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of
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Headquarters and Museum

THE FINLEY HOUSE
BEECH TREE LANE AND BELLEVUE AVENUE
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

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BEFORE: FRITZ'S COURT, 1935



AFTER: HIGHLAND HOMES, BUILT 1936, IN 1971

HIGHLAND HOMES:
A PRODUCT OF THE DEPRESSION

Adolph G. Rosengarten, Jr.

The subject of tonight's discussion, in case you have not done your homework, is Highland Homes: A Product Of The Depression. The Depression occurred between 1929, and, say, 1933, but it was really the occasion for Highland Homes, rather than the cause. The cause or causes go back much further in time.

I shall therefore begin with 1912. Life in Radnor Township was relatively simple then. The Philadelphia & Western had been running to 69th Street since 1906. The PRR furnished transportation to commuters and a package delivery service, so that ice cream could be sent out from Sauter's in Philadelphia for the family lunch on Sunday. The Police Force consisted of three men who patrolled the roads on horseback.

But Radnor was also a growing community. In 1912 my father started to build his house on Church Road, although it was not finished and we did not move in until August, 1913. Chilton, the Haywards' house on Brooke Road, was also under construction, and the Watsons, who still lived at Kinterra, and actually farmed it, were building two houses on Conestoga Road.

These examples demonstrate the growth in housing that was going on throughout the Township, especially of big houses. But there were neither bulldozers nor back hoes in those days. So cellars and manure pits - most places more than a half mile from the station kept at least one horse, just in case - were excavated and drive-ways were graded by men who shoveled earth and stones into horse drawn carts.

Now, believe it or not, laborers then earned as little as twenty cents an hour and they worked ten hours a day for six days a week. That meant a take-home pay of \$40.00 a month. The inevitable consequence was that these men and their families were forced to live in the most insubrious hovels that you can imagine.

The result was a paradox. In Ardmore, Haverford, Bryn Mawr and Wayne, while one found, and I quote, "beautiful houses in large grounds with winding well kept roads

through woodland and private parks" in which, and again I quote, "the well to do and the wealthy" lived, one also found real slums.

The reasons are more or less obvious. First, the hewers of wood and the drawers of water out of their earnings of \$40.00 a month could not afford habitation costing more than \$13.00 a month. Also, they had to live near their work. Secondly, "the well to do and the rich" either believed in predestination, or were indifferent to the existence of these slums, and saved their consciences by planting them out.

Fortunately, that is not the whole story. There were then people living on the Main Line who really felt that the strong should protect the weak, and, in 1912, a report entitled "Housing Conditions in Main Line Towns" was published under the sponsorship of the Main Line Housing Association. Most of the facts that I have just given you are taken from this report. However, I shall spare you a description of the conditions that the Association's Committee of Investigation turned up. But I can say that probably Fritz's Court on Highland Avenue in Wayne was the worst.

Included on that Committee was Mrs. Charles S. Walton. If Wayne ever decides it needs a Patron Saint, it should be that lady. When, in 1912, the Neighborhood League of Wayne was founded, Mrs. Walton was among its moving spirits and became its Vice President. Dr. G. L. S. Jameson was the first president of the Neighborhood League until he died in 1934. If you think that a Patron Saint should be a man, he is a leading candidate.

If the spirit was strong among those who were concerned with the consequences of the slums in Wayne, the flesh was weak. Those consequences were a serious hazard to the health of the community, to say nothing of the demoralizing effects on the grown-ups, and especially on the children, who were forced to live in them. Thus, between 1912 and 1933 no visible change had occurred on Highland Avenue; it was still the worst slum on the

Main Line, if not actually in the state of Pennsylvania.

The advent of the New Deal in March of the later year brought some hope. For present purposes the most important ray came from the National Industrial Recovery Act which included an appropriation for the purpose of putting the unemployed back to work. Part of it was allocated to slum clearance and low cost housing.

In September, 1933, on my return from my honeymoon, Dr. Jameson appointed me the Chairman of the Neighborhood League's Housing Committee. I do not remember who else was on that Committee. I suspect no one, for I believe that a Committee of not more than three can be effective and then only if one member has gone big game hunting in Africa and the other has died, leaving the Chairman to do the work. However, my memory of other people who helped the Committee is still vivid, and I shall drop a lot of names before I finish.

By January, 1934, we had progressed far enough to apply to the Federal Government for a loan for our project. It was, of necessity, a small one, encompassing only an acre, on the theory that half a loaf is better than none. The program called for the creation of a limited dividend corporation. This meant that we had gotten firm commitments from local people of good will - I shall continue to respect the anonymity they then desired - to put up the equity capital needed by the corporation. The late Mr. Arthur I. Megis, of Ithan, gave his services as architect and prepared the plans for the new buildings projected by our Housing Committee. Mr. Milton Yerkes, also regrettably dead, the Township Engineer, surveyed the area. Mr. Joseph M. Fronefield, III, then the President of the Township Commissioners and fortunately very much alive, secured options to buy the parcels of which that acre was composed. All this time and effort was contributed voluntarily.

We really believed that we had met all the requirements for a loan laid down by the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration. This Division was, in the acronyms then in fashion, the agency of the P. W. A. responsible for implementing the housing functions of the N.I.R.A. We were especially hopeful as we had gotten the green light from the Division's agents and advisors in Philadelphia.

The return of the application in April, because the Division had changed its policy, left us bloody but not unbowed. What had happened was that no more loans were to be made to private limited dividend corporations. Instead, a Federal Corporation had been created, which was empowered to condemn land and build low cost housing. Our new mission, as General Milton Baker would say, had become that of "selling," as it were, the slum on Highland Avenue to that corporation.

None of us, even Joe Fronefield, had any experience in selling a slum to the Federal Government. Our first step was to go to Washington in my father's car on a particularly hot summer day (it was cheaper to borrow a car than to go by train and neither were air-conditioned) with Joe and Milton, and there make our presentation. We returned to Wayne a bit discouraged, but, in retrospect, I think we did a better job than we thought at the time. During the following autumn we, meaning the Housing Committee of the Neighborhood League, its allies and its friends, seemed to be making slow progress.

A more important event than we realize occurred early in 1935, when the Housing Division divided the country into districts, each with its own manager. We were lucky that the one for the Philadelphia area was Mr. A. R. DuBois, who was most cooperative. Not being a Philadelphian, he often turned for advice to Mr. Bernard J. Newman who then ran the Philadelphia Housing Association. Mr. Newman had been Chairman of the Investigating Committee, which in 1912 had made the report I earlier referred to on slum conditions on the Main Line. From that and from later experience he knew that nothing we said about Fritz's Court on Highland Avenue was exaggerated. But our mission was still to "sell" a slum.

Earlier I said I was going to drop the names of people who assisted us in our undertaking. Mrs. Alda A. Makarov, the General Secretary of the Neighborhood League, gave us unstinted aid and comfort. Parenthetically, she was not a Russian but had married one, a mathematics professor, who prided himself on being the only officer in the Czar's Imperial Army who was never advanced beyond the rank of Lieutenant. Through Mr. Makarov, we engaged Mr. Pierce Furber, an out of work engineer, to make the maps and sketches and secure

the data deemed necessary to convince the Housing Division of two things.

The first was the existence of a slum on Highland Avenue. The second was that the local need for low cost housing could best be met by a federally subsidized project located there. This was not as easy as it seems, for quite a few misguided residents of the Township argued that some other community, Berwyn for example, would be a better place for the facility. Had that come to pass, Fritz's Court might still be in existence, for no rational government is going to demolish a slum without rebuilding something better on the site.

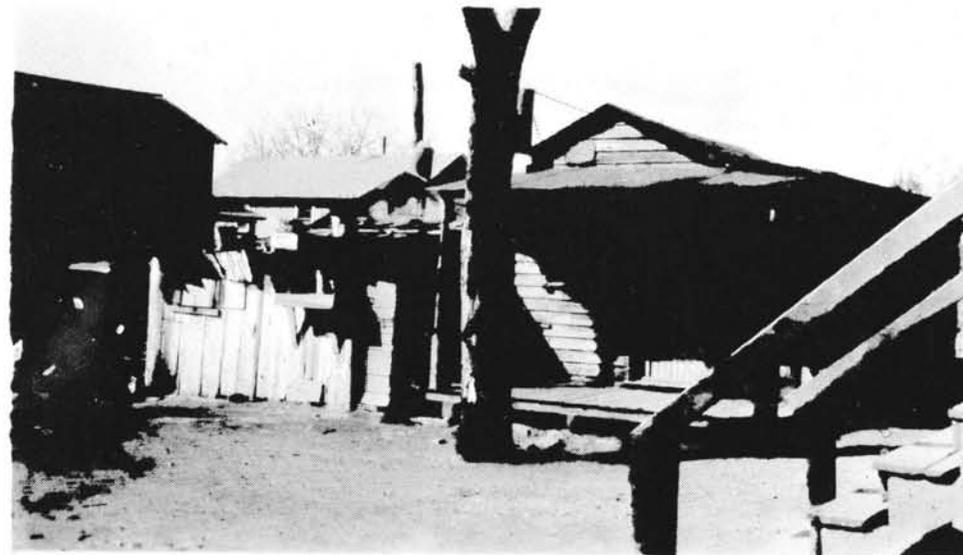
At all events, we did sell the Housing Division to the point where it sent up from Washington for a conference a delegation which seemingly had the power to say yes or no. One of its members was the Advisor on Real Estate Matters to the Administrator of the Division. His importance lay in the fact that the Administrator was unwilling, for a variety of good reasons, to undertake to replace a slum with low cost housing, if the ground in question could only be acquired by condemnation.

The conference was held in the office of the Philadelphia Housing Association. When the delegation from Washington came in, one of them said "Hello, Dolph", to

which I replied "Hello, Mike". Mike, who was the Real Estate Advisor, and I had been in the same school in New England ten years before but had not seen each other since. At the end of the conference he asked me privately if we could acquire without condemnation all of the two acres, for under Federal auspices the half a loaf that we had taken to Washington in January, 1934 had doubled in size. I said "Yes". Mike trusted me and a \$300,000 project for the replacement of Fritz's Court by Highland Homes with Federal funds was announced on September 27, 1935.

That my promise to Mike was, in fact, redeemed was due to the efforts of three people. Two were the appraisers, Robert Headley and A. D. Warnock, who fixed values that were acceptable to the owners, but not excessive in the eyes of the Housing Division. The third was Joe Fronefield. He assembled a team which started at about eight one morning and stayed on the job until all but the owner of one small parcel had signed on the dotted line. Thereafter it was too late for the owners to exchange gossip and raise their prices.

I shall end this story with a few current facts. Highland Homes is operated today by the Delaware County Housing Authority, for the Housing and Urban Development De-



ANOTHER VIEW OF FRITZ'S COURT

partment of the Federal Government, as low cost housing. It covers two acres with attractive two story buildings and open spaces. It contains fifty-two family units, and the estimated population is 124, of whom fifty-three currently are children.

Where it now stands, the concentration thirty-five years ago was about 120 people to the acre, in buildings most of which were only one story high. The rooms were ill-lighted and there was no central heat. The only sources of water were inadequate and inconvenient, and there was not a single piece of sanitary equipment on the site.

The foregoing description of Fritz's Court is couched in the restrained prose which **The Suburban** then employed. It was really much worse than that: paper thin exterior walls and thinner interior ones, leaking roofs and common privies. I have some faded photographs with me tonight which will

serve to illustrate the conditions which then existed on Highland Avenue.

Moving the people who lived on that site in 1935, so that the facility could be built, was not easy. If memory serves, new quarters had to be secured for some 80 families. Fortunately the Housing Division sent a representative to help. The Local Advisory Committee kept the best track of the former occupants that is could. Unfortunately, when the project was finally opened, none of them came back.

However, the new families who did move in were screened by that local committee. All were found deserving of the subsidy, which is an inherent part of Federally supported low cost housing.

Certainly, I for one, believe that the Township is better off today with Highland Homes than it would be without it.

NEW MEMBERS 1970-1971

Walter A. Barrows, IV	Michael J. Kelly
Richard G. Beach	Mrs. James S. Maier
Mrs. Craig Biddle	John L. Mather
Chester County Historical Society	Wilson E. Simpson
Johns Hopkins, Jr.	Warner Memorial Library of Eastern Baptist College
Mrs. Francis Edward Judson	Mrs. John J. Wilhelm, Jr.

NECROLOGY 1970-1971

Miss Mary A. Bair	Mrs. Walter P. Hutton
O. Louis Ehmann, Jr.	Mrs. John L. Mather
Mrs. E. Reeves Hart	Richard S. Sawyer
Dr. John Wallace Watt	

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

APRIL 30, 1971

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that the Radnor Historical Society, as it begins its quarter century year, is at last out of debt. When the Society took over the Finley House in the spring of 1964, capital expenditures necessary to preserve the house, and to build the wagon house, came to over \$15,000. A plea for financial aid from members and friends brought in approximately \$5,000. The remaining debt has been reduced gradually. Now, with the pressure of that debt removed, we hope to do some work on the transportation exhibit in the wagon house and also to renovate the old kitchen in the basement of the main house.

The educational facilities of the Society continue to reach out to the community and beyond. Help with the history program in local public and private schools has long been part of our activity. During the past year assistance given by the Society to Professor Ruth and his Eastern Baptist College students produced a collaboration we are anxious to continue. It is also gratifying to be able to help distant scholars like Lucile Lewis Simler, of St. Paul, Minnesota, whose article based on original research we publish with great pride in this **Bulletin**.

Information has been furnished by the Society to the Delaware Valley Planning Commission and the Radnor Township Planning Commission. In consideration of our status as a non-profit organization, the So-

ciety made a voluntary contribution of \$100 to Radnor Township.

Several important accessions received during the year merit special mention. Two are of particular interest to architectural and social historians. The first, from Mr. Alan G. Smith, is an addition to our papers of Wendell & Smith, builders and real estate developers at Wayne and St. Davids at the end of the nineteenth century. The second, a complete archive of the Euterpean Society of Wayne, an early musical society, was the gift of Mr. W. Parker Stuart.

Mrs. Henry Ecroyd, perennially generous, has given the Historical Society a rare and valuable piece of Americana, an eighteenth century brass surveying instrument made and signed by Benjamin Rittenhouse, brother and apprentice to the patriot astronomer, David Rittenhouse.

During the year the Wendell and Heilner collections of glass plates and negatives, depicting scenes of old Radnor, were printed, filed and catalogued by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Henderson.

It is with deep regret that I report our great loss in the death of O. Louis Ehmann, Jr., a member of the Board of Directors of the Society and its Treasurer since 1954.

In closing, I wish to thank our members and our friends for their continuing support which is much appreciated.

DOROTHY H. THERMAN

President

Lucille Lewis Simler



Oscar Louis Ehmann, Jr.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS EHMANN

Caroline Robbins

The Radnor Historical Society records its great sorrow and deep sense of loss at the death on April 29, 1971, at his home in St. Davids, of O. Louis Ehmann, Jr., Treasurer of the society since 1954, and active in all its affairs.

President of the General Wayne Federal Savings and Loan Association, and after its merger, Vice Chairman of the Main Line Federal Savings and Loan Association, Lou Ehmann combined the work of a busy banker with many activities in local organizations and the duties of an affectionate and thoughtful family man. He was a good citizen, neighbor and friend. In his bank you might find from time to time exhibits of such local memorabilia as the artifacts of the Lenape Indians, Lou at his desk listening to a client, almost invariably his friend, and a general feeling that here was a very vital part of Radnor township activity. To consult him, was to gain not only sagacious counsel, but the assurance that someone was personally interested in your problems.

During the period Louis Ehmann served as Treasurer, the Radnor Historical Society acquired the Finley House as headquarters.

This notable gift brought with it a number of difficult decisions which would have been far less easy to reach had Lou not always been ready for consultation. To him was due the balance achieved between those expenditures on renovation it would have been foolish to postpone, and the caution necessary to avoid incurring too great a debt. Reports from Lou at the Board meetings were clear; he was willing to listen to less expert financiers, and to answer all questions. It was to his enterprise that the Society received from the Rotary Club the chairs which are now used at Finley House gatherings. Lou's wise and judicious guidance and help assisted the Society over a crucial period; without him, its development would have been less smooth.

Lou Ehmann enjoyed the meetings whether lectures at large given in the community room of his bank, or board meetings held in the Finley House. As his judgment was a source of courage to us all, his pleasure, as progress was made and work went forward, was infectious. The Society owes him much, and will long remember his many services and warm personality with affection and gratitude.

The more source material about the early history of Radnor we gather, the more exciting and unique the narrative becomes; and the more accurate. Consider only the southwest quarter of the township during the first twenty-five years of European settlement. Here are all the ingredients for a Brughelian canvas: the grist mill on Darby Creek, the miller, the farmers with their sacks of grain, the cows, horses and sheep grazing along the water courses, the still up at Samuel Miles's springhouse, the Baptists arriving from Delaware for a conference at Brother Richard Miles's home, the Episcopalians listening to the fortnightly sermon of the Reverend Dr. Evans in William Davies's cabin, and Margaret Miles walking with her three daughters across the fields to Radnor Meeting.

Serious men, disillusioned in their hope of a Welsh Barony, worry now about preserving their Welsh identity and talk of moving back to the Conestoga Valley. Men die, sons marry, one prospers and another fails. The land, even the rent land, is bought and sold. Men carefully go through the ceremonies of taking peaceful possession of property, but few bother about rents or about recording these transactions in Philadelphia or Chester. These unrecorded deeds constitute one of the biggest problems for the historian of Radnor. That we are able today to footnote all the figures on the imagined canvas with a date earlier than 1710 is an index of our progress.¹

In reconstructing the life of the township from 1682 to 1800, the Radnor historian starts with a number of advantages, among them his knowledge of Radnor itself and the marked continuity in the cultural pattern. Some of the descendants of the first settlers are still active in the community, and the large estates have held at bay many of the changes wrought by suburbia. The Ardrossan cows follow footpaths used since the first settlement. Old St. David's Church and Radnor Meeting still stand undisturbed under great trees. Local legends and traditions promise rewards to any who will take the trouble to sift out their truth.

Eventually, however, the local historian is faced with the same problems of search and research as any other historian. Reading back issues of this *Bulletin*, one becomes aware of the number of people in the community who are participating in a search for information and the variety of approaches that have been taken: Mr. Albert N. Curley and his Boy Scout Troop carefully explored and mapped all evidence of mill sites (1955). Mr. John Grant worked on the same area but with greater use of written records (1968). Upon returning from a trip to Radnorshire, Mr. Francis James Dallett contributed a valuable description of the homeland from which many of these settlers came (1965). The hours spent combing old deed books and drafting land descriptions are evident in Mrs. Robert I. Cummin's article, "The Center of Radnor" (1967). Often working just ahead of the bulldozers, Mrs. Walter L. Lucas and others have taken numerous pictures of old houses, barns and bridges.

However, every historian comes up against the problem of the unrecorded or inaccurately copied document. This is not a difficulty that has to be accepted passively, for I am convinced that we have not exhausted the possibility of discovering missing deeds and family records. Here in St. Paul, for example, I have a box of Miles and Brooke papers. In Philadelphia, in a vault, the Montgomery family of Ardrossan have a valuable collection of documents, relating to an area bounded by the Newtown Township line, Godfrey, Sproul and Newtown Roads. That is, the area just north of that which my own collection covers. Through the kindness of Mrs. Edgar Scott and Mr. R. Alexander Montgomery, I had the opportunity last summer to copy some of their manuscripts and to take extensive notes on the collection.

Mrs. Cummin and I have long searched for information about the Iddings tract. Many others have worked equally hard to push back the date of the Radnor Mill from 1710. Among the Montgomery papers was an almost complete account of the Evan Oliver tract, including the sale to

Richard Iddings and the mill transactions.

In addition to typewritten copies, it is useful to the historian to have photocopies of relevant documents. Because of the value of signatures in distinguishing between contemporaries of the same name,² the occasional errors in public records, and simply for the convenience of research, the reproduction of contemporary documents, recorded or not, has great value.

Perhaps I can best illustrate the importance of original documents as material upon which the local historian can build a history of Radnor by describing one problem which appeared as I used the Montgomery material. It concerns the will of Samuel Miles of Radnor, recorded in 1708. Someone, in copying the will into the Will Book, wrote "Hill" for "Still": "I give unto my wife the use of my Hill for life . . ." Will Books are more accessible than the original wills, so someone else, in making an abstract from the will book, merely made a reasonable correction and wrote "Mill." This compounded error worked its way into the material on the Miles family, and until I assembled the unrecorded material this fall, I did not question it any more than the next reader. However, judging by 1714 drafts showing Darby Creek within the Miles tract, the existence of a mill seemed unlikely. If the William Davies mill was operating by 1706, as the unrecorded deeds showed, it seemed even more questionable. I obtained permission to see the original will and found the word was "Still." This was confirmed by the inventory which lists: "Item. One copper vessica with ye appurtenances"³ and other brass vessels.⁴

One series of unrecorded deeds, all in the Montgomery Collection, seems of sufficient general interest and importance to warrant a discussion of them in the **Bulletin**. For the historian who has been working on problems relating to the history of Radnor during the Colonial period they offer the reward of new information. Some of this can be immediately incorporated into the records, but in some instances a certain amount of further research and a review of former work will be required before the new data can be fully assimilated and its significance made clear. The footnotes accompanying the description of the deeds, while not being of great value to those fam-

iliar with the problems, will, I hope, make them more intelligible and interesting to those who approach the documents without the advantage of earlier work.

The balance of this article will be devoted to a report on early deeds covering the land designated in Smith's "Map of Early Grants and Patents in Radnor" as the Evan Oliver Tract. Long time residents of Radnor will recognize it as the southern half of the Tryon Lewis place. In an effort to retain the flavor of the originals I have used excerpts where possible, deleting the repetitious and/or predictable phrases or substituting a few words in brackets for brevity. The accompanying map is an attempt to superimpose old surveys on a modern map of Radnor.

* * *
Deed Poll: Heirs of Evan Oliver to William Davies, June 30, 1697.

"Know all men that Joseph Oliver, Elizabeth Oliver and Mary Oliver of the township and County of Philadelphia Children of Evan Oliver⁵ of the same place late deceased For . . . (the sum of thirty pounds paid to them by William Davies of Radnor yeoman have granted him 300 acres in Radnor). . . bounded to the Northward with ye lands of William Davies and Westward with ye lands of William Lewis and David Thomas and to the Southward with the lands of Samuel Miles and Richard Miles and to the Eastward with the Street or road running through the said township. . . 200 acres of the sd land did properly belong unto the sd Evan Oliver as having purchased the quantity of one Richard Davies of Welshpool in the County of Montgomery by Indenture bearing date the 20th day of June Anno Dom. 1682⁶ . . . and that 100 Residue was taken up by the sd Evan Oliver for head land or Rent land⁷ lyable to pay a peny per acre yearly unto the Proprietary for the same. . . To have and to hold the sd 300 acres. . . Under the yearly Quitrent accruing. . . dated the 30th day of June 1697."

Signed by: Joseph x Oliver (mark) Elizabeth Oliver⁸ Mary x Oliver (mark)

Witnesses: George Godschiek James x⁹ Thomas (mark) Richard Walter _____ Walker

Deed Poll: William Davies to Richard Iddings, November 15, 1706.

"To All People. . . William Davies of the township of Radnor. . . yeoman Sendeth Greetings Whereas there is a certain piece of land. . . Containing 100 acres of land which was formerly taken up by one Evan Oliver for head land or rent land. . . Now know ye that the sd William Davies for the consideration of Ten pounds current silver money. . . of Pennsylvania to him in hand paid by Richard Iddings of the sd township of Radnor. . . yeoman. . . doth grant. . . unto ye sd Richard Iddings. . . the 100 acres of Land together with one mesuage or tenement thereunto belonging¹⁰. . . being in the township of Radnor afsd, bounded on the North side with remainder of sd William Davies land that belongeth to this Mill¹¹ and on the west with Newtown line of marked trees, on the South with lands of Samuel Miles and Richard Miles and on the East with land of Edward David. . ."

William Davies hath made Richard Miles his attorney to deliver this as law requires.

Date of deed: November 15, 1706. Signed by William Davies

Witnesses: Richard Miles Mirick Davies Thomas ----- Morgan M James (mark) Richard Iddings

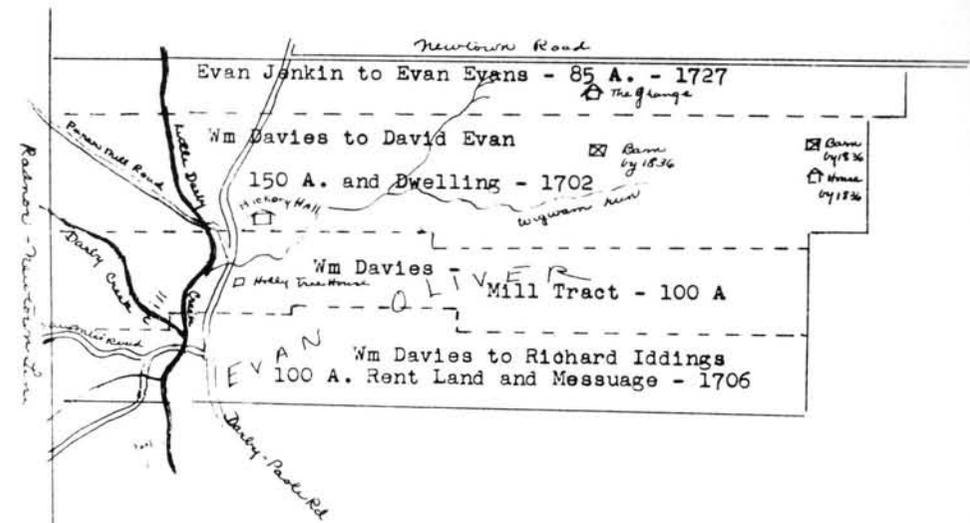
Memorandum on back of deed:

"Memorandum. That Livery and seisin¹² was this 15th day of May Anno Dom. 1716 duly executed by within named William Davies the grantor unto the withip named Richard Iddings the grantee to hold to the sd grantee his heirs and assigns forever. . ."

Signed: William Davies Richard Iddings
Witnesses: Hugh William Jno. Reese Jydr x Pugh (mark)

Indenture: Richard Iddings to Thomas Thomas, May 1, 1716.

"This Indenture made the 1st day of May. . . 1716 Between Richard Iddings of the township of Radnor. . . yeoman and Margaret his wife of the one part and Thomas Thomas of the township. . . afsd yeoman of the second part Whereas. . . William Davies. . . by his Deed Poll dated the 15th day of November Anno Dom. (1706). . . did grant. . . unto the sd Richard Iddings. . . All the full quantity of 100 acres of land. . . Beginning at a stone post being a corner of Edward David's land and thence running by a line of marked trees West south West 380 perches to a stake set in the ground in the Newtown line, then by the said line North North West 37 perches to a heap of stones by a black oak marked, then by a line of



THE ORIGINAL LANDHOLDINGS AT ARDROSSAN

marked trees dividing the sd 100 acres from other lands of the sd William Davies East North East 60 perches to a stump near the mill called William Davies his Mill and thence running North North West 7 perches to a stone post, thence East North East 60 perches to a stone post, thence North North West -- perches to a stone post, thence East North East 94 perches to a heap of stones set for a post, thence South East 17 perches to a stone post, thence running East North East 153-1/2 perches to a stake set in the ground near a heap of stones set in line of sd Edward David, thence South South East 37 perches along line sd Edward David to place of beginning. . . Now this Indenture Witnesseth that the sd Richard Iddings and the sd Margaret his wife for. . . 100 pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania to them in hand paid by the Thomas Thomas. . . have granted all the above mentioned 100 acres. . . Together with all messuages, tenements, houses, edifices, buildings, barns, stables, gardens, orchards. . . Subject to Quitrent of one peny per acre. . .”¹³

Signed by: Richard Iddings Margaret M Iddings (mark)

Witnesses to Payment of 100 pounds by Thomas Thomas: Richard Miles Sarah S Miles (mark) Ales Miles

Release on back of Deed: William Davies and Hugh William to Thomas Thomas, 1716.

“Know all Men by these presents that we William Davies of the township of Radnor. . . Gentleman and Hugh William of the same township yeoman for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings. . . release and forever quit claim. . . unto ye sd Thomas Thomas. . . All and singular our right title. . . to all the within granted 100 acres of land and of in and to all messuages, tenements. . . whatsoever to the sd 100 acres. . . 1716.”

Witnesses: Hugh William William Davies Jdyr x Pugh Jno. Reece¹⁴ (mark)

Indenture: William Davies to Hugh William, April 9, 1711.

“This Indenture made the 9th day of April Anno Dom. 1711. . . Between William Davies of the township of Radnor in County of Chester Merchant of ye one part and Hugh Willian of ye same place yeoman of ye other part Witnesseth that ye said William

Davies for ye consideration of ye sum of 118 pounds of good and current silver money of Pennsylvania to him in hand paid by ye said Hugh William the receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge. . . doth grant bargain sell. . . unto the said Hugh William one piece or parts of land containing 50 acres or there abouts or ye one half of yt Tract of land yt belongeth to Radnor Mill (be it more or less) together with ye one half of ye New Mill now built upon ye said land (And ye said Hugh William is to have an equal share with ye said William Davies of ye towl¹⁵ of ye said mill) Which said land is bounded on ye South with land of Richard Iddings and to ye East with ye land of Edward David and ye North with ye land of Evan Evans and to ye West with a line of marked trees dividing it from ye township of Newtown Being part of a greater tract purchased by ye said William Davies of and from ye Heirs of Evan Oliver as it doth and may appear by the deed bearing date ye 30th day of June 1697, Which said tract the said Evan Oliver purchased of one Richard Davies of ye Welshpool in ye County of Montgomery by his Indenture bearing date the 20th day of June 1682. . . Now this Indenture Witnesses further that ye said Hugh William is to be at half the charges in making ye lower loft in affsd Mill and likewise for framing and weather-boarding the same Even to ye upper gists¹⁶ and also he is to be at half ye charge from hence forth in repairing the sd Mill and Mill dam and all other appurtenances belonging to ye sd Mill, he and his heirs forever as often as occasion shall require. . . And Lastly it is hereby declared and agreed between the said William Davies and Hugh William. . . that no benefit shall be had or taken by survivorship of either of them ye said William and Hugh But that the survivor of them and his heirs or assigns shall stand seized and possessed of sd Mill land and premises as concerning one equal moiety or half part thereof in trust for the heirs of them as shall happen first to Dey. . .”

Signed: William Davies Hugh William
Witnesses: John x William (mark)
Mirick Davies
Gabriel Davies

Memorandum on back of deed:

Hugh William is in “Peaceable and quiet possession” of half equal moiety of mill and tract, April 20, 1714.

Witnesses: Hugh Hughes Susan x Hugh (mark)
Ann x Otty (mark)

Deed: William Davies to John Davies, October 2, 1714.

“To All Christian People to whom this present shall come William Davies of the township of Radnor. . . sendeth Greeting Whereas there is one Grist Mill scituate in Radnor affsd (commonly known or called by the name of Radnor Mill) and a certain tract or parcell of land thereunto belonging Bounded on the South with land of Richard Iddings and to the East with land of Edward David and to the North with land of Evan Evans and to the West with a line of marked trees dividing it from the township of Newtown Containing by Estimation 100 acres (Be it more or less). . . And whereas the sd William Davies hath by his Indenture bearing date the 9th day of April 1711. . . conveyed one equal Moiety or half part of the affsd Mill and tract. . . unto Hugh William of Radnor affsd yeoman And he the sd William Davies now intending (God willing)

to travel from the place of his dwelling affsd Into Great Britain beyond the Seas and Knowing the uncertainty of this life and also the Danger of the Seas Therefore now know ye that he the sd William Davies for and in consideration of the natural love and affection that he hath and beareth toward his son John Davies and also on condition that he the sd John Davies do pay or cause to be paid unto his mother Ann Davies the just sum of 20 shillings yearly and every year during her natural life or allow her so much wheat of the towl of the affsd mill yearly as will amount to the sum And (if it be the Lord's will) That he the sd William Davies do arrive safe from his sd Journey and come to his former habitation then and in such case he the said John Davies is to pay or cause to be paid unto his sd father the just sum of 30 shillings yearly and every year during his natural life or allow him the value thereof in wheat as affsd on which considerations and conditions he the sd William Davies hath



VIEW AT ARDROSSAN

The great stone barn built in the 19th century on William Davies' 100 acre “Mill Tract”

Illustrated overleaf:

THORNTON OAKLEY AT WOODSTOCK BARN



given granted. . .to his sd son John Davies the one moiety or half part of afsd mill and land which now belongeth to the sd William Davies. . .This 2nd day of October 1714.''¹⁷

Signed: William Davies
Witnesses: Hugh x Howell (mark)
Edward Hughes
Edward Pearsall
Witnesses to peaceable possession on day after date hereof: Mirick Davies
Gabriel Davies

Deed Poll: William Davies to David Evan, January 18, 1702.

To All People William Davies of Radnor tailor sendeth Greetings Whereas there is a tract in Radnor Containing 100 acres which land William Davies purchased of John

Jones, nephew and heir of Thomas Jones, 8 mo. 30, 1685¹⁸ And Whereas there is a second tract adjoining the afsd 100 acres containing 50 acres, part of tract sd William Davies purchased of Heirs of Evan Oliver, 1697. . .Now for 150 pounds current money of Pennsylvania paid by David Evan of Radnor William Davies conveys to him the two parcels of land, 150 acres, with messuages, improvements, dwelling house,¹⁹ barns, etc. And sd William Davies hath made David Pugh his attorney to deliver these presents in Open Court. . .Dated the 18th day of January, 1702.

Signed: William Davies
Witnesses: David Howell David Evans
Richard Iddings
Delivered in Open Court, 23rd of 12th, 1702/3. Henry Hollingsworth, Clerk.

FOOTNOTES

1. For a 1706 reference to the grist mill of William Davies see unrecorded deed, William Davies to Richard Iddings, Nov. 15, 1706 (published in part in this article), in Collection of the Montgomery Family of Ardrossan, Villanova, Pa., hereinafter cited as CMF. For mention of Samuel Miles's still, see his will dated 4 mo. (June) 24, 1707, and filed in Philadelphia as Will No. 76. Twenty-five Baptists from the Welsh Tract Church of Delaware attended a conference at the home of Richard Miles of Radnor on June 22, 1706, to discuss the principle of laying on of hands. Rev. David Spencer, *Early Baptists of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia 1877), p. 41. That Dr. Evans held services in Radnor at home of William Davies from Nov. 1700 until at least sometime in 1704 and probably longer can be substantiated by records of the Episcopal Church. William S. Perry (ed.), *Historical Collections Relating to the Colonial Church in America*, Vol. 11, *Pennsylvania* (Hartford, 1871), pp. 22, 23, 120. That William Davies's home was in this quarter of Radnor during this period is implied by a study of the deeds. Davies owned the Mill Tract from 1697 to 1714, the adjoining tract to the north from 1685 to 1702 and that adjoining to the south from 1697 to 1706. There was a house on the tract to the north of the Mill from 1702 and one on the tract to the south by 1706. See unrecorded deeds (published in part in this article), CMF: Heirs of Evan Oliver to William Davies, June 30, 1697; William Davies to John Davies, Oct. 2, 1714; William Davies to Richard Iddings, Nov. 15, 1706, and William Davies to David Evan, Jan. 18, 1702. In addition to these tracts, Davies probably owned at least four others in Radnor at various times: 100 acres to the east of the Mill Tract which he sold to Edward David, July 19, 1697 (according to description in deed to Davies from Heirs of Oliver, probably originally part of that tract); 200 acres which he and Griffith Miles jointly purchased of David Powell and sold by 1698; 100 acres he bought of Ellis Jones, 10 mo. (Dec.) 12, 1687, and sold to John Morgan, 10 mo. 15, 1702, and a tract along the Marple line, purchased Feb. 24, 1704. Taking 1703 as our test year, all of these last can be eliminated. Charles H. Browning, *Welsh Quaker Emigration to Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1912), p. 224; *Pennsylvania Archives*, 3rd Series, Vol. 1 (Harrisburg, 1894), pp. 13, 19, 20; Benjamin H. Smith, "Map Showing Early Grants and Patents in Radnor," *Atlas of Delaware County, Pa.* (Philadelphia, 1880). Records of Radnor Monthly Meeting on microfilm at the Friends' Historical Library of Swarthmore College indicate that Margaret Miles and her daughters remained of the Quaker persuasion. For a general discussion of the problem of the Welsh Barony, 1682-1700, see Thomas Allen Glenn, *Merion in the Welsh Tract* (Norristown, 1896), pp. 21-55. For an interesting discussion of the Conestoga Trek, begun about 1718, see B. F. Owen, "Tradition vs. Fact - Bangor Church," *Papers Read Before the Lancaster County Historical Society*, Vol. VII (Jan. 2, 1903), pp. 49-65.

2. A William Davies is a witness to a recorded deed for a tract in the Great Valley, Henry Lewis to James David, Nov. 1, 1711. The signature on the original indicates that this is William Davies of Radnor Mill. See CMF and Chester County Deed Book L, p. 42.

3. A "vesica" is a "copper vessel used in distilling, 1728 usage. See *Oxford Universal Dictionary*, 3rd rev. ed. (1955), hereinafter cited as OUD.

4. Will of Samuel Miles, 4 mo. 24, 1707. Philadelphia Will No. 76, recorded in Will Book C, p. 94, April 28, 1708.

5. Evan Oliver, Quaker, accompanied by his wife Jean and children, David, Elizabeth, John, Hannah, Mary and Evan, sailed on the "Bristol Factor," Sept. 1682, within three months of purchasing the 200 acres of land. (Judging from the deed of 1697, the child listed as John may have been actually named Joseph.) A daughter Scaborn was born "within sight of the Capes of the Delaware," on Oct. 14. Marion Balderston, "William Penn's Twenty-Three Ships," *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, Vol. XXIII (1963), pp. 54-55. Although the tract in Radnor was surveyed to him soon after his arrival, Oliver seems to have made his permanent home in Philadelphia on the Liberty Land (4 acres) to which he was entitled as a purchaser of the said tract in Radnor (200 acres). From about 1690 until his death about 1694 or 95, he served as woodranger, at first with Benjamin Chambers; from 1691 he assumed full responsibility for "care of the wood and timber on all the lands belonging to the proprietor, His His Children or Relations." *Pa. Arch.*, 2nd Series, Vol. XIX, pp. 45, 77, 81, 371 and 456.

6. The Release from Richard Davies to Evan Oliver in the Montgomery Collection clearly describes Oliver as being "of the parish of Glascombe" (now spelled Glasewm), Radnorshire. In Welsh, "glas" means green, "ewm," valley; in Old English, "combe" is valley. Both forms, Glascombe and Glasewm, were still in use in 1895, but it seems that by 1916 Glasewm had completely replaced Glascombe. Rev. James B. Johnson, *The Place Names of England and Wales* (New York, 1916), pp. 210-11, 274, and *Cassell's Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. 3 (London, 1896), p. 45.

FOOTNOTES

7. Every man who paid his passage to Pennsylvania (as opposed to those who came as servants) was entitled to take up to 200 acres on rent. For these he paid a yearly rent of one penny per acre to the Proprietary. Generally, because land was cheap, settlers purchased their rent land within a short period. In the Montgomery Collection, for example, is a receipt to Samuel Miles, dated 29th of 5 mo. (July) 1684, acknowledging payment of five pounds current money for 100 acres formerly taken up at rent. On the other hand, there was nothing to prevent a renter from selling his rent land to another. Actually, he sold his improvements and the right to rent a given piece of land. Frequently these sales went unrecorded, as in the case of this deed. It is not surprising that rent revenue fell below expectation. Evan Oliver's rent land was sold first to William Davies, then to Richard Iddings and, finally, to Thomas Thomas, of Radnor. I suspect that eventually those in possession ceased to pay rent and that the Land Office lost track of the matter. However, about 1732, Thomas Penn assumed control of the Colony. He not only attempted to straighten out the land records but also, in an effort to make the Province a profitable investment, raised rents and instituted a more rigorous collection policy. Thomas Thomas, who was in possession of the land, requested permission to purchase the tract of the Proprietaries. On Sept. 4, 1733 he received a Patent for 92 acres of "vacant land." It is at this point that the recorded history of the tract begins. See Patent: Penns to Thomas Thomas, Sept. 4, 1733, original in CMF, recorded 17th day of Oct., 1733, Patent Book A, Vol. 6, pp. 196-7. Unfortunately, when copying the Patent into the Patent Book, someone wrote December 4 rather than September 4. See microfilm on file in Land Office of the Department of Community Affairs, Harrisburg.

8. Elizabeth Oliver married George Gottschick, 4 mo. (June) 25, 1697. Records of Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, *Pa. Arch.*, 2nd Ser., Vol. IX, p. 215.

9. Signatures which were completely illegible I have represented with a line; I have guessed at those which were partly legible but underlined them.

10. Richard Iddings's daughter Elizabeth, wife of Isaac Wayne and mother of General Anthony Wayne, is said to have been born in a log cabin on this tract. If she died in May 1793, aged 84 years as stated on her grave stone, pictured in Susan L. Lucas, *A Brief History of Newtown Township* (Private Printing, 1970), p. 24, we can estimate that she was born about 1709. The tradition, therefore, is consistent with the evidence in the deeds. Iddings held this tract from 1706 to 1716 and probably resided on it.

11. This deed establishes fact that William Davies's Mill was in operation by 1706. Heretofore, the earliest authenticated date was 'by 1710.' In that year the Mill is mentioned in the description of the road to be laid out from Thomas Jarman's Mill to the Great Road leading from Radnor to Philadelphia.

12. Livery of seisin, literally, "delivery of possession," is a ceremony whereby the grantor publically places the grantee in actual physical possession of the property being transferred to him, e.g., in the case of land, gives him a piece of the sod or a branch of a tree as a token of the whole tract. With certain types of deeds it is an essential part of the process of conveyance. See OUD.

13. As previously stated, Thomas Thomas received a Patent for this land in 1733. Thomas and Thamar (Tamar) his wife conveyed the tract, less 26 acres at the east end, and the Mill Tract, to their grandson, Levi Lewis, on Aug. 3, 1761. The remaining 26 acres they granted to their son Michael Thomas, Sept. 25, 1769. It might be well to point out that this tract purchased of Iddings formed the southern boundary of the Levi or Tryon Lewis farm. The assertion that this farm included part of the Samuel Miles tract is one of the traditions which is disproved by research. All the land from the Miles tract to which Thamar Thomas, daughter of Samuel Miles, had claim was conveyed to her son Miles by her mother Margaret. Miles Thomas died without issue and the estate passed to his brother Michael mentioned above. Later most of this land was included in the Conner and Phineas Lewis farms. Levi Lewis did purchase about 1850 some 3 acres along Earle's Lane, land once Samuel Miles's but then the property of Jeffrey John; however, the traditional account of the Levi Lewis holding, makes it much larger, Chester County Deed Book L, pp. 540, 544; Book M, p. 159; Delaware County Deed Book C-2, p. 692; original deeds in CMF.

14. These signatures are placed on a far corner of the back of the deed but seem to belong with the Release rather than the Indenture. The same men signed the Livery of seisin on the preceding deed, Davies to Iddings. The space for the day and month were left blank in the Release but are probably as in the mentioned Livery of seisin.

15. The toll (towl) of the mill was the proportion of the grain or flour claimed by the miller in payment for grinding. See OUD.

16. "Giste" is the Middle English or Old French form of "joist." The gists are the small beams which rest on the plates or girders and support the loft or carry the floor boards. See OUD. The directions for building a house are given in the pamphlet "Information and Direction To Such Persons as Are Inclined to America, written by or for Penn and published in London, 1684. *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 4 (1880), pp. 329-342. Hereafter *PMHB*.

17. There is a second William Davis document, dated Oct. 1714, which has already been given wide circulation, namely, "An Agreement Between Nathan Evans and William Davies for the transportation of the former's kinfolk to Pennsylvania, 1714," published in *PMHB*, Vol. 23, (1899), pp. 535-6 and in Henry Pleasants, *The History of Old St. David's Church Philadelphia*, 1915), pp. 344-5. Taken together the two form an interesting unit. William Davies, Merchant of Radnor, agreed "to bring and transport" from Great Britain to Pennsylvania as many of the relative of Nathan Evans, Miller, of Edgmont, as were willing to come. He was to assist them to leave their homes, see that them had a place to stay while waiting for a ship and find or allow them "sufficient maintenance during their voyage." In return for each full passenger, Nathan agreed to pay, within fourteen days of arrival, ten pounds and for each half-fare, five - half in gold or silver and half in market produce of the area at current prices at time of arrival. In addition, he promised to reimburse Davies for the expenses incurred between the time the emigrants left their homes and the time they boarded the ship at the rate of two shillings Pennsylvania money for every English shilling spent by Davies. The agreement was signed October 25, 1714. Did Davies own a ship, a share in one or was he simply acting in the interest of Nathan, his son-in-law. Unfortunately, the secondary sources that claim Davies owned ships do not cite sources. C. Z. Mast and Robert E. Simpson, *Annals of Conestoga Valley* (1942), pp. 525, 643.

William Davis returned from England. On Oct. 3, 1719, John Davies and William and Ann Davies parents of John, conveyed their half share in the Mill and tract to Thomas Thomas, of Radnor. On Jan. 8, 1719/20, Hugh William and Susannah his wife did likewise. As already stated, Thomas Thomas conveyed the Mill Tract to his grandson Levi Lewis in 1761. Chester County Deed Book M, pp. 144 and 146.

18. This deed is in poor condition. Certain dates are illegible and others have been tampered with, I have, therefore, merely given a condensed version.

FOOTNOTES

19. By will dated Feb. 17, 1709-10, David Evan of Radnor devised this house and plantation (150 acres) to his son Evan Evans. Evan Evans, by will dated July 23, 1774, gave the said plantation, his dwelling house and an additional 85 acres purchased of Evan Jenkin to his daughter Mary, wife of Levi Lewis. The house mentioned in the Will of Evan Evans, 1774, is not necessarily the dwelling mentioned in the deed of 1702 or the Will of David Evan, 1709/10. It is even possible that they were located at different ends of the tract. A Draft of Survey of the Levi Lewis farm, about 1836, shows a house and barn on the east end of tract, formerly Evan Evans, as well as a barn just south of the present home of Mr. R. Alexander Montgomery. The same draft shows a house on the north side of Wigwam Run which may be Hickory Hall, the mansion house of Tryon Lewis. The lands Mary inherited from her father Evan Evans formed the northern half of the Levi Lewis farm, i.e. that half which bordered Newtown Road. The farm was inherited by their grandson Levi Lewis and by his son Tryon who still held it in 1900. Philadelphia Will Book C, p. 2069 Chester County Will Book 6, p. 361, and Deed Book H, p. 51; Delaware County Will Book B, p. 193 and Book D, p. 485; Elijah Brooke Surveys on file, Montgomery County Historical Society, Norristown, Pa.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER
April 30, 1971

RECEIPTS

Balance Cash	-----	\$1,745.85
Dues	-----	797.00
Contributions	-----	312.00
Interest on Investments	-----	1,449.58
Rent	-----	960.00
Advertising	-----	182.50
Bulletins Sold	-----	56.00
Investments Sold	-----	1,128.99
Miscellaneous Receipts	-----	5.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS ----- \$6,636.92

DISBURSEMENTS

Stationery and Printing Expenses	-----	\$ 209.85
Bulletins	-----	406.25
Telephone	-----	95.41
Insurance	-----	690.00
Gas/Electric Service	-----	255.73
Water/Sewer	-----	62.39
Fuel Oil and Service	-----	564.98

Borrowed Money

Interest	-----	\$ 115.21
Principal	-----	1,999.81

Repairs, Maintenance & Building Cost	-----	750.85
Dues/Subscriptions	-----	5.00
Transfer to Savings Account 3-4614	-----	71.00
Photographing, Mounting & Purchase of Prints	-----	270.20
Contribution to Radnor Township in lieu of tax	-----	100.00
Miscellaneous	-----	3.50

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS ----- \$5,600.18

BALANCE CASH — GENERAL FUND, April 30, 1971 ----- \$1,036.74

TOTAL ----- \$6,636.92

Savings Account — \$281.20

Other Assets:

- 300 shares Philadelphia Electric (Common)
- 36 shares U.S. Steel (Common)
- 40 shares Chase Manhattan Bank (Common)
- Sausser Trust: \$15,000 in Savings Certificates
- Real Estate, Beech Tree Lane and Bellevue Avenue, Wayne, Pa., including lot, Finley House, Wagon house and contents of library and museum.

O. LOUIS EHMANN, JR.
Treasurer

Radnor Historical Society is a non-profit educational institution. Minimum dues are \$3.00 per annum. All contributions to the Society are deductible for Income Tax purposes.

New members are cordially welcome

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY, 1970-71

May 17, 1970

The Twenty-third Annual Meeting of the Society, held at Woodstock Barn, Villanova, former studio of artist Thornton Oakley, was addressed by Henry C. Pitz, author of **The Brandywine Tradition**.

Mr. Pitz, retired Professor of Art in the Philadelphia Museum School of Art, studied under Oakley, who, from 1902-1905, was himself a pupil of Howard Pyle, America's distinguished illustrator. The speaker, introduced by Theo B. White, spoke on "Thornton Oakley and His Circle," but concentrated his remarks and the accompanying color slides on the career of Pyle and the influence of that artist and his various pupils on the development of American art. The Pyle, or "Brandywine School," tradition is now best represented by the country's leading contemporary painter, Andrew Wyeth.

Woodstock Barn, built on land acquired by Mrs. Oakley's ancestor, James Hunter, in 1757, remains furnished as it was by Mr. and Mrs. Oakley. Paintings and drawings by Pyle, N.C. Wyeth, Thornton Oakley and other members of the Brandywine School were on display. Tea was served to the guests by the then occupants of Woodstock Barn, Mr. and Mrs. Francis James Dallett, the latter a descendant of the Hunter family.

Reelected to the Board of Directors for a three year term were Mesdames Robbins, Therman and Wood and Messrs Barringer, Ehmann and Forstall. Mrs. John Warren Watson was also elected a Director to fill the unexpired term of the late Mrs. Richard Tunis. At a meeting of the Board of Directors held following the meeting, officers reelected included President, Mrs. Therman; Vice President, Mr. Books; Treasurer, Mr. Ehmann; and Secretary, Mrs. Cummin.

October 17, 1970

For its fall "outing," the Society visited the John J. Tyler Arboretum at Lima, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Paul T. Willis, Arboretum librarian, led members on a guided tour of the Arboretum and of Latchford Hall, the house of Minshall and Jacob Painter.

Minshall Painter, a founder in 1833 of the Delaware County Institute of Science, and his brother Jacob Painter, eclectic

bachelors who dabbled in all the "isms" of their day, established the Tyler botanical collection. This now includes two hardy **Sequoia gigantea** trees, a magnificent Cedar of Lebanon, a coffee tree, a garden for the blind and ten miles of trails in woods and fields.

Due to inclement weather, a picnic lunch was taken in the dining room of Latchford Hall, restored and furnished by the trustees of the Arboretum.

December 2, 1970

"Tucker China, 1825-1838," was the subject of a talk by Mrs. Francis Edward Judson at the Main Line Federal Savings and Loan Association.

The production of the Tucker factory, which operated for thirteen years on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia, was the first American porcelain manufacture of any consequence. Under their own name, and under the successive partnership titles of Tucker & Helme and Tucker & Hemp-hill, the Tucker brothers perfected a ware which competed with French porcelain imports of the period.

The china, made from kaolin found in Chester County and at Perth Amboy, N.J., was decorated with handpainted sepia scenes and figures or bright birds and flowers in the French manner and was ornamented with gold "wedding band" decoration on its rims and waists. The story of this short-lived industry which made such an important contribution to the American decorative arts was delightfully told by Mrs. Judson, a collector as well as a student of Tucker porcelain.

February 24, 1971

Adolph G. Rosengarten, of St. Davids, spoke to the Society on "Highland Homes: a Product of the Depression," at a meeting held at the Main Line Federal building. The reminiscences of Mr. Rosengarten, who has served as a member of the boards of directors of the Radnor School District, the Neighborhood League and the Memorial Library, put on record the story of the pioneer sociological project which he helped bring to Radnor Township. His paper is printed in this **Bulletin**.

April 18, 1971

The Society enjoyed a visit to The Brick House (sometime called Chuckswood), Villanova, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Wilson. Mr. Wilson spoke to the meeting about the life and family associations of his ancestor, the Reverend William Currie, rector of Old St. David's Church prior to the Revolution. Often labelled a Loyalist, Scots-born Parson Currie was the father of Revolutionary soldiers and the brother-in-law of two Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The Federal brick house, built on the Hunter family's Woodstock property in 1807, and more recently the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Custis Harrison, Jr., has been redecorated along its original lines by the present owners. It provided a handsome and appropriate setting for Mr. Wilson's talk and for the tea which he and Mrs. Wilson gave to the members.

During the year

* Photographs, manuscripts and Indian artifacts were loaned by the Society to Eastern Baptist College for a display of historical memorabilia of Radnor Township. Mrs. Cummin assisted the library staff at the College with the exhibition which was open to the public.

ACCESSIONS

Miss Mary C. Allen:
Drexel & Childs deed for West Wayne Avenue property

Mrs. Edward F. Beatty, Jr.:
Photographs of J. Henry Askin and early ministers of the Wayne Presbyterian Church

Centenary pamphlet of the Wayne Presbyterian Church

Mrs. Gertrude Ware Case:
Tuition bill, Wayne, 1891, payable to K. M. Boyd, for 6 weeks at 50c per week

How to Decorate with Antiques

Mrs. Herbert S. Casey:
Develin, *History of Lower Merion and Blockley*

Grant, *Haverford Moods*

Guide for the Pennsylvania Railroad, 1855

Lathrop, *Early American Inns*

Main Line Suburban Directory, 1907

Passages from the Life and Works of William Penn

Personal Reminiscences of the Main Line

Why Merion

Westcott, *Historic Mansions*

Wright, *Hawkers and Walkers of Early America*

* With the help of Directors Brooks and Grant, the driveway at the Finley House was extended to the wagon house and other improvements made to the property.

* The Board lost through resignation Theo B. White, a Director since 1957 and son-in-law of the late Mrs. Josephine Stewart Wood Linn, a Charter member of the Society.

* In connection with the centenary of the Wayne Presbyterian Church, the Society loaned the Church photographs of J. Henry Askin's Louella House and village.

* Mrs. Cummin, Secretary of the Society, was its representative at the Seventy Fifth Anniversary dinner of the Delaware County Historical Society.

* Board member Caroline Robbins, retiring from teaching at Bryn Mawr College, added to her many honors election to the Council of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

* Your Editor records in the name of all the members of the Historical Society a debt of gratitude to our President for her generosity which has been largely responsible for the elimination of the indebtedness of the Society.

Mrs. Robert I. Cummin and Mrs. Harrison Therman:
Six maps of Radnor Township from real estate atlas, ca. 1926

Miss Elinor E. Curwen:
Album of photographs of Wentworth, the Edward H. Williams estate, ca. 1890

Francis James Dallett:
Miscellaneous pamphlets and memorabilia on the Ardrossan Beagles, Main Line Audubon Society, J. Henry Askin, etc.

Eastern Baptist College:
Catalogue of local history exhibition held in Warner Memorial Library in 1970

Mrs. Henry Ecroyd:
Eighteenth century brass surveying instrument made and signed by Benjamin Ritzenhouse, of Montgomery County, once owned by William Ellis and later by William Ellis Haines. Formerly on loan

Lady's gloves and fan, ca. 1890

Hat brush, gophering iron

Layton H. Fireng:
Negative of early photograph of Lienhardt's Store, Wayne

Mr. and Mrs. J. Montgomery Forster:
Deed to Fenimore farm property, St. Davids

Scrapbook containing articles on local history by Emma Patterson from the *Suburban and Wayne Times*

John Morrison Johnston:
Stock certificate of Wayne Natatorium in name of J. W. Morrison

Pennsylvania drivers' license No. 3, 1913

Mrs. William S. Koller:
Iron poker

Set of shoe anvils

Herman P. Lengel:
Workbench, wooden water bucket, 5 pulley blocks, 2 lanterns

Mrs. James S. Maier:
History of Garrett Hill, typescript

John L. Mather:
Certificate of membership in the Lower Merion Society for the Detection and prosecution of Horse Thieves, November 11, 1925

John Sheldrake, Sr.:
Gas lamp

Alan G. Smith:
Files of the firm of Wendell & Smith, developers of parts of Wayne and St. Davids. This collection includes glass plates, blue prints, architectural drawings, pamphlets, and account books covering buildings in Wynnewood, Overbrook, Germantown, Pelham, Wayne, and other places

American Historical Documents from Official Archives

Faris, *Seeing Pennsylvania*

Historical Society of Montgomery County, *Sketches*, 1895

Laying the Corner-Stone of the National Washington Memorial Church

McMaster, Life and Times of Stephen Girard

Pennsylvania County Maps, Chas D. Hevener Co., Inc., 1921

Watson's Annals, 3 volumes

Wharton, *In Old Pennsylvania Towns*

Yearbook of the Delaware and Montgomery County Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1917

Pamphlets:
George W. Childs, Recollections

Handsome Homes, published by Wendell & Smith

W. Parker Stuart:
Records of the Euterpean Society of Wayne, kept by F. P. Ristine. These include the treasurer's books and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings and of all the Society's programs

Henry L. Tolan:
Correspondence between Clarence Tolan and the United States Post Office Department on designs for the Wayne post office, 1939

Charles S. Walton:
Pamphlet on Eastern Baptist College and Walthamton, the Walton estate

Mrs. Robert W. A. Wood:
Cardus, *English Cricket*

Sayen, *A Yankee Looks at Cricket*

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For the historical record — the Yorke Apothecary was opened by Edward J. Yorke September ninth, 1944 at what was then known as 118 Audubon Avenue in Wayne for the sale of drugs and items for health exclusively and has continued to operate in the same professional manner.

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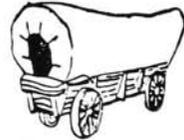
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