag. Not until 1950 was the first Christmas tree planted there, and a live tree was planted in 1951.

The Association grew with the community. After the convulsive autumn of 1887 there is a marked increase in the number of members attending the bi-monthly meetings. At the annual meeting in 1888 a new Constitution was adopted and the members started to meet only monthly. This Constitution the Association's organization assumed much the form it has today, the By-Laws requiring committee membership of Public Works, Public Safety, Ways and Means, and Membership. Current By-Laws still require those committees and one other, a Village Improvement Committee, which became a permanent committee in 1888.

Since the latter part of 1886 the Association had had a fire marshal and two assistants. Almost from the first the fire department was a separate branch of the Association. The members of one were not necessarily members of the other, the department drawing primarily on the younger men of the community. This separate organization continued until 1906 when the Volunteer Fire Company took over the responsibility for fire protection.

In the Spring of 1888, Drexel and Childs donated a piece of land 25' x 50' on Lansdale Avenue, now Beech Tree Lane, where an old fire house still stands. This land was given to the Association on condition that it erect an engine house there, a requirement satisfied by moving the existing engine house to the new land at a cost of $14.98.

By the fall of 1888 the Association's electric alarm system again required attention. It had been reinstalled in the fall of 1887 but its continued problems led to a motion that the Committee on Public Safety 'investigate the fog horn as a system for alarm'. The result was that the members procured fog horns which were duly tagged, commencing in August 1888, with a warning that the Association authorized a $5 fine for illegal blowing of the horn.

The effect of the fire arrangements is best described by Mr. Finley, the first chairman of the Committee on Public Safety in a report dated January 8, 1888.

The attention of the Committee has been given exclusively to the consideration of the 'Fire Department' as to needed additions to its apparatus, and more particularly to the procuring of some kind of Signal which can be heard all over the Section lying North of the RR, and loud enough to wake members from sleep during the night. To this end we issued every resident of North Wayne the following notice:

"Dear Sir, In order to ascertain the efficiency of our Fire Dept., the Committee of Public Safety will in the near future give a night alarm, by blowing of whistles, upon which occasion every member of the Association will be expected to respond promptly and report at the Engine House for service. The following Saturday 15th proved to be mild, and the moon shown brightly, so we determined to sound the Alarm, about 11 o'clock. At that time two members of the Committee with good lungs started from the eastern end of Walnut Avenue on a run and blew their whistles as hard as they were able, all the way around to Mr. Bensell's residence on Wayne Avenue. To show how faint the sound from the whistles was, the members of the Committee could not hear them till they had reached the junction of Wayne and Walnut Avenues, while standing at the Engine House. We should think from the quick response, some of the Members must have had a suspicion that they would be called on that evening, twelve (12) members assembling at the House in four (4) minutes. On their arrival the members were assigned to each 'Truck' and directed to proceed to the residence of Mr. Ayres where the fire was supposed to be. Upon reaching the house the 'extinguisher' was immediately taken from the truck and car-
ried to the porch so as to be used in the house if the fire had not gone great headway. The 'hose truck' was run up a plug opposite the house and one section attached and reeled off and nozzle put in ready for the house. The other section of hose was run up to the corner of Lansdale Avenue and coupled to the plug in the same way. Then the hose was taken down to the front porch so as to be ready for service. The 'sectional Ladder' was to be used, but it was not ready for action. A 'Bucket Brigade' was then formed of 10 men reaching from the Lake to the house, and with the dozen buckets went through the motions of fighting the fire by that method with fair result. The members who had not attended the other drills were then given the coupling and uncoupling of the Hose to the Plug; and all were practiced in mounting the buckets and lowering them. After rearranging the apparatus on the trucks, a short parade was made on Walnut Avenue, to try and impress the members but with little success. ... The Committee afterward procured a large 'fog-horn' such as is used on Yachts, and after making trial of it on several evenings, we, found that though better than the whistle, it could not be used to advantage. ... We borrowed a 12" Gong, and had it fastened on the Eastern side of the Chairman's plot of ground. ... On motion, December 31st it was rung with as loud a stroke as possible; and still only the near neighbors aroused and showed that something more was needed. The first opportunity the Dept. had of proving its efficiency in actual service occurred on December 5th. The meeting, when Mr. McWade's and Mr. Tight's house was destroyed, 'North Wayne Fire Department' proved to all in Wayne its willingness and promptness to render whatever assistance it could to every one within reach. The 'alarm' did not reach the Marshall 'til about 5 minutes past 6 o'clock, though its presence was immediately opened the 'Hose House' but before they could get any of the apparatus out other willing hands were there to help, and within 2 or 3 minutes both trucks were on their way; with 12" gong going, 1895, the run for membership meetings was reduced. Eight years later the quarterly membership meetings were dropped for annual. With the increase in the size of both the community and Association a social orientation of the early organization passed. A special meeting was called by five of the seven members for June 20, 1885, to make plans for the Fourth of July. In September the members agreed to challenge the Admis Baseball Club of Philadelphia to a match game on that day and "to turn out in some style the presentation of the Admis upon the arrival of the train". They debated and dropped a proposal to have fireworks but quickly adopted a proposal "to invite the ladies to prepare lunch". Perhaps that planned for July 4, 1887 is the best example of these early celebrations, although this was the celebration over which the members got into such a hassle when they decided not to refund the expenses. That year the North side challenged the South side to a tug of war and accepted the challenge. The baseball team known as the Barbarians and designated their team as the Hercules. They had a firemen's parade, those participants carried an ax, bell, and some duffel bags, and the sedan chairs at their throats, dark pants, white cotton gloves, and red paper hats. The ladies made and signed many white satin shirts for the baseball team's uniform. Another aspect of the social orientation is contained in resolutions dictating social habits of members and to drinking and smoking. Thus, on July 20, 1886 the minutes show that one of the resolutions was passed, "Any member of the Association who shall decline any intoxicating drinks if such are proffered and that it be the duty of the highest officer of the Association present to inform the host of this rule." In the early years the Association regularly held an annual dinner. This became an important event and was open to all members joining in song and speeches until in 1889 the minutes contain quite a detailed report. Among other things the members drank toasts that evening to: the Association and its work, its old members, its new members, and earth, its honorary member, the fire, marshall, dogs, and the baby member. It may also be surmised that an Italian Band was present, and the meat was served with potatoes and the salad was dressed with cottonseed oil for in 1889 the Association resolved to avoid the use of butter in the planning for the next annual dinner.

The last of the early dinners was held in 1891 and with the passing of those dinners and the social orientation of the Association passed too.

With the formation of a corporation, the number of members meeting each year and the feeling of the social aspects of the organization, the Association assumed basically the form it has today. Thereafter its work came more and more a barometer of the activity of the local government. Between 1890 and 1895 the Association concerned itself with Street dedication, replacement of the original board walks, mail deliveries (it even employed a letter carrier), street lighting, and the assessment of the milk supply and police protection.

The Association from 1894 to 1899 concerned itself with local government. In 1894 the Association together with the Wayne Public Safety Association formed a special committee to study the possibility of making Wayne a Borough, and to study the relative powers of the two forms of government. Although a motion was made to suspend this rule; it was not adopted. New members joined the Association and its work, its old members, and earth, its honorary member, the fire marshall, dogs, and the baby member.

The Association was also seriously considering incorporating the property of the early organization. In 1890 the decision was made to construct a new house containing a store for the fire equipment and a room in which to meet. Dreixel and Childs donated a larger plot of ground at the same site on which the present fire house was built. Fire fighting was constructed with a fire house on the first floor and a meeting room on the second. Two years later the incorporation and the construction of the new house and one section. After the incorporation of the Association, at the last meeting that year it was authorized to proceed to incorporate. By June of 1898, the incorporation of the Association was formed to consider the question of incorporation. This proved to be a divisive suggestion for in 1896 the anti-borough members succeeded in having a second report distributed to the members detailing the anti-borough considerations. The basic disagreement concerned the relative powers of the Borough government with boroughs having far larger powers and thus was continued, more opportunities for corruption. Although a number of citizens wanted to establish a borough, before such proceedings began the state legislature rendered the subject moot. In 1899 two classes of townships were created on the basis of population, as a result of which Radnor automatically became a first class township with governmental powers similar to those of a borough.

In the perspective of history the change in the form that eleven events which occurred in 1900 marks a turning point in the function of the Association.

By 1890 the Association was the basis of governmental functions such as fire protection, street lighting, and street care. Therefore, quite gradually, these
responsibilities were transferred to the community as a whole.

One of the first changes after Radnor became a first class township occurred with respect to fire protection. In 1901 all fire equipment of the Association was offered to the Township. The offer was refused, but in 1906 the Volunteer Fire Company was formed. The Association supported it with a contribution of some of its equipment and cash. In 1909 the Association stopped paying for the telephone installed in the Fire Marshall’s home in 1904 (in lieu of an electric alarm system.) In 1913 the Association gave away more of its fire equipment and several years later in 1917 it sold its last engine for $5.

In 1916 the first floor of the Association’s building was rented as an electrical repair shop; in 1918 it was used as an auto paint shop; in 1919 it was used as a store house by Mr. Lynam. Thereafter it was vacant until the building was sold to the American Legion in 1923.

Street lighting activities saw a similar gradual change. The Commissioners began contributing toward the cost in 1906 and 1907. In 1913 responsibility was shifted so that the Association continued to contribute to the Commissioners for street lighting. This contribution was still continuing in 1923 but by 1936 it had been stopped, possibly as a result of the depression.

The records of the Association contain an interesting footnote on the extent to which the world at large intruded on the Wayne community. Prior to World War I there is virtually no mention of the outside world. The sole reference to the Spanish American War is a note in the 1898 Annual Report that a military company used the engine house. There is an unintended reference to economic conditions in mention of delinquent dues in 1895 and 1896 and the “temporary embarrassment” of the electric company in 1896. Not until World War I however is there any significant mention of the outside world. In 1917 the Association voted to purchase Liberty Bonds with its funds, adopted a resolution offering its services to the government and finally adopted a resolution against teaching German in the schools. After the war the Association litigated the question of having two precincts in North Wayne, the voting rolls having almost doubled with the adoption of women’s suffrage. However, it never acted on a request that it support the Prohibition Amendment.

It failed to keep the property between Poplar and Walnut Avenues on North Wayne Avenue as a public park which it had been under Drexel and Childs ownership and later under Dr. Wells. This gave rise in the early twenties to the last big building operation in the center of North Wayne, in which the Association played a role by succeeding in having the new houses connected to the sanitary sewer system.

This action bespoke the Association’s changing role in a changed community. What it did in that instance was not to provide a municipal-like service for its members but to encourage government to act on behalf of the members. Such activity had always been a part of the organization’s work, but it increasingly became the central part of its functions.

In retrospect, the growth and change of the Association follow an evolutionary pattern. When suburbanization came to Radnor and North Wayne it came to a rural and agrarian community. The new residents, however, were urban oriented who utilized the quick, dependable and reasonably priced transportation to get themselves out of the City. Once out of the City, they were in an area in which the government was unable and unwilling to provide the municipal services to which they were accustomed, so they formed a private association to fill the void. At best this could never be completely successful, and as the community grew an increasingly smaller percentage of residents provided these basic municipal services for all. This in turn led to demands for a government with authority and a financial base that a private organization could never have. In Pennsylvania, and in Radnor, this development reached a culmination with the creation of first class Townships in 1899.

Admit this change of the community and its form of government, it was inevitable that the role of a private civic organization like the North Wayne Protective Association would change. Perhaps the most surprising aspect of its history is that it survived at all. Having had its genesis in filling a vacuum created by too little government it survived to evolve into an organization mobilizing about governmental actions such as the exercise of the zoning power. Conversely, it has found all of its original functions the only one that remains today is the removal of snow from sidewalks and driveways. Thus the Association in fact undergone a real transformation that is itself an index to the history of the Township.
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