

THE BULLETIN  
*of*  
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME I

SPRING, 1957

No. 7



INCORPORATED APRIL 30, 1948

*Headquarters and Museum*

THE FINLEY HOUSE  
BEECH TREE LANE AND BELLEVUE AVENUE  
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA

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## NEW BLOOD — AND NEW DIRECTIONS

Dear Members and Friends of Radnor Historical Society:

The month of May, 1957, marks the tenth anniversary of a meeting called by Mrs. Malcolm G. Sausser in May, 1947, when seven people interested in Radnor Township history met to plan the formation of the Radnor Historical Society.

During the ten years of its existence the Society has built up its membership to 200 but this figure has remained static for several years. There is little new growth, little new blood. Our programs are acclaimed and well attended but there seems to be little impetus among our members to undertake research projects on their own. Attention to local landmarks is minimal. We look on the activities of a Wayne physician who, as president of the King of Prussia Historical Society is marshalling a vigorous program of restoration of 18th century structures in that area, with admiration. We are pleased to know that "Kinterra," the old Watson house, will be preserved as a period landmark of our township through the efforts of an antiquarian-minded neighbor. The cause of local history is gathering momentum but our Society is not doing enough to help.

Can we not undertake the equally valuable work of investigating the origins of local buildings, institutions, people and customs? The tools are at hand: the Society's superb collection of photographs, pamphlets, manuscripts and broadsides relating to "Old Radnor," available by telephoning to MURRAY 8-7915; our collection of books, on call at the Memorial Library. You have only to ask to see them. Do you need direction, a specific topic to investigate? Give any of our officers a call for interesting subjects.

If writing does not appeal to you, how about dictating your own reminiscences, or photographing or map-making for us? Why not give us a photograph of yourself, of your own house or store? The record of only yesterday or even of today is the history of tomorrow.

For only \$2.00 a year you can enjoy our evening programs and receive our Bulletin. We need new blood and new directions: YOU and YOUR IDEAS.

*Hopefully yours,*

FRANCIS JAMES DALLETT, JR.

*President*

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### FORM OF BEQUEST

I give and bequeath .....

*(state items or amount)*

absolutely, free and clear of all taxes, unto RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY, for the uses and purposes of said Society.

## GETTYSBURG

Read Before the Radnor Historical Society, May 14, 1956

Some of you might wonder just why Gettysburg should have been selected as the subject of this evening's talk. Geographically, it is somewhat remote from the realm of our usual coverage and yet, in many ways, that historic field is much closer to us than at first we realize. In 1863 it was just about as close to these parts as anybody wanted it to be, and it would not have required very much of a change in the course of events to have brought more than the echos of battle to our peaceful Radnor hills.

Our neighborhood probably came closer to being a scene of action in that year than it did during the winter of Washington's encampment at Valley Forge. While Gettysburg itself is the point where we think of the Confederate army having been stopped, the fact is that one entire division penetrated as far east as Wrightsville on the west bank of the Susquehanna, only 65 miles or so up the street on our own Route 30. You can walk to Valley Forge in two hours, and you can drive to Wrightsville in less than that — without breaking any of our speed laws. At the time of the battle it would have taken not much more than a day for cavalry to have reached here, and there were plenty of people here and in Philadelphia who fully expected that they might hear the hoofbeats of Jeb Stuart's raiders 'most any day.

Even if the Gettysburg campaign had not been such an immediate threat to our countryside, I think that it would still be an appropriate topic for discussion here. The Battle itself is an epic and even by modern standards of comparison its magnitude is not dwarfed. In three short days 160,000 men were engaged and more than one-quarter of them were casualties; ten thousand remained at Gettysburg forever. Here in our own Pennsylvania have occurred many of the struggles that have shaped our history and this was the greatest.

But Gettysburg does not belong to Pennsylvania alone, nor is it merely a monument to the victory of the North. Gettysburg belongs as much to the vanquished and to their posterity, and to all of the Nation that has grown and become united around its tradition. It belongs to all who revere such a tradition, and if we believe that the perpetuation of our history is worth our while, then it cannot be amiss that some day we, at Radnor, should turn to the chapter captioned Gettysburg. I deem it a very great honor to be invited to read to you from those pages.

I think that most of you are thoroughly familiar with the principal phases of the Battle, and their significance. Some of you, I feel sure, have studied the military strategy and the logistics of the campaign much more thoroughly than I, and I shall offer you plenty of opportunity to take issue with my recitation of detail and the pronouncement of some of my own theories. I only hope that you will do so, because the more I get anyone into that sort of a discussion the more I learn — and I never tire of learning something new about Gettysburg. I hope that you feel the same way, and I hope that I may be able to fit some new pieces into your own concept of the picture as a whole.

There is a prologue to the Battle that is every bit as significant as the actual shooting, and I think we might well begin with a consideration of the factors that led to there being a battle at all, and the circumstances under which Fate decreed that it should occur at this particular point. Both of those factors had a great deal to do with the precise pattern of the action and its eventual outcome.

Up until Gettysburg, the Confederate armies had been winning right along, on their own home ground and one of the first questions is why, then, did Lee venture on invasion of the North. In July of '62, just a year earlier, the Union Army had been routed at Bull Run for the second time on the same field. In September, Lee had

wiggled out of a trap at Antietam that might well have brought the entire struggle to an end then and there. In December his army had slaughtered Corps after Corps of Burnside's troops at Fredericksburg, and then in May of '63 Stonewall Jackson executed his brilliant maneuver at Chancellorsville and gave Lee one of his greatest victories even though he also lost his ablest General.

All of these recent successes were pretty convincing as to the invincibility of the Army of Northern Virginia; that was the military factor in the equation that spelled out invasion of the North as the answer to all questions. There were also the economic and political factors, and a resourceful Commanding General cannot afford to overlook them either. Northern Virginia had been stripped, by both armies, of everything that was edible or useable but up North were lush farm lands and prosperous towns and cities and a change of scene would bring sorely needed sustenance within reach. Politically, the consideration was the urgent need of satisfying the demands of some skeptics back home and, even more important, the enlisting of support from Great Britain; that Nation was not inclined to take a chance on backing a loser, but it might be swayed by a bold showing of force and an impressive victory in enemy territory.

All in all, and in spite of the eventual outcome, it is still difficult to say that Lee's great decision was a wrong one.

At the inception of the Gettysburg campaign, which was launched in early June from the vicinity of Fredericksburg, Lee's ultimate objective was a long way from being definite. The grand strategy, as far as it could be planned in advance, was to move northward through the Cumberland Valley and attempt to take Harrisburg. Then, depending on what the Union Army had done in the meantime, strike for Philadelphia, Baltimore, or Washington. Whether the inevitable battle would be one of offense or defense would, again, depend on circumstances as they unfolded and just how and where the Army of the Potomac moved to interpose itself between him and any of those objectives.

Lee knew from past experience that his opponent, Hooker, would be under orders to screen Washington at all times and that he would not dare to vacate his own base until he was sure that Lee's own action was not intended as an immediate threat to the Capitol. Lee put his show on the road, using the rampart of the South Mountain Range both to conceal his movement and to protect it from any surprise attack. Proceeding up the Valley at a good pace and encountering only slight opposition from a Federal force stationed at Winchester, his advance guard marched into Maryland and then on to Chambersburg and Carlisle in Pennsylvania. Upon reaching Chambersburg his Lieutenant, Richard S. Ewell, detached Early's division to proceed east to Wrightsville for further use. Early passed through Gettysburg on June 26th, exacted ransom from the City of York (\$10,000 in gold) and proceeded to the river. If Ewell took Harrisburg, which looked easy, then Lee could also move his other two Corps east through Gettysburg, cross the Susquehanna to Columbia and take his choice of the eastern cities for his next attack.

While all this was going on, Hooker had finally got his Federal forces under way, but intelligence was hard to get and usually unreliable so he still acted with a great deal of caution. Hooker knew that Lee was up to something over across the mountain, but all he could develop was that the direction was northward, so he moved his army in a parallel line but always remembering that he must keep between Lee and Washington.

But if Hooker was puzzled, Lee was just as badly off. Shortly after starting north he had instructed his famous Cavalry Commander, J. E. B. Stuart, to do three things:

(1) To screen the main movement from observation by Hooker and guard the mountain passes against any surprise attack, (2) To maintain a constant observation

of Hooker's movements, and (3) at his "discretion" to seize such supplies as he could and destroy what he could not carry off. Stuart loved nothing better than to go off on a merry raid or put on a show by riding clear around the enemy line, and at his discretion he soon forgot his all-important mission of scouting. He finally contacted Lee again on July 1st, but by that time Lee had found out for himself where the Union Army was; he had just been hit with it!

Without the benefit of the information that Stuart should have been supplying, Lee was lulled into believing that Hooker was still a long way off. His own men had been on the march for nearly a month and so, when they reached Chambersburg, Lee let them rest for a couple of days. Late on the second evening, a civilian scout reported that the Army of the Potomac was in the vicinity of Emmitsburg, a few miles south of Gettysburg; also, that Hooker had been relieved of command and replaced by the serious minded George Gordon Meade. Lee put his army on the road at once, with the purpose of concentrating at Cashtown — some seven or eight miles west of Gettysburg, on the east slope of the South Mountain. He ordered Ewell to move south from Carlisle and called Early back from Wrightsville — both of them to hustle toward Gettysburg at top speed.

Thus, by a rather strange turn of events the opposing armies were approaching each other at a little town most of them had never heard of before — the forces of the South coming in from the north, west, and east, and the Northern army from the south!

On June the thirtieth, some members of the Corps of Confederate Lieutenant General Ambrose Powell Hill had been given permission to go on a shoe hunting expedition into Gettysburg, rumor having reached them that there was a goodly supply of that article in town. On the outskirts of the town, the detachment encountered a company of Federal militia which they promptly scattered, but not knowing how large a force might be nearby they decided not to run any risks until they themselves were reinforced. The party returned to Cashtown and waited until the next day to resume their search for shoes.

The morning of July 1st broke clear and hot. Shortly before 8 o'clock, down the road from Cashtown came Pender's division of Hill's Corps. During the night John Buford's Union Cavalry had come in from Fairfield on the Hagerstown Pike and deployed in a line of defense facing the Cashtown-Chambersburg road. The outer line of skirmishes took position along a little brook named Willoughby Run. As soon as Hill's men came within range, they were met with a burst of musket fire from behind the willows fringing the brook. Hill's men immediately spread out on both sides of the road, and in less than two hours a foray for shoes had become a major engagement.

That wasn't what Lee had wanted at all. He had given Hill specific orders that if he met resistance to his march, he was not to offer battle. Lee didn't want a general engagement until the last of his army had moved up from Chambersburg and until Ewell and Early had come in from Carlisle and Wrightsville. In the meantime, while he waited to see what Meade was going to do, his main body would be occupying an excellent defensive position on South Mountain. But, perhaps Hill couldn't help himself. A full Corps of Union infantry under Major General John Reynolds had arrived to support Buford, and the road between Emmitsburg and Gettysburg was filling up with uniforms of blue. Whatever had been started, now had to be finished.

Reynolds rode out to the front to place his men and was shot and instantly killed by a Confederate sharpshooter. Command of the Union forces passed to General Abner Doubleday, who later acquired his greatest fame as the "Father of Baseball." Hill's men pressed the attack, and reinforced by the arrival of Ewell, they drove the Federal forces back into town and up on to the little slope called Cemetery Ridge. The three-pronged attack of Hill, Ewell, and then Early, forced the Union line to bend into a bit

of a curve at the one end, and eventually taking something of the shape of a giant-sized fish-hook, the point digging into Culp's Hill at the northeast end, and the shank extending south along the ridge. Thus, somewhat by mischance, the Union army found itself in what later turned out to be an ideal defensive position.

As the day drew to its close, and all through the night, Meade — to give him the credit he well deserves — took full advantage of consolidating his position. At the same time Lee, as the attacker, had the advantage of choosing the place and time where he would strike; in doing so, however, he was forced to leave behind him the impregnable fortress of the South Mountain range, where he might conceivably have held out forever.

Taken by itself, the first day's battle was definitely a Confederate victory, but they failed to press their advantage. Once again Lee had given a Lieutenant wide latitude to use his own discretion; at the height of the Union's crisis, Lee had instructed Ewell to push his attack "if practicable." Ewell had had a pretty good day already, and as evening was coming on he just didn't deem it practicable to risk losing all that he had gained.

The second day at Gettysburg was marked by a long delay in getting started. As the Union line extended itself along Cemetery Ridge, the Confederates stretched themselves along an opposite bit of high ground named Seminary Ridge; the two lines lay about a mile apart, separated by a shallow dip in the terrain and comprising, principally, open farmland. Lee had studied the ground and the disposition of the Union forces early in the morning. It seemed to him that Meade's extreme left flank was insecurely anchored, and he believed that the line could be broken at that point. He ordered Longstreet, Commander of the First Corps to prepare such a thrust. Longstreet didn't want to do it. He felt sure that the enemy's line was stronger than it looked, and he favored a sweeping end run instead of an off-tackle play. Longstreet got obstinate about it, arguing that Pickett's Division had not yet arrived on the scene and he didn't want to tackle that doubtful job short handed. Lee was insistent and assured him that he would be supported by a part of Hill's Corps located on his own left. Longstreet came pretty close to asking to be relieved, but in the end he was too good a soldier to let his Commanding General down, and finally went to work. He did not, however, get his attack started until nearly 4:00 in the afternoon. Although he broke the line, momentarily, at Little Round Top, Union reinforcements and the oncoming darkness forced him to withdraw. Once again the Confederates had had the best of it, but the net result was still a stalemate.

The third of July and the third and final day of the Battle was another scorcher. The morning was marked by renewed actions on Culp's Hill, with the result that Ewell's men were finally driven out of the entrenched position they had established mid-way up the slope. The next event was the arrival of Stuart's Cavalry — at least a week late — and his unsuccessful attempt to get in behind the Union line and break things up.

Along the main front, on the two ridges there was an ominous quiet. At exactly 1:00 P.M. that silence was broken by the crack of a signal gun over on Seminary Ridge — and in another moment a hundred cannon stretched out along a two-mile front, opened fire! The Union guns responded in even greater number and the artillery duel continued for two hours without let-up. Then the Confederate guns stopped and out of the smoke and out of the little glade known as Spangler's Woods came a solid mass of the men in gray.

This was Pickett's charge, but it looked more like a parade at that stage. The men marched in perfect alignment, their muskets sloped over their shoulders, their line formed in three ranks and extending a solid mile in length. Their destination was the angle of a stone wall, located in a "little clump of trees" a little less than a mile across the open fields.

The Union artillery opened up with a renewed fire with everything that could be

loaded into a cannon's mouth. With every salvo a hole was torn in the Confederate front line, but the gap was immediately filled by men from the second and third waves. Not until Pickett's men were within a hundred yards of the Union line did they return the fire or halt their march. Then, at that point, they stopped and fired one volley — let out their famous Rebel Yell, and charged with fixed bayonets.

Over the stone wall they poured, and past the line of Union cannon — but not so many of them now; nowhere enough to go anywhere, now that their objective had been reached, nor even enough to hold what they had taken. Then, like a steel spring that has been bent almost to the breaking point but will not snap, the Union line recoiled and carried Pickett's men back with it. The Confederates retreated slowly and in good order and with their faces toward their enemy. In a matter of minutes the charge had succeeded and failed. The month of preparation, the long miles of marching and three days of fighting had reached its climax. So had two years of war, and now the high noon of the Confederacy had passed.

Much has been said and will be said about what might have happened and what ought to have been done at Gettysburg. Lee is criticized for launching the campaign, and his ultimate design of battle. He had his reasons for both, and no doubt they looked good to him at the time. They don't look too bad even in many years of retrospect and second guessing. It just so happens that they didn't work out!

Meade has been criticized just as severely for not winding up the war then and there, either by an immediate counter attack after the repulse of Pickett's charge or by cutting Lee down during his retreat. Lee was very badly beaten but the trouble was that Meade didn't know it. Meade had fought a brilliant defensive battle, at least on the second and third days, but his men had "had it," and the whole affair had been a very real thing. He wasn't risking the sure fruits of the victory that was already his.

The arguments about Gettysburg will, no doubt, go on forever. As a battle, it exercises a peculiar magnetism that is probably unequaled by any other in all history. Each year — and it goes on this way year after year — some 700 or 800 thousand people visit the battlefield. For the strategists, the pattern of the battle is a classic. For many years its careful study was a part of the curriculum of West Point and of all the Military Academies of Europe; only in the light of the most modern weapons has it finally become outmoded. The statistics of the battle are still appalling.

But Gettysburg is remembered not merely for those things. Gettysburg is something indescribably sublime. It is John Burns, the heroic Village Constable, and Abraham Lincoln. It is the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Dixie" and, perhaps, the "Yellow Rose of Texas." It is triumph and disaster and making the best of both. It is the sum of all courage and the substance of devotion to a cause, and it was the climax of our past heritage and a new beginning of our great destiny.

It is for these that the memory of Gettysburg shall be imperishable.

CHARLES E. ALEXANDER

## ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY, 1956 - 1957

May 14, 1956

Mr. Charles E. Alexander, Past President of the Society, used the information gathered in many years of pursuing a personal hobby for his talk, "Gettysburg," at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Society. The dramatic story told by Mr. Alexander is reprinted in this Bulletin.

At the meeting, held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Westhead, St. Davids, awards were presented to the two winners of the Photographic Contest, Miss Lisa Barringer (for her photographs of the Vanor property in Radnor) and Mr. J. M.

Thomas (for a picture of Old St. David's Church), who had submitted outstanding pictures of Radnor Township subjects.

Reelected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term were Miss E. Dorothy Finley, Mrs. Malcolm G. Sausser, Mr. Francis James Dallett, Jr., Mr. William F. Machold and Mr. George Vaux. At a meeting of the Board of Directors held following the meeting, Mr. Dallett was elected President; Miss Robbins, Vice President; Mr. Casey, Corresponding Secretary; Father Dunne, Recording Secretary; and Mr. Ehmann, Treasurer. Mr. Charles W. David was returned to office as Curator.

#### October 13, 1956

The Society made a "Pilgrimage to Pennsbury" as a variation from the customary October "Open House Day" in the local area. Thirty-one adults and three children went by car to visit the historically important country house of William Penn on the Delaware River near Bristol, reconstructed by architect R. Brognard Okie, of Devon. Picnic lunches were taken and Miss Robbins led the group on a tour of the Queen Anne house and gardens.

Coffee and other refreshments were provided by the new chairman and assistant chairman of the Hospitality Committee, Mrs. Edward W. Westhead and Mrs. Gertrude Ware Case.

#### November 14, 1956

"An Artist Follows the Radnor Hounds" was the topic of Mr. Charles Morris Young, of Radnor, who spoke at the meeting held in Old St. David's Church Parish House, Wayne, to the largest audience of the season. Illustrating his reminiscences as a painter of landscape and of Hounds with a fine series of Kodachrome slides, Mr. Young gave additional substance to the meeting by placing ten of his fine canvases on exhibition.

A more detailed description of Mr. Young's life and work appears in this Bulletin.

#### January 16, 1957

Braving one of the snowiest nights of the winter, Mr. A. T. Haakinson, of Bryn Mawr, presented a program on "Old Music Boxes" at a meeting held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. David. Mr. Haakinson, a collector of antique music boxes, brought with him many specimens from his collection and described the historical development of the music box with his own collection as a focal point. Other music boxes were brought to the meeting by members of the Society and some twenty or thirty mechanisms played their respective melodies in the course of the evening.

During the month of January the Society sponsored an exhibition in the Memorial Library of Radnor Township on "Old Inns and Taverns." Photographs and old tavern licenses were displayed by the Society and Mr. Herbert S. Casey loaned antique tavern spirits measures and books from his own collection.

#### March 13, 1957

Dr. Amandus Johnson, distinguished scholar in the field of Swedish-American history, addressed the meeting, held in the Wayne Presbyterian Church, on "Nearby Swedish Settlements and Settlers." Dr. Johnson told the story of the first permanent colonization of the Delaware Valley, by the Swedes, and described later migrations which brought the Swedes up the Schuylkill to Upper Merion and the fringes of Radnor.

The audience was delighted to learn that the Swedish language persisted in the Bridgeport section until 1831, the Reverend Nicholas Collin preaching in that tongue at Christ Church, Upper Merion, until his death.

Mr. George Vaux was appointed representative of the Society on the Advisory Committee of the King of Prussia Historical Society.



A MEET AT THE LEOPARD  
by Charles Morris Young  
1923

#### "AN ARTIST FOLLOWS THE RADNOR HOUNDS"

Charles Morris Young, eighty-seven-year-old artist who has been a resident of Radnor since 1911, told the November meeting of the Society how "An Artist Follows the Radnor Hounds." His reminiscences, illustrated by a series of colored slides of his paintings and by a number of original canvases on exhibition, described the rural beauties of the Radnor countryside and the neighboring meadows and woodland of the White Horse and Crum Creek country, hunted by the Radnor and Rose Tree Hounds.

It was for the beauties of the local landscape that Mr. Young came to Hares Lane, Radnor, from Jenkintown which had been his home after leaving his native Gettysburg. He had behind him training at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and at the Academie Colarossi in Paris. He knew Mary Cassatt, Sargent and Whistler. He had painted the Maine coast. He was a landscape artist who called himself a "humble student of nature" and who never succumbed to the revolutionary realm of abstractionism. Radnor Township was still essentially rural, just beginning to be "suburban," when the artist arrived to catch its personality on canvas.

Studies of old stone bridges on Darby Creek, of Valley Forge in the snow and portraits of his family largely occupied Young until the day his friend, Benjamin Chew, was able to persuade him to "come out to a Hunt," to paint the horses and Hounds. Young was not interested in sporting subjects but he went and painted. He discovered

that his landscape was surprisingly enhanced by the brilliant foreground material of the horses and huntsmen and that the Hounds led him to out of the way bits of the countryside he never otherwise would have found. He went out again, did another hunting group. Before long he was a familiar figure to the Radnor huntsmen, their horses, their Hounds and their quarry.

Young painted what he saw with realism: mud-spattered flanks, bedraggled red coats, Benjamin Chew or Stanley Reeve or Horace Hare sitting awry in their saddle. He would not "prettify" his subjects; he went on canvas as they appeared at the moment the artist caught them. Much of Charles Morris Young's work was done on wet, gray days when the mood of the weather was changing but dramatic. The artist frequently sat in the cold rain and sketched the scene he glimpsed as the Hunt swept by. The canvas which resulted often did more than show the weather of the moment. It subtly forecast the weather of the day following!

Especially well portrayed were his Hounds; he caught them in every movement of the chase, their coloring, stance and posture, their running motion. Here were no "Hounds hunting down wind, neither do they cross water like a circus parade with every one in his place; they cross, they cast, they find, they hunt as Hounds do these things." Young, however, never relinquished his landscape specialty for hunting scenes. Rather, he let the Hounds and the Hunt stray across his wonderful landscapes and thus painted the Hunt as he saw it.



**VALLEY FORGE**  
*by Charles Morris Young*  
1911



**A MEET AT WHITE HORSE TAVERN**  
*by Charles Morris Young*  
1925

He followed the Hounds to Hunting Hill on Mr. Walter Jeffords' place in the Rose Tree country, where a riding-to-hounds farmer had long ago been buried in a standing position "and not too deep so I can hear the Hounds." He carried his paints to Jeffords' fields at Sycamore Mills in Ridley Creek and to Echo Valley on the Battles place at Newtown Square, where a fox one day ran behind the Hounds and stopped to sit on his haunches, calmly watching the artist at work. These pleasant outings with nature following Radnor and Rose Tree were divided with expeditions to the Pickering country north of Paoli. Of the three, however, the Radnor Hunt was always the artist's special province. "A Meet at the White Horse Tavern," "Innes's Woods," "A Meet at the Leopard," "Hounds Crossing Darby Creek," "Drawing Radnor Barrens," "In Full Cry," "The Old Covered Bridge," "The Radnor Hunt at Sugartown," "A Meet at Penn Tavern" (Edgemont), and "Dave Sharp's Farmyard" were the canvases which felt the specially affectionate touch of his brush.

*Spur Magazine* of March 15, 1922, said of Charles Morris Young, "He paints veritable hunting pictures with the innermost soul of the Hunt in them, just as an enthusiastic Hunting man has witnessed and felt such scenes a thousand times without being able to convey his impressions verbally." Young's pictures were art.

After many years painting hunting scenes, the artist has recently turned to golfing subjects. His "Golf Match," done at the St. Davids Golf Club at the age of eighty-seven, was exhibited at the National Academy of Design in New York, at the Pennsylvania

Academy of the Fine Arts and at the Wayne Art Center, where it hung beside his earlier canvases of the Radnor Hunt. A reproduction of the painting appeared in the leading French art magazine, *La Revue Moderne*, with the critical comment that Charles Morris Young ranks with the best traditional American artists. This acclaim is echoed by the members of the Radnor Historical Society, who last fall heard the artist tell the story of his work after a fortunate move brought him to Radnor.

FRANCIS JAMES DALLETT, JR.

## THE STORY OF THE SATURDAY CLUB OF WAYNE

Presented at the Saturday Club Meeting  
(February 19, 1957)

When Mrs. Holland, our program chairman, held a meeting last May to discuss Saturday Club programs for the 1956-57 season I volunteered as Club Historian to take as a topic for a meeting in late February, "Seventy Years of Saturday Club Programs." In March, 1957, we would celebrate our seventy-first birthday, but in February we would still be in our seventieth year and seventy is rather a nice round figure to discuss!

In the printing of the programs the title of my program took a slight twist and became "Seventy Years of Saturday Clubbing." At first I was a little disappointed at the unexpected change of name. Then as one meeting succeeded another I became convinced that this was a better title than the original. The chief factor in my coming to that decision was the realization that at each meeting there were at least a few more new members than had been at the previous meeting of the 1956-57 season. After all, this steadily increasing group of new members would be more interested in a general history of their club rather than in program changes over the years.

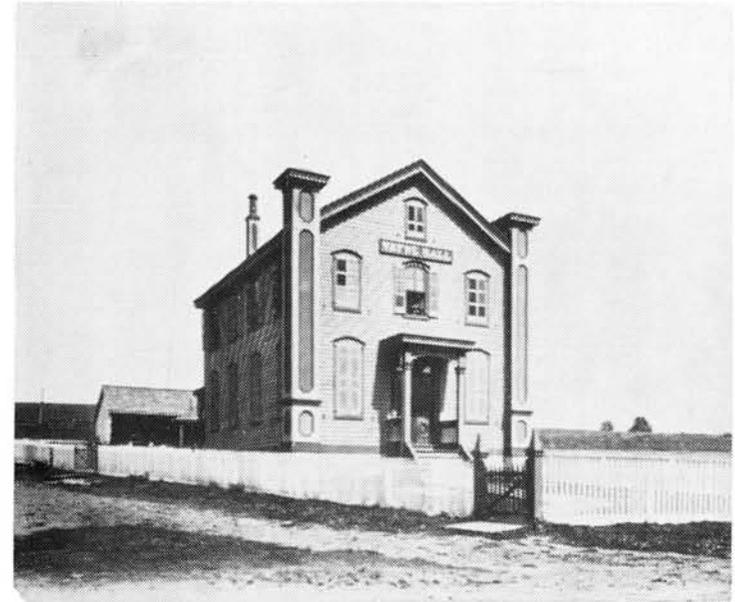
There have been several anniversary celebrations during the past twenty odd years, for all of which I have written the narrative. The first one was in March, 1936, when our club depicted in story and tableau the fifty years of the club's existence from its inception in March, 1886, until March, 1936. Another celebration was held in April, 1941, when we had been in existence fifty-five years. On that occasion we had not only tableaux and narration, but songs of the different eras. Dressed in charming old costumes, the chorus stood at the rear of the room, their music forming a background for the tableaux. Then in October, 1951, we celebrated a "History of Sixty-five years in Narrative and Tableaux." The grand finale of that was the fifth tableau in which we depicted the burning of the old club mortgage which had taken place in the preceding March of that year. Some few among us have seen all three of these anniversary celebrations. They were beautiful and impressive presentations of phases of the history of the Saturday Club, the second oldest women's departmental club in Pennsylvania, second in age only to the New Century Club of Philadelphia, which was founded in 1876 soon after the close of the Centennial in Philadelphia.

The program today is a simple one, in no way to be compared to the other three which I have described briefly. But with so many new members I think it is fitting that we who have studied the beginnings of our beloved Women's Club should tell our new members something of those beginnings. We should show them the treasures that are ours in the way of pictures and old records.

First of all comes our original minute book with its first entry, that of February 16, 1886. Almost reverently I open to the first page on which are given "Minutes of the Ladies' Organization." The ink in which those minutes are written is so faded as to be scarcely legible. I shall therefore read the typewritten copy.

"On February 16, 1886, at four in the afternoon, nine of the twelve ladies invited to be present, met in the Library room, Wayne Hall, where, after some informal remarks, Miss Markley was invited to preside."

The first order of business at this meeting was the nomination and election of



OLD WAYNE LYCEUM HALL

Near Lancaster and North Pembroke Avenues  
Where the Saturday Club Was Founded in 1886

officers for the temporary organization. Tellers announced the results of the balloting to be:

President—Mrs. James Campbell

Vice-Presidents—Miss Anna Markley and Mrs. P. W. VerPlanck

Secretary—Mrs. G. E. Abbott

Treasurer—Miss Helen Erben

The next order of business was a discussion of the meeting place for the new organization. Although there was some opposition to the Library room of the Wayne Hall it was finally decided to meet there until a permanent organization should be formed in May. It was also decided by motion to meet alternate Saturday afternoons at 4 o'clock, the first meeting to be held on February 27. Dues were set at one dollar for the temporary organization. A committee of three on Constitution and By-Laws was appointed, while the organizers made themselves a committee of the whole on entertainment.

In addition to the officers the other members of the original twelve were: Mrs. William Henry Sayen, Miss Phillips, Miss Katharine Wentworth, Miss Simmons, Mrs. Barclay Johnson, Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Henry Pleasants, Jr. A little later (I quote): "There were nominated for membership six other ladies, all of whom gave great vitality to the infant club. They were Miss Matlack, Mrs. Stocker, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. E. L. Campbell, Miss M. Rogers and Mrs. Fallon."

At the March 8 meeting the name "Saturday Club" was adopted. Also the ladies signified under which committee of the club they wished to work. The results were: 3 under science; 3 under literary works; 2 under art and 4 under music.

At the meeting on March 27, the constitution and by-laws were adopted. At the next meeting the business committee "reported success in obtaining the Wayne Hall for the club meetings with the privilege of using hall, library or platform."

But even before the first formal meeting on February 16 an informal one had taken place when "on a snowy Saturday afternoon, there gathered in Mrs. Sayen's parlor several bright congenial women, who, over steaming cups of tea, dared discuss the subject of women's clubs—then almost a tabooed one." The house in which these ladies met and had their tea still stands but a short distance from our Club House. It is the large house on the corner of West Wayne Avenue and Conestoga Road, which now houses the Italian-American Club.

And how did the Wayne of the year 1886 look as these ladies stepped into their carriages at the door of Mrs. Sayen's house and went their various ways? The Pike was a narrow, tree shaded road with houses standing far back from it on spacious well planted lawns. There were toll gate houses at close intervals along it. All vehicles were horse drawn from the farm wagons to my lady's elegant Victoria with coachman and footman. Bicycling was at its height, with the "ordinary," as those with the high front wheels were called, just giving away to the "safety," the forerunner of our modern bicycle. There were hitching posts and there were livery stables along the Pike.

Much of the surrounding countryside was farmland although by 1886 Wayne was beginning to look like a small town. There was an influx of Philadelphians each June seeking to escape the heat of the city. With their children and their nurses, their carriages and their coachmen, they led a life of luxurious ease at the beautiful old Bellevue Hotel built in 1881 by George W. Childs and at the impressive Louella Mansion built even earlier by one of Wayne's founders, James Henry Askin. Among other buildings already erected by 1886 were the Old Opera House, now the Colonial Building, the Wayne Presbyterian Chapel, the original drug store owned by J. M. Fronefield on the site of the present Sun Ray Drug Store, Lienhardt's Bakery, the Central Baptist Church and the houses on Bloomingdale Avenue. The old Cleaver farm, now the site of the Caley Nursing Home, but at that time occupied by the Hughes family, had long been a land mark, the Old Spread Eagle Inn was still standing. The Swimming Club was located at Kelly's Dam in North Wayne near what is now Willow Avenue. It was also used for christenings and in winter people skated there. A "fire horn," three feet long, was blown to man the "pumper" when there was a fire. The Radnor Lyceum Hall where the Saturday Club was founded was a frame building then located at the northeast corner of what is now Pembroke Avenue and the Pike.

So high did the enthusiasm of those early club members run that meetings were held even in the summer of 1886! Programs were usually in the form of papers written by the members. These were on such diversified subjects as "Climatology," "Materialism," and "Geology of the Surrounding Country." There was the reading of a few extracts from a book called "Plumbing and Doctors." Dr. Egbert gave a lecture on "Emergencies" and Dr. Wells one on "Nursing." Mrs. Rorer, author of the still well known cook book talked on "Puff Pastry and Ordinary Pastry." The Reverend Mr. Keller (of Old St. David's Church) read a paper entitled "Conservatism Ought to be the Attitude of the Saturday Club."

At the annual meeting held in April, 1887, it was voted to reduce the dues from \$3.00 to \$2.00. However, "All men becoming life members pay \$3.00 and this gives them a membership for life." Apparently not many availed themselves of this opportunity, for at a meeting held a year later it was "moved that the money be refunded to these gentlemen who have paid their dues for this year and that those who have assisted us be elected honorary members." Dr. Egbert and Mr. Abbott were evidently the only ones who had availed themselves of the opportunity to join the Saturday Club!

In October, 1890, the president of the club was requested to attend a meeting of the State Federation of Women's Clubs to be held in the Century Club rooms in Philadelphia. Then, in April, 1891, the Saturday Club voted to apply to the General Federation for membership.



**THE SATURDAY CLUB HOUSE**  
*About 1895*

Presidents for the first 10 years of the Saturday Club's existence included Mrs. James Campbell, Miss Anne Markley, Miss Buxton, Mrs. George R. Stocker, Mrs. E. L. Campbell, Mrs. Charles B. Stilwell, Mrs. Henry Birkinbine and then Mrs. Stilwell again.

Parts of Mrs. Stocker's inaugural address delivered in June, 1891, are interesting to quote these seventy odd years later. "The club movement for women is a factor for modern progress. It has stimulated an intellectual and social life without in the least detracting from the duties of wifehood and motherhood. . . . It is impossible for men to comprehend the narrow groove in which the majority of women have been forced to live, move and have their being in the past. Club life has revealed women to each other; it has established fellowship on purely human foundations. . . . The Federation goes on to prove that they built upon a purely peaceful basis, composed of home loving women who are delighted to renew their youth in their eagerness to know whatever there is interesting to be known, who, whatever is the status or degree of cultivation, still find in their interchange of club life, food for mind and soul."

#### 1896 - 1906

Following Mrs. Stilwell in the presidency were Mrs. W. B. McKellar, Mrs. George Miles Wells, Mrs. C. W. Ruschenburger, Mrs. Ralston C. Ware, Mrs. Ellis L. Campbell, Mrs. William A. Nichols and Mrs. Clarke J. Wood.

It was during this period that the club house, the occupancy of which we have enjoyed these many years, was built. Mrs. Ralston C. Ware was chairman of the building committee. As we read over her final report in the clear firm handwriting so characteristic of the woman herself, it seems as if she were telling us about it in person. On October 17, 1898, the Board authorized the president and secretary to sign a contract with J. D. Lengel, of Wayne, for the building of a club house on a lot on West Wayne Avenue purchased from the Wayne Estate. The total cost including the purchase price of the ground was \$5,145.08!

Mrs. Ware tells of the many meetings of the committee with the architect, Mr. David Knickerbocker Boyd. It is with great pride that she and the two members of

her committee, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Smith, make their final report for (I quite): "We look forward to our club house as being a rallying place for our members, which will lend a special interest and impetus to all our work, literary and social."

#### 1906 - 1916

Presidents of this period were Mrs. Milton W. Orme who succeeded Mrs. Clarke J. Wood; Mrs. Parke J. Schoch, Mrs. Marshall H. Smith and Mrs. Henry Roever.

In October, 1907, the 12th annual convention of the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women was held at the Devon Inn with the Saturday Club as Hostess Club. Some 400 women were in attendance coming to Devon from all sections of the state. Mrs. Ellis L. Campbell (later the second Mrs. William Henry Sayen), was state president. The Philadelphia Ledger of October 30, 1907, says:

"At 4 o'clock the regular meeting of the convention opened. Mrs. Milton W. Orme, president of the Saturday Club of Wayne welcomed the delegates, Mrs. Ellis Lewis Campbell responded. The latter is not only a member of the Saturday Club but president of the Federation and thus she replied to her own club in the name of the strangers present." Entertainments included drives to Valley Forge and Old St. David's Church, a reception at Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, and a tea at the New Century Club of that city; a visit to Bryn Mawr College with tea in Pembroke Hall as guests of Miss M. Cary Thomas. On Wednesday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00 tea was served at the Saturday Club House.

And what were club women discussing at this time? These were the topics of some of their convention addresses. "Child Labor Regulations in Pennsylvania," "Home Economics as an Educational Phase in Civics," "The Movement Toward Civic Beauty" and "Moral Training in Public Schools." Mrs. Edward W. Biddle, of Carlisle, who succeeded Mrs. Campbell as state president was much interested in education in Pennsylvania. She felt that school taxation was quite inadequate to introduce manual training, school libraries and many other indispensable adjuncts such as schools in our neighboring states enjoyed at that time. Reports on pure food were read. Miss Florence Dibert's paper on industrial conditions especially aroused the delegates. Child Labor action was urged; reports on juvenile court movements came up for discussion. Among the prominent convention guests was Mrs. Sarah Platt Decker, then president of the General Federation.

In June, 1912, during the presidency of Mrs. Marshall H. Smith, the contract for alterations to the club house was signed with Mrs. Parke Schoch as chairman of the building committee. These alterations included changes in the basement to provide a dining room as well as a ground floor addition for our present stage. Up to this time when a stage was needed, the seats extended across the east end of this room unfolded to provide such facilities. I think that it was at this time that the porch became an enclosed one, although I am not sure of that. In November, 1912, these building improvements were completed.

It was at this time that the mortgage that we burned with such delightful ceremony during Mrs. Hogeland's presidency was taken out! It was, of course, to provide funds for these additions and alterations.

#### 1916 - 1928

Mrs. Roever's presidency, beginning in 1914, extended through the first year of this period. She was succeeded by Mrs. Marshall H. Smith, Mrs. W. Allen Barr, Mrs. John J. Mitchell, Jr., Mrs. Walter H. Dance, and Mrs. Charles Henry Howson. Minute books and other records so abundant up to this period fail us now. For our information we are indebted to Mrs. Roever whose recollections have been supplemented by the calendars of 1916, 1917 and 1918. We need not remind you that this was the period of World War I. In the spring of 1917, the United States joined the allies. The first club

program in the fall of 1917 was in the form of a reception to new members. There was music, letters from the front and tableaux. As we read to you from the calendars of 1917-1918, your minds will turn back as did ours, to half forgotten things. Among these is a Home Economics program with a lecture on "Food values and Substitutes as a means of food conservation." The Delaware County Federation of Women's Clubs meeting in Wayne had as its speaker the Extension Manager of Red Cross work. Just before Christmas 1917 the hospitality of the club was extended to twenty-five marines from the Philadelphia Navy Yard by the chairman of the Philanthropic and House Economics section, co-operating with the Junior Saturday Club.

There were a number of canteen luncheons. Service days were held regularly at the club house when members were urged to bring any work they might be doing for men at the front. There was a vaudeville show put on by the Juniors for the benefit of a fund for French orphans. There was a speaker on the work of the Council for National Defense.

At the end of February, 1918, the club house was closed owing to the coal shortage, not to be reopened until April first. Meetings were held at the homes of various members. When it was reopened there was a community meeting, "Liberty Loan Day," with a program arranged by Mrs. J. S. C. Harvey. At the end of April, in response to a request from the Government, a "War Kitchen" was held in the club house for the period of a week.

Mrs. Roever tells us of the dedication of the Club house to the Government and then of the time during the influenza epidemic when the building was filled with cots,



THE SATURDAY CLUB HOUSE  
1957

thus turning it into a hospital for those who could not gain admittance to regular hospitals because of crowded conditions there. The children's unit was in a big tent outside the club house. Contributions of broths and other invalid foods were supplied by townspeople including many members of the club.

But there was a brighter side too. "The play days," as Mrs. Roever describes them, "The black and white luncheon" when tables were covered by huge millinery boxes, the "Alice in Wonderland Luncheon" with Mrs. Roever as the "Mad Hatter," the "Submarine Luncheon" served in the basement, made to look like the interior of a ship.

And then came happier days, those following 1918 with the armistice that November of that year brought. Mrs. Barr succeeded Mrs. Smith as president. Then came Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Dance and Mrs. Howson.

#### 1928 - 1956

Presidents of the period were Mrs. Henry Roever, 1928-1930; Mrs. Frederick A. McCord, 1930-1932; Mrs. E. Earl Trout, 1932-1934; Mrs. Paul Gant, 1934-1936; Mrs. T. Magill Patterson, 1936-1938 and 1938-1940; Mrs. H. H. Kynett, 1940-1942; Mrs. F. Ashby Wallace, 1942-1944; Mrs. J. Stuart Freeman, 1944-1946; Mrs. A. E. Livingston, 1946-1948; Mrs. Richard Howson, 1948-1950; Mrs. J. Russell Hogeland, 1950-1952; Mrs. Spencer V. Smith, 1952-1954; and Mrs. J. Leroy Vosburg, 1954-1956. Mrs. G. Rushton Howell is the present incumbent with a term of office extending from 1956-1958.

World War II had its effect on Club activities at the end of Mrs. Kynett's administration as well as through Mrs. Wallace's and Mrs. Freeman's. Less time was given to club work and more to Red Cross. As its direct contribution to the local war effort, the Club House was turned over to the local Red Cross Branch for all of its Blood Donor Days.

Since the program today is a very brief one I shall not go into the details of Saturday Club events of the more recent years. Instead, I am going to show you some of the pictures of old Wayne in the book so kindly lent for our use today by the Radnor Historical Society. There are many other things of interest on the table before me, among them a number of old printed programs of the Club in addition to the first Minute Book and the first treasurer's accounts. There is a lovely portrait of Mrs. Sayen, founder of the Club, as well as an album of pictures of many of our Club members taken by a well known Philadelphia photographer in the 1920's. There are also complete scrap books of all of my "Your Town and My Town" columns on historical Wayne and its surroundings which have appeared in "The Suburban" under my name from March, 1949, to the present time.

I invite you to look at all of these things at your leisure and to ask any questions that may come to mind. If I do not know the answers I shall try to find them out for you.

In closing I should like to call your attention to the fact that those "several bright congenial women" who gathered in Mrs. Sayen's parlor in the early winter of 1886 to discuss "the subject of women's clubs—then almost a tabooed one" started a local organization that now numbers some 300 members. These women are active in the Saturday Club in more than 30 departments and divisions of women's club activities as organized by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Pennsylvania State Federation. The former is the largest and most powerful organized group of women in the world today, yet the Saturday Club out-dates the formation of that great organization by some four years!

EMMA C. PATTERSON

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**RADNOR'S GHOST**

*First as a Bear and Next as a Man.*

Radnor is excited. There is what is termed a bona fide ghost.

Dr. Angle, of Strafford was in town this morning and he informed a NEWS reporter that no one will go out after nightfall in the vicinity of Mrs. Ramsey's farm, where it is said a ghost first made its appearance in the form of a white polar bear and again in the shape of a man.

Cutlasses were used, but the aerial substance parted, came together again and refused to stay cut.

Wilmer Siter said he threw stones at the object. The stones went into the object, but did not drop.

The whole territory is in an uproar, and the matter will be investigated by the authorities.

From *Daily Local News*,  
West Chester, Pa., May 18, 1891.

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**RADNOR BOARDING-SCHOOL**

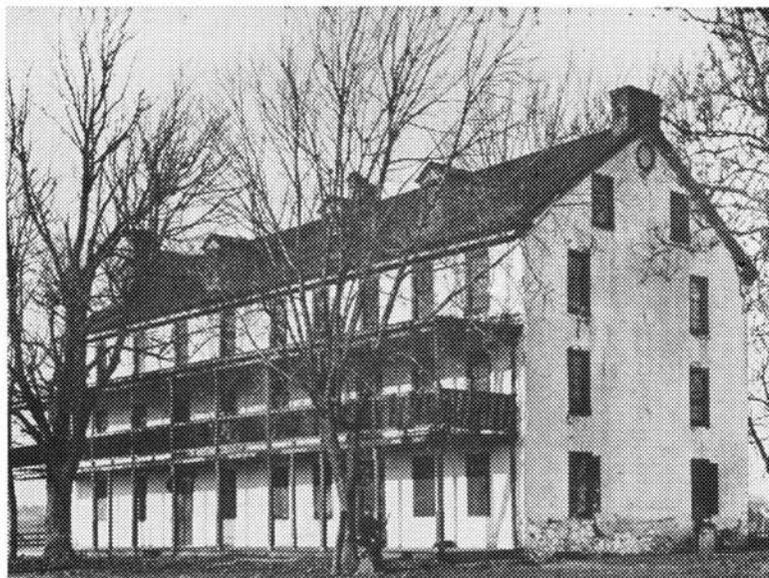
JACOB MAULE, having engaged a well qualified teacher, has opened a boarding school in a healthy part of the country, near Friend's Meeting house in Radnor, about 12 miles west of Philadelphia, for the instruction of Girls in reading, writing, English grammar, arithmetic, geography and useful needle work. Children of decent demeanor of any religious society will be admitted.

TERMS.—For boarding, lodging, washing, and tuition, 130 dollars per annum, payable quarterly in advance. Students will not be admitted for a less term than three months. It is expected that those who may be admitted into the school will, to avoid unnecessary washing, dispense with their white or light colored clothing. It will also be expected, that they bring with them a certificate from a respectable physician, of their being free from any infectious disease. The number of pupils is limited to 20. Application may be made to Samuel Baldwin, near Downingtown; to Jacob Maule, at the school, or to Benjamin Johnson, No. 22, north 2nd street, Philadelphia.

8th mo. 19th, 1814.

5-3t.

From *American Republican*,  
West Chester, Pa., August 23, 1814.



**THE OLD SPREAD EAGLE TAVERN**  
Strafford



**LOUELLA HOTEL**  
Wayne