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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# President’s Report

At the annual meeting held in May, 1981, Mrs. Harrison Therman announced her retirement from the presidency of this Society. The onset of her seventeen years of able leadership coincided with the gift to the Society of the Finley property. It was under Mrs. Therman that the Society refurbished and furnished the House, built the Wagon House, and paid off the resulting debt. Her advice, activity and interest have been appreciated. We are sorry she no longer heads the organization, but pleased that she consented to remain a member of the Board of Directors.

At the same meeting John H. Grant, former Treasurer and a Director for thirteen years, and Dr. William L. Ziglar finished their terms on the Board. To them also go our thanks.

Since that time the Society has received a number of gifts, including $335 in memory of Fleming Parke Laws. This memorial will be used to repair and rebind materials in our library, a project long needed and impossible earlier. We are grateful to the family and friends of Mr. Laws.

The usual activities continue. Objects of antiquarian interest have been lent at various times during the year to The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, to a chapter of The Daughters of the American Revolution, and to the Wayne Elementary School. Queries on people or property come in increasing numbers from all over the country. Of particular interest to recent researchers have been our architectural blueprint collection, the Wendell and Smith records of the development of both Wayne and Overbrook, and our photographs.

We welcome our new members and hope all will visit the Finley House soon.

Cordially,
Katharine Hewitt Cummin

## New Members

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<td>Ann Doring</td>
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<td>Dorothy Foltz</td>
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<td>Miss Judith A. Fritsch</td>
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<td>Dr. and Mrs. David H. Hausman</td>
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<td>Mrs. Ardis O. Hunt</td>
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<td>Rita Levine</td>
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<td>Jeanne Marek</td>
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<td>Mrs. Thomas G. Meeker</td>
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<td>Mrs. Charles S. Boles</td>
<td>Quaker Collection, Haverford College</td>
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<td>Mrs. John M. Brewster</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. William H. Robbins</td>
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<td>Edmund Cabeen</td>
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<td>M. G. Canizares</td>
<td>Ronald Silverman</td>
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<td>Mrs. Robert H. Colgan</td>
<td>Virginia Vogt</td>
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<td>Mrs. Marie Good Hunt</td>
<td>Nelson O. Weadley</td>
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<td>Mrs. William R. Wood</td>
<td>Joyce E. Wilson</td>
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## Necrology

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<td>David Lynch</td>
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<td>John Mather</td>
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<td>Lawrence Megargee</td>
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<td>Mrs. Adolph G. Rosengarten, Jr.</td>
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<td>Frederick Sayen</td>
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<td>Mrs. Seaton Schroeder</td>
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"I WANT A DRINK OF WATER"
By Charles E. Alexander

That cry in the middle of the night!
Whether it was a real need, or just a demand for attention, it could not be denied. Sleepy-eyed and groggy, we stumbled to the bathroom, turned a faucet, filled a glass and hoped that we wouldn't spill it all over the crib. And then, just before slipping back into blissful nothingness, we may have remembered to think, "Was anything more convenient?"

Very few of us even knew real "Country Living" when the luxury of a hand pump in the out-kitchen had come to replace the "Old Oaken Bucket" or the spring on the hillside. And yet it is less than a hundred years ago that Wayne, and in fact the whole Main Line, was still having to make do with private water systems.

It was in 1881 that Anthony J. Drexel and George W. Childs put into execution their dream and concept of "WAYNE." They had purchased the extensive holdings of J. Henry Askin and other adjoining lands, totalling more than 500 acres, and laid out their plan for the development of the "Wayne Estate." The Main Line Property Atlas of that year shows North Wayne as being laid out in a typical gridiron pattern with street names and lot numbers, but no houses on those lots as yet. One of the streets, today's Woodland Avenue, appears on the map as LOVE Avenue, possibly a prophecy, as that street and its parallels, Oak Lane and Chestnut Lane, were to burgeon with kids in the generations to come.

It wouldn't take long, as a matter of fact, for all this to change. By 1885 there would be 12 houses in North Wayne, and 26 living souls, "not including domestic servants," as the North Wayne Protective Association was to record in this year of its birth.

The house built by John M. Scherr at 412 Chestnut Lane bears the date of 1891 carved over its lintel, and this is significant of the mushrooming growth of Wayne by this time. Again, referring to the Property Atlas, we find North Wayne loaded with houses and Messrs. Drexel and Childs realized that something would have to be done about creating a public water supply if the town was going to continue to grow as it had in its first decade. On October 16, 1891 an application was filed with the Commonwealth for the incorporation of the "WAYNE WATER WORKS." On November 17 Governor Patterson approved the application. Apparently, red tape wasn't very strong in that Century and things got done.

Paragraph 2 of the application stated:
"Said Corporation is formed for the purpose of supplying water to the public in that part of the Township of Radnor, County of Delaware, lying between the Old Lancaster, or Conestoga Road, and the King of Prussia Road and Northwest of the Road leading from the Old Lancaster Road at the Friends' Meeting House to the King of Prussia Road near the Radnor Station."

The Corporation was capitalized at $50,000 with one thousand shares being authorized at $50 per share. The original shareholders' names and their addresses were:
Anthony J. Drexel Philadelphia 499 shares
George W. Childs Philadelphia 498 shares
Frank Smith Wayne, Pa. One share
Herman Wendell Wayne, Pa. One share
Walter B. Smith Wayne, Pa. One share

With the formality of incorporation being accomplished, we come to the practicalities of providing this public water supply, selection of its source, and the method of its accumulation and distribution. Herewith that history:

The genesis of this research stems from a rambling walk in the early Spring of 1982 to satisfy a long slumbering curiosity as to the existence, or otherwise, of a very sophisticated reservoir that was located due north of Chestnut Lane and Woodland Avenue, between Radnor Road and the LeBoutillier property (now the site of the Church of the Saviour) and just across the Township and County lines. I hadn't explored that area for sixty years, and I didn't know what to expect. Amazingly, the basin of the reservoir still exists, a deep, dry depression, overgrown with bushes and brambles, and, if one has enough imagination, it might seem to resemble a miniature "Barringer Crater."
As I stood there gazing at this almost-forgotten scene of my boyhood, I could still see in my mind’s eye half a dozen small boys enjoying their private and secret swimming hole and later, as the seasons changed, the perfect hockey rink with steep, sloping sides that cushioned any wild shot and automatically returned the puck to the field of play. That, I well recall, was in the summer of 1913 and for several winters thereafter. And all that then conjured up a recollection of the old reservoir that had also been built in North Wayne but already long in disuse. That other reservoir had been located just north of Eagle Road in the vicinity of what are now Forest Road and the 500 block of West Beechtree Lane.

My first acquaintance with the “Old Rezzy” was when Jack Mather (a generous donor of many historical documents to our Society) and “Fran” Dallett (Jim Dallett’s father) and I set out on a project designed to put the Hudson’s Bay Company out of business. With an original capital of fifteen cents we bought one muskrat trap at Welsh and Park’s, and set it on the eroding bank of the abandoned but still partly water-filled “pond.” We also tried our luck at “Fenny’s,” the Fenimore pond. We caught no fur, but it was a lot of fun covering our “trap line” in the Dallett’s pony cart. In the following winter, however, Jim Wood and I conducted a fairly profitable fishing business, chopping through the clear ice of the old “Rezzy” and fishing out the somnolent “goldies” with our bare hands. These were collected in a bucket and then rushed down to “AERNE SHOLT.” Colonel Wood’s residence on Walnut Avenue and stored temporarily in the stationary wash tub while we took orders and peddled goldfish all over North Wayne—ten cents per fish.

At this point it must be evident that I could go on and on with other exciting anecdotes of juvenile enterprises and/or delinquency as practiced in the second decade, but I must get back to the subject at hand: the history of the Wayne Water Works and its successors.

The booklet published by The Graphic Center — Argus Printing, entitled Historic Wayne, shows a picture of an old house on Bloomingdale Avenue accompanied by text reading: “The first house on the left was the summer home of Catherine Martin who grew up on Runnymede Avenue. She remembered that there had been a reservoir there at one time, but didn’t know just what purpose it had served; she referred me to George Aman, Radnor’s football captain in 1908 and now in his nineties. George also recalled the fact of a reservoir in that locality and said that the “mounds” (of its banks) were still visible. That was enough for me; I had to see for myself! The site is immediately in back of the house which is now an art gallery, but you would never know it for a reservoir; it is an open space of elevated, level ground about 100 by 50 feet, fenced off, and serving as dogs’ playing field. This area of approximately 5,000 square feet would make it one-quarter of the size of North Wayne’s “new” reservoir, but its capacity would have been in even smaller proportion as assurance would have to be made for the width of the surrounding banks and its seems doubtful that it would have had as great a depth as the larger reservoir. Ted Brooks, who is pretty dependable as South Wayne’s ‘historian’, reminds me that the houses on Bloomingdale are just about the oldest anywhere around and were built by Mr. Askin in the eighteen seventies, well before the advent of Drexel and Childs and the “Wayne Estate.” Ted thinks that the reservoir may have been a private water facility, constructed by Mr. Askin to serve that immediate neighborhood. It seems quite reasonable. There does not appear to be any evidence in the files of the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company to indicate that this reservoir was an integral part of the “Wayne Water Works’” system, but its presence in the Louella era deserves to be noted.

I feel sure that the old “Rezzy” was the original facility designed to serve as a source of public water supply for the Wayne Community, but I still can’t find anybody today who knows exactly how it functioned or when it was abandoned. Douglas Wendell, whose father was one of the original incorporators of the Wayne Water Works, and for many years the factual manager of the Wayne Estate, thinks that the old Reservoir served as an originating source for the new reservoir and that the impounded water was pumped to the higher ground, from which it would flow by gravity to the pumping station at the foot of Woodland Avenue. This seems logical, as the water was in one place and gravity in another. Doug also says that the basic water source was not the confluence of the two small brooks that are the headwaters of Gulph Creek (as I had always presumed) but, rather, from deep springs from which the water was piped and forced to the surface.

I should have known about the presence of these springs because there was a very beautiful open spring in that area which was the site for, many years of, the “Bums’ camp.”

The bums (aka tramps or hoboes) chose this spot for two very good reasons: the spring itself, which was never defiled, and the proximity of a semaphore signal that governed the movements of westbound trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad. Freight trains receiving a restricted stop were obliged to slow down even for some time to stop momentarily, and to an agile “tourist,” this was just as good as an authorized station stop.

There are no records at the offices of the Water Company that give any clue as to just when the old “Rezzy” was abandoned. As I have previously noted, it was long gone as far back as 1911 and Eddie Clark’s recollections coincide with mine, although he remembers that there was still enough of a pond for skating as late as around 1914. I hunted rabbits and woodcock in that general area in 1921 and there was nothing more than the brooks left at that time. The Property Atlas for 1926 shows that the lands encompassing the old pond had become possessed by E. E. Trout and he must have begun clearing and grading the land at about that time inasmuch as the first houses of the Forest Road development were built in 1927. Doug Wendell built his own house there just about on top of the old dam breast.

As to the history of the new reservoir, it may be possible to form some estimates of its life from the development of certain other Main Line water supply projects that were to become co-related to our own. Here I’ll quote from some pages of history in the files of the Philadelphia Water Company which were compiled for me by Jerry Sacchetti, Vice President in charge of Public Relations. Jerry gave an entire morning to me, digging out old blueprints, maps and excerpts of speeches given to various groups by Officers of the Company which eventually consolidated all of the smaller local water companies.

As of 1895 the Pennsylvania Railroad was in need of large amounts of water for its steam locomotives at Radnor where they scooped water from open troughs to avoid the necessity of stopping. There were also troughs at Glen Loch. At neither of these points was a local supply available. The railroad retained the services of the American Pipe Line Manufacturing Co., of Philadelphia, to investigate the broad situation and recommend the best supply for railroad use at these points.

“At this time there was no public water supply along the Main Line except a small supply at Wayne.

“Investigation by the American Pipe Line Manufacturing Company led to the rejection of Valley Creek (as well as the Schuylkill River and Mill Creek) because of excessive hardness and the selection of Pickering Creek near its mouth as an excellent source with ample volume of water of good quality.

“However, to develop a supply from this source for the use of the Pennsylvania Railroad alone was prohibitively (sic) expensive, whereas the inclusion of communities along the Main Line from Paoli to Bryn Mawr would permit the development of Pickering Creek in not only a sound but meritorious project.”

At about this time, the strong man of the Pennsylvania Railroad was Alexander J. Cassatt of Chesterbrook, First Vice-President and soon to be president (1899 to 1906). Mr. Cassatt was a Civil Engineer graduate of Rensselaer Institute of Technology and even though he may have been a bit tough and hard-boiled, he was a matchless operating officer and a man of great vision, as exemplified by this dream and concept of tying together public needs and those of his company. Mr. Cassatt was also a major stockholder of the Lancaster Turnpike Co. and this may have helped in expediting construction of water mains along the property lines of the turnpike, mains which today are still in the same location.

“See article by Patricia Talbot Davis in the 1980 issue of the Bulletin.”
"By 1904 the Wayne Water Company had become embarrassed by the inadequacy of its source of supply and the increasing difficulty of supplying a sufficient quantity of water. Pickering Creek water, being now available, the Wayne Water Company was sold to and became merged into the 'North Springfield Water Company' as of January 12, 1904, the sale carrying with it the sewerage works built for the Wayne Estate.'

As a small boy it was my impression that the new reservoir was no longer in general use but that a full supply of water was being maintained for emergencies and fire protection. (It would have been invaluable if St. Luke's School had caught fire.) This would tie in with the Pickering having become the principal source of supply for the merged companies. At any rate when we were big enough to enjoy a summer of skinny dipping we honestly believed that we were no threat to our own table water.

My last firm recollection of this reservoir still being such is 1921 when my brother, home from the Navy on leave, and I did some target practice with his 45 automatic on some floating chunks of wood tossed into the water. The records of the North Springfield Water Company (eventually merged with Springfield Water Co.) show that the reservoir property was sold in that same year.

The indispensable Property Atlas (of 1926) shows that ownership of this property had passed to Mr. Roberts LeBoutillier whose estate occupied both sides of North Wayne Avenue, north of the county line and now extended east all the way to Radnor Road. On the west side it included the exquisite Japanese Garden and amphitheatre and on the other side, near the house, an extensive rose garden. I guess it was around 1916 or so that I contracted with Mr. LeBoutillier to "exterminate" the rosebugs that were laying waste fresh blooms. I would pick off the bugs and drop them into a can of kerosene. Mr. LeBoutillier probably thought he had a bargain at a price of one cent per hundred, but he looked aghast when I presented my bill for $3.50. He paid it immediately, however, without demur.

Mr. LeBoutillier was an eminent horticulturist and his "forest" contained an enormous variety of trees from all over the world, all carefully identified and tagged, including a hundred chestnut trees imported from Japan in an effort to offset the devastation of the American chestnut blight. Through the medium of a delightful interview with his granddaughter, Mrs. Thomas Stewart, I learned that after Mr. LeBoutillier, Senior, acquired the reservoir property he converted it into what might be termed a "water garden" and planted it with water lilies and goldfish! It was so maintained throughout his lifetime, and after his death by his son Henry. Dorothy LeBoutillier Stewart remembers it well as an exciting scene of her childhood, but eventually with no other input than rainwater the reservoir expired; her younger brother Roberts, of Waterloo Gardens, says that in his youth they were no threat to our own table water.

And so, still visible and long in remembrance, it is one of the few remaining vestiges of a vision without which Wayne might never have been. And as you enjoy a glass of one of Nature's most priceless gifts to you, remember to pay your respects to those pioneers and their successors who, literally, put it in your hands. Because, after surviving this heterogeneous mish-mash of nostalgic fact and fancy, you are most certainly entitled to...

A drink of Water.

Acknowledgments

Jerry A. Sacchetti, Vice President, Philadelphia Suburban Water Co.
Douglas Carey Wendell, Secretary, Hale Pump Co., Retired
Edwin J. Clark, Radnor Township Fire Marshall, Retired
Mrs. Thomas E. Stewart (Dorothy LeBoutillier)
Robert LeBoutillier, President, Waterloo Gardens
Mrs. Charles J. Martin (Catherine Bard)
Theodore Boreham Brooks
George M. Aman, Jr.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held on May 17, 1981 at the home of Mrs. Caroline B. Ewing, Villanova, whose house was designed by Mr. Horace Trumbauer. A talk on the subject of that architect entitled "Architect for Town and Country" was given by Mr. John Groff of Rosemont. A transcription of his talk appears elsewhere in this issue.

On October 17, 1981 members of the Society visited Stenton House at 18th and Courtland Sts. in the Germantown Section of Philadelphia. The three-story brick Georgian mansion was designed and built by James Logan, William Penn's secretary, between 1723 and 1730. Both Generals Washington and Howe used Stenton as headquarters during the Revolution.

Mr. Mark Frazier Lloyd of the Germantown Historical Society gave a talk at the Finley House on December 7, 1981 on "Successful Management of the Local History Society." Not only did Mr. Lloyd point out that a society must be the repository of historical information to be drawn on by interested members of the community but that it should also engage actively in Community affairs to foster the development of mutual interests and responsibility. One way that this could be accomplished would be for the Society to sponsor a Colonial craft exhibit on the grounds. Possibly other social events could be scheduled which would increase the community's awareness of the significance of the Society.

Our guest speaker at the Finley House on February 25, 1982 was Mary Maples Dunn, Dean and professor of history at Bryn Mawr College, who spoke on "Women in Early America." Mrs. Dunn graphically developed the progress of women in America from the early days when it was accepted that their place was in the home, close to the hearth, catering to the needs of her household and particularly to those of her husband.

Gradually, women, feeling the influence of our liberated society, made themselves heard, turning around the age-old concept that their role was solely as a stabilizing influence in their home and community to the wider view that they have a very real and significant contribution to make to the well-being of our society as a whole.

On April 17, 1982 members of the Society went to the Radnor United Methodist Church for luncheon and a guided tour. The church, located in Garrett Hill (formerly known as Methodist Hill) was founded in 1789 with the first log church being built in 1785 on the present site. The present stone church was built in 1833 with additions and improvements being added over the years. A detailed history of the Church appeared in the Spring 1961 edition of the Bulletin.

ERRATUM

The 1981 Bulletin included an article on Portledge, the main building on the former Ellen Cushing Junior College campus. The editor regrets that the name of the article's co-author, Jessica Nussdorfer, was omitted.

"THE SUBURBAN AND WAYNE CRIMES"

According to "The Suburban and Wayne Times," the fourth annual dinner of the Wayne Chamber of Commerce on May 23, 1927, was "by far the biggest and best in the history of the Wayne business men." There were 364 dinners served to guests who paid $3.50 for filet mignon, dancing and speeches at the Devon Park Hotel, but the main attraction may have been the hundreds of prizes donated by merchants and given away in drawings that night.

All the guests received "souvenirs," which presumably included the parody newspaper, "The Suburban and Wayne Crimes." However, there is no mention of the parody in contemporary articles about the dinner in "The Suburban.

The following four pages contain that parody.
THE GIRLS OF WAYNE

By special arrangement tonight's issue of The Suburban has been delivered by Zeppelin, pictured above. As you will notice, the whole character of the paper has been changed, because this taken on an entirely different air.

CONFIDENT OF WINNING PENNANT

James Kelso Dunne, manager of the Wayne Men's Club baseball team, when interviewed by a reporter this morning, said they would make every effort to win the Belmont stakes cup. With the addition of Charlie Wilkins to the outfield, the pennant is as good as won. The players are all equipped with new typewriters and expect to turn out a great average.

WAYNE'S HANDSOME NEW THEATER

Impressionary Harry Fried has permitted us to inspect the plans for the new Wayne Theater, for which was begun last week. It will be of the Moorish type of architecture, with Byzantine entablatures and gables reverse cut decollette. It will be seven stories high, or may be four stories high.

For beauty—but as well known—a homely Wayne girl never was known; for wit—well one but try and see who comes off second best. If on domestic work they're bent, you'll find 'em in their element. From loving them I can't refrain. The girls of Wayne! The girls of Wayne! of Wayne!

THE SPEAKERS

Walter Conway—Mrs. Newby.
ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

TO MR. WILSON,

I am living with my old uncle in Strafford, who is very wealthy, but won't give me any of his money. Can I get some money for myself?

Ans.—Take a quart of lemon oil, four ounces of lamp black, a plug of chewing tobacco and a box of carpet tacks. Boil for eleven minutes over an open fire. Cool, and put in your uncle's oatmeal.

IRA HALE'S NEW STORY

Two Packards rested side by side. Suddenly one of them twitched violently and shook a fender.

"What's the trouble?" asked the other.

"I think I have something on you somewhere."

ALL JAKIE WITH ME

Mr. Wayne: "Will you marry me?"

Miss St. Davids: "Yes, but I must tell you that I am a sanniboom."

Mr. Wayne: "Oh, that's all right! You can go to your church and I'll go to mine."

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

1. How accurately can you answer the following questions? If you can get them all right, you rate plus one cent. In our representative intelligence test:
   a. How much is 2x2?
   b. How many letters in the word "cat"?
   c. What is the color of Brookside milk?
   d. In what direction is Wayne from St. Davids?
   e. What is the name commonly applied to Lancaster pine through Wayne and St. Davids?

NEW BOOKS.

1. How to Make a Live Town, or When Do I Get My Money?—Claude S. Hallman, of the Chamber of Commerce.

2. What I Learn in the Street to the Other? This should be a first step in intelligent conversation.

3. What Is a Member?

4. How much is 2x2?

IN THE VENICE CAFE

"Prop. Orlando—Yes sir, would you like any special design on the dish?

THE AID TEST

"Customer—Will you pay for this battery when I get straightened out?"

Ferry Long—Oh, no; we sell for cash only.

Customer—Well, it says batteries charged in your window."

VICTORIAN.

"Yes! YES! GO ON!"

"No doubt," remarked Harold Hallman, of the Wayne Democratic Central Committee. "This check may be good, but I have something about you by which you can be identified."

"The bashful young damsel at the window hesitatingly replied: "Well, I have a mole on my left knee."

OUR MOTTO

Some say it with flowers.

Some say it with sweets.

Some say it with kisses.

Some say it with money.

Some say it with drink; but our motto is always: "Say it with ink."

WIN PRIZE

MRS. J. M. JIGGER

She won the Suburban's prize for the best cooking recipe:

"Take a can of beans, put in boiling water for ten minutes and serve in the can."

Needless to say, her husband is a golf widow.

IN THE VENICE CAFE

The particular customer—"This soup, poached, medium soft, buttered toast, not too hard, coffee, not too much cream in it."

Prop. Orlando—"Yes sir, would you like any special design on the dish?"

THE AID TEST

Customer—"I'll pay you for this battery when I get straightened out."

Ferry Long—"Oh, no; we sell for cash only."

Customer—"Well, it says batteries charged in your window."

THE SCIENTIST

"What is a member?"

WILL DEVEREUX announces a new model with four doors. "Three doors always caused an odd rattle, but with four doors you can't get an odd rattle."

PROFESSIONAL—Can administer with pay. Dr. Henefer.

SOME FREE LITERATURE.

"For sale—Several boxes 1/32-inch coach glass.

Andy Smith Bros. Hardware Store.

LOST—Appendix; last seen in our Hospital. Return to Dr. Standen.


CHURCH NOTICE—Bring thimbles, scissors, needles and sandwich for your lunch. Meetings at the church.

Subscription due.

MUSICAL NOTE

Walter White says of a certain young person: "They call her Hay, because she always comes after dinner."

ADVICE TO DRINKERS

"Use H2O instead of eye and pass away with N-U-T."

Every time our wife gets a permanent wave we think what a nice thing it would be if we could get a permanent shave.

This is your paper. Do what you darn please.
HORACE TRUMBAUER: ARCHITECT FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY
A talk by John M. Groff

As a child I used to delight in the excursions I would make with my sister and cousin as we drove along the winding back roads of the Main Line enjoying the sweeping lawns, manicured gardens, duck ponds and the vistas of the large houses crowning the hills. However, it seemed as I grew older that there were fewer and fewer of these estates as the developers replaced lawn and garden with new housing. This alteration of the landscape makes people unaware of the design and layout of the Main Line fifty or sixty years ago. Its eighteenth century history is often more accessible in books or local newspapers or preserved house sites. I think even then that I realized a major part of the history of the area was slipping away quite unnoticed.

One outstanding example of the work of Horace Trumbauer was Whitemarsh Hall, the Stotesbury mansion completed in 1921 on the outskirts of Chestnut Hill. By the forties it was no longer a private home and its steady deterioration had begun. It is startling to think how short the passage of time was from a period when millions were spent on its construction to its demolition. In general we are more aware of the architectural accomplishments of William Strickland, Charles Bullfinch or John Notman in the early nineteenth century than Horace Trumbauer who produced over 400 major commissions from 1890 to 1935. Many of these you still see in this area but which you might not recognize. Only a few years ago this architect was referred to in a newspaper article as some architect named Harold Trumbauer whom the writer could not identify.

Today I do not want to argue taste or be an architectural critic. I do not wish to extol the remnants of one century over another, rather to present you with a variety of Trumbauer's works and to discuss a fascinating period in our history. I think this period is terribly confused. Only recently, Victorian taste and thought have been given their day as worthy of study. Labels like robber barons have clouded both the economic and social history of this age. I was shocked several years ago to read a letter in a journal by a prominent scholar speaking against preservation of the "stately homes" of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and calling for the demolition of the Vanderbilts' Breakers and Marble House in Newport as symbols of corruption and waste. No matter what one's political or social beliefs, to hide your eyes to the past is folly. I would like to think we have progressed by 1981 to a better understanding of history and preservation. Even seven years ago a journalist wrote in Philadelphia Magazine the following about Trumbauer's Ronaile-Anselm Hall built in Elkins Park in the twenties:

"It reflects the most reactionary and hidebound use of materials and taste in architecture: it is a copy, a very unimaginative copy, of a 16th century English mansion; it is not even ugly enough to laugh at. Why would anyone want to save it?"

I hope I can show you why.

Well, I will climb down from my soap-box now and hopefully give you an insight into Trumbauer and the town and country houses of the rich around the turn of the century.

As James Maher has written, Horace Trumbauer "is difficult to rescue from the past. He feared publicity and deliberately saw to his own obscurity." He was born in 1868 in Bucks County, one of six children of a traveling salesman. His education was scanty at best, a lack of which always made him insecure about his own position and reputation. Digby Baltzell wrote: "Success and wealth nevertheless brought Trumbauer little lasting satisfaction or relief from his overwhelming shyness and sense of inferiority at his lack of formal education.

The shunning he received from his fellow architects reinforced his insecurity. Amazing as it may seem, he was not elected to the American Institute of Architects until 1931 by his colleagues, many of whom, though university trained, lacked his success and renown.

Demonstrating as a child a talent for drawing, Trumbauer was able to enter the office of George and William Hewitt, Philadelphia architects, in 1884 and began to learn both draughtsmanship and architecture.

At this time the eclectic styles of Frank Furness and the Hewitts dominated architectural taste. Polychromatic exteriors and undulating surfaces like the Provident Life and St. Paul National Bank located a few blocks from Trumbauer's office were the acceptable style. Trumbauer was schooled in the Hewitts' innovative designs like their Maybrook built for distiller Henry Gibson in Wynnewood in the 1880's which incorporated a variety of historical styles. Yet, already, Trumbauer's interest in Renaissance design, particularly French, was developing.

In 1890 Trumbauer opened his own office at 310 Chestnut St. in Philadelphia. His earliest work was either for small businesses or the design of outbuildings on farms and estates, but he was able to secure commissions for houses in the developments of Elkins Park and Wayne / St. Davids. In addition to some of the standard house designs he created in Wayne / St. Davids for Wendell & Smith, he also did individual houses for leather manufacturer Charles Walton, whose first Walmarten was located on St. Davids Road and for banker John H. Watt whose house still stands at Louella Avenue and Upland Way. It is clear from these houses erected in 1892 that he was still working in the Victorian idiom loosely called the Queen Anne style where color and texture were the dominant concerns.
In his first year as an independent architect, Trumbauer received the proverbial launching of his career when William Welsh Harrison, Jr. commissioned Trumbauer to renovate his country home, Rowledge, on the Lleweshe Hill north of Philadelphia. The $35,000 renovation however burned in 1893 and Trumbauer undertook a new house on an increased scale where he could at last draw on historical prototypes. Using Alnwick Castle in New Castle, Northumberland, England as his prototype he created Grey Towers, a striking granite edifice which when completed in 1894 received wide attention, both negative and positive. Grey Towers’ interiors also followed historical eclecticism and ranged from a Gothic Room to a Louis XVI parlor. The success of Grey Towers led Trumbauer to an association with the Elkins and Widener families of Philadelphia, the so-called traction magnates who had made large fortunes in inward city transport. Their patronage in over two dozen houses and buildings sparked numerous other commissions although it also stereotyped Trumbauer as the architect of the nouveaux riches. Maher wrote concerning Trumbauer’s clients that they “had in common, besides their wealth, a remarkable loyalty to him… he was able to persuade them to let him build for them a succession of costly mansions, a number of which rank with the most distinguished houses designed in this country at any time.”

In 1896, again drawing on historical prototypes, Trumbauer created Chelten House for George W. Elkins in Elkins Park. This Tudor style house focused on a two story great hall with heavily carved wood and plaster relief ceilings. In the next decade Trumbauer added stable, casino and fountains to the estate. Destroyed by fire in 1908 it was reconstructed the following year and only slightly altered.

In 1898 Trumbauer designed an Italian Renaissance mansion for Elkins’ father, William, the founder of the family fortune, on a bordering estate. Elstowe Park, completed at a cost of $119,000 in Indiana limestone, allowed Trumbauer free rein to his ideas on historical interpretation. The Architectural Record wrote:

If his work lacks the individualism which has hitherto marked the better class of work in Philadelphia, it is at the same time free from all eccentricity. It is never crude. It conforms to the prevalent standards of educated architects.

Trumbauer’s commissions soon encompassed many parts of the East Coast as the very rich found his historical styles worthy of the statements they wished to make about their own wealth and position. In 1899 coal millionaire Edward J. Berwind of Philadelphia, New York, and Newport, asked Trumbauer to create a new mansion on the site of his summer home in Newport. Modeled after the Chateau d’Argenson at Asnieres, France (18th century) Trumbauer built the Elms, a house with elaborate details like the breccia marble hall, a 41’ x 49’ Venetian style ballroom, Chinoiserie breakfast room, Louis XVI drawing room and other historically styled rooms. The servants quarters were hidden behind a balustrade on the 3rd floor creating a more pleasing façade as well as being compatible with Berwind’s desire to have his servants as invisible as possible.

Before I proceed with Trumbauer’s work I just want to take a moment to discuss the change in country house design occurring around 1890-1900. The original movement to country life had been encouraged after the Civil War by a surplus of money and increased leisure time and facilitated by new transportation methods like the Pennsylvania Railroad’s Main Line. As industrial and manufacturing fortunes grew there seemed to be a reaction against modernism and the stigma of industrial gain and new wealth. Country living and the panoply of associated clubs, gentleman’s farms, and activities became a major trend. Linked to this was an identification with the lifestyle of the English country squire. The values of city life transferred to the world of country home were rather low key, often rustic in design, with comfort recognized over style. The farm and country recreations were predominant. In Bryn Mawr, for example, publisher George W.
Streets overall layout of the estate was worthy of the taste of Paul's well-known brother-in-law, Cornelius Hartmann Kuhn, a Philadelphia clubman, director of numerous companies and country houses and estates that he excelled. His facility with a variety of historical styles departure from the more eccentric styles of the late Victorian Period, it was in the design is noteworthy. For example, in 1901-02 he created a country retreat for gas meter magnate York Road north of Philadelphia in 1902. Walnut completed in 1907. In addition to these private residences he also undertook a colonial style farmhouse which was added in 1914 from Mellor & Meigs's design.

Trumbauer's commissions in this period also included numerous city residences like that for American Line's president and sugar refiner, Edward C. Knight, at 1629 Locust Street in Philadelphia and banker George Albert Huhn's Renaissance style town house at 16th and Walnut completed in 1907. In addition to these private residences he also undertook a number of commercial buildings and clubs including a wing for the Union League, the Racquet Club and the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. For the Widener Family he designed the Federal style Widener Memorial Industrial Training School for Crippled Children on Old York Road north of Philadelphia in 1902.

While Trumbauer's town houses, hotels and office buildings were of importance for their departure from the more eccentric styles of the late Victorian Period, it was in the design of country houses and estates that he excelled. His facility with a variety of historical styles is noteworthy. For example, in 1901-02 he created a country retreat for gas meter magnate John Gribbel, St. Austel's Hall, an Elizabethan manor in Wynne, for Joseph B. McCall, president of Philadelphia Electric Company a colonial style house at 42nd and Walnut Streets in West Philadelphia; and for banker John Milton Colton, Wyndhurst, a tudor style house in Jenkintown.

In 1907 Alice Cramp White purchased 27.9 acres on Roberts Road in Rosemont and in the following two years commissioned a country house for her daughter and new son-in-law, investment banker and clubman Henry Pepper Vaux. As Mrs. White moved in similar circles to the Scotts she may have seen their Lansdowne house and desired a similar design. The 38 room house Trumbauer built held little resemblance to the Scott house on the exterior with its light colored stucco walls and limestone quoins, but had a similar floor plan. Dominated by a "music room" and a forty foot drawing room it had sweeping vistas over the countryside south of Bryn Mawr. Tended by seven house servants and four groundskeepers and a chauffeur, it was an attractive estate but modest in both scale and landscaping compared to Trumbauer's Widener family commissions.

The third house designed on this plan was the centerpiece of a working estate of over 560 acres located in Ithan. In 1911-12 Col. Robert L. Montgomery commissioned a house, gate lodge, stables, farm buildings, and farmer's cottages for Ardrossan, his Ayrshire dairy farm. This time Trumbauer departed from the Federalism of the Scott residence and the French flavor of Portledge to create a brick Georgian manor in the English countryhouse mode. Slightly larger and more formal, it had a ballroom, interiors of French walnut or quartered white oak with classical elements like Corinthian columns and carved marble mantelpieces. Eight bedrooms, dressing rooms, and six baths filled the second floor; the third floor held children's rooms, a playroom, nurses quarters, linen room, cedar closet, servants' wing, etc. This is one of the last of the large Main Line estates to survive.

Another house on a diminished scale may have followed a similar floor plan. It was built around 1910 for H. M. Nathanson in Rydal but is no longer standing. About the same time Trumbauer created a stone Elizabethan house with a variation on his long horizontal hall design. Rather than placing it at the front of the structure he made it a central hall, a very effective plan typical of the Beaux-Arts design. This house was built for Thomas P. Hunter, a founder of the Acme Tea Co., later Acme Markets, and was located on Montgomery Avenue in Haverford. Colkenny, better known as the estate of Mrs. J. Leslie Davis in the twenties and thirties was later converted into offices for the Pennsylvania Highway Department but was later demolished with only a carriage house surviving.

At the time Trumbauer created these Main Line estates he gained national attention for some of the New York and Newport mansions he designed. Notable were the James Biddle Duke house at Fifth Avenue and 78th Street based on a Bordeaux, France chateau and Miramar, George D. Widener's elaborate Newport house completed in 1913 after his death on the Titanic. His widow, later Mrs. Alexander Rice, kept this house where she entertained lavishly in its stately rooms.

Carriage house located across an avenue from the entrance court of the main house. The overall layout of the estate was worthy of the taste of Paul's well-known brother-in-law, William Waldorf Astor of New York. A working farm of 100 more acres was located across Gulph Road from Woodcrest with greenhouses, gardens, and later, structures like the colonial style farmhouse which was added in 1914 from Mellor & Meigs's design.

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At the time Trumbauer created these Main Line estates he gained national attention for some of the New York and Newport mansions he designed. Notable were the James Biddle Duke house at Fifth Avenue and 78th Street based on a Bordeaux, France chateau and Miramar, George D. Widener's elaborate Newport house completed in 1913 after his death on the Titanic. His widow, later Mrs. Alexander Rice, kept this house where she entertained lavishly in its stately rooms.

Woodcrest effectively incorporated formal rooms like a dining room with Chippendale furniture and family and servant areas removed from the guest wings.

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*Ed. note: See Pages 19 and 20 of the Fall, 1981 issue of the Bulletin for more details.*
Around World War I Trumbauer’s commissions diminished, but the ones he completed were his most significant to both American country house architecture and public building design in Philadelphia. How much of the design work was actually Trumbauer’s is unclear. His assistant Julian Abele and his interior design associates were crucial to the success of these structures but he must have provided some binding thread to it all.

Around 1916, department store executive Morris Clothier decided to replace his relatively modest house built by James Gillingham in Villanova in the 1870’s with a large white regency manor by Trumbauer. This house was the center of a family compound on over 150 acres along Montgomery Avenue. It was a striking form on the hillside overlooking the valley around Gulph Mills. It survives as a part of Northeastern Christian Junior College.

Soon after Trumbauer undertook the renovation of the home of cotton broker George H. McFadden, Jr., on South Ithan Ave., in Villanova. Trumbauer greatly altered the late Victorian house which stood there. In contrast to McFadden’s father’s nearby Barclay Farm, an 18th century inn which had been expanded, McFadden’s Bloomfield took on the lines of a Loire Valley chateau of the 18th century. Placed in a setting of formal gardens the house now included a 46 by 25 foot music room, loggia, card room, library, breakfast room, dining room and servants’ wing. A St. Quentin stone facade, extended chimneys, new dormers and cornices transformed the house. Supplementing the older carriage house and stables on the border of the property were a new garage in the style of the main house and a gardener’s cottage. Interiors of the main house were probably designed by Lucien d’Alavoine, a leading New York and Paris decorator and long time Trumbauer associate.

Trumbauer’s masterpiece was completed in 1921. Whitemarsh Hall, Edward T. Stotesbury’s home near Chestnut Hill was opened to 800 members of Philadelphia and New York Society in that year. Situated on 400 acres, this 147 room house was the second order mansion completed for the Drexel & Co. and later Morgan & Co. partner, by Trumbauer. In 1911 he renovated Stotesbury’s townhouse at 1925 Walnut Street in Philadelphia, with the help of interior designers like Allom and Alavoine, and art dealer Joseph Duveen.

In 1915 Stotesbury, whose income averaged in the millions each year, asked Trumbauer to begin plans for a country house. Working with landscape architect Jacques Greber, who had restored the gardens at Versailles, he planned a house of six stories (three underground) with a main block 283’ x 100’. In 1916 ground was broken and in one year the house’s fabric was completed, but with war approaching and considerable criticism of his extravagance Stotesbury delayed completion and loaned the house to be used as a hospital. The 100,000 square foot building served amply. After the war, Stotesbury rushed Whitemarsh Hall to completion and in 1921 the $683,000 structure and its $3,000,000 embellishments were ready. In addition to the large formal rooms were 35 servant rooms, numerous kitchens, bakeries, an ice-making plant, tailor shop, motion picture theatre, telephone switchboard, two passenger elevators, etc. The gardens were the equal of the house in splendor and rivalled any ever created in America.

In 1938 Stotesbury died and with most of a $100,000,000 fortune dissipated Whitemarsh, which cost a million dollars a year to maintain, was closed. In 1946 with his wife Eva’s death it was sold. By the 1960’s its grandeur was gone as vandals reduced many rooms to rubble. The exterior became overgrown; the interiors graffiti covered. In 1980 the remains were demolished and condominiums now cover the house site.

Trumbauer’s country house commissions after Whitemarsh Hall were among the last of the large period house style mansions. Around 1926 he completed Craig Hall in Haverford for John S. Muckle ... a fairly sedate brick Georgian house. For automobile heiress Mrs. Horace Dodge he designed Rose Terrace in Groesse Pointe, Michigan (1931-34) and in Long Branch, New Jersey created Shadow Lawn for Woolworth executive Hubert T. Parsons. Completed in 1930 for over $10,000,000 (with furnishings) it was already archaic as the changes in lifestyles and the diminishing nature of America’s fortunes prevailed. Parsons was heavily in debt by the time Shadow Lawn was completed and only occupied it briefly. It was sold for a small fraction of its cost.

Replacing the period mansion and Renaissance chateau were revivals in colonial architecture. In the Philadelphia area fieldstone farmhouses by R. Brognard Oke* or homes like that of William Hart’s designed by Mellor & Meigs located in Radnor, became the favored style. The rural idiom took over, and even Rodman Griscom’s large Gladwyne estate, Cedar Crest, was built in 1930 in the Norman farmhouse style. Clearly classicism like that of Trumbauer’s was becoming outdated for residential architecture. His major commissions in that style in the later years were for public buildings which still needed a certain monumentality. Included were work on the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Free Library of Philadelphia. Trumbauer died in 1938 in his modest Wynnefield house, a successful but relatively unhappy man.

If I leave you with anything today I hope it is one of the vitality of the architecture of this era, which so enhanced the Main Line and other areas. I also hope that when it comes time to consider preservation of these great houses we can approach it in an enlightened manner. I sometimes have a feeling that in the year 2050 in a manner similar to Colonial Williamsburg we will be erecting a reproduction of a lost Trumbauer house as an historical statement. Let us make it easier for future historians by preserving intact what we now have.


THE GARDEN FACADE OF WHITEMARSH HALL

20
ACCESSIONS

George Bovell
An old hay wagon, approximately 5 by 16 feet from one of the out-buildings at Waynesborough

The Bowen Family
A family genealogy

Theodore B. Brooks
Radnor Fire Company documents

Daniel N. Ehart

THE OLD HAY WAGON

Mrs. Edward Forstall
Plan of property of Ethel R. H. Sayen in Tredyffrin Township
R. Dulaney Furlong (Holly Hill, Mathews, Va.)
Book on the Dulaney - Furlong and kindred families, Parsons, W. Va., 1975

Mrs. William Hacker
Various items of World War II Memorabilia of Wayne

Mrs. A. Adele Harvey
Photo of Spring house at Ford Hook (Alee Road, Wayne) c. 1900

Mrs. Robert L. Headley
Recent issues of Pennsylvania Heritage

William P. Hutton
A photo album of Meeting Houses taken by his uncle, c. 1910

John M. Johnston
Book of essays entitled Reveries by Veteran (Col. Thomas Y. Field, U.S.M.C.) c. 1890, grandfather of the donor.

Mrs. John W. Leonard
Four family scrapbooks compiled in the 1890's

Mrs. James S. Maier
Typescripts: Dundale 1890-1979; Portledge 1910-1960

John L. Mather
Certificate from Philadelphia Bench Show, 1884; Telegram, 1891, from “Jno.” in Cincinnati to Mr. Thomas Mather

Miss Isabella Auld McKnight
The Valley Forge oration of Henry Arnett Brown, June 18, 1978
Photos of a fire at Maguire Building in c. 1906
Photos of a horse and wagon in front of the Opera House, Wayne
Souvenir program of the Radnor Fire Company Fifth Annual Parade and Convention, Wayne, June 9, 10, 1911

Mrs. Walter Mertz
Parody of the Suburban and Wayne Times, entitled “Suburban and Wayne Crimes,” May 23, 1927. See Pages

Radnor Memorial Library
Bound copies of the Wayne Gazette, August 5, 1871 - August 17, 1872

Radnor Township Middle School
Four volumes on the history of Delaware County

George Sayen
Letters to Tweeters; book compiled by Margaret Holt Lowry Butler and containing letters written from France in World War I. They mention Radnor residents.

Frederick Sayen
Birds eggs collected by the donor in Wayne many years ago

Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Tatum
File of Chester County Day “Newspapers”; 1954-1975

Duncan Niles Terry
Mounted copy of the winning design for the new Radnor Township coat of arms designed by Mr. Terry

Mrs. Charles Thomas
Five papers relating to Garrett Hill property on Garrett Avenue

Mrs. Richard Warren
Three Pamphlets relating to Devon and environs

Conrad Wilson
Constitution and Registry of Membership of the General Society of the War of 1812, Philadelphia, 1908
Twenty-six volumes of the printed Pennsylvania Archives covering from 1777 onward, second reprinting made in 1908
Biographical Annals of Montgomery County, Ellwood Roberts, ed. (1904)
**RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Statement of Contributions, Revenues and Disbursements for the period May 13, 1981 through April 30, 1982

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Contributions and Revenue in Excess of Disbursements: $686.13

ARTHUR H. MOSS, Treasurer

All contributions are deductible (to the legal limit) for United States Income Tax purposes

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 postcard of 1890. Reproduction $0.50
- "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). $0.50
- **A Rare and Pleasing Thing: Radnor**, by Katharine Hewitt Cummin, Owlswick Press, 1977, $19.75

Past issues of the Bulletin of the Radnor Historical Society, $2.00

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