

The BULLETIN
of the
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Incorporated April 30, 1948
Headquarters and Museum

THE FINLEY HOUSE
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Visitors Cordially Welcome

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Editor: Samuel F. Etris

A Note from the Board of Directors

The year 2004 was a transition year for the Society. Over the past fifty-six years members and neighbors have contributed books, photographs, and items of historic interest to the Society's outstanding collection of Delaware County's history. The Society's collection of unique source material has made it invaluable for those seeking information about the land, the buildings, and the activities that provided the historical basis for where we are today.

The need to guard our collections from loss while at the same time making them more accessible to the public has been a long-term concern to the Board of Directors.

With the acquisition of a computer, and the active participation of members skilled in its use, as well as volunteers and paid assistants, our photographic collections are being recorded into digital format to be accessible to anyone, without the potential loss of the original, and our books are being catalogued for the first time by a professional ready for listing in Access-PA. As a consequence, anyone using the Pennsylvania State Library System will know of the books in the Society's holdings.

Unique among our holdings are personal observations of the Township, such as those of long-time resident Lecian von Bernuth, who was acquainted with the American Indians still living in Radnor during her youth.

The Society's programs, which focus on specific topics of regional historic interest, are considered to be of such broad interest that other Radnor organizations ought to be associated with the topics covered. Coordination with the Radnor Memorial Library and the Radnor Conservancy were the first steps in this direction. These connections are named among the five programs presented during 2004 and each offered significant contributions toward defining the Township's history not covered by previous studies.

Once again, Radnor's Memorial Day Parade featured the Historical Society's Conestoga Wagon, highlighting an authentic recognition of the route of the Parade and provided a visual statement of the treasures of the Society.

On a more modern note, the Society began active development of a website informing the public of its holdings, allowing those interested to monitor the Society's collections at home.

The year 2004 was one of expanding our serviceableness to Radnor and our integration into the worldwide web.

S.F. Etris, Secretary



Historical Society 2004 Programs

February 17 - The Finley House - "Railroad Stations on the Main Line," was the subject of an illustrated lecture by Mr. James B. Garrison, AIA. The PRR stations tell a story of American architecture and society that reflects much more than mere style. The earliest stations were typically farm structures near the tracks modified for a new use. As more substantial structures were built, the residential concept remained to accommodate a resident station master.

March 16 - This program was canceled due to a blizzard.

April 22 - Annual Dinner of the Society - Held in the Eisenhower Hall of the Valley Forge Military Academy - Brig. General Alfred Sanelli, Chaplain and Historian at the VFMA related how in 1920, General Milton B. Baker, a retired Army officer and tactical officer at the Culver Military Academy, believing in military training as an excellent education for boys, organized the Valley Forge Military Academy. It has become one of six U.S. military academies offering a full service program.

May 2 - Annual Meeting at "Sunny High," Home of Frederick Heldring - Mr. Robert Molesworth explained how domestic pipe organs, popular in the days before radio and high fidelity recordings, differed from concert and church organs. Pipe voices were designed to be pleasant for home listeners and easy for amateur players to make sweet sounds. The cost of upkeep ushered in their demise; very few now remain operational.

May 17 - The Finley House - The Wayne Elementary School bussed in 104 third graders from six classes who were treated to a tour of the Finley House and the Wagon House. Tour guides were Bennett Hill, Nancy Kneeland, Beatrice and Bill Lord, Sally Spargo, and Anita Walker.

May 22 - On May 22, The Radnor Conservancy and the Radnor Historical Society conducted a History/Mystery Tour of Radnor Township. The objective was to acquaint citizens about six historic high points of Radnor Township.

May 24 - The Radnor Township Memorial Day Parade - The Historical Society's Conestoga Wagon was again drawn by draft horses down Lancaster Avenue, exemplifying the historical importance of this main traffic artery between Philadelphia and western Pennsylvania during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The Radnor Memorial Library - The three display windows at the Radnor Library were provided with photographs and memorabilia from WWI and WWII.

October 9 - The Finley House - The Historical Society sponsored an antiques appraisal day. Board Member Peter Thomson, Dipl. RSA, and two of his colleagues spent an afternoon of identifying and estimating the value of a wide variety of antiques including paintings, china, glassware, doll clothing, and unusual articles. Some 23 people came to have their antiques appraised.

October 19 - The Finley House - "A White Reporter Looks at the Black Experience on the Main Line pre 1970," was presented by Lawrence Geller, reporter at the *Philadelphia Tribune*, the oldest continuously published black newspaper in the U.S. He described his study of those who had been discriminated against and their trials in locating homes. One of those was Mary Washington (age 73), who told how Margaret Collins and her Suburban Fair Housing Association aided Mary in her quest for a decent home.

November 16 - The Radnor Memorial Library - Jeff Groff illustrated his talk of “Lost Mansions of the Main Line,” with photographs from the Historical Society’s collection and historical publications. He noted that for 75 years the Main Line was available for 50 to 500 acre estates. Now the move is toward suburban living, with subdivision and apartment life more prevalent, and schools and colleges seeking more property. The Victorian era of formal style has given way to the more informal Pennsylvania farmhouse vogue.

December - No winter events were held.

Railroad Stations Along the Main Line

Talk by James B. Garrison, AIA

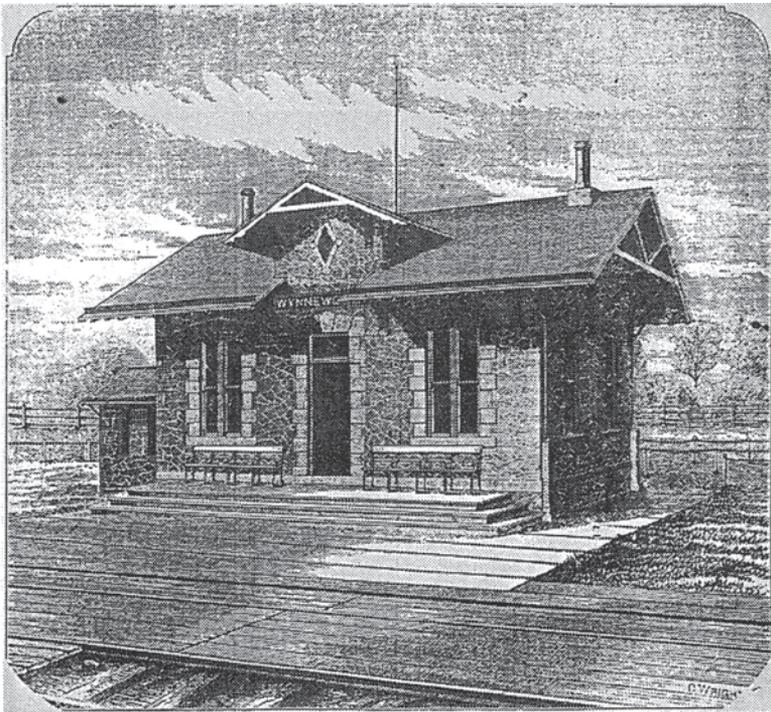
Railroad stations along the Main Line tell a story of American architecture and society that reflects much more than mere style. The earliest stations were typically farm structures near the tracks modified for a new use, and often the residential use remained.

The years after the Civil War were a period of rapid growth of the Pennsylvania Railroad, culminating in its position as the wealthiest industrial company in the country by the turn of the century. The buildings erected in these years were distinctive and important works of architecture, then and now. Many of the suburban stations were residential in character since they provided accommodations for the station master and his family, not unlike the contemporary lighthouses.

The Overbrook Station has been called the longest continuously operating train station in the country. The style is based on European prototypes but simplified for a rural site in America. The design is reminiscent of the carpenter gothic pattern book designs of Downing and Vaux, immensely popular before the Civil War.

Early this century, the Merion Station was constructed as a handsome brick and stucco structure reflecting those of the nearby well established suburbs. It is built solidly with substantial materials, brick and slate. It also retains a hint of residential scale and character, making it feel at home with the neighborhood.

The Wynnewood station is a survivor from the 1870's and receives care from a local civic association that helps with grounds maintenance and attention to the building. It has nice ornamental touches such as diamond shaped windows under the center gables, and nice stone trim at the windows. The timber construction of the canopies and detailing is typical of late 19th century styles, but the griffins in the center gables at most of the stations are a unifying feature referring back to the Welsh place names and heritage. The stone stations, timber canopies, iron railings and brick platforms provide a wealth of color and texture that is often missing from contemporary design but was integral to the work of the turn of the century.



The PRR Wynnewood Railroad Station (1870)
Courtesy, *Railroad Gazette*, September 25, 1873

Both the Haverford and Villanova stations came from the same prototype. The old Haverford station (west bound side) has lost some overhangs and other details, but is occupied and stabilized.

Bryn Mawr's once substantial station was replaced by a simplified one.

The Villanova station is a small simply massed building with fine details that share the common inspiration of the residential prototypes. The stonework shows exaggerated joinery carefully chosen and laid to create a cobweb pattern. It is a great contrast to the traditional colonial stonework that either emphasizes the mass of the wall or tries to create an orderly pattern of quoins and keystones. This Victorian design is all about surface pattern. The windows are large with a vertical proportion with few dividing muntins to interrupt the glass.

The Berwyn station used bonding patterns in brick along with ornamental shapes to add interest. This large building is more massive than the typical stations incorporating a highly developed group of canopies to shelter the platforms and stairs.

The Hewitt Brothers also designed the Devon Station in a complementary style. Both the station and freight house (now demolished) have many details in common with the Devon Inn and surrounding houses. The half timbering, fish scale shingles, mixture of rough and smooth stone are all typical of the high style architecture of this time.

The Wayne station is a Wilson Brothers design from 1881. Sitting on the high ground separating North Wayne from South Wayne, it is a pivotal structure in the history of the community. The station itself is a rather basic design enlivened by some nice touches. The rectangular plan and simple gabled roof is embellished by a trackside tower and half timbering on the gable ends. Small details

such as ornamental brick and window sash enhance the close up experience. Originally it was designed to house the station master and his family, but remodeled around 1900 to eliminate these quarters, which allowed raising the ceiling of the waiting room.

Abundant folklore has grown up around the Strafford station. It was the Catalogue Building from the Centennial Exposition, and moved by the PRR first to Wayne then further west along the same tracks onto the large embankment or 'fill' which is responsible for the present high perch of the building. The station, despite its diminutive size, is one of the more important surviving examples of the stick style. The exuberance of the style takes advantage of the special characteristics of the medium, shifting from stone to wood.

Why do these buildings still inspire their neighbors, even in an age when the importance of rail commuting seems diminished? There are many reasons ranging from nostalgia and romance to a real appreciation for the unique architecture of the buildings. Their special sense of place is an intangible asset. Bringing compatible uses to increase public use is also a very positive step. Realizing the true value of the public transportation is another reason to preserve the buildings. When the time comes for further renovations, the aim should be to preserve what is best about the old buildings. Replacements for the less important structures should embody the same aspirations as the original stations, but not in the guise of the past, but with an eye to the future.

Federal programs and citizen groups have been at work to restore the Strafford, Overbrook, and Wayne stations.

Valley Forge Military Academy 75th Anniversary

Brigadier General Alfred Sanelli, Chaplain and Historian at the VFMA, related how in 1920, General Milton B. Baker, retired from 17 years in the Army, and a tactical officer at the Culver Military Academy, believed that the military training he had experienced would be an excellent education for boys.

Baker began with 128 boys in an old hotel in Berwyn. He had very little at the beginning and obtained cots and surplus material from the Navy. When St. Luke's Preparatory School for Boys in Wayne closed, he purchased the property, but as there were not enough buildings to house the boys, some had to live in tents until sufficient buildings were built by 1929.

Baker's rationale was to provide a good sound education with military training as the catalyst for the development of responsibility, accountability, motivation, and the value of team work.

The greatest value to the Cadets is that it teaches them a sense of responsibility and accountability. If they do something, they have to be able to account for it. Self discipline and character development are the goals. A very important part of the training here is leadership training.

The cadets generally come from the middle class and the upper socioeconomic class and they are going to be the leaders in our marketplace. Thus VFMA feels that it has an obligation to train them properly. Cadets that do not do well academically have to come back for instruction every day. Those who need additional help are assigned a cadet tutor, which is a really big help because he can talk to them in their language and they can understand him better than a professor.

They have young men there 16 and 17 years old with the moral authority and responsibility that many men will have in a lifetime.

Classes run through high school and two years of college. This includes a senior Reserve Officers Training Corps whereby a cadet can in two years earn a commission as 2nd Lt. in the Army Reserves (only 6 schools in the country offer this). After those two years he can apply to universities or to the service Academies.

VFMA has what they call the Falcons that are sent here on scholarship by a private association coordinated with the Air Force and stay at VFMA for a year and then apply to a service academy of the Air Force, the Army at West Point, or the Navy at Annapolis.

The spiritual side is fostered by chapel services that blend the religious, patriotic, and military. In addition to the classrooms and athletics, there are club groups and fellowship groups for different religions that meet once a week.

In the end, cadets learn how to be on their own being equipped with a set of values and challenged by the honor code to make them productive citizen-leaders.

Pipe Organs in Radnor Township Homes

Talk given by Robert Molesworth

On May 2, 2004, Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Heldring, on Conestoga Road, Wayne, graciously opened their home for the Annual Meeting of The Radnor Historical Society. Built by Fred Ristine in 1929, the house was graced by a three manual Aeolian residential pipe organ (not currently playable). Mr. Robert Molesworth, long interested in the genre of residential pipe organs, presented a history of this fascinating segment of Americana.

Robert Molesworth reported that late in the 1890s, wealthy citizens along the Main Line began to install pipe organs in their homes to provide an alternative to hiring an orchestra for social affairs. As family members were rarely organists, mechanical players were devised to play these complicated instruments. Operating under the same principle as player pianos, the paper rolls were designed to activate keys, change voices, and activate swell shades. The Aeolian Organ & Music Company became the world leader in producing player rolls, ranging from popular to classical music. The Moller Organ Company issued custom devised player rolls to play each individual pipe organ they built.

A 1911 article in the magazine section of the *New York Times* reported that there were between 200 and 300 great homes with pipe organs in the New York region ranging in cost from \$40,000 up to very large installations of \$100,000 (\$460,000 to \$1.1 million in today's dollars).

One of the last remaining playable residential pipe organs on the Main Line is the 1914 Aeolian organ installed in the Lower Merion mansion "Beaumont" of William Austin, President of Baldwin Locomotive Works. When the Beaumont Retirement Community purchased the mansion, the organ was restored and concerts are open to the public Tuesday evenings, September through May.

Molesworth noted competition among the wealthy by building larger and yet larger instruments. One doubled the size of his living room to provide the necessary resonant space and then built a tower to house his 64-foot pipes for four octaves below middle C on the pedal board.

Molesworth explained how domestic organs differed from concert and church organs in that the pipe voices were designed to be pleasant for home listeners and easy for amateur players to make sweet sounds. Also as traditional pipe voices had names unfamiliar to householders, stop names such as “soft strings” were substituted for the traditional “Gamba.”

Pipes are sensitive to variations in temperature and humidity normal in houses, and tend to go out of tune. To avoid too many visits by the organ tuner, the organ companies substituted similarly sounding flue pipe voices that needed minimum attention instead of unstable reed voices. For example, a wooden pipe saxophone, instead of the normal reed saxophone.

Molesworth explained that the old organ player mechanisms that required a large stock of bulky rolls of slotted paper have been replaced by electronic systems. The signals from these now fragile paper rolls are being transferred by computer to compact discs which now run the mechanical players. Electronic systems now record exactly how an artist plays and play his rendition back exactly as performed. These recordings may be programmed with electronic drives to play the organ.

Molesworth noted that it was the radio and the record player (plus the depression) that ushered out the home pipe organ. Today only avid organ fans (and organ teachers) justify the expense of maintaining real pipe organs in their homes.

**A White Reporter Looks at the
Black Experience on the Main Line, pre 1970**

by Lawrence Geller, reporter for the *Philadelphia Tribune*

As part of the Radnor Historical Society's program to highlight contributions of ethnic groups to our community, Mr. Geller's presentation explored one of the earliest ethnic groups on the Main Line. This group faced racism, apathy, and lack of leadership, but it was worth the effort because life on the Main Line was pretty good as compared to Philadelphia.

Mr. Geller spoke of the difficulties that blacks had on the Main Line, such as that of Masie B. Hall, who in 1923 had to teach school in Riverside, N.J., because she could not teach school here. He said that in 1931 there were separate schools in Tredyffrin, and after protesting, the schools were integrated, but the Negro teachers were dismissed. For many years Mrs. Hall taught schools in Camden, N.J. Eventually she moved to the Main Line and in 1951 founded the Main Line Business & Professional Association, aided Negro school teachers, and planned a black history course in the Tredyffrin School.

Prior to the 1960s, Realtors on the Main Line would not do business with blacks seeking homes on the Main Line. This bias came to the attention of Margaret Collins, a wealthy Quaker, who, drawn to this situation, used her resources to establish the Suburban Fair Housing Association with an office in Ardmore which offered colored people the services of a Realtor. She oriented the blacks to the problems here, and often had to take them to see houses at night with flashlights, but there were people willing to help.

The Association continued to function until recently when Main Line Realtors opened their doors to all citizens.

Lawrence Geller, one of three white employees out of fifty at the *Philadelphia Tribune*, the oldest continuously published black newspaper in the U.S., made a study of those who had been discriminated against and their trials in locating homes. One of those was Mary Washington (age 73), who was present to describe how Margaret Collins (age 96) and her Suburban Fair Housing Association aided her in the quest for a decent home for her family. The Association closed its doors when Main Line Realtors opened their doors to people of color.

Lawrence Geller described many of the interviews he conducted with those seeking homes as well as others involved in the difficulties experienced by people of color on the Main Line in earlier years.

The Lost Main Line Mansions

Talk given by Jeff Groff

In the 1880s and 1890s, the Main Line was the ideal area for large estate development. Extensive plots of rich land with established woodlands were available, accessible by rail from Philadelphia, to the leaders of the most advanced industries in America which bankrolled their dreams. Large imposing American country homes on 50 to 500 acre estates tended by large staffs were glorious in their day, but that day has passed away forever.

Jeff Groff described how the Main Line of 75 years ago has been transformed by present necessity.

Jeff talked about the loss of such homes as James Gilmore's Yorklynne, designed by William Price; George Briton Roberts' Llanengan designed by Milton Medary; Percival Roberts' Penshurst by Peabody & Stearns of Boston; William Simpson's Ingeborg; Alexander Cassatt's Cheswold designed by Henry Sims; Thomas Hunter's Coolkeny; Charles E. Mather's AvonCourt, architect T. Roney Williamson; Francis Potts' Colebrook designed by Cope & Stewardson; Sabin Colton's Longmeadow, designed by Horace Wells Sellers; George Heyl's Redstone, architect S. Gifford Slocum; Peter W. Roberts' Belle Vista, architect Wilson Eyre; Col. Fayette Plumb's Weirwood, architect Charles Barton Keen; W. Hinckle Smith's Timberline, architect Charles Platt; Craig Biddle's Laurento, designed by Peabody & Stearns; and Charles Harrison's Happy Creek, architects Duhring, Okie & Ziegler.

Jeff lamented the loss of estates which evoked the best elements of American House design and the appealing aspects of their owner's elegant lives, which were edged out one by one. Pencoyd, for example, was an old colonial farmhouse, which PRR President George Brooke Roberts

expanded and remodeled in the 1880s and 1890s by Furness & Evans. First it was Roberts' retreat, then became his year-round residence in 1893. Here Guernsey cows and Shropshire sheep grazed on land now covered with intersections and offices. On Sundays, the family could walk among the manicured woods and fields up the back lane to St. Asaph's Church, which they had built.

Pencoyd was a working farm until the 1930s. First, the family gave up a 15-foot wide swath of their land to widen City Line Avenue. Gradually all but 20 acres of the land was sold for the WCAU building, Gulf Oil Headquarters, and the Marriott Inn. Finally in 1958 the house came down, to be replaced by the Germantown Savings Bank.

Jeff said, "If I am feeling positive, I feast in all the Main Line houses that survive. If I am a bit glum, I recall the ones that are gone, but value the photos of them that remain. I lament the lost feeling of farmland, but celebrate the Montgomery and Scott families' careful preservation of Ardrossan and its farm. Or Chanticleer with its glorious gardens or Almondbury--tucked off Conestoga Road and today housing the American Missionary Fellowship. In truth I admire so much of what replaced the old mansions in the 1920s or 30s--works by Okie, Wallace & Warner and Durham--I like the scale, the warmth of the stone and brick, but I can't embrace what we are generally seeing now--the artist's touch, the architectural vision is gone--computer driven manipulation of elements and endless palladian windows made of plastic don't speak of artistic style and a quest for permanency. As the fictional character in Livingston Biddle's *Main Line* watches his family's stone manor come down he notes 'there was a great sense of sadness, an intimacy of being alone with the house, a loneliness which both emptied and fulfilled'."

Antiques Appraisal Day

The Historical Society sponsored an antiques appraisal day October 9. Board Member Peter Thomson, Dipl. RSA, Mine Line Auctions (now Bryn Mawr Auctions), led two of his colleagues, Dennis Childers and Russ Pritchard in an afternoon of identifying and estimating the value of antique items brought to the Finley House.

Members and neighbors brought in a wide variety of paintings, china, glassware, doll clothing, and precious articles. In all 23 people came to have their antiques appraised. It raised some \$230 for the Society.



Dennis Childers, Russ Pritchard, and Peter Thomson, appraise member treasures on Antiques Appraisal Day

Memorial Day Window at the Radnor Memorial Library

Ever since the Radnor Memorial Library moved into its new building in 1980, the Radnor Historical Society has been asked to display photographs and memorabilia related to those who have served in the armed services and those whom the Radnor Memorial Library memorializes.

Over the years the Historical Society has drawn on its collection of photographs of Radnor servicemen dating to World War I, many of whom are remembered at the War Memorial at South Wayne and Runnymede Avenues.

In 2004, the window commemorated those who had fought in WWII and the Korean War. It also illustrated the publications issued by the War Department for the education of service personnel which ranged from identification manuals illustrating enemy ships, planes, and land equipment, and a variety of training manuals.



Memorial Day Parade, May 31, 2004

The Historical Society's 1805 Conestoga Wagon participated in the Radnor Township's 2004 Memorial Day Parade. It exemplified the hundreds of freight wagons that daily passed through Wayne on their trek to and from western Pennsylvania over rough roads and deep fords to carry freight to or from the citizens of Philadelphia.

Drawn by powerful draft horses from Mr. Lewis Douglas' Creek Farm at Atglen, PA, the Society's wagon proceeded along Lancaster Avenue, whose lineage dates from the 1794 Philadelphia to Lancaster Turnpike, the nation's first all-weather MacAdam road. Mr. Douglas, seated on the wagon, drove his ten-year-old Percheron and sixteen-year-old Shire.

Moving westward, with past President Bennett Hill walking ahead with his musket leading the way, our Conestoga wagon was drawn through Wayne with Past President George Smith acting as rear brakeman, an essential task to control the wagon on steep grades.



The Historical Society's Photographic Collection

Report by Steve Pendergast

The Society's collection of over 1000 historic photographs has been scanned onto our digital memory bank by Steve Pendergast. Steve donated time over the past two years to accomplish this task. By recording into digital format, our photographs will be available to anyone who would like to have copies without handling the actual physical picture. Many of these photographs have been reproduced by Greg Prichard in the Society's webpage under "History of Wayne." When all the photographs are posted on our website, it will permit researchers to visit the Society's collection without having to visit the Finley House.

Nancy and Bruce Kneeland gave the Society a high quality scanner which digitizes the old photographs in such detail that one can see signs on buildings. This process will permit search of all photographs without the wear from use.

Nancy Fischer and Cathy Siple have mounted all our photographs in protective sleeves and assigned numbers to them, sorting them into logical groups.

Lois Mamourian completed entering all the information given on some 1400 pages of four notebooks into our computer data bank. Information about the photographs in the Society's collection had been entered in the notebooks by intern Debbie Rodrigues during 1995 and 1996. Lois Mamourian's daughter entered data of about 40 of them in 2002. Each photograph was encapsulated in protective plastic, given a number (corresponding to the notebook page containing the information about the photograph), listing all information available, and placed on separate pages in the notebook ready for scanning into the Society's data bank. Lois spent one hour a week for three and half years to complete the project.

Members of the Society are urged to contact those who have early photographs of Wayne to add to our collection. For example, we were given photographs of the Stuart family, pictures of infants through Radnor High School. Should a person want to know something about that family, we have a lot. Similarly, the Watson family who lived on Pembroke Avenue. Past President Bennett Hill talked with a family who had lived in Wayne holding nearly 150 photographs taken between 1905 and 1920.

Betsy Slattery lent photographs of the Rawle family's estate between Roberts Road and Bryn Mawr Avenue. Her photographs show the mansion gone for some 50 years. All her photographs were scanned into our system and her photographs returned.

Such information and data as these are unique to our Society. The Radnor Memorial Library does not have such detailed information, and will defer to us for it. As interest in our forefathers increases with the next generation, the Society will be the source of information about the foundations of Wayne.

The Historical Society's Publications Collection

Report by Jane Meldrum

Jane Meldrum is cataloguing the entire book collection of the Society. With the author and title, she is putting the reference into the cataloguing form of the Access-Pennsylvania data base which includes all books in all libraries in Pennsylvania. She searches for an existing catalogue record for our books. In the case of the Society's single copy publications of limited printing, these will be put into the Access-PA record, indicating the unique publication in our collection.

Jane Meldrum is a Library of Congress Cataloguer, so she is familiar with the Library of Congress system of records which is the best one could possibly use. If no record exists (for example a local pamphlet), then the Free Library of Philadelphia, the library at Penn State University, or other state libraries will be consulted. The Society's unique publications will be listed in Access-PA. Our pamphlets will be shelved according to our existing system for the time being. The use of Dewey numbers would be difficult for our collection as everything would fall under the same Dewey number, and one would wind up with as many digits as books behind the Dewey decimal, making it very cumbersome. For the present, we will keep our existing numbers.

Lecian von Bernuth
Engaging Raconteur of Early Radnor
By Samuel F. Etris

Delightfully illustrated stories of Radnor's very early days created by Lecian von Bernuth (1895-1990) are preserved in the Historical Society's archives.

Lecian's family moved to North Wayne Avenue in 1898 when she was three, where just a mile from their home was a Lenni Lenape village. She tells us of the long rows of log houses and how the Indian children would drop by her house for cookies. She describes how the Indians marketed their produce and sold beautiful beaded baskets and clothing. Then as the growth of the township demanded their land, those not gainfully employed locally were shipped to a reservation in New Jersey.



*Lecian von Bernuth at home in Strafford.
November 1962 SFE Photograph*

Lecian reminisced about those early days when family preparations for the holidays lacked today's conveniences.

Preparations for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Halloween (unknown to her European relatives) were matters of great excitement to her. Preparation for the Church Fair is described with the canning of fruit and vegetables for the event. Actually, this was just an extension of normal family canning following the harvest from the fruit trees and the vegetable garden.

Lecian speaks of family pets, especially embarrassments caused by her talking parrot, and the predicaments caused by the family goats which were kept for their milk (more digestible for toddlers than cows' milk).

A friend's wedding was of especial interest to her as preparations required far more home effort than with the conveniences of today. Guests were entertained in a family's home and attendance depended upon the convenience of carriages, hired to meet them at the Wayne Station.

Lecian's story of doctor's visits with horse and buggy reveals the trials of visiting physicians. It illustrates why, as described in a later story, Radnor doctors were the first residents of Wayne to own autos.

Of special interest was her family's home at 163 Eagle Road, where she and her family worked five acres of gardens and orchards to provide the family and neighbors with fresh fruit and vegetables. The barn housed the cow, goats, horse and carriage. There was also a tiny, picturesque cottage for friends and guests, plus Radnor's Lancaster Pike toll house pulled onto her property when the toll Pike became a free highway.

Lecian's stories of the early 1900s with her charming illustrations were published by the *Wayne Suburban & Times* from 1978 to 1989. The *Suburban* featured her 95th Birthday with a special page (5/10/90, p.2). Hers is one of the many personal recollections of early Wayne available for research at the Finley House.

Gifts and Purchases Radnor Historical Society 2004

- Pennsylvania Railroad Company cast iron WAYNE station sign - Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society, Philadelphia Chapter
- Photos #063, 195, 216, 360 & 416 from Morrison's "The Main Line: Country Houses" – Lower Merion Historical Society
- Suburban & Wayne Times* article 9/17/71 re: 10/24/20 PRR wreck & 2 original photos from article – John Montgomery, II
- 1917 St. Luke's School postcard – Ted Pollard
- Tombstone fragment – Ella? Perry – Radnor School District Camps, Log Cabins, Lodges & Club Houses, 1925 – purchase
- Philadelphia & Western Trolley, Radnor –mounted photo by Richard Soloman – purchase
- Research on Ithan Valley park, the "Timberline" estate and the Evans & Smith families – Pete Kingsberry
- Framed Wayne & St. Davids homes 12x16" ad – Ted Pollard
- Framed North Wayne Centennial poster – Ted Pollard
- 1906 Waterous Radnor fire engine Matchbox model – Ted Pollard
- Footlighters program "Calculated risk" – 1964-65 (3 copies) – Ted Pollard
- Tri-County Concerts Assn. – Anna Moffo 1/30/61 program – Ted Pollard
- Country Life 7/21 ad – "Main Line Country Estate"
- 2nd Annual Kirk F. White Motor Cars auction catalog – 4/72 – Ted Pollard
- American Architect magazine 5/22/12 – Ledyard Heckscher house – Ted Pollard
- Radnor vs. Lower Merion football ticket – 11/22/30 – Ted Pollard

Old St. Davids Church, Radnor, copy #50/300 (1904),
Ferris & Leach – Ted Pollard

“Kirkwood Kennels” magazine article by W. Newbold Ely,
Jr. – Ted Pollard

Dedication of US post office, envelope – 11/11/40 – Ted
Pollard

Radnor Meeting House at Ithan plate (John Wanamaker) –
Ted Pollard

St. Davids Radnor Church dinner plate (Betty Heiges) –
Ted Pollard

St. Davids Radnor Church dinner plate – 250th
Anniversary
– Ted Pollard

Radnor Fire Co. mug – 5/74 (parade & housing) –
Ted Pollard

1970 Cabrini College “Log” yearbook – Ted Pollard

Quart Brookmead Dairies bottle – Ted Pollard

E-Z Shine shoe shine tool (E. Plankinton & Son, Wayne) –
Ted Pollard

Woodcrest Farm pint milk bottle – Ted Pollard

Postcard: Poplar from Woodland, c. 1906 – Helen Weary
Edgar Jones (Green & Fancy grocers) Wayne, calendar –
10/21 – Ted Pollard

Finnaren & Haley porcelain finish paint sample brochure –
Ted Pollard

“Hothorpe” estate article: “Two Generations” – *Country
Life* 7/39 – Ted Pollard

“Fox Hill Farmhouse at Radnor” *American Homes &
Gardens* magazine article 2/13 – Ted Pollard

Radnor Hunt Spring Race Meeting program – 2/14/66 –
Ted Pollard

“The Economical Management of An Estate” (Radnor
Valley Farm) *Country Life* magazine article 7/05 –
Ted Pollard

“A Fourteen-Room Concrete House for \$8,500) *Country
Life* magazine article 12/1/11 – Ted Pollard

“A Log Cabin on the Estate of Mr. Charles S. Walton, St. Davids, PA *Country Life* magazine 3/16 – Ted Pollard

“Laurento” (later Inver House) article – *Architectural Review* – Ted Pollard

“Permanence on the Estate” article – Arthur Meigs Estate, Radnor – *Country Life* magazine 3/22 – Ted Pollard

“Handsome New Stone Residence” ad – Ted Pollard

Smithco advertisement for tractors – Ted Pollard

1973 Cabrini College “Log” yearbook – Ted Pollard

Woodcrest estate ad – 5/21 – Ted Pollard

8 Acre Country Estate ad – 2/24 - Ted Pollard

“For Pennsylvania Lawyers” blotter – 1953 (A.T. Haakinson) – Ted Pollard

Wringer washer & rinse tubs, pat 1913 – Beverley Kleeman

“Say Goodbye to All Things Lovely” – memoirs of Sonia Converse – Lynn Ellis

“Velvet” tobacco tin – Lynn Ellis

Clown on unicycle toy – Lynn Ellis

Old coal shovel – Lynn Ellis

Large pitcher & wash bowl – Lynn Ellis

SON-CHIEF toaster – Lynn Ellis

“Blacks on the Main Line” series of articles, *Philadelphia Tribune*, in 12 parts 12/70 – 1/71 Lawrence Geller

Wayne Title & Trust Co. blotter – Ted Pollard

Silver napkin ring marker “Louella” – Steve Pendergast

St. Mary’s Wayne 1887-1987, A Short History and Interviews – Ted Pollard

Saturday Club 75th Anniversary plate (1886-1961) – Ginny Purinton

Baby bottles with rabbits – Lynn Ellis

Kitten checkers in tin box – Lynn Ellis

Jigsaw puzzle – Lynn Ellis

Brown crockery jug – Lynn Ellis

Qt. Auburn Farm, Wayne, Pa milk bottle – Ted Pollard

“The Trivet Bedside Book”, 1929 (from Emilie Sayen Schultz) – William Wood
1893 Schedule & Opening Day, 1892 program, St. Davids Cricket Club – William Wood
Two trade cards – Estes & Lauriat and Bryn Mawr Pharmacy
The Girton School, Haverford College photo, 1890 (Emilie Sayen) – William Wood
1942 certificate of instruction – Citizens Defense Corps – William Wood
Monogram & embossed stationery scrap book, c. 1910 (Main Line names & estates) – William Wood
Green decoupage file box; minutes & articles of the Radnor Historical Society, Saturday Club & drawings by George Schultz; article by Schultz about PA founding – William Wood
Framed St. Davids Cricket Club photo (10x14”) – c. 1892 – William Wood
Wooden sock darner – Lynn Ellis
Handbook of Civilian Defense – Lynn Ellis
8x10 photo of Anthony Wayne Theater c. 1942 – Ted Pollard
20 newspaper articles c.1950 (mostly Patterson) – William Wood
3 Griffin A-B-C postcard blotters, 107 E. Lancaster Ave, c.1930-1950 – Bob & Lou D’Amicantonio
“On the 8:02” by Lawrence Grow – Maxine Brennan
62 volumes of ledgers from the L. K. Burket Co., 1887-1907 – David Burket
“60th Anniversary of Wayne, Pennsylvania 1888-1948” – Dom Losco
“Programs for Women’s Musical Clubs” compiled by the Musical Coterie of Wayne, c.1925 by Velma Turner – Ted Pollard

2004 Membership Report

New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Barry Barnett

Adelberger Florist

Arthur Beebe, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Brennan

Jo Harris Brenne

Mr. & Mrs. Simon Brooks

Charles Crawford

Sandy Klein

Alice Donovan

Mike Garrison

Mr. & Mrs. Ethan Halberstadt

Mr. & Mrs. John Irwin

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Johnson

Shaun Kasser

Mrs. Jeanne Kneeland

Jacqueline C. Lassen

Mr. & Mrs. Robert McNeil

Jane Meldrum

Fletcher N. Platt

Joyce Prichard

Anne E. Riley

Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Roberts

Claire Stratton

Albert TeVelde

Mr. & Mrs. W. Tharp Chandler

Katharine Woodhouse-Beyer

Sustaining Members

W. Richard B. Barringer
Neil Brennan
Charles Conrad
L. Dale Nelson
Dewey DeWitt
Kit Carson Donato
Kenneth K. Doroski
O. John Fuchs
Ethan Halberstadt
Budd Heisler
Higgins M. Kelleher
Bruce Kneeland & Family
Mary McGinn
Mary Meeker
Col. Meyers
Stanley Miller
Brian Noll
Dr. & Mrs. David Ogilby
Anthony J. DePaul
Frank Perras
Roy Perry
Miss Elizabeth Rowland
Harry Spiess
Tharp Toebe
Senator Connie Williams

Patrons 2004

George R. Atterbury
Stephen W. Bajus
Donald & Mary Fran Ballard
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Beatty
Peter A. Benoliel
H. Craig
Mrs. Mary Jane Davis
Ernest C. Eadeh
John Fischer
Richard S. Greeley
Mr. & Mrs. J. Bennett Hill, Jr.
Elizabeth Hopkins Irwin
Joseph W. Kimmel
Ms. Susan LeBoutillier
Robert F. Maxwell
Robert & Jane McNeil III
Arthur H. Moss
Nixon Pendergast
Leo Pierce
Edward Pollard
A. Ryan
Wayne Public Safety Association
George Sayen
Dr. Emanuel Schwartz
Cyrus Sharer
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Siple
George W. Smith
Harrison Therman
Mrs. Thomas Weary

Volunteers - House Sitters 2004

The following members of the Society have given of their time and provided 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:

Lavalette Boles
Maxine Brennan
Jean Brooks
Katherine Woodhouse-Beyer
John Dale
Susan DiMeo
Samuel Etris
Lorie Greeley
Bennett Hill
Bea Lord
Steve Pendergast
Ted Pollard
Betty Rowland
Cathy Siple
George Smith
Sally Spargo
Anita Walker

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 non-circulating collection of manuscript, printed, and iconographic records pertaining to the history of Radnor Township and its immediate environs.
2. to provide non-circulating 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: as amended 3 October 2005

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.

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

visit or write the Society at

The Finley House
113 West Beech Tree Lane
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087

or call

(610) 688-2668

Student: \$5.00 Individual: \$15.00
Family: \$25.00 Sustaining: \$50.00 Patron: \$100.00



Since 1891, The WPSA has been dedicated to maintaining the quality of living in the South Wayne Neighborhood. In supporting the Radnor Historical Society, the WPSA has sought to extend these aims by helping preserve the historical interests of our part of the world

**THE NORTH WAYNE
PROTECTIVE
ASSOCIATION**

**IS PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE WORTHWHILE EFFORTS
OF THE**

RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Our Victorian Bedroom