THE BULLETIN
of
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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INCORPORATED APRIL 30, 1948

Headquarters and Museum

THE FINLEY HOUSE
113 WEST BEECH TREE LANE
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

Visitors Cordially Welcome, Telephone MUrray 8-2668

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Dorothy Harrison Therman served as President of this Society for seventeen years, from 1964 through 1981. She then consented to remain as a Director for four years more, retiring from the Board in May of 1985.

She shared the interests of her father, one of the Society's founders and benefactors, George Leib Harrison. Under her leadership, the Finley House became the Society's Headquarters and Museum, a caretaker's apartment was fashioned on its second floor and the Wagon House was constructed.

Mrs. Therman delighted Society members with talks based on her father's Memoirs.* She often invited the Society to hold its meetings in her house. She participated in the necessary minutiae of the Society's work—writing letters, "sitting" at the Finley House on Tuesday afternoons, answering questions, selling advertising for the Bulletin, representing the Society at meetings of other organizations and, always, presiding graciously over this Society's meetings.

The Board of Directors appreciates the time, advice and support she has given (and is giving) the Society. It wishes her only pleasure in her new ventures.

*See Bulletin for 1968
IN MEMORIAM

Theodore Boreham Brooks
1903 - 1985

Theodore Boreham Brooks joined the Radnor Historical Society in 1964 as it prepared to transform the Finley House from private residence to museum. He oversaw the reconstruction and conversion. He then built the Society's Wagon House designed by James C. Massey, Jr., to hold the Pittsburgh and Conestoga wagons which were gifts of Thornton Oakley and his daughter. Mr. Brooks joined the Board of the Society in 1965, serving as a Director for twenty years, and as Vice President for nine.

During that time he monitored the condition of the Society's buildings and directed their preservation. On several occasions, he addressed the society on the history of Wayne as he had known it.* He shared with the Society his interest in and knowledge of antique automobiles.

His long association with the local Red Cross, the Fire Department, the Wayne Methodist Church, the Neighborhood League and the South Wayne Public Safety Association provided him with information that has answered many a query directed to the Society, and earned for him the Wayne Lions Club "Main Line" award in 1982.

It is through Mr. Brooks that various mementoes of the Fire Department and the South Wayne Public Safety Committee are held by the Society. And, when they were facing destruction, he rescued and brought to the Finley House account books, blueprints and other documents of the firm of Wendell and Smith which developed not only North and South Wayne but also Overbrook and Pelham. These have proved essential to the acceptance of both the North Wayne and Overbrook communities on the National Register of Historic Places.

His influence on the community and the Historical Society will endure. We are grateful for having known him.

*See Bulletins for 1967 and 1975

New Members

Joel W. Allison
Mrs. John A. Arney, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Allan C. Fisher
Mrs. Winifred C. Gilliford
J. Michael Glynn
Mary Hildebrandt
J. Bennett Hill, Jr.
Mrs. M.G. James
Michael W. Kearney

Mrs. Harriet C. Kearns
Dr. and Mrs. R.B. Keohane
Matt N. Milo
Charles Roach
Mrs. D.A. Shriver
Mr. and Mrs. Price W. Tharp
Cheryl Graff Tumola
Gordon L. Wahls
Mrs. C. Whetstone

IN MEMORIAM

William M. Fletcher
1912 - 1985

In 1960, at the suggestion of one of the Society's founders, Francis James Dallett, Mr. and Mrs. William M. Fletcher presented for the society a memorable talk on the history of the Radnor Methodist Church and its influence on the surrounding community.*

Thus began almost a quarter century of association of the Society with Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher. In 1972 Mr. Fletcher joined the Society's Board, serving as a Director until his death. In 1973 he became editor of its Bulletin, a post he held through the issue of 1984. During that time requests for copies of his publication soared as its quality under his leadership became evident and as general interest in local history increased.

The Society's collections are the richer for the photographs he took of buildings facing demolition. The world is the richer for the many hours he devoted to his church and to an earnest attempt to better, through education, the prospects of Pennsylvania's prison population.

A retiree of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Mr. Fletcher enjoyed a brisk game of golf and a fast motorcycle. The Society will remember, as well, his humor and his scholarship, and will miss him.

*See Bulletin for 1961

Necrology

Theodore B. Brooks
Edwin J. Clarke
John A. Colgan, Jr.
Miss Mary A. Conkle
William M. Fletcher
Mrs. H. Paul Gant
Mrs. Archibald Morrison

WANTED
NEEDED

A volunteer curator for the Society's collection.
If interested or if you want more information, please call
George William Smith at 688-8196 or 242-3063.
THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER
by George William Smith

The 1984-1985 fiscal year has been filled with challenges, some expected, others of a surprising nature, as the Society fulfills its goals in the community.

We heard lectures on many historic topics of interest in diverse locations: the Main Line Savings and Loan Association Wayne meeting room, the General Warren Inn, the John Bartram Gardens, and in the homes of our members. Researchers and the curious visited the Finley House Museum and the Wagon Shed. The library, photo and map collections were frequently used. Radnor Middle School seventh graders visited during their annual Arts Week.

The Society successfully intervened with the Post Office Department to keep the Anthony Wayne mural on the Wayne Post Office wall where it has been since Alfred D. Crimi painted it in 1941. Our scale model of the Whitehall Station Building in Bryn Mawr was restored by the Bryn Mawr Hospital Thrift Shop for display in their shop on Haverford Road. A new plastic top was installed to protect the model.

The buildings and grounds required the usual maintenance. The Board planned for improved exhibit, study and office spaces. Long range goals include reorganization of the workroom and the original basement kitchen.

The membership increased our collection with many gifts of historic significance. The Society is very grateful to the Editor, the Society officers, the Board and membership for their generous contributions of time and financial resources.

PUBLICATIONS FOR PURCHASE


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

NORTH WAYNE HISTORIC DISTRICT
by Brian Noll

(Ed. note: Brian Noll is presently serving on the Board of Directors of the Society. He was an active volunteer in getting the North Wayne area on the National Register of Historic Places.)

On July 25, 1985, the North Wayne Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places. This was the culmination of three years of work by local volunteers. A copy of the National Register Nomination is available to the public at the Radnor Township Library and the Radnor Historical Society.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's cultural, historic, architectural, and archeological resources. The National Register recognizes individual sites as well as districts. The North Wayne District was recognized because of its architectural significance, which contains examples of several late nineteenth and early twentieth century building styles. Many were designed by well known Philadelphia architects. North Wayne is also an example of nineteenth century community planning.

The shingle style houses of North Wayne are its most unique buildings. Vincent Scully, architectural historian, first used this term to describe what he calls "the first uniquely American style of architecture" in his 1971 volume. The Shingle Style and the Stick Style. This mode was an outgrowth of the Queen Anne style in America. Shingle style, popular in the 1880's and early 1890's, is characterized by the use of natural native materials such as rustic stone and wood shingles to achieve a picturesque, romantic design.

The principal architects of the shingle style houses in North Wayne were the Price Brothers of Philadelphia, Frank and William, designing seven different styles of homes. Horace Trumbauer contributed what he called a colonial house. All involved provided designs and drawings which the builders then used in as many versions and locations as they chose.

Why should a neighborhood or building be listed on the National Register? How will it help the owners of the houses? There are a variety of tax benefits and potential eligibility for government grants, most of which apply to buildings that are held for investment or are open to the public. They would not apply to most of the buildings in the North Wayne district, however. National Register listing cannot, by itself, stop an owner from demolishing or altering a building. In areas where these restrictions apply, they are the result of local ordinances. Listing on the National Register is, however, the highest form of recognition. It is often essential in educating the public in the significance and value of an historic resource; recognition can and will increase civic pride and awareness throughout North Wayne.

National Register listing does carry some possible economic benefits for individual property owners. Owners who contribute to the historic significance of the district may be able to donate an easement to the facade of their building. This donation is a deed restriction that could qualify as a charitable contribution; it is a restriction against the present and future owners. The building must be maintained in its original style. The value of these donations, however, has been challenged by recent IRS rulings; and, presently, it is uncertain how to value such a donation for tax purposes.
National Register listing also could be cause for review by the Department of Interior of any federal funds used for any purpose within the historic district. This could involve money used for road building or federally guaranteed loans.

Originally it was thought that the entire neighborhood served by the North Wayne Protective Association should be included in the district. This civic group has been in continuous operation since 1885, and it included Radnor Historical Society's Finley House. The amount of work needed to document all the structures in the district limited the area. The boundaries used were North Wayne Avenue, Radnor Street Road, Eagle Road and Poplar Avenue. This area included the original North Wayne tract developed by Drexel and Childs in the 1880’s. A site visit by staff from the state historic preservation office resulted in some additions: the west side of North Wayne Avenue, all the houses on Woodland Court, and part of the east side of Radnor Street Road. It is possible that the district can be expanded in future amendments.

The first step in the nomination process is to submit an Historic Resource Form to the Bureau for Historic Preservation at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. This included a written description of the district with a series of photographs of typical streetscapes and buildings. It must describe the significance of the district. A favorable review by the state will result in a site visit by state historians. Their approval is a recommendation that a full nomination is completed.

The full nomination requires a written description of each structure in the district including contributing (historic) as well as noncontributing (modern) buildings. The description included the date of construction, architect, architectural style, owners' name and address and physical details of the house. Photos of representative structures and streetscapes must accompany a statement of the history and significance of the district. A series of maps must outline the contributing and noncontributing structures. A USGS map must pinpoint the district with UTM references. The enormity of this task kept our volunteer groups from attempting to nominate a larger district. All submissions had to be done on acid free material.

The Delaware County Planning Department helped to prepare the Historic Resource Form by supplying film, developing, typing and a recommendation to the state office. Radnor Township supported us by applying for grants to help complete the project, though we were not awarded any. The North Wayne Protective Association provided funds for all other costs. The Heritage Commission of Delaware County gave us an award for our work. Students from Radnor High School helped to search the records of The Suburban and Wayne Times for documentation of some of our more obscure buildings. The records of the Radnor Historical Society and the Free Library of Philadelphia were especially helpful.

What will be done now that the district has been recognized? The district could be amended to include adjacent areas. We have thought of a standing committee to provide additional information about the district and individual houses. NWPA is considering ways of identifying the area with signs and plaques. The compilation and indexing of the picture collections at the Radanor Historical Society will help people in the district to find original pictures of their homes. If copies of the Manuscript Census were made available, this would help people to learn who the early occupants of their house were. It is hoped that historic certification will be a beginning rather than an end to the process of historic discovery.

TO MOVE OR NOT TO MOVE: THE WAYNE POST OFFICE MURAL by George Wm. Smith

(Ed. Note: George William Smith is currently the president of the Society.)

For forty years, a mural has graced a wall of the Wayne Post Office. Painted in 1941 by Alfred D. Crimi, this mural shows Anthony Wayne in three poses: in the center as a warrior, on the left as a farmer/landowner, and on the right as a surveyor.

In the summer of 1984, Kady Cummin, former president of the Society, learned that the Wayne Post Office was one of ten throughout the United States to be remodeled to increase both efficiency and attractiveness, and that work on the interior spaces was scheduled to begin before Christmas. She was informed by the postmaster, Daniel Deon, that in order to create a larger lobby space, the wall above his office door where the mural was placed would be removed, and since the mural could have historical significance, the Radnor Historical Society might be interested in its preservation. At this time, neither the postmaster nor the post office department believed that the mural was worthy of removal and storage, or remounting in the reconstructed lobby.

At this point, Kady asked me to join her in obtaining information about the mural on which to base the historical society's recommendations. Mr. Deon thought that the society's interest in preserving the mural was appropriate. He said that he would cooperate with us by referring a letter stating our interest in preserving the mural to the post office department in Washington, D.C., and that he was willing to have me look over the plans for the renovation which had been prepared by Perkins and Will, a New York architectural firm.
Our first problem was to determine if the mural was painted on the wall itself. Two local art preservationists, William Greenwood of Wynnewood, and William Martone of Wilmington, Delaware, informed us that it had been painted on canvas. Mr. Martone estimated that his fee for removal, restoring, and remounting the work would be in the neighborhood of one thousand dollars.

Our second problem was to find a place where the mural could be stored and where the restoration work could be done. An interior space of sufficient size to allow full layout of the canvas with room to work around the perimeter was required. Special lighting fixtures that necessitated additional electrical capacity would also have to be installed. We took this problem to Marilyn Caltabiano, who in addition to being the Radnor Memorial Library's head librarian, is a member of the board of the Radnor Historical Society. She thought that it would be possible to rearrange a lower level storage space in the library for this work. This site seemed perfect because of its proximity to the post office.

We still had two problems: financing, and what to do with the mural after its restoration. The first appeared to be the least difficult; we would initiate a community appeal for funds. The second was more of a challenge as a permanent location for re-displaying the mural still had to be selected while Mr. Martone prepared to begin his operation. The two local newspapers, The Main Line Times and The Suburban Wayne Times, carried front page stories on the project early in July which stressed the need to find an alternative site for the mural.

On July 3, 1984, I wrote to Mr. Deon requesting post office permission to have the mural removed by an experienced preservationist. Mr. Deon forwarded the letter to Washington. Mr. Eugene C. Hagbugb, Assistant Postmaster General - Delivery Services Department, replied to Mr. Deon in a letter dated July 17, 1984 (with a copy presented to the Historical Society), "We agree that the mural should be removed prior to renovation of the lobby to preserve its historical prominence and suggest that the Radnor Historical Society proceed with its plan to remove it from the wall of the lobby area."

The newspaper articles had two unexpected consequences on the plans being made for the mural: the re-involvement of the artist, and the re-introduction of government bureaucracy into the process.

Mr. Crimi learned of the mural's removal from an academic acquaintance in New York, who had heard of it from a Philadelphia publishing executive, who had received a clipping of The Main Line Times article in the mail. The acquaintance had also promptly notified an official in Washington with ties to the post office.

The Main Line Times published an article by Jim Lawlor on July 18, following a call made by Mr. Crimi after reading the story about the mural written by Mr. Lawlor for the July 5 issue. In this article Mr. Crimi is quoted as saying, "When I was commissioned for the mural, they sent me dimensions of the wall, and they did not include the curve of the ceiling. When I got there, I had to improvise, so I shaved down the curve and painted part of the mural on the wall. The work is not entirely on canvas."

The article applauded the Historical Society's efforts, but further quotes from Mr. Crimi indicated that the artist preferred to have the responsibility for the mural remain with the government. "In the old days," the article continued, "they would move a whole wall to save the art on it. But here in America, we are too practical for that...If they are going to remove the wall, then they should give it to the historical society because post offices do have a habit of from time to time changing their architecture. If they put it up in a frame, it will be removable at all times. I wish they wouldn't touch it at all...I hope it all works out for the best."

At the time the newspaper article appeared, Temple University Press was about to publish a book entitled, "Democratic Vistas: Public Art in American Post Offices in the New Deal" by Marlene Park and Gerald Markowitz, and a publisher, Robert Taft, had received the July 5 Main Line Times article. Mr. Taft contacted Mr. Park and Kerol Yaskow, special counsel to the General Services Administration for fine arts, and the person who had the authority to make final decisions about post office art.

Mr. Yaskow was quoted by Lawlor in a Times article as saying, "That should have been our baby, and we would get it down and taken care of. We have a running battle with the Postal Authority over this type of thing." Later in the article Yaskow is quoted again, "My main concern now is that the Postal Authority pays for the move. That way, we can tell them the right person to do the moving. Not every Tom, Dick, and Harry can do it. I wish you could see some of the art ruined by people trying to save it."

The article also said that the mural was the property of the United States Treasury since it commissioned Crimi to do the work through its Fine Arts Section, which existed as a New Deal program from 1934 to 1943. Crimi competed for a commission in the Social Security Administration Building which he did not win, and was offered the Wayne Post Office mural commission instead for a $1200 fee. Lawlor concluded that if the mural were to pass on to the Historical Society, it would have to be with Mr. Yaskow's permission, and that the mural would then be on permanent loan from the government. The article indicated that although local groups may not have the financial resources they would need if they assume responsibility for works of art, government representatives always appreciate local interest and support for the preservation of works of art owned by the government.

On August 1, I received a call from a U.S. Postal Service historian who advised that the Wayne Post Office mural could not be moved. Mr. Lawlor also reported in the Times that he spoke with Mr. Yaskow who stated, "As of this morning, an order is coming out that the mural is not to be moved. That mural is just too important to start moving around."

Mr. Yaskow said the order came one week after Postmaster Dan Deon received permission from an assistant Postmaster General to allow the Radnor Historical Society to move the mural. He also said that the new order supersedes the previous order and that the revised architect's plans would show the mural remaining in place. He said, "Whoever was in charge said the mural could go because it would not fit in with the new decor, that is preposterous on top of preposterous."

Although the Historical Society would have nothing more to do with the mural, Mr. Yaskow gave our group the credit for arousing the interest that led to its preservation.

I believe that my own satisfaction in knowing that the mural will remain in its original position where people are used to seeing it represents the feeling of the Radnor Historical Society and the citizens of Radnor Township.
Our experience with the Wayne Post Office mural is not unique. A similar situation developed in Northampton, Massachusetts in 1980, involving another, somewhat larger mural that Alfred Crimi painted in 1940. I received copies of a series of articles that appeared in The Daily Hampshire Gazette during the summer of 1980. The Northampton mural was moved after the post office in which it was located was sold to a developer. The Northampton City Hall was considered for the mural, but initially no satisfactory wall could be found. At the end of 1980, the matter was resolved when the restored mural was moved in three panels to the Hampshire County Courthouse. The Northampton Historical Society was instrumental in initiating and obtaining funding for this project.

Of the total $4,500 cost for the restoration, removal, and remounting in the courthouse, $3,500 was raised through the efforts of the Historical Commission community fundraising campaign. They also received a $1,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Historical Commission chairman credited the local people for their work which prevented a probable move of the mural to a storage vault in The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The Wayne Post Office renovations were completed within the past year, and the Crimi mural remains, brightened by a new array of lights. It fits handsomely into the revised interior decor.

**ACCESSIONS**

Mrs. Charles Tatum
Chester County Day programs for various years between 1953 and 1961.

Letter of June 13, 1942 regarding war risk insurance against property damage of Radnor home.

Petition of February 20, 1939 regarding proposed zoning change for Lancaster Pike between Villanova and St. Davids, circulated by Edward Fenno Hoffman.

Footlighters program, December 1935.

Street Map of the Main Line circa 1925.


Visitors Guide to the Centennial Exposition

Philadelphia Blue Book 1901

Overbrook Farms by Tello J. d'Apery

Perpetual Calendar printed in 1892

Series of Cards on Historic Landmarks near Philadelphia

WWII Ration Books and other documents.

Dean Roach
Items found in corner of school in Rosemont.

Faith S. Bickford
Account book from Chesterbrook Farm 1883-1891

Janice Carson
North Wayne Protective Association calendar for 1985

From the Estate of Mrs. H. Paul Gant
Radnor High School diploma
Postcard of Lancaster Pike Wayne business block
China owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Pugh, Mrs. Gant's parents. Matches china previously donated by Mrs. Gant.

Map of the Main Line and Eastern Delaware County by Franklin Survey Company, 1933

Pillbox issued by Dr. C.W. Truxal of Wayne

Small purse marked Fannie

Tintype of Joseph M. Fronefield Sr.

Oil painting of the William Pugh house by Polly McCall, 1975

Historic Newtown Township, Alice and Carl Lindborg, Ed.

Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools of Pennsylvania for the year ending June 1, 1864.

Report card of Fannie Fronefield, Radnor School No. 3, 1898.

Printed card advertising the opening of a studio for vocal instruction and sight singing, October 18, 1909.

Kathryn and John Schall
Dress and fan

Katharine Cummin
Minutes of the Radnor Open Space Committee 1966-1975

Katherine Leonard
Fan and carriage umbrella

New York Times clipping re: atomic bomb

Scrapbook of Henry Schultz's life as a soldier

Cricket article

Sheriff's proclamation of an election

Mid century issue of Life Magazine 1900-1950

The Philadelphia Inquirer November 26, 1963 Final Edition with article about J.F. Kennedy, "His Final Journey"

The Philadelphia Press, September 2, 1913 with article about the Wayne circus

Main Line Times, October 17, 1986, "Radnor High School Year Book Class of 1911"

Main Line Times, September 19, 1985, "Early Days at St. Davids"

Main Line Times, October 1985, "Wayne Art Center"

Photographs of the Devon Inn, Women's Golf Team, Ye Olde Store, The Neighborhood League in 1962 and the home of William Henry Sayen in 1900 and 1985
F.J. Dallett and Joseph Dallett
Photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Hughes and of William Davis Hughes, their son

John Mullen
Photograph of blacksmith shop in Ithan, circa 1890

Conrad Wilson
Carton of pamphlets of historic sites in eastern Pennsylvania
Box of items found under porch at 101 S. Spring Mill Road, Villanova

Winifred C. Gilliford
Fannie Mae Fronefield 1908 Diploma and Certificate from Leefson Hill Conservatory, Philadelphia
Bible of Fannie Fronefield, 1906
Bible of Lizzie Pugh, 1877
Wayne U.S. Post Office Dedication Program, 1940
Post card 225th anniversary invitation to Old St. Davids to Mrs. Winifred Crawford, 1939

Mr. & Mrs. Crawford
Two shawls and a hair comb belonging to Mrs. H. Paul Gant

F.J. Dallett
Handbound vols. I and II of the Radnor Historical Society Bulletins

Bennett Hill
Xerox of “Report of the Ladies Cooperative Committee,” Church of the Good Shepherd, 1908
Victorian tags for two bottles

Mrs. M.G. Canizares
Radnor Year Book of 1911
Two photographs of the Radnor High School basketball team in 1911

Charles Podyn
Four antique pharmacy bottles

Marquerite Pakradooni
The Swedes on the Delaware 1638-1664 by Amandus Johnson
The History and Genealogy of the Patchin-Patchen Family, 1952
The National Register Nomination for the North Wayne Historic District dated May 1, 1988 and the acceptance by the Heritage Commission of Delaware County

Kathryn Murphy
Bottles found at 280 Roberts Road excavation of 1978
Blueprint of Wallace and Warner house in Haverford

Lawrence Adelberger
Glass from windows of First Baptist Church

Katherine Leonard
Album of photos by George W. Schultz

Aman Family
Two drawer card filing cabinet and antique hammer

Daniel Ehart
Euterpean programs 1901-1917
Minstrel show programs 1918-1938
Company B letters of WWI men above service age
Suburban and Wayne Times, June 30, 1906, page one and two
Wayne Argus, September 12, 1894, January 27, 1898 and August 29, 1894. Given to Mr. Ehart by Mrs. Selden Pitt.

Virginia Pechin Keen
Postcard “A View at Valley Forge”

Mrs. R.S. Uzzell
Twenty copies of the Philadelphia Social Register

FORMER WAYNE RESIDENT
DEVELOPS SQUARE BOTTOM BAG
by Sandy Pearse

(Ed. note: Sandy Pearse presented the following paper to the American Paper Institute, which plans to nominate Charles B. Stilwell to the National Inventors Hall of Fame and the Great Inventors Stamp Series.)

Charles Boughton Stilwell was awarded one of the six patents granted by the U.S. Patent Office in the year 1883 for machines to make paper bags. Stilwell’s machine, patented June 12, 1883, made the first square bottom bag. Until his invention, bags were conical or tubular in shape. Stilwell’s flat bottom, snap-open “grocery” bag with its pleated sides and ability to stand erect when loaded, revolutionized the paper bag industry.

His patent was assigned to the Union Paper Bag Machine Co., 520 Commerce St., Philadelphia, Pa., a firm that built the machines and leased them to paper bag manufacturers. The lessees paid a royalty of two cents per thousand bags manufactured.

Stilwell was 38 years old when his original patent was granted. He subsequently secured patents on improved versions of his paper bag machine and other inventions including a machine for printing oil cloth (another first) and a map for charting the course of stars in the universe.

Stilwell lived at 18 Sterling St., Watertown, N.Y., when he obtained the patent on his paper bag machine. A mechanical engineer, he was employed by one of Watertown’s paper manufacturers - quite possibly the company now known as Taggart according to a member of the Jefferson County Historical Society. Local legend cites Watertown as “the birthplace of the paper bag.”
Stilwell was born Oct. 6, 1845 in New Berlin, Pa. His boyhood was passed in Fremont, Ohio, where his parents moved shortly after his birth.

Against his parents' wishes, Stilwell enlisted in the Union Army at 17 and served in the Civil War. His army cap and blanket from his Civil War service were donated to the Radnor Township (Pa.) Historical Society. After the war, Stilwell studied mechanical engineering and pursued a life-long career in that field in Cleveland, Ohio; Worcester, Mass.; Washington, D.C.; Watertown, N.Y.; and Philadelphia, Pa.

He moved to Philadelphia in 1884 and was associated there with the Union Paper Bag Machine Co. for many years. His address in Philadelphia in '84 was 709 Arch St. and in 1885, 1025 Arch St. The following year he married Clara Hoover of Georgetown, Washington, D.C., and moved to 1411 Jefferson St. where their three sons, Thomas, Harold and Winfred were born. On March 26, 1891 the Stilwells bought a new home, built by Herman Wendell and Walter B. Smith of Philadelphia, Pa., at 202 Windermere Ave., Wayne, Pa. The deed shows they paid $11,500 for their 15 room Main Line mansion.

The U.S. census for the year 1910 lists the occupants of 202 Windermere St. as Charles B. Stilwell, mechanical engineer, age 64; Clara P.H., wife, age 53; sons, Thomas, engineer, age 23; Harold, stationery salesman, age 21; Winfred M., age 20.

The Philadelphia city directory reveals that Stilwell maintained an office in the Witherspoon Building, 123 S. Broad St., Phila., from 1900 to 1915. Offices of the Union Paper Bag and Machine Co. also are recorded in the Witherspoon Bldg. during that time. For the years 1889 and 1890, Stilwell's business address is listed as 1303 Howard St., Phila., and 1308 Pollock St., his occupation as superintendent. All other city directory entries give his occupation as mechanical engineer except the year 1884 when his title was draughtsman.

In 1915, Stilwell went to England to research the works of William Shakespeare. Stilwell was intrigued by the possibility that Thomas Bacon was the true author of Shakespeare's body of writing.

According to a story handed down through his family, Stilwell sailed for England aboard the ship that made the last voyage to that country before the Lusitania was sunk. One of his shipmates was Ellen Terry, a famous actress. She was prevailed upon to entertain the passengers with a performance of a scene from a Shakespearean play and agreed under the condition that Stilwell play a role opposite her—surely a thrilling experience for the 69 year old scholar.

Stilwell returned to Wayne and died Nov. 25, 1919 in Bryn Mawr Hospital after a few days illness with acute nephritis. The funeral was held in Oliver H. Bair's, 1810 Chestnut St., Phila. The Rev. Samuel Thompson, former pastor of Wayne Methodist Episcopal Church, read the burial service and recited Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar." In accordance with Stilwell's wish, his body was cremated and his ashes were interred in the family burial ground in Fremont, Ohio.

His obituary in The Suburban Wayne Times described Stilwell as "deeply interested in all that pertained to the civic life of the community and all that made for its betterment" He was a charter member of the Wayne Public Safety Association and the Radnor Fire Co. and a member of the Masonic Order. He was widely read and of a deeply studious nature. His genial disposition and unfailing courtesy made him indeed a 'gentleman of the old school.'

Stilwell was survived by his three sons and his widow, Clara, who lived until 1941 and is buried in Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

Among his descendents living today are a grandson, Thomas C. Stilwell of Paoli, Pa., and a granddaughter, Mrs. Jean Harlow of Houston, Texas, children of Thomas H. Stilwell. Other relatives are scattered throughout the United States.

The first part of the gift was Dr. Alexander Hay O'Neal, a third generation physician who attended the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. After graduation, he was the chief resident at Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia. One of his instructors, Dr. Wharton, recommended him to George Washington Childs Drexel, who needed the services of a doctor for a voyage to South America on his ocean-going yacht.

For young Dr. O'Neal, it must have been a pleasant way to have been launched into a different aspect of the medical profession. For a while the greatest activity on board was a ritual followed after each port docking - the line-up of passengers and crew for a group photograph which was featured in the Philadelphia Bulletin, and Dr. O'Neal's hometown newspaper. However, at one point on the high seas, Dr. O'Neal's skills were especially appreciated when his services were required for an emergency appendectomy.
When the yacht returned to Philadelphia, Dr. O'Neal was preparing to set up practice in Gettysburg when Mr. Drexel, the son of one of the financiers of the Wayne Estate, suggested that he come to Wayne. Most of the doctors were well along in years and he could be Mr. Drexel's doctor, as well, since he lived nearby in Bryn Mawr. Mr. Drexel has inherited "Wootton," built by his father's friend and partner, George W. Childs. The estate is now St. Aloysius Academy. It is interesting to note that in those days, with a population of about 6,700, Radnor Township actually had more doctors per person than it does now with an upward population of 27,676 (1980 figures). However, patients did come to these doctors from as far as Malvern and Wynnewood.

Dr. O'Neal liked the idea. There must have been a certain charm and potential about being a new young doctor in a fledgling suburban community. He began his practice in 1909; his office being in a house owned by Emeline Cook, located where the Anthony Wayne Theatre now stands. In those early years he lived at the Wayne Hotel. For his house calls, he had a driver, John Wack of the druggist's family. Later he made his visits on horseback. The Jacquette family, on Upper Gulph Road in Strafford, remembered well when Dr. O'Neal arrived on horseback. The horse was stabled in Devon and used mainly for country calls.

Around ten years later he bought a house at 501 Lancaster Ave., in St. Davids, where he employed a nurse and receptionist. An "old timer" observed that those days the tall, blond young doctor caused many heart-throbs in the young feminine population of Wayne. But, all this ended when he met Mary Bigelow Schwartz from Bryn Mawr, while she was visiting friends in Devon. Not long afterwards, in 1919, they were married.

Along with Dr. Elmer, who came to Wayne in 1902, Dr. O'Neal had a large practice in obstetrics and brought many second generation Wayneites into the world. He was also connected with the Bryn Mawr Hospital Obstetrics Department and active in the Well Baby Clinic at the Neighborhood League. The Clinic was headed by a Wayne dentist, Dr. G.L.S. Jameson.

Dr. O'Neal had many outside activities and interests, one of them being real estate. He owned and operated the Radnor Inn, an old building with spacious apartments, built in the 19th century on the site of an earlier inn. Later, a modern and separate structure was added. In 1929 when much around him was crashing, he bought several farms in Chester County which served a number of purposes. One, Brandywine Manor became a summer home for his wife and two sons, Alexander and John. The tenant farmer supplied much produce, and it provided ample space for his lifelong love of horseback riding. This was not a man to "change horses in mid-stream," for he was also a lifelong Democrat. Prints, particularly Currier and Ives and their Presidential series appealed to him and many were found in his home.

After 50 years of practice, he retired in 1955 to the country - Lindell, where he bought a large old house from the Pennypacker sisters. He and his wife lived there until his death in 1961. It was in 1965 that his former St. Davids home was torn down to be replaced by the Wessex House Apartments. However, there is still a Dr. Alexander Hay O'Neal (Jr.) at that address. He requested an office on the site of his childhood home. He was to be the second part of the Childs Drexel gift and the fourth generation of O'Neal doctors. The present Dr. O'Neal is in the American tradition of a dedicated family doctor. Like his father, he is closely associated with the Bryn Mawr Hospital.

Focus on R.H. Johnson Contractors, L. Adelberger Florists and L.K. Burket and Co.

Ed. note: The following is a summation of talks given before the Society on October 8, 1985.

A panel, featuring people who represented local, century-old businesses of Wayne, addressed the members of the Society at the opening meeting, October 8, 1985. D.N. Ehart, editor of the Suburban and Wayne Times, was moderator of the group which included Sherry Chester, of the R.H. Johnson contractors, Lawrence Adelberger and Jim Marks of L.K. Burket and Co.

Sherry Chester is a fourth generation descendent of Richard Johnson, founder of the R.H. Johnson Co. a century ago. Ownership went from Mr. Johnson to his son-in-law, Fred Canizares, to his brother, Arlington W. Canizares, to his son-in-law, Charles Heinricks, now the president and his daughter, Mrs. Chester, also serving in the firm.

Sherry Chester spoke of the many major jobs the firm has done, including building the famed "Merion East" golf course, site of several U.S. Open championships; the old Colonial Village Swim Club; many fancy swim pools for large estates during the depression; the macadamization and rebuilding of Conestoga Road in the days when paved roads were a rarity.

The Johnson firm paid all of its employees in cash until 1959, enabling them to buy their food and necessities at the company store located on the premises. The firm hired many men to work in its stone quarry, which has now been filled in. Also, a summer body-building course was provided for those wishing to get in shape to play football at Radnor High School.

Lawrence Adelberger reminisced about the early days in his flower business of Wayne and, in turn, asked members of the audience to reminisce with him about past Wayne personalities. Lawrence's father built up the business by growing flowers which were picked by the servants of the wealthy. At the height of his business, there were three greenhouses operating; this is now down to one. His son now operates the business.

Jim Marks presented a slide show of the history of the L.K. Burket business, focusing on the growth and changing nature of the business. Elmer Burket, one of the founders, put up much of the money and then left the business to his brother Lee to operate while Elmer travelled around the world. Elmer also was an accomplished wood and stone carver, his most unique object being a small piece with 120 faces carved in it.

The Burket firm saved most every receipt for bills it has paid to local firms. They also advertised in local papers.
R.H. JOHNSON COMPANY
by Sherry Chester

(Ed. Note: The following is the lecture that Sherry Chester delivered to the Society on October 8, 1988. She is the daughter of the current president, Charles Heinrichs.)

The R.H. Johnson Company, located on Conestoga Road in Wayne, was founded in 1885, a hundred years ago, by Richards Henry Johnson. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Charles Martin, who is present tonight and is a member of the Radnor Historical Society.

Mr. Johnson was from West Chester and was raised a Quaker. As a Quaker, he was forbidden to fight in a war; however, he joined the Union Army during the Civil War. He was put out of the Meeting after he returned home, then apologized for joining the army and was reinstated. Later, he married an Episcopalian woman, against the wishes of the Meeting, and this time he refused to say he was sorry and was not reinstated!

In 1885, Mr. Johnson moved from West Chester and rented a stone house and frame stable for $360 a year from the Wayne Land Company and bought part of the Siter Farm on Conestoga Road. The following year, Johnson and his wife, Laura, bought the stone quarry adjoining his first property and two additional lots from Isaac Cochran for $18,000. In 1887, the Johnsons bought property on Highland Avenue to further their business operations. They also purchased a one and one-half acre lot on West Wayne Avenue and Bloomingdale Avenue from George Arnan to build a home. The lot cost $3,200; the Johnsons took a $1,600 mortgage with the monthly premium of $8.24!

Johnson Company specialized in road paving and stone masonry. Most of the stone walls and bridges in this area were constructed by the company with stone taken from the quarry. Most of the workmen were from Italy, where many of them were skilled masons. During the work year, the men lived in poverty in small shanties. In the late fall they would return to Italy to their families. When they had acquired a "nest egg," they would bring a bride back with them. Where the present office building is, there was a company store where the workers purchased food and necessities. The men took turns cutting each other's hair with the horse-trimming shears!

The first year of the company's existence, the annual salary of the President was $1,500; the Secretary's was $900 and the Treasurer's was $840. In the Adelberger records, they noted that Johnson Company had increased the daily wages of their workmen to $1.25 in the 1880's, causing them to raise their wages.

Johnson Company did most of the original paving in Wayne and Overbrook - building the roads, curbs, sidewalks and sewers for the Drexel and Childs interests in the early 1890's. At that time, Johnson Company employed 200 to 300 men. Some old bookkeeping records indicate that in 1903 the company did $30.70 of business with its neighbor, Adelbergers, and $17.62 with Lienhardt & Sons.

In 1895, Johnson Company built the Wayne Natatorium, also called "Kelly's Dam." Fed by Gulph Creek, it was claimed to be the "largest swimming pool in the world" at that time. Horses were used to pull wagons with the materials and labor to Philadelphia and Overbrook, a long distance in those days. When motorized equipment came into use, a brochure proclaimed proudly, "It is well to remember, with our modern motor truck facilities for transporting men and equipment to the job, that no matter if you are located a few miles away, we will get there just the same." The horses were also used to plow the Wayne sidewalks in the winter. Three of the horses were used by the Radnor Fire Company to pull its fire trucks until motors came into use. They were on call day and night in the 1930's. There were still two horses, but they were used only for recreation, to pull sleighs through the snow for family outings.

In 1917, the company rebuilt Old Conestoga Road from Wayne to Bryn Mawr, using large boulders placed as a base and Bermudez Natural Lake Asphalt to pave it. It was one of the earliest and finest uses of asphalt as a paving material and before the advent of steam rollers and steam shovels.

Most of the estate work took place in the first half of the 20th Century, encompassing landscaping, driveways, formal gardens and swimming pools, some of which are still usable today. They also built lakes on the large estates which were a source of water supply during fires. A brochure from 1939 claims to build "everything outside the mansion of the Philadelphia and Wilmington suburbs." At least 150 of the finer estates in the vicinity are listed.

During the Depression, Johnson Company fared well. Many estates had their swimming pools installed at that time. A pool built by Johnson Company included underwater lighting, diving board and landscaping and was an extremely popular luxury item. Not only was the company called on to build swimming pools, but also on occasion they were requested to build dams, ponds and even a swamp! The swamp was created on top of a hill in a location so dry that it was dusty. The swamp was successfully formed down to the last detail of planting marsh tussocks and cat o' nine tails to satisfy the whim of a wealthy owner.

The company's quarry supplied all the rock and sand required for its use. The rock was crushed and screened to make sand for tennis courts. Five tons of rock had to be quarried to obtain one ton of sand. One standard size tennis court needed 30 tons of sand. Every year two to five tons of sand were required to maintain the court and five to ten hours a week to keep the court in good shape! The company was the first to build all-weather courts in this section of the country, including those at Agnes Irwin, Shipley and most of the private schools and colleges. The surface had to be unaffected by frost, snow or ice.

Our present superintendent, Michael Garzarella, began work for Johnson Company in 1936. He was hired as a water boy and his responsibilities were to supply fresh water for the men by going to the nearest creek and bringing back pails of water. Most of the estates had their own creeks and springhouses for a water supply. Besides having a water boy on the payroll, records show that as recently as 1945 there was still a blacksmith, a quarryman and a blastman. The blacksmith was left on until 1957. In the past, many of the boys on Radnor's football teams worked for the company in the summer to keep in shape. The quarry has not been in operation for many years and is now completely filled in.
Johnson Company has remained a family business. R.H. Johnson's son-in-law, Fred Canizares, took over the business, followed by his nephew, Arlington Canizares, who is followed by the present president, his son-in-law, my father, Charles Heinrichs. At the present time, most of our work is in paving, roads for housing developments and athletic fields, tennis courts for schools and colleges in the area. In the past Johnson Company can claim to have built St. Davids Golf Course, Merion Cricket Club's East Course, the old Colonial Village Swim Club, Philadelphia Memorial Park among other various projects in this area as well as Philadelphia and Delaware.

Nobody can predict the future, but we can hope that 100 years from now, someone will be giving a talk to the Radnor Historical Society on the second century of continuous operation of R.H. Johnson Company.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY
Fall, 1984 - December, 1985

October 27, 1984
The Society enjoyed a guided walking tour of the John Bartram residence and gardens at 54th and Elmwood Avenue, Philadelphia. Conrad Wilson, society member, was genealogist of the Bartram family.

November 25, 1984
Past and present board members of the Society honored retiring president, Katherine Hewitt Cummin, at a reception at the home of Dorothy Therman.

January 15, 1985
The Society gathered at the General Warren Inn in Malvern for the annual dinner meeting. Following dinner and greetings by George William Smith, president of the Society, Meg Daly Twaddel, author of the book, Inns, Tales and Taverns of Chester County, presented an illustrated lecture on this subject. Ms. Twaddel outlined the progress of her book from concept to publisher and focused on legends and background on some of the more famous Chester County taverns.

March 6, 1985
Dr. John Davison, Professor of Music at Haverford College, spoke to the Society on "Music West of Philadelphia" at the Main Line Federal meeting room. Dr. Davison centered his remarks on area composers, namely Samuel Barber and Alfred Swann, who lived and were influenced by the Main Line environs. Punch and cookies were served following his informative talk.

April 28, 1985 Annual Meeting
The thirty-eighth annual meeting of the Society was held at the home of Jane N. Beatty, a past board member of the Society. George William Smith, president of the Society, presided. Mr. Smith expressed appreciation to the retiring board members, Isabella Auld McKnight and Dorothy Therman. Both served the Society so faithfully and capably for many years. Mr. Smith asked the membership for a person to serve as curator for the Society. This position still has not been filled, and the Society would welcome a volunteer. Marie Burns Judge, garden historian, then presented an illustrated lecture entitled, "Philadelphia Gardens: A Survey of Style." Punch and cookies on the Beatty's patio ended the annual meeting.

October 8, 1985
A panel, composed of representatives from old Wayne businesses, spoke to the Society at the Main Line Federal meeting room. See accompanying article. Cider and cookies concluded the informative, reminiscent meeting.

November 10, 1985
The Society presented itself to the membership and general public with tours and talks given by Society members at the Finley House. George William Smith, Society president, brought greetings. Katharine Hewitt Cummin, past president and board member, talked on acquisitions, in particular how some donations came to the Society. She focused on the Rogers Group, the tapestry and the bench from the Methodist Church. Winnie Gilliford, Society member, described the donations of her mother, Fannie Fromefield Gant, to the Society. Carol Creutzburg, board member, spoke on the new collection in the show case. Janet Moser, board member, relayed comments about the sitters get from the public. Herbert Henderson, board member, showed the room where the historical photographs and files are kept, and he explained the current renovations. Cider and cookies were served following the talks.
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