

THE BULLETIN  
of  
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**THE FINLEY HOUSE**  
**Headquarters and Museum**

113 WEST BEECH TREE LANE  
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

Visitors Cordially Welcome, Mu 8-2668

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Annual dues notices were sent to over 300 membership units, comprising more than 400 individuals. We welcome this high level of support. The Radnor Historical Society depends upon membership dues and donations to fund about half of the annual budget. Prompt return of your dues card with your check is greatly appreciated.

The sixth annual Olde Inns Dinner was held at the Inn at Yellow Springs on Tuesday, March 12, 1991. In spite of the long travel distance from Wayne, a large number of members and their guests attended this popular annual event. Following a fine dinner in the inn, the history of Yellow Springs was ably presented by Sandra Momyer, Executive Director.

A Victorian Fair and Herb Sale was held on the lawn of Finley House, on Saturday, May 25, 1991, prior to Memorial Day. Craft tables displayed a variety of attractive items for sale in addition to the lunch offerings and herbs. The Conestoga Wagon was rolled out of the Ted Brooks Wagon House for display and for final preparations prior to a showing in the Wayne Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 27th. Fine weather on both days contributed to the success of the party on the lawn and the parade.

Finley House maintenance projects continued throughout the year. The second floor Victorian bedroom or sleeping chamber has been most authentically completed. The rear bedroom now contains the doll house previously located on the first floor. The architectural blueprints are now out on loan to the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, which frees spaces for further furnishing of the rear room as a child's bedroom. Restoration of the basement kitchen in the 1789 style is being studied.

Please invite your friends to see the exhibits at Finley House on Tuesdays or Saturdays between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. Group visits can be accommodated and guides provided at other times by special arrangement.

George Wm. Smith, President

## A COUPLE OF FOOTNOTES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF WAYNE

Bob Goshorn

The history of the development and growth of Wayne from a flag stop on the railroad known as Cleaver's Landing to a bustling village at the turn of the century is a story well known to many readers of the Bulletin.<sup>1</sup> In this article are a couple of "footnotes" to the story as shown by some of the old maps of the area that are a part of the collections of the Radnor Historical Society.

At the time of the Civil War, Cleaver's Landing was primarily simply a milk stop for the passing trains, surrounded by farms and farmland. In 1865, J. Henry Askin purchased about 300 acres of this farmland to which he later made additions. On it he built a large mansion for his family and named it "Louella" in honor of his two daughters, Louise and Ella. As a West Philadelphia real estate developer, it was also his plan to build and develop around his mansion what Jim Dallet later described as "a small, staid, Presbyterian-oriented supporting village complete with church, lyceum, and an 'avenue' of mansard-roof villas called Bloomingdale." Soon this village, too, was known as Louella, and in 1872, a post office of that name was established. (In the meantime, the Pennsylvania Railroad had built a small new station nearby which it named Wayne in honor of General Anthony Wayne. However, there was already a Wayne post office in Pennsylvania, therefore, the name Louella was retained for the post office.)

By 1875, the small village had shown considerable progress. "It would be difficult to find anywhere," it was observed, with perhaps some hyperbole, in a pamphlet entitled "Suburban Stations and Rural Homes on the Pennsylvania Railroad" issued by the railroad that year, "a more attractive place than this, both as nature fashioned it and as art has adorned it. The station of Wayne is situated on an estate of some 600 acres, called 'Louella'. This embraces a wide expanse of rolling, fertile

land, extending on both sides of the railroad for a distance of a mile, and fronting on the old Lancaster Road and Lancaster Turnpike, with many other avenues intersecting it in all directions. The general elevation of the place is about four hundred and fifty feet above tide, and the perfect drainage caused by the altitude renders it particularly healthful and pleasant. For several years improvements have been steadily progressing, and now the estate embraces most of the convenience, and many of the luxuries of city life added to the attractions of the country. A commodious hotel, a pleasant church, a comfortable school-house, large stores, and a post office called Louella, -- all, as well as many of the dwellings, being lighted with gas and abundantly supplied with pure spring-water from large reservoirs, -- are clustered around the beautiful station buildings, and makes a picture of suburban elegance and comfort lovely to look upon."

"Many residences," it was further noted, "have been erected here recently, and each year sees the aggregate increased to meet the demand for more. A portion of the estate has been laid out in building-lots, which will be disposed of for the erection of suburban homes. Progress is written all over the estate, and enterprise is seen on every part of it. That the location is destined soon to take a prominent rank among the most attractive suburbs of Philadelphia, may be considered a fixed fact of the future..."

By 1881, the population of Louella was estimated to be about 100, but unfortunately Askin was not to see the village take the "prominent rank" predicted. Apparently, at about this time, he ran into financial problems, and the future expansion and development of the village was taken over by a partnership of A. J. Drexel and George W. Childs. The new owners soon made arrangements with Herman Wendell and Frank Smith, building contractors, to construct about 50 more homes, most of them south of the railroad along the Lancaster Pike. They were designed with "spacious lawns, ample shade trees", and had "the convenience of water, sewage, and gas mains."

This brings us to our first footnote: from the outset, Childs did not consider the area around the Wayne station his first choice for the location for a development. This is reflected in a comment he made in a conversation in May of that year with David Evans, who, incidentally, was himself prominent in the development of Malvern.

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<sup>1</sup>See especially "Three Centuries of Radnor and the Historical Society," by James Francis Dallet [Vol. III, No. 4, April 1974] and "North Wayne Protective Association" by Arthur H. Moss [Vol. II, No. 5, Spring 1965]

Evans kept a journal quite regularly for some 60 years. On "5 mo 22nd, First d., 1881" he noted that he had met "Geo. W. Childs, Proprietor of the Public Ledger" the previous day "on the car to Phila" and that Childs had "told Nephew Wm P. Evans and myself, who were together, that [before] his late purchase of land at Wayne station he tried to buy [land] between Frazer and Paoli but the owners asked such exorbitant prices that he was obliged to give it up -- He wanted, he said, about 600 Acres between the points named and would have preferred it to where he did buy. He is now putting his tract at 'Wayne' in order by finishing the 'reservoir' begun by the former owner, J. Henry Askin, and laying water pipe along the streets and Lancaster Pike where he intends to erect his new houses for sale or rent. So the old farm of my Grandfather Benjamin Maule," he added, "is soon to be a town." [The original manuscript of David Evans' journal is in the collections of the Chester County Historical Society in West Chester; it was recently transcribed in its entirety by Nancy B. Schmitt in conjunction with her research for her centennial history of the Borough of Malvern.]

It was apparent that Evans' reservations stemmed, at least in part, from the number of streams and lakes in the area, notwithstanding the claim of "perfect drainage" by the railroad in its 1875 description of the village, and the soggy nature of some of the ground.

These streams are shown on the older maps of the area. In Figure 1, for example, is reproduced a portion of a map of this area taken from an Atlas of Properties Along the Pennsylvania R.R. published by C. M. Hodgkins, C. E., in Philadelphia in 1881. (These maps were, it was noted on the title page of the atlas, made from "official records, private plans, and actual surveys," with much of the map of Wayne presumably based on the "private plans" of Drexel & Childs. Incidentally, the village, as well as the station, was now identified as Wayne although the post office was still Louella. The post office, as shown on the map, was located in the Hall at the northeast corner of Lancaster and Wayne [now North Wayne] Avenues).

About 450 feet or so south of Lancaster Avenue and running roughly parallel to it is shown a stream that eventually becomes a part of the Darby Creek. Where Midland Avenue is today, between Louella and Aberdeen Avenues, there was a good-sized lake, almost half the size of a football field, and a little farther down stream was another, even larger

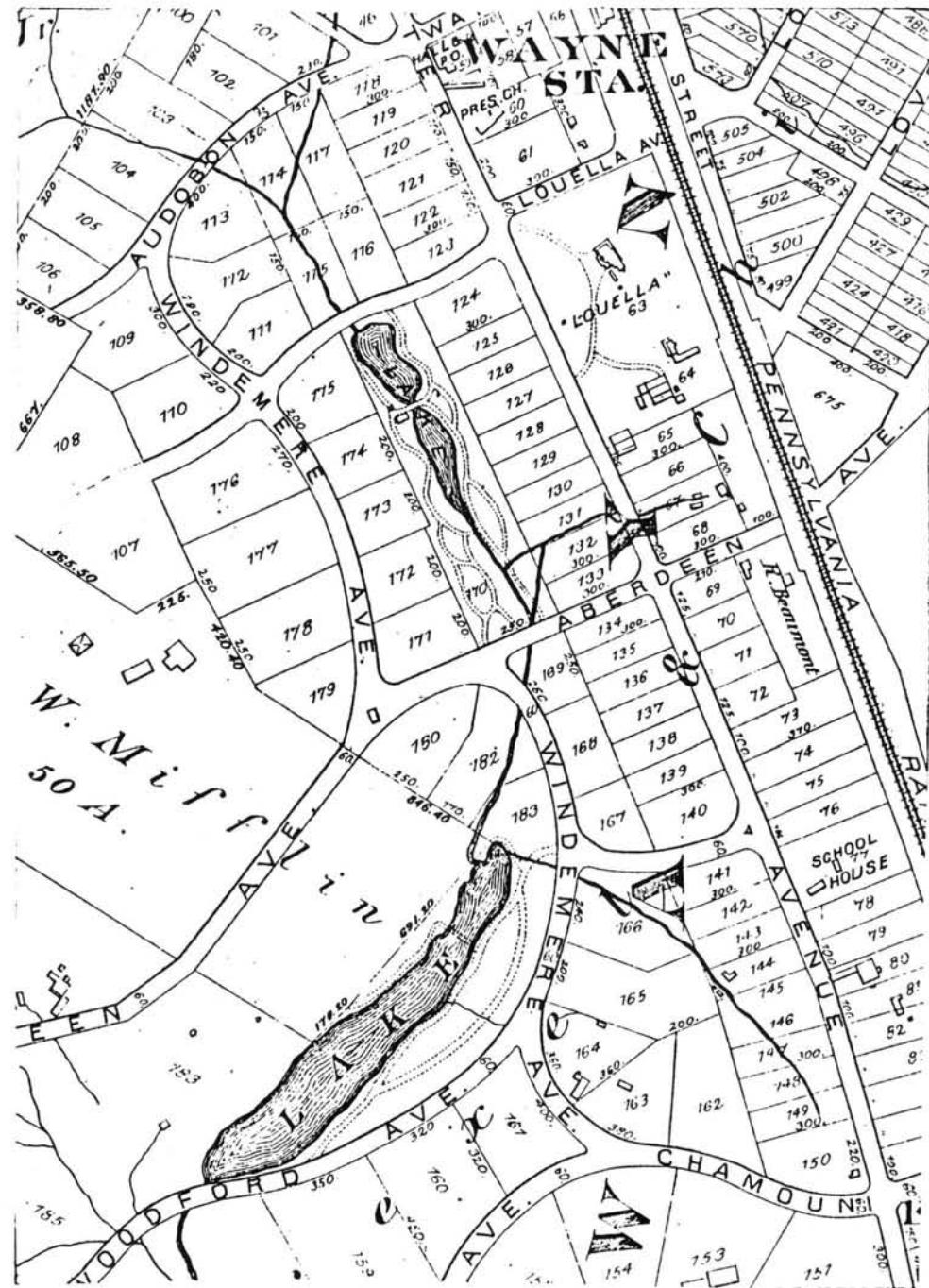


Figure 1

lake. It is not hard to imagine that the ground along the banks of this stream was often soft and damp.

The area north of the railroad was similarly traversed by a small rill, still in existence today, that flows into the Gulph Creek and on to the Schuylkill river. As Arthur Moss pointed out in his article on the North Wayne Protective Association, one of the early concerns of the Association in 1885, was the "malarial influences" of the area as the members of the Association "sought to have the swamps near the railroad [where Poplar Avenue is today] drained."

End of the first footnote, but if you live in Wayne and have a damp or even wet basement, this may be a part of its cause.

The second footnote pertains to the layout of much of and its rotation of 90 degrees from the initial plan. This, too, is reflected in the maps of the area published in the 1880's.

Although the early development by Drexel & Childs was, as noted, south of the railroad, they also planned to develop the land to the north of the railroad as well.

In Figure 2 is a portion of a map from another early "railroad atlas," this from the Atlas of Properties Along the Pennsylvania Railroad compiled by G. W. Baist, Topographical Engineer, and published by J. L. Smith of Philadelphia in 1887.

In addition to showing the streams through the area mentioned earlier, it shows the plans for the development of North Wayne between the railroad and Eagle Road. At that time what is now North Wayne Avenue was the only street in North Wayne that had actually been opened up. In 1885, as Moss observed, there were only about a dozen houses, "not all of them completed," in that section. The other streets shown on the map were merely projected streets at that time, as were the 350 lots that had been laid out by Drexel & Childs north of the railroad on either side of [North] Wayne Avenue.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this plan, however, is the fact that the projected lots all fronted on the cross streets running parallel to [North] Wayne Avenue: on the west, Bloomingdale and Bellevue Avenues, and on the east, Louella Avenue, Love Avenue, Aberdeen Avenue, and Radnor Avenue, respectively, from west to east. Both

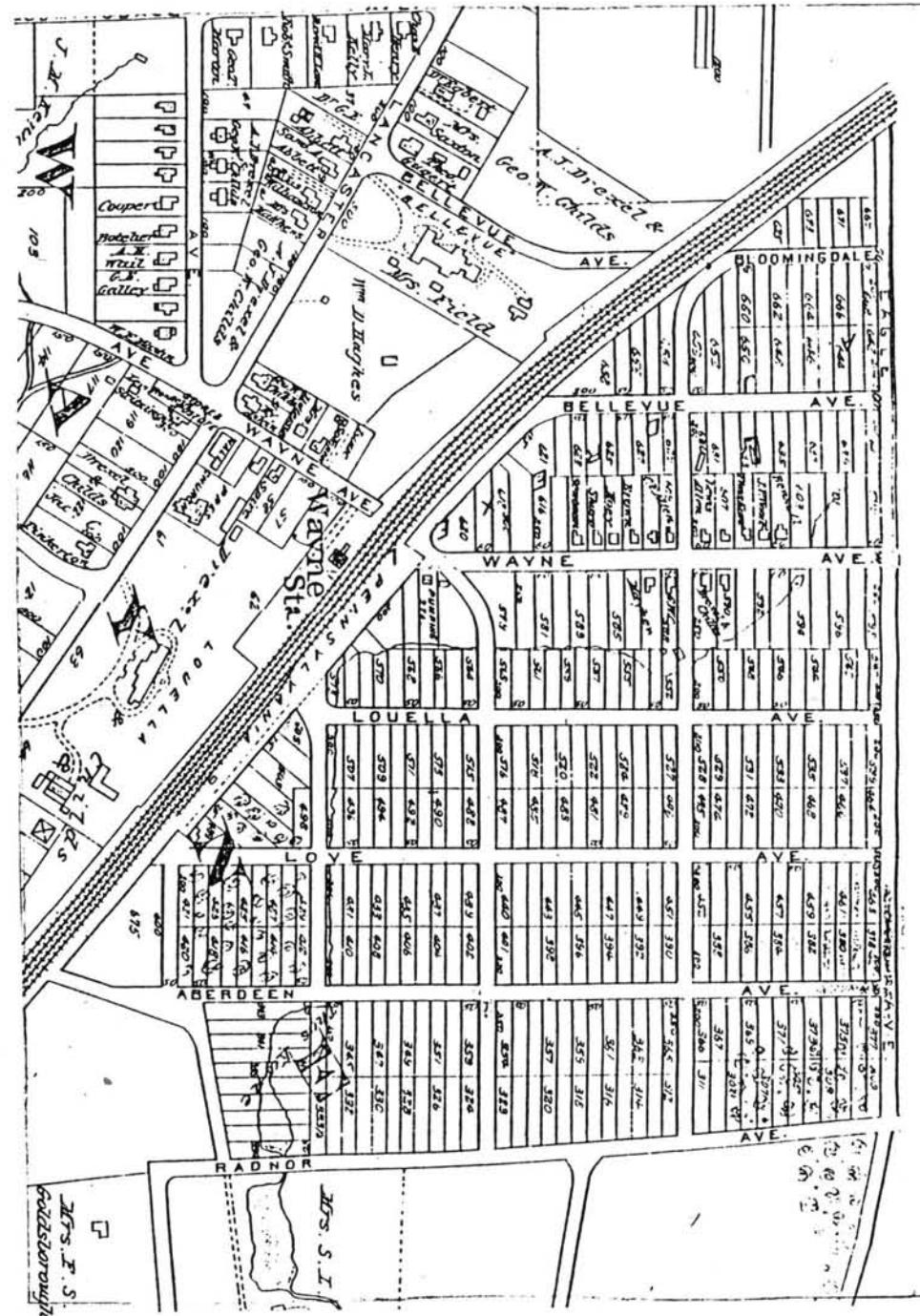


Figure 2

Louella and Aberdeen were extensions of avenues of the same name south of the railroad. (A similar plate plan, incidentally, was also shown on the Hopkins 1881 map of this section).

As with the 1881 atlas, the maps were again "compiled from official records, private plans, and actual surveys." It would appear that both Baist and Hopkins relied heavily on the plans of Drexel & Childs in their major of Wayne as the configuration shown on both maps is virtually identical with that shown on an undated map promotion piece Drexel & Childs has prepared. (I describe this as a combination map promotion piece because it also included the information that the "Houses & Lots [were] for Sale at the Office of Wayne Estates [by] Frank Smith, Manager, General Wayne, Pa." and also by L. H. Redner and Lewis T. Brooke in Philadelphia. Although the piece is undated, the reference to the location of the office at General Wayne indicates that it was issued sometime between 1883 and 1888, as on March 7, 1882, the name of the post office was officially changed from Louella to General Wayne and five years later on April 4, 1888, it was again changed to become simply Wayne.)

One other point of interest about the promotion piece that is not reproduced here: what is identified as Love Avenue on both the Hopkins 1881 and Baist 1887 "railroad atlas" maps is shown as Woodland Avenue, its present name. The cross streets that are now Beech Tree and Walnut Avenues, not named on the "railroad atlas" maps, were also shown as Lansdale Avenue and Bouvier Avenue, respectively, on the promotion piece map.

Sometime between 1887 and 1892, however, the section of North Wayne east of [North] Wayne Avenue and south of Lansdale Avenue/Beech Tree Lane was turned 90 degrees.

In Figure 3 is reproduced a portion of a map of Wayne from an Atlas of Delaware County published by Smith & Mueller in Philadelphia in 1892. The plan of Wayne and street names shown on this map are much the same as they are today, 100 years later. Louella Avenue had become Oak Lane and no longer ran through the whole tract; Love Avenue was now Woodland Avenue; and Aberdeen Avenue became Chestnut Lane, only one block long. The lots south of Beech Tree Lane now faced the cross streets, known as Poplar Avenue, Walnut Avenue and Beech Tree

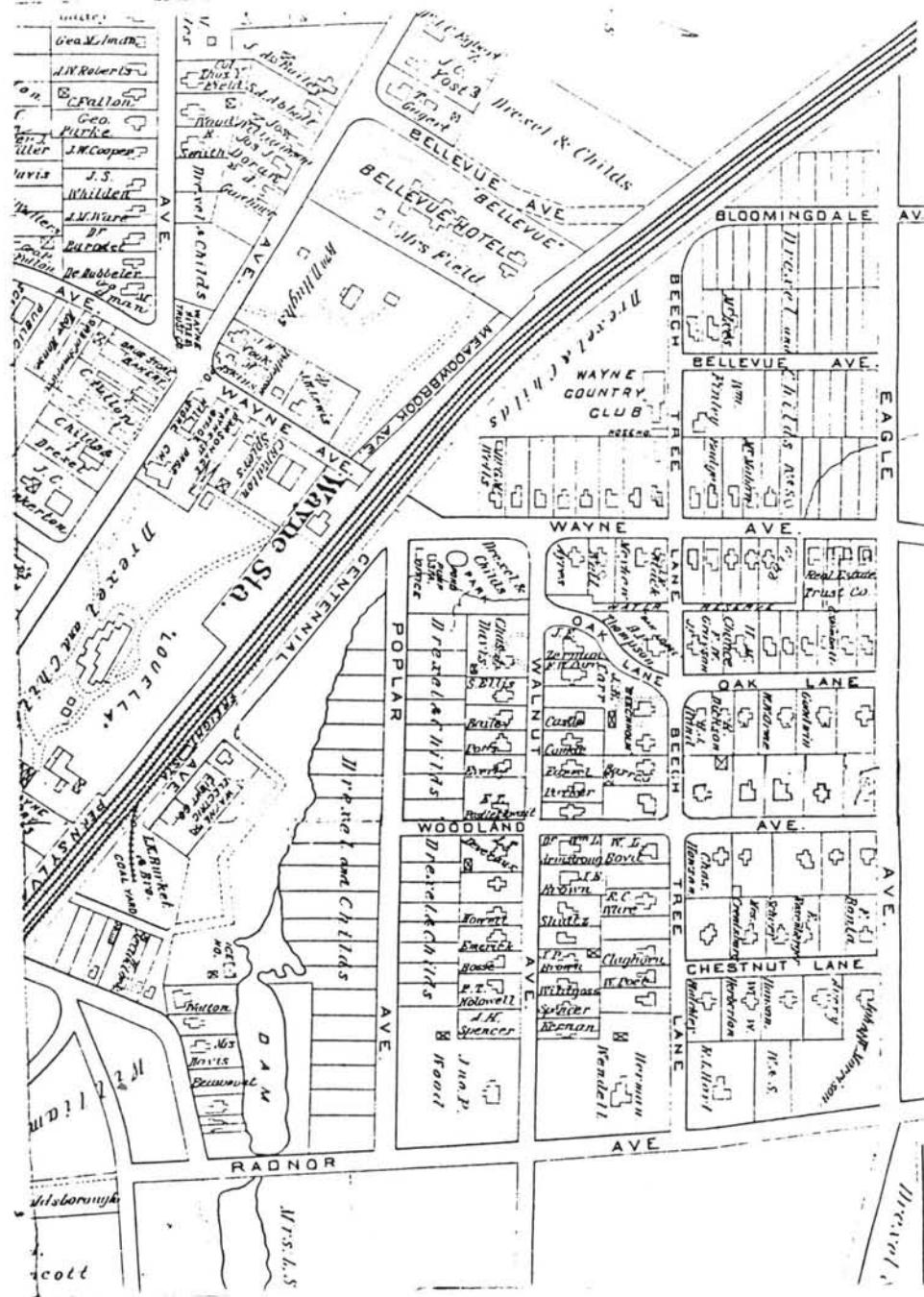


Figure 3

confirmed as Chief Justice.

President Tyler, a nominal Whig, had a formidable enemy in the real head of the Whig party Henry Clay, a powerful senator. Tyler was twice rebuffed by the Senate in trying to fill one seat. And when another seat became vacant on the death of Justice Baldwin, Philadelphia politics kept this from being filled for 28 months. Again, Tyler was twice refused his choice. He was thwarted not only by the Senate, but by his own nominees. The son of Philadelphia's most famous lawyer at the time, Horace Binney, said his father was appointed, immediately confirmed and rejected the appointment when he heard of it. Tyler was a weak president and the Senate frequently showed him who was the boss. His successor, President Polk, then attempted to name a politician from a state whose senator opposed the nomination, and the Senate for the first time observed "Senatorial courtesy" in rejecting the nomination. President Buchanan, a northern Democrat, was unable to get an appointee, Black, approved although he lost by just one vote (25-26). In order to prevent another weak president, Andrew Johnson, from filling a seat, Congress reduced the size of the Court which it had recently expanded to give Lincoln control.

Grant won a great popular victory but his attempt to name his Attorney General Williams as Chief Justice was opposed on the grounds of incompetence and possible corruption (not a unknown in the Grant Administration). His next appointee, Caleb Cushing, was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee but it came to light that he had written friendly letters to Jefferson Davis. Williams withdrew from the fray, and Grant recalled Cushing's name. Another Grant nominee, Hoar, was rejected by the Senate for political reasons. President Cleveland had two nominees rejected by reason of senatorial courtesy in 1894. No other nominee was rejected until 1930, when Judge Parker, named by President Hoover, was disapproved by a vote of 41 to 39. The opposition to Judge Parker was led by labor and civil rights groups. Ironically, Judge Parker's career on the lower court showed him to be more liberal than Justice Roberts who was approved after Parker's rejection.

President Nixon saw two nominees fail. Judge Haynesworth, a southern judge, was rejected allegedly because of conflict of interests while serving on the lower court but more likely as a Democratic

reaction to Nixon's "southern strategy" and the earlier filibuster by the Republicans which had prevented Judge Fortas from being appointed Chief Justice although he had been approved by the Judiciary Committee. The Republican argument in the Fortas nomination was that a lame-duck president, Johnson, should make no appointment but leave the seat vacant so that the will of the people though the new president could be achieved. If there had been such a principle at the time of that lamest of lame duck Presidents, John Adams, he would not have given us Chief Justice Marshall. President Nixon reacted to the Haynesworth rejection by appointing a yet more conservative and far less distinguished southern judge, Judge Carswell. Allegations of racism and incompetence caused his rejection as well. Nixon then appointed a non-controversial northerner, Judge Harry Blackmun to fill the post. He was approved by a 94-0 vote.

Most recently, President Reagan had two misfires in his appointments. Judge Bork was rejected by a vote of 42-58 after extended hearings which centered on his judicial and political philosophy. Numerous groups opposed to the positions they assumed he would take on the Court were heard, and he was questioned at length on his writings and opinions. President Reagan's next nomination, Judge Ginsberg, withdrew after the press, not the Judiciary Committee, revealed that he smoked pot while a professor at the Harvard Law School. Reagan's other appointees, Justices O'Connor, Scalia and Kennedy, were approved by votes of 99-0, 98-0, and 97-0 respectively.

There were some close calls and acrimonious disputes surrounding some nominees who were confirmed. Justice Clifford who was named by Buchanan won by a vote of 26-33. In 1881, President Hayes appointed an old friend who had served with him in the Civil War and who had been a political ally and most significantly served as counsel to the Hayes-Tilden election committee that secured Hayes' election. In spite of having been a senator from Ohio and a member of the party that controlled the Senate, Justice Matthews barely won confirmation by a vote of 24-23. Justice Lucius Quintas Cincinnatus Lamar, who as a Confederate officer had been barred from public office, but then pardoned, was named by President Cleveland in 1887 and won confirmation by a vote of 32-28.

The next seriously contested nomination was not until 1916, when President Wilson nominated Justice Louis Brandeis. After one of the most extensive hearings ever held in which the forces of early twentieth century liberalism and progressivism battled the established bar and other conservative groups with some ugly overtones of anti-semitism, Brandeis was confirmed by a straight party vote of 47-22. Although Justice Hughes had been easily confirmed when first appointed in 1910 by a voice vote, on his reappointment as Chief Justice by President Hoover in 1930, he was attacked as a tool of Wall Street, but he won confirmation by a vote of 52-56. Confounding his detractors and disappointing his supporters, he became the leader in fact as well as name of the New Deal Court. In the case of Justice Black, the controversy arose after he was confirmed. It was reported that he had been a member of the KKK. He admitted that he belonged many years before. Support from Catholics, Jews, and Blacks, as well as his well known liberal record in the Senate, quelled the controversy. Allegations of harassing and challenging black voters arose in the nomination of Chief Justice Rehnquist as an Associate Justice and on his appointment as Chief Justice, but these allegations were not relied on as credible by the Judiciary Committee. Of course, the recent confirmation battle over Justice Thomas's nomination, in which he was narrowly confirmed, was probably the most dramatic in the Court's history.

As significant as the occasions when the Senate has rejected or narrowly confirmed a nominee is the fact, for the most part, it has accepted the nominations with little or no scrutiny. Seventy-three nominees were confirmed by voice vote, and many others by unanimous or near unanimous vote. Some judges were confirmed on the day they were nominated. Sometimes the Senate would confirm without even referring the question to a committee (this was the custom if the nominee were a sitting Senator). Sometimes there would be a brief hearing by the Judiciary Committee or a subcommittee. In any event, until 1929, the hearings on a nomination would be closed unless the Senate voted otherwise which it did only in the Brandeis and Hughes hearings. Leaks to the press of matters discussed at the hearings led the Senate to adopt open hearings. Senator Connally of Texas who had supported open hearings later commented, "Hearings are for the information of the committees, not for public amusement, not to have a legislative rodeo so that anyone can come on and have a good time." Since 1981, hearings have not only been open but televised, making it possible to have a

national rodeo.

The problems of the public hearings were compounded when the nominees began to participate in them. In 1939, Justice Frankfurter was the first to do so. He faced hostile questions but as he said he took charge in an atmosphere that was more like Madison Square Garden than a small committee meeting room. He won a round of applause as well as unanimous approval from both the Committee and the Senate. The advent of the nominee as witness has left still unresolved questions of why he or she is there.

Is the role of the witness to demonstrate his or her familiarity with the law, constitution and the Court and thus reassure the committee and the public of his or her competence? There is a good argument that this is a sound reason to question the nominee. The Court not only decides important constitutional issues but as the highest court in the federal system must review many highly technical matters. Sometimes the nominee is a distinguished judge or lawyer so that there is no question of his or her competence, but often this is not the case. The hearing on Justice Sutter, who was not a well-known judge, gave him the opportunity to handle his interrogation with skill and grace showing how important a hearing can be in this respect.

Another purpose may be to enable the nominee to develop and defend his or her ideas and judicial philosophy to reassure the committee and the public he will be sympathetic with the constitutional values that the Committee thinks essential. This is a more complicated question since a justice should neither prejudge cases that may come before the Court, nor make deals or promises to those who can affect his appointment. It is also complicated by the fact that the President, the Senate and many public interest groups may have wildly differing views of these values. Most nominees refuse to answer questions about cases which might come before them; some nominees have refused to discuss any case at all. Justice Scalia refused to discuss Marbury v. Madison. As to their political positions, Justice Frankfurter convinced the Committee that he was a good American and not a wild-eyed radical. Judge Bork apparently could not persuade the Committee that he could be trusted not to upset decisions which the Committee favored and viewed as settled law. But no matter what one thought of the result of the Bork hearing, it made many Americans aware for the first time of

serious questions of constitutional law and interpretation. A visitor at Villanova University Law School, Justice McCarthy of the Supreme Court of Ireland, got caught up in the hearing and said it was a extraordinary civic lesson which could be found nowhere else in the world.

A third purpose of a hearing could be to consider questions concerning the character of the nominee. Again, one would expect the President to name a prominent person who has long been under public scrutiny and whose character is not in doubt. For the most part this has been the case. But the very act of nomination may cause wide accusations to be made, and cause investigative journalists or political opponents to the nominee or the President to muckrake and dig up charges against the nominee. There is great pressure on the Committee to fill the vacancy promptly, to keep the hearing under control and to appear fair to the nominee by not airing baseless charges. The Judiciary Committee has had great difficulty in devising a process to accomplish these goals. It is ill-fitted to investigate charges under the pressure of time imposed by a nomination; and its open, televised hearings are hardly the best forum for deciding tough questions of fact. Members tend to defend or attack witnesses, and the audience, both in the hearing room or at the television set, cheer or denounce witnesses depending on whether or not they support the nominee. The atmosphere is seldom dispassionate and in fact can be mean and sour.

A history of the Senate's role in confirming justices shows a pattern of fitful activity which varies from the supine to the sensational and a process that evolved from secrecy to showmanship. It is unlikely that the Senate will ever go back to secret hearings or turn the television lights off, nor is it likely that nominees will not participate in the hearings, but perhaps there can be some better definition of the appropriate ground rules for the hearings and better procedures to assure fair and accurate fact finding. The Senate might also consider establishing a process that provides for more uniform scrutiny for all nominations, not just for politically controversial nominations. And it is even possible that the President, breaking all tradition, could actually request the advice of the Senate in order to foster a less confrontational confirmation process.

THE HILDEBRAND HOUSE  
320 Louella Avenue, Wayne

Mary B. Ballard

Anthony J. Drexel is the member of the Philadelphia banking family most identified with the early development of Wayne. However, he was not the only Drexel relative active in the residential real estate market along the Main Line. Edward deVeaux Morrell, husband of Louise Bouvier Drexel, was another who invested extensively in Wayne.

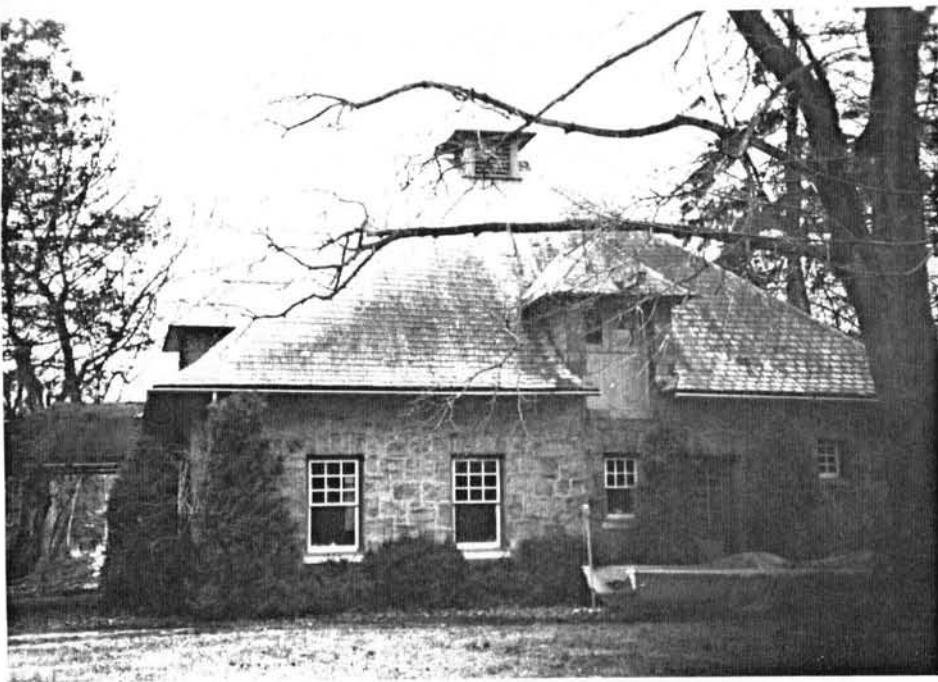
Edward deV. Morrell was an attorney in Philadelphia. He was appointed to the U.S. Congress in 1900, and represented Pennsylvania's 5th District in Washington from 1900 to 1907. His wife, Louise, was the daughter of Anthony J. Drexel's brother, Francis A. Drexel, and his second wife, Emma Bouvier.

Among the properties Morrell bought starting in the early 1890's were several lots on what is today the west side of the 300 block of Louella Avenue. Edward and Louise Morrell bought the property now known as "320 Louella Avenue" from developer Herman Wendell and his wife on May 29, 1894.

That fall, September 13, 1894, Mr. and Mrs. Morrell sold the 1.143 acres to Howard O. Hildebrand. Although the microfilm of the deed at the Delaware County Court House is difficult to read, it appears that the price was \$4,000. This lends credence to the report that the elaborate stable at the rear of the property was built earlier, and that the craftsmen working in the area lived there during construction of the main house. However, the stable does not appear on the 1897 map at the Radnor Historical Society.

Another Drexel in-law, James W. Paul of Philadelphia, represented Hildebrand in purchase of the property. Paul and his wife soon built a home and stables on their estate in North Wayne, now the site of Cabrini College.

The Hildebrand family moved to Wayne from Camden, New Jersey. Howard Hildebrand was a partner in the insurance agency of Brush & Hildebrand in Philadelphia. He later became President of the



Stable, east side  
320 Louella Avenue



Door to stable  
320 Louella Avenue

Rittenhouse Bank & Trust Company.

In the 1894 deed, Hildebrand agreed to typical restrictions: no building or obstruction fronting on Louella Avenue except "steps, cellar doors, fences, trees or shrubs". He also agreed not to build or allow to be built "...any hotel, tavern, drinking saloon, blacksmith, carpenter or wheelwright shop, steam mill, tannery, slaughter house, skin dressing establishment, livery stable, glue, soap, candle or starch manufactory..."

No privy well was allowed on the premises "unless built with bricks or stone laid in cement and thoroughly lined or made of iron..."

Howard Hildebrand and his wife, Sarah Regina Swartz, soon hired architect Francis Albert Gugert of Wayne to design their home. Gugert was then in his early twenties. He had attended Drexel Institute, and studied mechanical engineering at Towne Scientific School of the University of Pennsylvania from 1891 to 1893. The residence he designed for the Hildebrand family was his first commission for such a building. Just out of school he had designed a cottage at the shore (Cape May, NJ), a conservatory in St. Davids, and two buildings for the old Wayne Natatorium.

Frank Gugert had a long and distinguished career as an architect on the Main Line. His office was in the Wayne Title Building. In 1921, after more than 20 years in private practice, he joined David Knickerbocker Boyd and Victor Darwin Abel in a firm that endured until Boyd retired to private practice in 1935.

Frank Gugert designed many other homes on the Main Line. One not far from the Hildebrand house was build for John Dunlap, Jr. in 1902, at the southwest corner of Aberdeen Avenue and Orchard Way. Osgood Sayen paid Gugert a tribute in "An Ode to Wayne": "Frank Gugert - there's an architect, he's lived here all his life, He just drew thousands of pictures, to support his twins and wife."

(Actually, Gugert was born in Pottsville. Theodore Gugert moved his family to Wayne when Frank was a child).

Jonathan Lengel & Sons of Wayne, the well-known contracting firm, build the three story Hildebrand house to Gugert's design. The

house also has a full basement, where possibly young foals were kept in winter.

Osgood Sayen remembered Lengel, too:

"John Lengel is still our builder, but he is so honest and true,  
He build for the generations, now he ain't got much to do".

The Hildebrand house is built of stone in the colonial revival style, with the familiar round tower in front and an elaborate, pillared porte cochere on the north side. It fits very nicely between two houses designed by Horace Trumbauer, also mostly of stone and each with a tower in front.

Noted interior features of this Gugert residence are hardwood floors in the entrance hall, and double stairway restored (1992) to its original finish. In contrast, the floors in living and dining rooms are pine. There are two downstairs fireplaces and one upstairs. The original red brick fireplace in the living room has been handsomely tiled. The upstairs fireplace has slate face and hearth.

Walls and ceilings are joined by graceful curves in the downstairs public rooms and one upstairs bedroom.

Load-supporting wooden beams 3 x 13 inches and at least 20 feet long provide structural support.

The three story stable and carriage house at the northwest corner of the property once housed horses, carriages, fodder and workmen. A porte cochere matches that at the main house and protects the massive curved entrance doors.

The stable still contains two stalls on the ground level. Probably there were at least six horses stabled there, as there are six small windows in the north wall. The pulley on the lintel is in working condition. The exterior is entirely of stone, and the interior walls almost entirely tongue-in-groove wooden slats. The wood is in excellent condition after almost 100 years. Cathedral ceilings frame each window in the upstairs living quarters.

A concrete base of what was probably the chicken house is visible today near the stable door.

From 320 Louella Avenue, Howard & Sarah Hildebrand's son, Joel, could run down the block to the old Radnor High School. Joel Henry Hildebrand became a distinguished chemist, and he excelled in chemistry even then. As a high school student, he discovered an error in a chemistry text written by a Harvard professor, much to the chagrin of the "establishment." Joel graduated from Radnor High and went on to Penn, where he studied under Edgar Fahs Smith. He graduated in 1903, President of his class.

The Class of '03 Penn yearbook gives Joel Hildebrand's nickname as "Uncle", and the class tribute reads:

"There was a bold sinner from Wayne,  
Whom Keller endeavored to train.  
Says Uncle to Pop  
It's time for to stop.  
I'll never be wicked again."

During a long and productive life (he lived to be 101), Joel Hildebrand was, among other things: President of the American Chemical Society, winner of the Priestley Medal, author of the classic text on solubility theory, stroke of the crew at Penn, Manager of the U.S. ski team at the 1936 Olympics and President of the Sierra Club. He was awarded the DSM for service in World War I and honored by both the U.S. and Great Britain for his service in research and development in World War II. He left Penn in 1913 to join the Chemistry Department at the University of California at Berkeley.

Howard and Sarah Hildebrand continued to live at 320 Louella Avenue until 1922, when they sold the property to Laura C. Clements, wife of Alfred Clements of Devon, "for \$1 and other valuable considerations.

With special thanks to H. L. Johnson, Jr.

Radnor Historical Society  
Activities 1991

February 14, 1991

Antoinette J. Segraves, Executive Director of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania discussed the genealogical search. Practical tips were given to use when tracing your family tree.

March 12, 1991

The Annual Dinner was held at the Yellow Springs Inn in Yellow Springs. Sandra Momyer spoke about the history of Yellow Springs.

April 9, 1991

Dr. Marshall Becker, professor of anthropology, West Chester University, gave a talk on "The Lenape, How They Lived, and Where They've Gone."

May 5, 1991

The Annual Meeting was held at the 1890 Victorian Gothic hilltop home of Mr. and Mrs. John Dockray, 410 Orchard Way, St. Davids. Designed for a builder, the property has many delights including handcarved dwarves and woodland animals. George Thomas, architectural historian, presented a slide-lecture about the house and the architect, William Price.

May 25, 1991

An Herb sale and Victorian luncheon was held on the Findlay House lawn. This event included Victorian games, music, and displays by local artisans.

May 27, 1991

The Society's Conestoga wagon accompanied by several members attired in period dress paraded up Lancaster Avenue for the annual Memorial Day Parade.

September 22, 1991     Sunday, 3:00 p.m.

A tour, followed by tea, was given by Peter and Charlotte Espy of their historic home: Woodstock - 1776.

October 15, 1991     Tuesday, 8 p.m. at the Finley House

Brigadier General Alfred A. Sanelli of the Valley Forge Military Academy spoke on the history of the Academy.

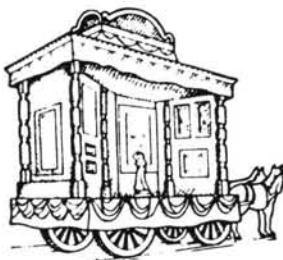
November 12, 1991     Tuesday, 8 p.m., at the Finley House

A history of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Wayne was presented by Mr. Richard Lander, vestryman and Wayne resident.

December 22, 1991     Sunday, 5:30 p.m. at the Finley House

Following the North Wayne carol sing at the Walnut Avenue triangle, the singers stopped at Finley House for a cup of cheer around the Christmas tree.

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