

The BULLETIN  
of the  
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

---

Volume VI

2001

No. 1

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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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Editor: Samuel F. Etris  
Advertising: William Lord

## President's Letter, May 2002

Three things in particular mark this past year. Two of them are causes for rejoicing; one of them is not.

The first is the excitement of our active participation, as a Society, in Radnor Township's Centennial celebration. Thanks to the efforts and imagination of John Dale, our representative on the Steering Committee, we were a part of many of the memorable events of the year, and we are no longer such a "well-kept secret". Some of these events are listed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*; we are proud to have been so much involved, and we are grateful to John for making it all happen.

The second thing is the imminent fulfillment of a long-held dream, namely the installation of a proper period roof for the Finley House. This is made possible by the generosity of the Radnor Township Commissioners, as a gesture of appreciation for our part in their Centennial celebration. The roof is to be a hand-formed standing seam metal roof, similar to the one shown in photographs of the Finley House taken in the early 1900's; presumably this is the roof Mr. Finley put on when he enlarged the house in 1888.

The work, which is to be done in June, will restore the exterior of the house to its turn-of-the-20th century appearance - as well as keeping the rain out! We look forward to the completion of this project.

The third thing, which we are sorry to note, is the retirement from active service of our Vice President, Carol Creutzburg. Carol has been a member of the Society for I don't know how many years - more than I can count; a Director since 1985, and Vice President since 1991. During all this time she has worked tirelessly for us, in many capacities, and has shared generously her rich and entertaining recollections of life in Wayne for the greater part of the 20th century. She has helped plan our

programs, and has kept watch over our archives. She is arguably our most valuable resource!

Unfortunately, she must now restrict her activities, but her heart is still very much with us. She can be reached at Devon Manor, room #322. We acknowledge her years of active service with gratitude and affection. She will always have a place in our hearts.

Now we look forward to yet another active year, and we hope to see many of you at 113 West Beech Tree Lane.

Sincerely,

J. Bennett Hill, Jr.



Dorothy Finley at home (the Finley House), ca. 1930

## Historical Society 2001 Programs

**February 13** - The Finley house: Jim Mackey, M.D., born in Wayne, and a beloved physician to Wayne residents, spoke on "The Wayne of Yesterday," to a rapt crowd. He drew back the curtains of the past to describe the Wayne of the 1930s and 1940s describing the events of those days, the activities of local businesses, and the impact of World War II on the neighborhood and on the Christmas holidays.

**March 13** - The Finley House: Ms. Lorie Greeley, Guide at Morris Arboretum, presented color slides illustrating the magnitude of plants and trees in this outstanding arboretum begun by John T. Morris in 1887 and now maintained by the University of Pennsylvania. She highlighted the many rare and exotic trees and shrubs collected for the arboretum as a result of many expeditions to the Orient. A few weeks later Ms. Greeley provided a personally attended tour of the grounds for Society members.

**April 17** - Jefferson House: Annual "Olde Inns Dinner" featured Arthur Dudden, Fairbank Professor Emeritus in the Humanities, Bryn Mawr College who spoke on "Tomorrow's History of the Main Line." He surveyed the roots of the Main Line, its rapid growth over the past century and its potential for further development as the march of technology impacts the lives and aspirations of its residents.

**May 6** - Edmary Lawn House: The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Dziejzina, 223 Chamounix Road, St. Davids. Mr. Dziejzina reviewed the history of their home built in 1907 in the grand Scottish Baronial style under the direction of Francis Gugert, architect. Mr. Dziejzina outlined his program of restoration and redecoration. A tour of the historic house and grounds followed.

**September 30** - The Finley House: An Open House and Garden Party was attended by some 100 members and neighbors. Children played hoops and an ensemble from the Radnor High School Band serenaded the guests. The Society's 200-year old Conestoga wagon was rolled out for the occasion. Members guided visitors through the House and provided information about our historical collection.

**November 13** - Radnor Middle School: David Brooks spoke on the Wayne of his youth and the changes he observed after years away as a reporter and writer for national news media. He spoke of the emergence of the "bourgeois bohemian" on the Main Line and where it was taking all of us. Over 400 attended the lecture co-sponsored by the Society, the Township, and the Radnor Memorial Library with some 150 attending the reception and the signing of his book: "*Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There.*"

**December 1** - The Finley House: The final stop on the Victorian House Tour of eight houses in North and South Wayne was held in a heated tent erected on the front lawn of the Historical Society. Over 200 people enjoyed the elegant reception sponsored by the Township of Radnor.

**December 16** - The Finley House: Christmas cheer and cookies were at the house for carollers following the North Wayne Protective Association's Annual Carol sing held at the North Wayne Avenue Christmas Tree. The tree is lit with lights for the occasion.

**December 30** - The Finley House: President Bennett Hill, in costume, read a "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens. This wonderful tale was read to members and their children, with an intermission graced with egg nog and Christmas cookies for all.

## From WASP to BOBO

by John Dale

Speaking before several hundred Radnor residents in the Radnor Middle School auditorium, native son David Brooks delivered the Radnor Township Centennial lecture on November 13, 2001. Brooks's lecture, sponsored by the Radnor Historical Society, the Radnor Memorial Library, and Radnor Township, focused on his book, *Bobos in Paradise: The New Upper Class and How They Got There.*

In his opus and his lecture, Brooks made astute and acerbic social and economic commentary on the new elite, those raised on a combination of Woodstock and the new economy of the 1980s. Somehow this group managed to square the circle, reconciling material and spiritual well-being, consumerism and anti-conformity.

In *Bobos in Paradise*, Brooks draws on Wayne as a community which has its share of bourgeois bohemians (Bobos), citing well-known Wayne establishments as the Readers Forum, Cafe Procopio, Great Harvest Bread Company, and Anthropologie as cultural hangouts of the bobos.

Brooks described the Wayne of yesterday (in part, the years he lived here in the 1970s) as dominated by the White Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) culture and ethic. According to Brooks, "The well-heeled elite lived in mansions with names in the Social Register. Culturally, Mary Poppins played in the town cinema, The Philadelphia Story was set here and The Preppy Handbook might as well have been. The St. Davids Episcopal Church figured prominently in the *New York Times* weddings page of the 1950s. The women called each other by those weird nicknames WASPs used to go by, like Skimmy and Binky, and competed for choice volunteering assignments at the annual Devon Horse Show."

Then the change occurred; the Bobos emerged, thanks in large part to the information age. This, in turn, spawned a lively cafe scene (Gryphon Cafe, Cafe Procopio); a lunch setting at Your Gourmet Kitchen where “you can dine on crab panni and herb-grilled chicken breasts with sprouts on sourdough;” and a new Los Angeles-style restaurant named Teresa’s Cafe, which is “crowded and noisy at night, a little enclave of Santa Monica bustle in the midst of the Philadelphia suburbs.”

Brooks developed his thesis by not only looking at cultural changes, but also political and economic developments.

David Brooks grew up in North Wayne in the 1970s in one of the Victorian cottages, one of the Drexel and Childs parcels. He graduated from Radnor High School in 1979, having pursued an active academic career, highlighted by his participation and leadership in the Radnor Model United Nations Club, Debate and Forensics and Hi-Q. From Radnor he went to the University of Chicago, graduating in 1983.

His professional career started as a police reporter for the Chicago City News Bureau, then to *Wall Street Journal*, first as a book review editor, movie critic, and then a posting in Brussels covering the then Soviet Union, the Middle East, South Africa, and Europe. In 1995, Brooks joined *The Weekly Standard* where he is now senior editor. In addition, he is a contributing editor at *Newsweek*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Yorker*. In the June 2002 issue of *The New York Times Magazine*, David Brooks wrote: “Why the U.S. Will Always Be Rich.” Perhaps many of you have heard him on National Public Radio or have seen him on the *The Newshour* with Jim Lehrer (Friday evenings with Mark Shields).

Brooks brings to our sensibility, as E.J. Dionne of the *Washington Post* says, “a sharp eye, a tough mind, and a richly ironic understanding of how and why we live today.”



**David Brooks Receiving A Framed Copy of a Promotional Poster for Wayne and St. Davids Homes**

To commemorate the well-received talk on his book, “Bobos in Paradise,” to several hundred Radnor residents in the Radnor Middle School, November 13, 2001, a framed copy of the 1890 promotional poster by Wendell & Smith, early home builders in Wayne and St. Davids, was presented to David Brooks.

The poster, copies of which are available from the Historical Society, describes the attributes of eight styles of homes and their construction available for building in Wayne and St. Davids. Most of these homes are still to be seen in Radnor today.

(Photograph courtesy of *Wayne Suburban & News*)



### **Gala Open House for Victorian House Tour**

The Radnor Historical Society played host to those who participated in the Radnor Township's Victorian House Tour held Saturday, December 1, 2001.

The Tour Committee, co-chaired by Linda Lee and Cheryl Tumola, arranged an open-house tour of eight outstanding Victorian homes built between 1890 and 1912 in North and South Wayne. The private homes were beautifully decorated for the holidays with candles much in step with those early times.

The final stop on the tour was an elegant reception held from 7 to 8 p.m., in a large heated tent erected on the Finley House grounds sponsored by the Township. Proceeds from the tour ticket sales were dedicated toward establishing an inventory of historic buildings in Radnor Township. About 400 residents took the house tour and most of these continued on to the final event to enjoy the reception at the Society's Finley House.

During the reception, the Finley House was open to guests. Historical Society members guided visitors through the Society's collections, its 1789 kitchen and its Victorian bedroom.



### **Historical Society's Garden Party and Open House**

The Historical Society hosted a Garden Party and Open House at the Finley House Sunday, 30 September 2001, 4 to 6:00 p.m. More than 100 Wayne residents enjoyed guided tours of the historical collections, the Victorian bedroom, the 1789 American kitchen, and the antique doll house. The Society's 200-year old Conestoga freight wagon was rolled out for closer inspection.

The event was highlighted by the ensemble "Drinks by Jake," made up of members of the Radnor High School Band lead by Mike Sandler. They played a variety of 1940s and currently popular pieces to the delight of the visitors.

A holiday tent filled with refreshments was set up on the Finley House grounds for the pleasure of visitors.

## The Wayne Open Air School

Popular and Woodland Avenues, Wayne, Pennsylvania



### School Children in a Nature Cantata

In the Spring of 1916, the Wayne Open Air School for Children held a "Nature Cantata" in the Amphitheater on the Roberts LeBoutillier property on North Wayne Avenue.

As remembered by Katherine Johnston Wetzell, the students were (l. to r.): *1st row, seated:* (unidentified), Richard Hunter, (unidentified), Deming Hunter, George Howson, George Coates, and (unidentified);

*2nd row,* Emily Twaddell, Constance Weisenberg, (unidentified), Martha Thomas, Barbara Coates, (unidentified), Hope Bishop, Elizabeth Howson, and (unidentified);

*back row,* Mary Johnson, Josephine McCurdy, Ada Muller, Alice Johnston, Hannah Croesdale, Marion Hemphill, Katherine Johnston, and Kitty Hunter.

### Historical Wayne

#### The Wayne Open Air School

The Wayne Open Air School began with the fall semester of 1914 and was reported in the *Wayne Suburban* as follows:

The Open Air School for girls and boys under the direction of Mrs. Clifford Hunter was opened October 1 with an enrollement of 20 pupils. A building at the corner of Woodland and Poplar Avenues has been erected for the accomodation of the school.

The location is a particularly desirable one, because of the high ground and southern exposure. The teachers in charge are Miss Justice, M.A., Bryn Mawr, and Miss McDevitt, a graduate of the Knox School, New York, and Miss Wright's Kindergarten, Philadelphia.

The School is under the supervision of Mrs. Hunter, who will also instruct the children in drawing and painting.

This school, which is the outcome of a small class started last winter by Mrs. Hunter, for her children and a few others, promises to fill the demand felt by those wishing their children to be taught out-of-doors. It has been proven that children thus instructed are less fatigued at the end of school hours than those studying in in-door class rooms and the progress made is unquestionably more rapid.

The age of admission has been changed from five years to four because of the request for kindergarten work.

Visitors can see the school by appointment. Address: Mrs. Clifford Hunter, 130 Poplar Avenue, Wayne, Phone 5-37W.

[This report appears in the October 2, 1914, *Wayne Suburban*, p.3.]

The courses taught at the Open Air School included English, arithmetic, history, geography, nature study, art, French, and in the upper grades, Latin. The Wayne school was discontinued about 1917. The Bryn Mawr College had organized an open air school for girls in 1910, the Phoebe Anna Thorne School. It continues today as a co-educational school indoors.

## **ARCHIVES RESTORATION PROJECT**

**Ted Pollard, Head of Archives Committee**

The Radnor Historical society is slightly over fifty years old and has accumulated pieces of Radnor's history from its inception. We have thousands of photographs, file drawers full of documents, and a variety of miscellaneous artifacts in our special Archives Room. I guess you can imagine the problem you might have if you lived in your house for 50 years and kept stuffing things into the attic.

My frustration in trying to find something led me to volunteer for the unenviable job as head of the archives committee to try to bring order out of chaos. And chaos it was. Over time we had made file folders for various topics – but there were no file folder tabs for easy identification. So I began at the letter "A" and went through each file examining every photo and piece of paper to determine if it was in the right place and making appropriate file headings and new file folders. It seems that people just picked things out of a file and stuck them back anywhere. I can't describe the mess! If you were researching a topic you might have had a 50% chance of finding what you were looking for. The work is still in progress and will probably take at least six more months to complete.

About seven years ago we undertook a massive photo conservation project to conserve and number each photograph according to accepted archival procedures. Data on each photograph was recorded for entry into our computer system. However, there are boxes of photographs, glass slides, and negatives yet to be cataloged. Probably only about one half of our collection has been entered so far. The system is in place, but we need help completing the task.

Our goal is to have the Society's archives easily accessible to all. We are purchasing a new computer system with a scanner, and in the coming months we will scan all our photos into digital, computer retrieval form, so none can be lost by age or during loans.

In the past, if a researcher wanted to copy a photo, we allowed it to be taken out and copied. No more! Our new policy will be all images will be available on copy discs from our computer. Our ultimate goal will be to have our collection accessible via a hookup with the Memorial Library of Radnor computer search system.

The most exciting event in our organization effort has been the discovery of a lock of George Washington's hair and a brief description of where it was done and by whom. It was just stuffed in a drawer and nobody knew we had it. We are hoping for more exciting finds, but that one will be hard to beat.

In February, 2002, the Society's Board of Directors decided to establish a committee to oversee our archives. The task is enormous, but is fascinating as one uncovers the story of our past. If you have interest in cataloging or conserving photographs or documents, or in helping with data entry, please contact the Society.

We need all the help we can get. Thank you!

### Victorian Dresses -- Quaker Wedding Dress



The gray wool Quaker wedding dress was worn by Lydia Comly Tyson at the time of her marriage in the late 1820s. She was born in Philadelphia in 1801 and died at 242 South 11th Street in Philadelphia in 1895. The dress was passed to her sister-in-law Abigail Roberts Tyson (1828-1915), then to Abigail's daughter Emma Tyson Walton (1857-1935). Emma passed it on to Jane Walton Schrader (1899-1995), who passed it on to her daughter-in-law Beatrice Schrader, and given to Mary Jane Schrader. Mary Jane donated it to the Historical Society for preservation and so that more people would have an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate it.

Ms. Mary McGinn, professional conservator, has prepared the dresses for long-term conservation at the Society.

### Victorian Wedding Dress



This cream silk and satin wedding dress was worn by Caroline Van Beil on the occasion of her marriage to William Parker Bement, on November 24, 1880, in Philadelphia, PA. It was kept by Caroline Van Beal Bement's daughter and passed on to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bement, Jr.

Also in the Society's collection is Caroline Van Beal's purple brocade satin going away dress and a brown dress, one of her party dresses. The dresses are typical to the 1880s. The purple dress and wedding dress are in two parts, skirt and jacket. Caroline was petite, small frame and small waisted.

Donated to the Society by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bement, Jr.

## Victorian Doll House

This doll house was set up and furnished in 1892 by Mrs. Ernestine Schaefer, of Philadelphia, for her granddaughters, Hildegard (aged nine) and Alice (aged four) Rodman. It was given to the Radnor Historical Society by Alice Rodman Ecroyd (Mrs. Henry Ecroyd), of Wayne, in 1969.

It is probably intended to be a town house, whose facade would have been directly on the street. A flight of steps would lead up to the front door, and the kitchen and dining room, "below stairs", would be somewhat below ground level.

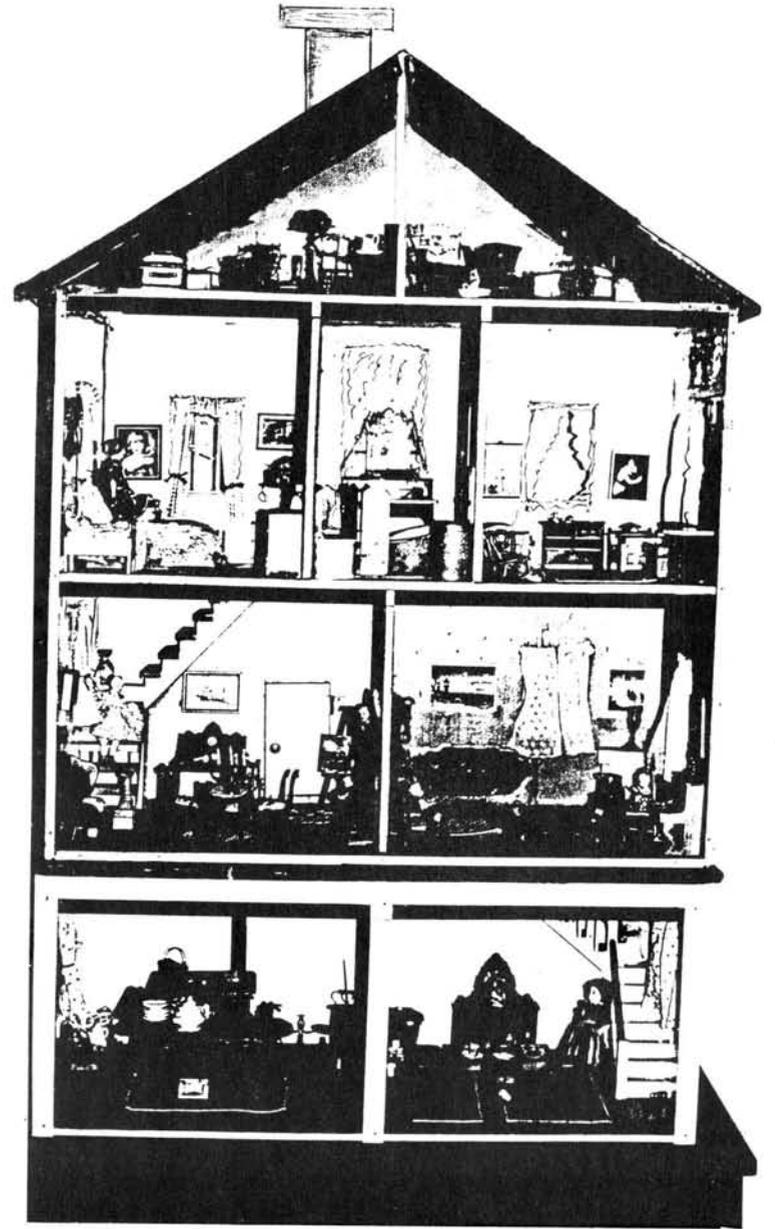
In early Victorian homes, the dining room was located in the basement, near the kitchen. People thought that food was digested better in the dark, so the basement was considered the best spot in which to eat. Cooking was done, and water heated for the household, on a coal-fired iron range in the kitchen.

On the first floor are the front and back parlors, similar in function to those in the Finley House. Note the crank telephone on the wall in the back parlor; the telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876, and introduced to the world at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in that year.

Above them are the master bedroom and the children's room (the nursery), separated by a bathroom; note the folding screen shielding the water closet (the toilet), and the movable metal bathtub, filled with hot water from the kitchen. The water closet "caught on" in America in the 1860s, when metal pipe became readily available; often the water closet would be placed in a separate room.

The Attic is used partly for storage of items not in use, and partly for servants' sleeping quarters. Note the foot-powered sewing machine, patented by Isaac Merritt Singer in 1851, and the basin and pitcher; the servants would not have used the bathroom on the floor below.

The effect of over-furnishing and clutter was typical of middle-class homes of the late 1800s; it is an example of "conspicuous consumption". It is quite possible that the Finley House looked like this in 1892.



Victorian Doll House (1892)

### **The Main Line Real Estate Atlas**

Six large-folio Real Estate Atlases are part of the Radnor Historical Society's extensive library of local history. New Radnor householders find them invaluable for discovering who were the early owners of their properties and when homes or other buildings appeared on their property. The Real Estate Atlases were first published in 1881 to provide details such as property lines, structures, and ownership. Atlases in the Society's library cover properties near the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad from Philadelphia to Paoli and later to Malvern dating from 1881 to 1926.

Property maps were first published by the Philadelphia Fire Insurance Companies during the 1850s to identify what properties were being insured. In time, the City of Philadelphia created a Department of Survey to establish property lines for tax purposes and published this information in official city maps. By the late 1870s, several publishers began to issue their own property maps as large folio books. As Philadelphia property information was collected with public funds, it held no copyright and private map publishing firms were free to borrow it for their own atlases at no cost.

The private atlas publishers concentrated on lands adjacent to the passenger railroads extending out from Philadelphia, areas of immediate interest to realtors and banks. The maps covered land along the Schuylkill Valley Railroad, (Reading) northwest into Montgomery County and along the Pennsylvania Railroad west to Paoli, and later to Malvern.

Realtors relied on atlas maps to show legal property lines and ownership. With these maps prospective purchasers could readily determine the location of a property they were interested in rather than spend hours in a horse and buggy trying to find it. As the name of the property owner was shown on the map, the prospective buyer had only to contact that person to begin negotiation.

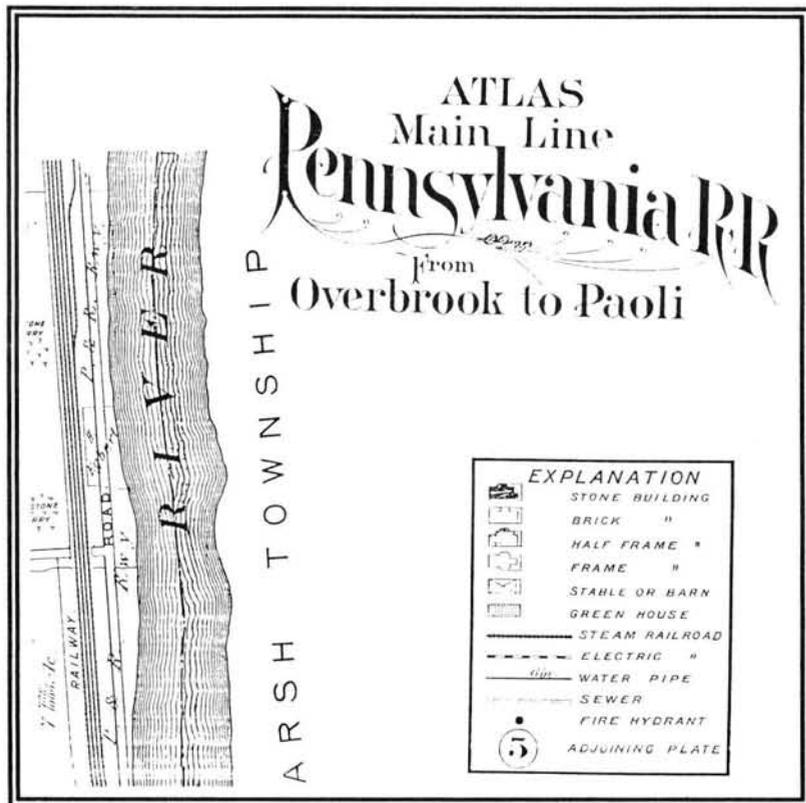
When an atlas extended beyond the limits covered by the City of Philadelphia Survey Department, publishers had to discover property lines from court house records and employ local survey companies or township surveyors to provide locations of structures and streams.

Property line details were important to both banks and land title companies; and land title companies were located in every bank.

Atlas maps were printed on offset presses in black ink and hand colored afterwards. Stencils were used to aid in highlighting the special features to be colored in by hand. On the Mueller atlases of 1908, 1913, and 1926 one can see the brush strokes.

The Franklin Map Company, King of Prussia, PA, bought the G.M. Hopkins Company in 1943 and later acquired the J.L. Smith Company, both early property map publishers. The G.W. Bromley & Co., and A.H. Mueller & Co., discontinued their atlases as their successors could not continue to underwrite the enormous investment required.

Franklin Map Company published the final Main Line Property atlases -- Main Line Volumes I and II and Chester County -- during 1984-1985. These were reproductions without corrections of Franklin's 1961 Main Line I and 1963 Main Line II editions. Because of binding problems, the 1980 atlases were published in a different format than previous editions. The diminishing sales and escalating cost of updating and production brought publication of these large folio atlases to a close. The Franklin Map Company continues to offer scanned copies of their earlier editions as reproductions for business use or for framing.



The Radnor Historical Society Collection of Main Line Atlases includes:

Atlas of Bryn Mawr and Vicinity or of Properties Along the Pennsylvania Railroad, G.M. Hopkins, CE, Philadelphia (1881).

Atlas of Properties Along the Pennsylvania Railroad Overbrook to Malvern Station, J.L. Smith, Philadelphia (1887).

Atlases of Properties Along the Pennsylvania Railroad from Rosemont to West Chester, A.H. Mueller & Co., Philadelphia (1897 and 1908 editions).

Property Atlases of Main Line Pennsylvania Railroad from Overbrook to Paoli, G.W. Bromley & Co., Philadelphia (1913 and 1926 editions).

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## Gifts to the Society

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, and 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.

### **Carol Creutzburg**

Assorted drawings and newspaper articles of local interest

### **John Dale**

*A Guide to Early American Homes, North*, by Dorothy & Richard Pratt (The Finley House is mentioned in this book.)

### **Bennett Hill**

*Caring for Your Historic House*, Historic Preservation and National Park Service

### **Virginia Pechin Keen**

Inaugural Program, Franklin D. Roosevelt & John N. Garner, March 1933

Souvenir Album, dedication of Masonic Hall, Wayne, December 1915

*Golden Anniversary*, Wayne Lodge #581, Free and Accepted Masons, 1890 - 1940

Grey stoneware jar, stamped WM HARE, WILMINGTON DEL.

### **Susannah Kitwell (per Lavalette Boles)**

Child's sled, provenance unknown

Steelyard bar (without weights), provenance unknown

### **Anne S. Kirkpatrick**

*Strafford: No Stranger to History*, bound monograph by Anne S. Kirkpatrick

### **Beatrice Lord**

*In Old Pennsylvania Towns*, by Anne Hollingsworth Wharton

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## **Susan Mather, & family**

St. David's (Radnor) Church commemorative plate  
Steel engraving of St. David's (Radnor) Church  
Ten photographs of activities at St. David's Church, ca 1920 - 1930  
Xerox copy of Pennsylvania Railroad Main Line maps  
Radnor Township zoning map, April 1928  
Mather family documents, 18th & early 19th centuries: Radnor  
Library, Radnor Township governance, tax account books (Radnor  
Township), farm account book

## **Edward Pollard**

Blue & gold Wayne Pennsylvania American Legion cap  
Wayne Title & Trust Company stock certificate  
Three Wayne Hotel envelopes, ca 1930

## **Gene Prince**

Framed photograph, Radnor High School graduation class, 1930

## **Helen S. Weary**

*Traveling the Pennsylvania Railroad*, The Photographs of William  
H. Rau  
Six-foot folding conference table, for meetings, &c.

## **Jean Wetzel**

Two photographs of the Old Eagle School (before & after  
"restoration")  
St. Luke's School, 1921 yearbook (*The Oak*)  
Devon Manor School for Girls, brochure booklet, 1920 - 1921  
*The Devonian*, Literary Magazine, winter 1918  
*Ye Manor*, Devon Manor yearbook, 1922

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## 2001 Membership Report

### New Members 2001

Gretchen Hagy Deeck  
Mr. and Mrs. Wally Dickson  
Elizabeth Foster  
Mr. and Mrs. James Fuller  
The Kneeland Family  
Meghan S. Leahy  
Sandra Kenton  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Pendergast  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Ryan  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Spargo

### Resignations 2001

Mr. and Mrs. William Hutton  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sharpless, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wark

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Stephen Bajus  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Ballard  
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David Burket  
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Mr. and Mrs. Eliseo DeJoseph  
Ernest Eadeh  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Greeley  
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House Sitters 2001

The following members of the Society have given of their time and provide their knowledge of the Society's collections to the public during the open periods of the Finley House on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons during the year:

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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

The Radnor Historical Society expresses its appreciation to:

**Hank U. Davis**  
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### HOW OLD IS THIS HOUSE?

The answer to that question depends on where you are when you ask it. The oldest part of the house is the basement kitchen, which is said to date from 1789 - or it may be ten or a dozen years later. The original farmhouse was built by Captain John Pugh, a veteran of the Revolutionary War. It probably consisted of the basement kitchen, with a storage cellar beyond; a front and back parlor on the first floor; two bedrooms on the second floor; and an attic. Of these rooms the only one which retains its original character is the kitchen.

About 1840 John Pugh III, the Captain's grandson (?), modernised the farmhouse, putting in new mantels and new window sashes, and generally updating things. The "Victorian" bedroom on the second floor reflects the style of this period, and we are fortunate in having a complete set of bedroom furniture, made in Philadelphia in 1840, in its original condition. This room is furnished and appointed according to standards suggested in 1850 by Andrew Jackson Downing in his popular and influential book, *The Architecture of Country Houses*. In this pre Civil War period Radnor Township was still predominantly agricultural and rural.

After John Pugh III died, in 1842, the property changed hands six times before it was bought by Messrs Drexel and Childs, the developers of Wayne, in 1880. For a few years it was rented to families coming out from Philadelphia for the summer, and in 1887

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one of these families, the William H. Finleys, bought the house and about an acre of ground for a permanent suburban home. This was the period in which most of the older suburban houses in Wayne were built.

In 1888 the Finleys doubled the size of the house, using stone from the old barn, which they demolished, and again modernised the interior. The new rooms, on the north side, included a formal dining room, pantry, and kitchen on the first floor; two bedrooms (and a bath?) on the second; and a large attic room above. At this time they updated the front and back parlors, opening up between the rooms, and putting in the "pocket doors" between the front parlor and the entrance hall.

We do not know when the box-bay windows in the front and back parlors were added, but they appear to pre-date the Finley additions of 1888; there is photographic evidence for this.

Sometime in the late 1800s the front porch was fitted with Tuscan columns, which replaced the earlier bracketed posts, similar to those on the back porch (the verandah) today. The double front door, with its stained glass transom, is also a late 19th century addition.

In 1901 Mr. Finley had a stable and carriage house built, to the north of the house, and the gravel drive extended to it. This building is no longer part of the property, but it remains in almost its original condition, beyond the hedge.

The Finley House thus illustrates today three distinct periods of occupation in northern Radnor Township: the late 18th to early 19th century farm kitchen; the mid 19th century, pre Civil War country bedroom; and the late 19th century suburban parlors and verandah. The furnishings, pictures, and decorative objects in these rooms are intended to reflect these periods as well.

The Finley House was given to the Radnor Historical Society by Miss E. Dorothy Finley in 1964, in memory of her parents. The House is open to the public on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons, from 2:00 until 5:00, and at other times by appointment. For more information, please phone 688 2668.

B.H., November 1994

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## 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).

To apply for membership in the  
**Radnor Historical Society**

visit or write the Society at

The Finley House  
113 West Beech Tree Lane  
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or call

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# Memorandum

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Memorandum

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