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RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Headquarters and Museum:

**THE FINLEY HOUSE
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And now, we look forward to next year's festivities, we suggest that you mark your calendars for our birthday dinner, which will be held at "The Willows" on Tuesday, 14 April 1998. Plans are in the works for a very special program for that evening, and you will not want to miss it.

It is exciting to think of what we have accomplished so far, and of what we still expect to accomplish. In the meantime, watch for our Conestoga Wagon in the parade on Memorial Day. And again, thank you for all your marvelous support, which makes all of this possible.

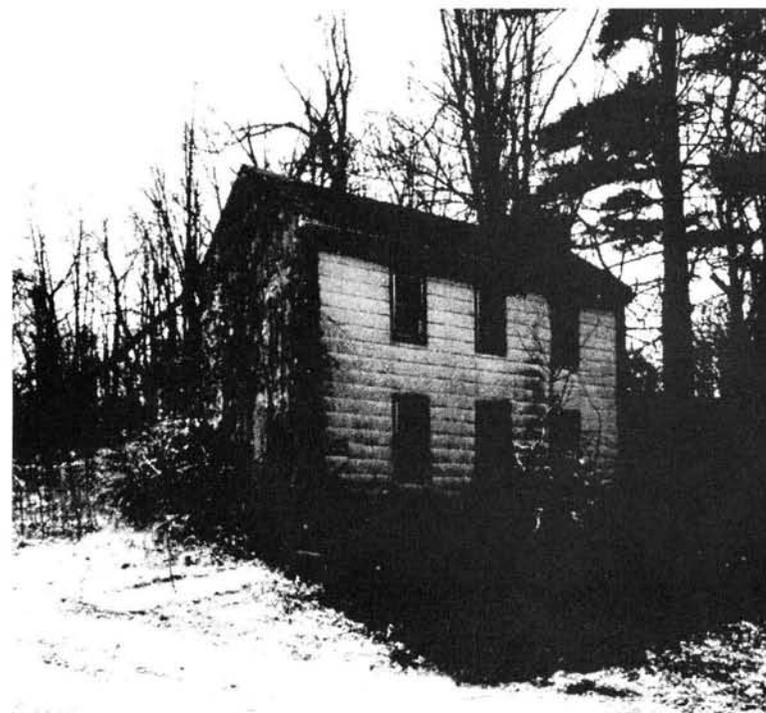
J. Bennett Hill, Jr.
March, 1997



Tom McGuire
talks to Society
members about
Anthony Wayne's
role in the famous
"Battle of Paoli"

Noted in Passing— The Loss of an 18th Century Farmhouse

by James B. Garrison



Even before the completion of the Blue Route (I-476) it was easy to overlook the small house sitting in the shadow of the P&W railroad tracks as they crossed Lancaster Avenue between Radnor and Villanova. The three bay house, long side parallel to the street, was faced in asbestos

siding, with little else to suggest that it was a hardy survivor of almost 200 years of steady traffic on a road that started as the Lancaster Turnpike.

As this is being written, the house stands abandoned, slated for demolition and replacement by a small office building. Taking a last look at the house reveals nothing outstanding, but hints about Radnor Township before the railroads and automobiles. In her book, *A Rare and Pleasing Thing: Radnor Demography (1798) and Development*, Katharine Cummin traces the building back to 1798 when Peter Gaskell built the house as a speculative property fronting the new turnpike. He sold it to the first tenants, Thomas and Mary Fendall in 1801, who quickly sold it again in 1804, possibly because their family already included six of the total of twelve children they had together.

The property was sold and divided several more times in the 19th century, and by the turn of the 20th century was already a quaint reminder of previous times, sitting uneasily by railroad tracks, a growing university, several large estates, and the new town of Wayne, a speculative venture supplanting the village of Louella, itself founded just after the Civil War. The small building and property were bypassed by developers until the completion of the new highway and interchange in the 1990's once again stimulated development.



Looking past the non-descript siding and lack of special trim or ornament, the viewer notes the rubble stone gable end walls and chimney, unbroken

by windows, a clue about the early date for the house. Modern storm windows obscure the delicacy of the six over six double hung windows, but no shutters remain. The only other exterior feature is a small shed addition to the rear. A stone spring house nestles into the hillside behind the house, while a 20th century garage stands to the southeast by the railroad embankment.



On the inside, the humble origin is confirmed by the lack of woodwork and any special details. The fireplaces are without mantelpieces, but they could have been victims to vandalism. The first floor contains two rooms separated by a board partition [board partitions do not have studs or plaster, but are simply flat pieces of wood butted together] that also contains a narrow enclosed stair. The second floor also has two small rooms, board partitions and a bathroom. The stair continues to an unfinished attic. The house is remarkably free of alterations except for some minor concessions to modern conveniences such as the bathroom, electricity, and a small kitchen.

Scanning through Ms. Cummin's book, the house does not stand out as a notable example of domestic architecture, but rather a good example of the typical dwelling in the township 200 years ago. Perhaps this is its real importance, and why its loss, though barely noticed, should be noted. The typical buildings are what contribute to the character of a place. This faint reminder of the agricultural past of Radnor Township is different from some of the more notable survivors that are actually exceptional for the period.

Radnor High School Celebrates 100 years

by Diane Dodds

Diane Dodds is the Archivist of the Radnor High School Collection since 1993; she is in charge of periodicals in the Radnor High School Library, and is a past member of the Board of the Radnor Scholarship Fund. She expresses her sincere thanks to Helen S. Weary, Radnor High School's Centennial book editor, for her time-line and grateful acknowledgment to Melvin T. Thomson's School Board notes and reminiscences in connection with the preparation of this article. Pictures are courtesy of the Radnor High School Archives.

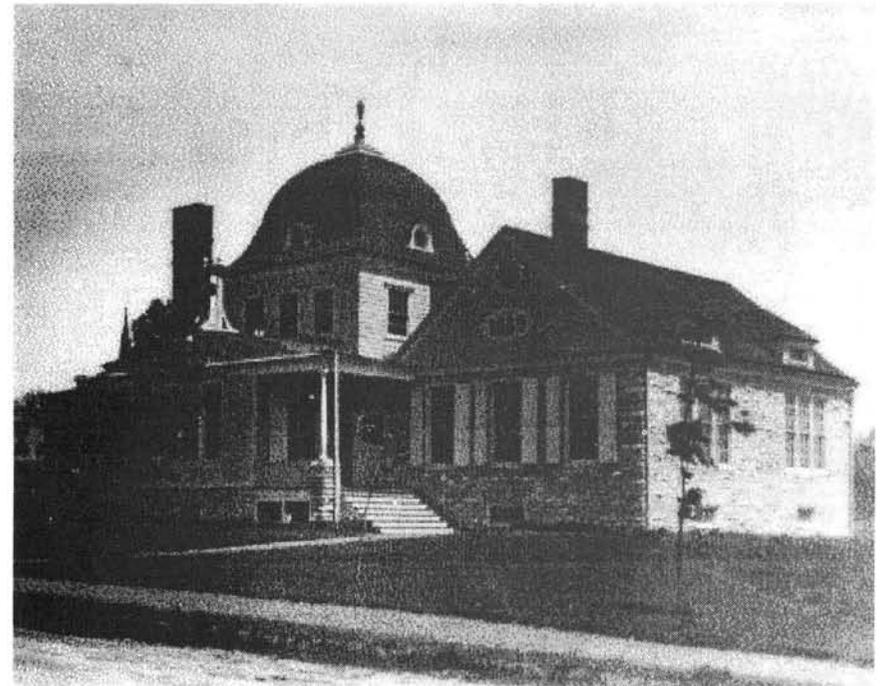


First Graduating Class—Class of 1897

Annie B. Hughes, Alvin P. McCarter
Thomas Crumley, and Laura M. Brown

June of 1997—Radnor High School graduation—speeches, excitement, proud families. Of course, this is the way it will be. But this is also the way it was.

On a summer day 100 years ago, four seniors (out of a student body of 50) became the first graduates of the high school which had been officially established in the fall of 1893, not as a separate facility, but as an educational concept in a district where public schools had existed since the 1830's.



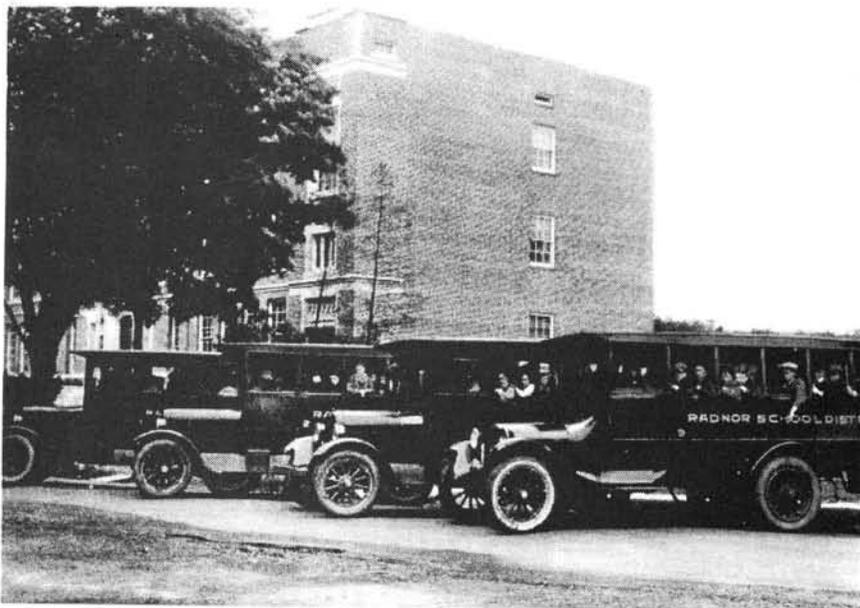
Home of Wayne's First High School

Eight freshmen, the principal, Mr. George Wilson, and one teacher had studied their way through Latin and stenography, evolution and drawing. They had a football team and a literary society, a school magazine and school colors (red and white). Their commencement ceremony was not held in the wood/stone domed building on South Wayne Avenue which housed the younger grades as well, but in the dignified elegance of the Wayne Opera House. Three of the four looked ahead to college.

The 200 girls and boys who will leave the rambling brick building on its rolling green acres this June have benefited from the experienced efforts of a hundred teachers and several hundred possible course choices. They, too, are divided between further education and employment.

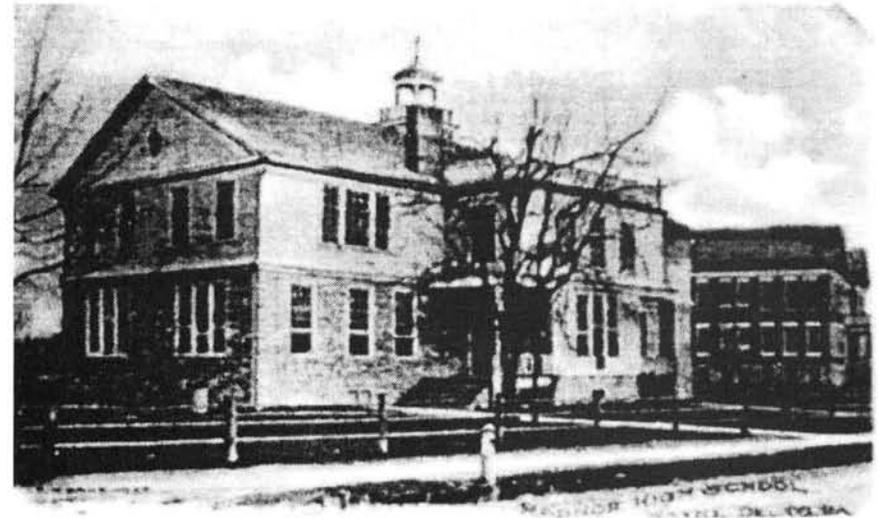
What separates them from the first four graduates? What changes has a century made in Radnor High School? Some of the differences are geographic: the high school moved to its own building on Windermere Avenue in 1909, then, in 1926, to the just-enlarged structure which is today the Middle School. The current site was dedicated in 1958; additions were made in the 1960's and 1970's, and major renovations will begin shortly.

Everyone walked to school until 1918. Then the School Board had an old Ford runabout equipped with a truck body and top to transport them. Today's fleet of 20 yellow buses serves those students who don't hold the coveted senior parking permits.



Early Radnor School Buses

A horse and carriage were at one time provided for the superintendent, but his nine successors have had to do without, including Mr. Adams who resigned after only four months because he did not like living in the country. Nine principals have steered the high school through crises ranging from epidemics of smallpox and diphtheria, measles and polio past dress codes and paper shortages to student demonstrations and teacher strikes.



The 1889 School Building—second floor added in 1897 with the 1901 Administration Building in the right background.

In 1906, a library was installed in the high school; in 1973 it was a new swimming pool. In 1912, a school lunch program was initiated; by the late 1970's, "Open Campus" allowed students to drive to the local Roy Rogers. A garden, a store, a bank, a newspaper—all were school innovations in their time.

Radnorites have been able to enjoy non-academic interests in extra-curricular clubs from Debate, Red Cross, and Radio to Fencing, Aviation, and Lapidary. Boys could be air raid wardens or auxiliary firemen in the 1940's; girls pushed them aside in 1947 to take over as cheerleaders. Anyone could try out for the Swing Band in 1939, for HiQ in 1965, or for "The Crucible" in 1977.

Radnor has welcomed exchange students from the Congo and Norway, and sent girls and boys to Japan and Germany. It has one of the oldest Student Councils in the United States and the oldest public school football rivalry. It has produced national cricket champions and National Merit Semifinalists.

The senior dance was held at the Devon Park Hotel in 1926, Class Night took place at the Saturday Club in 1949, and in between there were mid-year graduations.

Scrapbooks in the school district archives chronicle the military service of Radnor students and graduates in all of their country's conflicts from World War I through Desert Storm. Published authors ("Cardy" Crawford and Sally Bedell Smith), entertainment figures (Anna Moffo and Randy Kleiser), and Olympians (Janie Barkman and Mary Ellen Clarke) have been pictured in the yearbooks. Twice Radnor has been named a "Blue Ribbon School of Excellence" by the United States Department of Education.

When those four students received their diplomas on that June evening 100 years ago, they would not have dreamed that their legacy was to be a century of remarkable growth and achievement. Perhaps on June 11 we should leave four empty chairs in the front row . . .

From *Wayne Times*

Saturday, March 17 1888

"We learn the Wayne Estate are going to tear down all the old farm houses and barns. This will improve appearances, but we will be sorry to see Mr. Wilds, Mr. Farra and some of our farmers leaving us.

The ground hog bobs up serenely on top as usual."

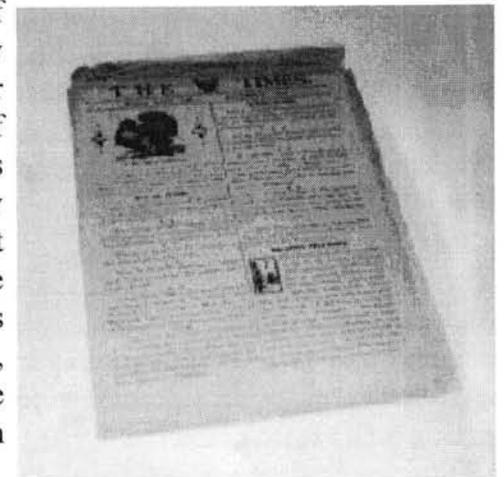
Newspapering on the Main Line

by Daniel N. Ehart

The author was Editor of The Suburban from 1952 until December, 1990. The following article is taken partly from the Centennial Edition of The Suburban and Wayne Times of August 8, 1985. For a far more detailed description, please refer to the Centennial Edition in the Radnor Historical Society Files.

Newspapering on the Main Line has seen many publications come and go. Currently there are only three: *The Suburban & Wayne Times*; its arch-rival for nearly 60 years, *The Main Line Times*, and a newcomer, *Main Line Life*. This article will consider only *The Suburban's* history.

Following a few years of tiny papers issued by amateurs after the Civil War and the founding of "Louella," as Wayne was called by its founder, Henry Askin, in 1870, the first permanent newspaper came on the local scene. It was called *The Wayne Times*, and was founded by the Pinkerton brothers, with Charles Stewart as editor.



Early Edition of *The Wayne Times*

Only the front page of the first issue survives, and is in the archives of The Radnor Historical

Society, as is the Centennial Edition of *The Suburban & Wayne Times*. Just when *The Suburban*—as an independent entity—came on the scene is indeterminate, since no copy of the first edition exists; there are a few copies from the 1890's, in one of which it would appear that the first edition of *The Suburban*—as a separate paper—actually was published in September, 1885, two months prior to the advent of *The Wayne Times*. As it was to this writer in 1985, it is equally difficult today to believe that two competing papers co-existed in this very small market for about 15 years. The exact date of their merger is unknown, but appears to have been prior to 1900.

A Professional Arrives

Following a series of part-time editors and owners, whose names are lost to history, *The Suburban & Wayne Times* finally got a “career editor” at the beginning of 1900. His name was Albert M. Ehart, who hailed from Lyons, New York and came here at the request of a friend, Charles Kennedy, who saw opportunity here. The “opportunity” was “qualified,” to say the least. In a short time, Bert Ehart owned the paper in lieu of back, unpaid salary, buying out its then-owner, Mr. Stewart.

But the previous owners were onto something. They had “vision,” though they lacked resources. The name, *Suburban*, became, prior to 1900, an “umbrella” title for a chain of tiny newspapers along the Main Line, including—besides the *Wayne Edition of The Suburban*—the *Downingtown Archive*, the *Malvern Public Spirit*, the *Berwyn Herald*, the *Bryn Mawr Home News*, the *Ardmore Chronicle* and a paper in Overbrook. The *Archive*, the *Home News* and the *Chronicle* survived as independent papers as late as the 1960's.

Bert Ehart, who had worked for several years on a large metropolitan paper, *The Brooklyn Eagle*, brought professionalism to the job. He remained in it for the next 63 years, although in later years, sidelined by illness, he remained at home, writing, while his wife, Anna Dunne Ehart, and two sons built up the business during and after World War II. He died in 1963, at the advanced age of 96.

Fire at *The Suburban*

The earliest years of both *The Suburban* and *The Wayne Times* are shrouded in obscurity because of the fire in 1906 which gutted the newspaper's small plant, then located on East Lancaster Avenue, where the Blockbuster store is today.

Following the fire, Bert Ehart had no equipment upon which to print—and insufficient funds to replace it. As an expedient, which lasted for many years, he would take each week's copy to the production plant of the *Philadelphia Record*, where the type would be set. He would hop a train and take the heavy galleys of metal type out to Downingtown, where *The Archive* did the actual printing. (It should be noted here that *The Suburban* fire was directly responsible for the formation of the Radnor Fire Company that same year. Community leaders realized that the North Wayne/South Wayne makeshift bucket-brigades of earlier years would no longer suffice now that the community was growing rapidly.)

It must be remembered that, in those days, very few small businesses had fire insurance—and *The Suburban* was not one of the lucky ones. Money was also very tight, and mortgages and loans were difficult to obtain. So it was not until 1926 that Mr. Ehart built the first of two additions to the building at 134 North Wayne Avenue, to house a press and Linotype machines. (He rented out the second floor to the John C. Myers typesetting company to have the paper set in type on site.) The Depression wrecked this brief prosperity in short order.

The “chain of papers” disappeared sometime prior to the 1920's, and Mr. Ehart retained control only of *The Suburban & Wayne Times*. During the Depression, however, the “chain” revived—if it may be called a “revival”—with the acquisition of such papers as *Our Town of Narberth*, *The Main Liner* of Ardmore, and *The Haverford Township News*. They were acquired in default for nonpaid printing bills—and keeping them proved to be a big mistake.

During the Great Depression years, the other papers bled *The Suburban* white, nearly leading to its demise. Following Bert Ehart's

Near-fatal first heart attack in 1937, Mrs. Ehart disposed of the nonproductive satellite papers for a song. One of them, *The Haverford Township News*, remained viable for a number of years thereafter. The others soon died.

The Downingtown Archive had long since passed into the hands of a friend, Harry Van Tassel. Later it became the subject of a book and a movie, "It Happens Every Thursday," by a later owner, Jane McIlvaine.

The Suburban and World War II

During World War II, *The Suburban* made many lifetime friends of the servicemen and women of this community. Mrs. Ehart produced a page of "Servicemen's News" every week, despite the paper's small eight page size and a severe shortage of newsprint. The paper was sent—free of charge!—to every one of those in the service throughout the war. That paved the way for unprecedented reader loyalty in succeeding decades.

What may be surprising to some is that this very small paper ran editorials on national and international affairs, as well as local, even as early as 1906. The reason was clear-cut: Wayne was a far more sophisticated community than might be inferred from its size. Its homeowners included numerous men of substance in the financial and industrial powers of the time. Some of them had worldwide interests in the arts, politics and finance, many of them visiting Europe frequently.

Local news, however, took priority. The churches, schools, sports, obituaries and "Personal Mentions" were the stuff of everyday newspapering. Pictures were few. There was no photography staff, and making photographic plates was expensive. The difference from today's picture-filled papers is striking.

The Suburban and its Competition

In 1930, when *The Main Line Times* came on the scene in Ardmore, with ambitions to monopolize all the news of this region, things

looked bleak for *The Suburban*. But the aggressive newcomer was never able to overcome the loyalty of readers to *The Suburban*, though (from *The Suburban's* perspective) the offensive was often savage and on occasion, underhanded. Nevertheless, this competition was invigorating, and by the 1970's *The Suburban* had become the Main Line's premier newspaper. (A view from which current managers of the opposition would undoubtedly demur.)

Newspapers back in the 1930's, and even into the 1950's, had very little real opposition. There was no television whatsoever, and radio as a news source was quite limited. So it was newspapers battling each other, and suburban newspapers confronting the mighty *Bulletin* and *Inquirer*. Somehow, these small papers held their own against the metropolitan giants, which later found it necessary to form special editions, such as *Neighbors*, to compete in the suburbs against their much smaller weekly rivals.

Wayne did not really come out of the Great Depression until the arrival on the scene of Wyeth Laboratories and TV Guide, followed in the mid-50's by the extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and construction of the Schuylkill Expressway. These formed the base for the development of King of Prussia, from farmland to the largest shopping center in the Philadelphia region.

That changed the shape of suburban newspapering also. *The Suburban* initiated a column of Upper Merion news, which a few years later, under the inspiration of a real dynamo, Nancy Peters, became a satellite newspaper, *The King of Prussia Courier*. At about the same time, another columnist, Marion Connor, gradually enabled *The Suburban Advertiser* to be born. Both were designed to be more than mere shoppers and contained a full complement of news.

The 1960's and 1970's were times of great growth for *The Suburban*. Partly this was due to the demographic changes, as "suburbia" grew rapidly and the paper made every effort to keep up with it. But it was also due, in part, to a strong editorial policy dealing with both local and national issues.

“The New Look”

The advent of “The New Look” in the middle 1960's provided a host of editorial opportunities, as Radnor Township shook off “boss rule” and eventually resulted in the Home Rule Charter which governs the township to this day. Other events which created strong editorials—and page after page of “Letters to the Editor”—were the two controversial Vietnam Forums held in Wayne, which were sources of much acrimony. The visit of (what this writer believed to be) Communist-controlled clergymen to the Baptist Convention headquarters in King of Prussia, exposed by *The Suburban*, also resulted in tremendous pro and con input to the paper. But the longest lasting and most fiercely debated issue was “The Blue Route.” The battle went on for 30 years, with the proponents eventually victorious. Now, only a few years later, the undoubted benefits of the Blue Route are gradually being supplanted, it seems to this writer, by “gridlock” on the “feeder roads,” such as Routes 30 and 3, because of huge increases in traffic for which State highway authorities did not prepare. They cannot say they were not warned!

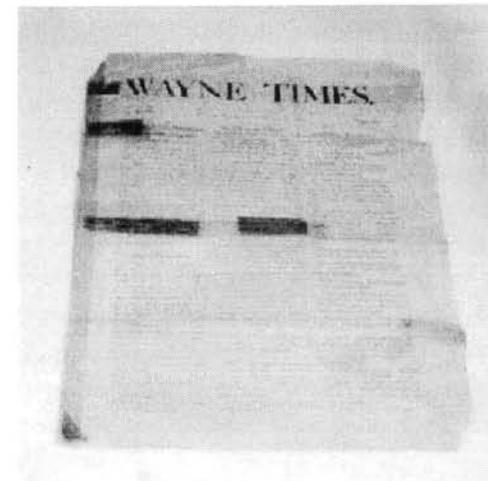
These controversies were not harmful to circulation. On the contrary! Some irate subscribers were lost, but they were more than replaced by those who recognized the paper’s editorial integrity, even when they disagreed with what was published.

Change in Ownership for *The Suburban*

In 1980, the Ehart brothers were receiving offers to sell *The Suburban*. One of these proved to be an offer they could not refuse. Following the sale of the papers in early 1981 to Ralph Ingersoll, Bill Ehart left the business after 30 years of distinguished effort and went into real estate. (He is currently the Treasurer of Radnor Township, responsible for collecting taxes for both the Township and School District.) Dan Ehart remained as Editor of *The Suburban* for the next nine years. Those years, during the Presidency of Ronald Reagan and the end of the Cold War, proved to be great ones for an editorial writer. But in the end, a newer set of owners objected to his strong pro-life editorials and he was “terminated” in December, 1990 after 45 years on the job.

The Suburban continues today. And yet it struggles with the same problems that all newspapers face: declining circulation in an age of “instant news” and “entertainment.” The advent of the “Worldwide Web” is only the latest electronic onslaught to make the future of newspapering problematical. Sociological and demographic changes have had deep impacts on this community—and on its newspaper. From reports, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* is in fairly deep trouble, with circulation continuing to decline steeply, despite the fact that its chief competitor, *The Evening Bulletin*, died many years ago.

Where do local newspapers go from here? No one can tell, but it is the belief of this writer that such newspapers rise and fall on the strength of their news editorial coverage of stories of great importance to those who are homeowners and taxpayers. “Entertainment” may be necessary as an adjunct to “hard news,” but the latter is imperative because thus far no combination of magazines, TV, radio or the Internet is able to successfully replace the weekly newspaper if it fully covers the most vital local issues. One thing the electronic media cannot do: create “reader loyalty.” It is precisely this loyalty that newspapers must generate and nurture if they are to survive.



An Early Edition of *The Wayne Time*

Give Her This Day

by Lois Styles Edgerly

A Book Review

by Carol Creutzburg

Give Her This Day by Lois Styles Edgerly can be found at the Radnor Memorial Library. Both of her books are published by Tilbury House Publications, Gardener, Maine 04345.

What was life like for the nineteenth century woman? Could there be achievement beyond hearth and home? Lois Styles Edgerly rewards us with intimate glimpses into the reality presented in the form of a Day Book. It consists of writing by a woman born on that day, insightful biographies and 125 photographs.

Their personal stories of living history came into being through ten years of meticulous research in libraries, manuscript collections and historical societies. At a later date a call found its way to the Radnor Historical Society concerning an artist's letters.

Among the 780 women in both this Day Book and its sequel, *Women's Words, Women's Stories*, well known names appeared: Fannie Merritt Farmer, Emily Dickinson, Josephine Baker, Rebecca Gratz, etc. Wives and mothers of presidents intermingled with cowgirl outlaw Belle Starr and Confederate spy, Belle Boyd. Words of the unknown are heard, as a pioneer woman's diary chronicles her joy in picking wild flowers and the extreme hardships found on the Oregon Trail. There is the lighthouse keeper who writes: "You wish me to state how many lives I have saved altogether since I have been in charge of the light house at Lime Rock, I would say in reply, 16."



Ida Lewis—Lighthouse Keeper

Cassatt would become known world wide. Their careers were ten years apart. Both would remain single. One left while the other stayed. To some extent they painted similar subjects-women and children. However, Cassatt was more aware of design and her subject material more varied.

Minerva Parker Nichols, the group's only architect, designed one of the 1887-90, Wendall and Smith houses in Wayne-St. David's (see *Radnor Historical Society Bulletin*, 1995: "Wayne Architects and Builders— Their Story.")

Local Educators

Agnes Irwin, who was the great, great granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin, began her teaching career in a New York private school. She was asked to come to Penn Square Seminary School in Philadelphia, which was renamed Agnes Irwin. For 25 years she remained the head. A climb higher on the Academic ladder came about when she answered the call to be dean of the new Radcliffe College.

Martha Carey Thomas came from a prominent Baltimore family. She was both a feminist and an educator, being the first foreign woman to receive a doctorate from the University of Zurich. When Bryn Mawr College was established in 1880, she became the first dean and nine years later was made president. For the next 28 years, the name Carey Thomas was synonymous with Bryn Mawr. "Her ashes are in the cloisters of the college library."

Philadelphia and the surrounding area benefited from the lives of these women. Some of their impact would reach into Radnor Township. In this Quaker City, most would work in education. But this was not for Louise Lane Drew, whose third husband was John Barrymore, Sr. She would alternate between managing the Arch Street Theater and acting.

Fame would touch the lives of two artists: with Cecelia Beaux, it would be lightly, and Mary

Another local connection came with Radnor's Cabrini College, named for Mother Cabrini. In 1880, Pope Leo XIII asked her to go to America because of his concern for the Italian immigrants. She took it all under her wing, opening schools, hospitals, and orphanages through North and South America. She then became a U. S. citizen and immigrant herself. The original of her letter is in the college's Cabriani Room.

Women and Social Change

One after-effect of War is the giant leap in progress. After the Civil War, an expanding middle class emerged along with technical advances. Awareness came to women that they too could have a part in this changing world. Some of these women came fortified with certain qualities: strong conscience, belief in causes, and determination that they could help make a better world.

Prison reform, but especially Women's Suffrage and the Temperance Movement, had an appeal to women. Carrie A. Nation was one who accepted the challenge of "Home Defender" for women and erupted upon the scene with militant emotion. As one of the founders of the Women's Christian Temperance Movement, she paid frequent visits to saloons, ax in hand.

Whereas Carrie Chapman Catt handled reform differently. Born in 1859, at the age of six she was already aware of being a feminist and would be a future leader. Her husband was a staunch supporter of women's rights. With this in mind, they signed a nuptial agreement, making it possible for Carrie to have two months in the spring and two in the fall to devote to suffrage work.

Cooperation between man and woman, outside of the home, had been a rarity in the past. This would be so with missionaries and an opening wedge came about in the legal field when a mid-western couple, both lawyers, were partners and worked together on cases. Belle LaFollette, wife of Senator Robert LaFollette, was the first woman to receive a law degree from the University of Wisconsin. Her legal training was of considerable help in his career. Belle was active in Women's Suffrage and spoke on the subject to her husband's Senate Committee. The New York Times spoke of her "as the most influential of American woman who had to do with public affairs." There were black women who refused to accept conditions imposed upon them by race and became outstanding teachers. Ada Ball

Wells-Barnett, born to slavery, voiced her opinion in a one-woman crusade against lynching and devoted her life to helping her race.

Writers

Education had long been a field for women, but now they were enthusiastically embracing a new profession - writing, which in some instances led to a break-through in journalism. The market was there. Something now called "leisure time" was surfacing, only slightly perhaps, but enough for homemakers to enjoy the pleasures of reading. After the Civil War, Southern women, in particular, turned to writing. In many cases, this talent would bring their families out of dire poverty.

Augusta Evans Wilson wrote her second book, *Beulah*, when she was 23; fame and financial success followed. A contemporary writer called it "the best work of fiction ever published by a Southern writer." She eventually wrote nine novels which brought royalties of \$10,000 a year for 30 years.

The North had, among other, Harriet Beecher Stowe whose writings would increase her family's meager income. Beyond this, it gave a feeling of self worth, "beside babies and housekeeping." After a collection of her stories were printed, her literary talent would support the family. And then there was *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Laura Elizabeth Richards started to write when she was ten and would publish 80 books and poems. "When her seven children were very young, she wrote children's books and poems. As her children grew, she wrote novels for young girls, her most famous one being *Captain January*. Shirley Temple played in the movie version. A dedicated writer to the last year of her life, Laura Richards died at 93.

Swarthmore was the home of novelist Grace Livingston Hill. She wrote two books a year and then 79 novels brought sales of three million. Her public knew exactly what to expect as her plots always involved a "sweet young woman who found true love and strong religious faith after a series of misadventures." She had been married to a minister and later was involved with keeping the Old Leiper Presbyterian Church alive.

Writer-feminist, Helen Gardener, made a contemporary decision concerning posterity. This was when she willed her brain to Cornell

College "so that the school might have an opportunity to examine the brain of a thinking and productive female."

Lois Edgerly has woven in her two books a tapestry of women's lives, illustrating the way it was and instances of how it would be so. Their path of accomplishments widens up to the outbreak of World War I and continues somewhat beyond.

**Part of the
Radnor Historical
Society's Collection
prepared for the
Christmas Holidays.**



History Comes Alive

by Patricia J. Henry

Over the years, the Finley House has helped history come alive for many elementary students. This past year, on November 13, 1996, the parlor of the Finley House was the site of a lively exchange of history between two classes of current Radnor high school students and seven Radnor graduates from the 30's and 40's. "The class's purpose," said one student, Marie Amelie-George, "was not only to learn of past times, but also to see whether Radnor High School was a microcosm of the larger society."

The students asked questions about course content, favorite teachers, social life and extra-curricular activities. They asked about student freedoms, dress codes, cafeteria food, and social pressures such as drugs and alcohol. They learned about the impact of the Great Depression and World War II on student life. They found that students then listened to the radio (*The Shadow* being a favorite); that big bands provided music for dancing (the Jitter-bug), that favorite pastimes of students fifty years ago were to stop for soda at the drug store (located where the Gap is now), going to the movies (at the Anthony Wayne Theater for 12 cents) and sports.

Student reaction to what they learned was varied. One student, Josh Jakobi, reported "From the discussion, I got a very alien picture of Radnor and America in general in the 30's and 40's." He went on to say that he was skeptical of panelist observations that there was no alcoholism or student fights in those earlier years. Students expressed the hope that the occasion was a two-way conversation; that the panelists would learn more about today's students as well. To this observer, it appeared that did happen.



Mr. John Dale

This opportunity for students of today and years past to learn from one another was arranged by Mr. John Dale, history teacher at the Radnor High School. Mr. Dale is also a member of the Radnor Historical Society Board of Directors.



Charlie Butcosk



Marie Amelie-George



Paulette Girod

Today's Students Meet....



Reese Lee



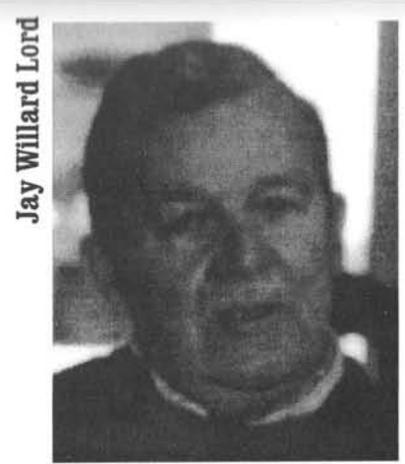
Josh Kaufman



Rachel Whitlark



Fred Keator



Jay Willard Lord

Past Graduates

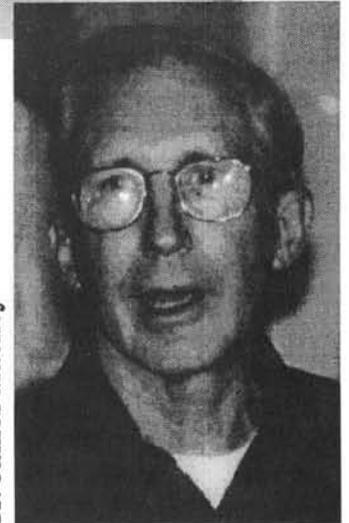
Carol Creutzberg



Anne Hyser



Dr. Lee Porter



Dr. James Mackey

Radnor Historical Society

1996 Membership Report

New Members

Mr. John Butterworth*	Ms Nancy Hanlon
Mrs. Emma Klapp Heed	Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Keen
Mr. Joseph W. Kimmel	Mr. Peter C. Kingsberry
Mr. David Melick	Ms Betty U. Musser
Mrs. Barbara Nelsen*	Mrs. Helen S. Weary

*indicates winner in 1996 Radnor Fall Festival Contest

Patrons

Mr. & Mrs. Donnell Ballard	Mr. David L. Burket
Mr. E. J. DeJoseph	Mrs. Margaret M. Fuchs
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Gardiner	Patricia J. Henry
Mr. & Mrs. J Bennett Hill, Jr.	Mrs. Elizabeth Hopkins
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur H. Moss	Mrs. Robert H. Nixon
Ltc. & Mrs. Charles Reilly, Jr.	Dr. & Mrs. Emanuel Schwartz
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Shipley	Mr. & Mrs. George W. Smith

Sustaining Members

Mr. Stephen W. Bajus	Ms Jane N. Beatty
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Benoliel	Mrs. John A. Colgan, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Dale	Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Dewey
Mr. Ernest C. Eadeh	Mrs. William M. Fletcher
Mr. & Mrs. C. Budd Heisler	Mr. F. Heldring
Dr. & Mrs. Michael W. Kearney	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Noll
Dr. & Mrs. J. David Ogilby	Mrs. Peter A. Sears
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Siple	Mr. & Mrs. F. Harry Spiess
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Toebe	Ms Elizabeth S. Witter
Mrs. Margaret Zehner	Ms Susan Zelten
Dr. Kenneth Doroski & Ms. Dawn Fastiggi	

In Memoriam

Katharine Schultz Wood Leonard

1896-1997

The Radnor Historical Society lost one of its longest (since 1949) and most devoted members with the death of Katharine Wood Leonard in January.



Mrs. Leonard was an interested, involved, and generous supporter of the Society. She was a member of the Board of Directors from 1964 to 1972, and after that she was a frequent visitor. She attended the Society's events and she watched over what we did here. She was the first to encourage and contribute to the recreation of the 1789 basement kitchen, for which she provided us with details and suitable artifacts to furnish the room. Mrs. Leonard was also very active in the American Red Cross in Wayne. Her son, William Wood, and his wife carry on her interest and support of our Society.

George Vaux

1908-1996

The Society was saddened to learn, last September, of the death of George Vaux. Although better known for his contributions and services to the Athenaeum and the Harriton association, Mr. Vaux was a long-time member of the Radnor Historical Society. He served on its Board of Directors from 1956 to 1968, and as Vice President from 1957 to 1966. George Vaux will be remembered for his keen insight, his forthright manner, and his courtly Quaker ways. The Society extends its sympathy to his family, and its gratitude for having had him with us.



Radnor Historical Society

Gifts to the Society in 1996

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 of Directors; 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 of the Board sees fit.

Mr. Lawrence Adelberger

Scrapbook of Amina Fuhrman (actress) of theatrical items in early 1900's.

Ms. Harriet Burket

Three ladies' blouse with elaborate needlework, about 100 years old, and family scrapbook of plays and musical events in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Dorothy Barr Claphanson

Six books: four books of poetry (Herrick, Tennyson, Browning, and James Whitcomb Riley); and two special dedication publications, one on Queen Elizabeth II's coronation and one on King Albert I's position regarding WWI. A player piano roll; a relief of Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge; and a certificate listing members of Company M, 12th U.S. Infantry in the Spanish-American-Filipino [sic] War, 1898-1899.

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

Sugar "Hat" (cone) and copper kettle for the 1798 Kitchen; book: *The Mill* by David McCauley.

Mrs. John Huber

Old kitchen ware: eleven wooden carved butter molds, metal funnel, five redware and redware sgraffito plates, pitcher, glass bottle, bowl. Salesman's sample of old hand-cranked washing machine (see picture on next page), and five ceramic items (four pitchers and one bed pan).



Salesman's sample of hand-cranked washing machine given to Society by Mrs. John Huber

Meredith and Michael Jones

Flat iron from early 1900's.

Ms. Julia Pierce

Five postcards of early Wayne scenes.

Miss Mary Jane Schrader

Nine pieces of old clothing including a Quaker lady's shawl, bonnet, shoes, dress and cloak; two men's evening coats, and two men's top hats.

Mr. Edward Sharpless

Small axe and splitwood market basket for the 1789 Kitchen.

Mr. Howard Street

Old bottle with embossed label, "Worrall & S Groceries Wayne, PA Extra Strength;" Radnor Township school bus driver badge issued during WWII with designation "Special Officer Radnor Twp.;" and four old local postcards.

Mrs. Anita Walker

Wall bracket for oil lamp.

Radnor Historical Society

1996 Programs

14 January

Sunday, 3:30 p.m., at Montrose

Mrs. Russell Bement discussed her outstanding collection of Rose Medallion china in her home. She illustrated her talk with examples from her collection.

13 February

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., at the Finley House

Ms Loretta Treese, College archivist at Bryn Mawr College, spoke on "*Valley Forge, the Making and Remaking of a National Symbol.*"

19 March

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., at Villa Strafford

Our Annual Olde Inns Dinner was held at Villa Strafford followed by a talk on Strafford presented by **Anne Skerrett Kirkpatrick** (Mrs. Miles W).

9 April

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., at the Finley House

Ms Nancy Webster, Curator of the Friends' Historical Society, and "the Voice of History in Delaware County," spoke on "*The Original Plans of Penn's Early Experiment.*" Her talk was illustrated with slides.

4 May

Saturday, 3:00 p.m. at Wootton

Our annual meeting was held at "Wootton," formerly the estate of Mr. George Childs, developer of Wayne, now the grounds of St. Aloysius Academy. **Mr. Howard Holden**, formerly director of grounds at Bryn Mawr College and chairman of the Shade tree

commission for Radnor Township, spoke on "*Gatehouses, Greenhouses, and Grottoes: the Main Line Estate Garden.*" His talk was illustrated with slides.

22 September

Sunday, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The Society sponsored a visit to the Grange Estate, a "unique complex of mansion, gardens, and outbuildings, reflecting an eighteenth and nineteenth century gentleman's country seat."

8 October

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., at the Finley House



Dr. E. Lee Porter, a lifelong resident of Wayne, spoke on "*A Walk through the Streets of Wayne with a Boy in the 1920's.*" His talk drew upon his memories of an earlier time in Wayne and recalled the names of many former Wayne residents. It was greeted with enthusiasm by those present. He showed some of his collection of antique medical instruments and talked briefly about their use and how the practice of medicine has changed.

19 November

Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., at the Finley House

Mr. Thomas McGuire spoke on "*Anthony Wayne and the Battle of Paoli.*" This talk recognized that 1996 was the two-hundredth anniversary of the death of Anthony Wayne, Pennsylvania's military hero of the Revolutionary War.

22 December

Sunday, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., at the Finley House

Our Annual Christmas Open House following the North Wayne carol sing was held. The Finley House was beautifully decorated for the season. The occasion and the Finley House were enjoyed by those present.

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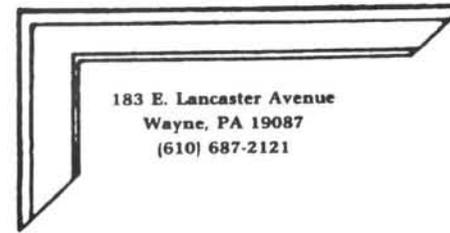
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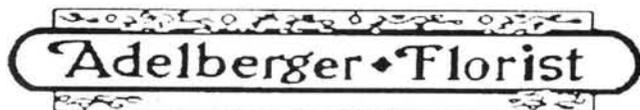
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