THE BULLETIN
of
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume III

FALL, 1973 No. 3

INCORPORATED APRIL 30, 1948

Headquarters and Museum

THE FINLEY HOUSE

BEECH TREE LANE and BELLEVUE AVENUE
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

Visitors Cordially Welcome. Telephone MURray 3-2668.

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Conrad Wilson
J. Havard Macpherson, Wayne reared artist, now living in Tucson, Ariz., whose fourteen canvases were exhibited under the auspices of the Society from October 26, 1972 to November 17, 1972 in the Community Room of the Main Line Federal Savings and Loan Association in Wayne. The pictures continued on exhibit through November 17.

The appealing, nostalgic spirit of the canvases are best caught in the language of the artist himself. In his letter of September 19, 1972 to Mr. F. J. Dallett, a member of our Board of Directors, he writes:

"Dear Mr. Dallett:

Thanks for your letter of September 13th. I'll try to answer it as best I can. First off, my son wrote those notes. He had to do it in a hurry and no one was around to help him. He wanted to look things up but didn't have the time.

I was born at my grandfather's house at 1803 North 11th street in Philadelphia on February 25, 1894. My grandfather Havard was a farmer. The Havards owned several farms in Chester Valley near Valley Forge. My grandfather was born on a farm just above the covered bridge over Valley Creek at Valley Forge. Later he owned a farm not far away. He eventually gave up farming and went into the milk business in Philadelphia. My mother always went to her mother when her children were born, so I was born in Philadelphia and not on the farm on Church Road. When I was perhaps four I was brought out to the farm. My grandmother Havard held on to her grandchildren as long as she could.

I was a very small child so my parents wouldn't let me start school until I was seven. I was a very poor student. Of course, I was drawing as long as I can remember. Perhaps my first contact with art was my first lesson in painting in the first-grade. The first-grade teacher noticed my work. At the end of the year when the class was dismissed I was asked to remain. I was worried and wondered what I had done. When the teacher, Miss Eisenberger came back she gave me a box of watercolors. It was my first box.

The next year in the second grade the teacher was Miss Florence Brinton. She guided my art footsteps from then on until the end of my third year in high school. She persuaded my parents to let me take art lessons. My teacher was an advanced student at what is now Moore Institute in Philadelphia. I gave up high school and started at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts that fall. I think it was 1914. The two instructors I had most and liked the most were Daniel Garber and Joseph T. Pearson. When World War I came along I joined the Navy in 1917. That December I was stationed at the Naval Medical School in Washington, D.C. for two years as a hospital corpsman. Soon I was making medical drawings. While in Washington I attended the night life class at the Corcoran School for two winters. Then I came back to the PAFA for two more years.

A year later I married a student from the academy, Beatrice Edgerly, who became a very fine painter and writer. In 1928 we went to the British Isles then across Europe to Rome and back home. Right after our marriage we went to Bushkill, Pennsylvania where we built a small cottage and studio. We lived there for a few years then acquired a home in Mystic, Conn. and joined the Mystic Art Association. A few years later we went to Tucson, Arizona. My wife fell in love with Tucson so the first thing I knew we owned land and a house there. We tried living in the three places at once. Just before the start of World War II we sold the Mystic house. My wife became a gray lady in the army hospital in Tucson. Our two sons joined the Navy. I did mostly medical drawings and ran an art school at the Area Naval Hospital near Honolulu.

After the war I spent my summers in Bushkill and the winters in Tucson where we have fine studios.

I feel that I am still part of Wayne and the farm. It is things back there that I want most to paint. Old St. David's Church is my real link to that area. I hope to paint it someday and have made several sketches of it. As a boy I roamed over most of that country and often alone for a whole day; the fields, the woods and along Darby Creek.
The paintings I am sending you belong to a series of documentary things of the country I knew and loved back there. They are of things now mostly gone or going. They cover the country in the area of Wayne and up along the Delaware as far as Bushkill.

As a boy I played in frame barns near Wayne like the ones in the pictures. There are three canvases of the same frame barn. It used to stand at the foot of the lane to our house in Bushkill. One of these canvases is “Peace and Quiet”. You are looking across the Delaware River into New Jersey.

The canal boat was the last boat up the canal before it was closed. All of these canvases are typical of the Wayne area as I knew it. Four of the canvases of buildings are of those that were on my father’s farm. I believe that two of them are still standing. The white stone house in which my father was born and the big house on the hill. In my canvas it is painted a yellow color and there is snow on the ground. It can easily be seen from Church Road but much has been added to it.

The barn, the old stone house and the springhouse were in a cluster close together on the far said of the hill on which “Our House” stood; so could not be seen from Church Road. I am quite sure the barn was burned some years ago.

Every chance I get I visit the farm and walk over and around it but never go into the buildings. A new barn of a very different type now stands on the site and a bit of stone wall of the old barn is built into the new one. If I ever get the chance, there are several more things near Wayne that I hope to paint.

The two covered bridges are exactly like bridges I knew as a boy. But, the bridges I knew are now long gone.

Our farm didn’t have a name. I left when I was between 17 and 18 years old. We lived in the Wayne area continuously until I left it about 1921 when I went to Bushkill but have often been there since. My father’s name was John Campbell Macpherson. You will see it spelled McPherson often on old records and records of St. David’s Church. My Grandfather Macpherson’s name was Campbell. I feel sure he was born on the farm. All of my part of the Macpherson family are buried in St. David’s yard. My Grandmother and Grandfather Havard are buried in Ardmore. His name was Benjamin Franklin Havard and he was a Quaker.

The canvas of the house my Grandfather Macpherson built is fairly large. As I’ve said previously, it is painted yellowish color and there is snow on the ground. You will see the pump on the porch. It is a side porch but we called it the back porch as the kitchen opens onto it. The kitchen was the room in the house used the most. The front porch was big and went around two sides of the house. The house was surrounded with big trees, many of them fruit trees — pear, cherry and a big crab apple tree. There were also some big maples and an ash. I think the house was built in the late eighties. My grandfather died shortly after it was completed.

The “Why” of my painting would be hard to explain. I just wanted to paint. As a child I drew and painted anything I wanted to paint. Some of my favorite interests were Indians, guns and flowers. It seems that my greatest interest is America and American things. I admire very much American artists, West, Copley, Innes, Homer, Eakins and of course many others.

I hope this is the information you want. If you have any other questions, send them along.

It is my understanding that John R. Conner, in his earlier days, painted a picture of Tryon Lewis’ old mill. I have often wondered what became of that canvas. It would be nice if the Radnor Historical Society could have that picture. Of course, the mill is long gone but I knew it as a boy and several times I went there with my father while he was having corn ground.

Thanks for sending Mr. Myers’ name. I am very happy about this show.

Sincerely,

J. HARVARD MACPHERSON

Although the soft atmosphere on the paintings does not lend itself too well to reproduction the following prints with their inimitable descriptions effectively express the artist’s affection for his childhood home.

THE OLD HOUSE

This is the house in which my father was born. It still stands today but it has been remodeled twice and its old beauty is completely gone. The fine old fireplace was removed and the upper storey has been raised with corrugated iron.

THE SPRINGHOUSE

This is the springhouse on my father’s farm on Church Road, Wayne. It is gone now as it has been torn down. Water is now pumped into the house and the refrigerator keeps things cool. On a dairy farm like ours milk was set in cold water.
PASSING OF THE OLD FRAME BARN

There used to be many of these barns throughout the area and the state. With the advent of the tractor and automobile horses were no longer needed. The large dairies and the milk laws caused the removal of cows the small farmer may have had. With no need for hay and grain and no animals to shelter, the old frame barn went out of use. If it wasn't torn down it just eventually rotted away. This one was torn down.

THE RED BRIDGE

This bridge shows one type of construction. Many of them were painted red and some white. The one over Valley Creek at Valley Forge is white.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

April 30, 1973

Our first activity, after the summer, was the talk given by Mr. Owen B. Rhoads on the life and works of the local painter Mr. J. Havard Macpherson. This was the high point of the two week long exhibit of the artist's nostalgic works of local scenes. This is the first art exhibit we have had in some time, but we hope to have more in the future. Further activities of the Society are covered in other pages of The Bulletin.

In September the Society was host to Messrs. Evans, Parry, and Roberts, a producer, a playwright, and a television personality from Wales who had come to the area to do research on the Welsh Quaker Settlements near Philadelphia. They very kindly presented various Welsh mementos to the Society, including the working script for a twelve-part B.B.C. serial on the Quakers in Wales before their emigration to this country, and some posters of the lovely Welsh countryside.

The Society was happy to have the Finley House used as a meeting place for such non-profit local organizations as the North Wayne Protective Association and the Radnor Open Space Committee. Students from Eastern College have made extensive use, this year, of the Society's collections in the course of their research into the Sociology of Radnor. It is hoped that the results will soon be available in published form.

Our library has been augmented by a number of gifts, among them maps and atlases which are a valuable addition to our already extensive collection. A particularly interesting accession was a large millstone discovered during excavations across Sproul Road from the Radnor Friends Meeting and transported to the grounds of the Society through the courtesy of the Township.

The Society continues to welcome questions genealogical and historical; its doors are open on Tuesdays from 2 to 5 P.M. and on other days by appointment.

In closing, our thanks go again to all friends and benefactors for their continuing support. It is, as always, much appreciated.

Dorothy H. Therman

NEW MEMBERS 1972 - 1973

John F. Arndt
Robert E. Dittrich
William M. Fletcher
Jan P. Getting
Miss Deborah Getting

Charles R. Meyers, Jr.
Mrs. Ernest Roth
George W. Smith
H. Ross Watson, Jr.
Mrs. Gertrude Waters

Mr. H. K. Hammitt

MRS. H. K. HAMMIT

NECROLOGY

Richard W. Barringer
Joseph M. Fronfield III
Rev. William J. Jones
Herman P. Lengel

Ambler D. Tice
Mrs. E. W. Thompson
Miss Evelyn Walbaum
Charles S. Walton, Jr.

IN MEMORIAM

HERMAN P. LENGEL

October 21, 1889 — January 9, 1973

With the death in January of Herman Lengel the Radnor Historical Society lost another of its founders, and the township one of its ablest and most loyal citizens. No one did more to bring the Society into being, and to help as member, and as director from 1948 to 1957, in its early development. From the beginning Herman freely gave wise advice, valuable information, time, and gifts. His father's account books were among other memorabilia given during his lifetime. By his will he bequeathed the Society money, the
much prized A. B. Frost prints and other treasures. In the Spring of 1958 the Radnor Historical Society Bulletin published an article on "Herman Lengel, Jobbing Carpenter" as he insisted on being called. Since his death three interesting, illustrated articles by Irma Flood appeared in February in The Suburban and Wayne Times, on the Lengels of Wayne and various buildings associated with them.

The Lengels have long resided in Pennsylvania, coming from Germany in 1737 and settling as farmers in the Reading area. As suburban development was following the railroad west from Philadelphia, Jonathan M. Lengel came to Devon and then to Radnor Township. For three generations, much of what was to become Wayne was built by his family. Herman could often tell inquirers not only about the construction of Wayne houses, but about their contents as well. He was himself a part of local history, and, through his ancestors, of the history of the Commonwealth. Paul, the first immigrant died in 1786. His son, Stephen fought in the Revolution and married Elizabeth Heath, whose father also fought in Washington's army. Adam of the third generation, and Peter of the fourth, continued farming. At least one of the Lengels also fought in the Civil War. James, of the fifth generation was the father of Jonathan who died in 1941. Jonathan married Marie Louise Petri, daughter of more recent emigrants from Markingen, Germany. They had a large family, Herman being one of their sons who was born at 250 Conestoga Road, where until recently he continued to live and conduct the business.

The Lengels not only helped to build Wayne, they also sold their craft in such far-flung places as Virginia, New England, and Cuba. They took pride in their work and in the tools of their trade. Herman not only cherished the implements of former times, he fully appreciated the progress in method that machinery had brought, and in the greater exactitude, properly used, it could afford. To see him explaining the function of his various tools, early and modern, was in itself a revelation, and to watch the twinkle in his eye as he talked, a constant pleasure, and a most agreeable memory.

Herman was educated at the Radnor High School, served in the Army during World War I, and remained active in his own and township affairs throughout his life. A bachelor, he was an enthusiastic sportsman and a collector of sporting prints and guns. An antiquarian, he had a very fine instinct for the significant as well as the beautiful. His unbroken family line, preserving its Lutheran faith, and until his father's generation, its German language, was not in itself unique, but was far from common. Herman's perception of the role of family and locality in American history, and the sense their appreciation afforded of community and time, was unusual. The Radnor Historical Society was fortunate in having so signal a personality, and so wise a friend among its early members, and should always try to live up to his ideals of the relevance and values of the past.

Caroline Robbins

IN MEMORIAM

With the death of Richard W. Barringer on May 19, 1973, the Society lost a valued member and Director who helped to guide it for almost a quarter century. A lifelong resident of Radnor, besides his association with the Society he was active in other community and civic affairs, serving as Secretary of Radnor Township from 1949 to 1966 and on the Committee of Seventy. For five years he was on the Main Line Community Chest, the successor of the United Fund.

Mr. Barringer joined the Board of Directors of the Society June 1, 1950 and served as its Secretary from 1956 through 1982. His fine article, "Radnor Township's History" has had a wide distribution. Being a director of the company he was instrumental in having the Barringer Crater artifacts made a part of the permanent collection of the Finley House.

During the past eight years he devoted much of his time to the care and display of the Society's wagons and the Wagon House. His love for local history will be remembered not only by the Society with esteem and affection but by the many Boy and Girl Scouts to whom he enthusiastically depicted the age of the Conestoga Wagon.

RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(A Non-Profit Educational Institution)

Annual Treasurer's Report

April 30, 1973

RECEIPTS

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Savings Account — No. 3-4614

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CHARLES R. MEYERS, JR.
Treasurer

Membership is open to those interested. Minimum Dues is $3.00 per annum. Contributions to Society are deductible for Income Tax purposes.
ACTIVITIES OF SOCIETY

May 21, 1972

The twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society was at three P.M. in the Finley House. Mr. Paul H. Cadwell illustrated his address to the Society on “Old Cars, Hobble and History” with movies taken along the Main Line in 1940. Not only were the usual hobbies mentioned, but Mr. Cadwell pointed out that there were even avid collectors of barber wire.

Thanks to Ted Brooks, a number of classic and antique cars were displayed on the lawn, including Ted’s 1912 White, Dick Vincent’s modified American LaFrance Fire Engine, Elliot Bernstein’s early Model T Ford, Hank Krusen’s Franklin touring car, and Alfred E. Shaw, Jr.’s Chrysler.

Elected to serve as directors for three years were Theodore B. Brooks, Mrs. Herbert S. Case, William M. Fletcher, Herbert S. Henderson, Mrs. Edward W. Westhead, and Conrad Wilson, to serve as one year (vice Mrs. Leonard, resigned), Mrs. Edward F. Beatty, Jr. At a subsequent Board of Directors Meeting the same officers who served last year were re-elected.

October 26, 1972

Owen B. Rhoads, Esq. introduced the Society to the life and paintings of J. Havard Macpherson. Meeting in the General Wayne Room of the Main Line Savings and Loan Association in Wayne, members of the Society and their guests attended the Opening Night of the painting exhibit which remained on view through November 10. Expertly hung by Mrs. Joseph Parsons of the Wayne Art Center, the pictures attracted visitors from New Jersey and New York as well as from Pennsylvania. A more intimate view of this Exhibit and some of Mr. Macpherson’s comments are printed elsewhere in this Bulletin.

December 5, 1972

“The Blacks of Radnor Township before 1850” was the subject of Katherine Hewitt Cummin’s discussion at the meeting held at the Main Line Federal and Savings Association at eight in the evening. Mrs. Cummin’s very interesting talk is reproduced elsewhere in this issue.

February 28, 1973

Arthur B. Gregg addressed the Society on “Main Line Postal History” at the Main Line Federal Savings and Loan Association. The first colonial mail was under the jurisdiction of the British Postal System with local control being vested in deputies who were often newspaper publishers. Benjamin Franklin was a “Surveyor of the Post” under British rule.

Shortly before the Revolution, the colonies established their own competing system, which was refined under the Articles of Confederation in 1778 and set up finally as the United States Post Office ten years later in 1788. The number of Post Offices in the country grew from 75 in 1790 to 922 in 1796, 903 in 1800, and to 76,688 a century later. Since then they have been declining because of the start of the Rural Free Delivery System and then the modernized system recently instituted.

Post Offices, like other development, followed transportation routes. They occupied first the local tavern or inn, later railroad stations and sometimes stores. Early postmasters had to be literate to fill out the many forms required by the government. Additionally, doctors, storekeepers and innkeepers not only could compute but, by the nature of their work occupied quarters in convenient locations.

The first local post office was at the Spread Eagle Tavern (1804). In 1844 this office moved to Chester County, later taking the name of Strafford. Radnor’s post office was established in 1849, Bryn Mawr in 1871, Villanova in 1873,Radnor in 1889, St. Davids in 1892 and Wayne in 1888, having previously been Louella in 1872 and General Wayne in 1883.

Early letters, consisting of folded pieces of paper, sealed with wax (envelopes did not appear until 1850) were delivered to the postal authorities by the sender in Philadelphia, which office served the entire area. They did not deliver the letters, though, but advertised the names of addresses were who expected to call for their mail in the city. This system, being not the most convenient for either sender or receiver gave birth to the practice of sending mail in care of local taverns along the routes of the stage coaches. Thus the “Spread Eagle, the Buck Tavern, the Warren Tavern, Streepers (the General Wayne in Merion) became drop spots before formal post offices existed.

Just as mapmakers of the 19th century gave names of contemporary owners to streams, so local place names were established at the whim of the local residents. But when post offices were established confusion reigned as it was found that 33 states each had a post office named Washington, 30 had offices named Lincoln, and when two offices in the same state had similar names, the problem was compounded. The name, General Wayne had been assigned to the Merion area. The name was moved to Radnor Township only after the other had been changed to Academy, and the name Wayne was denied to this township until an earlier Wayne became Ovid. St. Davids became St. Davids only after Newtown’s place of the same name became Wyola. Some names were lost to this area entirely, such as Eagle, because of the Eagle in Warren County.

The stability of the locations of the actual post offices and their sevices rendered was not helped any by the fact that beginning in Andrew Jackson’s day, the federally funded office of postmaster changed hands with each change of administration. As much as each postmaster had his own idea of where the post office should be, locations were frequently shifted from the local store, the local tavern, or the railroad station to other localities, and Mr. Gregg is still seeking information as to the precise locations of the Wayne Post Office.

After the talk, various envelopes showing local post marks, letters referring to local postal systems, copies of Post Masters’ reports used to illustrate Mr. Gregg’s lecture were available for the members’ examination.

April 26, 1973

John H. Grant, a member of our Board of Directors gave an illustrated lecture on “Early Maps showing Radnor Township.” The first map of the area showing any significant detail was produced under the direction of the first Surveyor General of Pennsylvania, Thomas Holmes in 1687. This was the culmination of five years of hard work by him and his deputies after he was appointed in 1682. The map has a 4,000 word description at the bottom which states that it shows the improvements since 1681. As can be seen from the accompanying illustration of this map, (see fig. 1) the names of quite a number of landowners in neighboring townships are shown, but nothing whatever is shown within the...
Many maps of the general area of Pennsylvania and the Middle Colonies remain from the 18th Century, such as Evan Lewis' in 1749, Nicholas Scull's in 1759, and one by his grandson, William Scull in 1770. It was not until 1792, though, that the various counties and townships were shown, including roads, inns, and the names of some landowners. After the Act of 1816 passed by Pennsylvania designating that each county of the Commonwealth make a map of itself on a scale of one inch to two and one half miles, John Melish was appointed to assemble the state map and also make a map of Delaware County, which he completed in 1822. Mr. Melish died the same year before he could publish the map of the County. This map is presently kept in the Land Office in Harrisburg.

Many maps were turned out during the ensuing years of the 19th Century which helped to establish Philadelphia as a map-making center of the country. Among the most notable was one by Dr. Joshua Ash in 1843. Dr. Ash was a practicing physician in Upper Darby, and his map was published by Robert P. Smith who had a part in the publication of over one hundred land ownership maps over the next 20 years.

When a map was proposed, subscriptions would first be obtained from the persons in the area, and when enough were secured work would then begin on the map. All sources of information concerning surveys, deeds, and other records were consulted at the County Surveyor's Office. One of these maps showing property contiguous to the railroad. In 1850 George Childs and A. J. Drexel bought 600 acres of land at Wayne Station of the Pennsylvania Railroad and maps were a necessity in the development of this and other real estate ventures. No less than five of these atlases were produced from 1851 to 1896 showing some of the details of the plate of Radnor shown in the accompanying illustration (see Fig. 2, which appeared first in the "Atlas of Delaware County" by G. M. Hopkins can be seen to be quite complete. Besides these private maps produced for profit, as such, there were several other types which should be mentioned.

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The first Federal Census of 1790 showed Radnor with two slaves, one belonging to John Morgan and the other to John Buley. (Local assessors that year charged Buley with "one dumb Negro", obviously a rarity as the expression has been seen nowhere else.) There were also four free blacks, one each in the households of Adam Siter, Jr., who owned the Old Spread Eagle Tavern property, of Benjamin Davis who lived near Ithan Creek, of John James near the Darby Paoli Road, and of John Cornog, who spent some years as an innkeeper in Philadelphia and whose local property straddled the Haverford Township line near Landover Road. Six Blacks in a population of 601.

In the same census, but in Germantown, side by side were enumerated Caesar Waters who housed three free non-whites, and James Miller who housed five. These same men were assessed for property in Radnor that year, Miller being called "Black James." The families of these two men lived here for a number of decades. Theirs is the major part of tonight's story, which begins with a man named Charles Humphrey of Haverford.

Humphrey was almost the last of his generation in a large family, for whom the settlement known as Humphreysville, now Bryn Mawr was named. He started life as a Quaker but married out of Meeting. Because he left no children, he divided his large properties in Haverford and Lower Merion among numerous nieces and nephews. His holdings included a number of mills as well as the mansion house known as Powneading which is still in the hands of Humphreys descendants, and, in addition, a ten acre tract in Radnor bought before 1788 from Griffith Evans. The deed is not of record. A member of the Continental Congress, Humphrey declined to sign the Declaration of Independence. In 1790, according to Ashmead's History of Delaware County, eight slaves were registered by Humphrey and his sisters. Among them were a Negro woman Nancy, 70 years old, Negro man Caesar, 36, Negro man Tone, 34, Mulatto woman Judy, 25, and a Mulatto child Fanny, 13 months old.

His detailed will of late 1783, proved early in 1786, contained long and specific instructions on the care and welfare of his slaves. First, the adults were to be freed six months after his death, but Judy's girls (apparently for their own protection), not until the age of 20. Humphrey's "Servantman Cezar" received three acres of land, out of the ten acres in Radnor. The land adjoined Caesar's own. Slave or no, Caesar Waters had bought two acres 22 perches of land at some time before 1779 from Griffith Evans. This is implied in this will and confirmed by deeds to adjacent properties which mention Waters as the owner. The actual deed to the two acres 22 perches, however, does not appear officially until 1804 when Daniel Evans, son of Griffith, signed a deed in return for $25. Humphrey's will required that the Waters bequest be divided from the rest of the ten acres in a manner as not to deprive the remaining land of the spring of water.

On the map of Radnor, the ten acres and Caesar's two acres of land are shown at the corner where Radnor, Lower Merion, and Haverford meet. Today a road called Brook Street parallels the Waters boundary and a spring house stands in the yard of the house beside it. The remainder of the ten acres tract Humphrey left to his "servants Tom and Judy." Judy married James Miller, thus Radnor's first Black owners acquired land. (See accompanying map.)

First, as to Caesar Waters. Humphrey left him 20 silver dollars which the executors started parcelling out immediately. They outfitted him for freedom with new clothing, the account carefully kept by the Court of General Oyer and Terminer in 1779 and which is now in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Caesar Waters lived on his Radnor property. In the Fall of 1784, Richard Allen, the first Black Bishop of the Methodist Church, walked north from Maryland and visited the then new, small, Methodist congregation in Radnor. In later years he wrote an account of this visit: "Having but little money I stopped at Caesar Water's at Radnor Township, 12 miles from Philadelphia. I found him and his wife very kind and affectionate to me. In the evening they asked me if I could come to take tea with them; but after I had eaten a morsel of bread, I became so tired and the rain that I could scarcely be able to put them to the floor. I told them that I would accept the kind invitation, but my feet pained me so that I could not come to the table. They brought the table to me. Never was I more kindly received by strangers that I had never before been seen, than by Caesar. She bathed my feet with warm water and bran; the next morning my feet were better and free from pain. They asked me if I would preach for them. I preached for them the next evening. We had a glorious Meeting." He stayed on in Radnor to preach on the Sabbath day to a large congregation of different persuasions.

He returned to Radnor the following year but stayed at George Gyger's on the Conestoga Road. While there, he not only preached, but also killed seven beehives (whose?) and supplied the neighbors - I hope Caesar Waters was one - with meat. Allen was then called to preach in Philadelphia where he and other Blacks later endangered and impoverished themselves nursing, cleaning, and burying victims during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793. It was assumed by Philadelphia that Black owners were excused from taxation, no reason given, not only in 1798 but also on the two immediately and proceeded to erect their house, noting the costs in the Humphrey county.

In 1798 when the first United States Direct Tax list was made, Caesar Waters was listed as owning five acres and seven marines as Caesar's slave) and the servant Judy. Except for that in Ashmead, all references to her have been in handwriting. The name can always be read either as "Judy," "Indy," "Julia," or as "India." I believe her name was India, but cannot be sure. Humphrey left Tom 20 silver dollars and India $10 as well as his "old walnut dressing table" and a pair of silver shoe buckles. He directed his executors to build Tom and India "good sawdill houses" with stone chimneys. The executors bought clothes for both the two immediately and proceeded to erect their house, noting the costs in the Humphrey county.

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In 1800 in Radnor the Census showed 38 non-Whites living in 13 different households, only one of which was headed by a non-White. There were no slaves. Caesar Waters and "Black Tony" were listed as housing four free non-whites each in Haverford Township. Radnor's true Black population was 34, total population 874.

Unhappily, in 1809, the Waters property was sold at a Sheriff's sale to satisfy a debt of $1,751.16 owed Daniel Evans. John Lindsay, a White neighbor, bought the house and lot for $401.16 later holding a mortgage on the property but allowing the Waters family to live there. Search of the 1810 census fails to produce the name of Caesar Waters. Whether the census-taker overlooked him, or whether the family, in adversity, was living in some other household I do not know. Only 13 non-Whites (called "Other free") in nine White households appear on the Radnor list. Waters and his wife were listed again in Radnor in 1820; he was taxed here in 1823.

A younger John Lindsay became administrator of Waters' estate when he died in 1829.
having lived in Radnor, probably some 50 years. Personal property was valued at $32 in the estate. Waters left a widow and, according to official records, one child only, a daughter married to Henry Smith. The Waters land was sold to a White neighbor, Jonathan Miller, for $380 but no more has been learned of the family of Caesar Waters. 

In the War of 1812 an Edward Waters served with the Radnor and Haverford contingent at Malvern. The third Black Bishop of the Methodist Church was named Edward Waters. He is said to have been born in Maryland in 1780, and was certainly living when Caesar Waters died. No connection with the Radnor family has been proven. Ethel Waters, a native of Chester, wrote her autobiography a few years ago. His Eye is on the Sparrow. I recommended it as a great study of human integrity. There is no indication that she is a descendant of Caesar and Phebe Waters. However, it should be noted that no record has been found to show the life or death of the other persons numbered in the Waters household in the 1800 Census.

Humphrey's servant Tom, whose full name was Thomas Craill, may never have lived in Radnor. Neither enumerated in local censuses nor assessed by name on local tax lists, he and his wife Effie sold his share of the inherited property to Anthony Smith of Delaware County for $80. Both men were called "free Mulatto" and Craill was of Philadelphia. Anthony Smith appears on no local tax list either, but he wrote a will in 1802. He died a decade or so later and, although the will was never proved, some of its provisions held and appear in the land records. His undivided half of the seven acres passed from him to Anthony Miller, a namesake no doubt, son of James and India. Since young Anthony died as a minor, childless, unmarried, and intestate, the property fell to his parents. Thus they finally owned all seven acres. Their second son married and fathered a son named John, born in 1818. Jesse also built a house on the northern corner of his parents' property before he, too, died young. If that house exists, it is part of Paolini's Tavern on the Haverford Road.

After Jesse Miller's death, his parents conveyed one acre of land, including the new house, to John Elliott of Lower Merion, surveyor and one Radnor resident, whom the Orphans Court had appointed Guardian for Jesse Miller's fatherless son. The boy's mother had married and left the landed community. Until John Miller married the land and house were held for him, the rents educating and supporting him. Samuel Garrigues, who took over as Guardian after John Elliott's death, eventually transferred $223 to Miller. The greatest expense had been fencing. John Miller himself died young, intestate and unmarried in 1840, leaving a personal estate of $88.13 including fishing nets and guns. The acre went to relatives.

On the rest of the seven acres James and India Miller lived, conveyed in Haverford with seven free non-White inhabitants in 1810, and finally included in the Radnor lot in 1820 with a household of four free people. That year saw 64 "other free" in Radnor, in 28 households of which four were headed by non-Whites. The total population was 1059. Both James and India Miller seem to have died in the 1820's, probably in their seventies. Death dates and burial places have not been found. Land records show them survived by one daughter, Rebecca, who inherited under the state's intestacy law. Note, however, that grandson John Miller should have had rights to the property too. Rebecca and her husband Henry Newell of Newlin or Newwell, or New— the name is spelled all ways, died leaving three underage sons, James, Henery and George, who inherited. The records of the estate of Rebecca's husband (he died intestate in 1830) show him collecting rent on this property. Personal effects, including three fowling pieces, were valued at $30.23 and stored in the lands of seven different people. The Newells (or Newlin) sons inherited, somewhat informally, not only the six acres their grandparents had lived on but also the one acre which had been their cousin Henry Newell's land.

This is not the complete story of James Miller's descendants. Despite the categorical statement in the land records that Rebecca Newell alone survived to inherit her parents' property, there were other children. The omission was simply pragmatic, certainly not made because the Miller family was Black, but because it was poor. A Mulatto woman named Eliza Miller lived through 1830 in Radnor, probably housing at least one of the Newlin children, and appearing in the records as nursing Henry Newlin in his last illness and as custodian of some of his property. She was probably another daughter of James and Indy.

In 1800 Frances Miller "of Radnor Town" (remember the Humphrey slave Fanny, who was probably the same person) was married to Edward Hunter of Newtown. Justice of the Peace, to Charles Hiselman. No mention of color appears on the printed lists of the good Justice's marriages. The couple is listed in Radnor in 1810 as White with a number of small White children. The husband, of more means than the Millers, rented his land from Levi Lewis in 1805. He died in 1812 leaving six young children and a medium estate. In 1830 his widow was enumerated in Radnor as a Black with a household of four Blacks. Her sons, buying property, were called "coloured." The 1850 census identifies all these people as Mulattos. Frances was better off financially than her sister Rebecca; it was considered more respectable for a Black woman to have the White family's property, and unnecessary to go through all the nuisance and expense of the usual legal releases.

Fanny's children prospered in later years, leaving considerable property which they disposed of by will. She spent her last years with a son who owned land both in Newtown and in Radnor. When she died, at 79, she was buried in the graveyard of the Newtown Friends Meeting where three sons are also buried. Of her six children only two married and only one had children. Of these, only one was a son. That son left only daughters. Their name appears in no local telephone books, but there may be living descendants of other names.

I believe that James and India had another daughter, Mary, who married Amos Hygelman c. 1815. They had at least six sons who were living in Marple, in Newtown, and in Haverford in 1850. Mary herself, born in 1785, was living with three sons in Marple. She and two sons are buried near Frances Hiselman in the Newtown Friends yard.

From land records one learns that the Millers had three children. Anthony who died young and childless, Jesse who left a baby John, and Rebecca Newell who left three sons. Actually there were probably at least six Miller children. Let this be a caveat for those tracing families with small possessions.

There have been more Millers. A Margaret Miller "colored" attended classes at the Radnor Methodist Church in 1819, one of three people so-labeled in a class of 30. A Hannah Miller, 1798-1862, was buried near the Hiselmans and Hygates in the Newtown Friends yard.

In the 1840's the former Humphrey land in Radnor's corner was occupied by Daniel McGehee's Negro tenant. He lived in a small cottage on the property. His house is not mentioned in the land records, and it is not stated who owned the land. He died intestate in 1849, leaving a widowed daughter and a son aged 13 months in 1850. The son was probably another daughter of James Miller, Co'd' (one acre). A new group of residents was displacing the earlier.

In 1843, for the first time since the Millers set off one acre for their grandson, part of the Miller land changed hands officially. George Newell (or Newlin), who was finally of age, had moved to Reading where he was employed as a boatman. He sold his 12 interest to Philip Sheaff who had been Guardian of the minor Newells. Sheaff turned the interest over to George's brothers James of Lower Merion and Henry of Marple. The brothers sold to Isaac M. Young a Philadelphia impenker, for $1100 in 1852. Today a road through the six acres the Newlins sold bears the name of Miller Street. A brickyard later run by the Newells probably accounts for the nombre of the millers. The Newells probably accounts for the name of the millers. The Newells probably accounts for the name of the millers. The Newells probably accounts for the name of the millers. The Newells probably accounts for the name of the millers.
sign the deed believing the new organization represented the Devil, not the Lord. The building remained in Siter hands.

The disagreement between husband and wife was deep. One Sunday morning, when Mrs. Siter found her husband going about his chores as usual on the Lord's Day, she knelt behind a corn shock praying for him, and weeping too. There she found her, distressed by her unhappiness, he bundled her and the children into the wagon (he was still in work clothes, so the story goes) and brought them to Tredyffrin to her church. His conversion in the form of the Radnor Scientific and Musical Hall which both Sipers happily signed over to a committee of the new church in 1840. The building stood nearly fifty years more.

Until 1850 the names of heads of households only were given, and few "heads" were Black. The number and percentage rise steeply in 1820, stay high through 1830, then dwindle fast. The numbers in adjoining Delaware County townships rose, but to a lesser extent. Only a partial explanation can be given. In 1820, for the first time, both Caesar Waters and James Miller were counted in Radnor, not Haverford. In 1830, 16 of the 59 Blacks lived in households headed by members of James Miller's family. Radnor enjoyed some small prosperity during the generation following the Turnpike, perhaps enough to attract new labor. Census figures indicate that the railroad of the 1830's had an adverse effect, if any, upon Black numbers here. That decade saw Blacks leaving, not arriving.

The Blacks were mobile and they moved. Although few Black names ("heads of household") appear before 1850, it is evident that only the Waters and Millers families stayed long in Radnor. From census to census the names of Whites housing Blacks change almost 100%. (Some Whites moved away. Did the Blacks go with them or did they stay in Radnor with other families?) Where Black names are given, there is no continuity from decade to decade except for the Waterses and Millers families. Occasional names of a Black counted in one township in one census appears in another the next time.

Few White households held more than one Black. In every census the average number of Blacks in White households containing Blacks was never over two. A pattern emerges. Black children, when old enough, were often sent to other households. All Black men (often married) lived alone in White households. When after 1830, other towns and areas offered more employment, Radnor's Black population moved. Like all Americans they chased opportunity. Some members of the "floating population", Black or White, were no doubt missed by census takers. 7

In 1840 the number in Radnor had decreased to 17 in 10 households, one headed by a Black. The 15 Blacks of 1850 in a population over 1000) lived in seven households, two (containing eight people) headed by Blacks. Four Blacks lived and worked at two of Radnor's inns, and three lived, one each, in three White households. James Newell, here called "Nowl", was listed in Lower Merion with a wife, three children, and $1000 worth of real estate.

Occupations of Blacks were not listed until 1850. Most were then called "laborer", some "servant", and a few had other jobs. The tale of Radnor's Blacks before 1850 should end with the 1850 Census, when there were so few. Indeed a slender tale, second hand, culled from the public records. But curiosity overcame me, and I checked the 1840 Census. By then the 1830 Black household had increased to 65, almost half of them (61) living in eight Black households. The remaining 44 were divided among 24 White families, J. Henry Ashkin employing and housing six, of six different names. The bustling new town of Louella drew new (or old) Black families. Over one third of the Blacks were born outside Pennsylvania.

Members of the Miller family still lived in Radnor in 1880. One of James Miller's descendants, married to a White, appears by name in the Philadelphia Blue Book of 1885. Another, called "Mulatto" in 1850, was still a laborer but called "White" in 1880. The family finally renounced Radnor in 1897 when the last piece of inherited land was sold. You will find Miller's cousins the Miller's living in the 1880's. Henry Newlin died in 1880. His wife, died in 1880. He left his one acre after his death. For a while James Newlin lived there. After he and his brother Henry had died, leaving very small estates, Sophia, widow of James, sold the small corner cut off from the rest of the acre by Bryn Mawr Avenue. (The County Commissioners had paid $100 in damages when the road went through.) No one queried the corner sale, which netted her $150, and the deed stands firm in the records.

The events of 1867, however, prove that Henry Newlin had not released his rights to the property. By then all the heirs had moved from Radnor or had died. The women had all married, even remarried, and changed their names. The heirs of Henry and James lived in Chicago, in Philadelphia, and in Atlantic City. From long distance they negotiated. The heirs of James, most of them, claimed that Henry's heirs had no rights here. Henry's heirs disagreed. Henry was joined first as one of James' sisters. She had married her own uncle. By 1907 one of her two daughters had married and disappeared; the other participated in the squabble. They came to a final compromise, all signing the land over to the Wayne Title and Trust to sell them, the proceeds to be divided evenly per capita. That is, Henry's widow received 1/6, her daughter received 1/6, her brothers and sisters (children of James) each received 1/6. In all, the heirs of Henry received 1/3 of the proceeds instead of the 60% which logic would have dictated. Thus ended one of Radnor's longest landholdings.

The property once owned by Charles Humphrey, then by the Waters and Miller families, an area called "Guineatown" on maps of the 1820's, later one of Irishmen, then of Garriques family, still later by Italians, is once again predominantly occupied by Blacks.

FOOTNOTES

1. Radnor assessment lists before 1870 belong to the Chester County Historical Society.
2. Chester County Will Book, p. 92.
5. Ibid. H-212.
7. The actual total was smaller as the Census includes some duplications.
8. Delaware County Deed Book L-483.
10. Ashmun. page 390.
12. Delaware County Deed Book Y-159.
14. Delaware County Deed Book V-159.
15. Delaware County Orphans Court File 15.
16. Delaware County Orphans Court File 1868.
17. Delaware County Orphans Court File 2186.
21. Delaware County Orphans Court File 485.
22. Delaware County Deed Book X-419.
23. Delaware County Will Books II-529.
24. Delaware County Deed Book V-297.
25. 1843 assessment list.
27. Delaware County Deed Book Z-762.
29. Delaware County Deed Book Z-762.
30. Thomas C. Miller's "Historical Sketch of Villa Nova, 1883, includes Morden.
31. Radnor Baptist Church brochure c. 1890 in the Collections of the Radnor Historical Society.
32. The Sesquicentennial and Wayne Times, August 3 through September 14, 1931, contains articles on this property under the title "Your Town and My Town" by Emma Patterson.
33. One estimate declares 20 per cent of the Blacks were missed in 1850 in Chester County. See the Pennsylvania History Vol. XXXIX No. 4 Oct. 1927 pg. 560.
34. Delaware County Admin. Papers 3238. 4261.
35. Delaware County Deed Book F-153.
36. Delaware County Deed Book F-1348.
ACCESSIONS

George Caldwell:
Book — The Immortal Signers

Mrs. Robert I. Cummin:

Miss Elinor Curwen:
Water color paintings by Juliet Lavinia Tanner — One of the springhouse on property now owned by the Agnes Irwin School — One of “Tanglewood” in Rosemont, 1896.

Daniel N. Ehart:
Atlas of the Main Line, 1913.

Mrs. O. Louis Ehmann, Jr.:
Booklett of Centennial Pictures.

John Hefin Evans, Gwendyn Perry, and John Stuart Roberts:
Book — Y Rhandir Mwyn: Welsh Posters; photographs of sets used in the BBC T.V. series on Quakers, and working notes for producing the series. (A number of the people mentioned emigrated to Pennsylvania in the 17th century.)

Mrs. J. I. Kirsch:
Key to the Radnor Baptist Church which stood at Conestoga Road at West Wayne Avenue.

Estate to Herman P. Lengel:
Powder Horn or shot pouch of leather and brass; Two Cleaning Rods; Three pistols; Three rifles, one shot gun; Five prints of A.B. Frost, “Gunning in the Rain (Good Luck),” “Gunning in the Rain (Bad Luck),” and three prints showing dogs and gunners.

Mrs. John Leonard:

Miss M. Helena Lienhardt:
Marble top table, two cake stands, handle, and name stencil, all once used in the Lienhardt store.

Mrs. James S. Maier:
Typed article on the history of “Woodstock” in Radnor.

Miss Myra Morris:
Collection of World War I Posters — Collection of World War II Civil Defense Items.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Petersen:
Nineteenth Century sleigh.

Radnor Township:
One Colonial millstone, unearthed at Conestoga and Sproul Roads during grading for highway connection.

Miss F. Neaill Randall:
A 1907 program of events arranged for the benefit of the local library.

Mrs. Albert Thayer:
Sampler.

Isaac H. Whyte:
Wayne Needlework Guild Report, 1944.

Conrad Wilson:
Atlases: Devon to Downingtown and West Chester, 1912 Chester County, 1873, by A. R. Witmer.

Maps: Geodetic Survey of Norristown Quadrangle; Blueprint of early Welsh Tract; The Walking Purchase: Philadelphia, 1884 (Myers); Copy of 1681 Map of Pennsylvania (Myers); Upper Main Line, c. 1962.
WOOD CARVINGS
(Mostly Birds)
By Charles E. Alexander

On Sale or to Order
At the
WOMEN'S EXCHANGE
Wayne

THE PEDDLER SHOP
Stratford Shopping Center

PAGE AND BIDDLE
Bryn Mawr

And in Maine:
Day's - Belgrade Lakes
Massachusetts Work Shop,
Lincolnville.

In Wayne
it's Kay's
For Young Women of All Ages

WAYNE JEWELERS
& SILVERS smiths
NOW TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

Corner of
Lanc. & N. Wayne Aves.
Wayne, Pa.

King of Prussia
Plaza
King of Prussia, Pa.

Established 1890

WACK APOTHECARY
Norman L. McMahon
120 E. Lancaster Ave.
WAYNE, PA.
MUrray 8-0100

GeORGE R. PARK & SONS
Hardware – Since 1897
WAYNE, PA.
MUrray 8-0254

Compliments of
LYNAM ELECTRIC CO.
Established 1912
MUrray 8-9200

THE RUG-O-VATOR CO.
143 Pennsylvania Avenue
WAYNE, PA. MUrray 8-0115

THE BOOK SHELF
4 Louella Drive
WAYNE, PA.

C. N. AGNEW
REALTOR – APPRAISER
SINCE 1923
103 N. WAYNE AVENUE
WAYNE, PA. MU 8-6100

Compliments of
R. H. JOHNSON CO.
CONTRACTORS
Since 1885
Conestoga Road and West Wayne Ave.
WAYNE, PA.
MUrray 8-2250
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<td>LANCASTER AVENUE AT EAGLE ROAD</td>
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<td>STRAFFORD-WAYNE PENNSYLVANIA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NICHOLAS DeSIMONE</strong></td>
<td>HAIRDRESSER</td>
<td>687-2677</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STEVEN BUTLER</strong></td>
<td>ANTIQUES</td>
<td></td>
<td>st. past to enrich your future</td>
<td>MU 7-2557</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPORTSMAN'S EYRIE</strong></td>
<td>Specialty Gifts for the Home</td>
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<td>in the Sporting Theme</td>
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<td>Original Oils &amp; Water Colors</td>
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<td>Sporting Prints</td>
<td>MU 8-7533</td>
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<td><strong>A. L. DIAMENT &amp; CO.</strong></td>
<td>East. 1885</td>
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<td>INTERIOR FURNISHINGS</td>
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<td>Wallpapers - Furniture - Fabrics</td>
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<td>Accessories</td>
<td>MU 8-9090</td>
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<td><strong>ONE, TWO, BUCKLE MY SHOE</strong></td>
<td>Ladies' Shoes</td>
<td>687-6299</td>
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<td><strong>PRINS and VOLKHARDT</strong></td>
<td>JEWELERS</td>
<td>687-8840</td>
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<td><strong>F. F. ZIMMERMAN</strong></td>
<td>Distinctive Portraiture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Photographs for All Occasions</td>
<td></td>
<td>in Living Color</td>
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<td>Custom Frames &amp; Framing</td>
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<td><strong>THE COUNTRY SQUIRE</strong></td>
<td>Distinctive Clothes for Gents and Ladies</td>
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<td>688-4160</td>
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<td><strong>L'AUBERGE</strong></td>
<td>Charles and Helen Wilson's Restaurant</td>
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<td>687-2640</td>
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<td><strong>THE CARRIAGE TRADE</strong></td>
<td>DISTINCTIVE CLOTHES FOR LADIES and GENTLEMEN</td>
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<td><strong>WALTER F. OFF</strong></td>
<td>REALTOR</td>
<td>MU 8-4212</td>
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<td><strong>RAYMOND and WHITCOMB</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>687-5850</td>
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</table>

**COMPLIMENTS OF**

**THE ST. DAVIDS BUILDING and LOAN ASSN.**

Founded 1919

STILL GOING STRONG WITH AN UNINTERRUPTED HISTORY OF TOP LEVEL EARNINGS

5.83% Earned (in 1972) on Installment Savings Accounts

5 1/2% Paid Semi-Annually on Full-Paid Investment Accounts

Mortgage Loans to Home Buyers on Terms They Can Afford

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

- Raymond H. Todd, President
- Norman L. MacMahon, Vice President
- Charles E. Alexander
- Howard E. Borzell Jr.
- Albert Staats
- Harold E. Farmer
- Donald A. Wood

121 North Wayne Avenue, Wayne

MU 8-5618

**DELAWARE MARKET HOUSE**

116 EAST LANCASTER AVENUE

WAYNE, PA.

MUrray 8-2204
LONDON MARKET
FINE FOODS
VILLANOVA, PA.
LA 5-5520

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LEONARD SOLOFF, PH. G., R.P.
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Villanova, Pa. 19085
BETTS McCOY, Proprietor

L. K. BURKET & BRO.
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Oil Burner Sales, Service and Installation
MUrray 8-6500

ARCO
Heating Oil from Atlantic Richfield

NATALIE COLLETT
DRESSES and ACCESSORIES
396 LANCASTER AVENUE
HAVERFORD, PA.
508 LANCASTER AVENUE
STRAFFORD, PA.

Covered Wagon Inn
"LANDMARK OF MAIN LINE DINING"
LUNCHEON and DINNER SERVED DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY
FASHION SHOW EVERY WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON
DANCING SATURDAY 9 - 1
(on the Strafford Terrace)
FACILITIES FOR WEDDINGS, BANQUETS
and BUSINESS MEETINGS
PAELLA MADE TO ORDER
Lancaster Avenue
Strafford, Pa.
MUrray 8-1169
EDWARD J. YORKE APOTHECARY

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.

110 SOUTH WAYNE AVE., WAYNE, PA.
PHONE 688-1111 

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Is Tomorrow's History

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in

THE SUBURBAN

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