THE BULLETIN
of
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume IV 1983 No. 3

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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## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

During the 1982-1983 fiscal year this Society, at the request of Main Line School Night, provided speakers for a ten-week course in Main Line History, tracing the area from the days of William Penn to those of Dick Thornburgh. This new venture proved a rewarding operation and, because of it, the Society received several gifts of manuscripts, listed with other accessions elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The Finley House, our headquarters, has now been insulated properly against the cold; the Society’s collections reappraised for insurance purposes; and the grounds enhanced by the gift from Miss Jane Sayen of hundreds of narcissus bulbs.

The Society has provided speakers for several other organizations, has been the meeting-place for the Upper Main Line Welcome Wagon, P.E.O. groups, the North Wayne Protective Association and various scout troops. It welcomed students of the Radnor Middle School during that school’s “Arts Week.”

It has made loans from its collections for display by the Main Line Chamber of Commerce, the Drama Department of Villanova University, Wayneborough, The Women’s Resource Center, the Memorial Library of Radnor Township, a D.A.R. Chapter and the Wayne Elementary School.

It was represented at the various ceremonies celebrating Pennsylvania’s tercentenary, including the reenactment of William Penn’s landing at Upland (Chester), which went smoothly. The fact that Penn later became separated from his transportation led to a nightmare for the actor as he tried to make scheduled landings at other places on the Delaware. The day included a Coast Guard rescue, but all that’s another story.

In the spring, the Board of Directors accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. Garret Miller as a Director. In her place it has welcomed Marilyn Caltabiano as secretary. On behalf of the Board, let me thank all who have contributed time, money and encouragement to the Society.

Finally, as hoped for last year, a locksmith was found to open the Finley family safe. After seventeen hours of patient concentration, he succeeded. The safe was empty (but we have the combination).

Katharine Hewitt Cummin

## NECROLOGY

Mrs. Scott Adamson

Miss Ida Pechin Brooke

Mrs. Henry Clifford

Mr. C. H. McAllister

Mr. Paul W. Thomas

Mr. Thomas A Wood, Jr.
Ceremonial Spade used by distinguished visitors to plant trees commemorating visits to Wootton, Bryn Mawr Ave. — Now St. Aloysius Academy.

Wooden Handle, Wooden Shaft encased in brass engraved with the following names: (as they appear)

Gen. Grant
Lady Fanny Sinclair
R. W. Winthrop
J. S. Morgan
Col. Vanderbilt
Chauncey Depew
Sir John Rose
Canon Farrar
D. McCosh
Lord Harchell
Lord Houghton
Pres. Hayes
Mrs. Cleveland
Mrs. Sartoris
A. J. Drexel
Miss Catherine Drexel
Mrs. Morrel
Mrs. Smith
Prof. Goldwin Smith
Pulitzer
Marquis of Villebar
Bishop Potter
Irving

Madame Neilson
Gen. Sherman
Duke Sutherland
Duchess of Buckingham
Miss Wolfe Murray
Gen. Beayer
Count De Paris
Duc De Orleans
Count De Hansoville
Marquis De Lasteyrie
Duc Uzes
Chas. Aguelesa
Duke of Veragua
Duchess of Veragua
Pilas Columbus
Christopher Columbus
Marquis of Barboles
Peter Columbus

Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnson
Senator Edmunds
WOOTTON EN FETE

A ceremonial spade in the collection of the Society was used by distinguished guests to plant trees commemorating their visit to Wootton, the country estate of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Childs in Bryn Mawr, now St. Aloysius Academy. A contemporary account of the event, published in the Philadelphia Press of September 18, 1887, is reproduced below.

Mr. and Mrs. Childs' Reception to
Mrs. Cleveland

It was quite clear three or four days ago that if yesterday should be fair the reception set down for Mrs. Cleveland at Wootton would be a great success. The day, as some one observed, could not have been more charming if it had been made to order. The entertainment, in consequence, was a social triumph, and one of the most beautiful ever seen, even at Mr. and Mrs. George W. Child's delightful place, the scene of such splendor.

The fact that Mrs. Cleveland was to leave on a special train for Wootton at three o'clock was generally known, and brought a big crowd round the station at Broad Street. It had been arranged that Mrs. Cleveland and the others of Mr. Child's guests should pass into the station by a private entrance on Filbert Street, and a corps of officers were kept busy enough keeping the way clear. The President's wife drove over in an open carriage from her hotel accompanied by Secretary Bayard, Mrs. Secretary Fairchild, and Mrs. Lamont. She was recognized by every one, and of course received a cordial greeting from the waiting crowd. She had been recognized unanimously in recognition of the compliment she accorded, and entered the station. Nearly all the other guests had already arrived, and the train was waiting on a side track.

Mrs. Cleveland was met by Mr. Childs and assisted into President Roberts's private car, the last on the train, and the remainder of her party, with one or two other specially favored guests, followed. The car, which was daintily furnished, was gay with flowers, and a vase of particularly fine Pearl roses stood on a table near Mrs. Cleveland.

At the station at Bryn Mawr there was another throng — most of them country people — waiting to catch a glimpse of the President's life. Carriages and omnibuses were waiting in line to take over the guests. The Lady of the White House, however, was to go over in more regal style. Mr. William Struthers's smart tally-ho, drawn by four splendid spirited horses, was awaiting her commands. Mr. Struthers, with a rose in a buttonhole, was on the box, and a diminutive footman, in red and white, and with a great abundance of brass buttons, was looking as dignified as possible at the head of the stall.

Mr. Childs, with Mrs. Cleveland on his arm, came out of the car and walked over to the coach, with a troop of country people behind them. Some one kindly offered to help Mrs. Cleveland up on the coach, but she smilingly declined, and selected, with just a bit of aid now and then when it was most needed. She sat down gracefully beside Mr. Struthers on the box, and looked so superlatively happy, that if she were not the 'first lady of the land,' one might have fancied that she found it all a very delightful picnic. She was the object of everybody's gaze as she mounted the coach, and she was as natural and unaffected in her manner through it all as if she were in the privacy of her own boudoir at Oak View. She was charmingly dressed. Her gown was of mahogany-brown surah, made snug over a petticoat of cream surah edged with bullion. She wore a bonnet to match, with bronze low shoes and tan gloves.

Mr. Lamont, General and Mrs. Sheridan, Secretary Bayard, and Mr. Childs took places on the coach behind Mrs. Cleveland. The little footman in red and white and brass sprang from the horses' heads and hopped inside the coach. Mr. Struthers cracked his whip, Mrs. Cleveland waved her hand, and away the party went, men cheering and women waving their handkerchiefs. The party made a detour so as to allow the guests generally opportunity to reach Wootton and greet Mrs. Cleveland on her arrival there, and also to give the special guest of the day a look at the lovely country roundabout Bryn Mawr. The route was round Roberts's road.

Mrs. Cleveland is immensely fond of horses and a skilful rider and driver, and she had hardly gone out of sight of the throng at the station before she took the reins out of Mr. Struthers's hand and drove herself. She went at a rattling pace and held the horses admirably. On the way she stopped at the spring-house on the Wootton grounds and selected a sleek, brown heifer out of Mr. Child's herd of Jersey. The creature was a noble one, daughter of Lord Maitland.

"Now really," she said, "I don't know any more about cows than . . ."

"The man in the moon," some one added.

Just the same she was as delighted as a schoolgirl when told that the heifer was to be her "very own," and that Mr. Childs would send it to her at Oak View.

"Don't you think I was dreadfully selfish to select the best one in the whole herd?" she inquired of General Sheridan. But the General was altogether too gallant to think anything of the kind.

The party scrambled back on the coach, and Mrs. Cleveland took up the reins again. In a moment or two the party came into the sight of the throng of people waiting on Wootton Terrace, and Mrs. Cleveland shuttered her lovely lips just a trifle tighter together and insisted that those horses should do their level best. The horses were willing, and came rushing through the big gate and past the lodge and up the hill, and were brought to a standstill just at the foot of the steps leading up to the house. An orchestra in a bower of young cedars broke into a lively serenade, and the people on the terrace applauded rapturously. But in another moment there was a cry of alarm. In coming down from the coach Mrs. Cleveland stumbled and fell out into the roadway. She was up again instantly, however, laughing and giving her hand to Mrs. Childs, who had been too ill to go to town to meet her, and was standing on the lower steps to meet the remnant of her party.

Mrs. Cleveland limped slightly for some time after the fall, but finally recovered altogether apparently. She went up into Mrs. Childs's boudoir for a rest, but she would only take a few moments, and with Mrs. Childs was presently back among the company.

The reception took place in the hall of the mansion, which was superbly decorated with flowering plants and cut flowers. Mrs. Cleveland stood between Mr. and Mrs. Childs, just at the foot of the winding stairway. She retained the clothes she came in, and did not remove her bonnet. After she had given her hand to about fifty people, however, she took off her gloves. Mrs. Childs, who has a particularly winning and gracious manner, was in white satin trimmed with lace and bullion. She wore a few fine jewels, notably a superb cluster of diamonds, sapphires, and emeralds at the throat. She expressed her delight to Mr. and Mrs. Childs, just at the foot of the winding stairway.

Mr. and Mrs. Childs retained the hand of their guest, and then turned to her and introduced one of the most beautiful ever seen, even at Mr. and Mrs. George W. Child's reception to Mrs. Cleveland.
thoroughly enjoyed. Then she waved a good-bye with a dainty handkerchief, took up the reins, and they were off again. She drove all the way to the station, and said she was sorry when the journey was ended. She regretted that she was obliged to return to town quite early, by reason of the engagement she had made to be present in a box at the Academy of Music in the evening, to listen to the toast at the dinner given to the President.

Other guests remained later, most of them going by the special train at seven o'clock. A sumptuous menu was served meantime at little tables set out on the piazzas, each provided with its service of rare china and cut glass.

Among the guests were ex-President Rutherford B. Hayes, ex-Vice President Hannibal Hamlin, ex-Senator James W. Bradley, of Maine; Daniel and Mrs. Lamont, General and Mrs. Sheridan, Secretary Thomas F. Bayard, Secretary and Mrs. Fairchild, Chief Justice and Mrs. Waite, Justice and Mrs. Miller, Justice and Mrs. Harlan, ex-Justice William Strong, Senator and Mrs. Ingalls, Alexander Hamilton, of New York; Bishop Potter, of New York; General and Mrs. Schofield, Rear-Admiral Luce, Sir Richard Temple, Andrew Carnegie, General and Mrs. Hartranft, Mr. William Wirt Henry, a grandson of Patrick Henry; Mr. Alfred T. Goshorn, of Cincinnati; Governors Robert S. Green, of New Jersey; Henry Lloyd, of Maryland; John B. Gordon, of Georgia; Phineas C. Lounsbury, of Connecticut; B. T. Biggs of Delaware; William Larrabee, of Iowa; J. W. Davis, of Rhode Island; Alfred M. Scales, of North Carolina; John P. Richardson, of South Carolina; Fitz-Hugh Lee, of Virginia; E. Willis Wilson, of West Virginia; E. A. Perry, of Florida; John M. Thayer, of Nebraska; Sylvester Penney, of Oregon; Simon P. Hughes, of Arkansas; Cardinal Gibbons, Hon. John Jay, of New York; and ex-Speaker S. J. Randall, — many of whom were accompanied by their wives and daughters, — besides several hundred others.

Editor's Notes:
1. Mrs. Cleveland, nee Frances Folsom, was the daughter of a prominent Buffalo, N.Y. Attorney, Oscar Folsom, some twenty-five years younger than the President, who had known her since she was a baby; they were married in the White House on June 2, 1886.
2. Oak View was the name given to the home that Grover Cleveland bought in 1886 two miles north of Georgetown, D.C. as a weekend retreat. It was located on what is now Woodley Road.
4. The heifer was subsequently sent to Oak View and was named "Grace."
5. Bullion, i.e., gold braid or embroidery.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY**

**Sunday, May 23, 1982:**

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert I. Cummin. A program was presented by the Radnor Middle School Humanities Department entitled "The Vicious Circle," which centered on the poetry and often vitriolic witticisms of the members of the Algonquin Round Table.

The music of Cole Porter, so typical of the day, provided an effective backdrop for the presentation.

**Sunday, October 10, 1982:**

The Society had the pleasure of visiting "Waynesborough," the ancestral home of General Anthony Wayne, for whom our town is named. The original part of the stone house, built in 1715, consisted only of a keeping room on the first floor and a single lodging chamber above. The property was purchased by the General's grandfather in 1724, who gave it the present name. In the 1780's the spacious center section of the house was built by General Wayne's father, and in 1792 the addition of the east wing, known as the new kitchen, was supervised by the General. The house is built completely of stone quarried on the property. At the peak of its prominence the estate covered more than 1,000 acres in Chester County and included a large tannery about one-half mile from the house as well as numerous other out-buildings.

The house has been beautifully restored under the auspices of The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks but remains largely unfurnished. It is hoped that appropriate furnishings will be acquired to further the development of this historic dwelling into a National Shrine.

To lend authenticity to the appurtenances of the house, the Society is pleased to have on loan to Waynesborough an early nineteenth century Pennsylvania rifle. The rifle, with engraved brass mountings, was fashioned about 1820. Originally it had a flintlock firing device, but was converted to percussion about twenty years later. A patch box and a wooden ramrod complete the outfit.

Percussion mechanisms used fulminate of mercury and had a copper cup over the nipple. This was struck by the hammer, then fired. The main advantages over the flintlock were that it was more waterproof and fired without flame. In the patch box were kept the patches (little pieces of greased cloth), the percussion caps, and often a little screw driver. This type of rifle was used to shoot game.

**Thursday, November 18, 1982:**

Mr. Jonathan Lane and Mr. George Thomas spoke on the subject of The Future of Historic Wayne at the meeting of the Society in the Community Room of the Main Line Federal Savings and Loan Association in Wayne.

One of the main emphases of the presentation was the question of whether or not Wayne should be placed in the National Register of Historic places. In taking a definite affirmative stand on this matter it was pointed out that "Wayne is a community of such value and such unique quality that the older part developed by George W. Childs and Anthony J. Drexel should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places in order to avoid the continuation of development such as that on West Wayne Ave. which has needlessly damaged the special character of Wayne. We do not feel that this should freeze Wayne, but the intent would be to direct major development to more appropriate areas outside of the old community." In the past, Mr. Lane stated, the placing of individual historic buildings on the National Register has been emphasized. Although historic districts have been recognized for their importance in preserving our heritage, these have mostly been in urban areas and those structures in the suburbs that have received attention have been great houses, mansions, plantations, houses of prominent Americans and such like and not communities as a whole. Since Wayne, as pointed out earlier, is unique on the East Coast as an architectural gem of the late Victorian period, still in good health and vitality, it is
particularly important that it be placed on the National Register to help preserve these qualities.

Mr. Lane, who lives in Wayne, is a residential architect and has a special appreciation of the fine qualities of this community. Mr. Thomas, who has taught architectural and urban history at the University of Pennsylvania and Bryn Mawr College is a member of Clio Associates in Philadelphia, a restoration and renovation architectural firm.

**Tuesday, February 8, 1983:**

The Society met in the Library of Eastern College to hear the Reverend William Zulker present "Parlor Fun with the Stereoscope."

Dr. Zulker recounted the history of that instrument, treated the audience to examples of early pictures of public buildings, of natural phenomena such as Yosemite, of the Chicago and Philadelphia Expositions, of people important in their day, of homes and commercial scenes. He then led the Society on a tour of the collections of the Stereoscopic Museum housed at Eastern College.

Through the courtesy of The Suburban and Wayne Times we are privileged to reproduce on other pages of this Bulletin an article which appeared in that publication on November 17, 1983, on this subject.

**Thursday, April 7, 1983:**

Mr. Robert M. Goshorn of the Tredyffrin-Easttown History Club and Past-President of the Chester County Historical Society recalled for us the Fireworks Explosion in Devon in April, 1930 in the Community Room of the Main Line Federal Savings and Loan Association. The public was invited to share recollections of this event. Mr. Goshorn's presentation is the subject of an article appearing elsewhere in this Bulletin.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

**Statement of Contributions, Revenues and Disbursements**

For the Year Ended April 30, 1983

**CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVENUES:**

Dues ........................................... $1,493.00
Contributions (including $260.00 contra expenses) ............. 758.00
Dividends — Common Stock ................................ 1,038.60
Interest on C.D.'s .......................................................... 2,362.59
Rent (Net of Commissions $457.50) .................................. 4,117.50
Advertising .......................................................... 322.50
Publication Sales ...................................................... 97.20
Miscellaneous .......................................................... 6.00

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVENUES** ........................................ $10,395.39

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Printing & Postage .................................................. $311.08
Bulletin .......................................................... 1,049.59
Telephone .......................................................... 176.17
Insurance .......................................................... 822.00
Electricity .......................................................... 517.08
Water .......................................................... 114.27
Fuel Oil .......................................................... 3,165.28
Yard Maintenance ...................................................... 945.00
Building Maintenance ............................................. 1,227.43
Meeting Expense ...................................................... 462.95
Cleaning Service ...................................................... 173.25
Miscellaneous .......................................................... 45.00

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** .................................................. $9,009.10

**CONTRIBUTIONS AND REVENUE NET OF DISBURSEMENTS** ................... $1,386.29

Arthur H. Moss, Treasurer
ACCESSIONS

F. James Dallett:
Negatives of photographs taken by Mr. Dallett of interesting old Radnor buildings.

Mrs. Steven G. Fuguet:
Legion hat of Elliston J. Morris, World War I.

Harold Greenwell, Esq.:
Plates 1 and 6 from A. H. Mueller's 1912 Property Atlas of the Main Line.
Photocopies of early records of the Battle of the Clouds of the Revolutionary War.
Photocopies of requests for reimbursements by Radnor area residents due to deprivations caused by the Revolutionary War.

Miss Isabella Auld Mc Knight:
Three copies of Radnor Zoning Map, 1928.
Clippings of the Devon Fireworks Explosion

Robert M. Goshorn:
Tredyffrin Easttown History Club Quarterly Vol. XX, Nos. 3 and 4, Vol. XXI, Nos. 1 and 2

Mrs. Edward H. P. Fronefield:
Report of Election held in Radnor on Feb. 19, 1901

Mrs. M. G. Canizares:
Vol. I, No. 1 of the WAYNE ARGUS.
Program of Radnor High School Graduation, June 6, 1913.

Mrs. Harry C. Garber:
Photo taken circa 1890 of 125 Walnut Ave.

Miss Margaret Supplee Smith:
Checklist of buildings designed by Charles Barton Keen compiled by Carolyn Dickinson.

Mrs. John Montgomery:
Folder of 15 pamphlets.

Mr. Edmund Thayer:
Documents formerly of the Walbaum Family, including a copy of a manuscript (in the first person) of the early life of Margaret Ellis.

Mr. Paul Zahn:
Two typewritten accounts of early roads' layouts of the 18th Century.

Mr. Maxwell Whiteman:
Photocopy of newspaper clippings concerning Charles Weisberg, model for the Wayne World War memorial.

Elizabeth Cathcart (of the Home Health Services of Chester County and vicinity):
Two bills from the 1940's from Hobson's General Store and from Brookmead Guernsey Dairies.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Donnell A. Ballard
Mr. Frederick Clement
Mrs. Enid C. D. Cochran
Ms. Eileen Courtney
Mr. Jonathan Lane
Mr. C. H. McAllister

Newman & Saunders Galleries
Mrs. John Shannon
Mrs. Susan R. Smolens
Mr. John Tracy
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph R. Walker
Ms. Joyce Whidden

THE WAYNE LYCEUM HALL

The Wayne Lyceum Hall, David S. Gendall architect, was dedicated Tuesday, October 24, 1871. It still stands, erroneously named The Colonial Building, at 101 East Lancaster Avenue in the center of Wayne. When constructed (of brick, rough cast), it stood three stories tall. The ground floor provided an office, a library and reading room, and two stores. The second-floor held the Lyceum meeting room with stage and gallery, and the third floor, unfinished at dedication time, was designed for Masonic use. A disastrous fire of 1913 removed the top story.

Until the new building was occupied, the Wayne Lyceum and Literary Association met on Tuesday evenings in Wayne Hall (no longer standing). A rival group, the Wayne Library and Literary Association, met there on Monday evenings.

The Wayne Lyceum and Literary Association, founded for "moral and mental improvement" and for "the extension and development of knowledge," conducted a school (under Miss Sally B. Martin), ran a library, gave monetary contributions to worthy causes, listened to edifying recitals and talks, met for musical evenings, and published the Wayne Gazette which moved from Wayne Hall to the newer building with the Association. Members were excused from meetings only for sickness, or by special excuse issued by the President, J. Henry Askin. Admission was by ticket only. Guest tickets were available to members provided the guests' names did not appear on the "Prohibited List."

The Wayne Gazette of October 28, 1871, described the dedication. The program included songs ("Step by Step," "The Sunny Hours of Childhood," "Our Meeting," "Annie Laurie," "Hunter's Horn," "Minute Gun at Sea," "Sleighride Song," and "Good Night"), prayers by ministers of four denominations, remarks by the President, a congratulatory address, a dedication address, talks on "Fame," on "Popular Education," a thirty-minute intermission and a final address on "The Power of Kindness." The paper made no mention of the Wayne Lyceum Hall Ode, reproduced hereafter.

Miss Annie Brooke, to whom the ode is dedicated, not only played the organ but sang with the Lyceum quartet. J. F. Kauffman, the composer, was the builder of the older houses on Bloomingdale Avenue, briefly known as Kauffman Avenue. Francis Fenimore of St. Davids, who wrote the words, has been described by Mrs. John Leonard as "the finest gentleman I ever knew."
ODE

Words by F. FENIMORE.

Music by J. F. KAUFFMAN.

1. There's a time to be merry and a time to be sad, And it
   2. There's a war to be fought for the right against the wrong, And we've
   3. We have brave hearts among us who never despair, Who are
   4. We are striving to live to do good to our race. To pro-
   5. And we feel that what ever the scuffs and the sneers We may

come to our land and to all And it's now time for us to re-
taken up arms for the right And we know we will win though the
foremost in ev ery good plan And we think it behooves us to
more ed u ca tion and art To ad vance our race to a much
meet in the course of our fight That for us will be joy and for

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We are indebted to The Suburban and Wayne Times for permission to use the following article which appeared there on November 17, 1983.

BY MAXINE HERMANN

Suburban Staff Writer

They are associated with entertainment in a slower-paced world — the Victorian family gathered for an evening in a formal parlor viewing slides of far away places — but they also had important applications in education, religion and medicine.

The subject is stereographs — those double pictures of another world — that seem so much a fad or a fancy of another era.

But they were hardly a fad, maintaining a high level of popularity from their introduction at London's Great Exhibition in 1851 (apparently Queen Victoria was amused) until they were overwhelmed by radio, movies, and changing times in the mid 1930's.

William A. Zulker, assistant to the president of Eastern College, also is curator of the National Stereoscopic Association’s Oliver Wendell Holmes collection, which is housed in Eastern’s library. The collection includes stereographs, books, and other kinds of materials about three-dimensional photography.

“Stereographs provided family entertainment for about 80 years,” Dr. Zulker said. “Their value now is that you have a history of what made people laugh, of the things that interested people in that period,” Dr. Zulker said.

“There was no radio, no automobiles, no motion pictures, no television, so stereoscopes were the parlor pastime,” he said. “You could sit there and visit Niagara Falls or Egypt or Greece.”

The companies that dominated the stereoscopic business vied with each other for photographs, and in devising elaborate presentations.

“Greece through the Stereoscope,” for example, was a 363-page hardcover book by Rufus Richardson filled with descriptions of ancient and modern Greece. Each page or section keyed to a specific stereograph (there were 100 in all) and a map to show where the pictures were taken. The set, published in 1907, came in a handsome booklike box.

And although the companies could produce domestic silliness like “Mrs. Newlywed's New French Cook,” they could also put out dated weekly Uniform Sunday School lessons that ran from 1911 to 1917.

Many public schools during the stereographic age probably had a dozen or more viewers and hundreds of stereographic cards covering geography, history, plants and animals, and other educational subjects, Dr. Zulker said.

The University of Edinburgh permitted its stereographs to be published as a 10-volume set of anatomy lessons for use by medical schools. Skin diseases, including some stomach-churning depictions, were covered in another set of stereographs for medical students.

Dr. Zulker said he recently talked with a doctor at Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia who said he uses 3-D photography as an aid to his surgical studies.

Dr. Zulker, a Presbyterian minister, became interested in stereoscopy several years ago when he ran across a stereoscope (the viewing device) in Harper's Ferry, W. Va., while on vacation with his wife and three daughters. He decided the $15 asking price was too steep and reluctantly turned away.
"On our way home, my wife and daughters presented me with the stereoscope — they had gone back and bought it for me as a surprise," he said. "From there, I became more and more interested and started doing research at libraries."

His particular interest is the history of 3-D photography, one of the reasons he became curator of the Oliver Wendell Holmes collection and arranged its move to Eastern from the Canton, Ohio, Art Institute. The 1500 members of the association support the collection; Eastern provides the space free; Zulker volunteers his time.

The collection is named for the poet-physician and father of the Supreme Court justice of the same name. The senior Holmes designed a stereographic viewer in 1859, Dr. Zulker said, but refused to patent it so it could be used for the public good. (Naturally, others patented the design and made money from Holmes' invention.) Holmes was the first to call 3-D photos stereographs.

"The Holmes library is the only one we know of devoted solely to stereographic photography," Dr. Zulker said. In addition to slides and viewers, books and journals, the collection includes many examples of 3-D equipment, including those little cardboard "glasses" used to view 3-D films.

"The biggest problem with 3-D is the need for a viewer of some kind," Dr. Zulker said. "Collectors train themselves to do this without the device."

Stereoscopy is based on the same principles as human vision, he said.
Neighborhood League, Alda A. Makarova, expressed concern over the alleged employment of minors by the company, also stating that there had been “several minor explosions” at the site and that she felt there was danger both to the children and to the district immediately adjoining the property. (In reply, Elsie F. Middleton reported that inspections of the factory by the State had shown that the proprietor of the plant seemed to be doing everything to comply with the law and that no evidence of violations of the law had been found.)

But while this may not have been the first explosion there, it certainly was the last one. After the blast, the entire area was likened by army veterans to the No-Man’s Land of World War I. Every bit of vegetation was destroyed, large trees ripped apart, their branches scattered and torn off. The force of the exploding fireworks and powder left great holes, like shell craters, in the black, shocked earth. Except for the office and one concrete foundation, there was not a timber projecting more than two feet above the ground to indicate where buildings had been. For some time afterwards, visitors, as one newspaper reported it, “stood and talked or merely gazed with awe-struck eyes at the scenes of ruin on every side.”

The proprietor of the plant, Luigi Peruzzi of Devon, was at first reported to have been away from the site when the explosion occurred, but was later found to be one of the ten persons killed. The others were identified as Josephine Capelli, Angela Chicarelli, Carmela A’Antonio, and Jennie Ricci, of Devon; Mary Hopkins, of F. Berwyn; Anna Sittismo, of Paoli; Alfred Salamone, of Norristown; John Fura, of West Philadelphia; and Vitantonio d’Amento, of Upper Darby.

Response to the disaster was almost immediate. Firemen and fire trucks from all along the Main Line — Paoli, Berwyn, Wayne, Radnor, and even Bryn Mawr and Ardmore — rushed to the scene, the firemen frequently risking their lives “in the inferno of blazing fireworks,” it was reported, as they fought to control the fire and keep it from spreading. To keep the interested and curious spectators, who also rushed to the area to find out what had happened, from impeding the rescue work, the immediate area was quickly blocked off and patrolled by the state and township police, with additional help from cadets from the Valley Forge Military Academy. They were later joined by men from the National Guard in Phoenixville to protect property and prevent looting in the devastated area. Cars passing on the Lincoln Highway were commandeered to take some of the more seriously injured to the Bryn Mawr Hospital.

The exploding fireworks also scattered burning debris over a wide area, causing numerous field fires in the vicinity, obviously adding to the difficulties of the firemen and others engaged in rescue and relief work.

The fireworks plant was not the only site to suffer major damage as a result of the explosion. The Eagle Signal Tower, the control center for the interlocking switches on the Pennsylvania Railroad, was in the line of destruction, force from the blast knocking the signalman on duty, Max Schwartz, from his chair. All the overhead wires were also knocked down across the tracks, and it was several hours before service could be resumed. The windows on a train stopped at the Devon station were also blown in by the blast, the flying glass injuring a number of passengers in the train.

Several small houses and residences along Old Lancaster Road, across from the fireworks company or adjacent to it, were either leveled or so badly damaged as to be beyond repair, twisted and torn from their foundations, and later to be raised. The home of John Capelli, directly across the road from the office of the fireworks company, was described as “typical of scores of others.” The front door had been blown in,” it was reported, “and the rear door out. The ceilings lost their plaster and the skeleton of lath hung dreamily. Everything was smashed, plaster torn, torn, and shredded. Some trick of the concussion had blown the windows outward. In the yard a ball of wrapping twine, hurled 100 yards from the plant, smoldered... The front and rear of the roof were carried away, letting light into the attic.”

The expensive home of Stephen Fuguet, on the Lancaster Pike at Valley Forge Road, the colonial mansion of John Cornelius, in which members of the Cornelius family had lived for 104 years, a hundred yards to the east, and the home of Guy R. Wheeler, all prominent residents of the area, were virtually wrecked. Other homes seriously damaged included the mansions of other well-known families, among them the home of William A. Gray, an attorney in Philadelphia, and that of Mrs. Charles M. Lea, the widow of the retired publisher and philanthropist, where the extent of the damage was estimated to be over $50,000, and that of Mrs. William McCone, whose home was “wrecked almost beyond repair.” Homes as far away as Berkeley Road, including those owned by D. Allewa and Emidio DeJoseph, were badly wrecked inside. In fact, as already noted in more than a hundred homes and nearby business establishments’ windows, in some cases heavy plate glass windows, were broken and plaster torn loose and strewn about, leaving the bare skeletons of loth on walls and ceilings. Altogether, fifteen houses were totally destroyed.

Probably the biggest business property loss, aside from the fireworks company itself, was suffered by the Benjamin C. Betten Paper Box Manufacturing Company, located only about a quarter of a mile away on the south side of the Lincoln Highway at Valley Forge Road. Over 1700 panes of glass there were reported shattered and the steel sashes just recently put into the building, blown out. The interior of the offices of the C. A. Lobb and Sons lumber yard, also only a short distance away at the northeast corner of the Lincoln Highway and Old Lancaster Road, was similarly ruined.

Immediately there were speculations, conflicting statements, semi-expert opinion, and a number of rumors as to what caused the explosions, allegations of improper testing procedures in the mixing operations, experimental work on new types of aerial bombs to be made at the plant, and suggestion of careless work. Although at the outset Alexander Varadaro observed that it was doubtful that the cause could ever be fully ascertained, a Coroner’s Jury was impanelled by Chester County Coroner Herbert C. Ford to investigate the blast. The jury included Jesse Cox, a Malvern Borough councilman and chemist at the J. Bishop Company in Malvern; Harry Hendrickson, the Malvern station agent; Henry Maloney, a clerk at Coatesville; Lester Moffett, a lieutenant in the Pennsylvania National Guard; James Sell, chief of the Malvern Fire Department; and Harvey Shank, also a Malvern Borough Councilman.

Coroner Ford announced, “I am determined to get at the cause of the blasts and the various rumors will be investigated. There have been marked acceptance of the stories told investigators by various employees and heads of the firm, and it is our intention to compel the witnesses to divulge the truth. The investigation so far has been clouded with false statements and conflicting stories.”
Many of the early theories as to the cause of the explosions centered on the delivery of an abnormally large amount black powder to the plant on the morning of the explosion, thirty kegs being delivered instead of the usual three to five kegs. It was also suggested that after the powder had been delivered it was separated into three lots, with each lot stored in a different place, perhaps accounting for the three separate explosions. However, S. J. Ryan, head of the Quarryman's Supply Company in Norristown, which had delivered the powder to the fireworks company, told reporters that "to think that 30 kegs of black powder, that is 750 pounds, could have caused it (destruction of this magnitude) is ridiculous." (This opinion was later corroborated in testimony to the jury by Ralph Ashton, assistant to the director of explosives at DuPont, who testified that in his opinion such a large explosion could not have been caused by black powder unless there were quantities of 10,000 to 15,000 pounds on the site, and also by the testimony of Robert W. Hackett, of the Inspection Division of the State Department of Labor and Industry.)

A new lead developed on Saturday when Chief of Police James Nugent, of Tredyffrin Township, was rummaging through the debris at the scene of the explosion and found in the wreckage a gas stove of a type used for heating purposes; it had been blown more than fifty feet from its original location. All its jets were fully open.

With Chester County District Attorney John Guss conducting much of the questioning, the jury heard testimony from some dozen witnesses altogether. Among them was William "Chick" Krebel, of Norristown, who testified about the delivery of the powder to the plant. There were also two experts on explosives, Ralph Ashton, of DuPont, already mentioned, and William Weise, a former fireworks powder mixer with long experience at the Victor Fireworks Company in Elkton, Md. Two employees of the Inspection Division of the State Department of Labor and Industry, Robert W. Hackett and H. H. Lippincott, were also called. Both of them again affirmed that in their opinion the plant was not being operated in violation of the law, although Hackett also observed that the "regulations are probably not stringent enough for thorough safety." He also added that in his opinion there was too great a quantity of explosives on hand at the plant, the term explosives being used to include both the ingredients from which the fireworks were made and the finished product awaiting shipment.

Chief of Police Nugent was called to testify about the discovery of the gas stove, for which his brother, Peter, incidentally, had installed the gas connection in the plant's drying room.

Also called as witnesses were the principal owner, Alexander Vardaro, his son Victor, and daughter Antoinette. Victor Vardaro reported that while the amount of black powder delivered was "a little larger than sometimes on account of making shell bombs," the company's records indicated that on at least two occasions earlier in the year orders of 30 kegs and 35 kegs had been received. He also testified that there was no dynamite on the premises at the time of the explosion. His testimony included detailed information about the plant, the location of the buildings, the arrangements within the buildings (only two of which, the office and the workshop, were heated, both by gas) and described the processes and ingredients used in the manufacture of fireworks.

In her testimony, Antoinette Vardaro also stated that "frequently" orders of 25 or 30 kegs of black powder had been received, and noted that no one was allowed to smoke and no matches were carried in the factory.

Stephen Fuguet also appeared as a witness and testified on previous explosions at the factory.

At nine o'clock in the evening of Monday, April 7th, the jury announced its finding in the Malvern Borough Hall.

Although it was unable, after its consideration of all the evidence, to determine with certainty the cause of the disaster, it concluded that the explosion "probably was caused by the use of gas stoves for heating purposes in a building known as the 'workshop' and the use of gas jets in the drying room. The greatness of the explosions," it added, "was caused by large quantities of finished bombs and other fireworks and also the large quantity of black powder stored on the premises." Noting the absence of existing regulatory statutes, the jury also recommended that "a stringent law be passed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to cover the manufacture of fireworks, taking into consideration the location of plants and the quantity of raw and finished materials to be carried at one time, and that a plant of the kind be subjected to frequent and rigid inspection."

In the aftermath of the disaster, several ironic and strange twists were revealed. On a tragic note, it was reported that Peter Chicarelli, the father of Angela Chicarelli who was killed in the explosion, had had a "premonition" shortly before the incident and had unsuccessfully urged his daughter to leave her job with the company. Another of the persons killed, Josephine Capelli, had planned to announce her engagement to Achille Pizza within the next two weeks.

On the other hand, Esther Sims, who had worked for more than three years at the company wrapping firecrackers and making "dago" bombs and torpedoes, had left her employ on the preceding Saturday, just four days before the explosion. It was also revealed that two brothers of Chief of Police Nugent had also been working on jobs at the plant, but fortunately had been delayed on that particular day and had not reached the site by the time the explosion occurred. Several other persons, including Buck Weaver, a well-known local baseball player and umpire in Wayne and along the Main Line, similarly reported last-minute delays or changes in plans that kept them from the immediate area on that fateful Thursday morning.

Equally fortunate was Mrs. Thomas Corkhill, who lived in a house on the Lea estate; the house was destroyed except for the kitchen, into which she had entered from another part of the house only minutes before the explosion.

Perhaps one of the oddest twists, though, resulted from the peculiar pattern of destruction from the blasts, which was much heavier to the east than to the west. Some homes only a half-mile or so to the west of the plant, it was reported, were relatively undamaged, while to the east the area of damage extended for five miles. In the same vein, the large plate glass windows in the three-months-old McClure Fahnestock Packard showroom, at the intersection of Conestoga Road and the Lincoln Highway, were demolished, but the large greenhouses of Alfred M. Campbell, on the other side of the Highway and a shorter distance away from the fireworks plant, escaped serious damage, with only a few panes of glass broken. The greenhouse, incidentally, was filled with lilies and other Easter plants; had they been badly damaged, it would have meant an irreparable loss for their owner. Another casualty of the blast were the chimneys of the old Devon Inn, the only remnant of the once-famous hotel which had burned down only the previous year.
The response of the community to the needs of the victims of the disaster was both immediate and outstanding. As soon as the extent of the damage was evident, help arrived from a number of organizations and sources. A corps of physicians and nurses from the Bryn Mawr Hospital hurried to the site in an ambulance, moving into one of the damaged homes near to the plant to set up an emergency first aid station. The Wayne Branch of the American Red Cross, of which Mrs. W. H. Brooks was chairman, immediately put its Disaster Emergency Committee into action, setting up its headquarters at the Neighborhood League’s Baby Clinic on Grove Avenue in Devon, near the stricken area. Arrangements were made for families whose homes had been destroyed to be housed with other families in Berwyn and Wayne. At the same time, the Neighborhood League collected many of the now homeless children in the area and took them to its Wayne headquarters, where they were kept all day and entertained by volunteers until families could be reunited.

The Anthony Wayne Post 418 of the American Legion also began to provide care for others of the 200 men, women and children made homeless by the blast. Cots and blankets were made available by the Navy Department and Marine Corps Quartermaster in Philadelphia, being sent out to the area in a convoy of trucks.

The parish house of St. Mary’s Protestant Episcopal Church in Wayne was opened for all families whose homes had been wrecked by the explosion. The Devon branch of the Needlework Guild supplied needed garments, and people and businesses throughout the area answered generously an appeal for bedding and blankets, and donated other supplies for families suffering from the blast. Boy Scout Troop Paoli 1 assisted, as a troop, in the rescue work and helped to clean up the debris at damaged homes. Aid was also given by the Chamber of Commerce and many other organizations.

By ten o’clock on the night of the disaster it was reported that not a single person requiring a place to sleep, clothing, food or other services as a result of the explosion had been overlooked or neglected. With the initial work completed, the Red Cross Disaster Relief Committee, of which Thomas W. Hulme was overall chairman, began a Disaster Relief Fund. It was estimated by the Red Cross that $40,000 would be needed for relief work to help the stricken families; in less than three weeks a community fund-raising drive sponsored by the Wayne Branch of the American Red Cross produced over $38,000 in donations from individuals and business establishments in the area. This included $2176 collected by the cadets for family support.

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- James Ipri
- James Galano
- Angelo Caruso
- Alfredo Salamone
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- John Lucero

### One Hundred and Twenty-One Families, Including a Number of Italian Descent, Registered for Assistance, with Ninety-Four Selected on the Basis of Need, Receiving Rehabilitation Awards. A Local Advisory Committee Assisted in Determining the Awards. Included on the Committee Were Messrs. Hulme and Harvey, Mrs. Brooks, Col. Franklin McFadden, Mrs. Alan Calvert and A. J. Drexel Paul. In its final report, the Red Cross commended the efforts of the American Legion and its Auxiliaries, the Neighborhood League, The Wayne Chamber of Commerce, the area’s fire and police departments, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, The Devon Citizens’ Association, the I.A.C., churches and schools of the community, the press and various officials.

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By the end of the drive, a total of $45,052.32 was raised, over $41,500 from the general appeal to the community, with the balance coming from contributions from the American Red Cross and its Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter. Disbursements included $26,000 for repairs to damaged buildings, $10,800 for the maintenance of disaster sufferers injured and unable to work, $1300 for food, household goods and medical supplies, and $1700 for family support. Administrative and other miscellaneous costs were less than $200.

One hundred and twenty-one families, including a number of Italian descent, registered for assistance, with ninety-four selected on the basis of need, receiving rehabilitation awards. A local advisory committee assisted in determining the awards. Included on the Committee were Messrs. Hulme and Harvey, Mrs. Brooks, Col. Franklin McFadden, Mrs. Alan Calvert and A. J. Drexel Paul. In its final report, the Red Cross commended the efforts of the American Legion and its Auxiliaries, the Neighborhood League, The Wayne Chamber of Commerce, the area’s fire and police departments, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, The Devon Citizens’ Association, the I.A.C., churches and schools of the community, the press and various officials.

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