

THE BULLETIN
of
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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No. 3



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Headquarters and Museum:

THE FINLEY HOUSE

113 WEST BEECH TREE LANE
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

Telephone: 688-2668

Visitors Cordially Welcome

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Editor

Miss Patricia J. Henry

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Mr. George Walker

The President's Letter

*"The lot has fallen unto us in a fair ground; yea, we have a goodly heritage."
Psalm 16, Vs 7; alt.*

My first year as your president has been--and still is--a busy and exciting one. A lot is going on in and about the Finley House, and I can only scratch the surface here. (A list of our activities for 1993 appears elsewhere in this Bulletin; see page 28).

The Society owns and maintains an attractive piece of **property**, about three quarters of an acre in the middle of suburban Wayne; an historic **building**, part of which dates from the late eighteenth century; and an extensive **collection** of documents, maps, photographs, and artifacts relating to the history and development of Radnor Township. Your Board of Directors is attempting to exercise the most responsible trusteeship possible in these three areas.

Plans have been prepared for developing our grounds in a manner suitable to the period of the Finleys' occupation, the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Some of you attended a meeting last October in which these plans were presented and discussed. Since then we have had an offer of a day's work by a local tree surgeon to clean up our east boundary and some of our larger trees, and we have been promised a lilac bush by one of our members, as a memorial. Other plantings--trees and shrubs--are planned, and would also make suitable gifts or memorials; a list of these is available.

We are currently in the process of applying for historic certification from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission. This is a lengthy and complex process, but its completion will make us eligible for funding from private foundations and from the government. The Finley House basement kitchen is the only surviving and restored eighteenth century domestic structure in Radnor Township; the rest of the House reflects later, nineteenth century periods of occupation, and illustrates the development of Wayne from a rural to a suburban community.

A visit from a representative of the Conservation Center, of Philadelphia, as a step in our participation in their Preservation Needs Assessment Program, will begin a thorough investigation of the condition of our collections, and will result in recommendations for the most

responsible ways of caring for them. We shall then be eligible for matching funds to carry out these recommendations. We must not risk loss or damage to the valuable items which have been entrusted to us.

The Board is also considering our responsibility to our membership, to our geographic community, and to the wider community of historians and scholars. With this in mind, we are working on a Mission Statement to replace or augment what is included in our Articles of Incorporation, drawn up in 1948--before we owned any property. Certainly one of our prime purposes must be education. We shall be collaborating with the Radnor Middle School, and we have scheduled a visit in June of their fifth grade students--seventy-seven of them--as part of their social studies curriculum. Last fall the third grade students from the Wayne Elementary School visited us in their study of the town of Wayne.

As you can see, we have much to offer, and much to do to conserve and improve what we have. We welcome the help and support of our members and friends, and we are grateful for the generosity of many of you in enabling us to move ahead.

J. Bennett Hill, Jr.
March, 1994

Radnor Historical Society

HOURS

*Open to the Public:
Tuesday and Saturday Afternoons
(except national holidays)
from two until five
and by appointment*

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, preserve and exhibit artifacts from the Township's past, and to provide access to them for research.
4. To maintain an 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 and 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.

(Note: This Mission Statement was approved by the Board on April 4, 1994.)

Some Observations on Eighteenth Century Domestic Medicine in Pennsylvania

by
Clarissa F. Dillon, Ph.D.

In eighteenth century kitchen gardens only useful plants were grown. They were not just for cooking but were vital ingredients in medicinal preparations, household products, and cosmetics. Nowadays, we think of herbs as plants used for flavor or fragrance. Then, all but trees were called herbs. Plants were eaten for health-giving properties as well as taste and variety. Prevention of illness through appropriate foods was considered better than remediation.

There were four basic qualities in nature: heat, cold, dryness, and moisture. Foods were supposed to help maintain balance among them. For example, cold and wet herbs like lettuce, celery, and cucumbers were served with hot and dry tarragon, pepper, and thyme. This combination has persisted in our green salads with herb dressings.

The Housewife's Role in Medical Care

Because of eighteenth century scientific thought and technology, diseases and their cures were not understood. Housewives were more interested in easing symptoms than in determining the cause of the illness. For this reason they were regarded dubiously by the professional medical men.

Housewives grew or foraged plants to use. As children they had learned what plants, what parts of plants, what preparations were needed. As adults they functioned as apothecaries, making syrups, tinctures, decoctions, infusions, washes, oils and ointments. Stored or made as needed, domestic medicines were prepared with ordinary kitchen equipment. Some women had stills which they generally used to produce simple waters rather than compound or cordials which were made with alcohol as the base. Women also acted as physicians, diagnosing diseases, determining and prescribing treatment. In addition, as nurses they cared for the sick and administered treatments. When fulfilling these roles, they demonstrated a greater flexibility and willingness to change treatments than members of the medical profession.

There was often one woman in the community who was respected for her knowledge and experience. Her services were used as needed by those desiring them. Given a choice, people seem to have preferred a housewife's care to the doctor's.

Eighteenth Century Domestic Treatments

Most period medicinal preparations were based on plants and some were effective. Coughs were treated with syrup of turnips and brown sugar, or garlic and white sugar (which tastes as awful as it sounds), and for children, violet syrup which also acted as a gentle laxative. Peach-blossom syrup was the customary purge for children and wormseed infused in brandy was given for worms. Bleeding of cuts was stopped by applying yarrow or rue; St. John's wort oil assisted healing thereafter.

Splinters were extracted with a fresh plantain poultice or plantain salve. Headaches called for spirits of lavender on the temples and to inhale. Colic in babies was treated with a well-sweetened aniseed or fennel infusion. Smelling dill seeds was considered effective in stopping hiccoughs. Many of these eighteenth century domestic treatments have survived today as granny medicines; some as the basis of proprietary or over-the-counter preparations.

Investigating the role of the colonial housewife in the care of the sick has provided me with much fascinating material about the lives of ordinary people. The processes in making medicines require much knowledge as to how, but very little about why. After having used manuals and cookbooks of the period to make medicines, I have tried some of them--very cautiously!--to see how effective they are. Elizabeth Coates Paschall's treatment for poison ivy--warmed cabbage leaves and honey--was extraordinarily messy but did stop the itching for about eight hours. My strained ankle responded to St. John's wort oil very much as Elizabeth Drinker's did.

My colonial medical box contains period materials like Peruvian bark for fevers, rosemary garters for foot and leg cramps, a quilted herbal pad for stomachaches, and much more. One preparation which is conspicuously absent is laudanum, an opium tincture then widely used for many different conditions. For obvious reasons, I do not have any and do not pretend that I do.

I enjoy discussing treatments of the eighteenth century but I am always devoutly thankful that I live today. Our infant mortality is well

below 50 percent, and if we take advantage of knowledge gained during the past two centuries, we need not worry about small-pox, measles, diphtheria, death from gangrene following a compound fracture, scurvy every winter . . . the list goes on. We have also learned that though peppermint tea can ease indigestion, it will exacerbate an incipient stomach-ulcer; that camomile tea can settle jangled nerves but set off an allergic reaction in those sensitive to ragweed; that comfrey, taken internally, can do something unpleasant to the liver. These teas were stand-bys for the colonial housewife. Upon reflection, I realize that I never would have survived to adulthood, had I lived in the eighteenth century. Would you?



*An Eighteenth Century Kitchen
in the Finley House*

Evangeline in Radnor? The Acadians in Chester County

*by
Patricia J. Henry*

Most of us know the story of the Acadian exiles. Longfellow's Evangeline has made it a part of our literary as well as our historical heritage. But did you know that some of those exiles found their way to Willistown, Goshen, Springfield, and Newtown Townships, as well as other parts of Chester/Delaware County--perhaps even Radnor Township?

Who Were the Acadians?

The unique story of the Acadians began in 1604, when 80 people left France for l'Acadie, the eastern seaboard territory extending from today's New Jersey to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Their first 100 years were typical of the experience of most European immigrants to North America during the sixteen hundreds. They struggled to establish farms in a harsh environment. They traded goods and knowledge with the natives of the area (the Micmac). They carried on trade with their European neighbors. The Roman Catholic Church filled key roles in education and the administration of local affairs in this deeply religious community. They were a healthy and vigorous people in their new homeland.

What was different was that they were in an area both the French and English saw as strategic to maintain control of their "possessions" in North America. The result was political instability which culminated in the English control of the area in the early seventeen hundreds. A half century of Acadian struggle to remain neutral in the ensuing conflict between the European powers ended July 28, 1755, with the decision to remove these "French Neutrals" from the now English Colony of Nova Scotia.

About 6000 people were uprooted in this "Expulsion." They were deported to the colonies of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, and North and South Carolina. About 700 of the exiles were sent to Pennsylvania.

The Acadians Arrive in Pennsylvania

The sparse information we have about the Acadian exiles suggests that they were not welcomed in Pennsylvania with open arms. The first reference to them was in the Pennsylvania Gazette, November 20, 1755.

It said, "Some vessels are in the river from Halifax with French Neutrals, one of which came up to the Town on Tuesday night but is since ordered down again." The ships were not permitted to dock and unload their passengers.

That same day, Governor Morris wrote to the Governor of Massachusetts about the "upward of three hundred neutral French from Nova Scotia" who arrived that day. He did not know what to do with them because the people in Pennsylvania were "very uneasy at the thought of having a number of enemies scattered in the very bowels of the country...who may join the other French at war, or foment some intestine [sic] commotion in conjunction with the Irish and German Catholics." Four days later, he reported to the Assembly that he did not think it would be safe to permit the French Neutrals to disembark. He ordered guards to be placed on each of the ships below the town. He also reported that, because of the sickness among the French, some of them were landed at Providence Island.

How the Acadians Came to Chester County

In early 1756, the Assembly passed a bill to disperse the French Neutrals among the counties of Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, and Lancaster. The plan was to distribute them with just one family in each township. The motivation for doing this seems to have been twofold: first, to spread the burden of their maintenance throughout the Colony; second, to minimize the potential for the group to organize and become a threat to the safety of the colonists. Three commissioners were appointed in each county to oversee the Acadians. Those in Chester County (which included today's Delaware County and, of course, Radnor Township) were Nathaniel Pennock, Nathaniel Grubb, and John Hannum.

Still, the people of Chester County were not anxious to have these foreigners in their midst. Says Henry Ashmead in his 1884 History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, page 35: "In Chester, before the act authorizing the overseers of the poor in the several townships to bind out the children of the Acadians [passed in 1757] the former officials had in many cases refused to receive the exiles or minister to their wants...."

Whatever their initial hesitation, several townships in Chester County did accept Acadian families, at least by the middle of 1757. We know this because Jesse Maris, John Cameron, John Larkin, and James Scott of Springfield Township; Thomas Temple in Kennett Township; Haines, Matlock and Thomas Spakeman in Goshen; Thomas White and Amos

Yarnall in Willistown; and James Allison and George Garritt were some of the men who received funds for the maintenance of the Acadians in Chester County. Over 77 pounds were paid to them during the period from July 5, 1757, through August 11, 1758. We also know that two of the five Acadians arrested in March, 1757, were in Chester County--Jean Landry of Darby and Paul Bujauld of Chester.

Precisely how many French Neutrals were sent to Chester County in this dispersion, and their names, other than the two men named above, remains a mystery. Existing documentation suggest a total number of approximately twenty-five to forty. Unfortunately, the Radnor Township records in the Society's possession go back only as far as 1765, so we cannot determine, with certainty, if an Acadian family was in Radnor Township as well.

While there is nothing to tell us specifically, we can assume that the Acadians in Chester County were treated no better or worse than they were elsewhere in Pennsylvania or the other colonies. Efforts were made by Colonial and local governments, as well as resident French Huguenots, to see that minimum basic needs were provided. Still, by most accounts the death rate among the Acadians in Pennsylvania was high. As many as half of them died within months of their arrival in Pennsylvania, primarily due to exposure, malnutrition, and disease.

Those who remained in Philadelphia were kept in poor housing on Pine Street. A bill was passed to bind out their children (i.e., to sell them into servitude) for their support. Aliens in a foreign land, they were separated from one another, isolated even more fully from surrounding society because they spoke a different language than did their English-speaking neighbors. On the order of a visiting nobleman, their leaders were arrested and likely executed, since there is no further reference to them in written records, and their children and wives are referred to as "orphans" and "widows."

Why Were the Acadians Treated as They Were?

It is easy from today's perspective to conclude that the Acadians were treated poorly. Before we condemn the colonists of Chester and the surrounding counties, we need to remember what was going on in their world.

Not only were the French and English embroiled in a war but the war was not going well for the English. Recent defeats had occurred on

Pennsylvania soil, most notably the defeat of General Braddock and his troops in Western Pennsylvania just four months earlier. The same paper that carried news of the arrival of the French Neutrals also carried a rumor that the French and "Indians" had attacked Lancaster!

The French and the Native Americans were linked inexorably in people's minds at that time in Pennsylvania's history. Rumors of atrocities committed by the Native Americans in Western Pennsylvania in the late seventeen hundreds were frequent. While these stories were undoubtedly exaggerated and embellished in the retelling, there was no way for the residents of Chester County to separate sound fact from ghoulish tale. There was an understandable apprehension about the presence of the French in their midst.

Whatever the fears, public opposition was stated in terms of the cost of supporting the Acadians. Over a five-year period, in excess of 7000 pounds were expended on the maintenance of the French Neutrals in Pennsylvania. In this respect, the Acadians did not help their own situation. They insisted they were prisoners of war. As such, they were not required to provide for their own maintenance and did not have to work for their own support. One could argue that this was short-sighted on the part of the Acadians, but it was a logical, albeit unsuccessful, strategy for them to adopt. Their intent seems to have been to make their presence an untenable economic burden so that the colonists would ship them back to their homeland in Nova Scotia. Whether it was the early loss of their leaders or their dissemination throughout the colony; or whether it was simple stubbornness or a steadfast dedication to a principal; the French Neutrals never publicly changed their position on their "prisoner of war" status. They remained exiles in a foreign land until they disappeared entirely from the pages of our local history.

Our Thanks to
MR. STEPHEN SHREINER
for Landscape Services
at the Finley House



Early Roads of Radnor Township--Their Story

by
Carol W. Creutzburg

It all began in England when William Penn was making plans for his American Colony. Radnor Street Road, laid out on paper, looked feasible, neatly bi-secting the county in half. The actuality though, proved to be quite different. Penn was unaware of the terrain's swampy nature, especially where the Ithan Creek meandered back and forth across the proposed roadway. Consequently, only part was laid out in 1683, which is still there today. More in the line of Penn's wishes of being straight and bordering the county, was County Line Road.

By 1689, Chester County would be responsible for laying out roads in Radnor Township. The following excerpt is from a letter written by William Penn, in the same year, showing his concern for the colony's transportation needs. "That care be taken of ye Roads and Highways in ye country, that they be straight and commodious ffor travelers, ffor I understand that they are turned about by ye planners, which is a mischief yet must not be endured." Translation: Farmers could and did object to roads running through their property and put up road blocks, which brought about detours with numerous curves.

The first settlers were faced with primeval forests and trees that had to be felled before the tilling of land. The only form of roads were winding paths made over the years by Indians. After seeds had been planted and sown, for sustenance of body and soul, their most pressing need was for "Mill, Market and Meeting House." To accomplish this, better roads would be needed and groups of farmers would then file a petition to the County Seat.

The Influence of Mills

Radnor-Chester Road was planned in 1691 to lead to Chester, today replaced by Sproul Road. Neighboring Mill Creek Road was an early thoroughfare that did double duty in connecting Lower Merion Township Mills to Radnor and the Meeting House. At that point, its name was changed to Newtown Road.

Of almost equal antiquity was another road, laid out in 1694, to the Schuylkill River ford. When Peter Matson, a Swede, purchased the river

front property for his farm, Matson's Ford Road came into being. The road saw increased activity when, in 1777-78, the clatter of horses' hooves sounded on its surface from Gulph Mills Picket Post to the Revolutionary outpost at Radnor Meeting.

In 1710, Radnor's first mill was built by William Davis, a forerunner of what in the early nineteenth century would be a rural industrial complex, with 14 mills around the Darby Creek area. Roads were built as well from mill to mill. Thomas Jarman's mill in the Great Valley would have to be connected with the Davis Mill.

A primitive by-way wandered from Jarman's Grist Mill through the forest, marked only by notches on trees, starting with 5 on a white oak to a chestnut and so on down. Basically it followed the upper reaches of Darby-Paoli Road, to the Davis Grist Mill on what would become the intersection of Paper Mill Road. From here it continued to the Great Philadelphia Road--in part: Goshen and Haverford Roads.

Much later in 1808, a well known local Avenue would begin life as a mill road. William Siter and other farmers filed a petition for a road to his mill, now the Mill Dam Club. For 60 or more years it would be nameless until the town officially became Wayne. Only then would it be called West Wayne Avenue. Around that time, it was shortened from its original exit on Lancaster Pike at the Presbyterian Chapel.

Churches Play a Role

In 1715 when St. Davids Church was erected, more roads were needed. The founders were from Radnor, Newtown and Easttown Townships (in those days, all part of Chester County). The church was at the junction of the three townships. Church Road in Radnor was laid at that time. The original plan had been to lead in a straight line to the church. It was discarded, however, as the earliest road builders preferred to place their roads in valleys, avoiding hills. Thus, a fair sized detour was made.



St. Davids Road was also cut through to Newtown Street Road, another old highway, having been laid out in 1693, and now Route 252. Although Valley Forge Road didn't appear until 1735, it would follow the Welsh surveyor's township line, connecting the Baptist Church in the Valley with St. Davids. Prior to 1735, there were several unofficial cart lanes between the two churches.

The Radnor Meeting was established by the Welsh in 1686, meeting in private homes. There was, in 1693, a log building on the site of the present Meeting House. Being located at the township's central point, it was like the hub of a wheel, with roads branching out in different directions. This included short by-ways leading from farms. Newtown Road on one side, was laid in 1716. Radnor-Chester Road was close by.

Connections to Other Places

Then there was the still rough Indian Trail that ran diagonally through the township. That trail, called Conestoga after the Indian tribe, would be the only Indian name in Radnor Township. By 1741, improvements were made and the road was now ready for commerce between Lancaster and Philadelphia. Radnor's first settlement was formed near the Meeting House. Soon the call came for "Food, Drink, and Lodging" from farmers and drovers alike. The Horse and Groom, later to be known as the Sorrel Horse was, in 1756, one of the earliest inns.

The Mennonites and Amish of Conestoga Valley had developed the Conestoga Wagon before 1720. Later, it would meet the transportation needs of the old road. By mid-eighteenth century, eight to nine thousand of these great white topped vehicles lumbered along the road, bringing food and produce to Philadelphia markets.

However, since 1767 there had been talk of finding a solution for the poor state of Conestoga Road. The growing number of conveyances of all kinds brought deeper ruts and thicker clouds of dust.



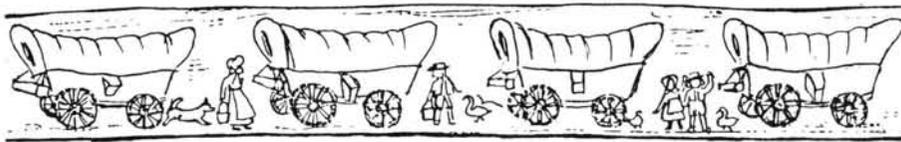
The Revolution intervened but soon afterwards, in 1792, the Pennsylvania Legislature established the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike Company, which would be privately owned. Two years later, the new road was opened and would be an American first in several ways: the most expensive, costing \$465,000; the first hard top, being paved over broken stones and named for its Scottish road designer, McAdam; and the first toll road. The highway may also have collected the largest assortment of names: Lancaster Turnpike, Lancaster Pike, The Pike, Lincoln Highway, Lancaster Avenue, and the last, simply Route 30.

Property values on either side of the road increased. Those who had an aversion to tolls continued to use Conestoga Road, but most preferred the straighter, wider and less steep Turnpike. Inns would appear approximately a mile apart, except in Wayne-St. Davids, which was still the Maule farm. Milestones were also placed along the way, with Wayne now having one of the remaining few on the North Wayne Avenue corner.

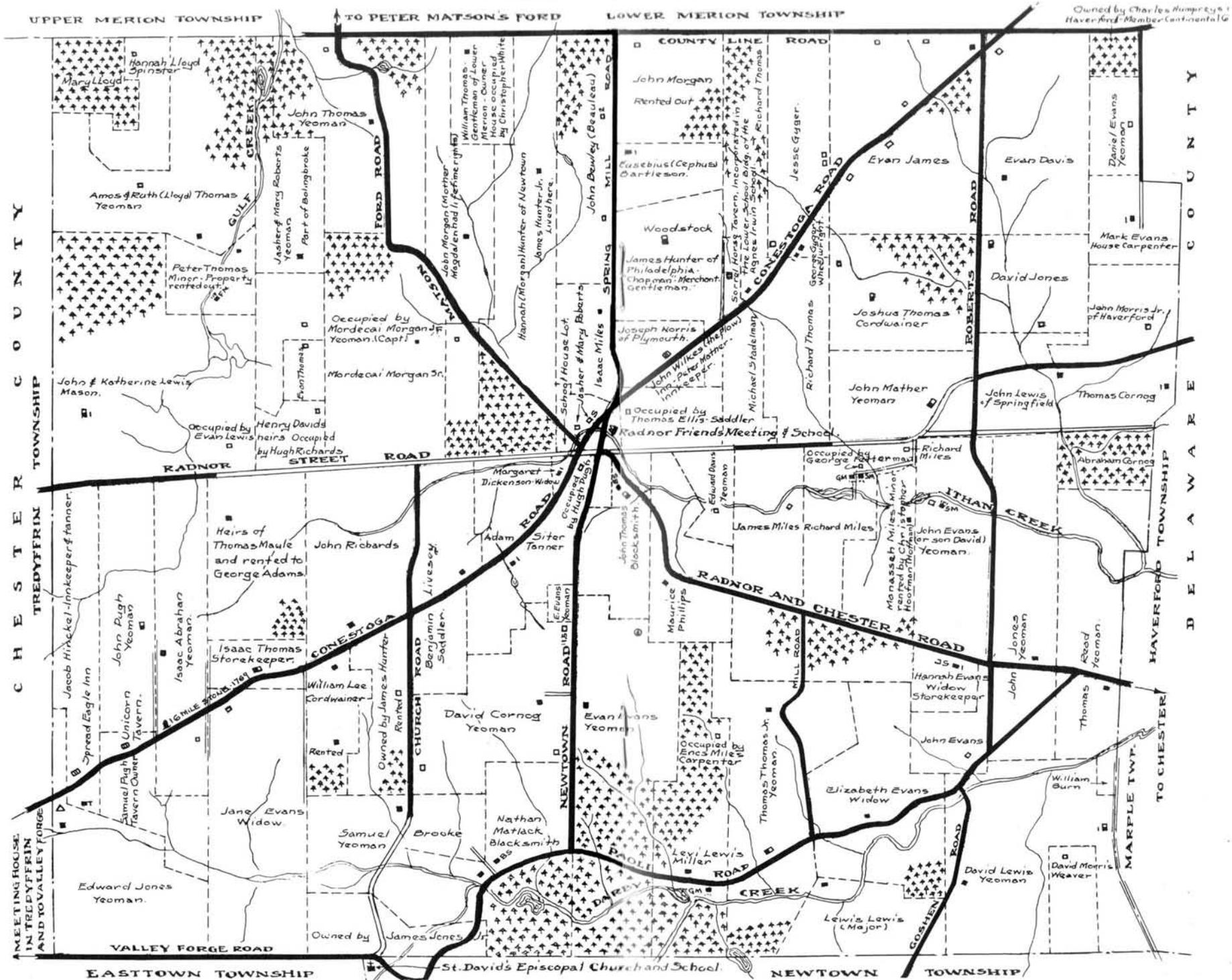
Local Roads and Local People

By the nineteenth century, a few roads would be named for individuals whose property they crossed. Laid out after 1881, Brooke Road is still graced with Samuel Brooke's house and barn. Abraham's Lane, nearby had a name whose origin went back to 1683. Also, not far away was Atlee Road named after Dr. Walter P. Atlee. The earliest by almost two centuries, however, would be Roberts Road, an extension in Bryn Mawr of Old Gulph Road, once an Indian Trail. Roberts name probably came from John Roberts, whose 1693 property was in the immediate vicinity.

This then, concludes the general story of around two centuries of Radnor Township roads.



*Lancaster Avenue -- 1914
Looking eastward into Wayne*



RADNOR TOWNSHIP - 1776

The History of Some Radnor Parks

by
Christy Tull

Radnor Township is very fortunate to have included in its boundaries fifteen parks covering 307 acres spread throughout the township. Another five parks, with 167 acres, are owned by the Radnor School District. These parks are for the use of residents.

Each of these parks is steeped in history. For some, it is the area which it covers, and for others, it is the people who donated the land or for whom the park is named. For still others, it is both the land and individuals whose names are associated with the park. Much of the history of our parks has been lost to present day residents. This article will review the story of a few of Radnor's parks to update and expand our understanding of their history.

South Devon Park

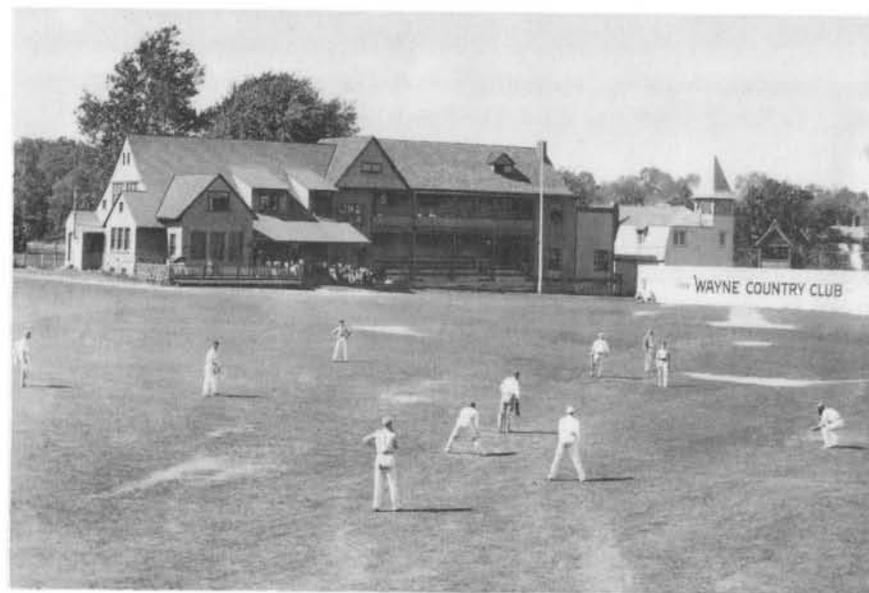
The origins of South Devon Park are rather recent. Its history began on February 25, 1953, when the Radnor School District purchased nearly 7 acres from Wayne Terrace for park space. During the early 60's, additional land was purchased by the school district, until the park's present size of 18 acres was complete.

Located on South Devon Avenue between Clover Lane and Morningside Circle, west of Conestoga Road, the park is bisected by Little Darby Creek. Designated a neighborhood park, it is designed for intense recreational activities with facilities for tennis, volleyball, basketball, badminton, shuffleboard, baseball and softball. A picnic area is available, along with off street parking and restroom facilities. The recreational opportunities it provides to the more than 5000 people in its immediate neighborhood follow in the tradition of valuing recreation as a part of community life, a tradition well established in Wayne's early years.

The South Devon Park includes within its acreage the "Warren Filipone Memorial Park." This "park within a park" was dedicated in May, 1976, to the memory of the former park supervisor for Radnor Township to honor his contributions to the township's parks and the recreational life of our community.

North Wayne Park--Seneca Englebert Field

Seneca Englebert Field is locally known as the North Wayne Park and is owned by the Radnor School District. It occupies land long associated with parks and recreation in Wayne, as it sits on what was at one time the athletic field used for the Merryvale Athletic Association. The Merryvale Athletic Association became the Merryvale Cricket Club; in 1892, the club became the Wayne Country Club, followed by the Radnor Cricket Club in 1897. Radnor School District purchased the land for this park on November 27, 1936. It abuts the AMTRAK railroad tracks and is bordered, in part, by North Wayne Avenue and Beech Tree Lane. This park is designated as a neighborhood park and now includes 4.6 acres which are used by both baseball and soccer teams.



*Wayne Country Club about 1895
Occupied land now included in North Wayne Park*

Seneca Englebert was 77 years of age when he died in 1939. A physician who specialized in hygiene and public health, he was very interested in historic sites. He gave a great deal of time and thought to securing the land for the school playground in North Wayne. There is a plaque on the wall of the equipment building at the North Wayne Park,

presented by the North Wayne Protective Association in 1940, honoring Seneca Englebert's contribution to the community.

Ethel G. Encke Park

The Ethel G. Encke Park was formerly called "Iven Field" because of its location on Iven Avenue between Lancaster Pike and Conestoga Road. It is adjacent to the Radnor Township Municipal Building and is designated as a community park (which means it is an area of diverse environmental quality and includes several neighborhoods within its 1-2 mile radius). The park contains 33 acres designated "Encke A" and "Encke B" fields, with two ball fields, a tot lot and a picnicking area.

Miss Ethel Encke, for whom this park is named, was the founder of the Radnor Recreation Department. She oversaw the Recreation Department until a director was formally appointed. Miss Encke was the Director of the Physical Education Department at Radnor High School for nearly 35 years. She had served as a teacher and coach in the Radnor School system for 44 years at the time of her retirement in 1972.

John Cappelli was an active Commissioner in the 6th Ward in the early 70's. He lived and died next to the Odorisio Field. Jay Macrone, the present Radnor Parks and Recreation Director, shares with us, "He was loved by many people--a bad word was never said about him. He was an avid golfer until his death." The Park Board felt it was appropriate that John Cappelli be remembered and honored in this way.

Fenimore Woods Park

Fenimore Woods Park takes its name from the estate of Francis Fenimore--Fenimore Farms. The present park borders land of Valley Forge Military Academy, Cabrini College and Eastern College. Approximately 100 acres was included in the estate which was adjacent to the St. Davids Golf Club; the Clubhouse was situated on the present Fenimore Woods property.

George Packer, a resident of Fenimore Lane, gave me the following information. At some point in time, the Valley Forge Military Academy purchased land from the original 100 acres which included the present acreage of Fenimore Woods Park. The lake on the property was used by the Academy during their summer camp sessions for swimming and boating. At the lower, or East end, where the lake was about 18 feet deep, a 10 meter diving board was installed. The school would drain the lake every year in the spring, clean and refill it, adding chlorine to the

water. After the Academy built an indoor pool, the lake's recreational facilities were not needed. During Hurricane Agnes in 1972, the mechanism for the pump was damaged and never repaired, hence the lake has not been cleaned since.



"Edgewood Lake" of Fenimore Estate

Francis Fenimore's original landholdings included a much larger area than Fenimore Woods Park now covers. Fenimore and an associate, J. Hampton Moore, had plans drawn up to develop the property into a residential area, much as Drexel and Childs had for Wayne. The promotional material for "Edgewood Lake," as the area was called, says: "Everything possible is being done to provide out-of-door sports, such as golf, tennis, boating, etc. during the warmer months, and in the winter the lake cannot be surpassed for skating. It may be well to state that the lake and immediate surroundings are dedicated to the residents of Edgewood Lake, as is a park to a city, all of whom share equally in the privileges." For some unknown reason, "Edgewood Lake" never took hold as did its neighbor, Wayne. Still, the planners' idea that the lake area be a park-like setting for all to share seems prophetic.

The township purchased the land encompassing Fenimore Woods Park in the spring of 1973. The park is considered a neighborhood park, and includes a recreational field, play area and covered picnic area with

restroom facilities. Areas such as the fishing lake, nature area and pavilion provide a restful place to enjoy oneself and to reflect upon the long history of the area.

Clem Macrone Park (Rosemont Park)

The Clem Macrone Park is another relatively "new" park, located on Conestoga Road between Strathmore and Rockingham Roads, and was originally known as the "Rosemont Park." On maps found in the township building, the land for the park was proposed on September 18, 1956, followed by architectural plans dated in 1959. The 1968 map indicates that the park was completed soon after this date. The nine acres include tennis courts, a basketball and volleyball court, a playground, picnic tables, restrooms and off-street parking. The well known Garrett Hill 4th of July parade and picnic is held annually at the park.

In recent years (1991) the park was officially dedicated to Clementina ("Clem") Macrone. Clem Macrone was active in Federal, State and local politics for 60 years. She was a Republican Committeewoman in Rosemont's 7th Ward for 40 years. Mrs. Macrone died August 3, 1990, at the age of 83. Her obituary describes her as "a notary public who helped numerous people become United States Citizens, find jobs and solve financial difficulties."

The present director of Radnor Parks and Recreation Department, Jay Macrone, is Clem's grandson. Proudly, he boasted of his grandmother and told me of her love of her community, and especially of the children, who lived close to this neighborhood park. A former resident of Williams Road in Garrett Hill, she moved to Rockingham Road and her house backed up to the fence bordering the park. The closest entrance to the Park then was at the parking lot on Conestoga Road. Clem felt that was too dangerous an area for the children to enter the park, so she leaned a ladder from her yard up one side of the fence and another from the top of the fence down to park ground, so everyone had easy access to the park. She organized community picnics in the park and her house was considered a community house--even part of the park in the minds of many residents.

It was because of this kind of personal involvement in helping people in all stages and areas of life that dedicating the neighborhood Rosemont

Park was so fitting a tribute to her, and a recognition of her benefaction to the community she loved.

(Note: As of January, 1994, the part of Ethel G. Encke Park including the golf driving range was rededicated in honor of John Cappelli.)

Radnor Historical Society

New Members in 1993

Mr. Thomas R. Bevan	Ms. Jo Harris Brenner
Ms. Gabriel Davis	Mrs. Hope Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Etris	Mr. Max Gambescia
Mr. and Mrs. John Fuches-Whiteman	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Henderson
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Gardiner	Ms. Patricia J. Henry
Mr. and Mrs. Larry S. Hewlett	Mr. F. N. Hoffman
Ms. Katherine S. Hiester	Ms. Jane Ingray
Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Howell	Dr. Gary Kime
Dr. Pamela Jensen	Mr. Anthony A. Lanahan
and Dr. Jefferey Stadel	Ms. Gail McCown
Ms. Suzanne C. Matthias	Ms. Elizabeth Rowland
Mr. and Mrs. Carson McClain	Ms. Evelyn Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Nelsen	Ms. Christy Tull & family
Mr. Edward O'Brien & family	Ms. Elizabeth S. Witter
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Shipley, III	

Patrons

G. R. Atterbury
Mr. Stephen W. Bajus
E. J. De Joseph
Miss Patricia J. Henry
Mr. and Mrs. J. Bennett Hill, Jr.
Ms. Mary T. McGinn and Mr. Lawrence C. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Smith

Gifts to the Society in 1993

The Radnor Historical Society accepts items donated either for the collections or for the general use of the Society. Items for the collections are accepted subject to the approval of the Collections Committee of the Board; all items are accepted with the understanding that they become the sole property of the Society, to be used, displayed, or otherwise disposed of as the Collections Committee or the Board sees fit.

Mr. Richard Burroughs

History of "Camp-Woods" in Radnor

Mr. Daniel N. Ehart

Two copies of Saint Katharine of Siena, Celebrating a Centennial History; Photographs: Scene at Merryvale Country Club; Colonial Building and Bellevue Hotel Fires; Early Fire Company (about 1910)

Mr. Joseph H. Flager

1934 Senior Class, Radnor High School; 100th Anniversary of Free Schools in Pennsylvania (pamphlet); 1935 Radnor High School Football Schedule; 1960 Eastern PLAA Champions (Radnor) (pamphlet)

Mr. Lewis C. Hess

Rupert Sargent Holland, Historic Boyhoods; R.S. Holland, Historic Inventions; R.S. Holland, Historic Airships; R.S. Holland, Yankee Ships in Pirate Waters; "The Story of Wayne," the Wayne Business Association, 1945; "This is the Main Line," the Main Line Times

Mr. and Mrs. J. Bennett Hill, Jr.

Spinning Wheel (restoration by Mr. Bruce Cooper Gill); the Editors of Life, America's Arts and Skills, 1957; Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania Biography, Volume XXIV, 1941; C. Jordan Thorn, Handbook of Old Pottery and Porcelain Marks, 1947; John Bedford, Wedgwood, Jasper Ware, 1964

Mrs. Katharine Wood Leonard

A number of assorted small objects, for the 1789 Kitchen and the Victorian Bedroom of the Finley House



*Spinning Wheel, Gift of
Mr. and Mrs. J. Bennett Hill, Jr.*

Mr. James Edward Maule

James E. Maule, The History and Genealogy of the Maules, 1981

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sanford

Wagon Jack

Mrs. Mary Jane Shrader

Several large posters

Anonymous

Painted canvas and leather trunk, marked "J. Lewis, Phila."

Mr. William Laffey, Radnor Middle School

A collection of teachers' record books from the Radnor Public Schools, c. 1880-1910 (some to be kept at RHS, and some to be stored at the Radnor High School)

Radnor Historical Society 1993 Program

February 9, 8:00 pm - Mr. Richard Lander spoke on the history of St. Mary's Church, Wayne.

March 16, 6:30 pm - The Society's annual Olde Inns Dinner was held at Historic Kimberton Inn. Mr. Scheib spoke on the history of Kimberton.

April 13, 8:00 pm - Clarissa F. Dillon, Ph.D. spoke about 18th century plants for uses other than culinary.

May 2, 3:00 pm - The Society's annual meeting was held at the carriage house residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas in St. Davids. Mr. Richard Barringer, historian, spoke on the Chew family and the Vanor estate in Radnor.

September 26, 3:00 pm - "Creating a Victorian Garden." E.G. Rall, landscape architect, presented a plan for developing the Finley House Gardens and grounds in preparation for the Society's 50th year in 1997-98.

October 12, 8:00 pm - Dan Ehart spoke on the history of St. Katherine's Church in Wayne. The author presented a book on St. Katherine's Church to the Society.

October 24, 2:00 pm - A Sunday afternoon trip to the Peter Wentz Farmstead in Worcester, PA included a tour of the 1758 Georgian mansion, barn, log house, kitchen garden and orchard. The mansion was used as Washington's headquarters before the Battle of Germantown in 1777.

November 9, 8:00 pm - Josephine Smith, Ph.D., presented a slide talk on Frederick the Great, who was King of Prussia during the American Revolution, and whose title became the name of our neighboring community.

December 19, 5:00 pm - Christmas Open House following the carol sing sponsored by the North Wayne Protective Association.



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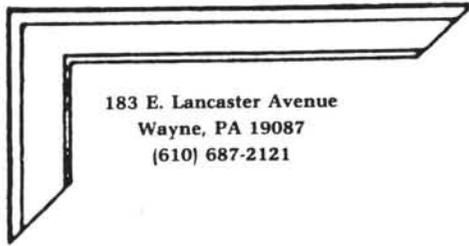


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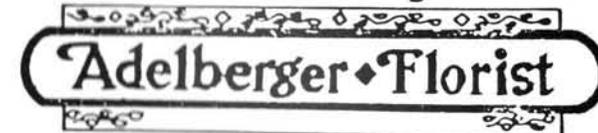
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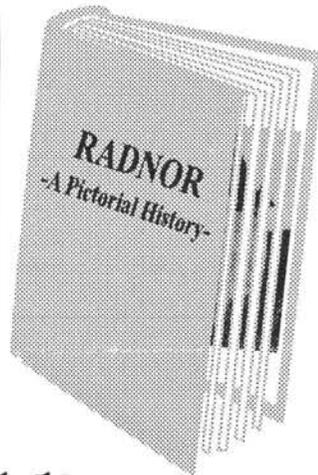
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