

THE BULLETIN
OF THE
RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HEADQUARTERS AND MUSEUM

THE FINLEY HOUSE
113 WEST BEECH TREE LANE
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“The Radnor Historical Society is committed to preserve, protect, present, and promote the history of Radnor Township.”

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The Bulletin of the Radnor Historical Society has been printed annually and distributed to members of the Society since 1950. Today, each issue is printed the year following its cover date, so that reports on the Society's programs and developments correspond with the year shown on the cover.

Errata

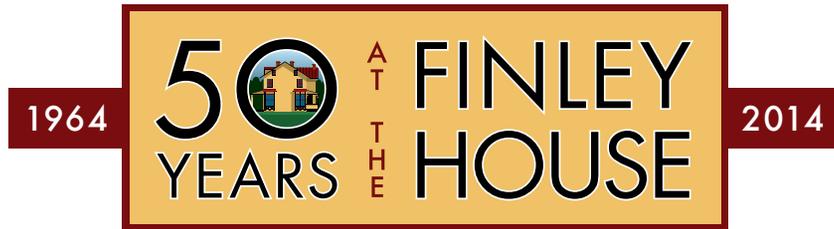
The following are corrections and clarifications to the 2012 Radnor Historical Society Bulletin:

- Cover: Our two emeritus board members were called “emeritae” board members instead of “emiriti” (the proper plural masculine use of the term). The editor regrets the error.

If you spot any errors, have any comments about this Bulletin, please write to the editor at webmaster@radnorhistory.org. We also welcome submissions for articles and other content.

Expanded content for some of the items featured in this issue and PDF editions of previous Bulletins can be found on our website: www.radnorhistory.org/bulletin

Fifty Years at the Finley House



2014, the date of this issue’s publication, marks the 50th anniversary of the most substantial gift in the Radnor Historical Society’s history.

In June of 1885, William Harris Finley and his wife, Sallie Knight Finley, purchased a late-18th century house on West Beechtree Lane which they named “The Homestead.” Within a few short years the Finleys expanded the house with a large addition, using stones from a disused barn on the property. One of the most unique homes in the fast-growing neighborhood of North Wayne, The Homestead was the setting for neighborhood gatherings, and William Finley became an early member of the North Wayne Protective Association.

The Finleys’ daughter, E. Dorothy Finley, remained in the home after her parents’ death and throughout her life was a strong advocate for the community. Among the various activities in which she participated, Miss Finley was a founding member of the Radnor Historical Society. She allowed the Society to use the 18th century basement kitchen of The Homestead as its headquarters; the then-small collection of books and artifacts was stored there beginning with the Society’s founding in 1947.

In 1964, Miss Finley donated the entire property to the Radnor Historical Society, though she would remain in residence until her death a short time later. Upon her passing, the property was named the “William and Sallie Finley Memorial House” by a grateful Board of Directors. Usually abbreviated as “The Finley House,” the building remains the Radnor Historical Society’s home to this day.

A lawn party was held on September 14, 2014 to celebrate the golden anniversary of Miss Finley’s generous gift and to herald the next half-century of residence in our beloved home. The North Wayne Protective Association cosponsored the event.

The Society is now embarking on an effort to renovate and restore the Finley House, inside and out. Work will begin with restoration of the north exterior wall, continuing with interior improvements that will bring the historic rooms and interpretive museum spaces new life. Because such work is very costly, the Society is most grateful to our members, benefactors, and donors who will make these renovations possible.



Gallery: Photographs From Our Collection

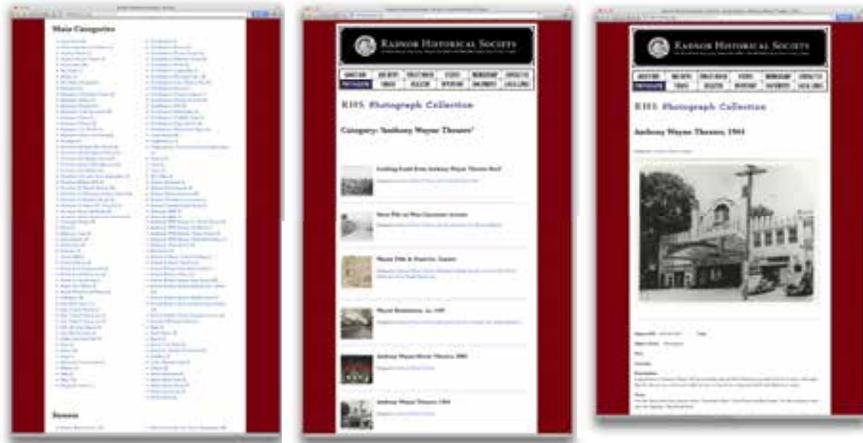
We at RHS are presently in the midst of making our entire collection of historic Radnor photographs available online. This project is the result of years of scanning, cataloging, and categorizing several thousand images that tell the story of Radnor's past.

In celebration of this effort, here are ten outstanding images from our collection. These, and hundreds more, are now available to browse on our website: www.radnorhistory.org/archive/photos

Since we depend exclusively on donors to add to our collection, please contact us if you would like to contribute photographs or other items relevant to Radnor's history. We can even borrow images and return them if you would allow us to scan them (we will even give you copies of the high-quality scans). Write to: info@radnorhistory.org for more information, and thank you!

Browsing our photos online

1. Category list
2. Images in category
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*Two generations of the Wayne Title & Trust Company.
Above: The original building when new, early 1890s. It was designed by F.L. & W.L. Price, architects of many Wendell & Smith homes in North and South Wayne.
Below: The second building shortly after its completion, ca. 1931. The corner has long been the site of a town clock, which originally had the name of the bank prominently displayed.*





Above: The northwest corner of Lancaster and North Wayne Avenues is home to a milestone, which has remarkably survived development and road widenings. Seen here ca. 1950, when a Cobb & Lawless branch was about to occupy the corner store, the milestone (reading "13 M to P") was placed by the road guarded only by a short metal barrier.

Below: Thomas Tague's blacksmith shop was located in downtown Ithaca along Conestoga Road. When this photograph was taken, the shop specialized in horseshoeing as well as painting and upholstering carriages and automobiles.



Above: The Wayne Cadet Corps pictured on May 30, 1899. The building they are posing in front of was the Merryvale clubhouse, an athletic club on West Beechtree Lane.

Below: A picture from the Historical Society's own history: Horace Binney Montgomery addresses members at the RHS annual meeting of 1960, at the rear of the Finley House.





Above: A steam locomotive approaches St. Davids from the west, in this ca. 1890s view showing the old St. Davids switch tower. There were many identical towers throughout the Pennsylvania Railroad system, including a few others here on the Main Line.

Below: The former Hotel Lindenwood, pictured in 1963 shortly before its demolition. Located at the southwest corner of Belrose Lane and King of Prussia Road, the old hotel may have served as the Morgan's Corner railroad station a hundred years earlier.



Above: Looking east on Lancaster Avenue in downtown Wayne, towards the Wayne Opera House. Instead of parking spaces, many of the storefronts (such as the corner store at extreme left, now the location of Wayne Jewelers) had grassy lawns.

Below: Both a horse-drawn carriage and an early automobile are visible in this snapshot taken in front of the former Wayne Opera House around 1915. Dedicated gas stations were rare at this time, so businesses like the hardware store on the building's ground floor provided a few gas pumps at the edge of the road.



Featured Articles

“Now, About That Stone...”

By Clarissa F. Dillon, Ph.D.

The following is an excerpt of Ms. Dillon's talk to the Society, a complete video of which can be viewed at radnorhistory.org/av

On Sunday, 23 September 2012, I attended the walking tour of Garrett Hill. As an Ithan Elementary teacher, I had taught children from this area after the Rosemont School was closed. I still use the laundromat on Conestoga Road and feel almost a member of the community. The sign, “Save Garrett Hill,” stood in my Haverford yard until it disintegrated. The summary of the tour in the recent RHS Bulletin states: “...visitors learned about... the Continental Army’s march from the Battle of Brandywine...” This was mentioned before the tour and I began to wonder why Washington was here — on his way from Brandywine to Valley Forge, as I was told. My thought was “why... it’s not on the way...” There was a more direct route available to him at that time:

In 1680, Chester Road (Penna. Rte. 352) was laid out north from the current Paoli Pike to the Philadelphia and Lancaster Pike (U.S. Rte 30). In 1699, Chester Road (Rte. 352) was built south to Chester.

This information can be found in the folder, “Historic Goshenville,” available from the Historic Commission, Township of East Goshen. And that’s how I got involved.

There was also a book I had recently read: *Lies Across America*. I had met the author on the train and we had had a most delightful talk so I read his book.



Photo by Phil Graham

Markers, monuments, and preserved historic sites usually result from local initiative. Typically a private organization – the Chamber of Commerce, a church congregation, the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy – takes the lead, but public monies are usually involved before it’s unveiled. It follows that the sites all tell a story favorable to the local community, and particularly to that part of the community that erected or stored it. An account from another point of view might be quite different and also more accurate. (p. 15)

This went along with a quotation from another book, *Rural Pennsylvania in the Vicinity of Philadelphia*, by the Reverend S.F. Hotchkin: “Local history is more important in a neighborhood than the history of the world in general.” (p. 8)

So... the stone and its information became a new project. First, I began thinking about Conestoga. I knew of three Conestoga Roads. One runs from the Yang Ming restaurant to Rte. 30 at the Strafford Farmer’s Market. The second runs north of the train tracks from the east end of Tredyffrin Township to Rte. 30 at the Daylesford Station. The third, my favorite road, Rte. 401, begins just west of Rte. 29 on Rte. 30 and runs out to Rte. 23, just before Shady Maple. References to “Conestoga Road” by people like Anthony Wayne seemed to refer to the now-401, because he lived in Paoli and was active in that area. But I was still confused. The map provided on the tour named it Old Lancaster Road.

It seemed appropriate then to look into Washington’s movements. His defeat at Brandywine occurred on 11 September and the army marched in to Valley Forge from Gulph Mills on 19 December. A span of more than three months shouldn’t be summarized in the phrase “on his way from Brandywine to Valley Forge.” There are a number of secondary sources dealing with Revolutionary activities. Some are very local, like Francis J. Dallett’s *The War of the Revolution in Radnor*, available at the Historical Society.

On 15 September 1777 General Washington and the main body of the Continental army broke camp in Germantown, crossed the Schuylkill and marched from the Buck Tavern in Haverford along the Lancaster Road (our Conestoga Road) through the length of Radnor Township. That march is commemorated by a stone marker in front of the Rosemont School in Garrett Hill, opposite the Radnor Methodist Church... (p. 3)

He relied on Futhey and Cope for information, so I checked that but it wasn’t helpful. There are other local publications, like Katy Cummin’s history of Radnor.

I also explored sources outside of Radnor. A 1932 book, *Valley Forge... by W. Herbert Burk*, said that “...Washington moved up the Schuylkill Valley and crossed the river at Matson’s Ford (Conshohocken) on the 15th of September.” (p. 12) Another source, written by Edward W. Hocker, entitled *Germantown 1685-1933* and published in 1933, differed.

There are histories covering larger areas. *A History of Delaware County Pennsylvania*, edited by Charles Palmer and published in 1932, covered more ground.

Washington broke camp at Germantown on September 15th, and moved his army along the road to Lancaster through northern Delaware and Chester counties. At the Buck Tavern in Haverford Township the general issued a call to Council for more blankets for the men. He then moved to East Whiteland Township, Chester County. (p. 73)

This also contains inaccuracies.

Dr. George Smith's *History of Delaware County*, published in 1862, said much the same.

When General Washington retreated to Philadelphia, the main body of his army encamped near Germantown.. On the 15th of the month [Sept.] he marched up the Lancaster road, and halting at the Buck Tavern, in Haverford township, he dispatched a letter to the Council, urging a supply of blankets for the troops. On the same evening he reached the Warren tavern... (p. 315)

There are two confusing elements in Smith's account. Washington did not enter Philadelphia, but the account makes it sound as if he did, and going "up" on a road can either mean toward the major city or north. Saying "along" would be better. The script mentioned earlier said "down this road" meaning away from Philadelphia.

Another history of Delaware County, published in 1884, was written by Henry Graham Ashmead.

...soon after the battle of Brandywine... General Washington, with the yet undaunted American army, marched out from Germantown, over the old Conestoga or Lancaster road into and beyond the limits of Radnor, for the purpose of again engaging the invaders and despoilers of the region, but a heavy and prolonged rain-storm coming on, Washington was compelled to countermarch his forces, and return without forcing the enemy to a conflict, which doubtless would have resulted in victory for the Americans. (p. 680)

This engagement is often called "The Battle of the Clouds." When Ashmead said that Washington had to "return," it leads us to think he went back to Malin's house and the General (the Admiral) Warren Inn, when in fact he moved westward. Burk reported that he, on 16 September, "retreated" to Yellow Springs and Warwick Furnace.

Another account said that after the Battle of the Clouds, the army went to Reading Furnace and back toward Philadelphia: "The soldiers had marched 52 miles in a little more than 48 hours." This writer, John S. Pancake, published *1777: The Year of the Hangman* 200 years after the event. He, too, had a description of events after Brandywine. he said that Washington and the army reached Chester at mid-night on 11-12 September. Then, on the 14th, Washington

...led the army back across the Schuylkill at Swedes Ford (modern Norristown), and advanced along the Lane Road, throwing out Wayne and Maxwell as an advance guard. (pp. 174-175)

Other sources do not confirm the Swedes Ford crossing, including Stephen R. Taaffe's 2003 study, *The Philadelphia Campaign, 1777-1778*. With so many different accounts, it can be challenging to sort it all out. McGuire's two-volume survey of The Philadelphia Campaign is the most heavily documented description of Washington's activities, as well as those of both armies and civilians, in the region from 11 September defeat at Brandywine to the 19 December march-in at Valley Forge.

On December 18... the General Orders gave explicit instructions for the construction of huts, right down to the dimensions and materials to be used...

The Continental Army left Gulph Mills on the morning of December 19 and headed seven miles west up the Gulph Road to a new position... The troops moved out of the Gulph through the rolling hills of Upper Merion Township, crossing the Swedes Ford Road and heading toward a tall, cone-shaped hill called Mount Joy that dominated the western skyline five miles ahead... The Valley Forge encampment had begun. (II, 289-290)

Now, about that stone... As has been determined, its information is substantially correct. It's the interpretation that can be questionable. Including the word "west" would have been helpful. There is, however, the question: who put up the stone and why?

Unfortunately, the only information unearthed so far comes from local newspapers. The most informative article is dated June 30, 1950. The reporter, Emma C. Patterson, wrote for the *Suburban and Wayne Times* and produced this article in 1950, prior to 4 July when the rededication ceremony took place. She used the word "legend" several times.

The stone was originally placed on Conestoga Road at the end of the property of John Converse. According to his obituary in *The New York Times*, he was born in Burlington, VT in 1840 and worked in railroads in Chicago before joining the Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1870. He married Elizabeth Perkins Thompson of Long Island, and one son and two daughters. According to Wheaton History A to Z, he adopted the orphaned daughter of a cousin in 1908. None was named. A 1913 map shows that the land on which the stone was originally erected was owned by Mary Converse.

There are no colonial or revolutionary connections between Converse and this land. It was apparently owned by Mary Jarman (p. 16) according to Cummin and in 1848, Isaac Leedon owned it (p. 83). Converse purchased the property from Philip Leedon. Chetwynd, the Converse mansion, was illustrated in Ashmead but no information about the family was included. The house was demolished but the carriage house/garage remains.

The P&W railroad acquired some of the property for its tracks; according to Ronald DeGraw, a "tablet" is marked in the right-of-way near Arthur Wilson's property. It was evidently "lost" until it was discovered by workmen and taken away. In 1950 it was enclosed in a stone structure at its present location.

If you visit its original site today, you will find what appears to be the stone railings from a bridge that was over water running down from the modern Chetwynd and a large block of dressed grey stone just sitting there. It is very easy to overlook these remnants; the water flows beneath the road without a bridge or other indication of its presence.

Why did someone in the Converse family install the stone? We'll probably never know. It would seem to be a tribute to Washington during what we now call the Colonial Revival period.

Where do we go from here? We need to recognize some of the language confusions that interfere with our interpretation of events. Today's Delaware County was carved out of Chester County after the Revolution. Today's Montgomery County was called Philadelphia – and lay outside city limits, then and now. During the 19th century, the city expanded to their present extent, absorbing what had been individual communities, like Germantown.

Then, as now, roads' names changed but the road itself continued. Washington's travel from the Buck Tavern to Malin's house in East Whiteland Township went along a road called Conestoga and Lancaster. Those "three Conestogas" mentioned earlier were simply segments of a road also called Lancaster (and Old Lancaster after the turnpike was built).

Continuing investigations and the appearance of previous unknown primary sources will provide increased information about the events of 1777 and 1778 here. An

appreciation of the actual scope, geographically and chronologically, will help get rid of those pervasive “legends.” Sean Moir is a spokesman for the “new history” of our area.

...the entire Philadelphia Campaign was itself clouded in much mystery until recently. History books have always mentioned the Valley Forge encampment, but usually as an isolated incident. The battles of Brandywine and Germantown are relatively well known, but the details regarding why these battles were fought or how the armies approached the battlefields, and where they went afterwards, were mostly shrouded in fog... (TEHQ, p. 75)

The lack of cohesion between the various revolutionary war sites and the shortage of national attention befitting its role in the founding of our nation, points to an opportunity for interpretive improvement in the Philadelphia region.

...to complete the picture the surrounding counties and states need to be included. The various interpretive sites including Valley Forge, Brandywine, Paoli, and the... American Revolution Center, also need to work together to create a coherent story. (p. 79)

So, when talking about Washington and his army in Radnor, it is to be hoped that newspaper accounts will be filed away and replaced with primary source material and recognition of the regional activities during that quarter of a year in 1777 will be part of the presentation. “That stone” is really only a side trip along Conestoga Road.

Timeline of George Washington and the Continental Army from the Battle of Brandywine to the March-in at Valley Forge

(based on one created by Morgan McMillan Clinton at Peter Wentz Farmstead in Worcester, PA)

11 September: Battle of Brandywine. Went to...
12 September: Chester
13 September: went to area near Germantown
14 September: crossed river at Leverings Ford, spent the night at Buck Tavern, Haverford
15 September: went to Malin’s and Gen. Warren Inn, E. Whiteland
16 September: “Battle of the Clouds”
17 September: went to Yellow [now Chester] Springs
18-19 September: Reading Furnace
20 September: camp near Fatland Ford [near Valley Forge]
21-22 September: HQ at Thompson’s Tavern
23-25 September: camp at Pottsgrove
26-29 September: Pennypacker Mills
30 September-2 October: Skippack
3 October: Peter Wentz Farmstead
4 October: Battle of Germantown
5-15 October: Towamencin/Skipack
16-19 October: Peter Wentz Farmstead
20 October: Whippain
21 October-12 December: Whitemarsh
13-18 December: the Gulph
19 December: went to Valley Forge for the winter

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- Wheaton History A to Z, an internet source*.

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George and Valerie Harding, Haverford neighbors

Forgotten Treasures: John Ray Sinnock's Artwork for the Rosemont School

By Greg Prichard

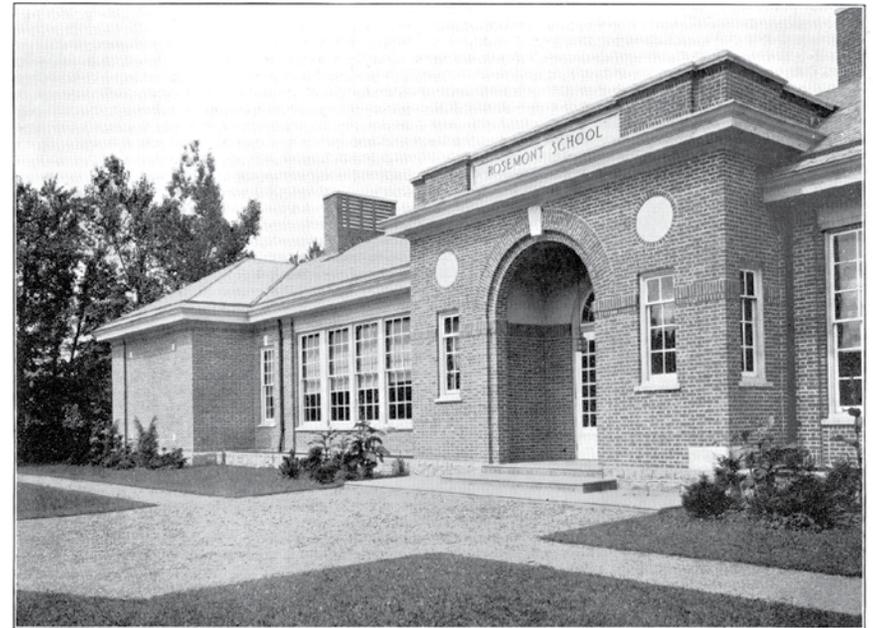
There are a great many artists whose work goes largely overlooked despite extraordinary ubiquity. Consumer products, automobiles, books, and currency are among the everyday things that are reproduced thousands, millions, or even billions of times, and yet the highly talented and experienced artists who gave these items their appearances and shapes usually go through society unknown.

John Ray Sinnock was one such artist. His work is found in every American home, likely many times over, yet his name is not a famous one. His contribution to the image of America and its currency is known on some level by all Americans.

One of the rarest artistic honors, a single work by Sinnock has been reproduced several billion times over. He is best remembered today as the designer and sculptor of the Roosevelt dime, introduced in 1946 and still in production today. Sinnock was Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint from 1925 until 1947, during which time he also designed the Franklin half dollar and sculpted the profile of George Washington found on the Purple Heart medal.

Meanwhile, here in Radnor, those who have gone through and worked in the school system are likely familiar with several lesser-known works by this great artist.

Thirty years before the first issuance of the Roosevelt dime, John R. Sinnock was a faculty member of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art (today known as the University of the Arts). He was among several artists who took part in a competition to create



Above: The Rosemont School, as new. (Image from the David Knickerbacker Boyd scrapbook, Radnor Historical Society collection)

decorations for the new Rosemont School in Garrett Hill, which opened in 1915. The public elementary school was designed by the architectural firm of David Knickerbacker Boyd, who in 1900 had designed the Wayne Grammar School (now the district's Administration Building on South Wayne Avenue) and a new high school next door in 1909 (which was demolished in the 1980s). A simple, one-story brick building originally containing only four classrooms, the Rosemont School was a focal point of the Garrett Hill community for 65 years.

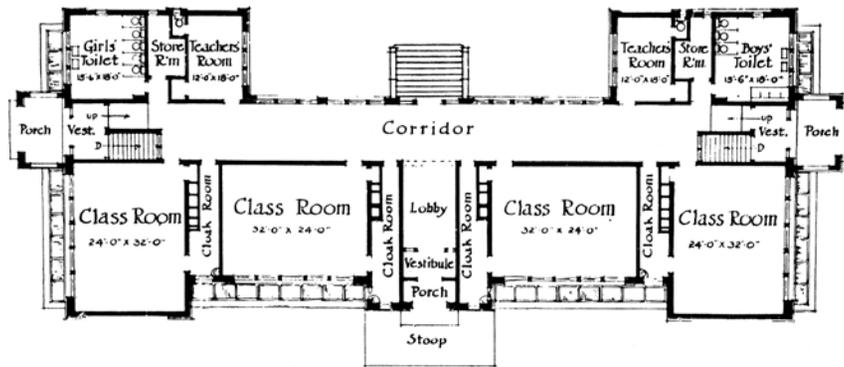
Sinnock was commissioned to create three painted murals for the school's lobby depicting "Incidents in American Colonization," and a series of sgraffito panels for the front porch. Originally the murals were to be titled "Landing of the Pilgrims," "Presents for Massasoit—The Faithful Friend of the White Man," and "The First Thanksgiving Day." (*Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art Bulletin*, April 1915, p. 28.)

Sinnock's final murals would depict different scenes, though consistent with the original theme: "Hudson on the North River," "Penn

Landing at Philadelphia,” and “The Pilgrim Fathers.” Each of these oil paintings was thirteen and a half feet wide by four feet tall, and stylistically brought to mind the works of giants from the illustration boom of the early 20th century including N.C. Wyeth and Maxfield Parrish.

The sgraffito panels depicted symbolic representations of Learning and Patriotism on the sides, and a wider center panel spanning the arched front entrance illustrated the idea of Knowledge. This main panel contained a slightly modified quote from Shakespeare’s Henry VI, Part 2: “Knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to heaven.”

Sgraffito is a centuries-old process that is not often practiced today. A work of sgraffito consists of tinted wall plaster that is layered to create a decorative and dimensional effect. It was used extensively as an exterior facade treatment in Europe centuries ago, and was evidently one of the artistic techniques taught at the School of Industrial Art, where Sinnock was both student and instructor.



First Floor Plan

Above: Boyd’s original configuration of the school contained just four main classrooms on a single story, though the layout was expanded over the years. The murals were located in the narrow front lobby, with “The Pilgrim Fathers” ahead of students as they entered the building. The sgraffitos were located around the perimeter of the partially enclosed front porch.

(Image from the David Knickerbacker Boyd scrapbook, Radnor Historical Society collection)

Opposite page: Sinnock’s three murals in their original setting, the front corridor of the Rosemont School. Top: “Penn Landing at Philadelphia;” center: “The Pilgrim Fathers;” bottom: “Hudson on the North River.” (Courtesy of the Radnor School District Archives)



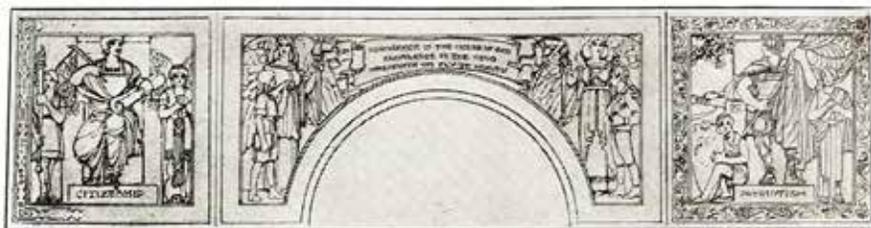


Above: The full sgraffito composition: “Learning,” “Knowledge,” and “Patriotism.” These castings are now found on the wall of a conference room in the Radnor Township School District’s Administration Building.

John Ray Sinnock died in 1947, just a year after his most famous work, the Roosevelt dime, went into circulation. The Rosemont School closed and was demolished in 1980, though fortunately the artwork that Sinnock created for that structure was not completely lost.

In 1980, Radnor High School art teacher Winchell Reber was curator of the school district’s Rosemont Collection, an assemblage of artwork owned by the district that is available for teachers to use in their classrooms. Reber recalls, “I was teaching one day when two men walked

Below: Sinnock’s preliminary sketch for the sgraffito, which had a panel symbolizing “Citizenship” on the left instead of “Learning.” (From *School of Industrial Art of the Pennsylvania Museum: Circular of the Art Department, 1916-1917, p. 39.*)



DECORATION IN SGRAFFITO. VESTIBULE OF THE ROSEMONT SCHOOL
BY JOHN RAY SINNOCK

in carrying three rolls of canvas.” These rolls were Sinnock’s three “Incidents in American Colonization” murals, which had not been designed to be removed from the walls of Rosemont School. Reber continues, “I was told that they had taken them off the walls in Rosemont by scraping them off with putty knives. They had been told to bring them to me, because I was curator of the Rosemont Collection of Art. Needless to say, they were a mess, with chunks of plaster still stuck on parts of the back and places where the paint was scarred, scraped, and missing on the front.”

Reber persuaded the school district to hire Jack Cederstrom, a respected art conservator and instructor, to bring the paintings back to life. “At that time, we had our teacher offices between the two large studios,” says Reber. “The walls were glassed so we could see out and supervise the students, even from our desks. We moved out our desks and files, etc., and moved large tables into the glassed area. Jack was able to lay out the paintings, one at a time, on these tables. He started by removing all the trash from the back of the canvas. Next he laid out large sheets of either plywood or pressboard that was large enough to fit under the canvas. The canvas was then adhered to this backing. Once this was done he began by cleaning the paintings and removing any loose chips of paint. I remember that in one or two places even a face was missing. He studied the painting and researched Sinnock’s artwork and repainted the places that were missing. He repaired the scrapes and dents so that you could not see the damage. When he finished the paintings looked as good as new.



Above: When closely inspected, a large photograph of the Rosemont School, ca. 1915, reveals the location of the sgraffitos. (Radnor School District Archives)

“This took many weeks, as you can imagine, and during this time he would let the students watch while he worked and explained to them what he was doing. He worked in the studio about two or three days a week, as he had other restorations to do for the Philadelphia Museum and several other clients. He was always polite and respectful of the students while he did his very delicate work.”

Though the paintings had originally been adhered to the plaster walls of the Rosemont School, Cederstrom attached the canvases to boards so that they could be removable from whatever new space they would occupy – a decision that, years later, allowed them to be saved one more time. At least two of the paintings were placed inside Radnor Middle School, on either side wall of the building’s front vestibule. They fit perfectly in that space, and would remain for more than a quarter century. When the 1923 school was demolished in 2007, these two paintings were placed in storage at the new Radnor Middle School. The third panel, depicting “The Pilgrim Fathers,” is currently found inside the front entrance of the library at Radnor High School.

As for the sgraffitos, preserving them presented a challenge: the artwork was cast in plaster that likely would have been impossible to remove intact. As Win Reber recalls, there was one way to ensure that this work was accurately documented. “Just before the building was torn down, I was contacted by Mike Merrick, who had graduated from Rose-

mont School. He was working for a decorative plaster firm in New York City, and he wanted to make molds of these relief panels and recast them for us. The district agreed to let him do this if he could get it done before the demolition. He got several friends to help and they worked almost around the clock the last days before the building came down and got the molds made just the day before the building was destroyed. Using his molds, he recast all three sgraffitos by Sinnock.”

The three sgraffito panels were reproduced several times using these molds. The composition in its entirety was reproduced once, a casting that now occupies a full wall of a first floor conference room in the district’s Administration Building. The side panels, those depicting Learning and Patriotism, were each re-cast on their own at least twice. These castings are now found in Wayne and Ithan Elementary Schools.

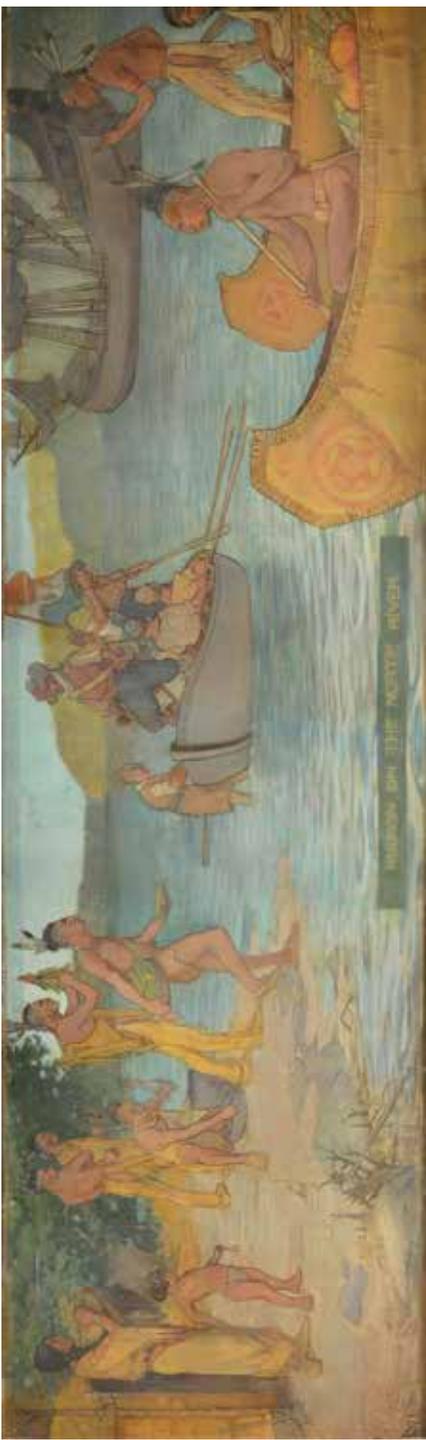
The paintings and sgraffito compositions that Sinnock created for the school district are presently unsigned by the artist. The one signature he applied, on the lower right side of “The Pilgrim Fathers,” was lost at some time during its tumultuous existence. However, if you look closely at a dime, you will see two tiny letters just below Franklin Roosevelt’s neck – “JS” – a barely noticeable reminder that talented artists and designers such as John Sinnock created nearly everything that surrounds us.

Thanks to former Radnor High School art teachers Susan Wolf and Win Reber, as well as Leo Bernabei and Joe Perchetti of the Radnor Township School District, for their invaluable help with this article.

Below: “The Pilgrim Fathers” was featured as the frontispiece to the School of Industrial Art of the Pennsylvania Museum: Circular of the Art Department, 1916-1917. The same publication notes that Sinnock taught rendering, costume, modeling, and pottery.



*“THE PILGRIM FATHERS,” MURAL DECORATION FOR THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ROSEMONT, PA.
JOHN RAY SINNOCK.*



The three Sinnock murals as they appear today.

Opposite page: The two murals previously found in the entryway of Radnor Middle School: "Hudson on the North River" (above) and "Penn Landing at Philadelphia" (below). These two panels have been in storage since the 2007 closing of the 1923 Radnor Middle School building.

This page: The mural that is now found in the entrance of the Radnor High School library: "The Pilgrim Fathers." It is apparently the only work for Rosemont that Sinnock signed, though the signature was evidently lost during the painting's removal from the school walls and subsequent restoration work.

(Courtesy of the Radnor Township School District)

Programs of the Year

Greg Prichard: Train Stations of the Main Line

Tuesday, January 8, at the Winsor Room, Radnor Memorial Library

Video of this program is found at www.radnorhistory.org

Greg Prichard, RHS board member and Cornell University graduate with a Master's degree in Historic Preservation, spoke about train stations of the Main Line through Lower Merion, Radnor, Tredyffrin, and East-town Townships. These stations, the subject of Prichard's talk and slide show, were built as grand statements of corporate superiority, and evolved to become recognizable gateways to their communities. He spoke on the history of the stations between Overbrook and Paoli, their architecture, and the successes of recent preservation efforts. This event was cosponsored by RHS and the Radnor Memorial Library.

Sean Moir: The Revolutionary War in Our Area

Tuesday, February 5, at the Winsor Room, Radnor Memorial Library

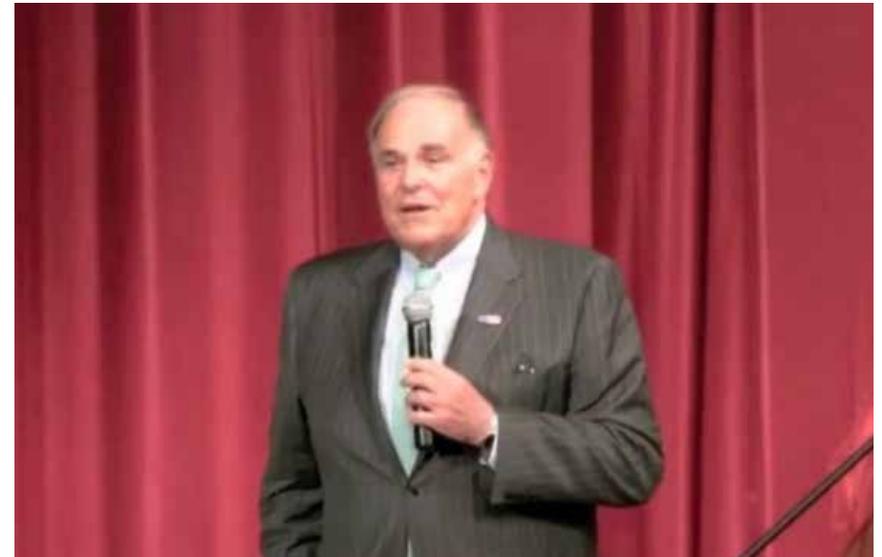
Sean Moir, a Tredyffrin Township resident, presented an animated map of local Revolutionary War troop movements, including Washington's route after the Battle of Brandywine from Philadelphia through Radnor, which eventually led to the Paoli Massacre. The map allowed his audience to follow the British and American armies hour-by-hour. In addition to the military element, Moir placed heavy emphasis on mapping the cultural landscape upon which the fighting and marching occurred. This event was cosponsored by RHS and the Radnor Memorial Library.

Author Event: Ed Rendell

Tuesday, February 19, at the Radnor Middle School

Video of this program is found at www.radnorhistory.org

Radnor Memorial Library and Radnor Historical Society were thrilled to present an author event with former Governor of Pennsylvania (2003–2011) and former Mayor of Philadelphia (1992–2000) Edward G. Rendell. After 34 years of public service, including 24 years as an elected official, Governor Rendell continues to pursue many of the same issues he was passionate about while serving. At the event, Governor Rendell talked about his first book, “A Nation of Wusses: How America’s Leaders Lost the Guts to Make Us Great.” In “A Nation of Wusses,” Rendell chronicles his storied political career with his trademark candor while making a strong statement about the state of American leadership.



Ed Rendell at Radnor Middle School

Annual Dinner at Woodcrest

Tuesday, March 12

The RHS annual dinner was held this year at the recently renovated mansion of the former Woodcrest Estate, built in 1901 by Drexel son-in-law James W. Paul, Jr. and designed by famous architect Horace Trumbauer. Dr. Marie George, President of the College, made some opening remarks. The principal speaker was Michael Kathrens, author of “American Splendor: The Residential Architecture of Horace Trumbauer,” the revised edition of which was published in 2011. Books were available for purchase and signing. Hors d’oeuvres and beverages, including wine, were served prior to the dinner.

Annual Meeting at the Finley House

Sunday, May 19

Following a brief business meeting, RHS guides offered guided tours of Finley house and its treasures. Refreshments were served.

RHS & Radnor Conservancy Local Garden Tour

Friday, June 7

At this event, visitors were able to tour four unique gardens surrounding wonderful homes in Radnor and Tredyffrin Townships. The tour began at the garden and greenhouses of Mrs. Dorrance Hamilton on Strafford Avenue, then continued to the Victorian garden across the street at Traudi and Bob Thomason’s Wayne Bed & Breakfast Inn. The Thomason’s property features a 110 foot copper beech, thought to be the second largest in the state, wonderful outdoor spaces for sitting and relaxing, including a large pool and spa surrounded by gardens, and an inviting porch that

wraps around the circa 1890 inn. Myrna and Paul Paluba hosted at their creatively executed, multilevel garden with raised beds, water features, and a peace garden for contemplation. Finally, Maud Walker hosted at her garden which is highlighted by an unusual collection of trees and shrubs, including a magnificent weeping beech, whimsical garden decorations, and a replica of an Irish garden shed. This event was cosponsored by RHS and the Radnor Conservancy.

Andrew Wyeth documentary film with special guest Victoria Wyeth

Tuesday, October 1, at the Winsor Room, Radnor Memorial Library

Literally the film of a lifetime, “Self Portrait: Snow Hill” is an hour long documentary about one of the greatest painters the world has known. In her own way, Andrew’s only grandchild, Victoria Wyeth, a fourth generation family member, commented on the film and provided insight and background that only a family member can share. This event was cosponsored by RHS and the Library.



Victoria Wyeth (center) with Ted Pollard of RHS (left) and Pam Sedor of the Radnor Memorial Library (right)

Food Historian and Cookbook Author William Woys Weaver

Tuesday, October 22, at the Winsor Room, Radnor Memorial Library

Celebrated Food Historian and Cookbook Author William Woys Weaver delves deeply into the history of Dutch cuisine to sort fact from fiction in his new book, “As American as Shoofly Pie: the Foodlore and Fakelore of Pennsylvania Dutch Cuisine.” His detailed and affectionate chapters present a rich and diverse portrait of a living culinary practice and follows it forward as New Dutch Cuisine continues to evolve. Food samples were served, and books were available for purchase. This event was cosponsored by RHS and the Library.

Civil War historian Anthony Waskie portrays General George G. Meade

Wednesday, November 6, at the Winsor Room, Radnor Memorial Library

Video of this program is found at www.radnorhistory.org

Commonwealth speaker and nationally recognized Civil War preservationist, Anthony Waskie, in uniform, spoke as General Meade. Waskie teaches in the Civil War and Emancipation Studies program at Temple University. From his work as an engineer and lighthouse builder, to combat in the Seminole and Mexican Wars, to his assuming command of the Union army on the eve of the battle of Gettysburg (where he handed Lee his first defeat), General Meade was integral to the survival of the Union. Meade also designed Fairmount Park and founded two schools for orphans of Civil War veterans. RHS and the Library cosponsored this Pennsylvania Humanities Council event.

Excerpts from David Sedaris’s Christmas stories

Sunday, December 29, at the Finley House

Read by Cardy Crawford, and featured Wassail Party refreshments. This is a traditional RHS event. Every other year, Cardy, a retired English teacher from Radnor Middle and High Schools, former RHS Board Member, painter in oils, and published author of novels for teenagers, reads excerpts from various authors of Christmas stories.

Selected programs were filmed by our videographer, Tom Ellis.

View videos of many of these programs on our website: radnorhistory.org/av



Accessions & Acquisitions - 2013

Acquisitions

- Three Wayne Iron Works items:
 - Letter from H.B. Wood, Wayne Iron Works, 4/26/44
 - The Wayne Folding Grandstand brochure, 1/41
 - Wayne Rolling Gymstand brochure, 1/42
- Collection of Daly Texaco items:
 - Receipt book
 - Bill from 1940s
 - Credit form
 - Greeting cards (2)
 - Two forms about payment and one letterhead
 - Stationery - two sheets
 - Large poster with pictures of employees
 - Quarter-sized medal with loop and Texaco symbol, reading "Listen"
- Item relating to the Wayne Plumbing & Heating Co.
- PRR timetable and punch
- Barclay Farm Ayrshires, 8"x10" advertisement
- Framed photo of Radnor High School class at the U.S. Capitol, 5/1/1936 (12"x24")

Donations

Bill Barr

- Borden's milk bottle
- Three ink bottles (New Parker, Pelikan, Sheaffer's)
- Royal "Crystal" fuse box and fuse
- Embroidered child's bootie
- Silver mesh with spoon hook purse with cloth case

Jan & Art Beebe

- Black velvet opera gown and black velvet shawl

Mrs. George Brooke

- 8"x10" photograph of St. Luke's School ca. 1920
- "The Story of Wayne" booklet, 1945
- Radnor Fire Company 75th Anniversary commemorative newspaper
- *Main Line Life* newspaper: "Radnor's Notables"
- "An Historical Account... of the Old Carr Schoolhouse"

Steve Burkardt

- Street signs: Midland Avenue and Pembroke Road

Marilyn Cooper

- Three packs of pictures of South Wayne houses
- South Wayne Historic District application and related material
- Several mounted pictures of South Wayne
- About 25 reproduction maps of Wayne, ca. 1900
- *The Graphic*, English magazine, p. 522-548, 5/10/1890
- *The Ladies Home Journal*, Nov. 1899, 49 pages
- *Harper's Bazaar*, October 10, 1891, p. 766-780
- General material relating to Wayne Public Safety Association

Randall P. Davis

- Genealogy book: "The Sharples/Sharpless Family," Vol. I & II, 1966

Kit Carson Donato - C.N. Agnew Co.

- Box of Radnor-related zoning information
- Photo album of construction at 105 North Wayne Avenue
- Appraisals and other material related to 105 North Wayne Avenue
- Panoramic photo of Radnor High School student body, 1923
- 1945 Radnor High School yearbook

Lynn Ellis

- "Bring Out Your Dead," J.H. Powell, 1965
- "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes Revised," 1931

-
-
- “Colonial Living,” Tunis, 1999
 - Radnor Train Station Painted Brick
 - “What’s Cooking in Wayne?” Junior Service Board of the Neighborhood League, 1934
 - *Railroad* magazine, 6/57, with picture of P&W and PRR stations at Strafford

Lydia Freeman

- Scrapbook from Reginald Lawrence Hart family, containing Civil War items
- Travel iron
- Straight razor in box
- Elizabeth C. Hart cookbook, 1897
- Copper vase (Veedun)
- Small plaque from the 1876 Centennial
- Four sets of old keyhole keys

Robert Grumbacher

- Program, Devon Horse Show, 2013

Dale Hunt

- Two red Texaco gas station hats from Daly’s Texaco, ca. 1955

King of Prussia Historical Society

- “Upper Merion Township: The First 300 Years”

Margaret Lee

- “West Twelfth Street,” Christmas card by Carol Creutzburg

Benjamin Lowry

- Check from Thornton Oakley, 1923
- 1946 Radnor High School yearbook

Michael Morrison

- Valley Forge Military Academy course catalog, 1943-1944
- Radnor High School Class of 1946 15th and 40th reunion material

Sue O’Neal

- Items belonging to the Askin family:
 - Christening dress
 - Coverlet
 - Black beaded purse
 - Baby clothes
 - Monogrammed napkin rings, silver - Ella C., EJA
 - Two sets of black and gold cufflinks
 - Two fans (ivory and wood)
 - RHS Bulletin, Fall 1974
 - “A Guide to the Middletown Burying Ground Since Colonial Times”
 - Two handkerchiefs

Ted Pollard

- Four Radnor-related tee-shirts
- First Wayne Federal Savings matchbook cover
- Daly Texaco broadside, Hiring a person to do mechanical work, 14”x19.5”
- Five Albert J. Daly Texaco ink blotters
- Main Line Lumber, “Fix-It Yourself” booklet, 5”x7”

Cyrus Shearer

- Preliminary major street plan for Radnor Township, May 1958

G. Sellers Smith

- 26 slides from 1965: moving of railroad car to become the “Paoli Local” restaurant

Byrle Walters

- Fur sleigh gloves, ca. 1860-1900

Anonymous

- Various North Wayne Protective Association papers
- Rainbow Terrace menu, Old Covered Wagon Inn
- *Evening Bulletin* newspaper article, 3/20/1943

Membership Report

Benefactors

Douglas & Karen Brown
John & Nancy Fischer
Steve & Susan Kelly
Mr. Collin McNeil
Ms. Kathy Papa
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen H. Pendergast
Leo & Eve Pierce
Theodore Reimel III
Ms. Elaine Torina
Mrs. Helen Weary

Patrons

Ms. Jane Beatty	Ms. Elizabeth Hopkins
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Beebe, Jr.	Ms. Susan LeBoutillier
Jonathon & Connie Congleton	Bill & Andrea Pilling
Peter & Valerie Craig	Ms. Joyce Prichard
Ms. Kit Carson Donato	Mr. Greg Prichard
Art & Pat Hartel	Matt & Christina Reichert
Mr. & Mrs. J. Bennett Hill, Jr.	George Strimel
Mr. & Mrs. James Holt	Wayne Public Safety Association

Sustaining

George & Ellen Aman	Brian & Linda Noll
Mr. James Averill	North Wayne Protective Association
Mr. Stephen W. Bajus	Dr. & Mrs. J. David Ogilby
Don & Mary Fran Ballard	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony J.D. Paul III
Ms. Maxine F. Brennan	Ms. Tracy Pulos
The Chanticleer Foundation	Rob & Kate Robinson
Jim & Liz Collins	Mike & Priscilla Ryan
Ms. Donna E. Crane	John & Elaine Paul Schaefer
Mr. John Dale	Mr. & Mrs. Roy Schollenberger
Ms. Nancy Davis	Tom & Barbara Schraudenbach
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Jensen	Mordecai Schwartz & Kathy Fisher
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Kelleher	Robert Sims
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kennedy	Bill & Kathy Siple
Robert & Jeanne LaRouche	John & Susan Smith
James & Debbie Lofton	Jonathan & Margaret Sukonik
John & Mary Lord	John & Gerry Tuten
Howard & Betsy Morgan	Mark Weiss & Theresa Sage

Volunteers & Guides

House Guides

The following members of the Society have given 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:

Jennifer Beacom
Charles Crawford
John Dale
Lynn Ellis
Sam Etris
Evie Giegerich
Bennett Hill
Steve Pendergast
Cathy Siple
Sally Spargo

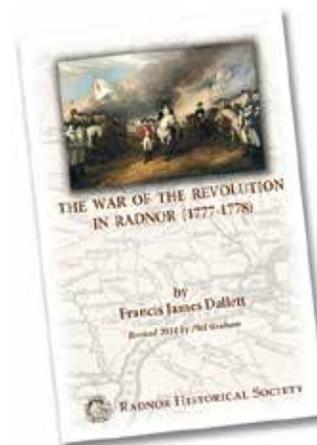
Other Volunteers

Jennifer Beacom: Transcription
Charles Crawford: Archives
Tom Ellis: Videotaping our programs
Jane Meldrum: Library
Steve Pendergast: Archives & Research
Greg Prichard: Archives, Research & Internet

Two New Publications About Radnor History

AVAILABLE NOW AT THE FINLEY HOUSE OR BY MAIL

THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION IN RADNOR (1777-1778)



A new 40-page booklet by local author F.J. Dallett on the fascinating story of Radnor's place in the American Revolution.

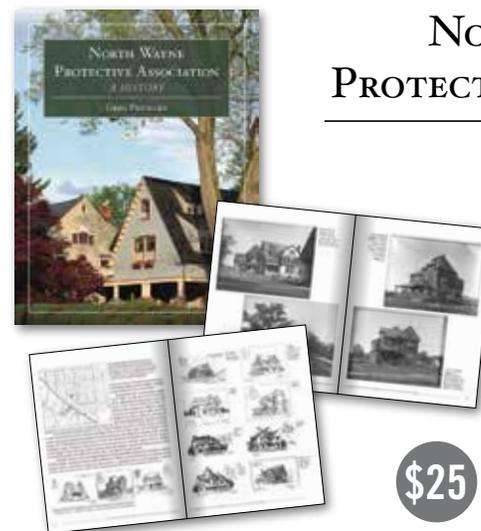
First written in 1976, this new edition has been updated with numerous illustrations, maps, and a color replica bank note officially signed by one of Philadelphia's most prominent residents, Samuel Miles.

Additional notes throughout the text explain the current locations and a brand new appendix sheds some additional light on that famous long march by the Continental Army along the Radnor stretch of what we now know as Conestoga Road.

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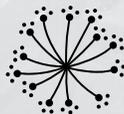
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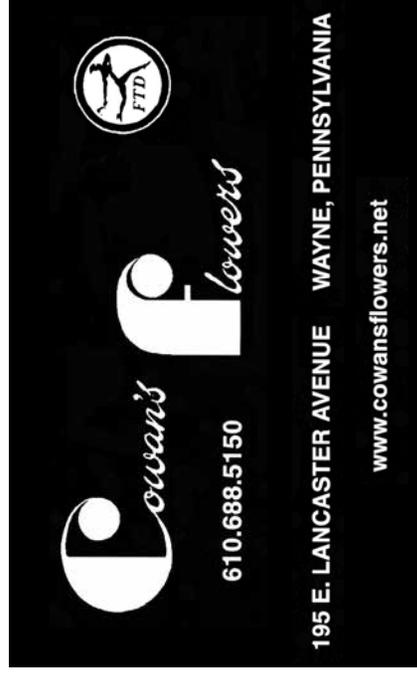


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webmaster@radnorhistory.org for more information!

