

# ***THE BULLETIN***

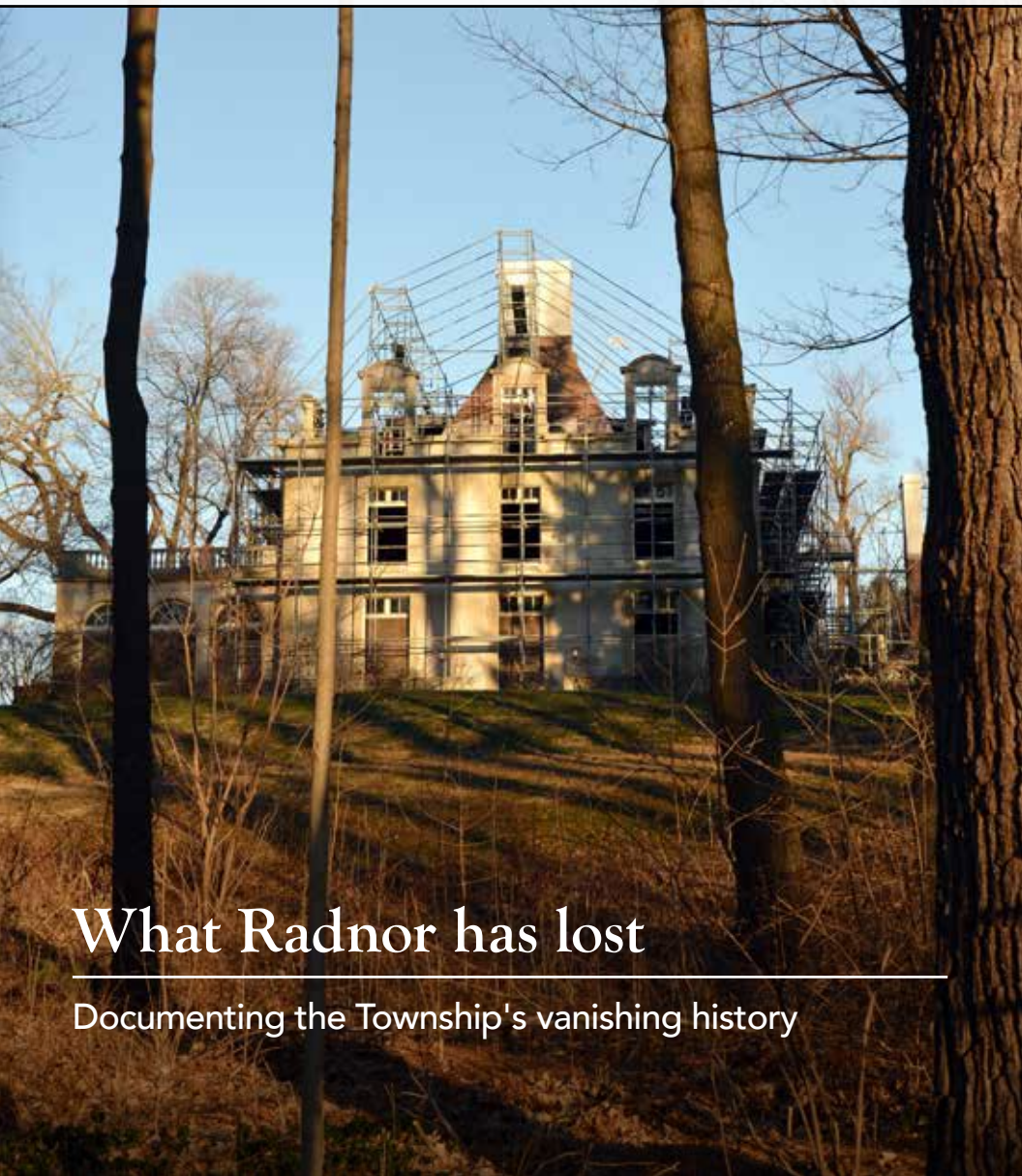
*of the*

## **RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

VOLUME VII

2018

No. 8



## **What Radnor has lost**

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Documenting the Township's vanishing history

*“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 compiled the year following its cover date, so that reports on the Society's programs and developments correspond with the year shown on the cover. This issue was printed in October, 2019.

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## On the Cover

The Horace Trumbauer-designed mansion “Bloomfield,” pictured in January 2019, was ravaged by fire in April 2012. A restoration effort that began shortly after the fire stalled, leaving the shell of the building open to the elements. The remains were demolished in May 2019.



# THE BULLETIN OF THE RADNOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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INCORPORATED APRIL 30, 1948

*HEADQUARTERS AND MUSEUM*

THE FINLEY HOUSE  
113 WEST BEECHTREE LANE  
WAYNE, PENNSYLVANIA 19087

TELEPHONE (610) 688-2668 | [www.radnorhistory.org](http://www.radnorhistory.org)

*Visitors Cordially Welcome.*

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# THE BULLETIN

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 8

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Digital editions of previous *Bulletins*  
can be found on our website:  
[www.radnorhistory.org/bulletin](http://www.radnorhistory.org/bulletin)

## Radnor Historical Society News

# Newspaper Digitization Project Begins

By far the most detailed records of life in any town are found in the archives of its newspapers. Throughout the years of its existence the Radnor Historical Society's collection has accumulated a number of important newspapers that were based in Wayne during its formative years. Over time these small papers closed, merged to create larger papers, and were largely forgotten. We are proud to make these digitized copies of historic Wayne newspapers – the only copies believed to be in existence – available online to read and search through thanks to the efforts of the Falvey Memorial Library at Villanova University.

Currently online are 46 issues of the *Wayne Weekly Gazette* dating between 1871 and 1872, and 10 issues of the *Wayne Signal* printed between 1888 and 1889. Both papers give a unique insight into the town's beginnings. Some of the earliest issues of the *Suburban & Wayne Times* are currently being added. We will continue to add more to this online collection, including the *Suburban & Wayne Times* volumes that are out of copyright, as they are scanned. We owe many thanks to Villanova University's Falvey Memorial Library for scanning these historic newspapers and hosting them within their extensive online archive documenting many other aspects of local history.

For links to the Falvey Memorial Library's digital versions of our historic newspapers, visit [www.radnorhistory.org/historic-newspapers](http://www.radnorhistory.org/historic-newspapers).





# A New Lease on Life for the Finley House

Jumping off from the report by Frens & Frens Restoration Architects described in our previous issue, the Society has embarked on the most extensive restoration effort of the Finley House since the historic house became our permanent home in 1964.

The Society hired 18th Century Restorations, a renowned local contractor specializing in the restoration of buildings dating to the time of the Finley House, to complete the year-long project. The firm's carpenters and craftsmen have restored various elements of the house including the porch roofs, Victorian-era window bays, window sills, and stucco. This work has been done to the highest historic preservation standards, utilizing appropriate materials and techniques.

On the interior, 18th Century Restorations reconfigured the layout of the apartment space to allow for access to the attic, which the Society will use for archive storage and processing. More extensive interior renovations will occur as a second phase of this multi-year effort. The Society's Buildings & Grounds Committee will first formulate a plan for the appropriate time period, colors, and fixtures for each room.

While much of the exterior work is being performed simply to maintain the building's condition and is therefore (hopefully) invisible, the most visible change is the new paint scheme. The color of the stuccoed main volume of the



building is slightly darker and richer, and the red metal roof is not being repainted at this time. However, following paint analysis and research using historic photographs of the house in our archive, a green color was chosen for the exterior trim, shutters, and other wood elements. A lighter green has been applied to the shingles in the 1880s addition and the inset panels of the Victorian-era bays.

We knew that this change would be a shock at first – it is a scheme much different from the previous one which featured a much darker (almost black) green, with the details of our doors, shutters, and porch elements highlighted in tan. This extra layer of color produced an interesting and striking composition, but it was determined to be not historically accurate. The consistent use of the new green color across all of those elements more accurately shows the details of the woodwork, now visible with highlights and shadows rather than color changes.

This work would not have been possible without the generous support of our loyal members and annual contributions from Radnor Township. A large amount of this restoration work was also possible thanks to those who attended our fundraiser at Ardrossan in 2017.

We look forward to completing this phase and continuing on to the next one!



# Radnor Changes

## Historic Resources Recently Lost

Photographs and text  
by Greg Prichard



A wave of modernization in the mid-20th century led to the loss of countless historic buildings nationwide. Radnor Township, though in general a place respectful and cognizant of its past, was not immune to this wave of destruction. Victorian buildings in particular were out of favor; the more ornate and unusual, the less desirable and more likely to face the wrecker.

It was in this atmosphere of loss and renewal that RHS board member James C. Massey, who worked as a photographer for the National Park Service and its Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), realized the need to document what was being lost in our community. Massey contributed features to the Bulletin in 1964 and 1965 called “Radnor Changes.” Among other changes, his photographs captured the destructive transition from residential to commercial uses along Lancaster Avenue. Massey’s original negatives, which contain far more images than were printed in the Bulletins, became part of our collection in 2016. They, and the Bulletin features, are viewable on [radnorhistory.org](http://radnorhistory.org).

Although redevelopment is not occurring at the same pace as it was in the 1960s, significant losses to the community’s historic fabric still occur regularly. Unlike other Main Line communities with similar extant historic resources, Radnor Township does not designate

Left: **444 East Lancaster Avenue**, a stately Colonial Revival residence that lost its sizable front porch decades ago (pictured below in 1910), awaits its fate in the spring of 2018. Because the zoning along this stretch of Lancaster Avenue allows for greater density, the house is being replaced with a larger multi-unit residential structure.



*From American  
Suburbs magazine,  
March, 1910.*



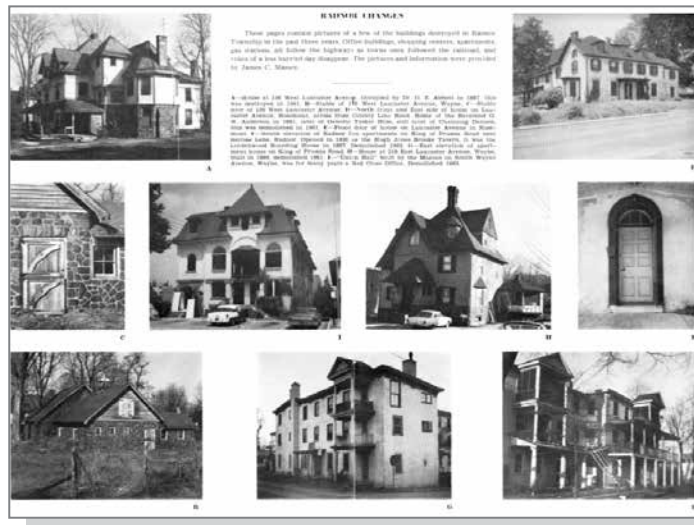
historic buildings outside of its three historic districts. Even within those districts, losses occur when restoration seems infeasible or if the Board of Commissioners sides with developers.

While Comprehensive Plans commissioned by the Township, including the now 30-year-old 1988 plan, have recommended the creation of a Historical Commission and provided a list of historic resources worthy of protection, the Commissioners have not yet acted to protect historic resources. It is difficult to say if there is or will be interest among members of the Board to implement the Plan's recommendations, which were reiterated in the 2004 update.

The purpose of this feature is not to advocate for such action. It is meant only to recognize the important buildings in Radnor Township that were lost over the last decade, using James Massey's mid-1960s work as inspiration. Unless Township policies change, photographic documentation is the only way to ensure that the historic resources of the Township will be remembered.

There are also less predictable losses, such as when buildings are destroyed by fire. If the world learned one thing from the Notre Dame fire in Paris, it is that no landmark, no matter how significant, is immune from destruction or serious damage. This is one reason why the documentation of resources that are not imminently threatened will be a continuing effort of the Radnor Historical Society.

James C. Massey's  
1964 "Radnor  
Changes."



**Bloomfield** (also shown on the cover) was not originally built to Horace Trumbauer's specifications, but it was modified in 1923 to a chateausque design by his firm. According to Michael Kathrens' *American Splendor: The Residential Architecture of Horace Trumbauer*, which devotes a chapter to Bloomfield, George H. McFadden, Jr. had Trumbauer improve the existing mansion.

The result was one of Trumbauer's best French-inspired designs. Having gotten his start as a young man designing smaller homes for Wendell & Smith in North and South Wayne, at his peak Trumbauer designed great estates such



as Ardrossan as well as notable public buildings, from the Free Library of Philadelphia to the campus of Duke University. Following a devastating fire in 2012, Bloomfield sat roofless for seven years before its remains were demolished. Portions of the Olmsted Brothers-designed landscape remain intact both on the former mansion property and within the surrounding housing development.



**124 Bloomingdale Avenue** was significantly newer than its neighbors, though its ca. 1912 construction date was around the average for the South Wayne Historic District. The home, a variant of Dutch Colonial Revival architecture, was deemed insignificant and was demolished to make way for a major development of new residences (below) on what is one of Wayne's most historically significant blocks.



**526 Montgomery Lane**, also known as the Parke House and Lainshaw Lodge, was an interesting shingled home on a secluded lane in the heart of Radnor. Though a fascinating house, its architectural elements were unusually placed and scaled. It likely had no formal architect; it is believed to have been constructed by local builder Charles Wolf, whose were its first occupants. The Parke House was sold to a developer following a foreclosure and was demolished around 2016. A new house was built on the site on speculation. Though the house was lost, the Parke House's two-bay detached garage remains at the rear of the property.

A former resident of the Parke House recounts memories of the house and neighboring properties beginning on page 16.





**214 Bryn Mawr Avenue** was a historical mystery. Standing adjacent to the tracks of the Philadelphia & Western Railway (Norristown High Speed Line) and close to the former White Hall Station, this building may have been a boarding house. It was used by the Bryn Mawr Hospital Thrift Shop until its 2017 demolition.



The W.W. Atterbury House, built ca. 1780 at **615 Newtown Road**, was preserved when the surrounding land was developed. In the way of the new homes was the Victorian-era carriage house, which was demolished to allow for the land on which it sat to be subdivided.



Developer J. Howard Mecke Jr. built a group of five stores (with apartments above) at the Delaware-Chester County line and the intersection of the Lincoln Highway and Old Eagle School Road in the mid-1920s (as shown below when newly constructed). The eastern-most storefront/apartment, **613 West Lancaster Avenue**, known for many years as Cooz's Corner, was demolished and replaced with a more modern edifice. Decades of stores coming and going, with new signs, facade treatments, and repairs has turned a group of once unified stores into a block that now is inconsistent in terms of historic integrity. The loss of an entire store has been the block's most invasive change yet.



*Courtesy Hagley Museum and Library*





The North Wayne Historic District was formed to protect the late Victorian homes built by Wendell & Smith beginning in the 1880s. The first group of houses the firm built north of the railroad were several identical small cottages, including **406 North Wayne Avenue**, which were thought to have been built in 1884. It was the residents of these earliest North Wayne homes who founded the North Wayne (Protective) Association in 1885, which has remained active continuously since then. A developer proposed the construction of a new home on the site of this cottage, which the developer owned and had rented for several decades, claiming the house was beyond renovation. Radnor Township's Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) recommended denial of the proposal, citing the building's historical significance and a lack of a convincing argument that the home could not be restored (especially considering that an identical small cottage on the next block had recently been renovated "down to the studs"). The Board of Commissioners did not take the HARB's recommendation, and voted to approve the demolition. A new residence was built in its place, and sold for a price over \$1 million.



Willow Avenue in North Wayne was site of the Wayne Natatorium in the 1890s, supposedly the largest man-made swimming pool in the country. The last relic of the pool's existence was its former office at **228 Willow Avenue**. Converted into a rental home and heavily altered over the years, the core of the former Wayne Natatorium Association headquarters remained relatively intact beneath layers of new materials. It was among the first documented commissions of noted Wayne architect Francis A. Gugert, who designed the buildings for the Association at age 22. A fire ravaged the building in 2014 and the burned-out structure stood vacant for years after. When finally demolished in 2017, the building's wood mantel, carved with the initials "W.N.A." for Wayne Natatorium Association, was salvaged and given to the Radnor Historical Society.







Perhaps Radnor Township's most significant, recognizable, and contested modern landmark, the Wyeth Laboratories at **145 King of Prussia Road** was discussed heavily in recently years as nearly everything but a significant work of architecture. Opened in 1955 and boasting a design from the office of New York architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (who count among their more recent commissions the Freedom Tower in Manhattan), the lab building was featured in architectural journals of its day including the *Architectural Record* in 1957. Emblematic of mid-20th century American architecture, the gridded façades of the office building featured glass and teal-colored porcelain enamel panels. This signature color was utilized in the complex's later additions, including the larger facility facing I-476. The buildings were demolished in 2018 to make way for the new Penn Medicine at Radnor complex. Although the site was discussed heavily over years' worth of township meetings, few, it seems, stopped to admire the complex for its architecture. Modern architecture is not universally appreciated today, though its stature is increasing year-by-year. Once the site's future is sealed and the new complex is complete, perhaps then its past will be remembered as significant to Radnor's commercial and architectural history. **B**

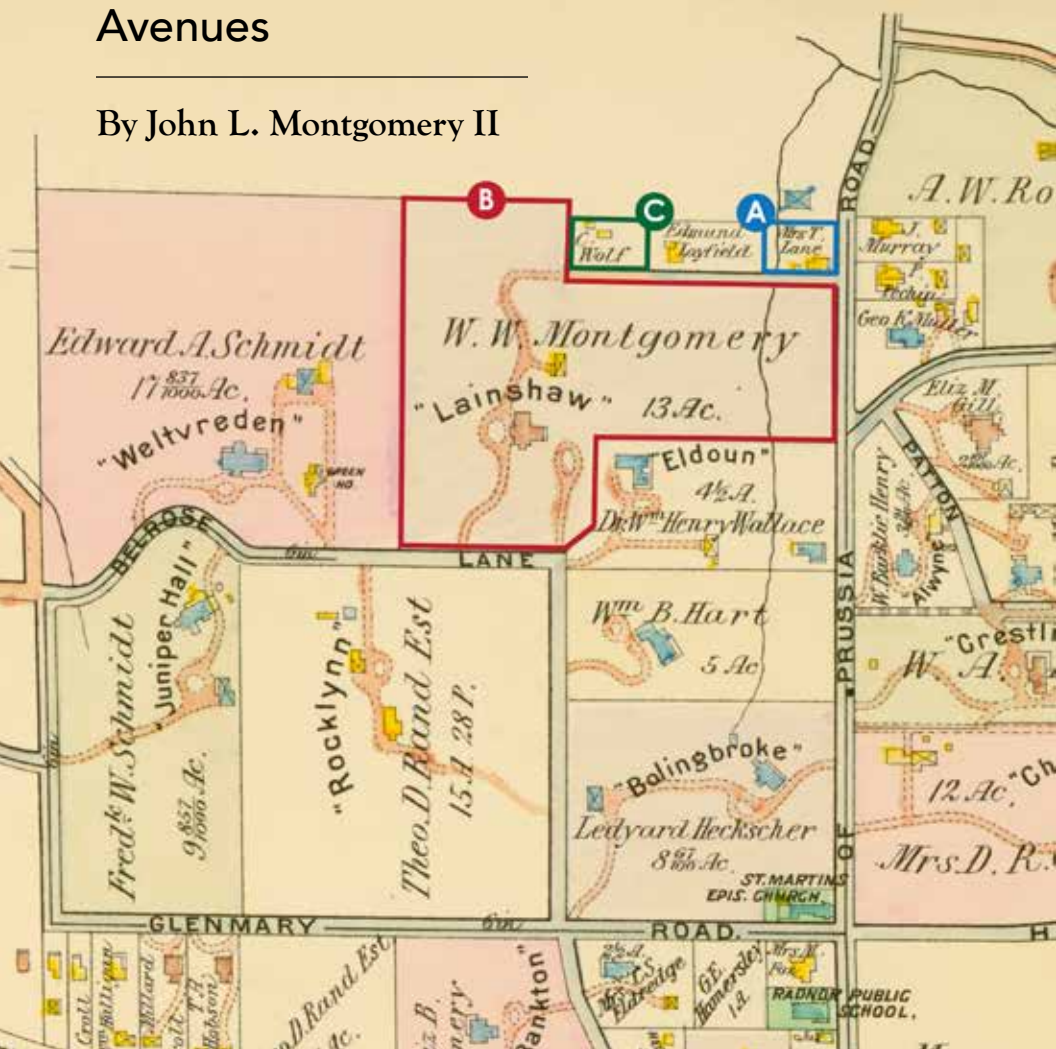




# Tales of Montgomery Lane

Personal recollections from one of Radnor's Hidden Avenues

By John L. Montgomery II



Our author is a member of the old and large Main Line Montgomery clan. In 1859 his great-grandfather, Richard, purchased a 50-acre farm on Coopertown Road, Bryn Mawr and built "Glenays," a summer home for his family of eleven children. This was near White Hall, where, also in 1859, the Pennsylvania Railroad built a depot. In 1878 Richard's son, William W., purchased a 35-acre property at the north end of Belrose Lane in Radnor and built "Lainshaw," the home of what became his own family of eleven. It is about this property our author, William's grandson, writes. To continue the saga of Montgomery Main Line properties, however, we must mention that it was William's sons who purchased by far the largest tracts of land (alas, both now developed): William bought the venerable old farm running from Church Road to Maplewood Avenue in Wayne, and Robert built "Ardrossan" in Villanova. The two together created a vast swath exceeding a thousand acres in the heart of the Main Line.

Until about 1900, the Lainshaw property included the land to the west, purchased by Edward Schmidt, and to the east, by Henry Wallace. The house at Lainshaw was designed by Frank Furness. The driveway, which ran through the property to King of Prussia Road, is now appropriately called Montgomery Lane, but it was split into two dead-end lanes in 1958 on the sale and division of the estate.

Mr. Montgomery recounts his experiences at the family homesteads on the original old lane. Through his recollections we can see how the residences in this often overlooked part of Radnor were so closely connected.

## A. The Lane House

The Lane house was where my family moved in 1938 from 232 Poplar Avenue, Wayne, after my father's business was hit by the Great Depression. Ms. Lane was my grandparents' laundress. The house was at the end of Montgomery Lane, the back drive from Lainshaw, my grandfather's estate, to King of Prussia Road. This house was not an original part of Lainshaw, however. It was purchased by my Uncle Bill (W.W. Montgomery IV), from whom my father rented it for \$35 a month. Uncle Bill also bought the ten-acre hill east of Lainshaw, as I understand it, to establish a fund to care for his then maiden half-sister, Marge.

Left: The neighborhood around Lainshaw, as it was in 1908, showing the Schmidt and Wallace properties mentioned above. The properties discussed in this article are: A) The Lane house; B) Lainshaw; and C) the Parke house/Lainshaw Lodge. (Adapted from 1908 A.H. Mueller Main Line atlas, plate 21)



The Lane house in 2019, with King of Prussia Road at right and the entrance to Montgomery Lane in the foreground.

Uncle Bill's hill was the neighborhood sledding hill. It also became "Boodania," a make-believe nation established by us Montgomery kids and our Canadian neighbors, the Stuart Armours. (I think I was King of Boodania.) The field had tall grass, a stream, and clumps of hemlocks and larch trees that seemed to lend themselves to imaginative play. My father and his siblings had had their own "Bood Club" a generation before, and that was obviously where the name of our "nation" came from. We too formed a "Bood Club," and my Aunt Scotty allowed us to use the old tack room in the Lainshaw carriage house as our headquarters. The room had not been used for years, and was in terrible shape. Aunt Scotty supplied us with paint, however, and said we could fix it up. Alas, cutting the paint in around the window mullions was far more than we kids were capable of doing, so, in desperation, we simply painted over the glass. Dear Aunt Scotty was undone; she was furious with us. I don't remember any actual punishment, but we were made to scrape the windows clean with razor blades, which was a formidable enough task.

Every few years Uncle Bill would have his field grass burned off. This was an exciting event as it was supervised by Radnor Township fire trucks. During the war, at my request, my father had a large Victory (vegetable) garden plowed in the field. It turned out to be pretty successful, though I will admit more as a result of my dad's efforts than of mine.

To the left of the Lane house was the Pechin property, Hillside Farm, an original land grant from William Penn. Part of their barn had already been converted to a dwelling by a more recent owner when we lived in the Lane house. Beyond the barn was the Armours', a charming two-century old country house that had once been part of the Pechin estate. There was an open half acre of the Pechin farm adjacent to ours, which open area my father kept mowed, making it look as though it were part of our property.

Across King of Prussia Road from the Pechins' empty lot was a 19th century house owned by the Murrays – a financially impoverished elderly brother and sister. The house was very run down, and to me as a child, a bit frightening. I don't really remember the brother, whom I think was a ne'er-do-well, but I do recall Miss Murray. For a living she baked cookies for sale at the Neighborhood League Shop in Wayne, and daily would walk half a mile up the hill to the Radnor train station to take the train to Wayne, where she would walk to the shop to sell her goods. She also kept a vegetable garden. Every Christmas my family would take the Murrays a package of food from our own Christmas fare – an early lesson in charitable giving for us children.

## B. Lainshaw

Aunt Scotty (Mary Scott Montgomery Halsey) was the oldest of my father's siblings. Because we lived so close, at the bottom of the Lainshaw driveway, our family had especially close ties to her and Uncle Ned (Edward Biddle Halsey). They were in a sense our Montgomery grandparents. We had many a mid-day Sunday dinner at Lainshaw – with soup served in Chinese Medallion cups with lids and melba toast with butter balls. Desserts such as floating island were a big treat. Or it was ice cream, which on occasion we kids ourselves would make with Uncle Ned under the house using the old-fashioned hand-cranked ice cream maker, with ice chipped from a block and rock salt. The ice cream



was made with rich heavy cream, probably from Ardrossan, and fresh peaches. The entrance to this gourmet endeavor, as I recall, was easily accessible from the out-of-doors, and was under the kitchen.

The entrance parlor was a large room taking up the right front half of the house. In it was a Steinway concert grand piano Aunt Scotty had given Uncle Ned as a wedding present. A bronze statue of Mercury stood on the piano. A half-round end of a Hepplewhite dining table was in this parlor. The Horace Binney grandfather clock, pictured in Horner's Blue Book of Philadelphia Furniture, was in this parlor, as was a second family grandfather clock. A greenhouse just off the entrance parlor had an enormous Jade Tree in the middle. A pair of Italianate bronze sconces hung inside.

Uncle Ned was a particular delight for all his Montgomery nephews and nieces, of which I was one of twenty-one. He always had fabulous magic tricks for us, such as pulling a quarter out from behind our ears or making out of his pocket handkerchief a "live" squirrel that would dart about all over him. Uncle Ned was an accomplished pianist and organist – probably self-taught and playing by ear. On many a Christmas there were large family gatherings at Lainshaw, and Uncle Ned would accompany a family carol sing in the entrance parlor and play magnificent solo piano pieces for us. He was the organist at St. David's Church, where his father had been the rector and he grew up. (As a boy he met Longfellow on his visit to St. David's.) Our family, who were parishioners of St. Martin's, often attended St. David's to hear Uncle Ned play and then return to Lainshaw for dinner.

The living room was to the left of the entrance parlor. I remember many evenings when I stayed with Uncle Ned and Aunt Scotty that they would doze off after dinner in front of the fire. The fireplace was surrounded by Dutch tiles of Aesop's Fables. Four large gold-framed prints of the Battles of Serinkapatam, reportedly a gift to Horace Binney from the Duke of Wellington, hung over the doorway and along the ceiling. As the prints were in poor repair, the frames for these were later removed by relatives and made into mirrors. Also in this room was a fascinating Waln family desk which was listed in Horner's Blue Book and later given to the Philadelphia Museum of Art.



Lainshaw around the turn of the 20th century. The original Furness design had a much smaller porch, which greatly increased the amount of sunlight that came through the large front windows. (From the Dr. William Henry Wallace family album, courtesy of Robin Powell Thomas)

While my overall childhood impression of the house was that it was dark and dreary, in almost every corner Lainshaw was filled with treasured family antiques. Amongst them were several beautiful gilded bronze sconces made by Cornelius, a famous early 19th century Philadelphia manufacturer.

The dining room was behind the living room. The corner cupboard was with Chinese Export Orange Fitzhugh. Two steeple-topped decanters were on the sideboard. Reportedly in early days, from the large window at the back of the dining room one could one see Philadelphia's City Hall.

A pantry filled with china was between the dining room and kitchen. One of my favorite sets of china had a black and white striped border. Between the entrance parlor and the kitchen was an L-shaped hallway off which was Uncle Ned's office. This was filled with a treasure trove of old and valuable books and prints.

Across from Uncle Ned's office were narrow back stairs to the second floor, and to the left at the end of the hall, a door to the outside. This, with its stairway down, led to a flower garden enclosed by a high Arborvitae hedge.

On the landing of the main stairway was a tall Chippendale style bureau. Aunt Scotty's room was in the south west (right hand) corner of the second floor. In the central hall outside her door was the linen press that had belonged to Horace Binney and which was later converted into a bookcase.

I am not certain which of two bedrooms on the north side of the house was Uncle Ned's. I recall only that in one of the two were a tiger maple bureau, sewing table, and Montgomery crib.

At one time, because my sister Susan was quarantined with scarlet fever, I was sent to stay with Aunt Scotty and Uncle Ned. My room was on a hallway to the second-floor library at the back of the house, which was quite large. Old William Birch prints of Philadelphia hung over the bookcases in that room.

I was very fond of Aunt Scotty and Uncle Ned. We had some lovely personal times together, and they were both very kind to me. I remember Aunt Scotty giving me money to give a cocktail party at Harvard when I was a freshman. Along with the gift was a recipe for Fish House Punch, a famous but almost lethal Philadelphia drink, along with a recommendation that I serve it. I did so and almost managed to do away with the freshman class of 1951.

In 1957, after the death of Uncle Ned, my parents gave my wife Natalie and me an engagement party at Lainshaw. This was the last family party there. My father was executor of Uncle Ned's estate. While some things were left to specific individuals, the bulk of the estate was left to the eight children of my grandmother, Elizabeth Lewis, William Montgomery's second wife. My father devised a clever system for assuring the division of things was equal. Everything had been appraised, and each of the heirs was allotted an equal share of the total value. In turn each heir could choose an item and "spend" that much of his share. Everyone was satisfied.

### C. The Parke House, aka "Lainshaw Lodge"

In 1957 Uncle Ned and Aunt Scotty left to my parents the Parke house, built by Charles Wolf, on Montgomery Lane up the hill from the Lane house where I grew up. Because Aunt Scotty wanted herself and her husband to be buried at the Church of the Redeemer, they also left my parents the remainder of the Halsey burial plot at St. David's. As Uncle Ned's father was a rector at St. David's, the plot is in the lovely old section of the graveyard.

My parents called the house "Lainshaw Lodge," but I do not know if that is what it was called before then. I do not think the Parke house was ever part of the Lainshaw property, and I have no idea how or when the Halseys acquired the property. The house was built by Charles Wolf, who I think was a local carpenter by trade and built the house himself. When the Parkes lived there the place was very nice, but nothing to write home about – except for the marvelous view and his fabulous vegetable garden. Mr. and Mrs. Parke were friends of my parents. I did not know them very well, although I remember she was very sweet. **B**



Lainshaw Lodge in 1957. (Courtesy of John L. Montgomery II)



## Programs of the Year

### Program Spotlight

#### *A Very Merry Victorian Christmas*

*Sunday, December 9, at the Finley House*



The Junior League Larks brought seasonal joy with an a cappella performance of carols on the Finley House porch. Hot drinks, seasonal goodies and a special visit from Santa on his fire truck made this an unmissable family event. The Larks, The Junior League of Philadelphia's longest running community outreach program, are a delightfully cheerful singing group who frequently perform for various community organizations.

The event was co-sponsored by the North Wayne Protective Association. House decorations were generously created by the Community Garden Club at Wayne.

### Screening: "I am Known as an Artist, Wharton Esherick"

*Tuesday, March 6, at Jenkins Arboretum*

This fascinating documentary, made possible through a crowd-funding website, came about after filmmaker Carolyn Coal visited and became enchanted with Esherick's magical studio near Valley Forge. Combining oral histories, photos, and interviewing wood experts, historians, museum staff, patrons and family, she successfully completed the film in 2017. Esherick's motto, "If it isn't fun, it isn't worth doing," rings true throughout. Co-sponsored by Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens and the Radnor Memorial Library.

### Women in Penn's Woods: A History of Women in Pennsylvania

*Wednesday, March 14, at the temporary Radnor Memorial Library*

Not many people can rattle off a list of Pennsylvania's distinguished women, so for Women's History Month Robyn S. Young presented her book about the 1852 Women's Rights Convention, 175 women who made a difference, and many who made historical contributions in the 20th century. Fondly known as The Marker Lady, Young has received approval from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission for 18 related roadside markers throughout the state. She is also founder of the Pennsylvania Women's History project. Co-sponsored by the Radnor Memorial Library.

### Seeing the Past in 3D: Opportunities for Digital Heritage at Jamestown

*Tuesday, April 10, at Jenkins Arboretum*

*Video of this program is found at [www.radnorhistory.org](http://www.radnorhistory.org)*

The Jamestown Rediscovery team has been actively excavating the site of James Fort for over 20 years and in the process has made discoveries that have cast doubt on conventional interpretations of Jamestown's history. Lisa E. Fischer, the Foundation's Director of Digital Initiatives, explained how new technologies – advanced mapping, social media, laser scanning and 3D modeling – are revolutionizing the analysis, interpretation and presentation of archaeological data from one of North America's first English settlements. Co-sponsored by the Radnor Memorial Library.

### **Catherine Kerrison, “Author of Jefferson’s Daughters”**

*Thursday, May 3, at Jenkins Arboretum*

*Video of this program is found at [www.radnorhistory.org](http://www.radnorhistory.org)*

Catherine Kerrison, an associate professor of history at Villanova and respected author, talked about the themes covered in her latest book. She explored the different life paths chosen by Thomas Jefferson’s three daughters, one of whom, Harriet, was by his slave, Sally Hemings. The other two, Martha and Maria, were by his wife Martha Wayles Jefferson. Kerrison contemplates both the possibilities and limitations for people of color as a result of the American Revolution. We know Thomas Jefferson primarily as our 3rd President and one of the most famous of America’s Founding Fathers, but it is easy to forget that he was an actual father. The stories of his daughters prompt us to think about the ongoing movement towards human rights in our own day – and about the personal and political legacy of the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. Co-sponsored by the Radnor Memorial Library.

### **The Washington Memorial Chapel’s Architecture and the Story of the Patriot Cause**

*Tuesday, May 22, at Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge Park*

Highlights of the evening included a personal introduction to the chapel’s architecture and nine gargoyles by the Rev. Dr. Karl Krueger, a tour by its Carillonneur, and an informative session in the sanctuary. Visitors experienced the talents of acclaimed artisans whose gifts created a sacred place where stone, wood and glass tell the story of the patriot cause. Co-sponsored by the Radnor Memorial Library.



### **300 Years of Radnor Friends Meeting – The Birth & Rebirth Steere-ing Forward – A Celebratory Lecture**

*Tuesday, October 9, at the Winsor Room, Radnor Memorial Library*

*Video of this program is found at [www.radnorhistory.org](http://www.radnorhistory.org)*

The community was invited to share in the 300th anniversary celebration of Radnor Township’s remarkable Quaker heritage. As noted on its gable, the present-day Radnor Meeting House was erected in 1718 at 610 Conestoga Road by the Welsh Friends who for many years had met in private homes. During the American Revolution, the Continental Army used Radnor Meeting House as headquarters, hospital and outpost during the Valley Forge encampment. Later, a division within the membership caused a dwindling in membership and its members joined with Valley Preparative Meeting. In 1930, a group of Friends united to reopen the Radnor Meeting House for regular worship, and in the 1960s, Douglas & Dorothy Steere, prominent figures in the Quaker movement in the 20th century, revitalized meetings even further. Dorothy Steere worked with the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, while her husband, Douglas, was a writer, professor and diplomat, specializing in Quaker history, and taught philosophy at Haverford College. Presenting this program was Emma Lapsansky-Werner, Ph.D, Emeritus Professor of History and Curator of the Quaker Collection at Haverford College. Co-sponsored by the Radnor Memorial Library and Radnor Friends Meeting.



### **RHS Annual Dinner at Woodcrest Mansion**

*Thursday, November 8, at Cabrini University's Woodcrest mansion*

*Video of this program is found at [www.radnorhistory.org](http://www.radnorhistory.org)*

All were invited to join us in the plush surroundings of the old Woodcrest Mansion as we celebrated 70 years since RHS’s incorporation. Designed by Horace Trumbauer and built c.1900 in a magnificent 230-acre estate as a luxury home for financier James W. Paul Jr., its history is interwoven with that of the upper echelons of both American society and English aristocracy.





Our evening began with guided tours by Nancy Costello, Director of Communications and Website for the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on the Board of Trustees for Cabrini, who recounted entertaining stories of the estate's past occupants and its fabled history.

After the social hour and dinner our Keynote Speaker was RHS and Jenkins Arboretum board member Howard Holden, former Facilities Director at Cabrini, and Head Horticulturist for Adolf Rosengarten Jr. His illustrated presentation, "Wealth, Wayne & Woodcrest," described the evolution of the age of opulence here in our own back yard, and the significant impact that James Paul, George Childs, Anthony Drexel, John Dorrance and other prominent residents had on our area.

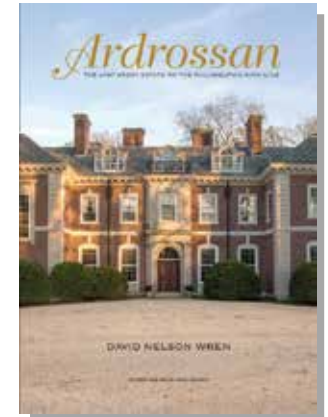
### **David Nelson Wren's "Ardrossan: The Last Great Estate on the Philadelphia Main Line"**

*Friday, November 16, at the Winsor Room, Radnor Memorial Library*

*Video of this program is found at [www.radnorhistory.org](http://www.radnorhistory.org)*

After a 20-year labor of love, historian and author David Nelson Wren saw his monograph published in 2017 by Bauer & Dean. Wren's

book comprises the first about the history of Ardrossan, and assembles materials preserved at Radnor Historical Society, the Montgomery-Scott-Wheeler archive, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. As Ardrossan's leading historian, David Nelson Wren has had unprecedented access to the estate and intimate family history. The author presented visual highlights of his book, the estate's architecture, and the family that called it home for over a century. Co-sponsored by the Radnor Memorial Library.



### **Stephen Fried, Author of "Rush: Revolution, Madness, and Benjamin Rush, the Visionary Doctor Who Became a Founding Father"**

*Tuesday, December 4, at the Winsor Room, Radnor Memorial Library*

*Video of this program is found at [www.radnorhistory.org](http://www.radnorhistory.org)*

"Rush" is the remarkable story of Benjamin Rush, medical pioneer and one of our nation's most provocative and unsung Founding Fathers. In this magnificent work, Benjamin Rush gets the biography he deserves, and readers get an expertly researched, splendidly written account of a brilliant, influential man and the times in which he lived. Dr. Rush was both a progressive thorn in the side of the American political establishment – a vocal opponent of slavery, capital punishment, and prejudice by race, religion, or gender – and protégé of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington's surgeon general. Co-sponsored by the Radnor Memorial Library. **B**

*Selected programs were filmed by our videographer, Tom Ellis.*

*View videos of many of these programs on our website: [radnorhistory.org](http://radnorhistory.org)*

# Membership Report

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## Radnor Historical Society 2018 Report

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# 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 • Peter Craig • Frank DiMeo  
Lynn Ellis • Evie Giegerich • Phil Graham  
Mary McGinn • Bob Mordeczko • Harry Spiess

### Other Volunteers

Tom Ellis: Video recording our programs

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# Accessions & Acquisitions

### Donations

Helena Crecraft, via Marshall and Nancy Fleming  
• Barrel churn and stand from the barn at Woodstock, Villanova

Musical Coterie of Wayne, via Robin Spencer

• Programs and other organization records

Jane Ryan

• Prohibition-era and suffragist papers from the barn at Brooke Farm

Charles P. Stone

• 1960s-era receipts from Wayne service stations and other ephemera



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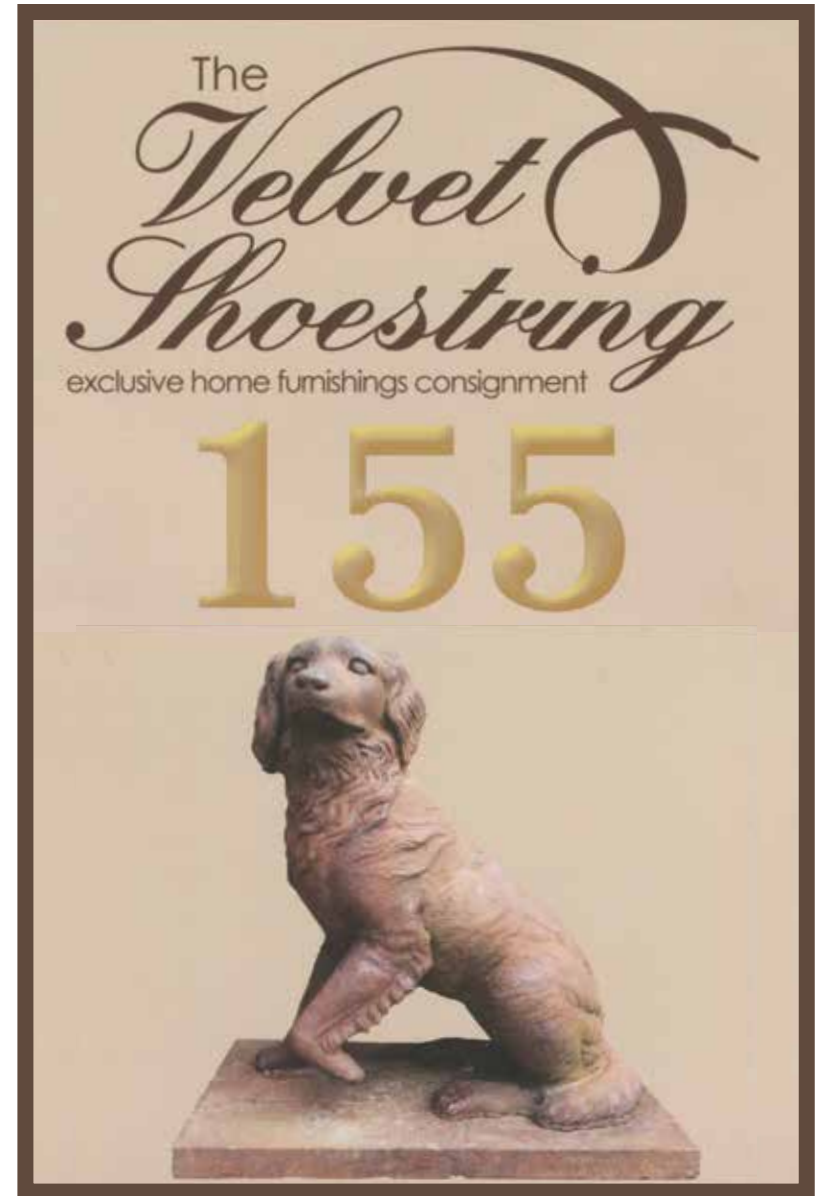
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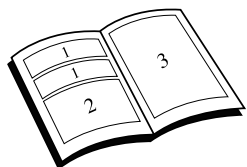


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