

THE BULLETIN
of
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Headquarters and Museum

THE FINLEY HOUSE

113 WEST BEECH TREE LANE
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IN MEMORIAM

ISABELLA

AULD

McKNIGHT

1902 - 1986



Isabella Auld McKnight once described Wayne as "A nice place to live." She was a lifelong resident of Wayne and a familiar figure as she vigorously went about her activities. She enjoyed life in Wayne, cared about Wayne and in her unassuming way sought to enhance life for all in the community.

In an age in which the milestones of life are often moves from one location to another, she was born in Wayne and never left. She once said her family moved late to Wayne—not until 1888 when the family moved into the house her father built on Bellevue Avenue.

A quiet, caring person she saw good in all and used her energies and resources to show her love for her community and friends. For many years as a director of the Radnor Historical Society, she contributed her wit, wisdom and perspective on events to the Society's affairs. As executrix of Miss Finley's estate she was responsible for gifts of artifacts of the Finley family to enhance the Society's collection.

An active member of the Wayne Presbyterian Church, she was proud of her seventy-six years of perfect attendance at the Church School. Her contribution of time and money accomplished more than she chose to realize or sought credit for. The contributions were returned to her in love and affection by all who knew her.

As the accompanying article in this issue of the **Bulletin** describes, at a critical time in the history of the North Wayne community she quietly stepped forward with a gift of a park that enhanced life for the years to come.

In 1981 Miss McKnight consented to record an oral history tape. It is a beautiful tribute to her love of the simple graces of life. Oyster suppers at her Church with "oysters you could see". The woods next to Eagle Road were a place to have a good time. Swimming in summer, skating in winter, black raspberries, strawberries, chestnuts and hickory nuts and violets on the hillside. When thanked for participating in the oral history project she exhibited her always present good humor by responding, "Keep the change but don't spend it foolishly."

A daughter of Wayne and a caring contributor to her community and the Society, it is all together fitting that this issue of the Radnor Historical Society **Bulletin** is dedicated to her memory.

ISABELLA AULD McKNIGHT THE FIREHOUSE AND THE PARK

By Arthur H. Moss

(Ed. Note: Mr. Moss is presently serving on the Board of Directors of the Radnor Historical Society.)

This is an account of a gift by Isabella Auld McKnight to the North Wayne Community which solved a problem of the use of the old firehouse of the North Wayne Protective Association and led to the creation of Merryvale Park on West Beech Tree Lane. At the time I happened to be president of the North Wayne Protective Association. As a result I was fortunate to play a role in effecting Isabella's gift. For myself it was a marvelous and very personal experience in sacrificial giving which I can only describe in the personal tense.

Miss McKnight's one restriction from the outset was that her role not be disclosed during her lifetime. With her death that restriction no longer applies. The story is worth telling as a tribute to Isabella Auld McKnight and to record a bit of history of North Wayne and Radnor Township.

The first contact I ever had with Isabella McKnight was a telephone call from her one Saturday afternoon in 1965. We had never met and the only reason she called me was because I was then the president of the North Wayne Protective Association. As a result of the ensuing meeting the way was opened for a solution to a community problem involving the building then owned by the Anthony Wayne American Legion Post which had originally been the Protective Association's firehouse. It led directly to the creation of Merryvale Park located across East Beech Tree Lane from the entrance to the Radnor Historical Society. And it was solely the result of Isabella McKnight's generosity.

From the initial meeting on May 9, 1885 for the formation of an organization of residents of Wayne north of the railroad tracks, the organization, which adopted the name "North Wayne Association", was concerned about mutual protection against fire. Continually thereafter the Association included in its primary concerns the provision of firehose, a hosecart, axes, a ladder, buckets, an effective alarm system, and the organization of a fire brigade. Within the year a modest firehouse was erected on land owned by Drexel and Childs, the developers of Wayne.

In the spring of 1888, Drexel and Childs donated a small parcel of land on Lansdale Avenue, now West Beech Tree Lane. It was given to the Association on condition that it erect an engine house, a requirement satisfied by moving to the land the existing building used as an engine house at a cost of \$14.98.

By 1890 both the community and the Association were maturing. The decision was made to incorporate with the name "North Wayne Protective Association," funds were raised and by August of 1891 a new firehouse was erected with storage space for fire equipment on the first floor, a meeting room on the second floor and a tower for the fire bell. It was located at the same place as the earlier hose house but on a larger tract of land donated by Drexel and Childs, across the street from the Finley's home, now the headquarters of the Radnor Historical Society.

When Radnor Township organized a fire company in 1906, the Association gradually disposed of its fire fighting equipment. It continued to use the firehouse as a meeting place but the building fell into less and less use until finally in 1923 it was sold to the Anthony Wayne Post of the American Legion. The Legion Post used the building as a meeting hall both for the Legion Post and other community groups but this use atrophied until by 1964 the building had become a burden on the now inactive

Legion Post. The Legion Post sought to solve its problem by renting the building as a modest residence.

And therein began a long series of problems which would have been completely comical if not so disturbing to the community. The tenant dealt in used, virtually junk, cars parked up and down the street in front of neighbors' houses and engaged in a loud and highly publicized feud with his next door neighbor.

My predecessor as president of the North Wayne Protective Association, Berton Winograd, and then I, as his successor, received a steady barrage of telephone calls and complaints from the neighborhood to say nothing about complaints directed to the Township. The Township cooperated by creating no parking zones on Beech Tree Lane but was able to do little else. The no parking zone did lead to one humorous footnote. The Historical Society directors all received parking tickets when they attended one of their meetings.

In short, the situation had deteriorated into a noisy, acrimonious, apparently insoluble, problem.

It was in this environment that Miss McKnight telephoned one Saturday afternoon and asked if we could meet and discuss the problem. The next day, on December 5, 1965, when we met she indicated that she wished to make available up to \$5,000 to be used to purchase the old firehouse, raze the building and make some permanent disposition of the property. She wanted any tenants out, the building was truly not habitable anyway, and she wanted the community problem solved and she wanted to remain anonymous.

Since the North Wayne Protective Association does not qualify as a charitable organization, I explored ways of organizing the matter, possibly with the cooperation of the Township, so that Isabella's gift could be tax deductible. Isabella, however, quietly told me not to concern myself with that, she said she already gave more than she could deduct. In an age when giving is inextricably tied to the tax law, this remains to me a unique experience in truly selfless and sacrificial giving.

On Saturday, December 11, 1965, Bert Winograd and I met with Rocco Odorisio and Ted Brooks at my home. Both were members of the Legion Post and Rocco Odorisio was a Township Commissioner. We pointed out that any use of the property by the Legion Post would meet with certain community opposition but that, thanks to any anonymous donor, the Association was able to purchase the property. An offer of \$2,800 was extended. Ted Brooks and Rocco Odorisio wanted \$3,500, but finally, after much discussion we settled on Rocco Odorisio's suggested compromise of \$3,200. Ted Brooks finally, and reluctantly, acquiesced.

I reported this discussion to Isabella McKnight. Her reaction was "Let's not have anyone unhappy. Maybe the Legion Post can use the money. We should pay \$3,500." So it was done. On December 13, 1965 I conveyed a formal offer to the Legion Post to purchase the property for that amount.

All these events were communicated to the directors and ultimately the members of the Association but always in terms of actions by an anonymous donor. The directors and members had to take it on faith that there really was someone who would make the funds available. This did lead directly to a wonderful example of Isabella's sensitivity. As the Association moved to enter into a formal agreement with the Legion Post I realized that the Association had no funds with which to purchase the property if something happened to Isabella. My concern about offending Isabella was balanced by my concern about defaulting on the Agreement with the Legion Post. When I gently, and with some trepidation, broached the subject to Isabella, she cut me off in the middle of the sentence. With a smile, she quietly said "You're afraid something will happen to me." And so on December 15, 1965 she signed a letter agreement committing herself to fund the acquisition of the property, the razing of the

building and improving the lot. It was and remains a highpoint in what developed into numerous contacts with Isabella McKnight in the years to come.

Thereafter the purchase of the property followed a more routine pattern. On January 8, 1966 Ted Brooks certified to me that the Legion Post members agreed to accept the offer. On January 15, 1966 a formal Agreement of Sale was executed subject to membership approval. On January 19, 1966 the Association's members met at the Historical Society and authorized the purchase of the property. Authorization to raze the building was deferred and a committee formed to investigate the uses of the property.

Final settlement was held on April 15, 1966, the date being delayed to permit Isabella to collect a dividend on the stock she was selling to fund the purchase. On April 4, 1966 she presented a check to me in the amount of \$3,416, she had already made a \$350 deposit available. It included sufficient funds to pay the balance of the purchase price, purchase title insurance and to have a survey made which Isabella considered desirable.

In order to attain Isabella's objectives of preserving the property for the public the property was conveyed to myself and immediately reconveyed to the Association by a deed reciting that it was being purchased for the benefit of the North Wayne Community with funds from an anonymous donor and restricting future use "solely for purposes of the North Wayne Community."

In June, Isabella forwarded a check for the balance of the \$5,000 with a letter saying in part:

"...I was mighty glad that you had put it down in black and white in the deed that the property was to be held, not sold. I cannot see why so many things must be turned into money these days. There are other ways to be helpful or to do good. Of course I realize my action will make work for some members as the property will have to be cared for but I think it will be worth it.

"When the lot is cleared it may not appear to be such a small piece of ground. The yard area surrounding many houses is not any larger. I still think it would make an attractive little park (The Merryvale) and I know such a use would appeal more to the nearby property owners than some of the other uses suggested. Shrub and tree planting should not be too dense. Perhaps some residents of North Wayne would walk a little more (I don't mean dog-walking) if they had such a destination where they could relax on a bench in the sun or the shade; or the park might be a resting place for folks up our way going to and from the stores or train. It might be a pleasant place to eat a sandwich (Throw the wrappings in the refuse can or take them home, please.) or to read a book, or to meet a friend for a chat. Of course it will take a while for grass, shrubs and trees to grow but eventually they can make the plot beautiful in all seasons of the year. Do you know of any place in North Wayne (other than your home) where you are free to walk in and sit on the nice, green grass or a comfortable bench to rest or admire the handiwork of other civic minded neighbors? I don't.

"...I hate to see the old firehouse go but I can hardly wait to see what the place will look like without it. I hope you will keep me informed as plans and work progress. Thank you again. If I can be of any help, please let me know."

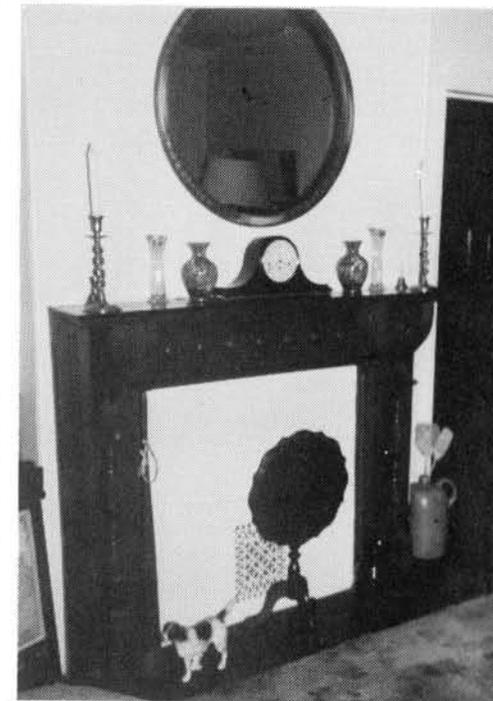
At the annual meeting of the Association on June 7, 1966, it was determined that it was not practical to preserve the building and that it should be razed.

The property was not sufficiently deep to border on North Wayne field. In 1967, the Association, as contemplated in the deed for the property, exchanged some of its property with an adjoining property owner so that the property abutted the playing field. The effect was to create a longer, more narrow strip of land which could be landscaped and provide both a park and a convenient way to get to North Wayne field.

As contemplated by Isabella McKnight when the park was completed it was named

the Merryvale to recall the name of a young people's athletic association which Isabella remembered from her youth.

The completion of the park, fortunately for me, did not terminate my contacts with Isabella McKnight. They continued through Church and the Historical Society and her interest in the Park. I regularly received reports from her about work that should be performed, a fence to repair, pruning to be accomplished and so forth. In one of our last conversations about the Park I again asked her to make her role known and once again she said "after I'm dead is plenty of time." The time has come when that recognition can be given. It is good to be able to do so.



Interior scenes of Isabella Auld McKnight's home

Horace Trumbauer in Wayne and St. Davids by Frederick Platt

(Ed. Note: Mr. Platt is writing a book, **The Architecture of Horace Trumbauer**, on which this article is based. This article is the first of three installments.)

Even after suburban growth began in earnest, Radnor Township did not become so thickly inhabited as communities nearer the city. A dozen miles from the center of Philadelphia, this corner of Delaware County retained a rural nature which dates back to the Welsh settlers of the 1680s. Commuters who rode the Pennsylvania Railroad that much farther along its Main Line could occupy roomier estates, perfect settings for mansions designed by Horace Trumbauer (1868-1938). Planned developments of smaller homes also appeared so that Radnor Township displays a representative range of his residential work. Most structures by the lifelong Philadelphian were erected in or around the city, where an outer ring of dwellings in prosperous suburbs enclose such landmarks as the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Free Library of Philadelphia. Beyond the region he produced townhouses along Fifth Avenue and "cottages" in Newport as well as the Widener Library at Harvard and virtually the entire campus of Duke University. Edifices west to Colorado and east to England made him far from a local architect. Soon after opening his own office downtown in 1890, he started to build in Radnor Township, though on a more modest scale than when he ceased almost a career later.

George W. Childs, publisher of the **Public Ledger** newspaper in Philadelphia, had joined with banker Anthony J. Drexel to develop land on either side of the train tracks through the village of Wayne. Up-to-date civilities included steam heat from a central plant, the electric light, and an impressive system of drains. Most likely the project's builders Herman Wendell and Walter Smith brought Trumbauer onto the scene as they would again for their two similar developments that Childs and Drexel financed at Germantown and Overbrook. Before settling down to uniform vagueness, Trumbauer's records commence in such a jumble that linking them with particular houses at Wayne is sometimes impossible. Fortunately the Wendell & Smith ledgers survive in the collection of the Radnor Historical Society to help clear up matters that an inspection tour makes obvious.

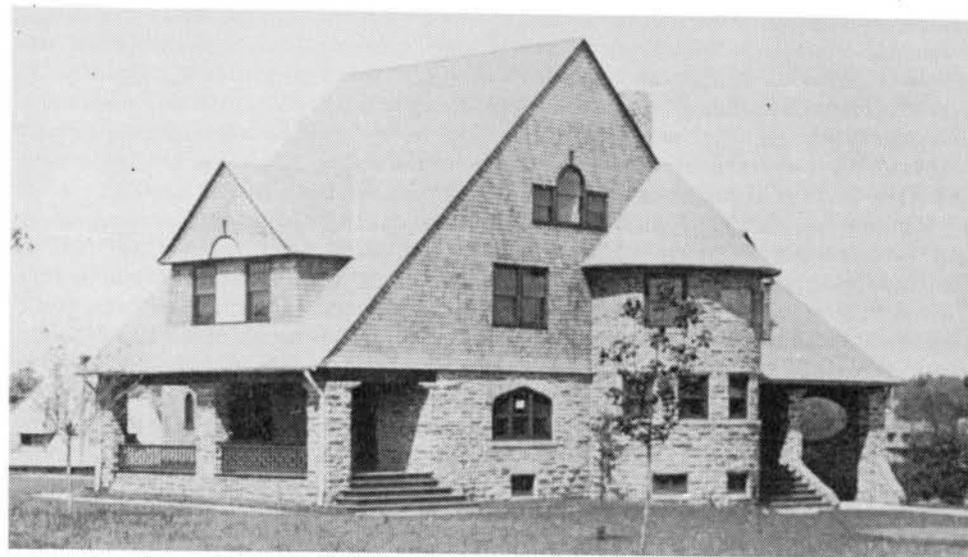
Well under way by 1890, North Wayne was the half that got developed slightly earlier. Most often its comparatively modest residences were designed by yet another pair, the brothers Price, Frank L. (c1860-1907) and William L. (1861-1916). Not until 1891 did Trumbauer make his lone contribution with an identical pair of clapboard houses. One is the third house on the south side of Beechtree Lane east from Woodland Avenue (with a later stable by another hand) while the other is the second on the west side of Chestnut Lane south from Eagle Road. Wendell & Smith labeled them "colonial" for the fashion in these years of protohistorical styles was to call structures after any traces of traditional detailing such as, in this instance, the dentil band of over-and-under cuts. Howell Bean the next year in Elkins Park on the other side of the city built himself a simplified rendition lacking the bell shape to the tower roof, the brick chimney rising high from the lower pitch at the front of the gambrel roof, and an extra roof flap at rear to cover further porch area. In that version the house appeared in **Scientific American, Architects and Builders Edition** from June 1894. Since the magazine offered plans for the edifices that it published, could not more of these houses exist who-knows-where?

In fact a reduced model can be seen on the south side of Lancaster Pike between Aberdeen and Pembroke Avenues, where it currently serves as a real estate office.

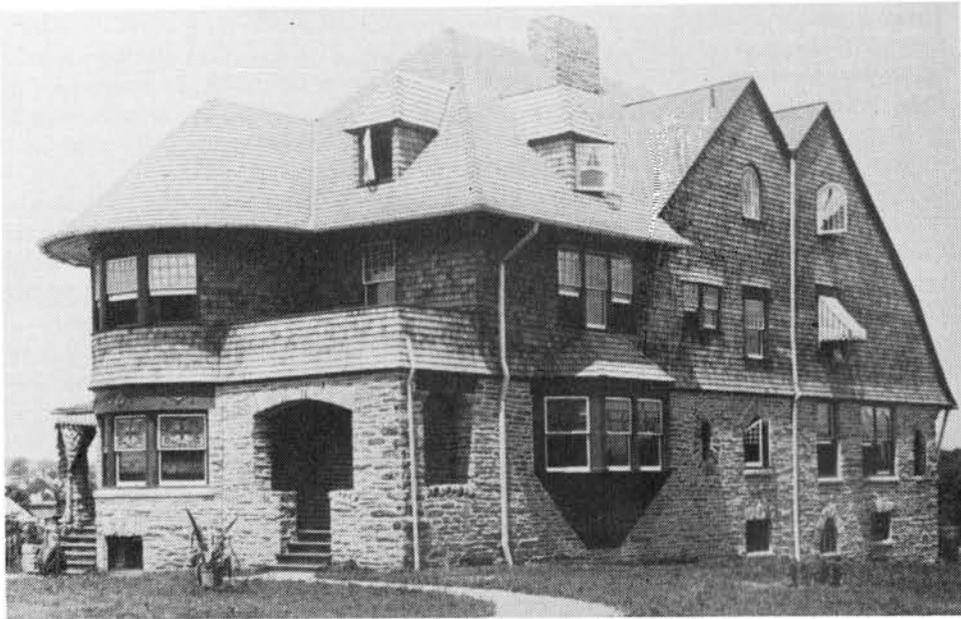
Turning west from Aberdeen will reveal the second and fourth houses along the south side of Windermere Avenue to be full-size examples. With first floor of stone plus a large semicircular two-story bay at left, a souped-up specimen on the north side of Upland Way is today on the third lot from Louella Avenue although only the Treat property (of which more later) intervened originally. These four of Trumbauer's "colonials," however, stand on the other side of the tracks.

South Wayne—so the companion development was predictably called—quickly followed with larger residences and Trumbauer more in evidence. Wendell & Smith erected some homes on speculation while individual buyers ordered others from those same builders. Some are listed in Wayne while others farther east get put in St. Davids, a stop that the Childs-Drexel interests prevailed upon the railroad to establish at the other end of town. Its name derives from the ancient church which in fact sits beyond the county line, as does the home of "Mad Anthony" Wayne, the Revolutionary War general whose name had previously been usurped.

First yet most forward-looking among these other houses was the residence for Joseph B. Seybert. All from 1892, the remainder are tower houses in what had might as well be called the Queen Anne style, but the one its owner named Walthawstone took a hesitatingly step in 1891 toward the Georgian with which the mature architect would make frequent variations. The stone intrinsic to the other houses rised fully to the bottom of the first-floor windows here, after which stucco walls take over. Smooth walls are brought to life by such **bas** details as the hoods above the roundtop windows both front and rear in the end gables or the moulding around the panel at center separating the second-story windows. From this recessed section protrudes a portico with a semicircular projection at its own center, all atop a cascade of steps similarly straight-curved-straight with widths increasing. Symmetry is relaxed across the flush rear where flat porte-cochere resting on Tuscan columns surmounts steps with mounting block in the middle. Any trace of porch roof gets crowned by the delicate balustrades between finialed pedestals that soon became a trademark as would the careful attention paid the chimney and the heavy lintels that in this case sit even astride the Palladian windows.



Trumbauer residence designed for
Wendell and Smith, 314 Louella Ave., Wayne



A Trumbauer home for Frederick Treat (Upland Way view), Wayne

Complete with their swags, these windows can, however, be seen also on the 1885-86 residence for H.A.C. Taylor at Newport, suggesting influence from the well-published design by Charles Follen McKim (1847-1909) of McKim, Mead & White. From the side of that much larger abode, the three dormers—pointed, broken curve with finial, pointed—has worked their way around to the facade of the mid-size reduction. At its own side the Seybert house shows that it has not wholly surpassed the waning randomness. Outer columns are three instead of the even number classically correct while the wide, round piazza beloved of the architect carries the center column toward the rear so that it is not allowed beneath the evenly-spaced pedestal. Built in the following year and converted to a private dwelling in 1978, the stable is likewise betwixt. Above stucco walls the eyebrow dormer at right recalls the recent styles but below an octagonal cupola the gambrel pediment at left presents a shingle version of a Palladian window with a series of side panels. A pair of houses replaced the old residence after it burned down. Definitely in St. Davids, it stood on St. Davids Road west of its meeting St. Davids Court.

For builders Wendell & Smith, three nearly identical renditions of the same house were undertaken during 1892. Upper floors are within a huge gable that sweeps forward at right to make a conical roof for the semicircular tower. A second gable from the right porch passes through to emerge as the big dormer at left end. Several other elements remain constant, such as the Palladian windows: one in a dormer facing front to the right of the chimney alongside the tower, one at the third floor, and one a trick version in the left dormer, where windows lighting a pair of bedrooms surround a blind panel with arch above. Another of the five bedrooms surmounts the wooden kitchen wing at rear. Stone comprises both stories of the tower but otherwise only the first floor of the house, although reappearing on the angled fireplaces in reception hall and library.

Variations prevent their becoming tract homes. Of the two along Louella Avenue opposite Upland Way, that to the left, acquired by W.R. Verner, has a pointed opening at the close of its porte-cochere but that to the right, belonging first to E. de V. Morrell,

has an oval beneath the hip roof. Meanwhile the house that Katharine MacKellar bought on St. Davids Road above the start of Orchard Way omits the carriage porch altogether to terminate in a half-timbered gable with bargeboards carved along their lower third. (Built that same year in Wyncote, a matching residence for Henry K. Walt turns the porte-cochere into a roundporch to overlook an extensive garden.) A porch extends halfway back at the other side of the MacKellar house, all the way through on the Morrell house, then gets filled in on the Verner house. Principal window on the first-floor facade of the Louella Avenue houses bears a Tudor arch although facing St. Davids Road is a rectangle with side panels. Each plaque centered under the tower eaves contains a different design.

Dividing the pair on Louella Avenue is an abode somewhat similar but ashlar masonry and narrow tower with dormers help prove it not Trumbauer's. For many years his house to the right quartered the Wayne Art Club. That on St. Davids Road is exhibited in **Scientific American** builders edition for November 1896. All three possess stables though none are entered in the architect's records.

Louella Avenue would receive two more houses on either side of Upland Way. On the southeast corner still stands an effort by a young architect who tried to show what he could do by doing everything at once. From the start he had produced sizable residences, yet not until the next year would Gray Towers, the W.W. Harrison castle at Glenside, establish him as a mansion builder. Nonessentials tend to get eliminated more and more as an artist matures but nothing from Wyndhurst got eliminated because nothing was thought nonessential. That this house for banker John H. Watts fits together, let alone into the neighborhood, can be credited to innate ability.

Beneath the conical roof of the stone tower, a panel of windows interrupts a shingle band. Behind a double dormer with three gable roofs conjoined rises a pierced chimney. Beyond is a pediment with Palladian window—and all this is on merely the top story. Gothic windows alternate on the lower floors of the tower, which sits on a terrace wide, round and buttressed. Also of stone, the entranceway crested by cat steps continues this Dutch feature on one of the wind walls although the other is smooth. Down from the pediment hangs a two-story bay while at rear a tall window likewise links the shingles of the second story to the first of stone. Centered above the stone facade, the bay reasserts itself in the shape of the dormer emerging from the hip roof on the wooden stable—today a private residence.

At the St. Davids end of town, the structure got reversed for the home of leather merchant Charles S. Walton and the former Martha E. England. Once the family moved to the estate that is now Eastern Baptist College, the name Walmarthon would be transferred to the 1912 mansion by David Knickerbocker Boyd (1872-1944). Midland Circle has replaced the earlier dwelling and its considerable stable, although the house remains to be seen—in color, no less—in **Scientific American** builders edition for February 1893. A full description speaks of a main hall in oaken Gothic, a dining room in the colonial style, along with parlor, library, and several service rooms. Each upper floor had four bedrooms and one bathroom accompanied by a sitting room on the second as well as a storage room and a linen closet on the third. (Reversed back to the Watts plan, the house reappeared that same year in Wyncote as the residence of W.A. Cochran.)

Closer to its northeast corner, the residence for Frederick H. Treat called for two facades, neither particularly formal but with random features blending smoothly. Extended accordingly from the shorter side toward Upland Way, the tower is clad like the rest of the structure in shingles above and stone below. Windows cluster in threes under either wide eaves that continue halfway around the house or a strong lintel flat yet festooned. Over the stone porch that grows from the right of the tower, the shingles become the parapet. Atop the Louella Avenue front, the balcony within the

big pediment emanates from surrounding shingles as the large dormer does from slates. Just touching this roof with its own, the entranceway seamlessly combines with another porch also to the right, while at left a stone handrail circles upward to a recessed porch. Except for a deep bay containing the art glass discovered throughout the house, the long rear is planar, its interest drawn from its variety of windows. During the following year the house was erected again for Emma G. Schwartz in Jenkintown but neither building survives. After this client formed a partnership with Herman Wendell, the architect in 1899 designed a house at Essex Falls, New Jersey for Wendell & Treat.

Stables often got ordered separately, not necessarily from the architect of the residence. Benjamin P. Obdyke lived on the north side of Midland Road in the second house west from St. Davids Road. However engaging, the wooden stable there is not what Trumbauer designed in 1892. Entering a flat \$30 instead of the customary percentage, the architect's accounts suggest that his plans went unexecuted. Obdyke would have to wait until 1900 when Trumbauer built him an ample home in Overbrook with a stable to follow in 1904.

Lincluden was the 11-acre estate owned by William Edward Helme, partner in Helme & McIlhenny, manufacturers of gas meters. Horace Trumbauer repeatedly got called back for alterations to the stable in 1901, to the residence in 1909-10 including a separate summons for the kitchen wing, and to the garage in 1917. Beneath a photograph of the gray stone mansion, **King's Views of Philadelphia** from 1902 cites him as architect. As in another caption, that encyclopedic tome is mistaken about his work, since this resembles none other of his houses. (The wrong manor in England gets cited as the basis for the Wyncote residence of John Gribbel, who also made gas meters, though this coincidence could hardly account for such unsolid data.) The terrace atop the hill would be right but the long flight of stairs to the awkward portico is wrong. He might put the Palladian window in the pediment but not relegate his round tops to the basement. Where else can be found an oriel like the bell-roofed one set into the second story or the panels joining upper to lower windows? Omitting any reference to the original construction of this residence, his records once again prove complete. Built from scratch, though, was the gardener's cottage from 1906. Gate posts like those he erected in 1910 tend to survive their estates, yet every trace was



The Trumbauer-designed home of Joseph B. Seybert, St. Davids

obliterated during the 1940s when St. Davids Park, garden apartments designed by James G. Ludwig III (born 1910), took over the southeast corner of Lancaster Pike and St. Davids Road.

Just south of West Wayne Avenue, A. Merritt Taylor owned a house erected circa 1885 along the west side of Atlee Road. On the local scene he was president of the Philadelphia & West Chester Traction Co., suggesting business ties to the Widener and Elkins families, the architect's perennial promoters. Holding the same office at the New Jersey & Hudson River Railway & Ferry Co., Taylor has in 1900 commissioned a carousel and bandstand for the company-owned amusement park, since vanished from Edgewater, New Jersey. (For all his reputation as the creator of august mansions, Trumbauer produced not a few amusement parks, most memorably that at Willow Grove.) Now in 1911 would Taylor call upon the architect to do over his house. Dormers appeared around the roof, among them an impressive row of six across the street front, where the familiar round hood shelters the front door between curved brackets. Most prominent innovation was the double-decker porch of wood at the south end, glassed in above the parapets connecting the tiers of four Tuscan columns. This may have been when the house was first stuccoed, for the blueprint list indicates a thorough reworking including medicine closet and flower boxes.

Only one blueprint got drawn and the name C.W. Bayliss occurs nowhere in the account ledgers, so that the alteration proposed for his house probably went by the boards in 1919. Still a one-story addition crosses what had been the rear terrace nor is the kitchen original. In any case the dwelling at 210 Pembroke Avenue, the second property on the south side of the road east from Louella Avenue, has the rare distinction among country houses of getting cited in the architect's records with the street name and even the number. Meanwhile had Horace Trumbauer been building major mansions in the township at Radnor and Villanova but those are two other stories for future **Bulletins**.



Residence for William Watts, Wayne, designed by Trumbauer

**THEODORE BOREHAM BROOKS
MEMORIAL WAGON HOUSE
by Herbert S. Henderson**

(Ed. Note: The following is the talk Mr. Henderson delivered at the dedication ceremony of the wagon house in honor of Mr. Brooks. Mr. Henderson is presently on the Board of Directors.)

As an engineer, I probably should tell you how long, wide and high the Wagon House is, how many board feet of what kinds of lumber was required in its building and other like data.

I reviewed the **Bulletins** of the Society, and I was surprised to find how early the seed was planted leading to the need for this structure.

In 1947 Mrs. Malcolm G. Sausser gathered with a few friends to discuss the forming of the Historical Society in Radnor Township. After many private and public meetings, a preliminary plan for the organization and incorporation of the Society was presented to over forty people at a meeting at the Radnor High School, and a standing committee was elected.

The first official meeting of the Society was held May 12, 1948, with forty-one persons present. At this meeting a presentation was made on incorporation, the granting of a charter and the work of the steering committee in establishing the Society. A full complement of officers and directors was elected. Mr. Herbert S. Casey was elected president.

The first **Bulletin** of the Society — Spring, 1950 — briefly described the meetings from 1947 to 1950 and included a list of 150 members as of 1950.

This listing of April, 1950 included Thornton Oakley, a noted artist and designer of the Society seal, E. Dorothy Finley and Theodore B. Brooks, directly or indirectly associated with the wagon house.

Portions of the residence of Miss E. Dorothy Finley, with her kind permission, were established as headquarters of the Society. The members got to work immediately in the restoration of the original fireplace and Dutch oven in the old colonial kitchen in the basement for meetings and storage of artifacts.

The **Bulletin** of the Society — Volume 1, No. 3, Spring 1953 — was published in the **Suburban and Wayne Times**, dated Friday, April 3, 1953. The main article, by Thornton Oakley, was entitled "The Conestoga Wagon." His first paragraph was as follows: "The Conestoga Wagon, what inestimable service did this amazing vehicle render to our countrymen during the dramatic century from 1750-1850." His great, great grandfather, John Oakley, used the Conestoga most effectively when, as Washington's Commissary General, he was responsible for the provision of food and supplies to the encampment at Valley Forge. Mr. Oakley loved the Conestoga so much that he bought one in upper Pennsylvania and with the work horse, the Pittsburgh Wagon, he housed them in a shed on the grounds of his home in Villanova, called "Woodstock." Mr. Oakley died on April 4, 1953; and in his will he deeded the

Conestoga and Pittsburgh wagons to the Society, permitting them to stay at Woodstock until the Society acquired a permanent home for them.

Prior to her death in April, 1964, Miss Edith Dorothy Finley deeded her home, the "Homestead" now known as the "Finley House," to the Radnor Historical Society. This generous gift enabled the Society to comply with Mr. Oakley's stipulations of "providing a permanent home for the wagons," as there was plenty of room for such a building on the grounds of the Finley House.

In previous years the Society budget was approximately \$600.00. In 1964 the Board decided on a \$17,000.00 budget to cover necessary repairs to the house, installing an apartment on the second floor (originally for a caretaker then as a revenue producing unit) and the construction of a permanent home for the Oakley Wagons and storage of other large objects. Cash on hand and funds contributed in a special campaign was insufficient by \$10,100.00. The balance was borrowed by the board and paid off in increments in approximately seven years.

The Wagon House was designed by James C. Massey, Jr., a member, and was constructed by the firm of one of the founders, Theodore B. Brooks, for the sum of \$3979.23. We honor him today, not only for his contribution in the construction of this building, but also for his many years of service to the Society as a director.

Mr. Oakley also contributed all the items necessary for the maintenance of the wagons, such as the jacks and the wagon bells, located on the front wall of the wagon house.

The early 1900 hose cart was contributed by the Radnor fire chief, Mr. Clark, in 1966. The two large display cases were contributed by Mrs. M.T. Nightwine in 1967. One of the cases displays a collection of wood working tools contributed by Mr. James B. Ives, formerly of St. Davids, in 1979. These tools were used by Mr. Ives' father in the construction of many churches and other buildings in the Wellsboro, Pennsylvania area. The gas lamp post, a gift of Mrs. William Koller, originally stood on Lancaster Avenue.

In 1968, 1970, and 1971, Mr. Herman Lengel, a charter member of the Society, who called himself a jobbing carpenter, contributed the following items: two long augurs, a cherry picker, an iron pot, his work bench, a wooden water bucket, five pulley blocks and two lanterns.

In 1970 the Germantown carriage was contributed by Miss Elinor Curwen and her sister, Mrs. Edward F. McKeen. They also contributed the following items: a wheat cradle, a milk or work sleigh, used by the Curwen family at "Walnut Hill" their home in Villanova, a child's wagon, miniature of a Conestoga and used by the Curwen children.

The rug beaters, a gift of Miss Isabella Auld McKnight, had originally belonged to the Finley House. The nineteenth century sleigh was contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Peterson in 1974. The stone, dated 1775, was contributed by the Sun Oil Company, who retrieved it when the Thomas homestead, a shell, was torn down.

In 1982 one of our latest and largest items, a hay wagon, was contributed by Mr. George E. Bovell. This wagon came from one of the old buildings at Waynesboro, the ancestral home of General Anthony Wayne. In order to house the hay wagon, it was necessary to rearrange many of the items present. This resulted in total occupancy of the space available, although we could hang items on the walls and small items from the rafters.

If any of you have a large item of antique value, such as a fire truck, and you wish to give it to the Society, please give the directors of the Society plenty of time to provide a permanent home for the item, such as an extension to the Wagon House. Although they would hope to do better, remember it took ten years to provide accommodations for the Conestoga and another seven years to pay for it.

COOKING FROM AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY KITCHEN GARDEN by Clarissa F. Dillon, Ph.D.

(Ed. note: Ms. Dillon delivered the following talk to the Society on Nov. 11, 1986.)

Kitchen gardens were strictly utilitarian; all the plants were grown for use. Some were culinary, others medicinal. It is often difficult to separate plants into one category or the other since the eighteenth-century division was into useful or ornamental.

Feeding the family would have been high on a list of domestic priorities and would, for a rural housewife, have included growing and preserving the food as well as cooking and serving it. Both rural and urban households had kitchen gardens which were usually under the care of the housewife, with the help of female servants and children. For the work of a kitchen garden of one-quarter to one-third acre, I postulate eight hours a day six days a week from early spring through mid-autumn. Philadelphia households without kitchen gardens used the markets.

Diet in eighteenth-century southeastern Pennsylvania was based on grains and meat. Grains were not only milled into flour for baking; they were also cooked and eaten as porridge, and used in soups, as side-dishes, or as main-dish meals with meat, vegetables, and seasonings. According to Acrelius, a Swedish clergyman here, the English were meat-eaters, at every meal if they could afford it.

Culinary plants from the kitchen garden provided variety in otherwise monotonous meals. During the growing season, plants were eaten fresh. If eaten raw, they were called salad-herbs; if cooked, they were called pot-herbs. Root vegetables and hard-shelled fruits like squash were easily stored for out-of-season use. Seasonality was a much more significant aspect for eighteenth-century people than for us today.

Food preservation occupied a great deal of time. Skill, care, and luck enabled a housewife to provide foods year-round to maintain her family's health, prevent certain conditions or problems, and provide more interesting and savory meals. Many foods were dried, but this is chancy in a climate as humid as ours. Dried foods were later reconstituted by soaking overnight and then cooked. Plants dried for flavoring were merely added to the food during or after the cooking process. Pickling, using salt and/or vinegar, was a common form of preservation. It was used for more than cucumbers; they picked asparagus, green beans*, purslane*, and radish pods* which are very unfamiliar to us today. Fruits were preserved in sugar and/or brandy by those who could afford the ingredients. Even in unsterilized containers sealed only with cloth or paper, there is surprisingly little mold, which can be spooned off and what is left of the preserved fruit can be safely eaten.

Cooking can go on unsupervised if the appropriate process is selected. Meats, grains and/or potatoes, and various vegetables and herbs will make a savory meal without much attention during the simmering. Porridge left over from breakfast could be sliced, fried, and eaten hot for supper. Foods were often made in quantity and then stored until needed. Even baked goods, like Raspberry bak'd Cakes*, can be kept for weeks before being eaten. Bread, cheese, beer, pickles, and salads made nutritious, sustaining hot-weather meals. There was seasonal variety but meals were probably very monotonous for ordinary people.

It is a mistake for us to use eighteenth-century cookbooks as the sole basis for foods and menus. Manuscript receipt books contain small collections which evidently appealed enough to the owners to copy. Printed cookbooks contained many different

receipts, often several for the same product or process. There were published cookbooks, like E. Smith's **The Compleat Housewife: or Accomplish'd Gentlewoman's Companion**, available here; Franklin advertised copies for sale in 1738.

There were three ways in which cookbooks were helpful. They provided essential preservation information as a housewife could put by many different foods, using processes which had worked successfully. Cookbooks could also provide receipts for traditional foods, such as Christmas dishes, which are prepared only once a year. The third use was for entertaining or cooking to impress guests. Thus, menus and cookbooks of the eighteenth century must be used with care since people ate what grew in the area and much of the cooking was done from experience using what was available in the garden, cellar, or storeroom.

My work in eighteenth-century-style kitchen gardening and plant uses is helping me learn more about what was done and how. Replication, that is, using equipment and processes like theirs, can flesh out information found in books and manuscripts of the period; sometimes finding out "how" they did things shows us "why." Using their receipts is always a challenge; their ingredients and proportions can give us a better idea of what foods tasted like or how they kept. In this way, we can feel closer to those who lived in this area two hundred years ago.

*Samples were provided for people to taste.

PAOLI TROOP NO. 1 CELEBRATES 75 YEARS 1911-1986 by Herbert S. Henderson

For most of its seventy-five years, Paoli Troop No. 1, Boy Scouts of America has been a Wayne troop. Traditionally, the troop has celebrated its birthday by conducting competitive field activities between its patrols and awarding of advancements. This, being a special birthday, they invited all former members to attend, coming from all over the United States.

A luncheon for over three hundred was held at the birthday site, the troop cabin, a two-story building constructed of telephone poles and located on sixteen acres off Radnor Road in Wayne.

In the evening more than two hundred people attended a dinner at the St. Davids Golf Club, where past members of the troop were honored. The Silver Eagle Award, scouting's highest award to adult members who work with the scouting movement, was given to two former scouts of Paoli No. 1 — Admiral James B. Wilson (retired) and Lt. Gen. Franklin Good, a retired Marine Corp officer.

Special mention was made during the ceremonies of deceased members who contributed so much to the troop. Two mentioned were Clifton Lisle, scoutmaster and innovator of many troop traditions, and Leland Smaltz, troop committee treasurer and procurer of the sixteen acre cabin site.

A CENTURY OF WARMTH: L.K. BURKET AND BROTHER'S CENTENNIAL by David Burket

(Ed. Note: Mr. Burket is currently vice president and marketing director of L.K. Burket and Brothers, and represents the firm's fourth generation of family management.)



Lee Keller Burket, 1899

In 1987, one of the Main Line's oldest firms, L.K. Burket and Brother, celebrates its one hundredth year of doing business in Radnor. In its original role as a coal supplier, the Burket company both fueled — and was fueled by — the success of Wayne, the nation's first planned suburban development.[1] Today a fuel oil supplier and air conditioning contractor, the company's longevity is due to the dedication of its employees, and to the business sense possessed and passed on by the two brothers who founded the company in the late 1800s.

According to family stories, Lee Keller Burket's first ambition was to leave the prosaic, semi-rural scene of his childhood. Born in 1859 on the family homestead in Sinking Valley (near Tyrone), Pennsylvania, Lee grew up in the shadow of his father, Colonel Emphraim Burket, an aide to Governor James Pollock in the 1850s, and an officer in the Union Army's 110th Regiment during the Civil War. Lee's other relatives were farmers, as most Burkets had been since their arrival from Germany in the late 1700s. Lee, however, was not bewitched by the bucolic. His interests included neither farming nor military life. Accordingly, after graduation from high school, he left home for Philadelphia, where for the next several years he worked in various capacities in the offices of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

In 1886, attracted by Radnor's potential for growth, the 27-year-old Lee and a business partner named Alexander established themselves on Pennsylvania Avenue as coal merchants. "Burket and Alexander" lasted for about a year, at which point Lee's younger brother, 25-year-old Elmer, entered the firm and its name was changed permanently to L. K. Burket and Bro.

Elmer was an amateur sculptor whose unique carvings attracted brief press attention in the early 1900s, but whose distaste for the commercial art world assured his artistic anonymity.[2] Fortunately for the partnership, Elmer's creativity extended to business affairs. With his affable nature he made friends easily, and he was known along the Main Line as an artful prankster and quick-witted conversationalist. Both he and his brother became involved in civic affairs, which undoubtedly helped them meet other local businessmen. Lee was elected Master of Wayne Lodge No. 581, F. & A. M. in 1893, and Elmer served as Lodge Treasurer for twenty-one years, from 1907 until his death in 1928. Elmer also served for several years as treasurer and elder of the Wayne Presbyterian Church. And both men belonged to local clubs such as the Euterpean, the Merryvale Athletic Association, and the Wayne Country Club.

In 1887, building contractors, hoping to duplicate the success of an earlier venture, built one hundred homes in what today is North Wayne. Radnor's population and Burket's coal sales increased steadily from this time on. Within two years of its founding, the company was being awarded township heating contracts and was supplying coal to many local merchants, as well as to local estates. In 1888, "General Wayne" was shortened to "Wayne," and, in a bonanza for the Burkets, became the second town in the nation to be wired for electricity. The generation of electricity required water or coal, and the absence of a river in Wayne pointed directly to Lee and Elmer's inviting mountains of anthracite. In fact, the Wayne Electric Light Company built its generating station next door to the Burket yard, possibly to ensure an uninterrupted fuel supply. The two companies jointly constructed an ingenious coal delivery system, consisting of suspended tracks and small, coal-carrying carts, that ran from Burket's yard directly into the electric company's furnaces.

Sales to the electric company formed a solid financial base for the Burket company, and the future for Lee and Elmer had the fuddy glow of pea coal in a pot-belly stove. To facilitate the delivery of coal to their yard, the brothers sought and received permission from the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1890 to build an elevated siding to their property from the main track. In 1894, the brothers built a large warehouse to accommodate their growing inventory of other goods. A list of items the company sold in this era included anthracite and bituminous coal in various sizes and grades; hickory, oak, and pine "Cut to Order"; oats; corn; bran; ground feed; linseed meal; baled hay; straw; lime; salt; peat moss; and finally, certain inscrutable poultry elixirs, whose blessings were fervently extolled in their manufacturers' handbills.[3]

After eight years in business, the Burket firm was providing coal to most of the estates and businesses within a three-mile radius of Wayne station. Customers on account placed orders by mail, and later by telephone at "Wayne 49." The company assured quick delivery using its fleet of five horse-drawn wagons, and frequently a single order would require several trips to fill. An average estate, for example, would burn fifty tons of coal over a winter, and the customer would often request that all fifty tons be delivered in late August or early September. Customers who could afford both the cost and the storage space took early delivery this way to reduce the risk of running out of fuel should a particularly lengthy coal miners' strike cut short supply. With the ample storage afforded by Burket's three acre yard, however, the company was always well prepared for strikes and war shortages and was never forced to curtail deliveries completely.

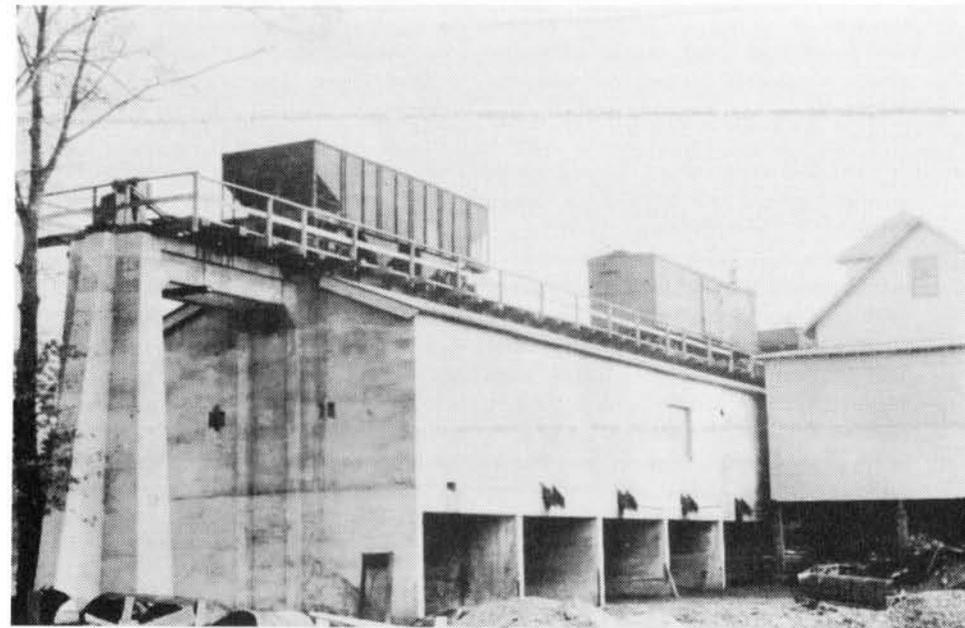
The most dramatic peril to the firm, financial or physical, came in 1896. On the last night of January, in a spectacular blaze that illuminated the immediate North Wayne neighborhood, the electric company burned to the ground. Although the fire did not spread next door to the Burket warehouse, the blaze was still not a pleasant turn of events for Lee and Elmer, who overnight lost their biggest customer. Fortunately, they were not dependent on the electric company for their fiscal survival; while coal sales presumably lagged temporarily, the rebuilt electric company was back in operation within a year and the Burkets were once again supplying it with coal.

As business increased steadily in the early 1900s, the company's feed and grain storage became strained to its limit. To ease the crunch, in 1904 the company constructed an addition to the 1894 warehouse, bringing total enclosed storage to approximately 62,000 square feet. While this was adequate for wood, grains, and most other goods, it did not relieve an increasingly desperate situation in the yard, where an alpine terrain of coal threatened to choke off passage from one side of the property to the other. The mess resulted from the method the railroad employed to deliver coal. From the main track, locomotives pushed coal cars across the trestle into position above the yard, where their cargo was released. Glittering black cataracts crashed through the tracks to the ground below, while a pulverized, onyx haze of coal dust billowed up, hung in the air for a lazy minute, then settled back down, slowly, coating everything with a charcoal grit. Exciting to watch, but navigating horse-drawn wagons around the aftermath was next to impossible.

Finally, in 1915, the brothers decided to corral the coal by building a huge set of iron-reinforced concrete coal bins under a new trestle from the main tracks. When completed, the capacity of this giant structure was 2000 tons of coal, which, when combined with 1000 tons of organized loose storage in the yard, was enough to supply an entire winter's worth of heat to sixty estates or to many more smaller homes. The whitewashed bins were easily recognized from passing trains and were one of the Main Line's most distinctive landmarks until deterioration from disuse forced their removal in 1986.



**Mountains of coal dominate the coal yard in 1897.
The electric company's smokestacks can be seen at rear.**



Newly constructed coal bins, 1916. Storage capacity was 2000 tons.

In contrast to the company's relatively energetic activity in its first thirty years, the next seventy tilted unequivocally toward the tedious. Several agricultural goods were dropped as demand for them fell; delivery trucks eventually replaced horse-drawn wagons; and in 1930, the company started selling heating oil, which along with natural gas was destined to replace coal as a preferred residential heating fuel. (The company stopped selling coal in 1972, after sales dropped to less than five tons a year.) In the mid-1970s, computers were introduced to increase the speed and flexibility of the firm's delivery and billing procedures.

Changes in managers did not alter the firm's steady advance. When Lee Burket died at 61 in 1920, Elmer became senior partner. When Elmer died at 67 in 1928, he left controlling interest to Lee's younger son, John Warren Burket (my grandfather), and minority interest to John's second cousin, Samuel Shutts. John Burket, however, suffering from tuberculosis, had two years earlier moved to Colorado for its drier air. Thus, for three decades, he managed the company's affairs from Denver via a steady exchange of letters with various employees, many of whom spent most of their adult lives working for the company.

John Burket moved back to Pennsylvania in 1958 when a successor to his cousin proved difficult to work with from afar. Intending to hire a new operations manager and stay only a few months, John and his wife, Ruth, shut their home in Denver and took a temporary apartment in Rosemont — where, in fact, they remained until their deaths in the mid 1970s. Following his mother's death in 1974, John Warren Burket Jr., my father, who had lived in Wayne and worked at the firm since 1958, inherited the company.

Upon my father's death in 1980, my mother, Harriet, and I assumed management of the firm, which today serves parts of Delaware, Chester, and Montgomery counties, and which continues to grow steadily as an oil distributor and heating and cooling contractor. With 552 customers on account in 1910, 1,490 in 1960, and 3,700 customers in 1987, we think the growth of L. K. Burket and Bro. has mirrored the prosperity of its community, on whose support the firm continues to depend for its

success. And in an era of enormous corporate mergers, the Burket centennial is also tangible proof that local, family owned and managed businesses can still compete effectively, long after the age in which their existence was the rule, rather than the exception.

- [1] For a detailed discussion of this and other "firsts" attributed to Wayne, see Helen Flack's article "Wayne, Pennsylvania — A Community of 'Firsts.'" **Radnor Historical Society Bulletin**, 2, No. 6 (1966), pp. 12-18.
- [2] One work brought Elmer particular notice. It was a palm-sized piece of granite on which he carved several faces while passing time en route during summer steamship journeys. In 1908, the Philadelphia **Item** and New York **Herald** put the number of faces on the stone at 54. In 1909, the Kansas City **Star** reported 75. Elmer kept traveling and carving, and by 1910 the Hamilton, Bermuda **Royal Gazette** reported that the number had grown to 120. Elmer declined a \$10,000 offer for the stone from a New York collector, and the piece remains in the Burket family.
- [3] Thirty-nine years of research was claimed to have been invested in "Pratts Poultry Regulator." It was guaranteed to leave one's flock "looking right up to the mark with good, red combs and feathers sleek and smooth," and leave the flock's owner a yearly profit of six dollars per hen.

Dallett, Robbins, Therman Become Honorary Members

by Katherine H. Cummin

(Ed. Note: Mrs. Cummin is past president of the Radnor Historical Society)

Three former Presidents became Honorary Members of the Radnor Historical Society at its Annual Meeting, May 4, 1986. With the addition of the names of Francis James Dallett, Caroline Robbins and Dorothy Harrison Therman, the Honorary Membership list is doubled.

One of two founders of the Society, Mr. Dallett served as its President for two years and its Secretary for nine. He was a member of its Board of Directors for thirty years. On eight occasions he edited this **Bulletin**. He did pioneer research into the history of Radnor's older buildings, a number of which were included in the Historic American Buildings Survey, thanks to him. Articles based on his research have graced this publication, most importantly articles on Woodstock, on Walnut Hill, on "Some Radnor Roots in Radnorshire." It was he who discovered the Radnor Township Poor Book, a primary source of local history now in the Society's collections. During the Bicentennial year he mounted the permanent display in the Finley House.

Caroline Robbins brought to the Society her vast knowledge of the eighteenth century. She became a Director in 1949, remaining on the Board for over thirty years. She served as Vice President for seven years, as President for seven years and as Assistant to the President for the following sixteen. She treated the Society to her fine photographs of local scenes. Through her its members learned of the Winsor sisters, of Herman Lengel, the Finley Family, the Watsons of Kinterra, the Lienhardt Bakery and other local topics. She introduced her students and associates, Mary Maples Dunn, Patricia Talbot Davis, Arthur Dudden, Stephanie Grauman Wolf, Jonathan Lane and others, who gave instructive talks. She took part in organizing Open House Tours in the Society's early years and discussed the Treaty of Paris and the life and character of William Penn in recent years.

Dorothy Therman, daughter of George Lieb Harrison, who was an incorporator of

the Society, joined the Board of Directors in 1961. In 1964, elected to the Presidency, she guided the Society through the difficulties of refurbishing the Finley House, building the Wagon House (now the Theodore Boreham Brooks Memorial Wagon House), and the repayment of the considerable debt thereby incurred. On many an occasion she served as hostess to the Society. On two extraordinary and entertaining evenings she shared with its members the reminiscences of her father. She headed the Society for a record seventeen years. To her the 1985 **Bulletin** was dedicated by a grateful Board of Directors.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY 1986

February 11, 1986

Katharine Hewitt Cummin, past president of the Society, delivered an informal talk on her book, **A Rare and Pleasing Thing: Radnor**. Board members of the Lower Merion Historical Society were invited and in attendance. Sandwiches, cookies and punch were served following her presentation.

March 11, 1986

The annual dinner meeting was held at the General Wayne Inn in Merion. During dinner Mr. Barton Johnson, the innkeeper, spoke informally about the inn's history, focusing on some of the famous habitués — Benjamin Franklin, Anthony Wayne, Edgar Allan Poe. Bart Sloan followed with a slide presentation on "Little Streets of Philadelphia."

April 8, 1986

The Society convened at the home of Alice Pitt, present Board member. She lives in what is known as "an American bungalow," a cottage built in 1908 by the father of Mr. Theodore Brooks, who was an active member of the Society. Alice Pitt delivered a brief history of her home. That was followed by a presentation by George W. Smith, president of the Society, who talked on "Old Inns and Hotels along the Main Line." Refreshments were served.

May 4, 1986 Annual Meeting

Thanks to the hospitality of Alexander and Mary Montgomery, the thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Society convened at Ardrossan, the ancestral home of the Montgomery family. Fred Platt, architectural historian specializing in architect Horace Trumbauer, spoke on the Trumbauer influence on the Main Line. Ardrossan is a Trumbauer masterpiece. (See accompanying article by Platt.)

Following his talk, Alexander Montgomery spoke informally and anecdotally on the contents and history of Ardrossan and led members on a tour of the first floor rooms. George W. Smith, president, presided over the brief business meeting and recognized

F. James Dallet, Dorothy Therman and Caroline Robbins as honorary members of the Radnor Historical Society. (See accompanying article.) The serving of refreshments concluded the afternoon meeting.

October 9, 1986

A dedication ceremony, naming the wagon house in honor of its builder and past board member Theodore B. Brooks, was presided over by George W. Smith, president of the Society. A bronze plaque was placed on the side of the building. Herbert Henderson, present board member, spoke on the history and contents of the wagon house. (See accompanying article.) Refreshments followed.

November 11, 1986

Clarissa Dillon spoke to the Society on "18th Century Kitchen Gardens in Southeast Pennsylvania — Uses of Plants and Their Place in Women's Work." Ms. Dillon's talk, taken from a section of her dissertation, focused on the food aspects of kitchen gardens. (See accompanying article.) She received her Ph.D. in History at Bryn Mawr and was introduced by John Dale, vice-president of the Society. Cookies and hot cider were served.

November 15, 1986

Katharine H. Cummin delivered an informative talk on the Finley House collection, files and library, entitled "What the Society Is All About."

New Members

Miss Emily Aman
Mrs. Donald T. Brophy
Mr. David Burket
Mrs. Hilda Cooney
Mr. Kenneth Doroski
Mr. Boyden R. Gabell
Mr. Frederick Heldring
Mrs. William J. Herald
Mr. Robert P. Howard
Mr. Dale E. Hunt
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Kelleher
Mr. H.A. McKown, Jr.
Mrs. Charles R. Myers
Mrs. Katharine Nelson
Mrs. Harriet L. Nolan
Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Sharpless, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon T. Way, Jr.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by George William Smith

Another year has passed with the Society maintaining good fiscal management. The balance between income and expenditures during 1985-1986 has been similar to recent years. While expenditures have increased somewhat with inflationary trends, our income has also increased. The basic membership fee of \$5.00 was instituted last year after many years at \$3.00. We have been the recipients of generous financial support and valuable accessions for our collection. Late in 1985 a special appeal to the Society's membership for funds to renovate the first floor file and workroom in Finley House accounted for more than \$3,000.

The Society maintains insurance on both buildings and the historical collection contained therein. Our insurer quoted a sizable increase in the annual premium which prompted the Board to seek alternate coverage. A new carrier who also insures similar local institutions agreed to insure the Society at a figure only slightly above the previous year's premium. Additional fire extinguishers have been installed and no smoking signs posted as recommended by our insurer.

The Finley House front steps were in need of repair. They have been rebuilt with new railing installed on both sides. Painting of the Beech Tree Lane facade and various metal roofs continued the regular repainting schedule. "Caesar," the front lawn guardian, has received a fresh coat of black and white paint.

A first floor case designated for changing exhibits was attractively arranged to display athletic photos and mementoes featuring Ralph Aman and Harry Creutzburg in the first decade of this century. A tortoise shell comb and shawl belonging to Mrs. Fannie Fronfield Crawford Gant and a scrapbook of Mrs. Sayen Schultz are also featured.

We hosted the Lower Merion Historical Society Directors at a meeting in Finley House. Local community organizations including the Rotary Club of Wayne and the Welcome Wagon met in our headquarters. Our museum and library were open on an October Sunday afternoon in conjunction with the Main Line Chamber of Commerce open house program. Radnor Historical Society sponsored meetings convened at the Main Line Federal Savings and Loan Association meeting room in Wayne, at the Finley House, the General Wayne Inn in Wynnewood, Ardrossan in Villanova, and in member's residences.

In the Spring, the Board of Directors reluctantly accepted the decision by our secretary, Marilyn Caltabiano, and my predecessor as president, Kady Cummin, not to continue as members of the Board. We are grateful for their invaluable contributions to the Society through the years.

George Wm. Smith

Accessions

Mrs. Burett Langdon Tyler

Philadelphia Chair
Doll's trunk
Gallatin family photographs

Mr. Michael J. Kelly

Set of six different colored printing plates

Mrs. Roberta Winters

Pamphlet 'All Around Radnor - Places to Go and Things to Do-A Kid's Book of Fun in Radnor Township'

Mr. and Mrs. John Berg

Bust of Mr. Herman Wendell

Mr. Daniel N. Ehart

Seven Philadelphia newspapers dated August 15, 1945

Mrs. John W. Leonard

Clippings pertaining to the Memorial Library of Radnor Township, Mrs. W.H. Sayen, and early library history

ll Mr. Robert Goshorn

Chesterbrook Farm receipts and vouchers

Mr. John L. Gray

Wooden shaving box
Monthly accounting statement from the Thomas Mather Store

Mrs. M. Rulon

Two hats, one coat, three dresses, one ship and three pairs of shoes circa 1910 from the House of Worth, Paris

Necrology

Mr. George M. Aman, Jr.
Mrs. John F. Arndt
Miss Elinor Curwen
Mrs. J. Harold Hallman
Miss Isabella Auld McKnight
Mrs. Chester O'Neal
Miss Beatrice Tees
Mr. F. Phelps Todd

PUBLICATIONS FOR PURCHASE

Historic Wayne, by Katherine H. Cummin. (The Graphics Center - Argus Co., 1975). 47 Pages, illustrations. \$2.95 per copy.

"Comfortable Homes in the Suburbs on the Hillside at Wayne and St. Davids," pictorial poster of 1890. (Reproduction). \$.50.

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

"Rural Homes," Wayne advertising pamphlet of 1890. Illustrated. (Reproduction). \$.50.

Radnor in the War of the Revolution 1777-1778, by Francis James Dallet. (1976). 15 pages, illustrations. \$1.00 per copy.

Pictorial Map of Wayne, 1898, (Reproduction). \$3.00.

Past issues of the **Bulletin** of the Radnor Historical Society, \$2.00.

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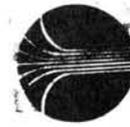
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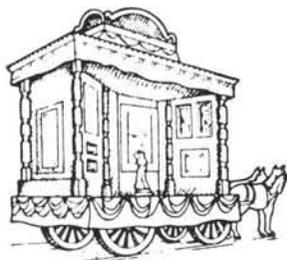
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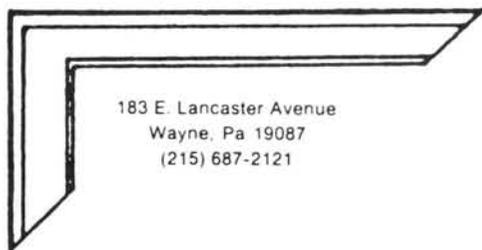


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