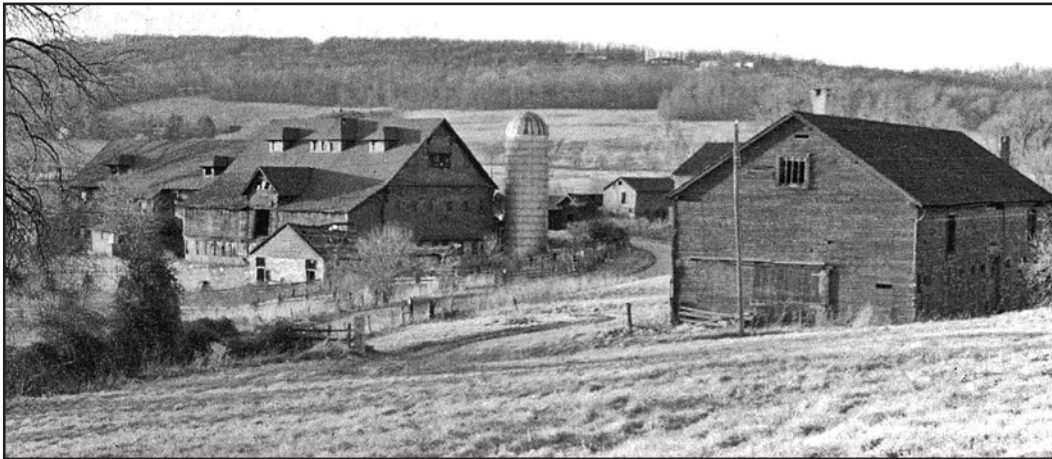


2014 Gifts to the TEHS Archives and Special Collections

Cheryl Leibold

The Archives and Special Collections of the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society was the recipient of some very nice gifts in 2014 relating to the history of our area. Our thanks go out to all these donors for thinking of local history.



Chesterbrook barn and farm buildings. (TEHS Image # CHE3)

The single largest gift of 2014 was a collection of correspondence and paper memorabilia from Chesterbrook Farm, donated by Neil Sardiñas of King of Prussia. As many readers of this magazine know, Chesterbrook Farm was a 600-acre gentleman's farm begun by Alexander Cassatt in the early 1880s. It was in continuous operation by Cassatt until 1906, and then by his son Edward until 1922, and then by Edward's widow until the late 1950s. In the 1970s the property was incorporated into the larger Chesterbrook development. The materials in the gift were collected from the floor of the abandoned Chesterbrook Farm manager's office on Bradford Road, about 1978. Mr. Sardiñas found the floor of the small building strewn with a thick layer of papers while on a bicycle ride. The papers had obviously been there for many years and had suffered significant damage from animals as well as vandals. With only a backpack to carry away items he thought looked interesting, he left behind papers that would have more than filled the trunk of a car. He never went back to examine the papers again and the building was demolished in the late 1980s.



Abandoned Chesterbrook farm manager's office building

This material consists of over 150 items of incoming correspondence, addressed either to Edward Cassatt, or to one of his farm managers (the first was Robert Colgan, and the second was Peter Boland), or to Mrs. Eleanor Cassatt Laird, who owned the farm after her husband's death. The letters deal with sales and purchases of livestock, or supplies and equipment for the maintenance of the animals and property. There are another 150 pieces which are financial in nature such as invoices or account statements. All of this material covers a lengthy time span, from about 1910 to about 1950.

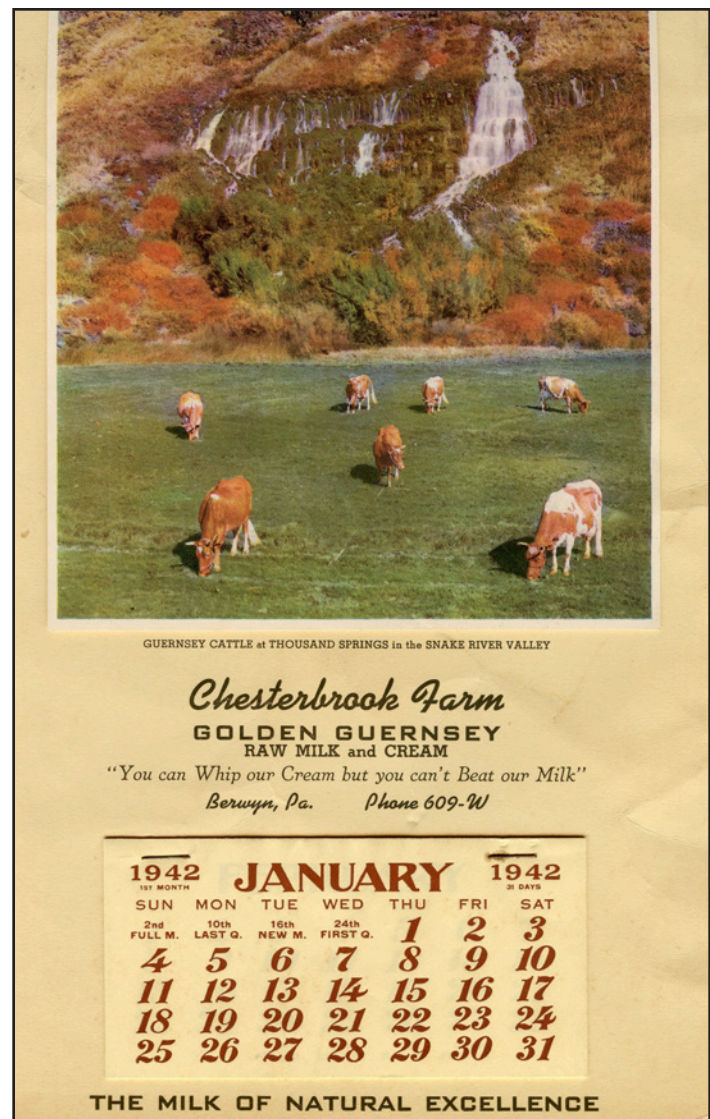
This gift complements and augments the box of Chesterbrook Farm correspondence the Society already owned. The earlier box came from an unknown source and has certainly been in the collection for many years. Many of these items are also damaged, suggesting a source similar or perhaps identical to the material in the Sardiñas gift. The earlier box

contains far less material from outside sources and is most important for the trove of letters exchanged between Edward Cassatt and Peter Boland, his farm manager, between 1911 and 1920.¹ With the new gift we now have over 400 pages with which to build a very interesting snapshot of the farm operations during the first half of the twentieth century.

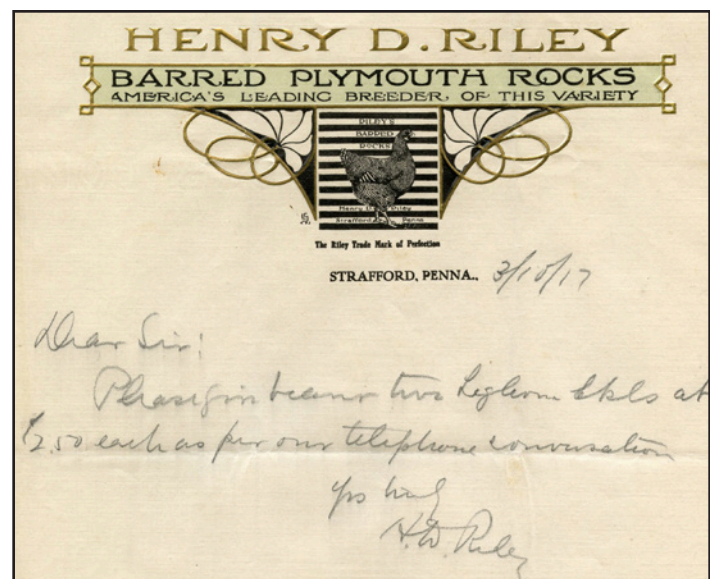
The dairy operations at Chesterbrook Farm are well documented in the new collection. There is a 1942 wall calendar, produced by a commercial firm promoting the milk of Guernsey cows. The motto “You can Whip our Cream but you can’t Beat our Milk,” was probably part of the calendar, and not used regularly by Chesterbrook Farm. There is also a poster for a Guernsey bull named “Santa Claus,” descended from Chesterbrook’s “champion cow of the world,” May Rilma. These two items illustrate that breeding stock was still an important part of the farm operation into the 1940s. Overall the dairy business at Chesterbrook was very successful, and in fact, the lifeblood of the farm until its decline in the 1950s.²

The poultry operations of the farm are also well documented in the new collection. In one letter, Mr. Harry Dillard of Kansas City, Missouri ordered 200 “Monmouth Pekin” ducklings, to be shipped COD. With the letter there is a carbon copy of the reply, stating that Chesterbrook Farm would not ship any chicks COD as requested, and the price in advance would be all of \$30.00. Another poultry related letter, on fancy embossed letterhead paper, is from Henry D. Riley, proprietor of a Strafford, Pennsylvania firm specializing in “Barred Plymouth Rocks,” who requested two Leghorns at \$2.50 each.

Some other subjects within the Chesterbrook material include Edward Cassatt’s passion for horse racing with letters dealing with matters such as travel and accommodations at race meets; breeding of all types of animals; sales and purchases of grain and feed; supplies bought and sold, including an order for 50,000 embossed aluminum wrappers for milk bottle tops, each carrying the text “Dairymead Milk, bottled at Chesterbrook Farm.” The letters also deal with residents of and furnishings for the farm’s tenant houses, orders for golf and archery equipment, as well as the ubiquitous dunning notices for overdue bills. There is also a printed brochure titled *The Formation of Pure Bred Flocks and Their Subsequent Management*, published in 1893, suggesting that it was something acquired by Edward Cassatt’s father, Alexander Cassatt, the first owner of Chesterbrook Farm.



1942 Chesterbrook Farm calendar



Handwritten note on fancy stationery, reading: “3/10/17 Dear Sir: Please give bearer two Leghorn Ckls [Cockerels?] at \$2.50 each as per our telephone conversation. Yrs. truly, H.D. Riley”

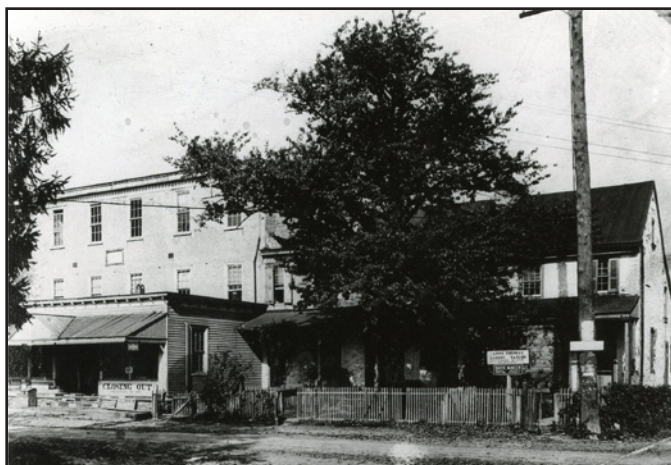


Paoli map from 1897 atlas showing the Dingee and Steen properties. *Courtesy of Mike Bertram*

Another significant 2014 acquisition was a group of twenty-seven photographic prints that were in fact loaned to the Society in 2006 for scanning and digitization by the owner, Ann Seybert. Thus, these images have actually been in the TEHS database for some years, and the original prints have now been donated. Because of many duplicates, the collection provides a total of twelve images of three Paoli subjects: Schofield's Store, the Dingee Farm, and the Van Dyke Residence, all by unknown photographers.

All of these buildings were located on the Paoli farm/estate of John H. Dingee. He purchased his land in at least four parcels after 1883, eventually acquiring about 100 acres. He owned property on both sides of Lancaster Pike at Leopard Road (now Route 252), with the larger parcel situated on the northwest side, and eventually acquiring a tract on the southwest corner, where his livestock and sheep farm was located. On the 1897 atlas page the name Dingee does not appear south of Lancaster, as most of the southern piece was acquired in 1902 when the Hugh Steen holdings were sold. Before his death in 1913 at age 65, Dingee had been active in local politics, was vice-president of the Tredyffrin School Board for eleven years, a president of the Paoli Town Association, and an elder in the Great Valley Presbyterian Church.³

The small triangle of land between the railroad tracks and Lancaster at the northwest corner of the intersection held several buildings, symbolized by small squares on the atlas page. One of these was Schofield's Bazaar, as it was sometimes called. It was a general store that once occupied part of the three-story building on Lancaster at the main Paoli intersection. It was called Malin's Store from about 1840 until its sale to Henry Schofield in 1867. The intersection, and consequently the building, has at various times, been known as "Paoli Corner." The Society's photography collection boasts three other images of the building, attesting to the depth of the holdings. This building has housed many businesses and activities over the years.⁴ The Seybert image also shows the smaller building



Schofield's Bazaar general store building on left (TEHS Image # AS12)

next door to the east, with its sign in front for “Anna Thomas, Ladies Taylor,” [sic], and a shoemaker. Viewers are probably surprised by how the structures appear to sit right at the edge of the roadway.

Another photograph in the Society’s collection, from an unknown source, would appear to be somewhat earlier than the one in the Seybert donation, given that the “Closing Out” sign is not displayed in front (although both likely date from the first two decades of the twentieth century). It’s worth looking at as an evocative icon of the “march of progress.” At the right is an automobile, probably from the 1910s or the early 1920s. The car is stopped at the toll booth for the Paoli tolls on Lancaster Pike, and to the left of the toll booth is the back end of a horse-drawn buggy. The man and woman to the left of the buggy are probably shopkeepers as she wears a long apron. When enlarged, the signs on the front of the building can be read, including “Hires Root Beer,” “Chew Polo” and “Dutch Cleanser.”

In another shot, certainly later in date, the large front porch structure has been removed and replaced with two small separate porches at each entrance. In this view, the nice oval windows on the side are visible (both east and west sets still in place today). And a new pitched roof with four dormers has been added. The small sign on the front reads “To Let W. T. Yerkes,” and probably provides a date for the photograph as Yerkes died in 1918. The smaller building to the right is no longer there, and again the structure seems very close to the road.

The photograph taken in 2014 reminds us that the building is still going strong after close to two hundred years. The Society’s image database now boasts five photographs of this building. To see all of these images use the search term “Paoli Corner.”

The Seybert gift includes photos of several other buildings on the land owned by John H. Dingee. There are seven photographs of the fine Van Dyke House, apparently rented from Dingee by Dr. Edward Van Dyke.⁵ According to Society member and Paoli history expert Mike Bertram, the exact location of the Van Dyke House has yet to be confirmed.



FROM TOP: Earlier view of Schofield’s store (# AS12); later view without large porch (# HOU48); 2014 view, *courtesy of Cheryl Liebold.*

RIGHT: Van Dyke House
(TEHS Image # AS11)



“Fennerton” was the name given to the main house on the property, as well as the property itself. Fennerton is a place name in both England and Scotland, and of course the name Dingee is a good Scottish or Irish name. Fennerton was a beautiful and elaborate Victorian cottage-style home. The house was designed in 1882 by Frank Furness, one of Philadelphia’s most famous architects of that era, and is listed in the master catalogue of Furness’s architecture.⁶ Its typically eclectic assortment of architectural features included scalloped shingles, roof crests, and most notably the elaborate painted porch with turned gingerbread posts and fan work. Dingee may have acquired the house and named it Fennerton when he first bought his land. Today Fennerton Road is accessed from East Central Avenue, and the house sat at this corner.



“Fennerton” (TEHS Image # AS3)

The western half of the Dingee estate was sold in 1937 to the Devereux Foundation. The Dingee family held the eastern half of the property until 1952 when a 12-acre plot was acquired by Burroughs which operated a facility there until 1994. Today all of this northern part of the former Dingee property is occupied by the Paoli Pointe Condominiums and Apartments.⁷ The southern parcel, acquired in 1902, was broken up as early as 1917, and became part of the Tredyffrin Country Club (in operation from 1917 to 1944), with the largest and most elaborate Dingee barn serving as the club house. Eventually this tract was incorporated into the Paoli Shopping Center, which opened in 1954.



Dingee Estate Barn (TEHS Image # DE1)

Dingee must have been a successful businessman and farmer, as his property boasted quite a few buildings. From the total of fifteen photographs (excluding duplicates) in the collection, we know there were at least five large barns, as well as several outbuildings, a log cabin, a small horse barn, a gardener’s cottage and of course the Fennerton estate house. The print of the most elaborate barn is inscribed “Barn on Dingee Estate, South side of Central Ave.” so it was probably fairly close to Fennerton. This barn has many architectural features in common with Fennerton, such as scalloped shingles, shaped brick chimneys, decorative multi-paned windows and multiple dormers. Its design and ornamentation suggest that it could have been architect-designed, although no evidence survives to prove this.



Dingee Sheep Barn (TEHS Image # DE4)

The inscription on the back of another barn photograph states that it was the Dingee sheep barn, at the corner of Route 30 and Chestnut Road, telling us that it was south of Lancaster. It has a lovely square cupola and plain brick chimney. Notes in the TEHS archives indicate that later the building was apparently an antiques business, and later still a restaurant, then demolished and replaced by a Gulf Station. Eventually the Paoli Shopping Center occupied all of the southern holding of the Dingee estate.⁸



Dingee estate shepherd with flock in paddock

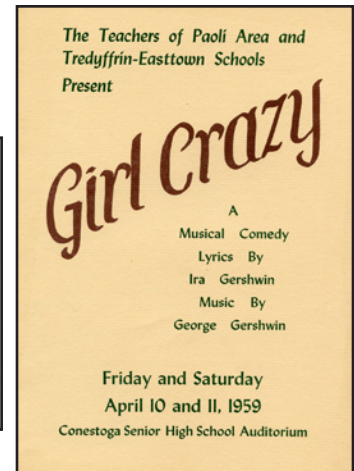
Other Gifts to the Society Archives in 2014:

Herbert Fry donated a collection of eight printed programs from the Valley Forge Music Fair, and a program for "Girl Crazy," a musical performed by the teachers of the Paoli Area and the Tredyffrin Easttown Schools in 1959.

Two interesting artifacts were donated by Roger Thorne in 2014. The first, a tiny lapel pin, just 1-1/8 inches wide, in the form of aviator's wings, bears the imprint of the Main Line Airport. Roger received this item from Joseph Berry of Malvern, the son of the airport manager. The second was a British military cap badge whose intriguing story may be found in the addendum included at the end of this article.



Main Line Airport lapel pin. Courtesy of Roger Thorne



Books Donated by the Tredyffrin Public Library:

Tredyffrin Township, Chester Co., PA in Pre-Revolutionary Times, by Robert L. Ward, 1972, typescript.

Strafford North – 6th Annual Town Tour & Village Walks, by James B. Garrison, (2000, bound brochure)

James, Arthur E., *Covered Bridges of Chester County, Pennsylvania*, (Chester County Historical Society, 1976).

Landefeld, William R., *The Changing Boundaries of Pennsylvania From 1493 to 1921*, (self-published, 2009).

McElroy, Janice H., ed., *Pennsylvania Women in History: Our Hidden Heritage*, (Pennsylvania Division, AAUW, 1983).

Proposed Home Rule Charter for Tredyffrin Township, Report of the Government Study Commission, 1974

Other Donated Books:

Project 1776: A Manual for the Bicentennial – Source Book of History and Learning Ideas, (Bicentennial Commission of PA, 1973, with illustrations by Fletcher and Henry MacNeill). Gift of J. Michael Morrison.

Nothing but the Best – A Collection of Recipes from the Community of Chesterbrook, 1988. Gift of Cheryl Leibold.

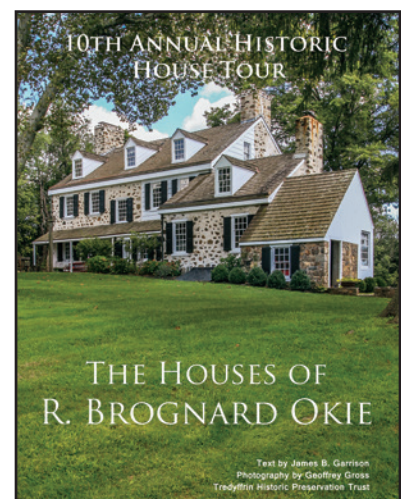
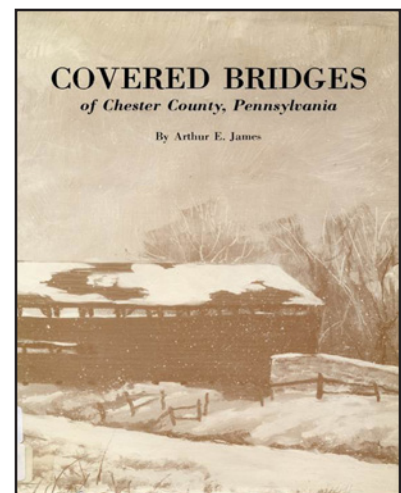
Lewis Walker of Chester Valley and his Descendants: with some of the families with whom they are connected by marriage, 1686-1896, by Priscilla Walker Streets (reprint of 1896 original). Society purchase.

Chesterbrook Farm - A Portfolio of Photographs by Robert Colgan and others, Edited and with an introduction by Dale Akridge, Jr., 2014. Purchased from the editor.

Upper Merion Township: The First 300 Hundred Years, by J. Michael Morrison, Francis X. Luther, and Marianne K. Hooper, 2013 (King of Prussia Historical Society). Gift of J. Michael Morrison.

The Residential Architecture of Richardson Brognard Okie, compiled and with a brief introduction by Ronald S. Senseman, Leon Brown, Edwin Bateman Morris, and Charles T. Okie. 1946, unpaginated photocopy, (stored in the Okie biographical file.) Gift of Lynne Anderson.

The Houses of Richardson Brognard Okie, by James B. Garrison. Published by the Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust, 2014. Gift of Gretchen Kiernan.



Also in 2014, a valuable cache of material related to the Chester Valley Railroad was secured through Society member Jim Brazel. A group of 106 maps, charts and photographs was lent for scanning by collector Ted Xaras. These maps and illustrations were assembled by Jim Brazel for his research on the railroad, and for his talks on the subject.

“Pennsylvania Railroad Right of Way and Track Map,” V-2.1/1-25, Office of Valuation Engineer, June 30, 1918. 25 maps received as digital copies, courtesy of Ted Xaras.

Map of Philadelphia and Columbia Railway with Proposed Improvements, by E.F. Gay & Co., 1851. 5 maps received as digital copies, courtesy of Ted Xaras.

Notebook, hand-written notes by William H. Wilson, Principal Assistant Engineer, 1831-34, Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, in charge of completion of the Eastern Section (Philadelphia to Coatesville), digital scan of entire notebook courtesy of Ted Xaras, 138 pages. (The TEHS library houses a book titled *Reminiscences of a Railroad Engineer*, by W. H. Wilson, 1896.).



Westbound Pennsylvania Railroad K-4 steam locomotives, with the first and second sections of “The Manhattan Limited” are lined up on three of the four main line tracks at Paoli, most likely before 1933 when electric locomotives were put in service for New York to Philadelphia / Paoli service. The line had been electrified for Philadelphia to Paoli service by September 1915. Photo courtesy of Theodore Xaras. Official PRR Photo Neg. number E. 9660.

Digital Photographs Added to the TEHS Image Collection Database

Each year the Society benefits from the addition of new images to its photographic database. These photographs are often lent for digitizing by private owners who allow the image to be scanned and added to the database. Then the originals are returned to them. This project was begun in 2008 by Mike Bertram, as he scanned the print photographs in the Society’s collection. Last year he reconfigured the database for the internet and it is now linked to our website. To recognize these donors of valuable historical images, we list here the largest groups of photographs added in 2014. The TEHS Image Collection database has grown to over 2000 images and has become a research tool as useful as the digital archive of past *History Quarterly* articles.

The biggest donation to the database in 2014 was a group of 133 images from the Barbara and Herbert Fry collection. The largest group within the Fry collection consists of 73 photographs by local photographer Lucy Sampson. Roger Thorne used many of these in his October 2014 talk, and subsequent *History Quarterly* article titled “The Changing Face of Berwyn” featured in a special double-issue (Vol. 41, Nos. 3 & 4, December 2014). The Berwyn Theatre is shown here to represent this generous and important gift.



ABOVE: Berwyn Theatre by Lucy Sampson (TEHS Image # BET1). BELOW: Baptist Chapel by Julius Sachse (TEHS Image # BBC01).

Also from the Fry collection, sixteen photographs taken by Julius Sachse (1842–1919) were added. These depict locations along the Devon to Paoli corridor, and most were taken in the late 1880s. Sachse was an author and historian, as well as a photographer. He spent childhood summers in Berwyn, and moved there in the 1870s. From about 1870 to his death in 1919, he wrote history pieces for West Chester and Philadelphia papers. He also wrote on German Protestant religions and was an expert on the Ephrata Cloisters. His book *The Wayside Inns Along the Lancaster Roadside Between Philadelphia and Lancaster*, published in 1915, is still the major source of information on this subject. Thus his research preceded the formation of the Society by several decades, but the Society has benefitted from his work in many ways. The photograph of what was originally called the Baptist Chapel will serve to represent the Sachse photographs in the Fry Collection.⁹ As each photograph in the Fry collection was scanned by Roger Thorne, he and Herb composed extensive and detailed descriptive notes about the image. These notes exist only in the database, and probably will stay that way, making them even more valuable.

Roger Thorne was also very much involved with another group of images new to the database in 2014: a collection of aerial photographs of the Devon area, and in particular, the Devon Horse Show grounds. These came from two sources: 1) selected 1920s images licensed from the Dallin Aerial Survey photograph collection at the Hagley Museum and Library, and 2) original photographs taken by Roger during his 2009 flight over the Upper Main Line. Society members have seen these before, and now they have been added to the database.

The third largest group of digital photographs added to the database in 2014 came from the Matthews Ford photograph album, lent for digitizing by the Matthews family. The photos are all pre-1940, so it is a very valuable piece of local history. An upcoming *Quarterly* article will describe this album and the story of the Matthews Ford operation. This representative image shows the dealership building in 1934, with a display of trucks outside.

To learn about the many other photographs added to the database in 2014, click on the “Donations” tab of the TEHS Image Collection home page on the Society’s website.



Walter T. Matthews, and his Ford dealership in Paoli, summer 1934
Matthews Ford album photograph (TEHS Image # MF08)

References

- 1 A group of letters from this earlier acquisition was published in the *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly* in January of 1991 (Vol. 29 No. 1, pp. 25–33). They give a good idea of how much the daily working of the farm was delegated to Robert Colgan, the Chesterbrook Farm manager, by Edward Cassatt.
- 2 From various *Quarterly* articles we already knew that Chesterbrook Farm’s prize cow May Rilma was the “champion cow of the world” in 1914, producing over 19,000 lbs. of milk and 1073 lbs. of butter fat.
- 3 John H. Dingee obituary, *Daily Local News*, May 12, 1913 in TEHS Biographical files.
- 4 The building has been mentioned in several *Quarterly* articles. From the article by Phoebe P. Prime “History of the Church of the Good Samaritan” in the *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, Vol. 9 No. 3 (April 1957) p. 64: “About the year 1874, the Union Sunday School was transferred to the basement of the building ... From ... [it] ... evolved a Sunday School of the Protestant Episcopal Church which held its sessions in the hall on the third story of the store building, then known as Schofield’s store, now the Green Lantern Inn ... According to early records, a Dr. Hay also conducted services in this place.” We also know that the Paoli post office was housed here in the 1890s.
- 5 According to Mike Bertram, 1911 probate records for Mary Van Dyke, widow of Dr. Edward, show John Dingee as her executor, so a familial relationship may have existed there. The author would like to thank Mike for valuable assistance with the Paoli research.
- 6 *Frank Furness the Complete Works*, by George A. Thomas, Jeffrey A. Cohen and Michael J. Lewis, (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1991), p. 239. According to a clipping in the Society Archives John Dingee’s son later entered the Furness architectural firm (*Daily Local News*, Nov. 29, 1882).

- 7 “Devereux in Easttown and Tredyffrin Townships,” by J. B. Post, *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, Vol. 41 No. 4 (Fall 2004), pp. 131-34, and “The Burroughs Research Center in Paoli,” by Joyce A. Post, *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, Vol. 40 No. 1 (January 2003), pp. 3–18.
- 8 “Club Members Remember: The Changing Face of Paoli,” *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, Vol. 27 No. 3 (July 1989), pp. 102–12.
- 9 “Julius F. Sachse,” by Mildred F. Fisher, *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, Vol. 10 No. 4 (October 1959), pp. 84–86.

49th Regiment British Cap Badge

Many of us on the upper Main Line, interested in our local history, are at least somewhat familiar with the British invasion of the Great Valley during the Revolution in September 1777, and “The Battle of Paoli” (as the British call it)—otherwise better known locally as the “Paoli Massacre.”

Late on the night of September 20, 1777, under the cover of a rain storm, the British 2nd Battalion, Light Infantry, led a surprise midnight bayonet assault against a force of some 1,500 Americans comprising Gen. Anthony Wayne’s Pennsylvania Line, encamped in a woods in today’s Malvern. The Americans, caught unprepared, were badly mauled, with some 300 being killed or wounded. The Americans retreated in disarray, allowing the British Army to depart the following morning in their maneuver intended to capture Philadelphia.

The British suffered only three KIAs (“killed in action”): a captain of the Light Company of the 40th Regiment of Foot (RoF), and a sergeant and a private assigned to the Light Company of the 49th RoF. Strong evidence suggests that at first light the following morning, as the British Army began movement from the Great Valley to cross the Schuylkill River at Fatland Ford, a British patrol transported its three dead soldiers, and the bodies of eight mortally wounded American captives who had expired during the night, to the abandoned Anglican church called “The Church of Saint Peter in the Great Valley” for a hasty burial in its churchyard.

After 170 years, on September 7, 2007, along with members of the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund, I helped organize a “Commemoration for the Fallen” at St. Peter’s Church: a gathering of British and Americans—once mortal enemies but now good friends and loyal allies in many conflicts since—to commemorate the dead on both sides in this long-ago battle. [Note: this event was documented in the article “The Last Days of William Wolfe: Commemoration for the Fallen September 7, 2007” by Sean Moir in *History Quarterly*, Vol. 45, No 1, Winter 2008].

It was then that I was first introduced to the leader of the British contingent, a retired British Army colonel named Michael Vernon-Powell, Chairman of the Royal Berkshire Committee of the famed Royal Berkshire Regiment—the successor of the original 49th RoF formed in the 1740s. The regiment was granted the title “Princess Charlotte of Wales’s Hertfordshire Regiment” in 1816. A new county regiment was formed in 1881 by merging the 49th RoF and the 66th (Berkshire) RoF, and in 1885, for meritorious conduct, the unit became a “Royal” regiment known as the “Princess Charlotte of Wales’s Royal Berkshire Regiment.” In 1921, it was renamed the “Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales’s)” and that name survived until 1959 when further regimental amalgamation occurred.

Seven years later, in May 2014, my now-friend Col. Vernon-Powell again returned to Pennsylvania, escorting a group of retired British officers and men to the old Colonial burying ground at St. Peter’s for a smaller but in some ways more poignant second commemoration. Afterwards “Col. Mike,” wishing to express his gratitude, presented me with an officer’s cap badge of the Royal Berkshire Regiment (see illustration).

The Colonel explained that after the Paoli battle, the Americans, humiliated by their defeat, accused the British of killing the wounded, and vowed to give no quarter to those units involved when they met in later battles. The Light Companies reacted to this threat by dyeing their distinguishing green hat feathers red so that they would be easily recognized by the Americans. This action continues to be commemorated within the Royal Berkshire Regiment by the wearing of the red Brandywine Flash behind the cap badge.

After receiving this important memento, I donated it to the archive of the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society.

— Roger Thorne



ABOVE LEFT: Vintage 49th Regiment British Cap Badge, a gift from Col. Michael Vernon-Powell. *Photos © Roger Thorne.* ABOVE CENTER and RIGHT: Ceremonial salute and Col. Michael Vernon-Powell. *Photos © John O. Senior*



ABOVE: 2014 Commemoration ceremony at St. Peter's Church. [From Left] Eugene Hough (with flag), Roger Thorne, bugler Leighton Johnson, Rev. Anne Bridgers, Bart Van Valkenburgh, Bruce Knapp, Col. Michael Vernon-Powell, and to his left, three other members of the visiting British contingent. *Photo © John O. Senior*



RIGHT: Col. Michael Vernon-Powell (center) with the four other members of the visiting British delegation. *Photo © John O. Senior*