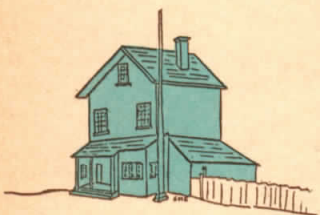
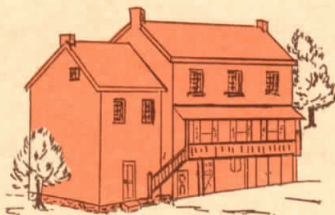


WINDOW ON THE PAST



Toll House at Bethayres



House with Barn
on Lower Level



Red Lion School 1892



Lady Washington Hotel

By
SYLVIA M. FESMIRE
FOR THE
PENNICKPACKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sylvia M. Fessenden

WINDOW ON THE PAST

**A History
of the
Huntingdon Valley Area
and
Bryn Athyn**

**BY
SYLVIA M. FESMIRE**

**For the
Pennickpacka Historical Society**

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Sylvia M. Fesmire
Huntingdon Valley, Pa. 6/11/77

LOWER MORELAND TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS — May 1977

President: Robert G. Bartlett	Ward 3	Term expires 1-7-80
Vice President: Clifford McMillin	Ward 1	Term expires 1-7-80

Members

Robert K. Marple, Jr.	Ward 5	Term expires 1-7-80
Milton S. Green	Ward 6	Term expires 1-2-78
Kurt G. Mayer	Ward 2	Term expires 1-2-78
Franklin A. Terry	Ward 4	Term expires 1-2-78

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Township Engineer - John E. Downs
Law Firm - Silverman and Warden
Manager - Peter Terpeluk, Jr.
Secretary - Myrtle J. Ivins
Chief of Police - Robert H. Hamilton
Fire Marshal - G. Robert Hansen
Health Officer - Mrs. Jacqueline Smyth

References for chapter one:

History of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania Vols. 1 and 2,
Theodore W. Bean
Penn's Manor of Springfield - Velma Thorne Carter (Springfield
Bi-Cen Committee)
Alderfer, Montgomery County Story 1951
Minute Book of The Community Club of Huntingdon Valley
Minutes Books of the Road Supervisors of Lower Moreland,
1917 - 1948
Minute Books of the Lower Moreland Commissioners 1949 - 1976
The Globe August 1975



SEAL OF ARMS OF LOWER MORELAND TOWNSHIP

The Seal: The arms of the Township are enclosed by a circular band of blue bearing the words, "Lower Moreland Township Pennsylvania" in gold and the entire seal bound by a gold rope.

The Arms: Upon a silver medallion a shield of gold divided per fesse, the chief containing a landscape of three trees, evergreen, oak and poplar in green. The lower half and arms of Nicholas More. The dexter half is gold with three blue bars, the sinister is blue with a lion rampant in gold.

The crest is an arms of William Penn with a date 1682 standing for Penn's original land grant.

A date, 1916, when the Township was formed is positioned just below the base of the shield and a motto ribbon bearing the words "A time to every purpose."

Adjuncts to Arms: Running behind the shield from upper sinister to lower dexter two wavy bendlets of blue, to indicate the Pennypack Creek.

On the dexter, above the bendlets a gold dandy roll from an early paper making machine and above it a gear wheel in silver indicating the industrial significance.

On the sinister, a plow and shake fork natural to indicate the rural nature of the community.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners,
Lower Moreland Township

November 14, 1966

The seal of Lower Moreland Township was developed by a committee consisting of Commissioner John W. Hubing, Joseph R. Simon and William W. Yerkes in conjunction with heraldic expert J. Carlton Jones.

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INTRODUCTION

The earliest inhabitants of Pennsylvania were the Lenni-Lenape Indians who were found here by the Swedish and Dutch explorers. Henry Hudson explored the Hudson and Delaware rivers, other Dutch explorers were Hendricks Christensen and Adrian Black. Religious persecution in Europe led persons like the Pilgrims to the New World. The Swedish adventurers settled farther south in the area of Delaware, south of the Schuylkill River. Some early colonies were destroyed by the Indians. Swedish colonies were established in 1642 and '43.

William Markham, the deputy appointed by William Penn, arrived in New York in June 1681. By September 1681, he had the Council of Nine formed. It was, in fact, a provisional government under the charter granted by Charles II. The laws of the colony established by William Penn were agreed upon in England and set down in writing there; but, it was to come to Pennsylvania for trial by use. The "Holy Experiment", as it was called, was an unique and progressive approach to governing people.

As early as 1683 a new charter was adopted and approved by the Governor of the province. It raised the number of persons in the Provisional Council to 18 — 3 from each county, and the assembly of 36 persons "of most note for virtue, wisdom, and ability. The Laws were to be prepared and proposed by the Governor and the Council, and the number of assemblymen to be increased at their own pleasure." Another form of government was adopted in 1696 and continued in force until 1700 when still another charter was adopted. This remained in force until the separation from Great Britain in 1776.

Montgomery County was created by an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and approved the 10th day of September 1784. The county has an approximate area of four hundred and seventy-three square miles, or about three thousand and three hundred and eighty acres. It was originally a part of Philadelphia County. It is bounded on the southeast by the line of the city of Philadelphia, on the northeast by Bucks, on the north and northwest by Lehigh and Berks, and, on the west and southwest by Chester and Delaware Counties. It is 30 miles in length from southeast to the northwest line and about 15 miles in breadth from the northeast to the southwest line. In 1800 it had about 362 inhabitants.

In 1784 on October 12, the first elections were held in Montgomery county. The first county commissioners were: Christian

Sheid of Marlborough, Fredrick Conrad of Worcester, and John Mann of Upper Dublin. The political party was the Federalists, who were in power in 1803, then the Democratic Party until 1872.

This township, Moreland, was called by William Penn after Nicholas More, a physician of London, president of the Free Society of Traders, and the first chief justice of Pennsylvania, who arrived here in November 1682. More was granted nine thousand eight hundred and fifteen acres which were located and the deed given the 7th day of the sixth month 1684. Of the six Penn estates—McCalls, Gilberts, Mount Joy, William Stadt (Welsh Barony), Springfield, and Moreland, only Moreland was not kept for Penn's own family.

About 1685 Nicholas More commenced the erection of buildings on the eastern part of his tract, near the present village of Somerton, now in Philadelphia, and where he built a mansion-house, which he called "Green Spring". After More's death in 1687, his heirs sold off portions of the property so that by 1734, Moreland already had 71 taxables settled within its limits. Of this number, 43 were land-owners and the balance tenants.

As early as 1681—March 14—the court at Upland appointed overseers for the King's Path, a road from the Swedish and Dutch settlements below Philadelphia to New York. This was even before Philadelphia was established. William Penn in his "Form of Government" for the Province of Pennsylvania, adopted February 2, 1682, section 8 provides for necessary roads and highways. He even gives attention to the width thereof and provision for the reimbursement of Landowners through whose property the road is directed. In 1700, an act was passed to authorize the justices of Quarter sessions, upon petition presented to them, to cause roads to be laid out from or to any dwelling-place not near a highway, to be first reviewed by six sufficient house-holders of the neighborhood. In 1705, an act was passed limiting the size of the team to be used on the highways. "In 1734, an act provides that no roads shall be laid out through any man's improved ground unless there is an actual necessity". The Quarter Sessions courts appointed Overseers to keep highways in usable condition. These Overseers were from each township and were to manage all public roads within their respective township. Overseers from the township of Moreland for the highways were: 1767 - Philip Wynkoop and John Hancock; 1773 - Isaac Cadwallader and John Summer; 1785 - Garret Van Buskirk and John Rhoads; 1810 - Amos Addis and Charles Johnson .

Moreland Township was six miles long, and its breadth was three miles, with an area of ten thousand nine hundred and sixty

acres. When the division into Upper Moreland and Lower Moreland took place, Lower Moreland received its present 6.77 square miles. The division took place in 1917 and shortly before this, in January of 1916, Bryn Athyn borough had been established and exists almost surrounded by Lower Moreland.

One of the first tax collectors in the lower part of the county was a man named Hiram Blake. He was also constable of the township. He lived on Murray Avenue and when he had tax money to be banked—he walked to Hatborough each Monday morning to deposit the money in the bank.

The hundred years between 1810 - the time of the Overseers - to 1917 the time of the division of Moreland into two sections, was filled with developing the farmlands, building roads and railroads, and very slowly expanding the residential areas. In this latter endeavor, Lower Moreland lagged because of the excellent farmland, and the mills along the Pennypack which served those farms.

LOWER MORELAND BECOMES A SECOND CLASS TOWNSHIP

On the second day of January 1917, Aaron S. Schwartz, President Judge of the Court of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, decreed that Moreland Township should be divided into two townships to be known as Upper Moreland and Lower Moreland Townships, and appointed the following to the offices of Road Supervisors of Lower Moreland:

J. Clyde Marquis until January 1, 1918

H. Benton Leedom until January 1, 1920

Israel Hallowell until January 1, 1922

Those men met in private homes. They levied a road tax of 5 mills. They assumed, for the township, a portion of the indebtedness of the old Moreland Township. At the division of the township, Lower Moreland's assessment was \$1,230,000.

A very interesting organization came into being in the spring of 1919. It was the Huntingdon Valley Community Club. The purpose, as stated in the constitution of the organization was "The object of the club shall be to promote good fellowship and community spirit" and "to advance as far as possible the life of the community".

It will soon be evident that "life" meant everything needed by the growing community. Before this voluntary organization, the collection of persons along Huntingdon Pike, in Bryn Athyn, and on the farms in the surrounding area were together only in school and church meetings. Of course, the Fire Company had

been organized in 1911. Most of the men were members of the Fire Company but the Community Club went a step farther in providing an opportunity to foster wider interests.

A few areas touched upon are mentioned in minutes of the second meeting: A Rifle Range Team was proposed; the matter of securing Gas for household use in the community was under way; "the President mentioned the fact that one or two business men were looking for a place to locate certain manufacturing establishments"; the subject of a date for the reception of the returning soldiers was discussed.

At the second meeting, a Walk and Light Committee was appointed to investigate the proposition of improving the sidewalks—and of street lights; a Fourth of July committee was appointed; street lights were obtained and maintained by subscription collected by these men.

The third meeting resulted in donations totaling \$100.40 for the Fourth of July celebration. Mr. John A. Gray offered 50 loads of cinders for repairing sidewalks, then a certain day was set aside for every member possible to turn out and do the work of repairing the walks.

By the fifth meeting, a free public library was underway. "In about two or three weeks the library would be ready to open", according to the minutes of the sixth meeting. Everything was on a volunteer basis. At one meeting, instead of dues, every member donated a book for the library. The library lasted until 1923 when lack of funds caused it to close.

These men brought motion pictures; a Lyceum course (a cultural arrangement for bringing entertainment groups to the area) subscribed to by many persons in the area and held in the school auditorium. They also appealed to the State Highway Department to resurface Second Street Pike, now called Huntingdon Pike. They delved into real estate taxes; presented Minstrel Shows; petitioned for more trains to serve the community; supported a town baseball team; asked the Suburban Water Company to extend water service down 'Second Street Pike'; repaired and rebuilt a footbridge near Bethayres Station numerous times; organized a community basketball team; provided an ice skating rink in 'Lodges Meadow'; had fire hydrants installed on a subscription basis; and, in lieu of police, attempted to regulate traffic by writing to and warning offenders. They had a program on radio transmission at which time many persons enjoyed radio transmission for the first time. In 1927, garbage collection was established on a subscription arrangement.

In short, this Community Club provided services and opportunities for activity now furnished by several organizations. Over the years, many of the services first assumed by the Club were relinquished by slowly allocating them to the Road Supervisors who were the forerunners of the Township Commissioners.

As the Road Supervisors performed their tasks, signs for caution at the railroad crossings, bridges on local roads across streams, and other improvements were gradually instituted.

By 1921, a tax increase, approved by the Honorable Harold Pike, was granted to aid the Fire Company. The tax rate then became $7\frac{1}{4}$ mills, with the $\frac{1}{4}$ mill for the Fire Company. Curbs and sidewalks were placed along Huntingdon Pike in 1924; a bridge was built over the stream on Tomlinson Road west of the Philmont Country Club in that year.

The development of the township may be traced by noting the roads cutting through it — Anne Street, Duell Street, and Murray Avenue were early ones. Later ones trace the growth from the center to the limit of the township.

County Line was a problem shared with Southampton. After much discussion, in 1924, agreement was reached to survey the road and appeal for state aid to improve it. The reason County Line was a problem goes all the way back to the time Moreland was first surveyed. It seems the first line established was on what is now Byberry Road, but after a few years, and another survey was made, the line was re-established a bit farther north. The land between was known as The Strip. It was heavily forested so no one paid much attention until acreage was sold therein and the line was established permanently. However, care of the road known as County Line remained a sore point between the two counties involved.

A new member of the board of supervisors was added in 1927 when it was determined the Huntingdon Valley Trust Company was illegally acting as treasurer for the Road Supervisors. The appointment of an officer of the bank as acting treasurer, who soon became a permanent member of the board, solved the problem. This same year appeal was made for fire police.

The question of street lighting was transferred from the Community Club to the Road Supervisors. The payment for them became a matter of taxation, the result of a petition from the taxpayers who preferred taxation as a more equitable solution than the previous method of subscription. So, by March 1929, street lights became the responsibility of the Road Supervisors. Taxation for some persons was levied only where lights were installed. The Philadelphia Gas and Electric Company in a resol-

ution thereto, quoted the Enabling Act of 1917 section 386, providing street lights for Huntingdon Valley for \$24 a year for the ensuing 5 years.

Also in 1929, the Pike from Doering's store, at the corner of Welsh Road and the Pike, to the top of the hill above the early Huntingdon Valley Post-Office at Fetter's Mill Road and the Pike, was made cement (about a mile). The State doing the center and Lower Moreland was responsible for the outer areas.

Again an appeal was made to the Road Supervisors by the Community Club. This time to take over fire plug maintenance. It took almost a year to have the maintenance resolved but by December 1932, the agreement with the Suburban Water Company was arranged for hydrant maintenance. This year also, being the midst of the "Great Depression", the labor of the unemployed was considered a way to use county aid for road maintenance and repair. Let it be noted, the local supervisors put the men to work even before the permission was granted by the state.

Another interesting note: January 5, 1933, a resolution protesting "further centralization of the government at Harrisburg" and at the same time appeal was made to the Senators and Representatives "to vote against all those centralization bills" and "support only those that guarantee to our citizens the right to home rule". These quotes are on the minute books of the Road Supervisors of Huntingdon Valley of January 5, 1933.

A Fireman's Relief Association, its purpose being to aid firemen injured in the line of duty, was formed and administered by the Road Supervisors.

By this time the need for police was recognized and in 1937 George Flack was hired, by permission of the county. He was supplied with equipment and a uniform. His home served as police headquarters—for he was the whole police force for 6 years. A car was purchased for his use after approval of both county and state. This was 1937—it is amazing to see the dependence of the little township on its superiors in Norristown and Harrisburg. Even the tax money was levied from, and collected by a local tax collector responsible to the county.

Parks and recreation were added as a concern of the supervisors in 1938. The next year Elkins Field was given to the township. It was dedicated June 10, 1939.

The 1940's brought new zoning ordinances to Lower Moreland. An occupational tax - equal to all - was proposed. Since World War II was being waged, the newly created Lower Moreland Civil Defense Council issued air raid precautions and passed an anti-

sabotage law. More mundane activities included the beginning of a township-wide rubbish collection, the police had a pay increase, and planning was started for a new fire house. There was an increase in the Parks and Recreation budget, and Brookmont development was started—a forerunner of the expansion to come.

An industrial area was indicated as being bounded by Red Lion Road, Pine Road, Reading Railroad, Tomlinson Road, and the Philadelphia county line. However, this area did not become completely commercial, as one may observe, but by and large, the industrial plants were confined to it along with a few residential streets and small housing developments.

The desire of the Budd Company to build a railroad siding caused an inquiry into the Building Code and the need for one which defined all areas of consideration. The solution being to compare Lower Moreland with other areas and use whatever was pertinent to this situation. The result was a Building Code for Lower Moreland. A zoning amendment regulating trailers and the size of extra buildings on lots, became necessary.

By 1943 the tax rate was $5\frac{1}{2}$ mills with a special $1\frac{1}{2}$ mills for street lights and $\frac{1}{4}$ mill for hydrants. Officer Flack resigned from the police force and Russell Pletcher was appointed. The courts allowed an increase in police salary at this time.

Difficulty arose during the decade over a dump in the Bryn Athyn area on land owned by Victor Rosenquist. The burning of refuse posed a public nuisance—this source of difficulty prevailed for a number of years. Relative to the problem of refuse, in 1943 a state act gave the supervisors the right to levy a tax to collect rubbish for disposal. Another act—141—authorized approval for zoning purposes. Then the courts found a section of the township code unconstitutional. This presented a new problem resulting in a new Building Code delineating the square footage and height of houses. This same code based the street lighting tax on the property front footage.

World War II was over and, fittingly, a memorial to the men who served at that time was proposed. It was to be located at Elkins Field. The American Legion would maintain it. Also, the Civil Defense Council was dissolved. A police pension fund was proposed and discussed. Further housing was developed in the Sorrel Horse area and, in June of 1948, the streets of that area were accepted subject to court approval.

At the same time—1948, the Bryn Athyn community resolved to annex 68.875 acres of Lower Moreland at Buck and Byberry Roads and Sycamore Road. The Lower Moreland appeal against

this was overruled; but Lower Moreland kept the school taxability for the land. As a result of this action coupled with the growth of the population in the township, Lower Moreland realized it was necessary to apply for first class township status to help circumvent a recurrence. Since Lower Moreland had attained the necessary density of 300 persons per square mile over its 6.77 square miles, the process was started. Accordingly, the matter of a new fire house and the question of attaining first class township status were put on the ballot in the spring. Both questions were approved by the voters.

A positive result of this overlapping of properties was the added cooperation between the Bryn Athyn and Lower Moreland police departments. The fire companies had been cooperating for their common defense before this time. Later in the decade the increasing size of the population necessitated a larger police force.

Along with the population density came the question of sewers—first broached in 1948 in March. By December, it was ascertained the preliminary study would cost \$1000 to \$1500.

Mr. Henry Propert, later to become Senator Propert, became township treasurer. December 30, 1948 was the last meeting of the Board of Supervisors, who, starting as Road Supervisors, had added more and more responsibilities as the township grew to warrant the additional services. The transition was made to government by 5 commissioners.

January 3, 1949 LOWER MORELAND BECOMES FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP

On the above date, the court appointed Commissioners and Auditors of Lower Moreland Township, together with the Treasurer, met in the Auditorium of the Lower Moreland Elementary School on Red Lion Road at 7:30 P.M. and subscribed to their Oath of Office before Judge Harold S. Knight of the Montgomery County Court.

After being sworn in, the Board of 5 Commissioners with W. W. Greenawalt acting as temporary chairman and R. A. Walsh as temporary secretary, organized as follows:

President	Wayne W. Greenawalt
Vice-President	Russell E. Vanderbilt
Secretary	Robert A. Walsh
Solicitor	Alfred L. Taxis, Jr., Esq.

The other commissioners were: Brice Sutcliffe, Wm. Glenn and Ezra Whitman.

The Commissioners and Officers then retired to the Huntingdon Valley Fire House to continue their meeting. The following committees were appointed: Public Works; Finance and Budget; Public Safety; and Planning. The Board of Adjustment was retained, a Building Superintendent was appointed, and a Board of Police Force created.

One of the first problems to meet the new Commissioners was that of sewerage. Drainage had been a long standing problem due to the numerous streams and tributaries of the Pennypack basin. It was called to their attention on January 10, 1949 by the township engineer Mebus. They were also responsible for Health, Milk, and Parks. In order to regulate some of the problems, it was necessary to issue ordinances—this was done beginning March 14, 1949. Also in March of 1949 the Lower Moreland Police Pension Association was formed which defines the details of the pension plan.

The building boom was beginning for Lower Moreland. In 1949 there was additional building in Edencroft; Butterworth foundry made a \$250,000 addition. February 1950 saw the opening of the Hallowell tract and Chapel Hill Manor. More people made more work for police and at this time the duties of the police were defined more clearly. Then too, township maps were produced and zoning became more definite, after Solicitor Taxis recommended a Township Planning Commission to take the brunt of the decisions constantly before the Zoning Board. A sub-division ordinance was dated June 12, 1949 and a uniform building code was soon to follow. (August 27, 1951)

More sub-divisions, including the tract on Brae-Bourne Road, came into being as the township was responding to the post-war boom economy. House numbering was proposed again (the Men's Club had proposed it first in 1947) to facilitate location of the new families.

Responsibility for township government lay in the hands of the 5 elected commissioners, a township treasurer, and a tax collector (both elected), a township secretary, building inspector and a health officer, the latter appointed by the Board of Commissioners. There were three township auditors; a Zoning Board of Adjustment of three persons were appointed by the Board of Commissioners, in addition to the aforementioned committees.

Taxing was a county function exercised solely by the Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes at Norristown; their local representative was the Township Tax Assessor. Tax appeals were made directly to the county authority. A 1% real estate transfer tax was levied by ordinance #16 on March 10, 1952. The first zoning ordinance of 1940 was revised, amended and adopted in 1952.

More sub-divisions were proposed and the state funds for mileage of township roads needed revision—because there were just more roads! In April 1953, the first Greenridge development was proposed. In June a new revised sub-division ordinance was given a public hearing and immediately adopted. A special ordinance followed—it had been proposed in March of that year—defining the construction of streets, drains, curbs and all the other considerations of a burgeoning township.

The police had more problems, coordinating traffic handling, enforcement of speed limits, protecting the larger population. In short, everything was happening at the same time. The Police Civil Service Commission was established and approved September 14, 1953.

While the police force had been appointed by and worked directly with the commissioners, the fire company remained an independent volunteer organization whose accident compensation and insurance was borne by the township and for whom a tax was levied on the persons living in the township. The equipment for the Fire Company was supplied (and still is) in large part, by themselves and their auxilliary.

Earlier (1952) there was a question of transferring the Fire Company property to the township but the Fire Company chose to maintain its independence until the question of a new building and its maintenance was raised. After much discussion, the decision was made to lease their facilities from the township for 99 years. Accordingly, a new Fire House was built and dedicated in August 1953. This building had meeting rooms available to the township organizations. Since the property, and the additional property bought adjacent to it (from the Baptist Church and G. C. Wright) was deeded to the township, the meeting rooms are now administered from the Township Office next door.

Still more problems with an increasing population led to the establishment of a Fire Marshal—Mr. Edwin B. Flack in November of 1954. A dog ordinance was made necessary to control the increasing dog population. The question of a dog catcher to punish offenders who did not keep their dogs confined, was raised. Fringe benefits for township employees was discussed. Parking at Bethayres Station for commuters became a problem since there was no public busing to serve them.

In 1952, landfill trash collection at the Liebold (present day Bethayres Shopping Center) and Loucheim tracts, although swampy, was thought to be adequate for years to come. Now in 1954, the dump was a problem because unauthorized persons were using it.

Brentwood Manor and Skyline Acres (north side of Byberry east of Heaton) were started in 1954. As developments increased, the question of sewers and drainage was again raised—costs studied—citizens complained from the new housing developments. In December of 1954, Ordinance #37 was adopted. It provided the regulations and requirements for construction of sewerage disposal systems in Lower Moreland Township and imposed fines and penalties for violations thereof. A new school was proposed for the Green Ridge section. This is the present Pine Road School. The numbering of properties became an accomplished fact at this time - December 1954. The question of an auxiliary generator for the Fire House in case of emergencies—when electricity is unavailable from regular sources, was raised.

January 1955—the tax rate was 9½ mills. Building regulations continue to be raised and plague the commissioners. The extension of commercial zoning above the Federal Savings and Loan property is requested by Mr. Buzby because he wants to put stores on the lower part of his property adjacent to the Federal. More industries seek permission to settle in Lower Moreland; more drainage problems. More street lights are needed for the growing community and more traffic regulations are necessary especially for the schools - police protection is needed before and after sessions.

Dr. Dawber was appointed health officer after a stormy period during Charles Shafer's occupation of the post following Dr. G. Lance Brown's resignation. Scavengers and door to door salesmen were prohibited in this period. The former leading to the enactment of Ordinance #42 prohibiting anyone from "opening disturbing, or removal of anything from rubbish and garbage = \$25 fine or 10 days imprisonment. The health of persons working in restaurants and dairies of the area was controlled for public protection in this decade.

The word is more—more drainage problems, more housing, more streets laid out and accepted, more trash trucks needed, and more street lights needed. It was also in 1955 that Mrs. Donald Ivins (Myrtle) became the assistant of her ailing father, who was secretary of the township.

An act of the State Assembly providing for reassessment of afterbuilt property in first class townships opened the door for increased taxation on all property to which major improvements were made. The need for a place to keep township records was apparent. One suggestion was to add to the Fire House.

Police Chief Pletcher received commendation for his work in this difficult period. At the same time he was condemned by others—such is the way of public servants. More police were needed as reported by the Public Safety Committee and the Civil Service qualifications were updated to conform to those advised by the Civil Service Commission 1/9/56.

By 1956 six restaurants and seven dairies were licensed in the township. It was deemed necessary to regulate door-to-door salesmen for safety purposes as well as to reduce the nuisance aspect.

The community library was bursting at the seams and clamoring for space. At this point, the suggestion was made for it to become a public service and be tax supported. When township plans were proposed there was no provision for the library in the building as had been discussed at an earlier date. In 1956 the library expanded its coverage to include High School and Grade School interests. The commissioners were reminded that a two mill taxation was permissible for library purposes and the commissioners were approached for such support. Accordingly, the question was put on the ballot and, after two tries, succeeded as a 1 mill tax. In 1959, the library was given a \$500 donation by the commissioners and two commissioners were appointed to the library board. By 1962 it had found a new home in the vacated Memorial Baptist Church building on Red Lion Road.

Building plans were afoot in 1957 for a building to house all township services. The bids opened and the building started with a dedication planned for December. A new plumbing and licensing code was put into effect while the sewerage continued to be a problem in most areas. Gunning was prohibited in the township.

The Huntingdon Valley and Bethayres Post Offices were consolidated making the longest name in the country. It was later shortened to Huntingdon Valley. The new post-office building was built and dedicated June 17, 1961. Green Ridge Farms development opened and the Valley Road housing built by Betz was made available.

Some discussion was carried on with Abington relative to using their sewerage interceptor and the suggestion was to tie in the Forest Hills area with Philadelphia. A note of mystery was provided by the bizarre murder of long time resident Harry Martin and the antics of the Bandana Burgler. Gloria Dei and the Memorial Baptist Church proposed new buildings in the latter part of this decade.

The whole area was still building in the 60's. A plan was presented for garden apartments. The Township Park had to be remodeled. The Commissioners had to fend off the proposed construction of

the Tacony Freeway through the town. Growth was everywhere apparent - in fact, Lower Moreland had the largest growth in a 6 community area in 1959-60. So much that another ward was carved out for voting. A threat was posed by the city of Philadelphia desiring the annexation of the township. Therefore, a resolution opposing any bill that would require the annexation of any suburban voting district by the city of Philadelphia. This occurred in August of 1961. In a survey of the four county Philadelphia suburbs—Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery—Lower Moreland was one of 79 communities having 100% population growth.

A hazardous crossing at the Pike and Byberry Road became a full scale problem. After much rhetoric and frequent anger, it was deemed necessary to sacrifice a 200 year old house - one of a very few of its kind - rather than to disturb the New Methodist Church's traffic area. A new housing development—Justa Farms—was proposed. The original plan suggested another school and a park area. A shopping area called Fethers-Mill Square was made from a series of old houses in the center of Huntingdon Valley near the Huntingdon Valley Trust Company turned First Pennsylvania. Again in late 1962, a feasibility study was made on sewers and treatment plants.

Early in 1963 the Bryn Athyn sewer problem became acute and a sewerage treatment plant was suggested to be placed on a property on Philmont Avenue between the Country Club and Red Lion Road. Lower Moreland was asked to participate in the effort - nothing came of it. There were continuing drainage problems in Lower Moreland.

The area was still growing—the Justa Farm development was begun. The St. Albert School and church was proposed. A 5 man Board of Health was formed in Lower Moreland. 8.07 acres of land were set aside for a park at Philmont and Pine Roads with the Jade Corporation contributing to its development. The last month of the year saw a per capita tax proposed. It was implemented in 1964.

An ambulance was acquired by Bryn Athyn which Lower Moreland was invited to use when needed. A report on sewers was submitted—the report suggested in 1963. No decision was reached. In April of 1965, Albion sewers were to tie in with the Upper Southampton Sewer Authority. A severe storm causing flooding in Philmont Road was the subject of a meeting of the National Land Development Company, Tomlinson Park, Inc., Philmont Industries, and the Valley Club. Since no federal funds were forthcoming, no agreement was reached. December of 1965, a map proposing the Abington Pennypack Interceptor was developed. In this study, Lower Moreland would pay 40% and Abington 60% of the cost. When Montgomery County was asked

to finance the Interceptor through Lower Moreland from Abington to Buck Road, nothing came of this. A decision was made to prohibit new construction in Albidale until sewers were in and operational.

A temporary building permit was issued the High School since more housing sent more pupils to the school system. In mid-year, Albidale Section II, Justa Farms Section II and Huntingdon Meadows were started. A 50th Anniversary celebration was planned by the township to be held at Philmont Country Club.

1967 the tax rate was 12 mills general and 1 mill library; making a total of 13 mills township tax. A position of Township Manager was created and Myrtle J. Ivins became the first woman to become the manager of a first class township. The township ordinances were to be codified and a sewer authority was created - Mssers. Innes, Thistle and Mason. Philadelphia agreed to take sewerage from certain parts of the township. In July of 1967, heavy rainfall caused extreme flooding and a flood control meeting was held to review property damage. Years later, the area became eligible for Federal Flood Insurance, as a result of that meeting.

Bids were opened for a township building addition in August. In July it is noted that the Pennypack Interceptor is to serve Bryn Athyn and Lower Moreland. One of the issues resolved in mid-year was the enactment of an ordinance giving the commissioners emergency power—certain restrictions were imposed, however. By September another ward for voting purposes was deemed necessary so Lower Moreland then consisted of 5 wards. The Huntingdon Valley Activities Committee notes that 452 boys participated in summer baseball using the township fields.

Quite a controversy arose about the property at Walton and Welsh Roads. One owner was discouraged from using it but a subsequent owner built a three story building that neither enhances nor compliments the surrounding area, and was a long time renting. More sewerage agreements between Abington and Lower Moreland for using a Pennypack Interceptor in April and, evident imminence of the realization of sewers, prompted regulations for treatment of abandoned cesspools and Ordinance #144 was amended to require all occupied buildings to connect to sewers where they are provided.

Three new police cars were purchased in 1969. The Fire Company had a 93% rating by the Fire Underwriters Board. An areawide Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service was established. The Pennypack Creek was very polluted and upstream clean-up was planned. The Korman Corporation requested the removal of part of the Valley Falls Dam to help control the flooding problem. Roads excavated for whatever cause were improperly repaired causing cave-ins and made extra work for the township road crews.

The police and firemen had more work to do because more housing seems to result in more burglaries and more fires. One rather unusual circumstance was a rash of false alarms to test the Fire Company's speed at answering a call. At the same time a decision by the Supreme Court made conviction of criminals more difficult to establish.

The new township building addition was dedicated April 18, 1970. Growth was continuing but at a slower rate than those former years. Many people create many problems — not only sewers, more police protection, larger schools, more crowded shopping centers, but, certain disquieting overtones cause friction. A case in point is the Geller Curative Amendment which sought to "cure" the housing "inequities" by requiring certain types of housing to be introduced into the township to "equalize" the housing situation. All kinds of accommodations were proposed in the ensuing months-multiple housing units, single family attached dwellings, even trailer accommodations. All this in an area once sought because of its superior "executive type" housing. Alas! we so soon forget - the love of money is the root - what is the real purpose?

By the year of 1970 - 11,665 persons lived in the township. Taxes had risen to 18.5 general and 1.25 library with other taxes the rate was 29. mills not counting the school tax to be levied for 1971. The Commissioners were plagued with persons demanding services unheard of before the "deluge". Petty problems of 6 inch "curbing faults" and definitions of the word "yard" when applied to an area adjacent to a swimming pool, took up exorbitant amounts of time.

Huntingdon Pike was widened at the Bethayres Station causing difficulties during the construction period. An area along the Pike and Philmont Road changed zoning to accommodate more businesses that were gobbling up existing houses. A senior citizen apartment was built in Bethayres by the Gloria Dei Church. It is a tax free property but 8% of its revenue returns to the township. An office building was erected along Philmont Avenue.

The ordinance codification was finished in 1974. The fire house addition was dedicated that year also. Traffic conditions intensified. Some children in the schools became addicted to narcotics. More sophisticated equipment became necessary for both fire and police to discharge their duties. Russell Pletcher retired from the position of Chief of Police and H. James Heid replaced him in 1974. Pensions and wage adjustments have become necessary to give the police more job security.

Money became available from Federal grants but there were "strings attached" in the form of regulations for its use. \$80,000 was received in 1975 for library, public safety, public works, and

parks and recreation. By this time there were three parks in the township; Elkins Field and Park; Philmont Park and Lower Moreland Park.

By 1976 the tax rate was 30 mills general, 1.5 mills library, and 1.5 mills fire company; equaling 33 mills plus the school tax. Application has been made to the courts for the tax ceiling to be raised (for a first class township) from 30 mills to 31.5 mills for general fund purposes.

The year 1976 was proclaimed Bi-Centennial Year. After much rhetoric and indecision, the Federal Government decided to let every city, town and hamlet provide its own celebration using its own interpretation. Therefore, the final celebration in Huntingdon Valley became a five day series of events. On the first and second of July, a variety show which incorporated a little of the town's history and its place in the whole of our great country, was given. Act I was a simulated town meeting as no town meeting was ever held - with dancing, music and a skit. Act II was a series of four tableaux portraying the development of our country from coast to coast - again with music and dance. More than 150 persons were actively involved in the production.

The third of July - Saturday - there was a baseball game between the Fire Company and the Crozier-Chester Burn Center. The 4th of July - Sunday - an official Soap Box Derby was run in Huntingdon Valley for the first time. There were about 35 contestants. July 5th was Family Day. Events such as races and a pet show were scheduled for the morning and a parade with floats, fire engines, and the High School Band led everyone to the fireworks display on the school grounds at dusk.

A large problem injected into the scene this decade has been the question of spray irrigation vs. interceptor for sewerage disposal. The Pennypack Watershed Association has seen fit to complicate the ongoing sewerage problem with a proposal for utilizing certain lands for a spray system of dispersing the sewerage onto the land. In spite of resolutions by the commissioners and citizens irritation with delay (in many meetings citizens have favored an interceptor system), the contention continues. Meanwhile, certain areas of the township without sewers are desperately in need of them-almost to the point of being a health hazard.

—And still the contention continues.

At the end of 1976 Mrs. Myrtle J. Ivins retired as township manager and Mr. Peter Terpeluck was hired to replace her, in January 1977.

At this point in time, a small cloud appears as perhaps the next item for consideration - the proposal for a home rule government at this level. That surely will require a long discussion period.

Now since the township has grown so rapidly and threatens to fill all the space for which it was once so desirable, the Delaware Valley Planning Commission reports that the citizens of Montgomery County want no more expansion. Therefore it is hoped that Lower Moreland will stay essentially as it is through the year 2000 at least, with only changes to be made to improve the quality of life herein enjoyed.

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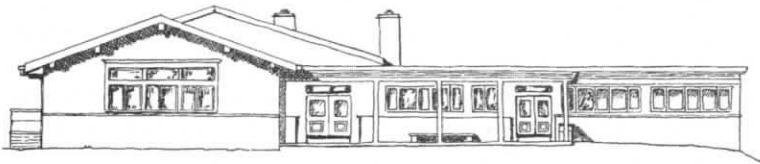
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Lower Moreland Township Building



POLICE DEPARTMENT

February 26, 1937, the supervisors of Lower Moreland were permitted to appoint a police officer for the township. He had to be a qualified elector and a resident of Montgomery County. George Flack was hired immediately at a salary of \$1250 per year to be paid semi-monthly. The township agreed to provide him with his equipment and a uniform. The following month Lower Moreland was given permission to use the Abington jail when necessary. At that time Mr. Flack's home served as police headquarters since he was the only person on the force and there was no township building. Fortunately the next month, April, he received a car—by state approval. By October of that year, the minutes of the commissioners mention a proposed county-wide police radio which became a fact in July the following year. The police pay was increased in the second year and by mid-1942 had increased to \$150 semi-monthly. The second World War was raging and a Civilian Defense Police Corp was formed.

Mr. Flack resigned to be replaced by Russell Pletcher who was sworn in April 8, 1943. In just a year the police salary increased to \$2100 a year.

Traffic became a problem and speeding signs appeared on the Pike. It was necessary to have cooperation between Lower Moreland and Bryn Athyn on the Pike speeding problem. Huntingdon Valley Trust Company needed police protection during business hours and especially the Friday evening hours. Deer season needed increased police surveillance so Mr. Flack was again pressed into service as special officer on stand-by, in 1946. In 1948 more regular police were added.

When Lower Moreland became a first class township in 1949, one of the first things instituted was a pension plan for the police—March 14, 1949. The Police Civil Service Commission was established in September of 1953. The Civil Service requirements have been updated several times and in 1969 included a psychological test for the first time.

In 1956 a 6 month probation period was needed for each patrolman and just recently—in 1970 the probationary period was increased to one year. In the 1950's the work had become more difficult and exacting. Increased school traffic demanded police control for pre and post-school hours. Therefore by 1959 there was a force of 5 police. Numerous traffic problems, more property to be protected, and a larger incidence of crime in the area kept these men very busy. So as the area grew with the post-war boom so did the challenges to the police officers.

The Lower Moreland Police Pension Association was started in July of 1963 making mandatory, contributions to it. Legal co-

operation with police in the surrounding areas led to Holy Redeemer Hospital, in 1959, authorizing emergency cases to be taken to the hospital. Bryn Athyn's ambulance was made available in 1964, to Lower Moreland in emergencies. Philadelphia and Lower Moreland, neighbors for several miles, achieved a working agreement by 1967 as had Abington and Bryn Athyn previously. Use of this cooperative effort may be illustrated by the case in which apprehension of the persons who burglarized the First Pennsylvania in 1968. They were taken into custody within an hour and all the money was recovered.

Police work has become more difficult because of the increased traffic due to population density and the proximity to industrial plants which make the "rush hour" a constant daily aggravation.

The housing boom multiplies policework and recently (1970) the conviction of criminals became more difficult due to a Supreme Court ruling limiting police usefulness after apprehension. A police emergency wagon was acquired in 1973. Police have been added periodically.

Chief Pletcher retired in January of 1974 and H. J. Heid from Fair Born, Ohio became chief. Heid instituted many innovations including in-service training, monthly firearms training classes, a new record-keeping system and a field interrogation program. At this time also, the police headquarters moved from the upper level of the township building to larger quarters on the lower level. In 1975, the department began using a new radio dispatch system which allows it to dispatch its own car and communicate with both Upper Moreland and Abington police departments. Prior to this time, all Lower Moreland calls for assistance had to be relayed to patrol cars via the Abington station.

June 1976 saw a Juvenile Officer appointed to deal directly and specifically with the young people who brush with the law. This same month Chief Heid resigned and Robert H. Hamilton was appointed to succeed him. By the end of 1976, the police had a 5 year contract, the Police Pension fund had been improved, the retirement age was lowered from 55 to 50 and employment termination entitled the man to his pension contribution plus 4% interest on said money.

The latest triumph of the department was the apprehension of "Bill Conners" who made terroristic telephone calls to area residents. It took 5 months to get him but he has been charged with 266 violations.

Today the force consists of a total of 21 sworn personnel (uniformed and non-uniformed).

These are: Chief

Lieutenant

5 Sargents (4 street - 1 detective). Divided into 3 four

man platoons and 1 five man platoon.

There is a full time secretary.

There is a full time record keeper

There are 4 dispatchers (1 male, 3 female)

There are 2 part-time helpers (female)

also 2 students (1 social intern - 1 practicum)

The force also has 5 marked vehicles and 3 unmarked.

References:

Lower Moreland Township Commissioners minutes

Conversation with Lieutenant Hunter



THE HUNTINGDON VALLEY FIRE COMPANY

The first meeting was held in Odd Fellows Hall half way up the Huntingdon Pike hill above Red Lion Road, on June 9, 1911. There were about thirty men present who elected as officers the following: President, Dr. David G. Harvey; Vice President, H. B. Leedom; Secretary, Frank Woodward; and Treasurer, Charles Price. An apparatus committee was appointed to purchase a chemical engine and five hundred feet of hose to cost about six hundred dollars. This was very optimistic as there was no money in the treasury. So it became necessary to solicit donations by a house to house canvass conducted by these volunteers, among the less than five hundred tax-payers. To supplement the solicitation, a fund-raising carnival was held at the stabling sheds of the Lady Washington Hotel. The first of a series of carnivals continuing until 1948. Later carnivals were in Wynkoop Avenue, then in a lot below the Lady Washington.

The first voluntary fund-raising campaigns were so successful that in October 1911—four months after the first organizational meeting—a fire apparatus, a two wheel cart with a chemical tank and five hundred feet of hose, was purchased for \$550. This original apparatus was drawn by manpower. This piece of equipment was ceremoniously housed in the barn on the corner property of Red Lion Road and Huntingdon Pike.

Fire alarms were sounded by hammering on an old locomotive tire donated for the purpose by the Midvale Steel Company and hung in the yard behind the general store owned by Charles Price, the first fire chief, whose first assistant was Isaac Tomlinson, and second assistant was H. B. Leedom, Sr. The original locomotive "fire alarm" is still owned by the fire company and hangs in front of the fire house.

The early organizers were still busy, for in October 1911, the installation of fire hydrants was proposed and several were installed by the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company at a price of \$20 annually per hydrant for the first five years. These were also paid for by solicitation.

Progress was rapid in the early days of the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company, either that or there were too many discussions as to who would pull the apparatus. Consequently, only three months after receiving the original two-wheeled vehicle, it was remodeled to become a four wheeled vehicle, this time horse-drawn. The cost of the change was \$200 in January of 1912. There was an arrangement by which two pairs of horses were on call, the horses nearest the fire barn at the time of the fire were unhitched from

their wagon and driven to the fire house to pull the apparatus. The horses were usually either those of Charles Price, owner of the general store or those of H. B. Leedom, owner of the lumber yard.



Early Fire Apparatus

With the imposing change in equipment, the embryo fire company extended itself by acquiring uniforms consisting of a hat, belt, and badge purchased for about \$2.00 per set in July of 1912, and a fire engine bell, purchased second hand for \$2.50. In the same year in December, the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company joined the Montgomery County Fireman's Association, of which it is an active member to this date.

The regular meetings of the Fire Company held in Clayton Hall after the original meeting in Odd Fellows Hall, were active and progressive affairs. These men now foresaw the need of a separate fire house. The Committee thus appointed procured ground from Newton Branin, the local butcher, who donated a piece of his land next to the Baptist Church turned Library. The committee suggested to Gerald Glenn, the designer, a building approximately 30 feet by 16 feet with a cement floor, costing nothing in excess of \$1,200.



First Fire House

The final plans approved were for a building 20 feet by 28 feet with terra cotta walls, a cement floor on the first floor, a second floor room for meetings, and a basement for storage and heating facilities. The roof was of slate. It was built by Frank Heston of Churchville at a total cost of \$2500. The first meeting held in the new fire house was in May 1913, after a housewarming and dedication. The Fire Company charter was drawn up and signed two years later.

The first motorized equipment to replace the horse-drawn apparatus was an Oldsmobile Chassis built by Black of Langhorne and put into service early in the next year. Through the years the Huntingdon Valley Fire Company has updated its equipment whenever possible.

Aside from the actual apparatus, changes were being made in the alarm and protective systems. To replace the iron locomotive tire and give wider alarm range so that more volunteers would respond, a windmill tower was donated by William B. Davis in 1916 and erected at the rear of the fire house with a bell mounted on the top. At the same time a telephone was installed inside the fire house with a bell outside. Nearby residents, hearing the telephone would answer and ring the alarm bell. This was usually done by Edwin B. Walton or Harry Flack or a member of their families. Later, in May 1946, the fire police were organized as an additional part of the protective system. Now there is a very sophisticated system that requires merely a call to the township building to set in motion police and firemen.

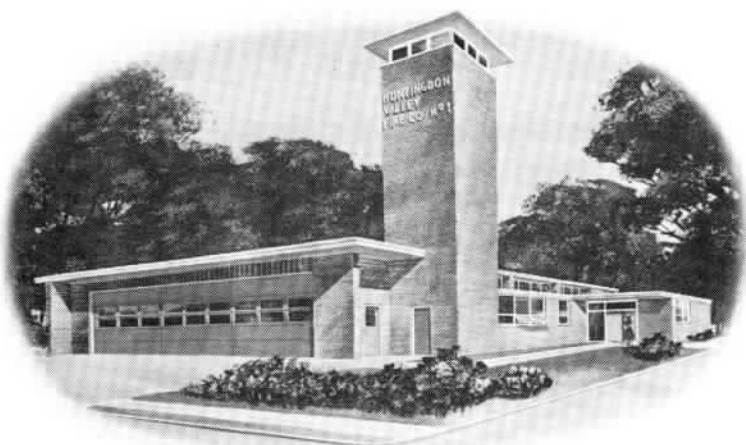
Huntingdon Valley Fire Company belongs to the Third District of Montgomery County. The firemen are encouraged to go to the Fire School for a number of hours over a period of time. Every Monday night there is practice on the local level so the reactions of the volunteers is more efficient if called upon for an actual fire. In addition, Montgomery Fire Association conducts training on two to four weekends and there is a state training school of five days at Lewistown several times a year. This is all on a volunteer basis.

One very important matter to keep in mind is the question of funds to purchase equipment and carry on the numerous expenses accrued in operation of a volunteer fire company. The word Volunteer is very prominent, so there were dances, minstrel shows, suppers, dues of members and donations of public spirited citizens. Most of these affairs were important parts of the social life of the small town known as Huntingdon Valley.

In 1921, permission was granted by the Honorable Harold Pike for a tax for the aid of the Fire Company. The first levy was 1/4 mill. In 1927 appeal was made for a tax increase which was granted to raise the fire tax to 1/2 mill. Now 1.5 mills are assigned to the fire company.

The Firemens Relief Association was formed in 1934 for the purpose of providing insurance in case of injury or death of one of the volunteers in the course of performance of his duties. The money for this comes from the state which taxes foreign insurance companies and allocates this money to help the local fire companies. This association is still in force. In addition, in the 1950's compensation to the firemen and insurance for them was assumed by the township to augment and increase the benefits of the Firemen's Relief Fund.

As the size of the fire company grew commensurate with the size and demands of the community, the original fire house also grew. In 1926 a small storage and washroom was built through the cooperation of members. In November 1938, additional ground was purchased from the Branin estate for \$2100. The members of the fire company planned a new, very modern structure. Additional property was purchased by the Township from the Memorial Baptist Church and G. Carroll Wright. The services of a lawyer, Bruce Cronlund, and architects William H. Chandlee and William Amenta were procured. After the plans were discussed and approved by the firemen and the commissioners, bids were solicited, and a bond issue of approximately \$60,000 was sold by the township. The contract for the new fire house was awarded to Fred Herwig of Huntingdon Valley in 1952 and the construction completed in May 1953. Even this did not prove large enough for this burgeoning community. So, in 1965 an addition was added to this building. Earlier—in 1964 Bryn Athyn acquired an ambulance and it is available to Huntingdon Valley in case of emergencies. As recently as 1960 the two Fire Companies agreed upon mutual aid in case of large fires or other problems. This arrangement was also to include surrounding areas with other fire companies. In 1974 an addition to the fire house was necessary to house the snorkel truck.



Present Fire House

Today the Fire Company of Huntingdon Valley has about 75 active members and about 200 associate members. The latter are those who give money to the fire company. The present equipment consists of:

- 801 - Snorkel truck which has 85 feet of hose.
- 802 - Hahn pumper with a volume of 1000 gal. per minute.
- 803 - Maxim pumper with a volume of 1000 gal. per minute.
- 804 - Mack pumper with a volume of 750 gal. per minute.
- 805 - Maxim pumper with a volume of 1500 gal. per minute.
- 806 - Rescue Truck with power operated tools, torches, electric saws, and its own generator. Its most unique piece of equipment is called Jaws of Life—a special tool which can extract a person from a crushed automobile or a collapsed building.
- 807 - G.M.C. Field Truck with four wheel drive that can go anywhere on any kind of terrain.
- 808 - Fire Police Truck

THE LADIES AUXILLIARY

This is the appropriate place to note the part of the women of the community working side by side with their men, making it all possible. In March 1927, the Women's Auxilliary was organized. For many years an annual chicken supper was the large project—there have also been bake sales, one of which netted \$525 to set some kind of record for such an event. After the new Fire House was built, the large project was furnishing the kitchen. Today the ladies maintain the very modern kitchen along with the meeting room open to community affairs. Often when the Fire Company needed money for necessary equipment, it was the Women's Auxilliary which provided the major portion of the sum.

During the past five years, the Auxilliary has contributed \$8,000 for a new field truck and \$12,000 to rebuild the chassis of the rescue truck. In prior years, they provided such vital equipment as Air Paks, deluge gun, hydraulic hose tester, portable pumps, inflatable splints, resuscitator, portable lights, and numerous items for the Fire House itself. They have also contributed to the Bryn Athyn rescue squad, the Second Alarmers Association of Willow Grove, and the Greater Delaware Valley Burn Center.

Today these 107 active members and approximately 100 associate members hold card parties and are currently involved in a fund drive to obtain money for their work.

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Fire Company Booklet 1953

Mr. Frank Burkard

Mrs. John Ferrier

TRANSPORTATION

A county situated as Montgomery is, and embracing all the contiguous territory from north to the west of Philadelphia, must necessarily have numerous roads spreading through it from that point, like the framework of a fan. It is said that traffic became so great that by 1760 nearly 6000 wagons must have passed over our roads to market within the space of one year.

The first means of transportation, aside from walking, was by horseback. Martindale says that for 75 years the people traveled chiefly by this means through Indian trails or very primitive paths. William J. Buck records sleighs, gigs, and chairs for conveyance on business or pleasure.

Three roads are most noteworthy in considering Huntingdon Valley. One of them is mentioned in Martindale—the Byberry Road by which the people of the two townships had contact. The Quaker meetinghouse was in Byberry and an early school was there too, so the need was created for this thoroughfare. The Byberry Road was extended to Horsham meetinghouse in 1720. In 1793 John Swift, Edward Duffield, William Walton and Isaac Comly met regarding the repair of this road.

The Welsh road was laid out in 1711 from Gwynedd to the present Huntingdon Valley, to enable the people (the Welsh settlers) to reach the mills along the Pennypack.

The Middle road or Fox Chase-Huntingdon turnpike had been completed as far as Huntingdon Valley before 1848 for it was extended to the Sorrel Horse in that year. William J. Buck speaks of it as being a stone road, so it must have been a substantial road and it had its beginning at Second Street in Philadelphia. It was 13½ miles in length by the time it was finished to Sorrel Horse. The area had grown to such an extent that the road was completed to Richborough in 1850.

The heavily traveled roads—through roads—charged toll for their use. Thus, the toll house became a familiar sight. One such toll house was placed on the east side of the turnpike where the Welsh Road turned south along the turnpike for a few hundred feet. One of the late toll-keepers to live there was named Severns and, since he was also a justice of the peace, he had one of the first telephones in the area. The toll at one time was as follows: Bethayres toll gate to:

Bethayres station	1 horse	1 cent
Meetinghouse Road	1 horse	5 cents
Fox Chase	1 horse	10 cents
Red Lion Road	1 horse	3 cents
Sorrel Horse	1 horse	5 cents
	2 horses	double fee



Toll House at Bethayres



Toll House at Bryn Athyn

Another toll house was about a mile further north on the west side of the Pike near the road to the papermills. This was near the present Bryn Athyn Cathedral. Its last toll keeper was Mr. Harry Worthington. He took the post as toll keeper in 1899. The toll house was a brown shingled, three storied dwelling with a shed on the south side. There were two or three large trees in the tiny garden and a bed of flowers on the Pike side. A white picket fence enclosed a small structure that we would call a "rest room" at the end of the garden. There was a well and a pump in the garden. Inside there was one room that served as a dining-living area and a tiny kitchen in one corner with a coal stove. A diminutive winding stairway led up to two bedrooms and a ladder to a storage room in the attic.

One day, people passing the toll house mentioned there was a mad dog in the neighborhood. Mr. Worthington was away that day and when he returned he was attacked by the dog. Since he had a scratch on one hand he fended off the dog with the other. He was able to defend himself with a well placed kick. However, he was covered with foam from the sick animal and he had thrown away the non-pariels he had brought home for his daughters. The dog ran down toward Bethayres and bit the first man he saw. This man was taken to the hospital and received the first anti-rabies Pasteur treatment in the area.

After the Worthingtons moved from the toll-gate, in 1906, a Mrs. Sorenson moved in. She did not operate it as a toll-gate. Neither did she live there very long for it soon burned down with all the household goods of the unfortunate family. Since toll-gates were being abandoned by this time, it was not rebuilt, and the Highway Commission had the remains carted away, the Pike widened, and subsequently paved.

All this road construction invited settlement and denoted a rapid extension of population was taking place northward from the city. The Buck account tells of three stage lines that pass to the city 11½ miles away from Huntingdon Valley.

Just to illustrate the expansion in this direction, there were stage lines on York Road to accommodate passenger traffic as early as 1792 when John Nicholas established a line from Easton to Philadelphia, starting on Monday and making one trip a week, stopping at the present Stoney Point, Doylestown, and Willow

Grove (Round Meadow); leaving the White Swan every Thursday morning at 6 o'clock. The fare was \$2 one way. This stage also carried the mail as a post office had been established in Easton three years previously.

"The construction of railroads in Pennsylvania began about the year 1826 and was, no doubt, the result of experiments which had been carried out a few years earlier in England."

The earliest railroad serving Huntingdon Valley was part of a road proposed as early as 1860 by a group of people interested in providing railroad service in eastern Montgomery County and in Bucks County. This group applied to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for permission to construct a railroad from Philadelphia to Newtown. Accordingly on April 2, 1860, a charter was granted to the Philadelphia and Montgomery County Railroad Company. Due to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, the railroad construction was delayed. Further delay was necessitated by the depression that followed the War. Therefore, it was not until June 8, 1872 that ground was broken, at what is now Crescentville, Pa. and construction of the railroad, now under the name of the "Philadelphia and Newtown Railroad" began. "The name was changed again in January 29, 1873 to the "Philadelphia, Newtown, and New York Railroad" — this is the name it carried until 1945 when it became a wholly-owned branch of the Reading Company.

In 1875, fifteen years after the charter had been granted, the line was opened to Cheltenham, Pa. The Philadelphia Centennial in 1876 seems the impetus for the extension of the line to the city limits at Fox Chase. The line to Newtown was completed in 1878.

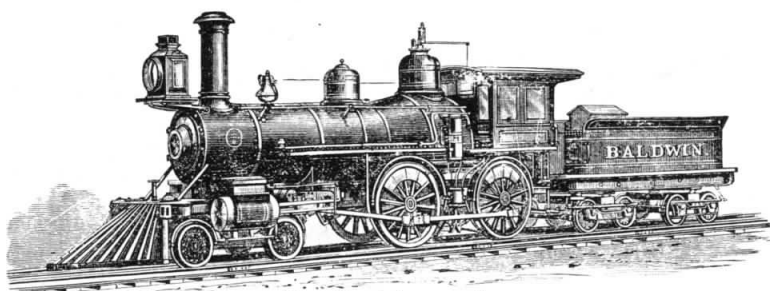


Huntingdon Valley Station

Third and Berks Streets was the PN & NY's sole Philadelphia station until 1893, when the Reading Terminal in center-city Philadelphia was opened. A new link was constructed between Newtown Junction and Olney, to connect the P&P's New York mainline with the PN & NY Division. After that time, most trains ran to Reading Terminal, with mainly milk trains running to 3rd and Berks. This practice was discontinued in the early 1920's, at which time all milk runs to 3rd and Berks were discontinued.

At nearly the same time, a survey by the North Pennsylvania Railroad caused plans to be initiated for the present Delaware River Branch between Jenkintown and Yardley which was built in 1874 - 1876.

It is interesting to note that the main thrust of the North Pennsylvania Railroad was toward the Lehigh Valley and the desirability of the products of that area, perhaps too, the fact that there already was a line to New York. The principle route between Philadelphia and New York was and is that segment of the present Amtrak Northeast Corridor.



Camelback Locomotive

In fact there was no station at Jenkintown as late as 1859 when it was reported as a pleasant village on a commanding situation on York Road one-half mile east of the railroad. The board of directors of the North Pennsylvania Railroad Company at its meeting July 13, 1859 was in receipt of a petition from sundry persons residing in the vicinity to establish a station at the new road above Cheltenham Hills, near Jenkintown. This new road was the present Greenwood Avenue. The board consented to build a platform and establish the passenger station for accomodation trains only. The station was named Cheltenham. On July 9, 1862, the Board was petitioned by residents of Cheltenham Township and Jenkintown Village to change its name to Jenkintown. This was done. A stone station building was erected at Jenkintown in 1872.

May 14, 1874, was a momentous date in the history of the North Pennsylvania Railroad Company, for the Directors then approved

the plan for construction of the Delaware River Branch from Jenkintown to the middle of the Delaware River at Yardley, Pennsylvania.

Franklin A. Comly, President of the Company made the following report to the Stockholders on January 11, 1875, concerning the construction of this important branch:

'The company is now constructing a Branch Road (known as the Delaware River Branch), from the main line at Jenkintown, through Huntingdon Valley to the state line in the middle of the Delaware River, half a mile south of Yardleyville in Bucks County, where it will connect with the Delaware and Bound Brook Railroad, which is being constructed from that point to near Bound Brook, New Jersey, where it will connect with the Central Railroad of New Jersey, and form a through line between the cities of Philadelphia and New York. It will also connect with the Easton and Amboy Railroad near the same point.'

'The Delaware River Branch will be twenty and one-half miles long. From Berks Street Station to Jenkintown is eight and one half miles, making the distance from Berks Street Station to the State Line twenty-eight and six-tenths miles. The Delaware and Bound Brook Railroad will be 27 miles long. The Central Railroad of New Jersey, from the point of intersection to the city of New York is thirty-two and four-tenths miles, making the entire distance between the two cities eighty-eight miles.'

The whole line will be graded and the masonry constructed for a first class double track road, with a maximum grade of thirty-seven feet to the mile, and will be laid with steel rails, sixty-six pounds per yard. The rails have been contracted for with the Bethlehem Iron Company to be delivered as required.

The last rail was laid by them on the evening of the sixth instant (January 6, 1876), fifteen months from the day the ground was broken for the new Branch Road.

Part of an advertisement in the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin read: "This line will be opened for travel between Philadelphia and New York ...\$2.65."



Bethayres Station

A permanent station building was erected at Bethayres in 1883. Also, this year the stations at Rydal and Somerton were built. Their architecture is very similar.

With the opening of the Delaware River Branch on May 1, 1876, the selection of appropriate names for the stations was very important. Much ingenuity was shown in their selection so that each represented local interest and tradition.

Markers on the principal highways passing through Bethayres, state that the village received its name from an early settler Elizabeth Ayres. It is interesting to note that the mother of Franklin A. Comly, President of the North Pennsylvania Railroad Company, was the daughter of Samuel Ayres who was an extensive land owner in Huntingdon Valley. This latter circumstance probably had considerable influence in the selection of the name for the new station.

Philmont station is very near the boundry line between the counties of Philadelphia and Montgomery and the name is therefore a combination of the two.



Grade Crossing at Bethayres

All was not pleasant. There were accidents on the Newtown Line. There is the accident involving a number of young men on the local high school basketball team who went to Jenkintown for a treat one evening. Their car was hit by the Newtown train at the intersection of Welsh Road and the railroad. One young man, Andy Festa, was killed. Of the others, one being the former Police chief, Russell Pletcher, Ernest Fesmire, Andy Bowdle, and Leroy "Whitey" Worthington, there were many cuts and bruises and, of course, the lifelong memory.

From the New York Times, December 5, 1921;

"Twenty-one persons are known to have perished and twenty-four were injured—four seriously—in a head-on collision between two passenger trains on the single track Newtown branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway at 8 o'clock this morning at Woodmont, Pa. The scene of the wreck, which was one of the worst in the history of the railroad, is two miles above Bryn Athyn and seventeen miles from the city. The two passenger trains, traveling at a high rate of speed, came together in a deep rock cut because somebody blundered. The injured and the dying, pinned beneath the wreckage of the wooden coaches of the two trains, were slowly burned to death when the debris caught fire."

"The southbound train from Newtown to Philadelphia had the right of way over the northbound train under the working schedule of the road, but the engineer of the latter train, instead of waiting at Bryn Athyn, rushed on for Southampton. The two trains met in a cut thirty feet deep, where there is but five feet of space on either side of the track. The locomotives crashed and reared. A minute later they were a mass of misshapen steel and iron, into which plowed the tenders of both locomotives. The shock of the trains could be heard for three miles."

"Residents of the scattered farmhouses near the scene of the wreck rushed to the scene and, standing on the rock cliff were staggered at the sight that met their gaze. The engines had risen on their ends, then fallen back upon the coaches, through the roofs, and on the mass of humanity."

There were many who performed heroic deeds that day. Russell Clayton, stationmaster at Bryn Athyn seeing the train pulling out ahead of time, was horrified. He knew he had given orders to the conductor to wait at the siding. The next and only thing he could do—was go into the station and call Abington Hospital to send ambulances. The report is that 40 nurses and a dozen surgeons worked from 9 A.M. until 10:30 that nite. The telephone operators at Bethayres—Miss Margaret Powers and Miss Marion Betz—disregarded other calls and gave their attention to the emergency, calling surrounding Fire Companies and all emergency equipment. A local doctor, Dr. Charles Olds of Huntingdon Valley, arrived at the scene at 8:15 at which time all except three coaches were in flames. One car was rolled to Paper Mill station and used as a dispensary. Dr. James Crowe also attended the injured.

A newspaper report Norristown, Pa. December 20 records the following: "....Testimony was given at the inquest that the northbound train crew had orders to wait on a siding for the southbound train from Newtown for Philadelphia and that it failed to carry out the order, but proceeded on to the single track and was struck by the southbound train."

Another result of this tragedy was that the Reading was to replace wooden coaches with steel cars.

Through the years other accidents have occurred at the grade-crossing, the latest at this writing was on the West Trenton line in the winter of 1976-77 when a train hit an automobile at the Tomlinson Road crossing near Philmont Station. A woman was killed and the car completely demolished.

Electrification of the suburban commuter branches was authorized in 1928, at first covering the West Trenton Branch only as far as Langhorne. On October 20, 1930, Reading President Agnew T. Dice announced the extension from Langhorne to West Trenton. Prior to the inauguration of service, the new electric multiple-unit coaches were on display at various Reading Suburban Stations such as Bethayres on June 22, 1931. The first train of electric equipment in revenue service left Reading Terminal for West Trenton at 6:40 A.M. Sunday, July 26.

It was in 1925 that the management of the Reading Company realized that their railroad, composed as it was of many short branch lines feeding into several distinct main lines, and located in a largely built-up area with good roads, would be especially vulnerable to independent motor carrier competition. After political maneuvering a charter was granted on January 27, 1928. In 1930 among the other lines there was a bus line through Huntingdon Valley. It was a route from Fox Chase to Richboro. These routes did not replace trains but rather connected suburban stations with outlying places not previously served. In 1957, County Transit Inc., a new company purchased three of the Montgomery County lines—one of which was the Fox Chase-Southampton line. This arrangement was short-lived. The next firm was the Penn Valley line to try to run the bus lines. This company folded in just about a years time.



Bus operated by Reading Co. in 1930's

At various times there have been jitney services. One of these was run by Allen Cornell, who lived on Chestnut Street, from Bethayres station. Another earlier one was called "Charlie Bond's Hack Service" and was operated out of the sheds of the Lady Washington Hotel. There have been taxi services with indifferent success. Cleveland Ramson bought a hack service from Charles Rex in February, 1910.

At the present time the Huntingdon Valley Transportation Company operates on a route that goes from Bethayres station down the Pike to Fox Chase, up Pine Road, west on Welsh to the Bethayres Station again. This route is very helpful to the persons living in the Meadowbrook apartments and townhouses as well as those in St. Joseph's Manor. The driver is courteous, gives personal service, which is especially helpful to the senior citizens who use the route. In addition it must be noted that the route is coordinated with the train service at Bethayres.

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COMMUNICATION

Word of mouth and notices in public places were the first means of communication. The church was an important link in the communications chain—here births and deaths became known and news of all kinds was exchanged on meeting days. The newspaper was slower in coming. The first newspaper in Mooreland was Oliver D. Search's "Literary Chronicle" and "Buck's and Montgomery Advertiser", published in Hatboro in 1840. In 1849, magnetic telegraph lines from Philadelphia to Wilkesbarre and New Hope extended through Mooreland on the Easton and Middle Roads.

Telephones were introduced to Huntingdon Valley just before the turn of the 20th century. In 1899 telephones were mentioned and by 1904 there were 17 telephone subscribers in the area. The first exchange was in the second floor rear of the general store at the intersection of Welsh Road and Huntingdon Pike—McMahon's store. Jenny McMahon could get her housework done and still be the daytime operator. Mose McMahon took over at night. Some of the early operators were Gertrude Worthington, Florence DuBoise, Anna Wynkoop, and Alice Wagner.

Later, the exchange was moved to the second floor of a house owned by the Connors, at the corner of Murray Avenue and Huntingdon Pike. Still later, 1958, the Huntingdon Valley section was fully automated and situated in a building on Murray Avenue next to its former site. As of September 1976, there were 15,060 telephones emanating from that building and a total of 6,756 subscribers.



SCHOOLS IN MORELAND TOWNSHIP

An act was passed June 30, 1836 establishing public schools throughout the state, which this district (Moreland Township) by a vote, did not accept. By the act of April 11, 1848, the common school system was enforced on the unaccepting districts. The township opened five schools for six months, ending with the close of the school year June 1, 1849. Schools have been kept open continuously, ten months a year, since June 1, 1850. Originally, there were five schools, located at Willow Grove, Huntingdon Valley, Paper Mill Hill, Wood's Hill, and Walnut Valley.

However, certain earlier historians tell of schools in Moreland by 1776 — five are listed:

1. Hatborough, established in 1730
2. Southwest corner of Moreland on Welsh Road
3. Near Parry's mill on Newtown Road one mile northeast of Willow Grove.
4. Middle Road Schoolhouse below Sorrel Horse Hotel built before 1745 (and still in use at Martindale's writing in 1853.)
5. Near the Byberry line in the lower end of the township.

As early as 1711, a school is recorded at the Byberry Friend's Meeting to which children of Moreland were eligible to go.

"Near where the Welsh road crosses the Pennypack, are still to be seen the ruins of the old stone school house built about 1790, where the ancestors of numbers in the vicinity formerly received their education." This is recorded in 1884.

"About 1794, Thomas Longstroth built a paper mill on the Pennypack, near the central part of the township. Here, in 1795, Samuel D. Ingham, of Solebury, in his sixteenth year, went to serve as an apprentice to learn the business. In the schoolhouse near by Mr. Adrian taught a night school during the winter, which Mr. Ingham diligently attended, and as he afterwards stated—greatly to his benefit." "In 1812, he was elected to Congress from Bucks County—a position he held the greater portion of the time until 1829. General Jackson, in that year entering on his duties as President, appointed Mr. Ingham Secretary of the Treasury, which office he filled for two years."



Red Lion Road School — 1892

A public schoolhouse, two stories high built in 1857 is recorded in Bean but there is no location. In 1892, the Red Lion Road School was built and became the central school in the lower portion of the township. It contained 3 classrooms and was a 3 year high school. Prior to this classes were held in the farmhouse east of the school property. This house was razed to put the portable classrooms on the property. At first the district was combined with Willow Grove, so the graduations were held in Huntingdon Valley on alternate years. In 1889 there were 2 graduates. "As the township continued to grow, four new classrooms were added in 1916 bringing the total to seven. Other expansions occurred in the 1930's, 1952, 1962, and in 1968 four portable classrooms became part of the facilities. Presently, the facility contains eighteen classrooms, a math lab., a reading lab., library, cafeteria, multi-purpose room, and office space. It now accomodates all the third and fourth level students."

During the expansion of school facilities, it was found necessary to separate the first six levels and the 7 to 12 grades. Therefore, the Lower Moreland Junior-Senior High School was opened in 1928. It was located on Murray Avenue in Huntingdon Valley, Pa. It consisted of six classrooms, Industrial Shop, and Gymnasium with locker rooms for boys and girls. At this time also, the fourth year of high school was added to the curriculum. Prior to this, the fourth year was attainable only by attending a school outside the district, ie; Abington, Cheltenham, George School or others. At the same time (in 1928) students came from neighboring districts—first Upper Southampton, then Lower Southampton, and Rockledge came to Lower Moreland. Several additions were made to the building during this time.



Lower Moreland High School 1928 - 1966

The pupils from Southampton (later known as Upper Southampton when that township was divided) returned to their growing district as building were made available to them in 1931. The Lower Southampton pupils (from Trevoise, Feasterville, and Siles) returned to their district in 1955 and the Rockledge pupils were the last to leave in 1963 when they went to Abington.

Pine Road School was built as a result of the growth and expansion of the township, on part of a large farm known as Greenridge. It was occupied in 1960, bringing children from other temporary locations in the township. The original building was constructed with fifteen classrooms; a library, multi-purpose room, faculty room, nurses suite, office area, and a kitchen. In 1964 a wing was added with six classrooms and a guidance office. Eight relocatable classrooms were erected in 1969.

In October 1967, a fire severely damaged the Murray Avenue School which necessitated all classes to be conducted elsewhere in the township until January 1, 1968. This fire precipitated renovations and redesigning of the building on this site, and by the 1971-72 school year, the Intermediate school was designated a Middle School, with the completion of Phases 1 and 2. With the completion of Phase 3, the Middle School became a 5 - 8 grade-level facility.

The new Lower Moreland High School was opened in September 1967. It occupied a site of 57.9 acres on Red Lion Road adjacent to the early building of 1892. The new Senior High building was designed to accomodate six hundred students in grades 9 through 12 and was expanded in 1971 to house an additional four hundred students for a total school population of one thousand.

The Lower Moreland Senior High School of 1976 is accredited by the Pennsylvania State Department of Education and the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Middle states. The first accreditation was in 1952. The most recent evaluation and accreditation was completed by the Middle States in 1971.



LIBRARIES IN HUNTINGDON VALLEY

There have been three libraries in Lower Moreland in the last 120 years.

The first one is indicated on a Scott map dated 1871. It was located on Huntingdon Turnpike near the present Gulf Station. Alas, no one is now alive to give us any more information. We surmise it was made up of donated volumes. The churches also provided libraries for their members.

The second library was started in 1919 by the Community Club. It consisted of donated books. The Community Club ran fund raising movies and minstrel shows and used other means to add to it and keep it going. After a few years, it was a financial burden and volunteers were less available, so it was discontinued after the school was asked if they would like to run it as a Free Library. The added expense to the school was not acceptable. However, the books were sorted and those usable for school purposes were kept as a school library and the rest were stored.

In 1953, the Women's Club of Huntingdon Valley started the third library as their community project. This was the nucleus of the present Huntingdon Valley Library. Again it started with donated books. Yerkes Cleaners gave a shelf in their cleaning establishment to start lending books. The Women's Club donated money and helped to raise additional funds in many ways so new books could be purchased. The library grew and later the first floor in a house on the Pike was rented to house the increasing number of volumes. At some time along the way, the volumes stored from the previous Community Club library were again sorted and as many as possible were used. The Women's Club formed a Library Committee and staffed the library with volunteers. Some residents made themselves responsible for one month's rent. Later, both the Commissioners and the school gave funds.

In 1957, the Library Committee petitioned the Commissioners to ask the township by referendum, to gain tax support. It failed the first time but due to the efforts of Mrs. Ruth Wisner, Mrs. Charlotte Fawcett, and Mrs. Rachel Gross, plus many other workers, it finally passed in 1961 after the third try.

The Library was incorporated as a non-profit organization with nine board members and now also has three ex-officio members. With tax support the Women's Club job was essentially over, although they continue support with a yearly contribution.

The Library purchased the former Memorial Baptist Church building on Red Lion Road, where it is still located, and moved into the building in 1962. In 1967 a large remodeling project was undertaken so that all three floors could be used.

There have been three trained full-time librarians, Miss Dorothy Reinbold, Mrs. Evelyn Brown and Miss Kathleen Burns.

Today the Huntingdon Valley Library is open fifty hours a week—has over 24,200 volumes; serves as a meeting place for some organizations; presents a story hour; a Fall Film series; and a Children's Summer Reading program.

1. *Written by Eleanor King*



THE CHURCHES OF HUNTINGDON VALLEY

The Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church started as a Sunday School held in a "little, old, unpainted wooden school building that stood on the southwest corner of Wyncoop Avenue and Huntingdon Pike". The Sunday School was held for the children of the neighborhood for about 50 years, during the end of that time there were also divine services for the adults. This arrangement was during the summer when Reverend Steele, from the Abington Presbyterian Church alternated with someone whose name has been forgotten, during two Sundays a month.

In the year 1860, many people showed a desire for a church in the community. Eighteen members applied for a charter in 1861, and the first Lord's Supper was celebrated by 25 people on February 16, 1861.



Early Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church

Ground was purchased from John Walton and farmers in the area promised stone for the foundation. Rebecca Snowden worked very hard for the first funds for the building of a new church for the fledgling congregation. She was responsible for \$2900. Mrs. Casper Fetter gave \$500 so that by the middle of 1862 the church was completed and a manse, next door, finished nine months later.

Reverend Mingins, a young man without formal theological training, was installed May 15, 1861. He saw the congregation begin

to use it's new building while the Sunday School remained in the wooden structure a few yards north. He left to join the Union Army in June of 1863.

Two more names should be remembered from the early days of the congregation. These are Casper Fetter and Yarnell Fillmore, both "pillars of the church".

After Reverend Kennedy (1863-1866) who brought 27 new members into the church, there followed a period of difficulties due to the small membership. Strawberry festivals, suppers and entertainments were held to augment funds. As the area slowly grew, twenty-eight members were received—rather a large proportion of the some 150 people in the community of farmers and mechanics.

Reverend Cowles (1879-1884) and Mrs. Cowles, who started the first choir, were popular leaders, and during this time 43 new members were received. Miss Bertha M. Slugg, who became the wife of O. C. Robinson, joined in this period - she became an elder of the church. At this time also, the Mite Society was formed to "oversee the general maintenance of the church and manse". This organization raised "thousands of dollars, used for repairs, additions, heat, a new organ, and even the bell for the new steeple".

During the tenure of Reverend Barnes, (1884-1887) John Wanamaker presented the pulpit; and the pulpit furniture was donated by others. Between 1887-1891, some outstanding persons became members—Mr. and Mrs. C. Seymour Clayton (nee Jackson) and Mr. Jesse Holt—together with 103 other members.

In 1899 arson of churches was an epidemic and one day a father and daughter—the Van Cleves— were on their way to market when they discovered a fire in the Presbyterian Church. The townsfolk were able to save considerable property and minimize the damage to the structure.

After another period of financial uncertainty in June 1908, it was decided to build a Sunday School addition. By December, it was completed and in use. From 1918 through 1928, Dr. C. T. Edwards was the pastor. He died November 11, 1928, while serving the church.

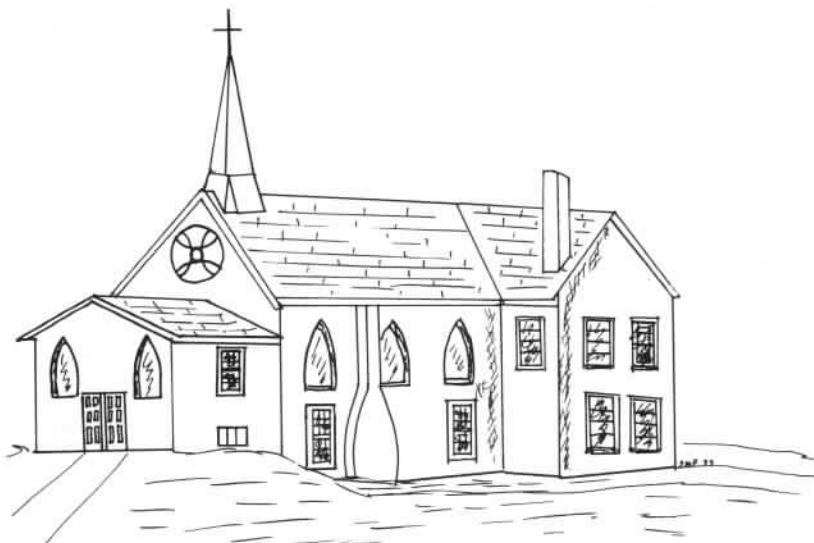
Parking became such a problem in the 1940's that it became necessary to purchase more land and expand again—this time westward. In 1950, a new building was dedicated which encompassed the original building and used many of it's stained glass windows. A Christian Education building was dedicated in 1959 which includes the Boyer auditorium, named for a former member and generous donor to the church.

Several pastors have served the church since that time, notably Pastors, Dr. Alfred L. Taxis; Reverend Donald K. Theobald; Reverend Leonard A. Clayton. Presently the Reverend William Groff occupies the pulpit.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HUNTINGDON VALLEY

The first meetings of the group which was to organize the First Baptist Church of Huntingdon Valley were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Whitest on Huntingdon Pike in 1897. These initial meetings were weekly prayer meetings. One year later, 1898, a Sunday School was started by five young women.

By 1899, the group was officially organized into a mission under the leadership of Reverend Tibbs, pastor of the Salem Baptist Church of Jenkintown. Soon it was a separate and individual Baptist Church with the name First Baptist Church of Huntingdon Valley and in November 1900 was incorporated under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania.



First Baptist Church of Huntingdon Valley

The church had grown in numbers so that the services were held in the Odd Fellows Hall. The cornerstone was laid for the church building on Murray Avenue in September 1901 and by October 1903 the first services were conducted therein. The first baptisms were held in the Pennypack Creek until a baptistry was installed in the church. The missionary society was founded in 1915. Again in 1926 remodeling became necessary and, during this time, services were held in True Reformers Hall, an apartment-meeting room building next to the church. This Hall was later torn down.

Reverend Young made many physical and spiritual improvements in the church in the 1950's. Growth was still evident so that by 1971 more space was needed and in November of 1971 another building phase was completed and in use.



MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

A Baptist mission was started in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elias Markley in June of 1872 in the Philmont area. It was called Pine Grove Mission. The meetings in the home were so well attended that on April 11, 1875, Amanda Heritage, George McDowell, and Sarah Markley were appointed to collect funds for a building for Sunday School on land donated by Elias Markley. This mission was under the auspices of the Lower Dublin Church.

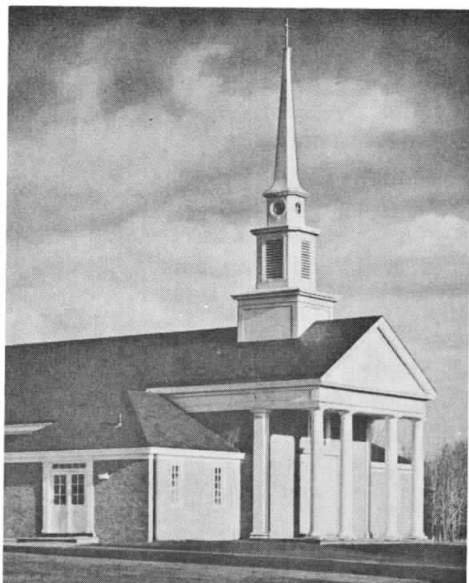
The building was started the first day of September 1877 on the west side of the Reading Railroad tracks and Pine Road. Elwood Potts and Ephraim Slugg were the builders, a number of men in the neighborhood gave their time and teams to do the work. The building was completed in the early fall at a cost of five hundred twenty dollars and ninety-one cents (\$520.91). It was dedicated free of debt. The benches, desk and bookcase were given by the old Union Mission at Huntingdon Valley, which had been abandoned after the Presbyterian Church was started.

However, the enthusiasm diminished and in November 1879, the effort came to an end. After several short attempts, the Lower Dublin church decided to abandon the field and sold the building to Mr. Elias Markley for \$100 and he in turn sold it to Mr. J. A. McCauley of Philadelphia. Again in 1889, it was opened as an undenominational mission having a variety of speakers—this continued for 2 years.

In 1892 Reverend Joseph Shepherd was sent from the Grace Baptist Church to organize the Philmont Baptist Mission. The group acquired chairs to replace the benches, matting for the floor, a pulpit, a desk, and chairs were donated by the First Baptist Church of Trenton, New Jersey. An organ and lamps were purchased through funds received as a donation, a silver communion service was presented by the Fifth Baptist Church of Philadelphia. Sunday School continued here a while but in 1899 on May 5, the first service was held in the Odd Fellows Hall in Huntingdon Valley and the mission renamed Huntingdon Valley Mission.

The next year the question of a lot and building was seriously discussed. Mr. J. H. Danenhower purchased a lot on Red Lion

Road which he donated to the organization. June 28, 1900, Mrs. Danenhower broke ground for the new building. The building committee was: Mr. S. P. Jefferson, Mr. H. B. Leedom and Mr. Benjamin Stevens. The contract was awarded to Mr. Joseph Ashley of Fox Chase and the two story red brick building with a buff brick front was started. The cornerstone was laid by Dr. Russell Conwell on July 14, 1900. The first service was held in the lower room of the Memorial Baptist Church on December 14, 1900.



Memorial Baptist Church

In 1901 the church was admitted to the Philadelphia Association of Baptist Churches. The church had a continuous growth until the late 20's and 30's when membership and attendance diminished. The pulpit was filled by supply ministers until the second World War when new growth began. A parsonage was acquired on the Pike and a full time minister was called. By 1958, need for more space was evident and in 1960 ten and seven-tenth acres on Huntingdon Pike were purchased from Roland Greenawalt. Ground was broken in May 1961, the building was dedicated March 1962 and continued to grow under the leadership of the pastor, Franklyn Vail.



THE METHODIST CHURCH OF HUNTINGDON VALLEY

Methodism came to Bethayres and Huntingdon Valley in 1892. On February 6 of that year, the Reverend Jeremiah Brandreth,



Methodist Episcopal Church of Bethayres, 1892

a knitting mill worker and local preacher from Germantown, came to the community under appointment by the Philadelphia Conference to organize a Methodist society. He held meetings in Odd Fellows Hall and created interest in the community. After a short time, the Methodist Episcopal Church of Bethayres was formed with a membership of five.

For a while the meetings continued in the Hall, but the members wanted a church building. Accordingly, a site was donated by George Murray and construction began. The foundation stones were donated by a Baptist, George McDowell. Sunday, October 15, 1892, the new church, located at Red Lion Road and Murray Avenue was dedicated. In 1905 electricity was installed.

Mention must be made of the faithful and dedicated service of an outstanding layman, Mr. George A. Gray, who joined the church before the turn of the century and remained Sunday School superintendant until 1947.

The wife of Reverend C. D. Williams, who assumed leadership in 1920, organized the Ladies Aid Society which was later re-organized as the Women's Society of Christian Service. During the ministry of Dr. Jessie E. Harpel, a new organ was purchased, the church lawn landscaped, and many improvements were made in the organizational aspects of the church. October 1939, Reverend George Connards assumed pastoral duties. It was under his guidance that the church was made a full time ministerial charge and a parsonage purchased. Under the pastorate of Reverend William McClain in 1950, a new educational wing was built, the interior of the sanctuary renovated and new furnishings installed. At the same time plans for a new church building were begun. The present church building at Huntingdon Pike and Byberry Road was occupied in 1959.

The former church building was sold to the Church of the Nazarene, who in turn sold it to Gloria Dei to use as a youth center. This latter was short-lived and the building sold and is used for offices of the Penta Insurance Company and Valley Help Center.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The middle of the last century was a time of great mill activity. A growing number of farmers were settling in the area. Accordingly, in 1847 Joseph Erwin donated an acre of land at the corner of Welsh Road and Washington Lane for a place of worship. By volunteer labor and gifts of money for materials, the little church was finished in 1848. It was placed under the direction of the Methodist Conference, and until 1919 was known as the Fairview Methodist Church. The building lasted longer than the congregation for, by 1872 services were discontinued and even the attempt to use the building as a Sunday School failed. The failure was in part due to the decline of the mills in the area. The bodies in the churchyard were moved and the churchyard became a weed patch as the building fell into disrepair.

Edward E. Marshall bought the building in 1919 and turned it over to the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. Under Bishop P. M. Rhinelander, the worship services began on the last Sunday in March 1919, and ever since then services have been conducted every Sunday. The church was first called St. Hildas but the area residents always called it the Huntingdon Valley Chapel. In 1922 land was given for a rectory by Mrs. Ellen Herkness but the house was not built until 1941. It is a beautiful ten room fieldstone house of graceful proportions.

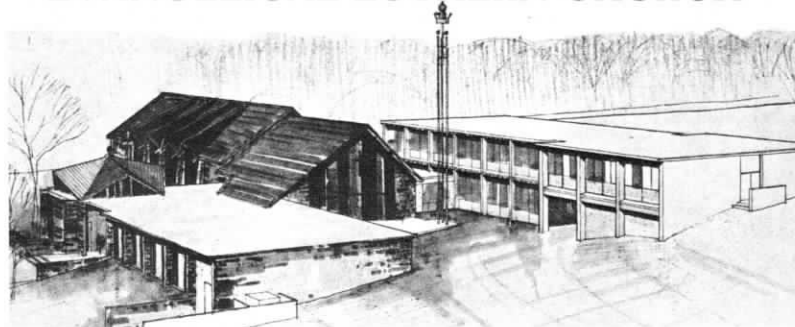


St. John's Episcopal Chapel

Through the years, the Chapel has been renovated and a wing, providing five sizable classrooms added. The property has expanded to six and half acres. Parking facilities have been provided.

The church was admitted to the Episcopal Convention in 1956 and renamed St. John's Episcopal Church of Huntingdon Valley. The congregation outgrew the little chapel in spite of three services. So in 1957 the cornerstone for a new church and educational building beside the tiny chapel, was laid. The present newer building is used for the eleven o'clock service and Sunday School but some of the older parishioners prefer the original chapel at the earlier hour.

GLORIA DEI EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church

In September of 1956, it was decided that the evergrowing Huntingdon Valley area was in dire need of a Lutheran Church. Through the efforts of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, the generosity of Tabor Lutheran Church and the gracious personal sacrifice of Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church, then located on 7th Street and Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, the need finally found an answer. The Reverend Ernst G. Schmidt was called as Mission developer by the Board of American Missions.

January 13, 1957 was the date of the organization for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. 128 members were officially welcomed into the church fellowship. Today the congregation numbers 3000.

The Huntingdon Valley Fire Company became the first place of worship and on October 30, 1956, the first service was held there. This service attracted 128 people and became a source of inspiration that motivated great things in the years that were ahead. It officially organized on January 13, 1957 with 128 on its charter roll.

A Sunday School in the Lower Moreland Elementary School, Easter at Rye Valley Country Club, and borrowing space from St. John's Episcopal Church in the summers resulted in a new building which was dedicated November 13, 1960. In 1961 a second level was added to the educational building, an office wing in 1965-66, an addition to the sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, the Narthex, the Chapel, and the educational wing with four classrooms plus storage space followed in 1971.

The Spot After - a Youth Center for youngsters had a four year life elsewhere in the community. Gloria Dei Towers, a home for 268 retired persons was ready in 1972 and a companion facility, Gloria Dei Manor, is being planned.

There are programs for all ages and all denominations in the scope of the Gloria Dei outreach. There is a multi-faceted program for the women of the church, a comprehensive choir program, the teenagers are asked to use their abundant energies in a variety of

programs, there is a Boy Scout Troop, and a singles program with a wide and varied program. A lecture and cultural series provides outstanding lectures and artists of national and international stature for the enrichment of those who desire to take part in this program.

Recently, Dr. Schmidt inaugurated a wide ranging television program beamed to many sections of the United States. It is also carried on radio.



THE HUNTINGDON VALLEY CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

The Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, which is situated at 375 Byberry Road, was completed November 14, 1970. Since there were thriving congregations in Feasterville and Burholme, it was decided to divide these and form another - Huntingdon Valley seemed to be an ideal place.

The principle activity of Jehovah's Witnesses is the preaching of the "Good News of GOD's Kingdom" from house to house as did Jesus and the early Christians. The congregation meets three times a week. These meetings are Bible oriented and are designed to teach more about Jehovah and how to apply Bible principles in our daily lives.

A minstry school is conducted once a week. There is no age limit therefore, the students range in age from very young children to teen-agers to senior citizens. Whether young or old, all students learn to be better speakers and teachers of God's word.



Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

"His Eminence, John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, announced the founding of five new parishes on June 6, 1962. Among the newly designated parishes was St. Albert the Great in Huntingdon Valley, Pa. Father Raymond A. McCullough, ordained in 1937, was appointed founding pastor of St. Albert the Great parish." The parish bridges both Philadelphia and Montgomery counties.

A temporary church was established in the Marine Corp League Building on Philmont Road. Men of the parish volunteered to clean the building every Sunday morning before Mass so it could be a place of reverence for worship. The rectory was set up in a refurbished farm house at 212 Welsh Road. On February 16, 1963 the first Parish Calendar was published. To obtain funds for the new church building, many projects were needed. The most effective were the "Socials" started in September, 1962 and held monthly.

In 1963, Father John Miller came to the parish and "his background in Sacred Liturgy eminently qualified him for his advisory role to Father McCullough in designing the sanctuary of the church." "St. Alberts Church is a beautiful modern building adequately suited to the changed liturgy of Vatican II."



St. Albert the Great Roman Catholic Church

The most Reverend Gerald V. McDevitt, Auxillary Bishop of Philadelphia presided at the ground breaking for the parish buildings on March 22, 1964. As the building program began in earnest, St. Alberts became a more established parish. Programs such as the Catholic Charities Appeal and the Thanksgiving Clothing Drive and the initiation of the Blood Donor Program were carried on. The parish began with about 600 families.

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur travelled from Rittenhouse Square to Huntingdon Valley each day until their home was ready. The school opened in September 28, 1963 using just the first floor and by October a second floor was opened for classes.

The convent was ready in November 1, 1964. By February 1965, the people of St. Alberts were worshipping on their home grounds. Mass was held in the new all purpose auditorium while the work continued on the church. On June 20, 1965, Archbishop Krol dedicated St. Alberts Church and Convent. The Christmas Midnight Mass in the beautiful new church was a high point for the parish.

The parish school has over 800 children in the classes from first through eighth grades. The first St. Albert's Science Fair was held March 12, 1967 in the school auditorium. The calibre of education is reflected in the placing of many students in the top ten percent of the nation's children in the National Education Development Testing Programs.

The parish offers opportunities for its members through Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownie Troops, Girl Scouts, and Campfire Girls. There is also a CYO boys and girls program started in 1966. There is a Home and School Council, a Parish Finance Committee, and since 1963, there have been Men's and Women's Bowling teams.

The first Parish Dance was held September 14, 1963, sponsored by the newly formed Social Committee. A Red Cross Blood Program provides another means of Christian service. In 1977 there was added a 55+ program for senior citizens.

Since the passing of the beloved Father McCullough in 1976, the Reverend Edmund C. Wesolowski serves as Pastor with the Reverend Peter D. Burke in residence.



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Jehovah's Witnesses - kindness of William Betz

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Man is indeed a social creature. The early colonists had as a social outlet, first and foremost, their churches and activities associated with them. Marriages and deaths provided a time of reunion. William J. Buck mentions in his account, *The History of Mooreland*, the facts of sleighing, quilting bees, corn huskings, barn raisings, shooting matches, and apple butter boilings. Although there was hard work involved, the colonists welcomed these social exchanges. At many of these occasions the cider press and its product was put to good use. When the work was finished, there was dancing—jigs, reels and hoedowns.

In the early part of 1847, Brother Leibert of the I.O.O.F. instituted four lodges, one of which was #222, Eagle Lodge in Huntingdon Valley. The lodge building is now a private residence, a few hundred feet above Buck Road on the east side of Huntingdon Pike.

The political forum was always a source of social contact. The local paper shows that the Lady Washington was the scene of many organizational meetings. December 4, 1911, the Fox Chase and Huntingdon Turnpike Company met there. The Moreland Road Supervisors likewise used it as a meeting place. Clayton Hall, once just below the Lady Washington was the meeting place of the Democratic Party, while the Spread Eagle housed the Republican party representatives in October 1911.

The Odd Fellows Hall, built 1869 and razed 1953, on land now occupied by the Huntingdon Valley Federal Savings and Loan, was used many times for local social gatherings—Halloween parties, card parties, Christmas parties, as well as for Lodge meetings of Lodge #222. September 31, 1911, the Fire Company gave a Fair in the Hall. \$250 was cleared, \$65 on dolls alone, Miss Daisy Worthington (Roberts) won first prize doll.

This same Daisy Worthington with her sister Gertrude Worthington (Edmiston) conducted a social dancing class several winters in the Clayton Hall just below the Lady Washington Hotel. Today Julia Montalbano, a professional dancer, offers dancing classes in the area to local aspirants.

The February 3, 1912 edition of the *Public Spirit* records the meeting of the Literary Society of Huntingdon Valley in the school building. There was an admission charge for the all home talent show. The proceeds were given to the library fund.

The Fire Company held carnivals for many years to raise funds. These were attended by most townfolk as well as those from neighboring towns. The Ladies of the Fire Company Auxilliary gave suppers—an opportunity for social contact within the town. The churches from time to time indulged in this activity.

Early June when the strawberries were in season, the women of the Methodist Church on Murray Avenue, set up tables on the lawn and the annual Strawberry Festival (with ice cream) was in full swing.

The week between Christmas and New Year always was set aside for everyone in the town to attend all the Christmas Entertainments. Cheerfully trooping from one church to another, the whole week was filled with these festivities. The orange and a box of candy from each church was eagerly awaited by all the children in attendance.

Sunday School picnics were held by each church and all children went to each one of these as in the Christmas festivities. These were first held at Alnwick Grove, then farther afield.

The Lyceum course—a series of entertainments featuring glass blowers, musical offerings, a magician, and other presentations—was sponsored by the Community Club during the 1920's. Moving pictures were regularly featured in the Red Lion auditorium atop the four "new" classrooms of that building's addition. The Community Club also performed minstrel shows—home talent. One of which was held April 15—sometime in the 20's.

Of course, the "pool parlor" at the barber shop attracted the men of the community and the conversation which was forthcoming was duly related to the womenfolk later—with the deletions of material not fit for feminine ears, certainly! Clarence Green and later Elias Markley were barbers.

The basketball and baseball teams put on the fields by Huntingdon Valley, were followed by many of the townsfolk with enthusiasm. The schools have always been the source of athletic talent. Now we find the little league baseball teams using the township maintained fields. As the area has grown, the numbers of participants also has grown and now there are several teams using the township parks.

The Alumni of the High School has had cycles of activity. One was in the 1920's—there were card parties, picnics, etc. Again in the 1960's the alumni reorganized and offered a series of home talent shows in the Murray Avenue auditorium of the High School before it burned. The Alumni now offers a scholarship to a Senior, and there is an autumn dinner. Although there is no longer large participation, a small nucleus keeps the organization alive.

The fourth of July traditionally has produced a variety of social activity. Baseball games, parades, and the all-important fire-works displays have been the order of the day. The year 1976—the Bicentennial Year—provided five days of celebration. The first two days in July, Thursday and Friday; a variety show written and produced by local talent included upwards of 125 persons who sang, danced, or in some way worked for the entertainment called

"Home For The Fourth". Tidbits of local history were incorporated into a celebration of national accomplishments. A baseball game between the local Fire Company members and a team from the Crozier-Chester Burn Center collected \$200 to be donated to the Burn Center. On Sunday the Soap Box Derby was run for the first time. Much time and money solicited from local sources provided the 35 boys with an opportunity to participate in the event. July 5, Monday, the day of celebration scheduled morning and evening events culminating in a parade and fireworks display put on by the local Fireman on the school grounds. The parade featured nearby Fire Companies and their equipment, the local High School Band, and floats by several local organizations. It may truly be said "a good time was had by all".

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The Public Spirit

Conversation with Gertrude Worthington Edmiston



EARLY INNS AND INDUSTRY

As population spread into the county and roads were opened, inns were soon established at prominent locations. By 1710, legislation was deemed necessary for their regulation, therefore, an act was passed "that no public house or inn within this province be kept without a license". This was confirmed by Queen Anne, February 28, 1713, and thus became a law.

Because of the roads leading to Philadelphia from all the outlying areas, there were many inns in the Manor of Moreland. In Willow Grove was the famous Mineral Spring Hotel. In Hatboro, Washington mentions in his dispatches to Congress, August 10, 1777, the "Billet Tavern on the road leading to Coryells Ferry". The Sorrel Horse Hotel, on the Middle Road, was kept at one time by a James Fulton, "where elections have been held for a long time".



Sorrel Horse Hotel

Therefore, the first inn to be mentioned is the Sorrel Horse located on the Middle Road (Huntingdon Pike) and Spur Road on the southwest corner of the intersection. This inn was built in the mid-eighteenth century. At one time it was the only post office in this section of Moreland Township. It was the polling place for this area of the township. It was razed in the 1930's.

The second inn and the only one still standing, is the Lady Washington Hotel. It is located on the southwest corner of the Pike and Fetersmill Road (the bank building is built on the immediate corner on some of the ground where once were the inn sheds.) It was built in 1761 as is recorded on the north wall of the building. There is a beautiful detail of stars cut into the trim of the dormers. The building once had a porch on two sides and sheds for the stabling of horses. There is an old pump at the front which has been there for about 200 years.



Lady Washington Hotel

The tavern keeper in 1806 was a Garret Dungan. The legal owner was a local man, William Robinson, who had presumably inherited it or purchased it from a Jonathan Austin, deceased. Part of the advertisement appearing in a local paper of 170 years ago for the sale of the hotel was "The house is good and convenient, with a pump of excellent water near door, which never fails". The old pump still stands near the door. The last person to operate the hotel was Rhino Clayton, in the first and second decades of the 20th century.



The Spread Eagle Hotel

The third inn was the Spread Eagle Hotel. It was licensed in 1793 and operated until November 1936 when it was torn down to provide access for the bridge over the Reading Railroad. This was a very active inn—its situation near the Bethayres station helped the business. The local jail was situated on the third floor, and here were kept horse thieves and other criminals until they

could be removed to the county jail in Norristown. It was also a favorite stop for farmers on their way to market in Philadelphia. The Spread Eagle had some famous personages as guests as recorded in its register. These include: Jimmy Walker, one time Mayor of New York City; John McCormack, Irish Tenor; Stanford White, architect of Cairnwood in Bryn Athyn; John Ringling, of circus fame; Oscar Hammerstein; Stanley Mastbaum; and even Al Capone. During Prohibition, the Hotel was padlocked for a while but with repeal, resumed its former career.

The census of 1785 of Moreland Township listed 10 grist mills, 3 sawmills, 1 fulling mill, 1 oil mill, 2 tanneries, 1 distillery. The earliest industry was agriculture. The area was covered with virgin forest and, in order to live, the forests were cut down and used to build houses. Next, the open land was farmed. The grain was ground by early mills—the grist mill was a necessary adjunct to the farm lands. So a saw-mill, a grist mill and agriculture were the first order of business. All of these mills used water power. At one time there were as many as 28 mills along the Pennypack and it is probable the number was as high as 35, counting those on the tributary streams.

From the rise of the Pennypack, the original source may be considered to be a tiny brook that rises just south of Maple Glen, across the line of Upper Dublin Township, the creek has a fall of about 340 feet in its journey of 20 miles to its mouth in the Delaware River near Holmesburg.

Several mills are noteworthy before the creek flows into Moreland Township. These are the Iredell saw-mill of about 1850, near Prospectville; Fulmore's grist mill above Hatboro and the Yerkes mill, now a restaurant below Hatboro. The latter was owned by Emanuel Dungan in 1719.

In Moreland, Mason's mill was east of the present Pennsylvania Turnpike and "Trenton Cutoff". The Upper Moreland township park site necessitated the ruins of this mill being torn down.

Closer, in Lower Moreland, were two mills associated with the Shelmire and McDowell names; the latter—a paper mill—which gave its name to the station, Papermill (beside Papermill Road which crosses Creek Road) on the Newtown railroad. The two Shelmire mills spun or wove cotton and ground grain. All obtained their power from a dam that must have stood at or near the site of the low dam now crossing the stream here. We are told the paper mill needed pure water, so wooden pipe was laid to bring it down from the hills. It is said the wooden pipe is still embedded in the creek near the Papermill station. This complex of mills and houses also included a blacksmith shop.

In 1913, three abandoned stone houses were standing along Creek Road. The same year, Mr. Joseph Pearson, noted artist,

bought the abandoned Shelmire mill property. He restored, renovated, and modernized the buildings.

Downstream a bit farther, a mill stood on the east bank of the Pennypack near the present Bryn Athyn Station. This disappeared and the mill building jutting into the road on the west bank known as Fetter's Mill is a newer one.



Fetter's Mill

"Continuing down the valley, the Terwood Brook or Run comes in from the right, and on this brook—just above the confluence—on the east side of Terwood Road at the junction, was the Addis grist mill. This stood until 50 or 60 years ago when it was bought by a Mr. Stulb, and the mill torn down, leaving nothing but the small stone arch in the hillside that may still be seen".

At the site of the Suburban Water Company's pumping station, the Pennypack passes over the dam and under Welsh Road. Here was the grist mill known as John Walton's. Earlier known as Thomas Austin's.



Walton's Mill

"Crossing under the new and old bridges of the Second Street or Huntingdon Pike, the Pennypack again plunges into the hills. Here on the right bank, below the bridge, stood one of the oldest and best-known of the Pennypack mills, built in the 18th century. Thomas Canby was one of its early owners. Later, this mill belonged to the Paul family, for whom the Paul Brook was named. In more recent times it passed into the hands of the Hallowells of Bethayres."

"Israel Hallowell, grandfather of Israel and James F. Hallowell, operated this mill about the middle of the last (19th) century. Wishing to raise the height of the mill-dam to give a greater head, he

purchased the three farms which would be affected by the backed-up water."

"The dam-breast being raised, a hole was drilled in a large rock just above the dam, indicating the height to which the water might legally be raised, and this bench mark was duly recorded in Norristown. It still appears in all deeds affecting the property." The mill was destroyed by fire thought to have been started by sparks from a locomotive in 1907.



Hallowell Mill - Huntingdon Pike

Still another mill was located on the Paul Brook, later known as the Meadow Brook. This tiny stream is visible along Valley Road near Meadowbrook station. It is almost inconceivable that such a brooklet could support a mill. This site was the Danenhower Mill. Later a Samuel Burke, then a Joseph Monday (or Mundy), rented and operated it. It is said there was so much trouble with muskrats digging out and draining the mill-race, that Mr. Penrose Hallowell, the owner, refused to continue its use and eventually tore it down.

There is one more mill to be considered. It was on Tomlinson Road, west of Philmont, on the western edge of the property now known as Philmont Country Club. There is a tiny brook meandering through the hill which at one time was diverted into a mill race. The cut and embankment for the mill-race are still visible and recognizable as such. It was thought to belong to a John Brock during the American Revolution.

In 1848, according to the W. E. Morris map the mill was Bouchers G. and S. Mill—Grist and Sawmill. Hopkin's Atlas of 1861 records it as O. and M. Butcher's G. and S. Mill. The Faren Map of Moreland Township—1861—by Matthew Huges, records Ch. and Wm. Boucher's Flour Mill and Saw Mill as being in that location. However, it was destroyed in the first decade of the 20th century. A fire razed it.

The foundation of the mill along with the house on the hill west of it were purchased by Mr. George Tipping in 1920. He built a residence on the foundation. In the basement of the house is said to be the mill stone—buried in cement.

In a time when the horse and wagon was the only mode of land transportation, the blacksmith and wheelwright were necessary to their proper maintenance.

We know of five blacksmiths in Huntingdon Valley. One was mentioned before as being in the complex that made up the Shelmire Mills.



McMahon's Blacksmith Shop



LaRue's Blacksmith Shop

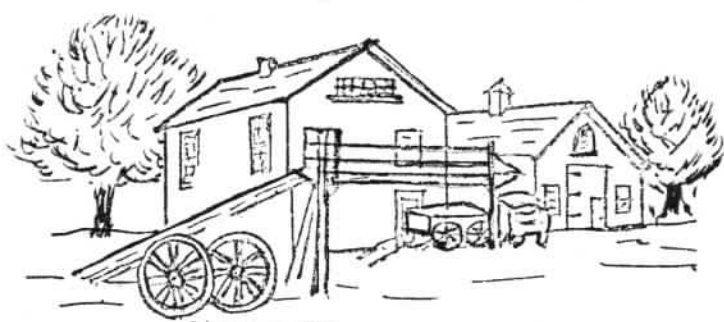
Another blacksmith, working at the turn of the 19th century, was George McMahon. Located at the busy crossroad of Welsh Road and the Huntingdon Turnpike (Middle Road), a wheelwright was located nearly opposite him. Together with Lafayette LaRue, whose shop was on Buck Road just off the Huntingdon Pike, these men saw the end of blacksmithing in the area, except for the travelling horseshoer we still have today. Mr. LaRue was next to a wheelwright shop also.



Wheelwright - Buck and Pike

At a very early date there was a blacksmith on Byberry Road. It is thought the date to be between 1830 and 1876 because the property was sold in 1868 with a smithy recorded as being part of the property. The property was acquired in 1830 by a Simeon Fenton; sold by a Lenford Fenton to a William Heaton in 1868, mentioning the smithy and sold by him in 1876. How long the smithy was in operation is not known at this time.

The wheelwright's were the modern equivalent of the garage—or even more recently the garage-gas station. A Mr. Lightcap followed by a Mr. Barrett were the proprietors of the shop in Bethayres on



Barret Wheelwright Shop

Welsh Road near the intersection with the Pike. The Barretts built and repaired carriages for many years. The buildings were later converted to a tinsmith shop by a Mr. John Logan. Still later they were a garage.

A man named Yerkes had a wheelwright shop near the present Bryn Athyn station, the shop was on Aldan Road—the first property on the east side near the intersection of Papermill Road. This property was first mentioned in a deed dated 1803. There is a legend of the Clock Ghost told about the house. The Ghost appeared as a result of the practice of oiling a grandfather's clock case. Because the clock was too heavy to move, the oil from the cloth made an outline on the wall around the case. The outline remained visible for many years. In fact, it was there when Mr. Don Rose purchased the house and became the subject of one of his delightful essays.

Between the wheelwright and the blacksmith, all manner of farm equipment was maintained or even manufactured. At least one pair of andirons made by Lafe LaRue still exists.

Another related business was that of harness maker. Mr. George Markley was a local harness maker at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. He built the house on the north side of Red Lion Road adjoining the General Store of Andrew Ervin. His shop was in the Odd Fellows Hall which stood where the Huntingdon Valley Savings and Loan now stands. (1976)

Another necessary business was the General Store. Sketchy notations exist which record a general store in a building a few hundred feet south of the Sorrel Horse Hotel. It was kept by a Mrs. Elizabeth Shelmire—that's all known about it, and the building is now gone. This building was said to have a smoking room on the second floor for smoking meats. Another store is said to have been at the small house by the side of Huntingdon Pike opposite the Buck Road intersection.

The general store at the northwest corner of the Huntingdon Pike and Welsh Road was also the Bethayres Post Office for nearly a hundred years. At one time a Mr. Sam Nice was the storekeeper.



General Store

Later it was known as McMahon's store. Mr. Henry Doering owned it after the turn of the 19th century and his son, Harold, succeeded him as storekeeper-postmaster from 1912. When Mr. Harold died, his wife Margaret, was the post-mistress and moved to the site of the new post office on Welsh Road, built in 1958. It was at this time that Bethayres and Huntingdon Valley Post Offices combined to have the longest name in the country. It was later shortened to Huntingdon Valley (which is long enough). Most of the early building's career was as a general store and post office with dwelling attached. The original site was a grant from William Penn, whose signature was on the original deed. At one time, the room over the store contained long benches used by a Catholic church group led by a member of the Jesuits, who said Mass there about every six months. A porch and frame addition were built about 1850. Incidentally, across the road (Welsh) was a fine spring. Water rights were especially valuable in early times, and the water rights belonged to the owner of the store property. Here was the "Town Pump". This building was torn down in the 1960's to widen Welsh Road.

At the corner of Red Lion Road and Huntingdon Pike is a large building that was built and owned by a Mr. Andrew Ervin in the late 19th century. It served as a general store and dwelling. The store was truly "general". It sold clothing, food, hardware, fertilizers, tarred rope, thread, yard goods, medical supplies and anything else to make it "general". The Huntingdon Valley Post Office was here, too. Charles Price was the next owner of the store. He operated it in much the same manner. In 1918, Mr.



C. S. Clayton's General Store

Seymour Clayton, who had worked in the store of Mr. Price, bought the business and transferred it to a building on the northwest corner of the Pike and Fetter's Mill Road. It, too, was a general store and Post Office. The former building was sold shortly to a Dr. G. Lance Brown who used it as a Drug Store and ice cream parlor. The large store was divided to house a separate hardware store and drygoods store operated by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Riechard, respectively.

Mr. Clayton's store was carried on by his nephew, by marriage, Mr. Donald Hogeland, when Mr. Clayton was unable to care for it. The post office returned to the building whence it came but at this time occupied one of the smaller stores. The post office officially merged with Bethayres Post Office in a brick building on Welsh Road. (aforementioned) Mr. Clayton's store was remodeled in the 1920's to its present appearance and in the 1960's became Pacaya, owned by the Kracoffs, importers of clothing and artifacts from around the world.

A shoemaker was also necessary in the early days of Huntingdon Valley. There have been several. At one time, a separate tiny shop was on the Pike near the Odd Fellow's Hall (H.V.S. and L.). The shop was moved to the west side of the Pike several hundred feet north of the Clayton store. It was one room—heated in the winter by a pot-bellied stove, cooled in the summer by any vagrant breeze available. A shoemaker plies his trade today near the Township Building.

At one time, a factory for the manufacture of metallic caps for blasting, occupied the site of the Middle School Athletic Field—close to Red Lion Road. The factory employed about 17 persons. On the morning of April 1, 1890, the mixing house of the Metallic Cap Manufacturing Company exploded with a force felt 12 miles away in Germantown. One man was "blown to bits" and "pieces of him were collected in a cigar box by the local undertaker, Yarnell Fulmore, for burial."

Thereby is found another occupation of the turn of the century Huntingdon Valley—Undertaker or the present name of Funeral Director. There is one in the town at the 1976 writing—John B. Stiles—on Huntingdon Pike.

At this writing there are many businesses on Huntingdon Pike between Murray Avenue and the top of the hill. There is about a quarter of a mile zoned commercial and devoted to commercial enterprises. There is a realtor, a hairdresser, a restaurant, a flower shop, a dentist, a doctor, a children's shop, a woodworker, a dress shop, a printer, an antique shop, a decorator, a barber shop, a bank, a gem shop, a travel bureau, a dog grooming shop, and a series of shops in a small shopping center known as Fetersmill Square (on the old Clayton property and others). Farther along is a series of shops known as the Village Center. It contains a

restaurant, a flower shop, a fabric shop, a children's shop and a dress shop. Apartments exist in many houses that were built as homes in earlier times.

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INTERESTING HOUSES IN THE AREA

The people in the Manor of Moreland in the first era of building following the earliest log cabin accommodations, built very similar houses. These were the Pennsylvania farmhouse type—two rooms over two rooms and perhaps two more in the attic level. Later, as family size or affluence dictated, an addition transferring the kitchen to the new room with perhaps a bedroom over it, formed an ell with the original structure. Some were left with the fieldstone exposed but others were plastered over the stone. Many of these houses exist today. Many have been surrounded by “developments”. Some of them are on main roads attesting to the fact that farms lay behind the house. The owner preferred to be near a main road rather than maintain a lane of any length.

The house in a complex of buildings once called Hallowell Mills is secluded now on Old Huntingdon Pike. It is in Abington township but because of its location so close to Huntingdon Valley, it is included here. Location number 1 on map.

The land on which Hallowell mills and the miller's house were built, was an original grant from William Penn to William Markham and John Goodson. The grant is dated September 7, 1687 - it included upwards of 1000 acres. The next year Thomas Holme, the

surveyor-general for William Penn purchased the land. After that the land was divided into smaller parcels.

In 1695, the grist mill is recorded as belonging to a man named Fletcher. The grist mill was on the east side of Old Huntingdon Pike across the creek from the miller's house. Thomas Story became the owner on April 19, 1708 when he purchased the mill and 101 acres. In 1722, James Paul operated the mill and left it to his son Robert and Robert's wife Rachel in 1758. The Paul family sold it to John Hallowell on April 9, 1783. From that date until 1939, it remained in the same family.

Mr. John Hallowell lived in the miller's house until 1793 when he died of yellow fever. The story is told of his clothes being flung from the upstairs windows after his death. Since the disease was so deadly and so frightening, his clothes were left clinging to the branches of the trees where they had caught.

The front part of the house is the early house. It has the original paneling in the living room. This paneling has been laboriously restored by the present owners, Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Hinchcliffe. There is other interesting paneling under the stairway in the hall. This latter is said to be a New England type paneling. Another interesting item about these old houses is their door locks. The key to the lock in the front door is one of the old, very large brass ones. There are also other interesting locks, and keys to them, on other doors in the house. The locks on the back doors were patented in the Civil War era. This latter fact helps to date the addition of the rear of the house to Civil War times. There are four working fireplaces in the house with lovely mantels. In the basement are the remains of a brick baking oven, and stone archways that have been filled in with masonry but at one time, it is thought, perhaps served as doorways used by the miller going to his place of business across the street.

A "grand dame" in the Victorian tradition is hemmed in by "progress" in road building—namely the latest Huntingdon Pike improvements eliminating left turns into Welsh Road and Moreland Road south of the Reading-Trenton tracks. The house itself has three floors - front view - and four from the rear. An excellent house for rearing a large family in the 1920's—so thought Mr. Domenic Campoli and his good wife when they first moved to the Valley.

The 15 large square rooms were uncrowded even by the ten children plus one Mrs. Campoli chose to raise. The porch in the front has the traditional turned balustres. The gingerbread at the top is in conservative good taste. The wrought iron railing on the cupola is of unique Victorial design. The whole structure is "four-square" and exceedingly substantial in appearance. It is one of the very few houses to escape the ravages of modernization.

The carriage house turned garage had stalls for horses as well as accommodations for carriages. Its design is complementary to

and compatible with the imposing house it serves. One of the early deeds pertaining to the house is dated March 28, 1872, transferring the property from a George Shelmire to Christopher Hein. It passed through several hands until it came to the present owners. At one time it was on the Huntingdon Turnpike from Fox Chase to Sorrel Horse and beyond. The rear of the property is on Penny-pack Creek.



Victorian House - Bethayres

On Welsh Road at Valley, there is an 18th century house once having three rooms—one atop the other. Since it is built into the hillside this arrangement was very convenient. Later additions have made it a most interesting house. A Mr. E. Walton owned it in 1848 according to a map of Montgomery County by a W. E. Morris. It stood vacant a long time until Mr. Rodene restored it in the 1920's. Number 7 on the map.

Going north on Valley Road on the opposite side is a house built about 1750. It is connected with the Saunders family who owned a large estate adjoining this property or perhaps this was a tenant house for the large house located at the top of the hill on the part that is the quarry. There were imposing entrance gates just east of Valley Road. (8)



General Sickel House

Near the intersection of Valley and Terwood there are two very old houses. As one travels north on Valley the first one on the left was built about 1702 and the next one built on the embankment dated about 1789. Number 9 and 10 on the map.

Along Terwood Road (11) the railroad goes very close to two houses. One of them, the smaller, has an interesting story about it. It was purchased by the railroad at one time to obtain the right of way for the tracks. The railroad then returned the house to the man from whom it was purchased, a General Sickel, expecting it to be torn down but when a later survey was made, the house was found to be one foot beyond the right-of-way. So it stands and has stood for over 200 years. The other house has been there for quite a while but to date we have no information on it.



Bethayres Pumping Station

Mr. John Walton who had the mill at the site of the pumping station, built a house on the present Walton Road. The original house was somewhat larger than the other herein described. It had two rooms with a center hall on the first floor, two rooms on the second, and two on the third. The house is of graceful proportions—each room in the original house has a fireplace. The master bedroom also has a fireplace. One of the most outstanding features is the spacious center hallway with its beautiful stairway. The rear wing was added by Mr. J. Raymond Peck, Sr. in the 1920's. It contains the commodious dining room and kitchen. Upstairs in the addition is a bedroom and bath. Number 13.

The Huntingdon turnpike has several other historic homes along its way. One, on the west side a few hundred feet from the busy intersection of Welsh, Philmont, and the Pike is a gorgeous example of an 18th century house. Mr. J. J. Taurig has deeds tracing it back to 1831. Again the original builder and the date is unknown at this point in time. Before 1883 a John Smith owned part of the property according to the copies of deeds and this corresponds to a map of Montgomery County which refers to a John Smith—a blacksmith

in 1848, owning property here. Previous records show that James Comly and Elizabeth, his wife owned the land prior to 1831. This bears witness to the fact that Elizabeth Ayres Comly, who had a son Franklin, later a director of the North Pennsylvania Railroad Company, is the person for whom Bethayres Station is named. Interestingly enough the Ayres farm was just across the street.



Comly Farm House

The latter house was torn down many years ago. To return to the house on the west side of the street, notice the charming barn-carriage house with its outstanding cupola. This is number 16.

The third house from the corner of Murray Avenue and Huntingdon Pike southward was built by Ephraim Slugg near the turn of the 18th century. Mr. Slugg lived in this house while he built the house next door. He then moved into the second house.



The Ely House



Ephraim Slugg House

The house is securely built with 20 inch stone walls. This is another of the so-called "Father, Son and Holy Ghost" houses. That is to say, two rooms, over two rooms, over two rooms, except that there were three small rooms on the third floor in this particular house. The southern wall is plastered inside directly over the outside stone walls, while the northern wall is furred. It seems the northern room was the kitchen because a "dresser" or as we would say "kitchen cabinet" was found "walled in". Presumably, when the addition of the next kitchen was made: The original part of the

house was built with mortise and tenon joints with wooden pins to hold them. The joists are native white pine and the random width floors in the original house are of sugar pine. The house was built without millwork (there were no mills to do the finish woodwork), so all the window frames, door frames, and other trim was made on the site. In fact, the rafters in the third floor are numbered with Roman numerals since they were made on the ground and lifted to the third floor to be put in place—perhaps by a different workman.

When the first addition of the kitchen was made, a “dumb waiter” was installed so the food from the summer kitchen in the basement could be raised quickly to the first floor. This arrangement was particularly useful in summer because cooking on a hot coal stove or even having a fireplace in use made a room almost unbearable in the pre-air-conditioning days. The 20 inch stone walls served as a natural air-conditioning since the stone stayed cool well into the summer then, slowly cooled releasing the heat in the cooler weather keeping a moderate temperature much of the time.

At the rear of the property, is the barn—one of a few still standing in the town. Only a few years ago the barn was a normal structure behind a house just as the garage is today. The barn was larger than a garage of necessity because storage was needed for fodder for the horse or horses kept there. Then too, most householders, even in the town, had a sizable garden to feed the family—fresh fruits and vegetables in the summer and preserved food for the winter, so tools were also kept in the barn.

The house was owned by the Danenhowers, then a physician, Dr. David Harvey, and next the tax collector Harry Ely before Mr. Kolb came into possession of it.



19th Century House

A beautiful example of 19th century architecture is house number 19 on the map. This one also has its barn intact. It was built in the middle of the last century. There is a date carved on the stair attesting its origins.

A small farmhouse was built on the Middle Road north of the Lady Washington—about the same time (mid 17th century). There were two rooms, each with fireplace and lovely mantel, on the first floor; two rooms on the second floor, one with fireplace and mantel, the other could have had a fireplace but it was sealed off. The third



Markley House

floor also has two rooms, one with no ceiling or plaster on the walls. This was the most fascinating place to listen to the rain on a summer day. The stairways were cramped affairs with twists prohibitive of moving furniture. The whole three flights of stairs was contained in about a 3 foot by 6 foot area the height of the house. Incidentally, the walls are about 18" thick. This house has many hand-blown panes of glass in the windows. The windows have no sash cords or other devices to raise them. The lower sash is raised by force and held in place until a stick can be affixed to keep the window raised. The upper sash is immovable. In the cellar, which once had a dirt floor (about 175 years) there is another fireplace raised by a stone fender. It is said summer cooking and especially canning took place on this lower level. There is an absence of dampers or other devices to regulate the fireplace so much of the heat is lost up the flue. In fact, the whole flue is an open hole from the floor to the stars. The original front door key in this house was made of brass and it was about 8" long.

An interesting legend surrounds a farmhouse and mill (number 30). The walls of the former mill now support a house. These are on Tomlinson Road. It seems hard to imagine that tiny brook supporting a mill but that is the way it was. A dry but unmistakable mill race still remains to give credence to the fact. Also a millstone is imbedded in the concrete basement of the house built on the foundations of the former mill. The farmhouse still stands on higher ground than the mill building. There is a large fireplace in the basement of the farmhouse which possibly was the original kitchen fireplace. Furthermore, the springhouse is just a few steps from the

lower kitchen door. The house and mill are said to date from about 1750. The house itself has suffered many revisions since its beginning.

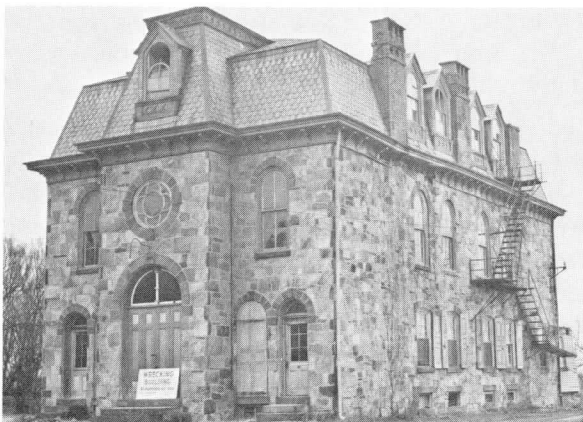
Now to the legend—it seems that at one time during Washington's maneuvers around the Trenton-Newton area, he had dinner with an officer of his Continental Army. This man, a Colonel Brock, lived in the house and ran the mill on this branch of the Huntingdon Creek. Perhaps it was at the same time Martha Washington stayed at the Lady Washington Hotel. The story is said to come from a family who lived in a nearby farmhouse. This family can be traced back as far as 1800. A John Boutcher owned the mill when it was destroyed by fire in 1910.

Returning to Huntingdon Pike, a small house nearly facing Buck Road has also been there about 200 years. This is number 37 on the map. A map of 1846 lists it as a store—possibly a store and residence. At that time a Mr. R. Robb kept the store. Now it is a residence.



Odd Fellow's Hall

In 1850 a lodge was started in Huntingdon Valley by the I.O.O.F. A lodge building was built—it was called Eagle Hall—and it was



Eagle Lodge

used for about twenty years. The property was purchased for \$100 from a Benjamin Snowden. A new building was built by the lodge in 1869 on the site of the present Huntingdon Valley Savings and Loan Association on Huntingdon Pike. The original lodge building then became a residence.

A picture is included here of a unique farmhouse built into the hillside at Huntingdon Pike and Byberry Road—the northwest corner. It is number 51 on the map. The fact of the barn on the lower level is one of the unusual features of the structure. It was built of fieldstone in the Pennsylvania manner. An authority on old buildings, Mr. Brumbaugh, was consulted and he verified its age and the unique character of the house. It was razed in 1966. It is said that this was once used as an annex for the Sorrel Horse Hotel. It was owned by a Hughes Warner at one time. He later built a large house just north of here which was set back from the road and had a steep driveway flanked by imposing pillars.



The Warner House

Green Spring

Most authorities agree that the house built by Nicholas Moore on the eastern section of his tract of Moreland near the Somerton



Green Spring Farm - sketch of 1854

(once Smithfield) line, is the house on Byberry Road. Certainly the early part of the building is said to have been built in 1684. William J. Buck in "The History of Mooreland" which appeared in Volume I of "Collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania"—the only volume of that series ever produced, maintains this premise. Part I is the History of Mooreland from its Early Purchase and Settlement to the Commencement of the American Revolution and states—"Nicholas Moore commenced erection of buildings on the lower or eastern part of his tract about 1/2 mile west of where Smithfield now is. He built a mansion which was the first settlement in Mooreland and named it "Green Spring". (number 44)

Again as with every other owner of an old house—the exact date and builder is unknown. The first manor house built by Moore may no longer exist as a second was built. Buck goes on to say "This manor house and 600 acres was sold at public auction by John Holmes (who married Nicholas Moore's widow). It was bought by Henry Comly of Middletown, Bucks County, who in 1704 erected a new mansion house". This was the oldest building in Mooreland still in use in 1853 when the History of Mooreland appeared. It was occupied in 1853 by Franklin Comly, Esq. It became a derelict in time and was rescued and restored in the 1940's.

The house itself was built, as so many others, with two rooms each on the three floors. A later addition added an ell containing four rooms. The first floor stair has been moved to make it a center hall house today. The interior woodwork is very old and obviously handmade. Some of the early window glass is handblown and is still in some of the windows. There is a root cellar in the basement. At one time there was a balcony over the front door. It is hard to say whether it belonged to the original house. However, it burned down after the picture of 1854. This was a sketch, not a photograph, and the present owners graciously loaned it for reproduction.

In the present kitchen is a chaplin's cupboard. The shelves are built into the walls of the house. The religious articles used in worship by the visiting clergyman were stored there. The services were not held regularly due to difficulty of travel and vagaries of the weather. It is to be presumed that the persons from the neighboring tenant houses across the Byberry Road were included in these services.

It is thought that the three stone houses very close to the road but opposite Green Spring, were these tenant houses. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Jarrett live in one of them which is said to have been built in 1776.

A house standing at the foot of the lane that led to the large Elkins Mansion (in the present Albidale section) has had an interesting history. The builder or owner when it was built is not known. However, in 1792, a Mr. Wynkoop willed it to his sons. Therefore, it is

conjectured that it was built about 1740. At that time it had three floors with two rooms on each. There are large fireplaces in the two first floor rooms that were the original house, one was used for the kitchen. In 1840 an addition was made in the form of a shed kitchen with fireplace. Another addition, in 1930 added two rooms and a bath on the second floor and another bedroom on the third floor. Again the kitchen was moved, this time to the new addition. The central room (second stage kitchen) was remodeled into a delightful commodious dining room. The fireplace added to its gracious hospitality.

The house had been built some distance back from the Huntingdon Pike with a long lane leading up the slight hill. The house at that time faced south. In 1936 it was moved down the lane to the present situation on the Pike and turned 90 degrees so it now faces west.

Sold, May 18, 1720 a piece of land "together with Yc Messauages or tenements thereon erected and builded together with all Barnes, Buildings, Gardens, Orchards, Fields, Plantations, Wood, Meadows, Swamps, Marshes, Ways, Water Courses, Fiahings, Fowlings, Hawkings, Hunting rights, Liberties, Privileges Hereiton ...etc." So went the language in the agreement of sale of the 100 acres of land and farmhouse at 1437 Byberry Road. The parents of one of the present owners bought the land, by this time reduced to 26 acres, and the buildings thereon, in 1926. It has been in the same family now for 50 years.

On November 12, 1830 John Longstroth sold the property to Simeon S. Fenton, a blacksmith. There are indications the blacksmith plied his trade east of the farmhouse along the road. One area has a great deal of black earth indicating the presence of the forge from which charcoal mingled with the earth. Certain plants will not grow there due to the alkalinity of the soil. Mr. Fenton sold out to a William Heaton. At that time the property extended to the road which now bears his name—Heaton Road. In 1876, Mr. Heaton sold it to a John Leedom. His gravestone was found on the property, along with several other persons. There must have been a private burial ground there—the present owner showed its approximate place behind a large bank barn which once stood near the farmhouse.

Early in the 19th century a man by the name of J. Lefferts owned the farm near county line road just off Pine Road. This is borne out by the 1848 William E. Morris map of Montgomery County. The house is believed to have been in use as late as 1898. But by 1918 it had been abandoned and soon became a derelict.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hoover acquired the tumbled down house and farm in 1918. This family had come from the Tioga section of Philadelphia. Mr. Hoover was somewhat a "gentleman farmer".

That is, he was employed elsewhere but farmed the land in his spare time. Fortunately, he was blessed with two boys and two girls who enjoyed the farming life. They worked with their father from the time they were old enough to do chores.

The enterprising Mr. Hoover wanted to have a sign made to identify his farm. Accordingly, he made arrangements with a sign painter to make a sign "Cream Ridge Farm". The painter misunderstood the name and painted "Green Ridge Farm". Thereby hangs the tale of the name of the farm and the name of the modern day development of homes. It was really all a mistake.

THE HALLOWELLS OF HUNTINGDON VALLEY AND THEIR HOUSES

There are at least twelve houses still standing that have been owned at one time by Hallowells or a branch of the family. Ten of these old houses date back almost two hundred years each.

Late in the 18th century, a John Hallowell settled in the picturesque Huntingdon Valley. He had three sons and a daughter. One son, Israel owned and operated the Hallowell Mills at Valley Falls and lived in the house across the street. This house still stands and has been previously described. There were four sons and four daughters born to this family. His oldest daughter Ann, married Isaac Mather and their grandson lived on a farm near the Meadowbrook station. A few generations later she became the great grandmother of Isaac Jarrett who now lives in a 200+ year old house on Byberry Road. Another daughter married George Ely. They then lived in and farmed the area around the only farmhouse now standing on Pine Road between Welsh and Red Lion Roads.

One of Israel Hallowell's boys, John Jarrett, married Rachel Williams and lived on the farm below his father. It is the one seen standing in splendid isolation opposite the Meadowbrook Apartments. The farmhouse and land looks as though it were taken from an European setting and put in this area of latter-day buildings. John J.'s son Franklin at one time lived in the farmhouse next to the Holy Redeemer Hospital complex. Later, he built a house near where the hospital now stands. It was a large grey stone house commanding a view of the whole valley. He had two daughters. The house reflected all the accoutrements of wealth which the family enjoyed. After Mr. Franklin Hallowell's sudden death, his widow took their remaining daughter and moved from the house. For years the house stood in mute testimony to a sorrowing family. It is said that the clothing hung in the closets, a table was set for a meal, a pair of trousers hung on a bedpost—everything was left



Hallowell House on Cinnamon Drive

just as it was the day Franklin Hallowell died. Nothing was changed or cared for—everything stood while the seasons rolled relentlessly, taking their toll of the mortal affects of man. The hill, a steep one and treacherous in winter, was once called Hallowell's Hill. Even the name has gone except to those few remaining residents who remember the house that stood so long alone on Hallowell's Hill.

One of Franklin's granddaughters came back to the valley when she married a J. Thorpe Feidt and lived in the house at the corner of Fetter's Mill and Terwood Roads, close to her relatives—the Jarretts.

Another son of Israel became the progenitor of Henry W. Hallowell who lives in the farmhouse on Cinnamon Drive in Huntingdon Valley. This lovely old house was built in two parts. The building date of the early part is not known but the eastern half was added in 1876—the Centennial year. Mr. and Mrs. Hallowell's son, Henry III is the fifth generation to live in that house. This is an unique accomplishment in this mobile era when changing houses is about as easy as changing clothes. The house itself has 26 rooms. The living room has graceful proportions and the glorious antiques are tastefully displayed by the artist-wife of the present owner.

Mr. Henry W., grandfather of the present owner, was a banker—President of the Jenkintown National Bank. Many families, large and small investors, entrusted him with their money. He received it at his home and carried it for them to Jenkintown for deposit. There are still receipt books in the desk he used for those transactions.

The present owner's father was another Israel who added the initial R. to his name for identification purposes. Israel R. was a civic minded man who was a member of the board of road super-

visors first appointed when Moreland Township was divided. He was active in financial affairs in the area also. After his death, his widow Marion D., as she was called, served for 17 years on the local school board. She was the first woman member of the school board.

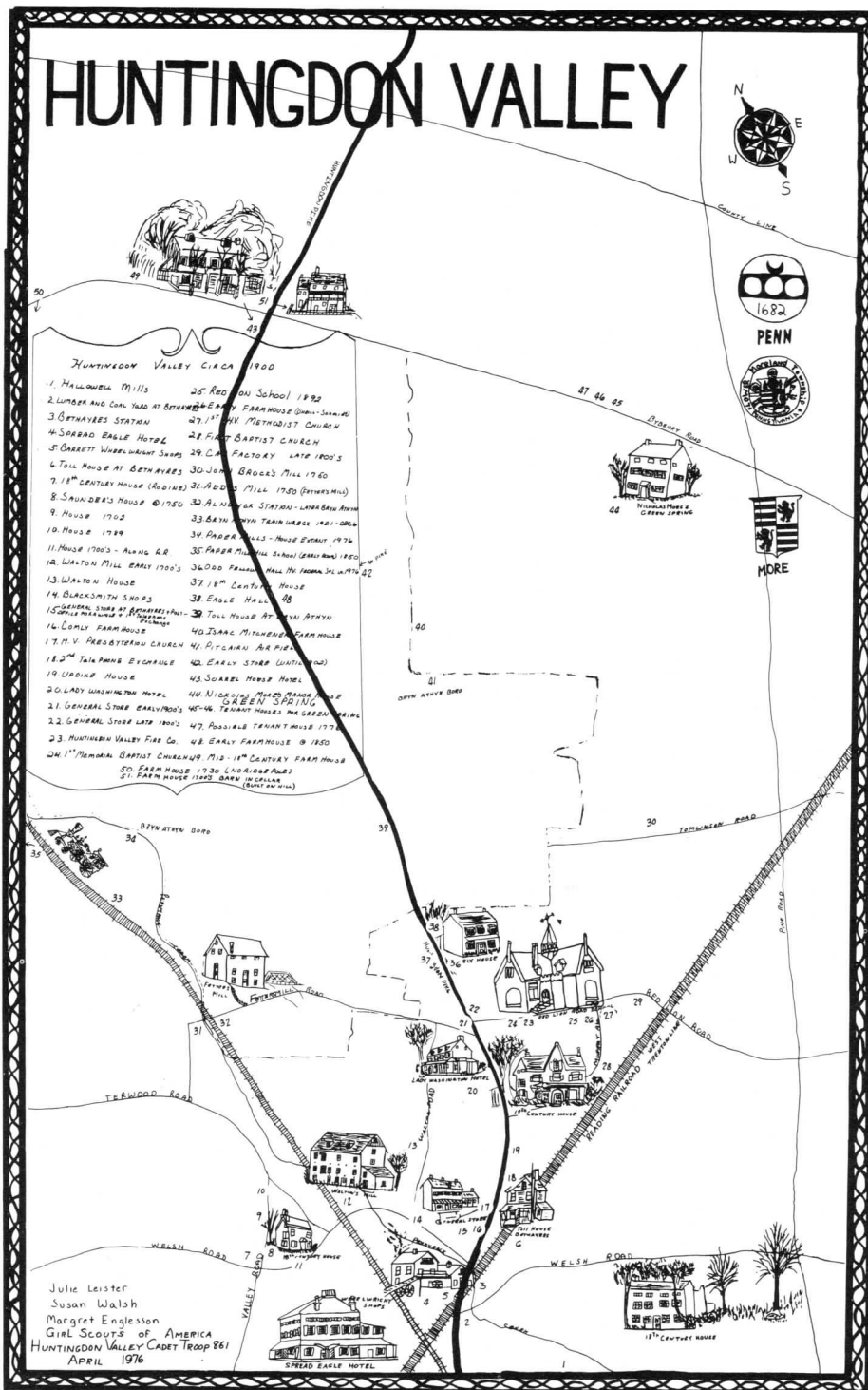
Another son of the early Israel was Jonas Wyman Hallowell. He married an Esther Fenton. They had a house by the Pennypack Creek at the present Huntingdon Valley station. The house was built before the railroad went through. It was in these fields that the early Fourth of July celebrations were held by the Community



Huntingdon Valley Trust Company

club and the Fire Company in the 20's. In this house were born Israel, James and John. Israel built another stone house on another hill in Huntingdon Valley at the present Hallowell Drive and Mansion Roads. This was a large farm before the building boom of the 50's and 60's. This Israel, together with other civic minded gentlemen, solicited funds to found the Huntingdon Valley Trust Company in 1921. This man had three children—George, Mary and Alice. George worked in the bank with his father and later became its president after his father's death. Alice married William D. Ridgeway who was once a Montgomery County Commissioner. One of their children, Alice, is principal of the Pine Road School in Huntingdon Valley.

*References for Hallowells of Huntingdon Valley and their houses:
Conversation with Henry Hallowell*



NOTE: The map referred to in the text is one drawn by The Girl Scouts of Huntingdon Valley Cadet Troop 861. It indicates the Interesting Houses in the area by number. It is available at the Township Building.

INTERESTING PERSONS OF THE AREA

THOMAS B. COSTAIN May 8, 1885 — October 8, 1965

Canadian-American novelist, historian, and editor was born in Brantford, Ontario. He was the son of John Herbert Costain and Mary (Schultz) Costain. His father came from the Isle of Man. He was educated in the public schools of Brantford and in 1952 an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters was bestowed upon him by the University of Western Ontario.

While still in high school, he wrote 3 unpublished novels. The acceptance and publication of a mystery story by the Brantford Courier led to his being accepted as a reporter on that paper. In 1908, he was the editor of the Guelph (Ontario) Daily Mercury. Two years later, he joined the staff of the Maclean Publishing Company in Toronto, first as editor of three of their trade journals, and later becoming editor of Macleans Magazine which position he held until he came to the United States in 1920 to become chief associate editor for George Horace Lorimer on the Saturday Evening Post. He stayed with the Post 14 years during which time he developed and discovered the talents of a number of writers who later gained considerable renown. In 1934, he became eastern story editor for 20th Century Fox Film Company. He took on the editorship of American Cavalcade in 1937. From 1939-46, Mr. Costain was advisory editor of Doubleday and Co., Inc. His first three novels and a collaboration were written and published during these years while he was still handing out plots and ideas, still encouraging other writers. Since 1946 he devoted himself to his own writing.

In ten years 1942-1952, he wrote 7 full-length novels, each of which was made a selection of one of the major book clubs; 2 volumes of English History, and a biography (in collaboration).

He married Ida Randolph Spragge in 1910. They had two daughters—Molly (Mrs. Howard Haycroft) and Dora (Mrs. Henry Steinmetz).

An evaluation of Mr. Costain as an author of histories and historical romances was attempted in the citation by the University of Western Ontario granting him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. His "inherent gifts" are designated as "the fundamental interest in people, the power as a story-teller, the facility as a writer, the capacity as an historian, the skillfulness as a craftsman". The citation concludes "Democracy is a philosophy of life; Mr. Costain is the historian of that philosophy".

Mr. Costain is included in this account because he lived among us for 25 years. He bought the house on Moreland Road in 1921 and sold it September 5, 1946. Although he lived on the Abington side of the road, he was a familiar sight in the Valley as he came to

the post office and the general store at Bethayres. His tall, blonde figure is not easily forgotten. The Huntingdon Valley area is indeed proud to claim him as an outstanding resident during some of his lifetime. Some of his novels include: For My Great Folly, Ride With Me, The Black Rose—these were written during the years of his sojourn in Huntingdon Valley.

HERBERT JOHNSON 1878 - 1946

Mr. Johnson was born in Sutton, Nebraska in 1878, son of J. W. Johnson, a publisher of that place. He attended Western Normal College at Lincoln, Nebraska where he first did cartooning on "The Denver Republican". At Nebraska State University, he was managing editor and cartoonist of the campus weekly Arrowhead. He stayed at the university from 1899 to 1901. The next two years he served as city editor of a newspaper in Tucson, Arizona. In 1903, at the age of 23 he became a free lance cartoonist in New York City. Later, he came to Philadelphia to work on the North American, a former paper where he was assistant director of the art department and later became the political cartoonist.

He joined The Saturday Evening Post in 1912. On January 8, 1908, he married Miss Helen L. Turner. Two daughters were born to them, Herberta and Kathryn. He retired from The Saturday Evening Post in 1941.

He belonged to the Old York Road Country Club, the Sketch Club, Art Club, and Franklin Inn—all in Philadelphia. He belonged to the Society of Illustrators in New York.



ARE WE COMING TO THIS SOME DAY?

JOHN J. LINEY

Henry's house is in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania. It is also the home of the John J. Liney family, the nicest foster-parents that an odd looking little comic strip kid could have.

Artist Liney is a product of the same South Philadelphia area that has given us Mario Lanza, Joey Bishop, Eddie Fisher, Fabian, and Frankie Avalon, among others. Success came early to young John. He was drawing before he could write, and at the age of fourteen he sold his first cartoon to the Philadelphia Bulletin for five dollars.

The next step was winning a cartoon contest sponsored by the Philadelphia Public Ledger. When John was sixteen, he drew a caricature of former mayor Harry S. Mackey that resulted in an invitation to visit the mayor's office. One hour later the dazed and delighted youngster was the proud possessor of a four-year scholarship to the Philadelphia School of Industrial Arts.

With the appearance of Carl Anderson's HENRY in 1932, the young art student found himself strongly drawn to the reticent, high-domed boy in the Saturday Evening Post panels. Today John Liney stamps all his outgoing mail with Henry's profile and the words "I'm a Henry fan". This is more than good publicity. Liney IS a Henry fan and has been ever since those early days when he first became one of Anderson's most enthusiastic admirers. An idea man with an inexhaustible imagination, he and the elder artist developed a pleasant working relationship by mail.



John Liney has never attempted to modernize the strip. Henry still bathes in an old-fashioned bathtub, and his neighborhood and house are still just as they were in the thirties. Over a period of years Liney has turned out 85 "Henry" comic books. Several years ago, Mr. Liney started giving occasional after-dinner talks to Rotarians,

Lions, and other service groups. These mushroomed until he acquired a lecture schedule that averaged out to more than one night a week. Mr. Liney taught one of the first cartooning courses offered at any university—Temple. He says "Pantomime is the highest form of the cartoonist's art. I did not realize it, but I had the God given gift for visualizing my ideas".

A teacher working with deaf children in North Carolina several years ago, and later in Texas, uses "The HENRY technique as a different approach when language lessons become tedious or boring or when communication problems are in evidence". The use of the cartoons in this work has been extremely effective. "To a little deaf child who has not yet learned language, Henry can help translate ideas from pictures into written and oral thoughts, therefore making language come *alive*".

Mr. Liney is "on call" for the Lower Moreland Police Department to make composite drawings of criminal suspects.

JOSHUA BERTRAM LIPPINCOTT

Joshua Bertram Lippincott—publisher, was born in Huntingdon Valley August 24, 1857. He was the son of Joshua Ballinger Lippincott and Josephine (Craig). He graduated from Episcopal Academy in Philadelphia in 1873 and attended the University of Pennsylvania for one year as a member of the class of 1878. He finally received his B.S. in 1907 and LLD in 1937. He married Johanna Wharton on April 21, 1885. There were four children of that marriage. In 1875 he entered the publishing business and became vice-president of the firm in 1886 and president in 1911. He remained president until 1926 when he became Chairman of the Board of J. B. Lippincott Company. He was a Republican in political persuasion. He died January 19, 1940.

CARL NEWMAN 1858 - 1932

Carl Newman lived in Huntingdon Valley until his death in 1932. Little is known about him except that he was friendly with Lyman Sayen during a sojourn in France in 1910 or 1911. Together with Thomas Anshutz, the three artists experimented with colors and techniques. Later, Newman had Sayen decorate his studio ceiling with a large chromatic spectrum. Under Sayen's influence, Newman experimented with abstract compositions including a large screen. He exhibited in Philadelphia in 1921 in "Exhibitions of Painting Showing the Later Tendencies in Art" at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Four of his works hang in the National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, D. C.—a gift of Anna McCleery Newton.

JOSEPH PEARSON 1876 - 1950

Joseph Thurman Pearson, Jr. was born in Germantown on February 6, 1876—the son of Joseph and Annie V. Pearson. He was a pupil of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and studied under J. Alden Weir. On October 7, 1902 he married Emily R. Fetter. They had seven children. In 1913, Joseph Pearson and his family moved to the Huntingdon Valley area. He purchased the abandoned Shelmire property along the Pennypack Creek just above the Papermill Station on the Newtown line of the Reading Railroad. The property abutted the large tract of the Pitcairn family. It consisted of three houses and a barn. Over the years, Mr. Pearson improved and rehabilitated the houses and remodeled the barn for his studio.

He was an instructor at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts for about 35 years. Mr. Pearson belonged to a group of fine artists whose technique and representation was literal and the delineation superb. He was a contemporary of Redfield, Daniel Gerber, and the sculptor Albert Leslie. He won numerous awards: Fellowship prize, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, 1910; bronze medal, Buenos Aires Esposition, 1910; gold medal, San Francisco Expo, 1915; Temple gold medal and Stotesbury prize, 1916; and in 1926 the gold medal at the Sesqui-Centennial in Philadelphia for a portrait of his twin daughters. He also received the Joseph Pennell medal at the Philadelphia Water Color Exhibit in 1933 and first award, Stenton Art Association in 1934. This is to mention only a few of his awards.

HAROLD PITCAIRN

Harold was the the third son of John Pitcairn. After early schooling at the Academy, he attended the Curtiss School of Aviation in 1914 at Hammondsport, N.Y. In 1915, he went to the Curtiss School in Buffalo, N. Y., and in 1916 to the Flying School in Newport News, Virginia. At the latter place he met another aviation enthusiast named Agnew Larson, who later came to be a close associate of Harold Pitcairn. In 1916, Mr. Pitcairn built a prototype plane to his own design. Almost immediately World War I curtailed further training or experimentation.

After the war, Mr. Harold Pitcairn met and talked with de la Cierva, a Spaniard who had been experimenting with the autogiro type plane in much the same ways and with the same theories as Mr. Pitcairn. De la Cierva allowed Pitcairn to use the foreign patents and ideas for the autogiro which was produced here in this country. Then Mr. Pitcairn was encouraged to try his own ideas coupled with de la Cierva's to develop the Pitcairn autogiro.

The first air field was on land between the Huntingdon Pike and Buck Road. At one time there was a huge air show held there—a

new and exciting event for the little town. Later, the air field was moved to the site of the present Naval Air Station on York Road at Horsham. Mr. Pitcairn's research and development of the autogiro was a new and unique step forward in aviation. It led him to one particularly spectacular visit to the White House in Washington. He landed and took off from the lawn. One fact must be emphasized here. The idea of the top propeller was first introduced to make a safer vehicle that could be used to land and take off in a smaller space than the conventional plane.

The Pitcairn Mailwing—the first mail delivery by air—was started here in 1927. It was from New York to Washington with a stop at Philadelphia. Later the flight was extended to Atlanta and Miami. This mail “went through” in spite of adverse flying conditions and almost no technology for safety of pilot or plane. One night two pilots were lost—this fact grieved Mr. Pitcairn deeply. The planes used for the Mailwing were conventional planes of the time, not autogiros. Subsequently, after this bold new use of an airplane, a group of men tried to buy the Mailwing business. After several offers, Mr. Pitcairn sold the business and from it developed the company now known as Eastern Airlines.

JOHN PITCAIRN

John Pitcairn was the sixth son of John Pitcairn, Sr. He was born in Johnstone, Scotland, July 10, 1841. He emigrated to America in the middle of the 19th century. A note in the New Church publication in the year 1849 tells of his attendance at the Sunday School of The Church of the New Jerusalem in Pittsburgh. At this time the family was of modest means. One time John Pitcairn worked as a railroad conductor and later as a telegraph operator for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Later he was associated with the Vandergrift and Forman Company where he built and controlled the first pipe ever laid for the utilization of Natural Gas for manufacturing purposes. The line was from the lower end of Butler County to carry the gas to Pittsburgh. Early in 1882, he was consulted about piping the gas to a plate glass factory. Soon he began withdrawing his interests in the Petroleum and Natural Gas industry and transferring them to the Plate Glass industry. In August of 1883, he helped reorganize the New York City Plate Glass Company into the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company with a capital of \$600,000. Other factories were built and by 1895, their worth was \$10,000,000. In 1897, Mr. Pitcairn assumed the presidency of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. Now the company is world wide.

All through his life he was a devout and active member of the General Church of The New Jerusalem. After he moved to the Huntingdon Valley area in the 1890's, he was president of that church body. He endowed the Cathedral at Bryn Athyn.

He was director in many companies such as C. H. Wheeler Manufacturing Company; Loyal Hanna Coal and Coke Company; Pittsburgh Valve and Fitting Company. He was a director of the Central National Bank of Philadelphia; Columbia Chemical Company; Michigan Chemical Company; Natural Gas of West Virginia; Owasso Sugar Company. He was a member of the Duquesne Company of Philadelphia; the Union League, and the Art Club of Philadelphia.

He was married to Mildred Glenn. They had four children—three boys—Raymond, Theodore, and Harold, and a girl—Vera. The boys went on to be recognized in their own right. The daughter died in her teens. Mr. Pitcairn died July 22, 1916.

RAYMOND PITCAIRN

Mr. Raymond Pitcairn was the first son of John Pitcairn. He was educated at the Academy of the New Church receiving a bachelor's degree. His law degree was earned at the University of Pennsylvania in 1908. In addition he was a civic leader, patron of the arts, and architect. His chief interest was the Cathedral Church of the New Jerusalem at Bryn Athyn. In politics, he favored the Republican party backing F. D. Roosevelt. He opposed Prohibition when that was a large factor in political life. He was a philanthropist who gave millions to various causes. He died on July 13, 1966.

THEODORE PITCAIRN

Theodore Pitcairn, the second son of John Pitcairn, was born in 1893. He grew up in the atmosphere of wealth. When he was a young boy, he attended the newly established Academy of the New Church in Huntingdon Valley, Pa. In 1918, he entered the priesthood of The New Church of The New Jerusalem. His studies led him to break away from the main church in Bryn Athyn since his interpretation of the Writings of Swedenborg differed from theirs. The church he established was the Lord's New Church—Heirsolyme. It is located near his residence on Huntingdon Road.

All his life he was a patron of the arts—acquiring several masterpieces. He created quite a stir in art circles when he sold certain pieces in London. Richard Yardumian was his protegee and much of Yardumian's music was written in Huntingdon Valley due to the sponsorship of Theodore Pitcairn. Mr. Pitcairn died December 20, 1973.

DONALD ROSE

Don Rose was born in 1890 in England. At the age of 18, he settled in the Huntingdon Valley area in the section later encompassed by the Boro of Bryn Athyn. This was a few years after the people of the New Church began to settle in the Valley. He was an author, columnist, teacher, and world traveller. He married Majorie Wells and they lived in a farmhouse on Alden Road near its intersection with Feters Mill Road.

Mr. Rose received his B. A. at the Academy of the New Church. Later he studied at Columbia University and in Oxford, England.

For forty years he wrote a column entitled "Stuff and Nonsense". It was first published in *The Public Ledger*, then in *The Bulletin*, both in Philadelphia. Beside this he was the author of eight published books. He taught Journalism at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, Pennsylvania State University, Philadelphia Junto, Temple University, and the Charles Morris Price School of Advertising and Journalism.

He traveled a great deal locally and abroad. When he died in February 1964, he left his wife and 104 other survivors.

If you have not read any of "Stuff and Nonsense" it is recommended. Especially those dealing with his experiences in living in this area.

LAWRENCE B. SAINT

Lawrence Saint was born near Pittsburgh in 1884. His father was an artist and wood engraver who also did oil painting and experimented with different techniques for oils. He also cut silhouettes.

Mr. Saint early imbibed this atmosphere so that when he was offered a job in a stained glass studio, he was attuned to the experimental process of this art form. Later, he entered the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia where he won an European Scholarship for his excellence. In Europe he was introduced to the old stained glass—the clear jewel tones of the early masters of this art. He became so entranced with the art of stained glass that he did a series of watercolor copies of medieval stained glass. The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, was so impressed with the work that A. C. Black, London's master color publishers reproduced them in a book in 1913. The text was written by Hugh Arnold. The title of the book is "Stained Glass of The Middle Ages in England and France".

After a physical breakdown due to such intense work, Mr. Saint was employed by Mr. Raymond Pitcairn to design and make the windows for the Bryn Athyn Cathedral. Mr. Saint writes in his book "The Romance of Stained Glass", 1959, "I now feel that Raymond

Pitcairn Esq. gave the art of stained glass about the biggest boost it has received since the Middle Ages". Mr. Saint was given a great deal of financial assistance, to expand his knowledge of stained glass, by Mr. Pitcairn. He delved into the formulas for making the glass—the various color mixtures and techniques—never satisfied until the colors were as true as he could get them. Mr. Saint did six windows for the Bryn Athyn Cathedral.

The windows of the Washington Cathedral are the high point of Mr. Saint's lifelong work in, and study of, stained glass. This study of stained glass both at home and abroad, guided him in the construction of glass ovens, a glass house, and to reproduce as closely as possible, the glorious colors and qualities of medieval glass. He insisted on perfection in his work.

Mr. Saint was always a modest, self-effacing man in spite of the fact that he could stand with the great and famous. He was a devout man of whom it could be said: "He walked in the the ways of the Lord". All his work is indeed dedicated to the catechetical answer: "Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever".

It must be mentioned that Mrs. Katherine Saint, wife of Lawrence, was always helpful to him, financially, spiritually, and intellectually. It was Mrs. Saint who helped him to do research on the windows in Europe—she who nursed him back to health, and bore him eight children.

One of the eight children, Nathaniel, was a missionary in Ecuador and with five other young men, was brutally slain by a tribe of Auca Indians. To this tribe subsequently, Rachel, the only daughter of the Saints, went to carry on the missionary work started by Thanny and his young friends. Rachel studied at Philadelphia College of The Bible, and with the Wycliffe Bible Translators. She has been instrumental in putting the spoken language of the tribe into written form. Several books have been written describing the experiences of these missionaries. Another son, Philip, is a missionary in Argentina and Paraguay. Often when he is home, he speaks locally emphasizing his message with chalk illustrations.

RICHARD YARDUMIAN

Richard Yardumian is a composer who lives in Huntingdon Valley on Valley Road in one of the fine old houses of the area known as Cold Spring Farm. He was born in Philadelphia April 5, 1917, the son of Haig Yardumian and his wife Lucia. He studied piano with George F. Boyle, conducting with Pierre Monteaux, harmony and counterpoint with William F. Happich and H. Alexander Matthews. He was director of Sacred Music at Maryville College in 1972. In January of 1937 he married Ruth Elsie Sekelmann. They have 13 children. He is affiliated with the Lord's New Church in Bryn Athyn where he was Music Director, 1939. He is on the Board of Directors

of the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra; is co-founder and on the Board of Directors of the Chamber Symphony of Philadelphia, 1965; trustee and vice-president of the Grand Teton Music Festival. He was the recipient of the Edward B. Beryannin Restful Music Award, 1958; the Eugene Ormandy Comma Award, 1961; Composer Award of the Lancaster Symphony, 1975. He is a member of A.S.C.A.P. of Philadelphia. He is primarily a composer of Sacred Music. The following are some of his works: Three Preludes for Piano — 1936, 1941, 1944; Armenian Suite, 1937; Symphonic Suite, 1939; Three Pictographs for Orchestra, 1941; Danse for Piano, 1942; Desolate City, 1944; Prelude and Chorale for Piano, 1944, including Symphony #2 (Psalms for Contralto and Orchestra commissioned by Eugene Ormandy, 1964); Come, Creator Spirit (Mass in English commissioned by Fordham University for it's 125th Anniversary, 1966); Abraham (Oratorio commissioned by Maryville College for it's Sesqui-Centennial, 1971); Cello Concerto on Winston Churchill (commissioned by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in honor of the American Bicentennial, 1975). He has recordings on Columbia and R.C.A.



References for Interesting Persons in The Huntingdon Valley area.

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BRYN ATHYN

As the 19th century drew to a close, there was in the city of Philadelphia, a group of people following the interpretations of religion as set forth in the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. The center of this group was on Cherry Street in Philadelphia. Serious trouble was brewing in the little group which made separation imperative. So by the last decade of the century several families had moved to the Huntingdon Valley area.

During this time, in the pastoral valley of the Pennypack Creek, there was provided for the pleasure of the city folk, a modest park. It was available by a pleasant train ride into the country. It's name was Alnwick Grove. Here were afforded swimming, canoeing and picnicking amid the cool trees beside the Pennypack Creek. On the opposite side of the tracks of the Newtown Railroad, there was a pavilion for a band and dancing. A kind of idyllic interlude before these people were catapulted into the 20th century. A railroad station was nearby, called Alnwick. It was not until after Bryn Athyn was named that the station was renamed Bryn Athyn. In "Mildred Pitcairn", by Jill Pendleton, is mentioned Mrs. Pitcairn's (Mildred Glenn) memory of picnics at Alnwick Grove. Mrs. Viola Ridgeway hints on the influence of the Alnwick Grove grounds as a reason for the people of the Church of The New Jerusalem settling in this area.



Alnwick Station

Another story of the attraction of the Valley for these people is told. Mr. Clark King, a local farmer and landholder, journeyed to Philadelphia to sell his produce. Many times he encountered Mr. John Pitcairn. During the interchange between them, Mr. Pitcairn inquired about the availability of land hereabout. Mr. King assured him that there was abundant agricultural land in this beautiful valley. As a direct result, Mr. Pitcairn purchased a farm here and brought his family to live here. Since he was held in such high esteem by members of his group, they too came to the valley and made settlement.

Probably a little of both stories is true. So that by the turn of the century many families had turned their faces toward the place later known as Bryn Athyn.

THE BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN

The Borough of Bryn Athyn was formed by petition to the courts of Montgomery County in 1915. January 1 of 1916, the borough council began its responsibility of governing the people and properties contained therein. There are 1.96 square miles in the borough now and has a population of "a shade over 1000 persons".

Today, the seven council members meet once a month in the Borough Hall on Buck road. All are elected for a four-year term. Three councilmen and a mayor are elected at one bi-annual election and four councilmen the next bi-annual election. This system assures half of the council will be acquainted with current business at any given time. As it happens, many of these men have served several terms.

From this number is elected a President and a Vice-President. The secretary and treasurer are then appointed. Each of the councilmen has a specific area of responsibility. One has charge of roads and their maintenance, another finance, and so on.

The Borough Code as set forth by the state government mandates the day to day operation of the police department be directly under the supervision of the Mayor. The police force is supported by public taxation as is the public school system which pays tuition to Lower Moreland for the portion of children who, although living in the Borough, go to public school in the Lower Moreland Township. Their school tax is between five and ten mills.

The Fire Company is a volunteer one. The Fire Chief and the Fire Marshal receive a nominal sum.

The school system is contained in the Academy of the New Church. It is expressly kept from state supervision to pursue its

freedom of religion. For this freedom in education, the people in Bryn Athyn must pay tuition from kindergarten through high school into college.

THE ACADEMY OF THE NEW CHURCH

The idea of church oriented education has existed for a long time. Reverend Richard De Charms, on a visit to London in the latter part of the 19th century, brought back a serious conviction that this was the way the group should proceed. A number of the church ministers held "the New Church to be a completely distinct and new dispensation and therefore, these men looked to a new and distinct worship and way of life, both internal and external so the education of the children of the church should be new and distinctive."

June 19, 1876, William Henry Benade and eleven others gathered in Philadelphia to organize "The Academy of the New Church" whose purpose was "to institute an active propaganda in the New Church for legal recognition of the authority of the Writings." This should be more than a school, it should be theological instruction for young men of America and Great Britain." In 1877 the theological school charter was amended to allow the granting of degrees.

The Academy of the New Church is the educational arm of the Church of the New Jerusalem—and as such has the following purposes:

1. Propagation of the heavenly doctrines of the New Church.
2. Establishing New Church signified in the Apocalypse by the New Jerusalem.
3. Promoting education in all its forms.
4. Educating young men for the ministry.
5. Publishing books, pamphlets, and other printed matters.
6. Establishing a library.

In 1969/70 the Academy had 345 students—the elementary school had 400 students—there was a 3 year theological school and a library of 72,000 volumes.

The Academy of the New Church is chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved by that state's Department of Education and accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Since the Academy of the New Church offers its accredited education, students graduating from it may, and do, enter other institutions of higher learning throughout the country and the world.

References:

Conversation with Mr. Ralph McClarren

Conversation with Mr. David Roscoe

Conversation with Mr. Geoffery Cooper

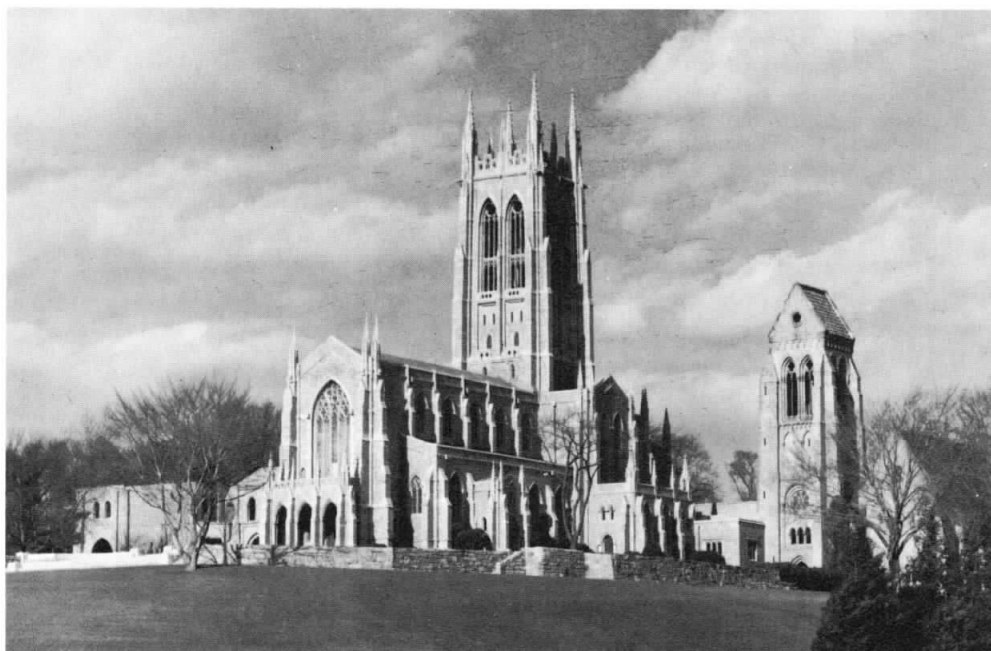
*"Toward a New Church University" - 1876-1976 - by the
200th Anniversary of The New Church - June 1970 Centennial
Album*

Conversation with Mrs. Harold Sellner

THE CATHEDRAL-CHURCH AT BRYN ATHYN

The origin of the present Cathedral-Church at Bryn Athyn, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, lies in the rapid growth of the ecclesiastical and educational uses of the New Church in Bryn Athyn.

As early as 1889, New Church services were held in the vicinity; and, in 1895, a small chapel of frame construction was erected. This soon proved insufficient for the growing congregation, and for many years services were held in the College Chapel of the Academy of the New Church—the chief educational arm of the General Church of the New Jerusalem.



Both the growth of the General Church and the Bryn Athyn society soon called for further provision, particularly as the episcopal seat was placed in Bryn Athyn—the Bishop of the Church becoming ex-officio pastor of the Society. For many years, therefore, the people of Bryn Athyn contributed to a fund for the purpose of providing a church building adequate to the growing needs of both parish and episcopal uses.

In 1908, John Pitcairn, Esq., a member of the Bryn Athyn Church, made a gift to the Society of a large sum of money for the erection of the proposed building. This resulted finally in the present Cathedral-Church, for which ground was broken in the autumn of 1913. The cornerstone was laid June 19, 1914. The dedication service of the main church building, for the uses of worship, was held October 5, 1919.

During the first three years of construction, the firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson (which became Cram and Ferguson shortly after the building commenced) acted as architects. Afterwards, the architectural direction was transferred to Raymond Pitcairn, Esq., who had been in charge of the building from the outset, including the modelling department, through which instrumentality plans and designs were kept in a continued state of flux for the sake of that unique growth and development of main proportions and of detail that characterized the progress of the work.

The principles governing the practical construction of all the buildings are almost without precedent in modern times.

Instead of the customary general contractor hiring sub-contractors to fabricate stone, woodwork, stained glass, and art metal, in workshops far removed from the building, a radical departure was made.

All of the designers and craftsmen were carefully selected and brought together and grouped in workshops around the actual building. From there they could give all their attention to the work growing from day to day before them. Thus all the workers could gain a sympathetic understanding of the part each one played with a view to producing work as that done between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries.

Innumerable tri-dimensional models have been made, many in full size, set in position, analyzed, and often remade several times, before the final form was determined.

The Church proper, which is devoted exclusively to purposes of worship, is an example of Gothic architecture based on the style of the 13th, 14th, and to a limited degree on the 15th century. The Council Hall and the Choir Hall groups are inspired by the 12th century Romanesque.

It was felt that the Gothic represented the highest development of Christian architecture, and that of all historic forms of church

building, it would offer the best available basis from which there might slowly arise distinct style to accommodate the ritual and worship of the New Church.

It proved impossible, as it had proved impossible for the early Christians, to ignore tradition, and to produce at once an entirely new architecture.

The Cathedral-Church at Bryn Athyn crowns one of the high points of ground in Montgomery County. It stands upon a knoll, well back from the historic Second Street Pike, and overlooking a beautiful valley which slopes westward down to the Pennypack Creek.

The main structure is comparable in size and general design to an English parish church. The central tower, crowned with graceful pinnacles, is one of unusual architectural beauty. It rises to a height of one hundred and fifty feet, and commands a sweeping view of many miles of undulating hills and dales.

The Nave and Chancel, with transepts, present the usual form. The west porch has three arches surmounted by a stone-carved and pinnacled parapet, above which is a five-light window. At the south, near the west end is a smaller porch; while to the transept on this side is added the chapel, surrounded by a walled terrace. At the eastern end of this terrace is the clergy entrance to the vestries, approached by a flight of steps with a rail of fine-wrought monel metal. Adjoining the chancel and connecting this with the Ezekiel Tower, are the vesting and clergy rooms.

The Corner Stone may be found at the southeast corner of the sanctuary, just above the grade level. It was laid uncut, as it was found near the Bryn Athyn quarry. On it are engraved the two Hebrew words from Psalm 118:22: "Lerosh Pinnah", signifying "the head of the corner."

Reference:

The Cathedral - Church of Bryn Athyn 1952, by the Bryn Athyn Church of the New Jerusalem

NOTE: The text for the Cathedral-Church was taken from: A Handbook of Information Concerning The Cathedral-Church of Bryn Athyn, published by The Cathedral Book Room - 1960.



The Cathedral-Church of Bryn Athyn



The Main Tower viewed from the northwest