INCORPORATED APRIL 30, 1948

Headquarters and Museum

THE FINLEY HOUSE
113 WEST BEECH TREE LANE
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

Visitors Cordially Welcome. Telephone Murray 8-2668.

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

April 30, 1977

This has been a year of continuing progress for our Society. Although our immediate objectives have not been completely met it is felt that satisfactory steps in that direction have been made.

The first phase of the renovation of the ground floor has been completed; new carpeting has been laid in our meeting and exhibition rooms; new or completely rebuilt display cases have been installed; exhibits have been rearranged to be made more meaningful and interesting, and our very fine files of maps and early photographs have been reorganized to increase their efficiency and usefulness.

A fine marble topped table has been added to our renovated bedroom, adding to the already fine collection of Victorian furniture donated by Mrs. Gertrude Ware Case.

Upon completion of this work a bicentennial open house was held on Sunday, October 31, 1976 so that we could share our newly arranged museum and reference collections with the community. Over 100 persons attended, which also honored our old friends who have been active in the Society since its founding in 1947.

In addition to furnishing speakers and answering numerous inquiries of various types relating to Radnor Township and the Main Line, we provided meeting facilities for local organizations and were pleased to host once more the Easter egg hunt sponsored by the North Wayne Protective Association. Other activities and projects of the Society will be found elsewhere in the pages of this Bulletin.

Before closing I would like to emphasize that we are still in need of contributions to help pay for exterior painting and other physical improvements to that our headquarters may be properly maintained and protected. All contributions, which are tax deductible, will indeed be appreciated.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the steadfast support of our friends and members and to the community as a whole during the past year.

Gratefully,
DOROTHY H. THERMAN
THE EARLY INNS AND INNKEEPERS OF RADNOR

BY KATHERINE HEWITT CUMMIN

The eighteenth century innkeeper was well-known to his neighbors. In small communities such as Radnor, his house served not only as a shelter for travelers and as a meeting place for local residents, but also as a communications center. Mail and messages were there deposited and legal notices, by court order, there posted. Because accessible, the inn often became the local polling place and the site of governmental or quasi-governmental meetings. Everyone knew the local innkeeper; not everyone admired him. Only occasionally did he hold public elective office.

Four times a year, perforce, he applied to the Justices of the Court of Quarter Sessions for his tavern licence. Fortunately, Chester County's tavern licence applications and related papers are preserved by the Chester County Historical Society. The records of this court have enabled historians such as Ashmead to list Radnor's permittees and the papers themselves offer information on the individual taverner and his rivals. The would-be innkeeper presented reasons, usually hardship, to explain his need for a licence. He had small children to maintain; he had ill-health; his house was situated between flooding streams which stranded travelers; but always, he said, the conferring of a licence would most benefit the traveling public. Storekeepers also requested licences, theirs allowing them to sell spirituous liquors by the quart, the half gallon or the gallon, not the "small measure" of the innkeeper.

In a Pennsylvania community such as Radnor in the 18th century, the innkeeper was different. In an area predominantly Quaker, he was not a member in good-standing of the Society of Friends. Quakers showed few qualms at owning inns but seldom ran them personally. The role of host presumes the dispensing of alcoholic liquor, an activity frowned upon by the Society. In generally owner-occupied territory, he was usually a tenant, not a land holder. He was often an outlander who had moved from inn to inn in township after township. His wife usually came from another innkeeping family. Because he was a tenant and because he was not a Quaker, neither land nor Meeting records assist in identifying him and his family; his origins are often obscure.

In a farming community, he was not a farmer. His buildings varied from those on farms. His house was larger, his barn smaller. He built stables, sheds, and even ice houses. Reading assessment records of unfamiliar townships, one can often identify the inns simply by the types of outbuildings listed.

In a community settled by Welshmen, he was often not Welsh. Doing business with strangers, he dealt more in cash than his neighbors who kept long and detailed books describing barter transactions. Jacob Witmer, once keeper of the Sorrel Horse Tavern, was one of only two Radnor residents taxed for owning silver in 1783. (He owned 12 silver teaspoons.) Because there was usually cash on the premises, the inn was a target for bandits.

Because the taverner was enjoined to serve the public, he had little choice in his guests and exciting events occurred upon his premises.

Finally, through the licensing system, the innkeeper's guests and neighbors could deny him his livelihood.

Remembering these facts, let us examine Radnor's experience.

Because the first roads were laid out to connect Meeting House to Meeting House, the first inns were inspired by those institutions. Residents appealed to the court for redress of grievance caused by worshipers away from home who imposed upon them for warmth and food. Edward Thomas, calling himself "of Radnor," so appealed in 1717, stating that he lived near St. David's Church. No extant record shows Edward Thomas to have lived in Radnor; his own land lay in
Newtown. No record shows that he ever received a licence.

As early as 1726 David Evans, son and grandson of men who had migrated to Radnor, requested a licence to operate a public house near the Radnor Friends Meeting. He petitioned a number of times but only occasionally received the necessary permit. One Chester County document, signed by William David of Nantmeal, husbandman, may have affected the Justices' decision; it read:

That (William David) being Travelling towards Philadelphia, took his lodging at the House of David Evans of Radnor, the sixth day of October last, being in bed about Eleven or Twelve o'clock that night. He, the said David (Evans), came up to ye said Deponent having three other men in Company & Demanded the Said Deponent to Deliver his Money or he would kill him Whereupon he, the Said Deponent, Rose out of Bed, put on his Clothes & Prayed them to Leave him his Life & do What Else they pleased with him, but he, the said David (Evans) Continued Threatening him, the Said Deponent was forced to Run toward Samuel Harris, & when he was gone about forty Perches off the Said David's House, he the said David overtook him the said Deponent, & took hold of him by the Collar & told ye Said Deponent he would kill him Unless he Delivered him his Money. Whereupon he the Said Deponent fell on his Knees & begged his Life and afterwards that Night in fear thereof went as far as William Evans of Tredyffrin.”

This is a one-sided deposition. One has to assume there was justification for the landlord’s actions as he continued to receive a licence for some decades. Another deposition, taken in Lancaster County, tells the story of the evening nightmare of a traveler on the Conestoga Road in Radnor (the King’s Highway) in late 1758 when a marauder attacked him from the woods and took both him and another traveler at pistol and knife point as his prisoners. All survived this experience although the deponent was a full day late for his appointment in Philadelphia.

When others rented David Evans’s inn, they received their licences without trouble and this tavern, known originally as the “Plough,” was not only the first in Radnor but the most enduring, existing into this century. It stood on the north side of the Conestoga Road, east of the Friends Meeting House. Evans went into debt to his older brother who forced a Sheriff’s sale in 1743 at which David Rees of Radnor, blacksmith, bought the inn. Rees himself lived on property owned by John Moore, property now containing (among other things) the development known as Beaupre. When Moore died, Rees married his widow and then paid taxes on the Moore property. He rented the tavern to Richard Barry, probably the most successful host Radnor ever knew. He officiated—with no remonstrances—until 1765 when he moved to Havertford, applying there for a licence to sell beer and cider only as he was “old and infirm in one of my limbs.” At the “Plough” he was followed first by its owner and then by Barry’s own son James. Rees sold in 1767 to out-of-town investor Joseph Norris who had held the mortgage for almost 20 years. Norris retained the younger Barry as host.

During Richard Barry’s day, in 1747, a second inn opened on the Conestoga Road when James Miles, brother-in-law of the land-owner Jonathan Pugh, received a licence (he had to apply twice) for a house he had “lately built” near Tredyffrin Township. Miles’s father, who was a Quaker when he arrived here, became a Baptist, helping to found the Baptist Church in the Great Valley. Miles himself was the father of General Samuel Miles who distinguished himself in the Revolution and served a term as Mayor of Philadelphia. Miles ran the inn, known as the “Unicorn,” only six years. He was followed by a succession of innkeepers including the property’s owners, Jonathan Pugh and his son Samuel. The old portion of the current Covered Wagon restaurant, in Tredyffrin but adjoining Radnor, was later owned by James Miles’s son Richard.

The third inn, again on the Conestoga Road, opened in 1757 when Aubrey Harry, whose family had owned the land for three generations, received a licence on the grounds that wartime travel (French and Indian War) had so increased the traffic that more facilities were needed. He sold his property in 1767 to Michael Stadelman whose family had operated the “Black Horse Tavern” in Lower Merion and who had officiated here at what Harry called the “Horse and Groom” for the two previous years. Stadelman’s wife was Sarah Wyne, descendant of Dr. Thomas Wyne. One of the first Germans in Radnor, Stadelman enlarged the house which is listed on the traditional lists of old taverns as the “Sorrel Horse” and which still stands as the Lower School Building of the Agnes Irwin School. Stadelman ran the inn himself.

The fourth and final 18th century inn opened after Adam Ramsower had bought the farm of James Pugh’s family who had owned it for three generations. When Ramsower, former host of the tavern at the Yellow Springs in Pikeland Township, made his first licence application in 1763, the friends of Jonathan Pugh (he still owned the nearby “Unicorn”) complained that the normal flow of travel could not support two inns so close together, that, perfurate, one innkeeper (or both) would “indulge the unwary Nighbors to the pernicious practice of Tipling, Gameing, etc. in order to make a Living.” So warned, the Justices refused the licence. The following year Ramsower presented a petition signed by 79 Germans of Lancaster County, many of whom spoke no English. They signed in their native German script, the names now hard to decipher.

They supported Ramsower’s application, declaring Pugh’s facilities insufficient for large numbers of wagons, and noting that Chester County contained no German innkeepers on the Philadelphia Road (Stadelman had not yet taken over the “Sorrel Horse”). The second plea worked; Ramsower received his licence. He built a new stone house 40 by 33 feet in size as well as “extraordinary stabling.”

The Sorrel Horse, formerly The Plow. Pictured c. 1909 by James Heilner.
In December 1771 Ramsower advertised his inn for sale mentioning the large, well finished stone building, “a well-acquainted tavern known by the name of the Spread Eagle.” Ramsower was obviously a colorful man as another advertisement of his testifies:

“Stolen from the house of the Subscriber last night a suit of clothes—coat home-made Wilton of a red and white color, with green lining and binding, home-made striped jackets, a new beaver hat with blue lining, reddish Barcelona handkerchief with green around the edge, and two pairs of pumps…”

Jacob Hinckel of Cocalico Township, who bought the “Spread Eagle” in 1772, provided the Court with a character reference signed by the Justices of the Peace of Lancaster County who knew him as a tanner. He opened a tannery in a “well-watered meadow” near the current Sugartown Road and ran the inn as well. The restaurant “L’Auberge” stands near the inn site now.

Back at the “Plough” James Barry had become a close friend and trusted associate of his near neighbor Lewis Jerman. He was replaced at the tavern by a succession of innkeepers. By 1774 Patrick McFall was in charge. He remained long enough to marry Mary Jerman when she was newly-widowed. Her husband, Lewis, has been read out of Meeting for marrying out, neglecting his ancient father (who was Radnor’s first published author) and for drinking to excess, an avocation he refused to drop. Jerman died at 41.

The Mc Falls moved to Charlestown Township to run the “Black Bull Tavern.” McFall, a Captain in the Revolution, died during that war and was buried at the Valley Friends Meeting, so it’s said, not because he was a Friend (he wasn’t), but because that Meeting, like others, was used as a hospital and a number of soldiers are buried there.

In Radnor, he was succeeded by Peter Mather, a controversial figure. Those who have read Sachse’s book on inns will recognize the name. When he applied to renew his licence in February of 1775, 16 local taxpayers signed the following protest:

“That in Said Township there are four Publick houses on the Lancaster Road, all within three Miles Distance which to Every Person Acquainted with their Situation, as there is two More within one Mile of the Township line both on Said road, are obviously More than can make a liveliness by that Business, Without Some of them taking the Advantage of the unwary Neighbour, — Traveller — A Recent Instance of the Justness of this Observation Presents itself from this Singular Circumstance — that one of the four a Petty Tavern or licenced house known by the Name of John Wilkes. Within these few months has had no less than three Tennents, two of which, Conscious that a living profit could not be Obtained in that Place and Business, without Using some undue Advantage, Respectively gave up the House, as its Charitably presumed, from Principles of Honesty — And left that Tavern to be Occupied by one Peter Mather, Whose Character and Conduct — Your Petitioners Apprehend is not Quite unknown to some of your Worshipps, They therefor Humbly Conceive when the Court are Informed of the fulness of the Said House and Reasonableness of our Request they will disallow him in future from Selling Liquor in Said Place.”

The protest was signed by his sister, raised by Roberts’s aunt, Mrs. John Paul who ran the “Indian Queen” in Philadelphia, married Mrs. Paul’s son. They were absentee landlords of this property until 1807.

The “Plough” which was briefly the “John Wilkes” changed hands after Joseph Norris’s death. The new owner Mordecai Lawrence soon sold to Paul Sherardin, a German, who bought the inn in 1779 to run himself.

In 1779 also Hinckel sold the “Spread Eagle” for a wartime inflated price of L 20,000 to Benjamin Penrose, tanner, of Whitpain Township. The Hinckels left for North Carolina. Alexander Clay, tanner under Penrose, left his mark on Radnor as at least three of his daughters married Radnor men.

The “Unicorn,” run by Captain Samuel Pugh until 1778, was then rented to Robert Kennedy who bought the property in 1784 and owned until his death in 1832. Although he lived here over 50 years and his children succeeded him, his origins have not been found, nor has the maiden name of his wife Elener. It was he who gave the inn its Tory reputation.

Richard Miles, great nephew of James Miles who built the “Unicorn,” bought the “Plough” in 1785. William King acted as host, succeeded by his widow Mary King. Two years after King’s death, Miles married the widow and the pair ran the inn until 1794 when it was sold to James Elliott. Elliott, who had come to Radnor in 1788 from the inn at Newtown Square to run Stadelman’s “Sorrel Horse,” made a good living there until the Turnpike was completed. With the more lucrative trade diverted to the new road, the “Sorrel Horse” became the first tavern on the Conestoga Road to close. Stadelman’s heirs then rented the property as a farm. As Dr. Gertrude Leighton pointed out in her fine article in the 1960 Bulletin of Radnor Historical Society, Elliott carried the name “Sorrel Horse” with him to the older, smaller “Plough.” He officiated at the renamed inn until his death in 1812. His wife’s maiden name has not been found. His son James Jr. was a Philadelphia innkeeper.
The Turnpike benefited the other taverns because, near them, it joined the older Conestoga Road. In 1786 Benjamin Penrose’s siblings (he had died intestate and with neither wife nor child) sold the “Spread Eagle” to Adam Siter Jr. of Philadelphia. Adam’s father was Radnor’s first German land-owner. The younger man, at various times, ran the inn at the Upper Ferry in Philadelphia and the inn at the Middle Ferry. In 1796 his brother John constructed the new and magnificent “Spread Eagle,”

It stood 80 by 32 feet in size, three stories tall, with 56 windows and a two story stone kitchen wing. (In 1798 the “Unicorn” stood 46 by 33 and the former “Plough” 30 by 21.)

The “Spread Eagle” was, in short, the grandest inn near Philadelphia. The competition was hard on the Kennedy family of the “Unicorn” but the two roads provided sufficient trade for both.

Adam Siter Jr. had married Sarah Jones, descendant of an old Radnor family, and probably daughter of Amos Jones who had himself run inns in Moyamensing and in Newtown. Her mother’s family also had inn experience. The Siter’s remained in the city where Adam Jr. was killed by a blow on the head late in 1797. His brothers John and William ran the inn for the benefit of his children. His widow returned to Radnor to be near relatives and, in 1798, built a new house half in Delaware County, half in Chester. This house, owned by the Braxton family, has recently been restored.

Thus by the end of the eighteenth century four inns had become three, two of which had access to the Turnpike. They bore the largest assessments in the township. But the new road also inspired new inns. In 1798 Bartle Bartleson whose father had bought 56 Radnor acres in 1775 and who had innkeepers in his background, built a new stone house 25 by 33 feet in size. The following year he applied for a tavern licence saying there was need for an inn on the Turnpike between the “Buck” in Haverford and the “Spread Eagle.”

This new hostelry, called the “Fox” in 1806, ran under the Bartleson family until 1844, when it closed. It stood on the north side of Lancaster Avenue near Spring Mill Road. In 1815 the innkeepers of the “Spread Eagle” paid $1.25 in occupation jaxes while the owners of the other inns, the “Unicorn,” the “Sorrel Horse” and the “Fox,” paid only 50 cents apiece.

On the Turnpike in 1806 Elisha Moore opened a new tavern, the “White Horse” on property now owned by Wyeth Laboratories and not far beyond the Bartleson Inn. Moore, whose family had owned land on the Radnor-Newtown border for some generations, had married Mary Hunter whose Morgan ancestors had come to Radnor before 1700. One inference between the two new inns and their owners.

When Peter Hunter died intestate leaving a widow and no children (he was Mary Moore’s brother), it was Elisha Moore who petitioned the Orphans Court claiming that Peter Hunter had no widow because the woman in question was the wife of a black man at the time of her supposed marriage to Hunter. It happened that the widow was Bartleson’s daughter. The court sided with her. Hunter’s siblings bought her rights to his property; she married again and left for Ohio.

The “Spread Eagle” area became known as Siterville as shops were built to serve the traveler. The turnpike complex to the southwest also inspired commerce. This area prospered until the advent of the railroad, which was in operation by 1834. H. Jones Brooke immediately built a hotel near the station at Morgan’s Corner, now Radnor. In December 1837 the county assessors rated the inns on their rental value, calling the “Railroad Hotel” worth $200 annually, the “Spread Eagle” worth $150 and all the rest (4 inns) worth $100 each. The “Spread Eagle” had been superseded. The “Railroad Hotel” burned a short time later but was immediately rebuilt.

The Bartleson and Moore inns both closed during the 1840s, victims of the railroad. Edward Siter, Adam Jr.’s son, occasionally ran the family inn himself. An astute businessman, he sold in 1841. Under various owners and innkeepers the large inn ran until 1880 when Drexel and Childs bought it and closed it to preserve their developing community of Wayne from the sale of liquor. A few years later they demolished it, using the stone for buildings and for roads.

Louella Mansion, c. 1870, which became the Louella Hotel.

The “Unicorn” (under various names) ran until after 1860. When Joseph Akins, son-in-law of Robert Kennedy, died in 1848 his inventory showed 16 beds in the old tavern. The building burned in 1872.

The “Sorrel Horse” left the Elliott family upon James Elliott’s death. Owned by Thomas Taylor, William Thomas, Philip Kirk and finally by Charles Quigley, it ran well into the 20th century. It too is gone. Two small and attractive houses, built in the 1880s as summer cottages, adjoins to the hotel, remain.

The railroad inspired other inns and boarding houses, as city people came by train as far as Radnor to vacation. The White Hall Inn, on Radnor’s border in Rosemont, attracted many. Near it a large stone building was erected by Henry Lawrence in 1882. This building never a hotel, now houses the Conestoga Mill restaurant.

In Wayne the large and turreted Bellevue Hotel opened in 1881. J. Henry Askin’s mansion became the Louella Hotel. The Wesley opened on North Wayne Avenue. Finally, in 1906, the Waynewood Hotel was built. None of these operates as a hotel. The Bellevue burned in 1900; H. J. Brooke’s Railroad Hotel, the Louella Hotel and the Wesley became apartment houses. Both the White Hall and the Railroad Hotel have been demolished. The Waynewood Hotel ran until after 1948. It stands, known as Wayne hall.

Radnor’s one functioning hostelry, the St. Davids Inn, reflects yet another new transportation route, for it was built in anticipation of the Mid-County Expressway.
Bellevue Hotel, Wayne, c. 1895.

FOOTNOTES

1. Undocumented statements in this work derive from this tavern licence file. Ashmead’s list is found on pp. 692-694.
2. The Chester County Historical Society preserves eighteenth century Chester County assessment records.
3. Chester County Deed Books, F-359, G-480
4. The marriage took place in Christ Church, Philadelphia, April 11, 1754.
5. Chester County Deed Book Q-236.
6. Chester County Deed Book O-2-370
7. They were married in Swedes Church, Philadelphia, 20 June, 1799.
8. They were married at St. James’ Church, Perkiomen, 20 June, 1799.
10. Quoted in Henry Pleasants’ Old Eagle School, 1918, p. 53.
11. They were married 4 September 1774 in Christ Church.
12. Chester County Deed Book T-261.
14. Delaware County Miscellaneous File, Chester County Historical Society.
16. Delaware County Deed Book, K-210
18. Recited in Chester County Deed Book A-2-121.
19. Chester County Deed Book X-382.
20. Elizabeth married Jesse Brooke, Mary married Thomas Read and Susannah married William Read.

ATTENTION HISTORIANS!

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE AT THE RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY


"Comfortable Homes in the Suburbs on the Hillsides at Wayne and St. Davids," pictorial poster of 1890. (Reproduction) $5.00

"Map of Radnor Township Showing Ownership in 1776", research by Katharine H. Cummin, drawn by Herbert S. Henderson (1976). $3.00

"Rural Homes," Wayne advertising pamphlet of 1890, illustrated. (Facsimile). $5.00


A Rare & Pleasant Thing: Radnor, By Katherine Hewitt Cummin, Oswywick Press, 1977, $19.75.
ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

May 16, 1976

The annual meeting of the Society was held on the afternoon of May 16, 1976 at the Francisvale Home for Smaller Animals, Upper Gulph and Arden Roads, Radnor.

The institution is much more than that quaint cemetery for pets with the only graves-stones that people catch out of the corners of their eyes as they drive along Upper Gulph Road. The cemetery is actually an adjunct to, and a part of the means of supporting their main activity. Their real, and very important, service to the community is to provide a temporary home for pets whose masters are no longer able to care for them. While new homes are being sought for the animals they are given expert and loving care and kept in good physical condition in pleasant and healthful surroundings.

Finding homes for the pets is not done in a hit-or-miss fashion, but each prospective owner is carefully interviewed and then that person is matched as nearly as possible with a pet that will be suitable for them. For example, a city dog may be paired with a couple who live in an apartment, and conversely a country dog may be matched with people who live in a house with a large yard so that the dog will have plenty of space to roam. Even after adoption, Francisvale makes sure, by subsequent personal contacts that the animals are being well provided for; even on rare occasions they have been known to repossess pets which have not been treated well.

The home is now almost seventy years old, having been founded in 1900 by Mrs. George McClelland of Philadelphia. She had found a homeless collie roaming the streets in a very sad condition. She saw the dog Francis and bought some land in the country so that Francis would have plenty of room to run and play and feel at home. The dog died in 1910; Mrs. McClelland honored the memory of Francis by calling the land and the house on the property "The Francisvale Home."

Although some might think that the whole idea is just a bit of sentimental nostalgia, its twelve Board members are planning to extend their services to the providing of pet food to elderly people on fixed incomes in the area who possibly could not otherwise buy food for their pets. By helping them to keep their friends of long standing this is just another way that Francisvale hopes to be a continuing help in our community.

October 31, 1976

The regular meeting of the Society on Sunday afternoon, October 31, 1976 was the occasion for the Bicentennial open house referred to in the President's Report appearing nowhere else in this issue of the Bulletin.

Over 100 of our members and friends were able to examine at leisure our new and refurbished facilities for displaying the items in our collection, which are almost exclusive to Radnor Township, telling a story which dates back to when the first European settlers arrived in the area in 1683. Our rare document collection is quite impressive; the Township's Poor Book dates from the 18th century and other local items from the period.

At this time, when there is a marked resurgence of interest in doll houses and miniature furniture, the five-foot high doll house in the main meeting room is particularly attractive, being made in Philadelphia in the late 1800's. It is complete with furniture and other fixtures of the period. On the second floor of the Finley House there is a Victorian bedroom with furniture dating back to 1840 with 19th century dresses and lingerie hanging in the wardrobe.

The collections at the Finley House are rounded out by the exhibits in the carriage shed which is adjacent to the house proper. On display are an original full size Conestoga wagon, an original farmer's wagon, two 19th century sleighs and the first fire cart used by the local fire company.

December 9, 1976

A regular meeting of the Society was held at the Finley House on Thursday evening December 9, 1976. The speaker for the occasion was Mrs. Katherine Hewitt Cummin, a former Secretary of the Society and a member of our present Board of Directors. The often spicy and intriguing life in early Radnor inns was the subject of the talk titled "Early Inns and Innkeepers of Radnor." We are pleased to be able to publish this talk elsewhere in this Bulletin.

It is of interest to note that Mrs. Cummin's paper is the result of original and careful scholarship, many of the basic facts having been gleaned from information found in land and court records contemporary to the times that the inns flourished. This study will be incorporated in her new book, "A Rare and Pleasant Thing: Radnor." We are indeed indebted to Mrs. Cummin for this fine piece of work.

February 23, 1977

An excellent color slide presentation, "The Story of Radnor," a joint project of the Radnor Bicentennial Commission and the Society was presented on Wednesday, February 23 at 8 o'clock in McInnis auditorium at Eastern College as the program of a regular meeting of the Society.

Employing the multi-projector technique, which was used so effectively in many of the Philadelphia Bicentennial exhibits, the pictures provide and uninterrupted flow of the history of our township. Interesting and meaningful contrasts are achieved by combining on-site photography with early pictures of the community largely taken from the files of the Society. Two centuries of Radnor history from the Revolutionary War to the present are covered, with some glimpses of the 17th century being included in the presentation which details Revolutionary War sites, the development of Wayne during the 19th century and individuals and organizations of Radnor in 1776.

The film, in cooperation with the Society was produced by Dwight Lindsay and Alan Park, two members of the class of 1976 at Eastern College. The script was written by Francis James Dallet, one of our Board of Directors and a charter member of the Society. Voices in the film are those of Mr. and Mrs. John Baird, Villanova; Todd Stewart, Wayne; Beatrice Marshall, Wayne; and Dr. Daniel Weiss, president of Eastern College.

The producers are to be congratulated on a thoroughly professional and enjoyable production.

As the Finley House is entered the museum room is to the left. By circulating counterclockwise in the room one can learn the history of Radnor Township from its Lenni Lenape Indian ancestry to the "people" cabinet that houses, among other things, the story of Pete Conrad, the Main Line astronaut. Staring out of the hallway cabinet are lovely wide-eyed dolls. There are hand-beaded bags, and delicate white kidskin wedding gloves from the 19th century and other local items from the period.

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**CHAIR FROM VANOR**

"P Philadelphia, Three Centuries of American Art," the Bicentennial exhibition of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, held at the Museum from April 11 to October 11, 1976, included among Philadelphia decorative arts a side chair of considerable interest to Radnor Township.

The exhibition catalogue,* under number 129, at pages 160-161 pictured the chair and described it as follows (See accompanying illustration)"

"Side Chair"
1790-1800

Mahogany, light wood string inlay; twentieth century green leather upholstery. 37x21 1/4 x19 1/2" (93.9x53.9x49.5 cm)

Private Collection. PROVENANCE: Sarah (Morgan) Johnson; daughter-in-law, Martha (Morris) Johnson; daughter, Elizabeth (Johnson) Brown; daughter, Mary (Brown) Chew; son, Benjamin Chew; son, Benjamin Chew, Jr.

**THIS SIDE CHAIR** is one of a set of eight, which according to family tradition, were made for the country house, Vanor (Vanor). Built in 1715 by John Morgan in Radnor, Pennsylvania, Vanor was enlarged in the nineteenth century and remained standing until 1938 when the objects in the house were distributed among the relatives of Benjamin Chew, the last resident of the house.

Stylistically, the chairs date from about 1790 to 1800 and were probably owned by Sarah Morgan Johnson, the grand-daughter of Vanor’s first owner, John Morgan, who died in 1814. The chairs are almost identical to those made by John Aitken for George Washington (see no. 145), the major difference being in the top rail, for which there are many variants in Sheraton’s designs. In the Vanor chairs, the vase form terminates in carved leaves instead of in volutes as in the Washington chairs. The discrepancies between the two sets of chairs are very small considering the wide range of details which could have been used by a Philadelphia cabinetmaker well versed in English design books."


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**ACCESSIONS**

May 1, 1976 - April 30, 1977

**John W. Burket, Jr.:**

**Mrs. George Cauffman, Jr.:**
Color photograph of her brother, Pete Conrad and his two companions in sixth manned Apollo crew.

**Francis James Dallett:**

**Daniel Ehart:**
Map of Main Line and Eastern Delaware County.

**Edward Forstall:**
Slides of Finley House and Board of Directors of Radnor Historical Society, 1972.

**Anthony L. Goslin:**
Letter from Mrs. W. McVeagh (Nee S. Atkins), 1896 about her family and the Old Eagle School Road burying grounds. Printed broadside, Old Eagle School Burying Grounds, 1894.

**Mrs. Hallman:**
Two glass plates and photographs.

**Louis C. Hess:**
Program, Wayne Pageant of Patriotism, Sept. 24, 25, 26, 1931. Program, Laying of the cornerstone of Central Baptist Church, Aug. 21, 1897; Map of property belonging to Dwight S. Fuller, Radnor; map of Main Line, Radnor to Paoli, 1938.

**Mrs. John W. Leonard:**
Two old kitchen ladies; Drawing of Spread Eagle Inn; Vase made from World War I Shell case.

**Lower Merion Historical Society:**
Book: Lower Merion — A Portrait, by Carl E. Doebly.

**John L. Mather, Jr.:**
Photographs of John L. Mather and Quigley on horseback at Farmers Hunt, Gulph Mills, ca. 1884; of John L. Mather in a sleigh, and of the Radnor-Lower Merion football game, 1923.

**Mrs. Percival B. Moser:**
Early deeds, mostly of Easttown Township.

**A. Willing Patterson:**

**Dr. Caroline Robbins:**
Five photographs of Finley House exterior, Caesar and millstone; two photographs of Radnor Historical Society outing at Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation in Ridley Creek State Park.

**H. Leland Smatz:**
Engraved invitation to dedication of Radnor Township World War I Memorial; program of Memorial Service at St. Martin’s Church, Radnor, May 28, 1922 and an account of it in the Wayne Suburban.

**Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Tatum:**
since 1941, Mr. Wood was a member of the Friends Meeting and on the Board of the Friends' Home for Children at Secane, Pa.

Surviving are his wife, the former Hannah Eavenson, two sisters and a half-brother.

AN INVITATION:
The Society will more than welcome the submission of articles of local historical interest for future issues of our Bulletin. All material carefully treated. Send to the Society (see below).

ART IN GLASS
By Lorna Greene Shurkin

The following article appeared in the TODAY MAGAZINE of the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER of June 20, 1976 and is used with the kind permission of the INQUIRER and Mr. Terry.

At 65, Duncan Niles Terry looks like a businessman who just happens to dress with good color sense. Shades of brown one day, all green the next. He speaks quietly with a slight New England accent and a modest manner - as if the fact that he's designed thousands of stained glass windows is of little interest to anyone but himself.

In fact, Terry is one of a handful of artists left in this country who design and build their own stained glass windows. And he is afraid that when he and his few contemporaries are gone, the ancient art will be left to the hobbyists and part-timers.

"It seems that the young fellows and girls have a little interest in this thing, but they don't have ability to stick to it. I stuck to it, whether it was right or wrong. I stuck to it."

What beginners need, he'll tell you, is patience. It takes years of study and experience to master the steps involved in making a single piece of work: From designing, cutting and coloring to firing in the oven and soldering.

"And you have to have discipline... you have to know what you can and cannot do. You can't slip up. If you're cutting glass you can't be talking to somebody and let go of your cut. It takes all your strength, all your concentration to stand for eight, nine, or ten hours a day working continuously on one thing. And your hands get all cut..." he says.

Still, says Terry, "there's always the challenge of trying to make something as beautiful as you can within the technique, with all the invention and the surprising use of different materials."

The well-known local artist works out of what seems an unlikely studio, on the top floor of a two story commercial building in Rosemont, on the Main Line's busiest, but not very beautiful thoroughfare, Lancaster Avenue, near to his home in St. Davids.

Large works, some higher that the building itself, are designed in sections and put together later. He assembles works at the site and does even this step himself, unless the work of art is too heavy for one man to handle.

The plan for a window commissioned by a Main Line family hangs in his office-library. Terry suggested the use of Zodiac signs as the motif, Aries for the wife, Capricorn for the husband, for this window that will overlook the swimming pool. This plan is an exact model of the final work. Each piece, numbered one to 144, shows the exact color and shape - a modern exciting picture, with vivid colors. (Ed. Note: Since this article was written Mr. Terry says that the window has now been put in place, with a spot light ingeniously placed so that the brilliant colors are dramatically projected onto the surface of the pool.)
Terry considers himself contemporary. He tells how he invented several new techniques and equipment for making stained glass and pioneered another form of art called glass carving.

Glass carving couldn't be done in the old days because it takes modern machinery. Recently when the Golden Slipper Club of Philadelphia wanted to give something special to Mrs. Betty Ford, they chose Terry to design and sculpt an eagle.

He picked the eagle - strong and independent - "looking upward and taking flight," an image he felt represented qualities he admired in the First Lady. The figure, called "The Spirit of Independence," was hand carved in glass, stands one foot high and is on a mahogany base.

Terry is no newcomer to honors himself. He was chosen to design and create the 31 panels in the Glass Blower's Building in Philadelphia which will soon be moved to the union's new headquarters in Media.

His windows and glass carvings can be seen throughout the country and in a monastery in Japan. Customers have ranged from bishops to a department store to Vice President Nelson Rockefeller's father, who commissioned nine windows for the famous Riverside Church in New York City.

Works in this area include those at Jefferson Hospital's Chapel, St. Luke's and Children's Medical Center and Temple Sinai, all in Philadelphia. And many many more. (Ed. Note: Of particular local interest are the glass carvings he has done for St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Wayne which work is illustrated herein. Also illustrated is a panel for Christ Church in Conshohocken.)

"Creation," using themes from The Hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful," carved glass door to children's chapel, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Wayne.

But he is particularly fond of the work he did for the St. James Episcopal Church in Long Branch, N. J. "I shouldn't say it myself, but I think it is a masterpiece." He explains that the congregation has a varied ethnic background and so the windows include portraits that represent all of mankind, including the American Indian.

The artist began his varied career while still in his teens. His father was a draftsman who had attended school in Boston, and two uncles were well-known sculptors. He says he chose to work in stained glass "Because I couldn't help it. It was so much nicer than anything else. Besides I love things that are architectural decorations, parts of buildings."
He studied at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School and received a traveling scholarship which took him to Central School of Arts and Crafts in London, and the Académie Moderne in Paris. His teacher in Paris was the famous Fernand Leger, the leading modern painter in France at that time.

"Leger used to come to teach classes in Paris from his farm in Normandy. I think he had lots of horses, and he'd wear old sweaters - out at the elbows smelling of horses. And we loved it because he was genuine, he was no fake."

Leger probably knew nothing about stained glass, recalls Terry, "but he did know about design, composition, balance, relationships of colors, and shapes. He would take a guitar, a shank of rope and things like that and he'd put them any way that he'd want on a canvas and rearrange them so they were thrilling to look at.

Terry tells a story about creating a huge glass mural for a Philadelphia restaurant which at that time was called Beck's on the Boulevard, and is now Lighthouse II. "It was an undersea scene—hundreds of fish, seaweed, even a mermaid.

"I was installing it and touching it up in the middle of the night and there was a man, a late diner, watching me. He sat watching me from his table without moving, all alone, and at about 3 o'clock in the morning when I came down from the ladder, he came over to me and said: 'Well, you can't do that and drink.' That's all he said," recalls Terry laughing.

Terry had won the $100 prize offered by the Commissioners of Radnor Township for the best design for the new logo of the township, a further honor to come to this versatile local artist.

Ed. Note: It was reported in the press since the above article was written that Duncan Niles Terry had won the $100 prize offered by the Commissioners of Radnor Township for the best design for the new logo of the township, a further honor to come to this versatile local artist.

RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Annual Treasurer's Report
May 1, 1976 to April 30, 1977

RECEIPTS
Cash balance May 1, 1976 .................................. $ 906.72
Dues 1976 ....................................................... 275.00
Dues 1977 ....................................................... 1,019.00
Contributions ................................................. 451.45
Interest on investments ....................................... 1,914.55
Rent ............................................................. 2,128.50
Advertising .................................................... 242.50
Sale of publications ......................................... 185.37
From savings account ....................................... 1,700.00
Miscellaneous .................................................. 44.22
TOTAL .......................................................... $8,867.31

DISBURSEMENTS
Printing and Postage ........................................ $ 473.54
Bulletins ....................................................... 766.86
Telephone ..................................................... 165.63
Insurance ...................................................... 1,456.00
Gas & Electric ................................................ 604.67
Water & Sewer ................................................ 119.49
Fuel Oil .......................................................... 1,148.65
Yardwork ...................................................... 506.00
Building Maintenance & Furnishings ................... 2,427.56
Refreshments .................................................. 8.05
Floor Service .................................................. 120.00
Contributions ................................................ 75.00
Miscellaneous ................................................ 27.88
TOTAL .......................................................... $7,899.33

Cash in Bank April 30, 1977 .................................. 967.98
TOTAL .......................................................... $8,867.31

Balance in Savings Account 3-4614 ......................... $2,410.21
Savings Certificate 335-00004 ............................... $15,000.00

Membership is open to those interested. Minimum dues $3.00 per year. Contributions to society are tax deductible for income taxes.

JOHN H. GRANT
Treasurer
BLACKS IN RADNOR: A FOOTNOTE*

Some of the background of the beginnings of St. John's A.M.E. Church, at Highland and West Wayne Avenues, Wayne, and of members of an early Black family in the actual settled suburban community of Louella (Wayne) is reported in an obituary published in the Suburban and Wayne Times on March 16, 1951, here reprinted in full.

Emma N. Haskins

Emma Nett Haskins, daughter of the late Louisa Butler and widow of the late Charles M. Haskins, died March 3, at the age of 98 years.

Mrs. Haskins, with her mother, came to Wayne around 1862 and for many years lived at the corner of Bloomingdale and Wayne Avenues. She received her education at the Institute for Colored Youth, which was known as the Fannie Coppin School and is now Cheyney Normal School, Cheyney, Pa.

In 1888-89, a number of colored people settled around Wayne and the need for a church became apparent. After using many meeting places, the ground at Wayne and Highland Avenues was secured and St. John's A.M.E. Church was founded, Mrs. Haskins, then Miss Butler, being a vital part of the beginning of this church. She filled many offices in the church, such as organist, secretary of the Trustee Board and Superintendent of the Sunday School, which position she loved and held as long as she was able physically. She was an ardent missionary worker and a worker in the W.C.T.U.

In 1894 she became the wife of Charles M. Haskins and her wedding was the first solemnized in John's Church. For many years she conducted the Haskins' Employment Agency in her home, which was open to everyone in need whether they had money or not. Her only surviving relative is a niece by marriage, Mrs. Clara Ennis, of Ardmore.

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