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Headquarters and Museum

THE FINLEY HOUSE

113 WEST BEECH TREE LANE
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

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The Finley House is open to the public on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons, 2-5 P.M.
Right from the start, Horace Trumbauer (1868-1938) had designed substantial homes for the well-to-do, as this publication showed last year in an article on his early efforts at Wayne and St. Davids. Still he waned no time in adding mansions to his repertoire. Just after he turned 30, the first of his enormous dwellings in the township arose in the section that shares its name. Next year will be explored his future residences in Villanova but first comes his formative palaces in Radnor.

Likely a good word came from his brother, Lawrence T. Paul, who had ordered a greenhouse, but doubtless the chief influence on James William Paul, Jr. in selecting Horace Trumbauer to create his estate was his late wife Fanny’s father, Anthony J. Drexel, the banker whose financial backing of builders Wendell & Smith had already brought the architect many commissions. Woodcrest covered 230 acres landscaped by his nephew Oglesby Paul, whose services Trumbauer would use repeatedly. Principal entrance is through appropriately high gates on King of Prussia Road close to the northwest corner of Eagle Road. Immediately inside sits the gate lodge whose Elizabethan style predicts that of the residence. Designed in 1901-02, this charming bungalow with half-timbering upstairs is indeed a lodge related to the gates in that the rocky walls of its first floor have neat quoins at every corner just as the rough stone of the gateposts is outlined in smooth. Likewise the brick chimney intricately constructed to fill a cube foretells a rustic mode made formal.

Most of the property was left covered by forest, through which a long, straight ascent to literally the crest of the wood approaches the mansion erected in 1900. From the left side of this path opens the courtyard formed by the main block joined by angle towers to the slightly lower wings. Between these towers (from which in 1906 the architect removed their agee roofs in favor of half-timbered gables) runs a porch with porte-cochere at center. Half-timbering also coats the upstairs on the wings while the midsection of this entrance front is stone all the way to the red roof. Except for the service facilities hidden behind pines off the left wing, symmetry is thorough, continuing onto the formal facade called here the terrace front.

Looking out from a typically Trumbauerian terrace upon a brief lawn before the trees return above a steep plunge, this elevation reverses the use of half-timbering which in this instance crosses the second story but not the projecting ends with their limestone stringcourses nor the central doorway with its colossal surround of intricately carved limestone. Beneath the overhang extend floor joists that terminate in sculpted heads whose hair trails along the beams until gradually disappearing into them. Fully of stone, the sides of this main block rise over Tuscan porches of limestone (one later glassed in.) Similarly had Christopher Wren mixed the classical with styles derived from the Gothic but strictly in alterations when “the parts formerly built diverted us from the beginning after the better forms of Architecture.”

“Better forms” meant classical and here that judgment might have proven accurate. Trumbauer throughout his career produced smaller houses in the Elizabethan style — including one for himself. With his 1896 mansion for George W. Elkins at Elkins Park, the architect had taken the style to its maximum possible size, surpassed by no half-timbered residence back in Elizabethan England. Chelten House turned out so admirable that he attempted even larger versions with nowhere near its success. Woodcrest because of its dimensions assumed automatically an alien symmetry so that Tudor sprawl goes matched against classical rigidity in permanent competition. Inside looks the same, where the Great Hall seem too great with unceasing paneling in oak, although the balcony is animated by an encircling arcade of his beloved round arches. Also beneath strapwork ceilings, the breakfast room and dining room and smoking room each feel too big for the style. Library and morning room become more livable as they grow more classical.

From across the driveway, the mansion's courtyard faces axially the one formed by the three sides of the 1901 stable. Symmetry gets partially offset by such as the tower at left which is not exactly repeated at right, but too many panels on a building again overlay its Elizabethan style set up a relentless rhythm. Beneath the tall, brick chimney spotted as the trail descends the other side of the hill, the cheerful chalet once the powerhouse and now a retreat originated with the estate although its absence from the ledgers together with the singular presence of big, round stone beneath the half-timbering may suggest that the power contractor was primarily responsible. Nearby sits the swimming pool with its little wooden bathhouse whose miniature columns and pediment from 1901 qualify this structure alone as wholly classical. In 1902 an extensive garage was built further afield of utilitarian clapboard despite half-timbered pediments plus two cupolas. (The greenhouse predates Trumbauer’s efforts on the estate, as if James Paul could not restrain the love of flowers that made him president of the Horticultural Society of Philadelphia.) Traveling straight back from the stable leads over the county line to the former farm created by the architect, its sole survivors the milk house of 1902 and the cow stable of 1904. Foundations can be linked to the immense farm barn of 1902 as well as the farmhouse and the chicken house of 1902. Some of the woodland has been sold off for houses while the farm today is legally as separate as it always appeared.

Woodcrest during 1925 was purchased by Dr. John T. Dorrance, owner of the Campbell Soup Company, who in 1930 commissioned a servants’ garage, no longer standing. He died in that same year; his wife continued to occupy the estate until her death in 1953. The family collection of tapestries put to good use the oaken expanses of the Great Hall. In fact the style of the mansion has grown more suitable across the years. The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart brought the property in 1954 and since 1957 have operated it as Cabrini College. Elizabethan makes a unique style for the main building of a campus and its institutional function makes its extent seem reasonable. New structures have been erected thoughtfully so as not to interfere with the original ones. Wonderful to relate, the residence and stable seem to have found themselves in their conversion.

Brick is the theme at the 1904-05 residence for James F. Sullivan in Radnor. Brick chimneys spaced across the roof are banded in brick below expanding heads of the same material. Brick fills the pediment above the projecting entrance framed.
by brick quoins. Brick plus two little limestone panels of fretwork encompass the staircase window which interrupts the brick stringcourse to sit atop the doorway of subjugated limestone. Brick delicately molded makes a course around the foot of the house. Brick with limestone coping retains the terrace where limestone blocks offset paths patterned in brick.

Other materials play supplementary roles like the limestone that forms upstairs keystones or downstairs lintels. At the front door the grillwork is of wrought iron as is the lantern overhead. Encircling the slate roof is a wooden cornice where each mutule is matched to a trio of guttae fully below the architrave. From both ends of the house extend the architect's familiar one-story porches of wood which in this case fill also the angles behind the side wings that are flush with the central part of the entrance front. Minus its grand doorway, this midsection is reflected on the garden front by three squat dormers (one more than on the obverse), five identical windows across the second story, and four on the first floor around a double door with a surround of small windows as well as fretwork above and Ionic columns astride, all of wood.

Coming to Philadelphia from his native Ireland, James Francis Sullivan so prospered as a wholesale merchant of white goods and notions that he found himself director of several street railways, which suggests that his selection of Trumbauer stemmed from contact with the Widener family, predominant among not only trolley operators but also the architect's customers. Early in the 1920s the Sullivan mansion was damaged by fire so that some interiors may not have stayed wholly original. Consideration was even given to replacing the residence but the 1923 design never got built. Evidently a collaboration had been planned since half the bill was sent by F. Burrall Hoffman, Jr. (1883-1980), best remembered as the architect of Vizcaya, the Miami palace begun in 1913 for James Deering.

Known as The Woods, the 42 acres on the southeast corner of Upper Gulph Road and Pine Tree Road plus a finger along the east side of Arden Road was sold out of the family in 1972. Amid a housing development, the mansion still stands where the new Woods Lane returns to meet itself. Facing the entrance front from down the lane, the 1906 stable has been converted to a private dwelling while retaining its equine heritage beneath cupola and weathervane no less than its brick nature as expressed in the three rows arching what was the carriage door. Abutted by living quarters in the same brick, a greenhouse east from the residence has vanished, not that it ever appeared on the ledgers. Probably the gate posts erected in 1906 along Pine Tree Road were of brick too, although they have been stuccoed to match the expensive new homes in the silent new neighborhood disrupted solely by the wail from an electronic alarm set off by accident.

Most renowned among the residences designed by Trumbauer must be The Elms, built in 1899-1902 at Newport for Edward J. Berwind. Also a partner in the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company, his brother Harry J. would hand the architect no such opportunity since he purchased his Radnor mansion ready-made. Fayette R. Plumb, a hammer manufacturer, had commissioned the architect Charles Barton Keen (1868-1931), born 23 days before Horace Trumbauer. Second owner was William S. Taylor, but the colonial-style house got sold to Berwind within five years of its 1897 construction. He had Trumbauer make minor changes during 1908 such as a new bay window. Knollhurst around 1960 was leveled to the foundations beneath the back lawns of several homes along Spruce Tree Road although its stable remains as a private dwelling near the southwest corner of Berwind Road.

Every corner of the township occupied the architect down to its southeast side along which runs a sliver of what the post office considers Bryn Mawr, where he built one estate and altered another.

Most architects yearned to craft a mansion but Horace Trumbauer turned out so many that he developed a sort of standard model for palaces of less than the largest size. Georgian is the style in a shallow H-plan with service wing stretching from one side. Entrance front leads to a long gallery ringed by rooms while the garden front looks out onto a terrace. Not in the business of mass-producing mansions, Trumbauer kept repeating this design because it worked. Customer needs along with the architect's own adjustments made each such residence unique. Viewing this dwelling by itself, who could guess that Portledge is one in a series of variations?

Cramp is a name that Philadelphians associate with the shipbuilding firm founded by his grandfather but Theodore William Cramp headed an investment brokerage. He and his wife, the former Mary Alice White, had a single child, Frances Alice, for whom they built Portledge after her 1907 marriage to broker Henry Pepper Vaux. From a prosperous family herself, Mrs. Cramp purchased the 27 acres for the estate and kept it in her own name. Likewise the architect's ledgers list the buildings under Cramp's name because the practical Trumbauer wrote down to whom the bills were sent. Two years earlier had Cramp commissioned his city residence from the architect, who two years later would also provide him with an office structure called the Bellevue Court Building. On the Bryn Mawr flank of Radnor Township, the home at 464 South Roberts Road opposite Mill Road was where Mr. and Mrs. Vaux reared their three daughters. Put on sale in 1951, the estate served as Cushing Junior College until 1978 and since 1982 has been occupied by Harcum Junior College. (Compiled by Phyllis Maier and Jessica Nussdorfer in 1980, a thorough history of the estate is kept at the Radnor Historical Society, which published excerpts in its Bulletin, v. 4, no. 1, Fall 1981.)

Of stone with brick quoins when erected in 1910-11, the residence has since been stuccoed and painted. Gazing down the steep ascent from the road is in fact the garden front. Across the whole 98 feet of this facade stretches a stone terrace, its marble steps at center leading up to brick walkways. Between the projecting ends, a shallow colonnade is upheld by four pairs of columns echoed along the walls by pilasters and terminated at sides by single column with pilaster. Wide behind the pairs and narrow at ends, the fenestration behind this colonnade sets the spacing for the three windows on the second story and the dormers beneath segmental pediments. Running the depth of the south side (left from the garden front) is a glassed-in porch while at north the service wing goes off in its own directions to pediments. Running the depth of the south side (left from the garden front) is a glassed-in porch while at north the service wing goes off in its own directions to pediments. All the slab-sided chimneys recur above the three windows on the second story and the dormers beneath segmental pediments.

So complex is the stable that it would seem to have grown up around an earlier structure, yet the list of fully 19 blueprints mentions cows, horses, carriages, and cars. On the upper level a two-car garage has a dovecote at the side of its roof while the main block, coated in stucco and crowned by a cupola, leads into a stone
courtyard below. Quarters for coachmen are also attached but the chauffeur as well as the gardener dwelt in a twin cottage of clapboards. Around a matched pair of front bays, two porches cut into the corners sport one column each. Shared along the gray slate roof are the lone chimney and a wide dormer. For the pump house of stucco, the roof of the same slate has its hips truncated. All three buildings date from 1910 as do alternate versions of stable and cottage plus a gatehouse that never got built.

Robert Early Strawbridge was born in 1871, only three years after his father Justus entered partnership with Isaac Clothier; by 1963 when the son died, Strawbridge & Clothier had long been a major department store in Philadelphia and its suburbs. Serving the family business throughout his lengthy life, Strawbridge was also a horseman devoted to hunting and polo in not this country alone but England as well. Accordingly his 1898 residence at Bryn Mawr befitted a country gentleman. Mantle Fielding, Jr. (1865-1941) designed the large, very handsome structure with smooth, very red brick upholding Elizabethan half-timbering. In 1902 a stable nearby was added by the same architect, who in the next year set the gardener’s cottage on an overlooking bluff.

Wisely leaving the outside of his house untouched, Strawbridge was ready by 1916 to have the interior enriched by Horace Trumbauer. At the same time a pair of farm buildings apparently by Fielding were connected by a six-car garage, accompanied by further alterations that served the owner for the rest of his days. Parts of the barn were demolished in 1981 when stable and farm buildings became two private abodes. On the west side of Mill Road just south from Bryn Mawr Avenue, the mansion itself got restored soon after. Unfortunately the rolling hills where once the Strawbridge thoroughbreds cavorted were simultaneously developed with big, close-packed, costly homes that could delight only persons lacking any feeling for the area beyond the desire for a prestigious zip code.
Great Hall of “Woodcrest”, residence of James W. Paul, Jr.
Detail of stable, "Woodcrest"

"Portledge", residence of Theodore W. Cramp, 464 S. Roberts Road, Bryn Mawr, Horace Trumbauer, architect


Garage, "Woodcrest"

The stable at "The Woods"
PONEMAH: LAND OF THE HEREAFTER
by Robert Goshorn

(Ed. note: Mr. Goshorn is presently on the Board of Directors of the Radnor Historical Society. He delivered the following address to the Society on Oct. 13, 1987.)

It was to visit their niece that the celebrated Indian Chief Sitting Bull, the Sioux leader who had defeated General George Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876, and Mrs. Bull came to this area early in October of 1884, resplendent in scarlet blankets and leggings. With several performers from their traveling Wild West show, they arrived by special train at the Wayne station, where they were greeted by Mrs. Bull's niece and the other students of the Indian School located in the building of the old Spread Eagle tavern in Strafford. From the station they were escorted to the school, a mile and a half or so away.

During their visit they were given front row seats for an exhibition of the students' accomplishments and progress. Sitting Bull, it was reported, was "especially interested in watching the children write." Several songs were also sung by the pupils, which, it was noted in the newspaper accounts of the visit, "proved very opportune, as they prevented Bull from taking a nap"! Following the program a special dinner, prepared by the Siouan pupils, was served, after which each chief was presented a handsome brier-root pipe and some tobacco. "In two minutes after they had lit their pipes," it was also reported, "the room was almost black with smoke. Long Dog," it was added, "has a way of letting smoke out of his mouth at the rate of four cubic feet a minute."

The Indian School at Strafford was more formally the summer campus of the Lincoln Institution, located at 324 S. 11th Street in Philadelphia. The Institution had been founded on April 1, 1866 by a Mary McHenry Cox, the wife of James Bellangee Cox, a prominent Philadelphia attorney, and incorporated on May 9th of that year as a school for orphan children of soldiers who had lost their lives during the Civil War. With the passing years, however, these soldiers' orphans became too old to need the type of instruction and care provided by the Institution, and in 1883 it became a school for young children from various American Indian tribes.

The idea of special schools in the East for the education of the Indians was still a relatively new one. The famed Carlisle Indian School, for example, had been founded only four years earlier, in 1879. "The Government has opened schools on the reservations," it was pointed out in a report of the Lincoln Institution a few years later, "and Missionaries have gone out to them, but this does not answer the need. Their reservations are (still) all Indian. They breathe the vitiating atmosphere of the forefathers whose rites they follow, while our strong hand withholds from them participation in our wider life. Their book education is to them a verbal form; it cannot reach the heart or mould the spirit. Suppose the children of our large families were subjected to the broadest cosmopolitan influences."

The aim of the school was, in short, to teach these children both "the duties of civilization and the beauties of religion."

In its first year as an Indian School only Indian girls attended the Lincoln Institution. On September 8, 1883 the first group arrived, all from the Sioux nation, members of the Brule, Haisa and Santee bands. The next arrivals, two and a half months later on November 24, were from the Chippewa and Ojibway nations. By the following spring there were 84 girls at the school, from fourteen different nations from New York to California — the Sioux, Chippewa, Ojibway, Santee, Osage, Omaha, Pawnee, Navajo, Cheyenne, Miami, Modoc, Wichita, Mohawk, and Oneida nations — with more than twenty bands represented. Two nations, the Sioux and the Chippewa, however, accounted for more than half of the pupils.

While they ranged in age from seven to eighteen, most of them were between the ages of ten and fourteen. At the school the girls were given first names, with their last names or surnames in many cases simply a translation of their Indian names. Thus Stawakena, for example, became Maud Echo Hawk; Pawhehe was known as Prudy Eagle Feather; Omushkassipaw as June Big Bird; and Tonyankewas'tavim became Ellen Man Chief.

The students were described as being ambitious in their studies and quick to learn. "They are remarkably intelligent," it was noted in a contemporary newspaper report, "and rapidly acquire a knowledge of reading, penmanship and music, many of them within a month, learning to speak English fluently, draw maps neatly, write correct compositions and play well upon the cabinet organ." The girls also had lessons in vocal music, in which they showed "much interest and talent." Half the day was spent attending these classes, and during the other half of the day the girls received instruction in housework and sewing.

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the kitchen, very much improved and furnished with all the necessary conveniences for preparing food for so large a household; the officers' dining room, and across the hall, a parlor and music room. The rooms on the second and third floors are divided off into dormitories, infirmary, (and) apartments for the house-mother and matron. The school-room, on the third floor, is a light, cheerful room, and thoroughly adapted to its purpose.

In the school room, long boards on trestles served as desks, and the room was well equipped with maps, globes, and books.

A flower garden was planted next to the dining room, and beyond it was a truck patch for raising the vegetables needed for the kitchen. Outside the old kitchen was a large canvas tent, used on very warm days as a laundry. The building was also surrounded by a neat fence, "to keep out too inquisitive intruders."

On May 29th the 84 pupils were moved to Strafford, with the expectation that with additional arrivals the enrollment would soon be 100. There were also ten officers and two teachers, Miss A. F. Allen, formerly of Lewistown, and Mrs. Mary G. Waters, a daughter of a former U.S. Senator from Virginia, the Hon. J.S. Carlisle. Dr. Joseph Egbert, of Wayne, offered his services as school physician, while the Rev. Joseph L. Miller, of Mt. Airy, was elected chaplain and lived at the school.

House work at the school was for the most part done by the Indian girls themselves, as they were taught how to cook and sweep and wash, as well as how to sew, and cut out and make their own clothing.

Church services for the students, most of whom had been baptized into the Episcopal Church, were held at the Lyceum Hall in Wayne. (It too was made available to the school on Sundays and for special occasions through the generosity of Mr. Childs.)

Three days after their arrival in their summer location the girls took part in their first service at the Hall, which had been converted "into quite a pretty chapel" by gifts from various people interested in "this branch of the work of civilizing and improving the condition of the Indians." The Whitsunday service was conducted by the Rev. Miller, and included the Morning Prayer and celebration of the Holy Communion, the children reciting the creed and responsive portions and taking part "audibly and reverently." The choir, under the direction of Mrs. Walters, was made up of pupils from the school, and it was noted that their singing was "remarkably sweet and touching" as they sang chants, hymns, kyries and responses "as well as any equal number of children who had been familiar with the music of the Church all their lives would have done."

In addition to the morning service each Sunday, in the afternoon the pupils attended Sunday School, and at five o'clock Evening Prayer was read.

In his Wayside Inns on Lancaster Turnpike, the local historian Julius F. Sasche observed, "It was a beautiful, yet strange spectacle to see these dusky maidens, descendants of the aborigines, going two by two, from their services, as they trudged along the smooth white turnpike, sober and demure with their prayer book and hymnal in their hands; where but a little over two centuries ago their people had roamed and hunted free and undisturbed by anything approaching civilization, as monarchs of these glorious hills and valleys."

Later in June a group of eighteen girls and their two teachers went by train to West Chester, to be entertained at the home of the Hon. Washington Townsend and Mrs. Townsend, before taking part in a program given in the evening at the Methodist Episcopal Church in West Chester in behalf of their race. In the afternoon the girls played various simple games on the lawn with some of the local young ladies, and the whole occasion, it was reported in the Local, "was freighted with much genuine interest" and provided "much merriment."

The Fourth of July was enjoyed at the lake in Hammer Hollow. (In the Local it was ironically observed that these "first Americans (were) celebrating the independence of the second Americans" while "their parents (are) under guard of rifles in a few thousand acres of Western land")

One of the features of their first summer in the country, apart from the visit of Sitting Bull, was an entertainment the pupils gave in September at the Wayne Hall, a series of twenty-two tableaux illustrating Longfellow's "Hiawatha." As the Rev. Miller narrated portions of the poem, the children, dressed in their native costume, depicted various scenes, such as "The Indian Home," "Hunting," "Ambush," and "Lover's Advent," among others. The program ended with "Wedding Feast," a tableau that included a wedding song, a wedding dance, and, finally, a hymn sung in the Dakota language.

After the winter term in Philadelphia, the pupils again returned to the old Spread Eagle tavern site for the summer of 1865. After several unsuccessful attempts by the Managers of the Lincoln Institution to buy the property, for the next summer a ten-acre tract near "Ivycroft," Mrs. Cox's summer home, was purchased for a permanent summer location. The purchase was made on January 5, 1866 from Henry Martin and others, and the site was located north of Upper Gulph road and to the west of Croton road, partly in Tredyffrin township and partly in Upper Merion.

A large two-story frame building, 102 feet long and 45 feet wide, with a chapel attached, was built at the new location. The preparatory work on the land was done by the Indian boys - boys as well as girls had been admitted to the school after the first year - and several of them also assisted in the masonry and carpentry work. The builder was William Martin. (The building itself was located on the Upper Merion portion of the property, with the entrance from Radnor Street road.) It was completed in early August.

The new summer school was given the name "Ponemah", which means the "Land of the Hereafter." On August 3d it was occupied by about 100 girls, who stayed there until October 31st.

A description of the school, by a Crala Troon, a resident of Berwyn, who visited it in October, appeared in a letter she wrote to the Editor of the Local. "About four miles from Berwyn," she noted, "and scarce a mile north of the Eagle station... somewhat removed from the high road and nestled in what is now a perfect bower of autumn beauty, is the summer home for the Indian children of the Philadelphia Indian school... (The dormitories) were wide, cool and spotlessly clean. Each had its showy counterpane and lace-edged sham. And from the many dormer windows in the long, sloping roofs there are such beautiful far-reaching views of wood-crowned hills and shadowy vales that involuntarily the heart says slowly, reverently, 'How wonderful are thy works, Oh Lord!' But our party was waiting and we again descended to the first floor. Walking along the wide porches - there are wide porches everywhere about the building - we caught glimpses of the dining room where the long tables were spread in snowy linen and at each plate were glass and napkin and saucer heaped with clusters of purple grapes. And the dusky children were very, very happy...."
(There were others in the area, however, who were less enthusiastic about the presence of the "savages" in their midst, concerned that they might trespass on their property or steal their fruit or other produce from their gardens. But there is no indication that any such depredations ever took place. In another account the girls were described as "industrious," but the boys were "said to be rather indolent."

In September the girls at Ponemah held what they called a Walwicayapl, an Indian name for a feast. The party was well attended, and more than $500 was raised. The money was used for improvements to the heating apparatus in the boys' department.

The annual costs of operating the Indian Department of the Lincoln Institution were about $35,000, of which more than 95 per cent was received in U.S. warrants for the support and tuition of the girls and boys. The school also received miscellaneous donations each year: cloth and material for the sewing room, medicines, fancy fruits for the Christmas party, and also cash donations (most of them five dollars each) for the scholarship funds.

By the end of the third year, the total Indian enrollment at the Institution was 194, 101 girls and 93 boys, representing fourteen different nations. "In the Education Department," it was noted in the 1887 annual report of the Board of Managers, "the advancement has been steady and satisfactory. Thirty-two girls and three boys attend the Public Schools. They receive excellent reports and are highly spoken of by the teachers. The people learn quickly and apply themselves with diligence and interest in their studies. The girls do all the household work under a proper superintendent in each department. They make their own clothing, knit stockings both by hand and by machine, and do useful wool work. The boys are learning various trades and methods of farming. Eight boys have occupations in shops and offices in the city, returning home at night. During the summer months thirty-five girls and twenty boys were satisfactorily employed on farms and in families. One girl is now studying at the Training School of the University Hospital, and promises to become a good nurse." (In the previous year's annual report it had been noted that the boys were "put out" with local families engaged in painting, glazing, and farm work, doing "as good (a) day's labor as the white man", while the girls baked, sewed, washed, ironed, and were "competent in all household departments." It was also observed that "Numerous country families gladly testify to these facts.")

It was also noted in the 1887 report that the general health of the Indian children had improved since the previous report and that those who had been at the school since it opened "show the benefit derived from contact with civilized life."

The Indian girls at the Lincoln Institute continued to return to Ponemah each summer up into the first decade of this century. When subsidies for the Indian children were discontinued by the government, the program was supported largely through the donations and contributions of Mrs. Cox. In addition to the original large frame building, several smaller structures were added to the school's summer facilities, and in 1890 and 1903 a total of ten more acres in Tredyffrin was added to the site.

After the Indian Department was discontinued in the early 1900s, the primary efforts of the Lincoln Institution were directed to homeless orphan boys between the ages of five and fourteen and coming from poor environments. In a plea for contributions in 1914, however, it was pointed out, "Our country building is nearly thirty years old, no repairs having been made in years. The plumbing is out of date, and unsanitary, and we are in immediate need of new plumbing and repairs. Unless these can be made, the children may have to stay in the city during the hot summer months."

In October of the following year the Lincoln Institution was merged with the Educational Home organization, and in November of 1922 they were both merged with the Big Brothers Association. The property in Tredyffrin was sold on June 23, 1924 to Emily Exley.

But for about twenty years Ponemah was the summer location of the Indian School of the Lincoln Institution, where each year a hundred or so young Indian girls were taught to read and write and given skills in music and in the practical arts. After the prescribed five-year course, many of them returned to their native homes and became teachers there for their own people.
AN AMERICAN BUNGALOW

(Ed. Note: The following article appeared in the November, 1909 edition of Philadelphia Suburban Life. The bungalow was built in 1908 by the father of Mr. Theodore Brooks, who was an active member of The Society, and designed by Mr. George U. Rehffuss. The present occupants are Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Paleho.)

Very recently the term bungalow has come into general use in this country, but it has been applied so indiscriminately that it would be difficult to determine its exact meaning if all of the various specimens so named were, perforce, to be considered as examples. There are bungalows at the seashore which are nothing but house-boats pulled up on the beach; there are bungalows in a good many of the country developments which are only low, cheap, frame houses and in some of the mountain places there are bungalows which are but little more than framed tents. Then again, there are, here and there, rather luxurious houses of the one-story pattern, with refined surroundings to which the name has been given with what would seem to be much more appropriateness of appreciation.

It is a question though whether there is any legitimate cause for quarrel with any of the many different forms of appropriation of the word. In the first place it is not an architectural term. In this country it does not mean anything definite for climate and conditions here do not demand the bungalow as they do in India. There the bungalow is either a one-story or a two-story house — generally the former — with a thatched or tiled roof, surrounded by a veranda and, as a rule, occupied by Europeans of the better class. Indeed it would seem to be the latter phrase which distinguishes the bungalow from the native shelter of the Far East which is usually low, with thatched roof and with a more or less efficiently improvised arrangement for shade which answers the purpose of a veranda.

It might appear logical to contend, therefore, that the name applies to a class rather than to a type and that, by analogy, the American bungalow, since it cannot be all of the many kinds of houses to which the name is applied, should be held to mean the one-story house with recognizable pretences to superiority intended for the occupancy of those who seek luxury. In other words, a bungalow must be something more than any sort of low house, if the word is to convey any definite meaning to the mind — as all words should.

As an illustration of this definition of the word, the home of Lewis K. Brooks at St. Davids is most apt. It is completed and occupied, but the surrounding grounds are still in process of improvement and, at present, merely suggest the outline of the picture of the future. The large lot is at the corner made by the intersection of Brookside Avenue and Orchard Way and is less than a mile from the station, reached by a short walk south on St. Davids Road to where Orchard Way turns off to the east.

The corner situation affords two entrances to the grounds and a tiny brook, which dashes and splashes its way through, lends itself to the landscape decorative scheme. The entrance from Orchard Way is by means of a high and narrow stone gateway of Gothic effect directly to the platform of a long and high arbor, or covered way, built of unbarked poles which will later form the resting place of thick vines. This crosses and recrosses the brook and from it there is an entrance to the grounds by a connecting rustic bridge leading directly to an artificial lake shaped like a trefoil which is, at present, the most advanced indication of the intended exterior improvements.

The other and the main entrance, since it leads directly to the front of the bungalow, is a short paved walk from Brookside Avenue.

There is a poetic touch to the situation in the fact that the house, as such a house should be, is so well hidden in a grove of high trees that it is not, at first glance, easily discernible; yet, when it is seen, the pleasant effect it produces increases with the study of it. It is low, to be sure, because there is but one story and attic; but it is not so low as to give any impression of dwarfed accommodations. A square stone chimney rises from the rear, extending about fifteen feet above the lowest point of the sloping roof. This is ordinarily an unimportant detail. But it is not so here. The size and the setting of that chimney combine to produce a very distinct impression which of itself is illustrative of the care given to all the details of the planning and building. It is a rough stone chimney, three feet wide on each of its four sides, and it is set so that its corners are the apexes of acute angles with the straight lines of the roof. Therefore, while it is very properly a square chimney, it does not appear to be so. The outside walls and the roof of the bungalow are of shingle, but the foundation pillars for the veranda posts are of heavy stone, and there are five of these in the rear of the house. There are many windows and all of the design known as French casements. It is solid, durable, comfortable and yet simple.

It is not a home in the wilderness, though it suggests it; and if it could be set down in some vastness of forest, in a tangle of bushes by the side of a free roving stream, it would not strike a discordant note.

Ordinarily one would not expect convenience, privacy in such a dwelling, much less luxury. The name does not suggest it, but that is because it has been so promiscuously applied. The common impression would be that it might be a very nice place in which to spend a short season, and that implies to a certain degree what is called "roughing it," which means the good-natured endurance of many inconveniences. But this is wrong. The bungalow is thoroughly a livable house, made to be a place of permanent abode and its interior arrangement is unique in the method of providing for all of the requirements of the occupants and their possible guests.

On the one floor there are four bedrooms, two bath rooms, a living room and a dining room for the use of the family and a laundry, a kitchen and a bathroom for the servants. The sleeping quarters for the latter are in the attic, which is the only use made of it, excepting a portion used as a trunk room. The bedrooms are so arranged that they may be used in suites of two or three each or may be used singly.

The main entrance, as has been said, is through a porch which is provided with settees on either side. The opening is into a hall, a few inches wider than four feet and twenty feet long to the door which opens into the living room. This hall, at about half its length, is cut by an arch producing a sensation of artistic relief. Just beyond this arch to the left, is a door which gives to a private hall or passage from either end of which a door opens into the bedrooms, and from the centre of which a door opens into the bathroom. Thus by closing the door to the main entrance hall these rooms are practically cut off from the main house, or by closing the door of either of the bedrooms absolute privacy is assured. These rooms are
large, the front one being sixteen by twelve feet and the other being sixteen by eleven. This does not include the extra space provided by the bay windows which extend in polygonal form - one in each room. In each room there are two closets, two feet deep and five feet long and the bathroom is nine feet by five.

The living room is naturally the most spacious in the house. It is twenty-four feet with the length of the bungalow and fifteen feet across. From this is the eighteen by fifteen feet is next to the living room and from it is the entrance to the main house and, though it is in fact a part of it, the arrangement is much the same as if it were in a detached building.

A veranda, ten feet wide and extending the entire sixty feet of the main floor, is in the rear. This has a canvas roof well stiffened with many coats of weatherproof paint and is so arranged that it may be enclosed in glass to be used as a sun parlor in the chilly winter days.

Perhaps the most startling innovation is the open fireplace on the veranda. Anticipating days when the power of the sun would not be sufficient to warm the feet with the length of the bungalow and fifteen feet across. From this is the entrance to the other two bedrooms, the door opening into a private hallway. The details of the arrangement of this suite are much the same as in the other. The rooms are a bare trifle smaller, but they have the same closet space for the there has not been any sacrifice of necessary conveniences. The dining room which is eighteen by fifteen feet is next to the living room and from it is the entrance to the laundry and then to the kitchen. These rooms are nine by fourteen feet each without counting the space given to the closets, the lavatory, the refrigerator and the closet for china and silverware. The kitchen extends like a short wing from the main house and, though it is in fact a part of it, the arrangement is much the same as if it were in a detached building.

The very clever arrangement not only makes extra stacks unnecessary, but has added a compelling touch of novelty to the bungalow. The furnishing and the interior decoration are in a style happily in keeping with the general idea.

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Necrology

Mrs. James A. Drobile
Mr. Horace B. Montgomery
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARTIFACTS
by Jeanne La Rouche

(Ed. Note: This article first appeared in The Main Line Times, May 8, 1986. The author was motivated to write the article on the artifacts of the Society after her son, Grant, visited the Society as part of Arts Week at the Radnor Middle School.)

I asked Grant about the sights at the Society he considered most memorable. His favorites are not necessarily the most unique or the most valuable memorabilia. They do, however, reflect the interest of most young people who visit the Finley House including probably your child, if you should choose to saunter over for an outing some rainy Tuesday afternoon.

Son Grant’s hands down favorite at the society was the carriage house and the Conestoga Wagon housed there. His interest was peaked just enough to stand still long enough to learn a little about the object of his interest. I hope you’ll be interested enough to read on to acquire some knowledge about this mode of transport that is so much a part of local lore.

The wagons were built in the Conestoga Valley of Lancaster County and were used from about 1750 until the Civil War, when they were replaced by a less romantic means of transportation — the train.

These wagon freighters were the trucks of today’s world of commerce and were used to carry all types of goods from Philadelphia and Baltimore to Pittsburgh. Their bodies were especially designed with a sag to prevent shifting of the load. Given the uncertain roadways and the heavy loads of yesteryear, a sturdy jack was essential.

The worn condition of those remaining today attests to the frequency of use in those days when loads of four tons were the norm. The jack also served to identify the owner of the wagon, since his initial and date of making the wagon were cut into the pillar of the jack.

It is from these symbols of pioneering America that we get our custom of driving on the right-hand side of the road. Unlike the later driver of the prairie schooner, the Conestoga wagoner did not ride inside his wagon, but either walked beside the team, rode the wheel horse, or perched precariously on the lazy board. The lazy board was in front of the left rear wheel.

The Conestoga wagoners gave us another custom that survives their demise. Each wagon was equipped with a set of bells suspended on a small iron frame fastened to the harness. The phrase “I’ll be there with bells on” is attributed to the Conestoga wagoners.

In those days it was the custom for the unlucky driver who had to be assisted, when mired in the mud of the roadway, to surrender his bells to the fellow wagoner who came to his rescue. Losing one’s bells was a sure sign of inferiority — no first-class team would be without the cheery tinkles of bells to accompany the sounds of wagon and horses.

Typical of an 11-year-old, one of our son’s other favorite artifacts was a type of vehicle associated with considerable noise — the North Wayne Protective Association fire-fighting equipment.

Resting in the carriage house of the society is the North Wayne Protective Association hose cart. The protective association bought the hose cart for $13 in 1885. The cart was originally housed across the street in a 12 by 8 foot building where the association’s members also met once a week.

This building was built in 1888 on land donated by Anthony Drexel and George W. Childs, Wayne developers. The first engine house and meeting hall was built by the association in 1891 and was demolished in 1964.

In the museum are other instruments of firefighting North Wayne Protective Association style — a horn and rattle. The horn and rattle were the homeowners’ pre-Ma Bell means of contacting the local fire station. As one of my older friends told me, these firefighting tools eventually fell into the hands of the children of the family who pronounced them magnificent toys.

The North Wayne Protective Association firemen continued their good deeds until 1904. After several years of no local fire protection, the current Radnor Fire Company was formed in 1906. The land so graciously donated by Drexel and Childs for the firehouse (shed) is currently the site of Merryvale Park.

Another object capturing our son’s interest was Caesar, a larger than life dog who resides in the front yard of the society. He originally presided over the veranda of J. Henry Askin, founder of Wayne, whose home is now the Louella Court Apartments.

For some years previous to his arrival at the historical society, Caesar was in the custody of the William Davis Hughes’ family. As he is the perfect size to sit upon, he is beloved by all of the younger generation.

Before closing I’d like to mention a few of my personal favorites that you might want to look at while your child is meandering about.

First is the outstanding photograph collection housed in the new workroom. There are hundreds of pictures of transportation subjects, private homes, churches, businesses, streets and shop interiors as well as livelier photos of Fourth of July celebrations, theater productions and cricket matches. These are mostly the work of former townsmen, George W. Schultz and James K. Heilner, who captured our town as it was starting in the 19th century working up to World War II.

Another personal favorite is the ceremonial spade used by distinguished visitors to plant trees commemorating their visits to “Wootton,” the George Childs estate. Located on Bryn Mawr Ave., it is now the site of the St. Aloysius Academy. The wooden shaft is encased in brass and engraved upon it are the names of some very famous personages of the day — General Grant, J.P. Morgan, Cornelius Vanderbilt, President Hayes, Count De Paris and Mrs. Cleveland — among others.

One last personal favorite are the bird eggs given to the society by Frederick Sayne. Perhaps my fondness for these eggs, gathered in the Wayne area at the turn of the century, is because my husband and I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Sayne. Almost five years ago we visited him at his New Jersey home. At that time he was 96 years old, still working and driving his car. An amazing gentleman.

The purpose of our meeting was to gather information for the Radnor Library Oral History Project. Mr. Sayne was a willing, articulate and knowledgeable subject. It was during the course of this interview that he discussed his boyhood experiences gathering the numerous varieties of eggs — many of which could not be found in this area today.

I guess the conversations with him about egg gathering (you might say stealing) broadened my horizons and gave me certain insights into a time and way of life where borrowing eggs from a bird’s nest would not be considered a threat to the environment.
TUCKER CHINA

Tucker porcelain, the subject of Mrs. Francis Judson's talk to the Society on November 10, 1987, was the creation of William Ellis Tucker (1800-1832).

Born of a prosperous Quaker family, Mr. Ellis began his experimentation in porcelain making in 1826 at the Old Waterworks building in Philadelphia. That year he also bought, in brief partnership with John Bird, a property near Wilmington, Delaware that yielded feldspar and another property at "Mutton Hollow" in New Jersey that provided kaolin or blue clay.

In 1827 Mr. Tucker's porcelains won a silver medal at the Fourth Franklin Institute exhibition and in 1828, another silver medal for ware comparing with "the best specimens of French china."

Thomas Tucker, his younger brother, became his apprentice in 1828 and William himself formed a partnership (1828-1829) with John Hulme known as Tucker and Hulme. From this period came a large tea service, factory-marked and dated 1828. It was said to enjoy the distinction of being the first complete set of china manufactured in America.

In 1831 Tucker established still another partnership with Alexander Hemphill, Tucker and Hemphill as it was known. In that year his porcelain won a silver medal at the American Institute in New York. William Tucker died in 1832 and from 1833-1836 the factory was continued by Alexander Hemphill's father, Judge Joseph Hemphill. Thomas Tucker served as manager. The Hemphill period displayed rich taste, with enamel painting in Sevres style and a lavish use of gold. Its masterpiece was a large vase made in 1835 by Thomas Tucker, the gilt-bronze handles designed by Friedrich Sachse and cast by C. Cornelius and Sons of Philadelphia.

Judge Hemphill retired in 1837, and Thomas Tucker rented the factory for a year, closing it in 1838, thus ending the brief but glorious period of Tucker china.

Accessions

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bennett Hill
- two hats, Red Cross, World War I
- one armband, Red Cross, World War I
- one photograph of Elizabeth North Miller
- one recruiting poster, U.S. Navy, World War I
- wedding dress, 1875, belonging to Elizabeth North Miller
- World War I Red Cross canteen
- workers head gear
- three parasols, several fans
- one very small black parasol

from the estate of Isabella Auld McKnight
- two photographs of Gulph Greek, 1900, Mr. Pleasant
- telephone lease agreement with Delaware and Atlantic Telegraph and Telephone Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bement
- one black lace dress
- Caroline Van Beil Bement’s wedding dress, 1880
- purple going-away dress of Caroline Van Beil Bement, 1880
- flowered dress of C.V.B. Bement with train, 1880
- black lace jacket of C.V.B. Bement
- one skirt
- white summer dress, C.V.B. Bement, 1880’s
- black lace dress, 1920
- wedding dress of Marguerite Bement, 1917
- box of baby clothes
- Marguerite Bement’s christening dress, 1882
- Eleonore Bement’s dress, 1886
- Marguerite Bement’s baby dress and bonnet, 1882
- Herbert Britten Van Beil’s baby shirt, 1856
- Caroline Van Beil Bement’s wedding gloves, 1880
- lace jacket
- C.V.B. Bement’s wedding head dress, stockings, gloves 1880
- wooden stretches for baby socks
- baby shoes, 1880’s
- Marguerite Bement’s baby shoes and socks
- four fans
- one scarf
- C.V.B. Bement’s shoes 1880’s
- tortoise shell glasses frame

Kathrine Cummin
- one copy of Engaged to Murder

Betty W. Lutz
- old family dress

Sammie Ruth Fletcher
- photographs of Caroline Robbins, Gee Vaux, Conrad Wilson, Portland estate and the Aman house

Jean Forrest
- her mother’s photograph album (Mrs. Janette Holmes Eslick)
- pictures of Wayne, 1900’s
- prospectus from Edgewood Lane, St. Davids

K.S. Leonard
- Fish Facts from David H. Henderson’s Sea Food Market, 1901
- four newspaper articles
Joseph Richman
(originally from Dorothy McKnight, niece of Isabella McKnight)
one photograph of the Finley House
three programs

William Osborne Wingeard
The Rudys of God's House

Richard Mumm
blueprints of William Wood estate, "Woodlea"

Glenn E. Sickenberger
"Brief of Title to 13 Acres 151 Perches..., estate of Mary T. Connor

publications from the Wayne Presbyterian Church

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