

The BULLETIN  
of the  
**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**

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*Visitors Cordially Welcome*

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Editor: Helen Stephenson Weary  
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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Perhaps the most exciting thing for our Society this year has been - and is still - our participation in Radnor Township's celebration of its Centennial as a First-Class Township. John Dale, our representative on the Centennial Steering Committee, has done a marvelous job of getting us involved, in many ways. We are most grateful to him for his ideas and his efforts.

Those of you who attended the Kick-Off Party at The Willows in March saw on display many items from our collection. These included some of our over-size photographs of Radnor Township scenes in earlier days, various artifacts of local interest, and particularly some examples from our period clothing collection, most of which have never been shown before. For their display we are indebted to Mary McGinn, whose interest and expertise made their display both impressive and safe. Unfortunately, textiles - especially fine silks and satins - must not be exposed to light and air over a long period of time; we are indeed fortunate to have this opportunity to bring them out to be admired. They will again be seen at the Gala, at Ardrossan, later this month.

Our involvement in this year of celebrating does not end here, however. In mid-November, we shall be co-sponsoring, with the Radnor Memorial Library and the Township Centennial Committee, a special lecture by David Brooks, a native son of Wayne and the author of the recently published Bobos in Paradise. He will speak about the Wayne he knew as a boy, and about the Wayne of the future. Those of you who have read his book, or articles by or about him, will know him as a perceptive social commentator. This should be a popular event, so watch for details of time and place.

Finally, in order to let more people know who we are, and what we have to offer, we are planning a Garden Party and Open House in late September. This will be on a Sunday afternoon, on a date to be determined, when we hope our house and grounds will be at their best. Again, please watch for details.

I believe it is good for us that we are developing more of a public image in the Township, and I hope will continue to broaden our base. We do not want to be, as some have called us, "Radnor's best-kept secret".

J. Bennett Hill, Jr.  
April 2001

## "Not the great nor well bespoke..."

*Rudyard Kipling, Rewards and Fairies*

Clarissa F. Dillon, Ph.D.

Since the Bicentennial, there has been interest in the lives of ordinary people during the colonial period. Poverty was the lot of many. Some were born poor and never managed to escape; others found themselves poor following injury or disease, which limited their ability to work. Wives abandoned by their husbands were left to fend for themselves. Widows were left poor when their husbands died in debt. People without skills or training were limited to casual labor, by the day, and as they weakened through age, infirmity, poor nutrition, and so forth, their ability to earn a living declined.

We can find evidence of these people, but there are often few details. In "Philadelphia's Colonial Poor Laws and Taxable 1767", Widow Stoope, in Walnut Ward, was valued at £8, with the following comment: "old and excused." In Chestnut Ward, Sarah Lancaster was also valued at £8, called "poor old made;" no tax was applied. We don't know how they lived. Mary Brickard, in Walnut Ward, was listed as a huckster valued at £8; she too was not taxed, with the comment, "poor old maid."

Sometimes members of rural communities received care: someone was paid to house and feed them; basic clothing and medical treatment as needed were provided. In Radnor Township, records of this care have survived. **The "Transactions of the Overseers of the Poor,"** a valuable window to past lives, is housed at the Finley House [home of the Radnor Historical Society]. In this record, we find:

15 Jan. 1766	...for keeping Margrit Williams at twelve pounds a year.
26 Mar. 1767	Ruth Lloyd was paid £11-17-8 for Margrit Williams; £2-18-2 was also dispensed.
8 Nov. 1768	Susannah Meredith was paid £10-17-4 for Margrit Williams
4 Mar. 1770	Susannah Meredith was paid £17-18-9 for Margrit Williams. Entries end for Margrit Williams with the payment of £3-12-2 for her burial. <sup>ii</sup>

Mary Conner was also being supported in Radnor. The first entry was in March 1767: "...for ye keeping Mary Connor the sum of three pound fifteen shillings and ten pence in full to ye above date." There were payments of £3-16-8 for 1768 and for £5-8-8 in 1770. Then, there were three entries: £7-15 was paid for keeping her from 1 November through 31 March 1773; 12/0 cash was paid for "Linnen and making Shifts;" and "By cash for linsey and Stockings for Mary C. £0-9-0."<sup>iii</sup>

A third woman, Sarah David, also called Davis, was "lagelly (legally) made Poor and Enterd (sic) as Such By order of two Justices of the Peace for the County of Chester." In March, 1772, "Sarah Davis a Poor of the Township

of Radnor" inherited one-third of a field of wheat. The wheat was sold for £4-6. £3-8-6 was spent on her burial and the rest was turned over to Edward Jones. Mary Davis was paid £5-12-6. There are questions raised by these last entries: why was Sarah Davis declared poor and then inherited wheat? Who was Mary Davis and why was she paid £5-12-6? And Edward Jones...?"

The Radnor practices can also be found in New Jersey; "Old Sal Bucket came here, one of the towns Poor & I sent her over to Richard Bickhams to Stay all Night" is a diary entry for 29 April 1776. Clothing was provided: "Old Sal Bucket came here & I let her have one yard of linen to make her an apron. Price 2s-6d & half an ounce of thred of Mark Miller. Price fourpence." Then, "My wife & my Self went to Philadelphia & I bought Linnen for two caps for Sal Bucket cost 2s-7d."<sup>v</sup> Matching entries for this clothing occur in Whitall's Day Book which recorded financial transactions for the same dates as his diary:

30 Apr. 1776 To one yrd of linen for ye township on Sal Buckets account, prise 0-2- To half an ounce of thred of Mark Miller on her account, price 0-0-4.

15 May 1776 Linnen for two caps for Sal Bucket cost at ye expence of ye township Debtford. 0-2-6.<sup>vi</sup>

We have learned the number of shifts and caps considered necessary; it would seem that two of each were the minimum. However, where there was no safety net, there were undoubtedly women who had only one, which would have created problems when the garment needed washing or repair.

Without records like these, we would know nothing of the people present here, or of those involved in their support.

<sup>i</sup> Hannah Benner Roach, *Colonial Philadelphians*, Monograph Series No. 3 (Philadelphia: The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, 1999) p. 159, 161, 163.

<sup>ii</sup> "Transactions of the Overseers of the Poor," Radnor Twp (unpublished manuscript in Radnor Historical Society, Wayne, PA) pp. 1-4.

<sup>iii</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4, 6, 8.

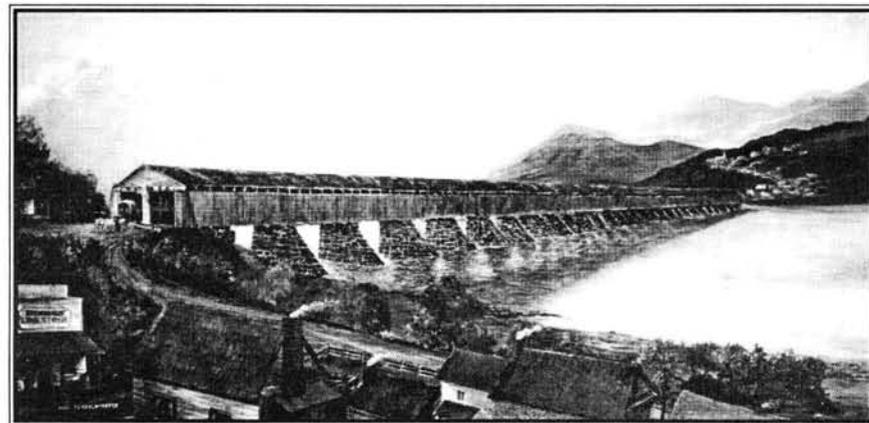
<sup>iv</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 5-6.

<sup>v</sup> *The Diary of Job Whitall* ... transcribed by Florence DeHuff Friel (Woodbury, NJ: Gloucester County Historical Society, 1992), p. 28, 30.

<sup>vi</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 167-168.

## The Fifteen Covered Bridges of Chester County

Karl Klingelhoefter



The subject of Karl Klingelhoefter's presentation to the Radnor Historical Society was a tour of the Fifteen Covered Bridges of Chester County. This presentation was made particularly interesting by original watercolor paintings of each of the bridges, which Karl had painted (and which are available for purchase).

Starting in the eastern part of the County with Bartrams Bridge which is near Newtown Square and is shared by both Delaware and Chester counties, and continuing on to the Knox or Valley Forge Bridge, Rapps Dam, Kennedy, Sheeder-Hall, Larkins, Gibson's, Speakman's; Hayes Clark and the Mary Ann Pyle Bridges (these last two are in the Laurel Lands of the Brandywine Conservancy and must be approached on foot). He then finished the tour in the southwestern part of the County with the Linton Stevens, Glen Hope, Rudolph and Arthur's, Mercer's and finally the Pine Grove Bridge, which is the only two-span bridge left in the County.

Karl presented an original watercolor of each bridge and covered the history of each including when it was constructed, its' length, cost, the builders and how each was named. He pointed out that each of these Bridges has its' own personality in its façade and its structure. Most of the bridges in Chester County feature the "Burr Arch" which Theodore Burr invented and patented and for which the Theodore Burr Society of Pennsylvania is named. This is a group of covered bridge enthusiasts in the state.

Karl then brought out an oil painting five feet long of "the longest Covered Bridge in the World"! Not only was the concept of a covered bridge in

Pennsylvania being the longest in the world, but Karl's connections to this bridge through his ancestors made it doubly interesting. It turned out that this covered bridge was originally constructed to cross the Susquehanna River between Columbia and Wrightsville in 1812. Unfortunately 20 years later, it was destroyed by a massive ice-jam. This bridge however was so important that in 1832 the Columbia Bridge and Bank Company decided to rebuild it. President of this Bridge and Bank Company was Karl's great, great, great Uncle, Christian Breneman. Thus the second "longest covered bridge in the world" was then built and opened in 1834. But this is not the end of the history of this bridge. In 1863, another crisis arose, the Civil War. The Confederate Army was approaching the bridge to cross it and proceed into Philadelphia. Another Christian Breneman (Karl's great, great, great grandfather) comes into the picture.

Christian Breneman was Chief Burgess of Columbia and lived near the entrance to the bridge. In his house the Union Army stored dynamite to blow the bridge and prevent the crossing of the Confederate Army. And with this dynamite they did blow up this famous bridge. Thus ends the history of how two of Karl's ancestors were involved in the construction and destruction of "the longest covered bridge in the world."

Karl continues to be a covered bridge enthusiast, although he paints very few these days, as they don't sell any more than barns, buckets or daisies. He even tried to form an "adopt a covered bridge" organization, but found no backing from the state or the Commissioners of Chester County, not even from the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. It looks like covered bridges will fast disappear and our children will never have the opportunity to enjoy their beauty or their historical significance.

## Radnor Historical Society Contributes to the Radnor Township Centennial

John L. Dale

Radnor Historical Society played an integral role in planning and implementing activities to commemorate the Centennial of Radnor Township.

On March 12, 1901, Radnor Township was officially declared a first class township. This occurred primarily because of the rapid growth of suburban population in the 1880's and 1890's. In 1880, George W. Childs, editor of the Philadelphia Ledger, acquired a large holding of farmland on Bryn Mawr Avenue in Radnor Township, now known as the Drexel Estate. Residences that he built, such as the home of James Henry Askin in Wayne, and the functioning of the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad brought Philadelphians and others to what becomes Radnor Township. Childs and his partner, A. J. Drexel went a step further by buying Askin's 600 acre holding in Louella, renaming it Wayne in honor of Anthony Wayne, and building homes for resale on "comfortable" sized lots. Over \$500,000 was invested in this successful real estate venture. Hence suburbia was born!

On March 12, 1901, it was a natural step that Radnor Township be declared a first class township. This new form of government provided representation to the suburban villages of Wayne, Rosemont, Bryn Mawr as well as the more pastoral districts of Villanova, Newtown Square, St. Davids and Radnor.

On March 12, 2001, the Centennial kick-off celebration occurred at the township building and at the Willows with the Radnor Historical Society heavily involved in the commemorative events. At that event, the 1901 meeting was reenacted at the township building, followed by an open house at the Willows. At the party, township commissioners and guests enjoyed the old township photographs, costumes and artifacts supplied by the Radnor Historical Society, Cabrini College, Eastern College, Villanova University and Radnor School District.

Old photographs from the Radnor Historical Society collection centered on 20th Century comings and goings, such as: an old interior photo of Lienhardt's Bakery on Lancaster Avenue; the Sorrel Horse Inn (now Agnes Irwin School); the St. Davids toll gate on Lancaster Avenue, Charles Walton's conservatory (now part of Eastern College); a daguerreotype of George Childs and Anthony Drexel, owners/developers of Wayne; The "Holly Tree House", entrance to Ardrossan, the oldest surviving house in Radnor; the Finley House, taken in 1929 (now the home of the Radnor Historical Society); "Van or" the

Brown-Chew residence (now the site of Radnor High School); and the Wayne Natatorium (formerly on Willow Avenue).

Costumes from the Radnor Historical Society included, in part, a black Quaker wedding dress; a dressing gown from the 1920's; a black sequin party dress, circa 1905; a World War II Red Cross uniform; a World War I army jacket and forage hat.

Ardrossan was the site of the Centennial Gala on April 21, 2001. Invited guests again enjoyed the photographs and costumes as well as the ambiance of the residence. The Rittenhouse String Quartet and bagpipers entertained the guests. Ardrossan was designed by famed architect Horace Trumbauer, who also designed the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Modeled after 18th and early 19th century English estates, Ardrossan was built between 1910 and 1912 by Robert Montgomery Scott's maternal grandfather. Mr. Scott was the honorary chairman of the Radnor Centennial.

The Centennial lecture, sponsored by the Radnor Historical Society, the Memorial Library of Radnor, and Radnor Township, will feature David Brooks, native son and well-known writer and senior editor of The Weekly Standard. David graduated from Radnor High School in 1979 and was an active member of the Radnor Model United Nations group. He now writes extensively for Newsweek, The New Yorker, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times Magazine and appears regularly on National Public Radio, CNN, and the Newshour with Jim Lehrer. He is the author of Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There. In the book, he draws on his experiences and observations of Wayne. In the Centennial lecture, he will speak on the Wayne of his youth, the changing Wayne brought about by the appearance of the bobo (bourgeois bohemian) and the future look of Wayne and Radnor Township. His lecture is an extremely significant way to celebrate the Centennial.

Throughout the year, articles of an historical nature appeared in The Suburban and Wayne Times, Main Line Life and The Philadelphia Inquirer. Much of the information for these articles was procured from the archives of the Radnor Historical Society. From the beginning of the planning to the implementation of the year-long events, Radnor Historical Society was represented on the steering Committee by John Dale, board member and secretary of the society.

Overall, Radnor Historical Society's contributions to the celebrations were significant and added much to the historical nature of the various events.

## Twenty-four Centennial Moments

(Some of these appeared in Main Line Life during the Radnor Township Centennial Year)

**April 22, 1949** The Suburban and Wayne Times reports on this date that the Delaware County Housing Authority was sponsoring a housing survey in Radnor Township in response to problems arising from the shortage of low-rent housing. The housing committees of the Neighborhood League and the League of Women Voters have been also studying the problem. The survey also brought to light the shortage of low-rent units for the lower middle class. Radnor school officials said that finding affordable housing for teachers in Radnor was a serious problem. One grade was without a teacher in 1949 for three months and excellent applicants were going elsewhere where rents were lower.

**1909** The Sorrel Horse Inn, Ithan Avenue and Conestoga Road, Ithan, was demolished, for the most part, in this year. (The remaining part, the Stadleman Tavern, built in 1768, is now occupied by the Agnes Irwin School.) From 1782-1783, the inn was known as Sorrel Horse and a century later became the McFadden family home. The Sorrel Horse lost business after the toll gates opened on an improved Lincoln Highway (Lancaster Pike).

**April 5, 1992** The Memorial Library of Radnor Township celebrated its Centennial with a party at 114 West Wayne Avenue, the library's present site. The library adopted a charter in 1892 and Katharine Longstreth Sayen served as the first president. She persuaded George W. Childs to donate the land at 110 West Lancaster Avenue in Wayne. In turn, the library was named in Child's honor. History records a library in Radnor dating back to 1809 and residing in many locations. The librarian was the "caretaker" of the books, and in 1819 the librarian gained the privilege of reading the books for taking care of the library.

*Note: The original records of the 1809 library can be found in the collections of the Radnor Historical Society.*

**April 25, 1974** The Memorial Library of Radnor Township hosted "Wayne Day-1974" in order for citizens to recall Wayne as it was. Cooperating with the Radnor Historical Society and the North Wayne Protective Association, the library planned events, which included a photographic display, a walking tour of North Wayne homes, and speakers addressing historic topics. These included James Dallett, Charles Alexander, Mrs. Richard Howson, Theodore Brooks and Marilyn Caltabiano.

**1962** Caesar, the black and white cast iron dog, arrived at the Finley House,

there in 1926; Anthony Wayne, who was a member of the congregation and is buried in the churchyard; and artists William Strickland, Howard Pyle and Andrew Wyeth.

**April 30, 1903** The Euterpean, the Wayne Musical Society, presented their ladies' night, Thursday evening subscription concert at the Wayne Opera House. Included in the program were a harp solo by Miss Helen Beatrice Reed; Meyerber's "Overture to Dinorah", with piano solo by Miss Jessie L. Fulweiler, The Euterpean, and Chorus of Ladies, and the Ladies' Quartet. The group takes its name from the Greek muse, Euterpe, muse of music and lyric poetry.

**May 24, 1906** The newly reorganized Radnor Fire Company, filling the void created by the demise of the North and South Wayne fire companies, responded to its first fire, a house near the Strafford train station. During the subsequent year, the fire company was summoned to fight twelve fires. The company consisted of 24 men, no women, in 1906. Also the first motorized fire-fighting vehicle in America was designed by Radnor Fire Company volunteers and built by Knox Company for a 1906 delivery.

**May, 1981** Events, celebrating Radnor Fire Company's 75th anniversary, took place during the month. David Alleva and John O'Donnell, co-chairmen of the 75th anniversary committee and their committee, planned a parade on May 16 with over 50 fire companies and area marching bands participating. Other events included an ecumenical worship service at St. Katharine's Church on May 14, an open house on May 12, and Radnor's hosting the annual Lower Merion Firefighter's competition on May 2.

**April 27, 1963** "The Old-The New" was the theme of a house tour of distinguished homes in Radnor Township for the benefit of the American Cancer Society. Mrs. Frederick Garrison Hall II, chairwoman, and her committee planned a tour of seven township homes. They included the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bickell on County Line Road, a stop on the underground railroad; "Chanticleer", the Rosengarten home on Church Road; "The Stable", the converted home of Mr. James Detwiler on Hilldale Road; and "Glough Acres", the home of Mrs. Harrison Wood on Sproul Road, built in 1770.

**1960** From the 1960 Creutzburg Catalog, George F. Creutzburg and Son, suppliers of livestock equipment, advertised the following for outstanding quality: sheep blankets and hoods in white, green, blue or gray, ranging in price from \$3.75 to \$5.15; black tattoo ink, for easy to read marks that will never fade, a pint can for \$2.35; deluxe show halters made of the finest leathers for heifers at \$9.20; prize-winning cattle blankets, made of soft double-filled duck, ranging

in price, depending on size, from \$4.95 to \$19.95.

**Summer, 1995** Betty Brody sold Lichtenfeld's, that "little store" on Lancaster Avenue, and closed its doors after 83 years in business. Brody's grandparents in 1912 drove from Ardmore to Wayne in the horse and buggy to open the dry goods store. Brody remembers outfitting the entire original cast of West Side Story with high top sneakers, and sold the remaining shoes for \$5.00 a pair at the 1995 sidewalk sale. Throughout the years, the store housed a fine collection of housedresses, little-boy trooper hats, hand-smocked Polly Flanders and Cinderella dresses, Jeff caps for men to wear in open touring cards, go-go boots, purple leather platform-soled slingbacks and high-button shoes.

**May 1, 1992** L.K. Burket passed for third to fourth generation as Harriet Burket turned over the fuel business to her son, David. The company opened its doors in 1887 and sold, in addition to coal varieties, grain, baled hay, lime, salt, peat moss, hickory/oak/pine wood and "certain inscrutable poultry elixirs".

**October 15, 1976** The premier of "The Story of Radnor", a slide presentation, was shown at Eastern College on this date. This project was a highlight of Radnor Township's celebration of the nation's Bicentennial. The film narrative was researched by James Dallett and produced by Alan Peck, Dwight Lindsey and Ken Stewart. The 305 slides showed township life from the Revolutionary War to the present with emphasis on historical sites, antique photos and famous personalities. William Wood headed the Radnor Township Bicentennial Commission which supported the slide project. Commission members included Razelle Frankl, Herbert Blades, Arthur Keogh, Clara Randall, John Dale, James Dallett, Donald McKinney, Charles Meyers, Frank Bernard, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Henderson, Janet Pierce, Courtney Rockefeller, Anne Atlee, Joseph Iacone, Fytie Drayton, Geoffrey Hahn and Daniel Ehart.

John Dale

## The Bellevue Hotel

By Greg Pritchard

The famous Bellevue Hotel in Wayne, on Lancaster and Bellevue Avenues, was built in 1881 and consisted of 200 rooms on four stories, each story with a porch. A. J. Drexel and George W. Childs built it one year after buying the Louella mansion in their continuing efforts to make Wayne a fashionable summer resort for city dwellers. It was situated on a plot of land with Bellevue Avenue on one side and William Wood's property, "Woodlea" on the other. Soon after completion, the Bellevue was leased to Mary Simmons and her sister by George Childs and was then called the Bellevue mansion. In an article dated July 2, 1884, a newspaper writer from the Germantown Telegraph described his visit to Wayne, devoting part to the then Bellevue mansion:

"We now come to the beautifully situated Bellevue mansion on Lancaster Avenue. The mansion has been leased by Mr. Childs to Miss Mary Simmons and her sister, and is a charming summer resort. It has one hundred rooms, and each room has a private porch. Four porches run entirely around the mansion, and the building and surroundings cost over eight thousand dollars. The mansion stands in the centre of a beautiful lawn, and is approached by a fine macadamized road. The parlors present a most luxurious appearance, and the large and elegant dining-room is where the 'Aztec Club' took their annual dinner before the death of General Robert Patterson. A handsome billiard room or hall is near the mansion, and there are ice-houses, servants' quarters, stables, gas-houses, etc. The mansion is well supplied with fire-escapes, and the heating arrangements are excellent. There are a smoking-room, card-room, private parlors, etc."

One of the Bellevue's most prominent features was a long boardwalk, beginning at the hotel's right side and ending at the train station platform. Tennis and croquet ground were another bonus for the Bellevue, especially since the Louella had neither. There were at least two separate buildings on the Bellevue property, one being the ice house, the other a stone house. This included inside billiard and pool tables, a library with a fireplace, and two card rooms; one for men only and one for ladies only.

In 1885, Mary Berrell Field bought the Bellevue from George W. Childs. She owned it until 1895. During this period, the hotel hosted numerous forms of entertainment, including the Aztec club meetings and conventions. It is said that some time during these years, General Ulysses S. Grant stayed at the Bellevue. Field hosted masquerades and sleighing parties. One night in 1886 Wayne contractor and quarry operator R.H. Johnson said that "Every young lady and gentleman in Wayne had the pleasure of a sleigh ride on Jan. 20 to the White Hall in Bryn Mawr and back."

Mary Field Arms Davis, granddaughter of the Bellevue's owner, lived there with her grandmother, great-grandmother, parents and brother. She wrote a manuscript, entitled "Through Six Generations" which describes the hotel. She said it had no private baths, but each room had a wash stand, bowl and pitcher.

"On each floor were several bath rooms that were kept locked. When a bath was wanted, the chambermaid was called and given a ticket or 25 cents. She would get the bath and then straighten up."

Apparently these baths faced the tennis courts.

Saturday nights were hop nights from 8:30 to 11:50. This time allowed guests to catch the last train into Philadelphia. On Sundays, hymns were featured and concert music was played on Wednesdays. The "Mikado party", a large masquerade party in mid-summer, was remembered by all who attended. The Fourth of July held a major event for the hotel annually, with sports events, a one o'clock dinner, fireworks, and an evening hop with an extra large orchestra.

Although it was primarily a summer resort, the Bellevue still got a fairly good business in the winter of about 50 guests. During one winter, the family of "Little Lord Fauntleroy's" Frances Hodgson Burnett rented eight rooms on the second floor, according to Davis.

The Bellevue came to the ground on March 15 and the morning of the 16th, 1900, around 2:30 a.m. Frances Fronefield Crawford Gant, daughter of drug-store operator J.M. Fronefield, recorded her memories of the fire for the Radnor Library Oral History Project:

"The only fire equipment in Wayne at the time was a hose and reel. Dr. Leanhart, the veterinarian, had two horses that were supposed to pull the reel and hose, but this was in the middle of winter, there was 2-1/2 feet of snow, and of course, the horses couldn't do it. They couldn't get any water to the fire. They just had to let it burn all the way down to the ground."

Another diary entry reads:

"On March 15, 1900, the frozen ground was covered with snow and a heavy wind was blowing. The blaze was detected by an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad, who wakened the Wood family whose property adjoined the hotel to the east. Mr. William Wood called for the firemen. "Embers blew as far as Audubon Ave. People flocked to watch. A colored servant famous for her enthusiasm for firewatching was early at the scene. Unlike the aging John Baker (who was the chief of the Wayne Hose Co.), she was a good runner. The North Wayne firemen dragged their hose all the way up the hill to the Station but were unable to prevent almost total destruction of the hotel, though they were successful in preventing its spread to nearby stables and houses.

"A little girl was present, dressed in her brother's trousers. Mrs. Case

recalled her disappointment in being unable to run out and watch, too, because she could not find suitable clothes. Dr. George Miles Wells, the Wayne physician, mistook the illumination in the sky for moonlight and unlike most of his fellow townsmen went back to sleep.”

The Fire Chief at the time was Robert McCaig, Wayne's Practical Boot and Shoe Maker. Many years after McCaig served in the fire company and the fire, the Old Man's Club Minstrels gave a show in honor of the Fire Company, in which McCaig was in attendance. The show included a skit entitled “When We Ran With The Old Machine”, which concluded with these creative, however humorously erroneous verses:

And do you remember  
When Bob McCaig was chief  
And the Bellevue Hotel met its doom?

The people all turned out  
And there was a fearful shout  
For a child was left asleep in its room.

Bob rushed into the building  
And he staggered up the stairs  
Oh, it was a terrible scare!

Threw the baby out the window  
Carried the cradle down the stairs  
Then we ran with the Old Machine!

At the conclusion of this performance, McCaig himself stood up and yelled, “It's a damn lie!”

Where the once great hotel stood, William W. Hearne built a house, apparently using the two detached buildings from the Bellevue. Hearne, who was the first president of the Radnor Fire Company of Wayne was succeeded in this residence by A.M. Campbell. During this time, Red Cross meetings were held there. During the house's last years, Helen Kellog ran her Dining Room.

In the 1950's, Bell Telephone, seeking land high above sea level, built its long lines building, later ran by AT&T. Bellevue Avenue still commemorates the memory of the great hotel, although all other traces of it are lost.

## GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY IN 2000

**Ben Lowry:** 1892 Maps of Radnor Township (10)

**Mary Jane Schrader:** Party Dress owned by Charlotte Jones Lukens, 1865, Wedding Dress owned by Sara Gawthrop who married William Way, 1860, White cap

**Gregory Prichard:** 2 prints of paintings: business block of Lancaster Ave, 1905, 407 Woodland Ave circa 1890

**John Foster:** 1941 Real Estate papers for corner of Stafford Avenue and Eagle Road.

**Lower Merion Historical Society:** The First Three Hundred, The Amazing and Rich History of Lower Merion

**Helen S. Weary:** Once Upon the Main Line by Sarah Hayward Draper; Winnie's Wisdom by Winifred C. Guiliford; Return the Golden Years by Horace Binney Montgomery; So Serve It Up, 18th Century English Foodways in Eastern Pennsylvania by Clarissa F. Dillon; History, Geography and Government of Chester and Delaware Counties.

## LOANS TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The Radnor Historical Society has loaned a musket and powder-horn to Historic Waynesborough. A schoolmaster's desk is on loan to Old Eagle School. Perhaps the most significant loan is of 722 architectural drawings and associated Wendell and Smith manuscripts to The Athenaeum of Philadelphia. The drawings represent the work of more than 30 architects, including David K. Boyd (1872-1944), Joseph Huston (1866-1940), William L. Price (1861-1916), and Horace Trumbauer (1868-1938). This collection is particularly helpful to researchers who are interested in the development of Wayne. The cataloging records are available at [www.PhilaAthenaeum.org](http://www.PhilaAthenaeum.org).

## 2000 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### NEW MEMBERS 2000

Mrs. Delma Baker  
Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Best  
Ms. Barbara Casini  
The Hon. and Mrs. Charles B. Burr II  
Mr. Ward Barnes  
Mrs. Brandon Barringer  
Ms. Joanne Becher  
Ms. Anne Albright and Mr. Trevor Drake  
Mr. Edward J. Carney, Jr.  
Mr. Joseph L. Higgins  
Mr. and Mrs. Gregor Grant  
Mr. Gordon L. Keen, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. John Liddell  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Perras  
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Pierce  
Mrs. M. J. Ormsbee  
Ms. Judy Richards  
Dr. Charlotte W. Rowland  
Mr. Mark Sullivan  
Mr. David Schmidt  
Ms. Bettilou Shieh  
Mr. and Mrs. George S. Wood III

### PATRON MEMBERS 2000

Ms. Jane Beatty  
Mr. Peter Benoliel  
Mr. David Burket  
Mr. E.J. DeJoseph  
Dr. Kenneth Doroski and Ms. Dawn Fastiggi  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J.D. Paul, III  
Mr. Joseph Higgins  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Bennett Hill  
Mrs. Elizabeth Hopkins

Mrs. H. W. Magee  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Perras  
Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson  
Dr. and Mrs. Emanuel Schwartz  
Mr. Cyrus Sharer  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Shipley  
Mr. and Mrs. George Smith  
Mrs. Harrison Therman  
Mrs. Thomas S. Weary  
Mrs. R. N. Williams II  
Mr. and Mrs. William Wood  
Wayne Public Safety Association

### SUSTAINING MEMBERS 2000

Mr. Stephen Bajus  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Ballard  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Brennan  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Craig  
Mrs. Brandon Barringer  
Mr. and Mrs. John Dale  
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Dewey  
Mrs. Lee DeWitt  
Mr. Ernest Eadeh  
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Etris  
Mr. and Mrs. John Fischer  
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Fisher  
Mr. and Mrs. John Fuchs  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Greeley  
Mrs. Budd Heisler  
Mr. Frederick Heldring  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kissner  
Col. Charles Meyers, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Pierce  
Mr. William Morrison  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Moss  
Ms. Betty Musser

Mrs. Robert Nixon  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Noll  
Lt. Col. And Mrs. Charles Reilly, Jr.  
Miss Elizabeth Rowland  
Mrs. Peter Sears  
Mr. and Mrs. William Siple  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spiess  
Mr. and Mrs. John Toebe  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Twitmyer  
Mrs. Margaret G. Zehner

#### **GIFTS AND DONATIONS 2000**

Mr. and Mrs. Don Ballard  
Ms. Carol Creutzburg  
Mr. James Dallett  
Mrs. William Dannacher  
Mr. and Mrs. E. J. DeJoseph  
Ms. Eleanor Donato  
Mrs. John Foster  
"A Friend"  
Mrs. Jane Garrison  
Mrs. Winifred Gilliford  
Mrs. Marian Gaul  
Mr. and Mrs. John Kelleher  
Mrs. Miles Kirkpatrick  
Lower Merion Historical Society  
Mrs. Dorothy Magee  
Mrs. Lois Mamourian  
Mrs. Hertha O'Hay  
Mr. Chester O'Neal, Jr.  
Miss Mary Jane Schrader  
Mrs. Harrison Therman  
Mrs. Thomas S. Weary

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

##### **House Sitters 2000 -**

**The following have given of their time and knowledge, opening the Finley House on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons during the year.**

Miss Lavalette Boles  
Mrs. Maxine Brennan  
Ms. Carol Creutzburg  
Mr. John Dale  
Mr. Samuel Etris  
Mr. and Mrs. James Fuller  
Mr. James Garrison  
Mrs. Lorie Greeley  
Mr. J. Bennett Hill  
Mrs. Beatrice Lord  
Mrs. Helen Lynam  
Mrs. Mary McGinn  
Mrs. Mary Meeker  
Mrs. Hertha O'Hay  
Mrs. Alice Pitt  
Miss Elizabeth Rowland  
Miss Mary Jane Schrader  
Dr. Emanuel Schwartz  
Mr. Cyrus Sharer  
Mr. George Smith  
Mrs. Douglas Vaile  
Mrs. Anita Walker  
Mrs. Thomas Weary

#### **OTHER VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Helen Weary and Lois Mamourian have been cataloguing the books and photographs of the Society. This is a work in progress, entering items from our collections into a computer program called Past Perfect. The final product will enable researchers to find specific items in our collections, and will allow the Society to share its collections more easily with other institutions. It is the intent of the Board of Directors that additional materials be catalogued as well. Volunteers with some experience using computers would be welcome.

We would also welcome the help of persons who like to work with school groups. We have visitations by the third grade of Wayne Elementary School, and a group from Agnes Irwin. Bea and Bill Lord, Mary Jane Schrader, Jean Liddell and Bennett Hill have assisted this year.

We would also like to recognize the work of Mary McGinn, who prepared items from our costume collection for display during the Radnor Township Centennial.

## REMEMBERED

For Her Years of Faithful Service  
To the Radnor Historical Society



*Jeanette Chandler Moser*

**Member Since 1970**

**Director 1977-1997**

**Died: 29 March 2001**

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The Radnor Historical Society expresses its appreciation to

**Hank U. Davis**

*of Living Waters Landscaping*

for his assistance with the transportation of the  
Conestoga Wagon in the 2001 Memorial Day parade.

## 2000 PROGRAMS

**8 February** - The Finley House: James B. Garrison, AIA spoke on "The Residential Architecture of R. Brognard Okie". Mr. Garrison is an Associate of the Hillier Group, Architects in Philadelphia, a member of the Historical Architectural Review Board of Tredyffrin Township, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Radnor Historical Society.

**14 March** - The Finley House: Sister M. Ruth Catherine Spain, S.B.S., Guild Director, spoke on "Blessed Katharine Drexel, Educator and Liberator". The canonization of Blessed Katharine Drexel was very much in the news at the time of the lecture.

**11 April** - Glenhardie Country Club: the Annual Olde Inns Dinner. Eva Davies Noll lectured on Duffryn Mawr (Tredyffrin) - Three Hundred Years of History in the Great Valley.

**30 April** - Bartram's Garden: Roger Mower, former Director of the John Bartram Society conducted a tour of the house and gardens of John Bartram, America's premier botanist.

**21 May** - The Annual Meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emilio Emini, 341 Homestead Road, Strafford, formerly the home of the Wentworth family. Nancy Campbell, Executive Director of the Wayne Art Center spoke about the Center.

**10 October** - The Finley House: Richard Paul spoke on "Saving and Restoring the Thomas Massey House".

**14 November** - Radnor Memorial Library: Dick Jones, Editor, and Jerry Francis, President, of the Lower Merion Historical Society, spoke on "The Amazing and Rich History of Lower Merion", a book written, designed and edited by the Lower Merion Historical Society.

**17 December** - The Finley House: Annual Christmas Open House, following the North Wayne Carol Sing.

2000 was the first year in many that the Society did not present Bennett Hill reading The Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

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## The Radnor Historical Society Mission Statement

The purpose and mission of the Radnor Historical Society shall be:

1. to develop, maintain, and preserve a permanent collection of manuscript, printed, and iconographic records pertaining to the history of "Radnor Township and its immediate environs.
2. to provide library facilities for the interpretation of the collections and for the purposes of research.
3. to collect, maintain, and preserve and exhibit artifacts from the Township's past, and to provide access to them for visitors.
4. to maintain a historic house museum, and any auxiliary buildings and grounds, for the purposes of education and for any meetings or other events desired and/or approved by the Board of Directors.
5. to provide a regularly scheduled program of speakers on topical subjects, and to make this program available to the community as well as to the membership of the society.
6. to support a publications program, through various media, including a regularly issued Bulletin, devoted to the study of Radnor Township and other relevant subjects.
7. to collaborate with local schools and colleges, and especially with the Radnor Township schools, on programs of education pertaining to the history of Radnor Township and its environs.
8. to cooperate with other historical and community organizations in support of programs undertaken for the purposes of historic preservation, conservation, and education, as the Board of Directors may deem appropriate.

Approved: 4 April 1994

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