

Covers from two of the booklets and pamphlets from the Fry collection.

Herb's deep interest in Berwyn history, as well as his army service in World War II, surely prompted him to collect items like the *Program for Tredyffrin-Easttown Independence Day Rally at Berwyn, July Fourth, 1917*, a program for the July 4th ceremonies, listing speakers, music, sports and games, and a list of fifty-four local volunteers then enlisted in the service. A note on the cover states that "proceeds" would be used to send gifts to servicemen. The U. S. had officially entered the war just three months earlier, in April of 1917, and civic patriotism was strong throughout the country. Another example, the booklet *What Can I Do? The Citizen's Handbook for War* (1942), informs citizens of the do's and don'ts of non-military life at that time. It is a fascinating look at what people were thinking about in 1942, the year after the Pearl Harbor attack. The booklet points out the importance of blackout preparedness in case of German bomb attacks; and that "one old flatiron will provide enough scrap iron to make four hand grenades;" and that "pleasure driving is out for the duration."



Other items worth a special mention include the program *Dedication of the Roll of Honor of Those Who Serve from Berwyn in the Armed Forces*, Dec. 5, 1943, listing over 275 names; and a poster commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Valley Forge Park, dated 1993, featuring a lovely pencil sketch of the log huts in the snow by Richard Fish.

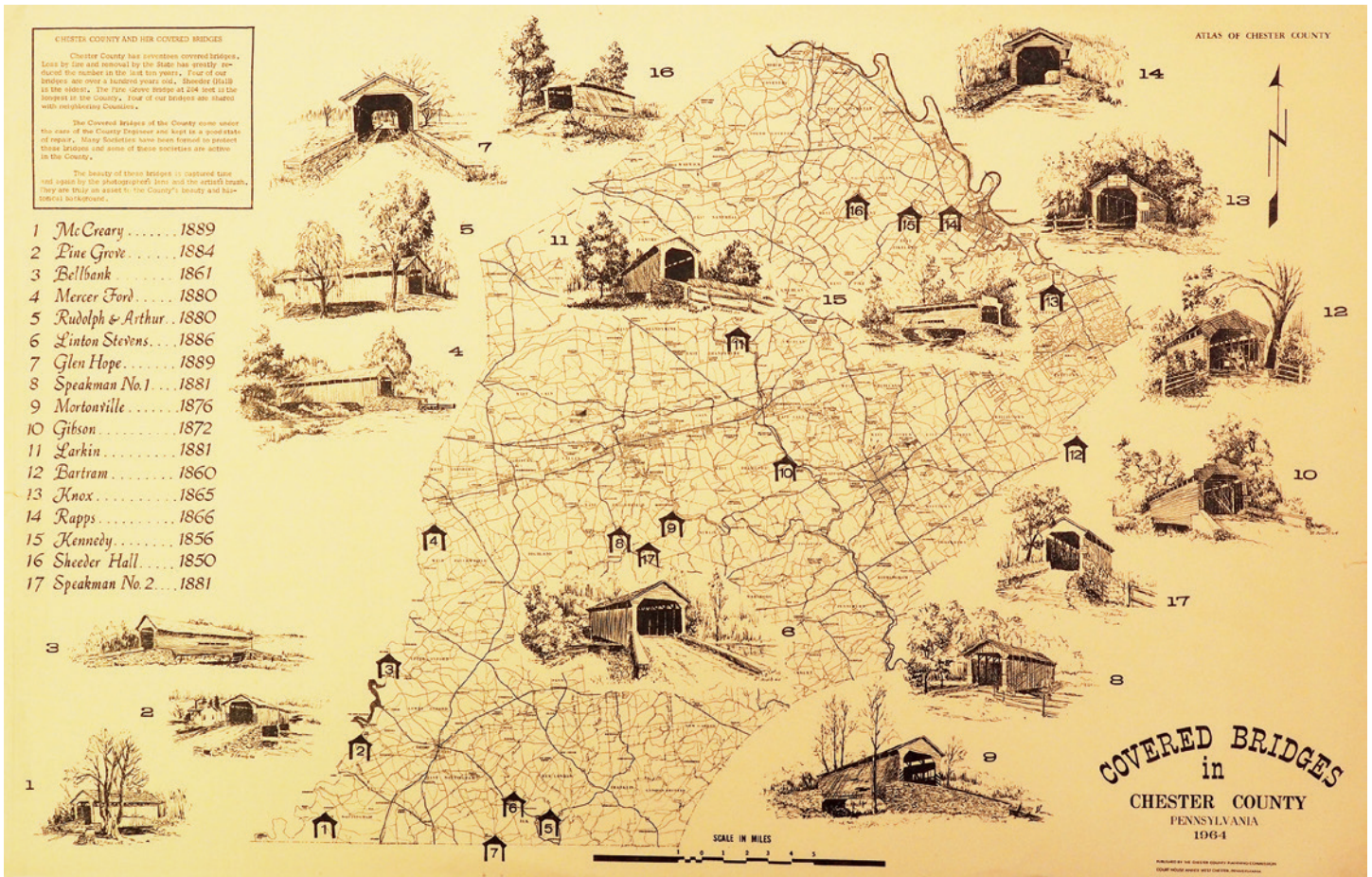
Herb was an inveterate "clipper" of newspapers and magazines, and was the recipient of numerous packages of clippings from others, notably Mary Ives. Well over 500 clippings were found and filed. An article about Pearl Nudy's Tredyffrin Township television program "Our Town," which ran from 1990 to 2001, caught his eye, when it was given a rave review in *The Suburban* in 1997.⁷ The following excerpt is from the clipping:

"Seven years for a weekly 30-minute TV offering is tantamount to an electronic eternity, especially when it is a volunteer effort competing with network and syndicated offerings... like Entertainment Tonight. The topics covered have run the gamut from a review of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire (where Pearl was dubbed Lady Pearl of Clan Matthews), to programs about domestic violence, people who claim the power to divine the future, and interviews with local leaders on issues affecting Berwyn." — "Berwyn - the Heart of Pearl Nudy's 'Our Town,'" *The Suburban*, Nov. 13, 1997.



Several of the books related to Valley Forge that are part of the donation.

Herb's collection of almost fifty books is significant for its concentration on the American Revolution and specifically the twenty-eight Valley Forge titles. The most important of these is probably the three-volume set: *Valley Forge Historical Research Project Final Report*, by Wayne K. Bodle and Jacqueline Thibaut (1980, 1314 pages). This four-year project gathered hundreds of period documents from over two-hundred archives in the United States, England, and France. It comprises a day-by-day account of the Valley Forge encampment based on these period documents. Its three volumes are titled: Vol. I – The Vortex of Small Fortunes: The Continental Army at Valley Forge, 1777–78; Vol. II – The Fatal Crisis: Logistics, Supplies, and Continental Army at Valley Forge, 1777–78; and Vol. III – In the Rustic Order: Material Aspects of Valley Forge Encampment, 1777–78.



(ABOVE) Map identifying the locations of 17 covered bridges, published by the Chester County Planning Commission in 1964. (RIGHT) "Territory Covered by the Berwyn Fire Co., No. 1." (ca. 1950-1960s, photocopy)

Herb especially loved maps, with 28 arriving in the donation. Several very decorative maps surely caught his eye for the charming line drawings. The small map titled *Covered Bridges in Chester County* (1964) lists 17 bridges, with small line drawings for each by D. T. Minch. This item might have served as paper placemat, and each of the line drawings is very detailed and individual.

The Berwyn Fire Company map, which probably dates from the 1950s to the 1960s, must have interested him due to the long history of the Fire Company, referenced in many *Quarterly* articles and photos. It shows the area protected by the Berwyn Fire Company (including a portion of Tredyffrin Township). The unusual text must have caught his eye: "One 9-year old piece of fire-fighting equipment cannot protect this area." The box at the lower right lists "Area, Population, Property Value, Number of Buildings, Miles of Road, and 419 Fire Calls 1930 to date," suggesting that this was a fund-raising item. Even though it's a photocopy, Herb saved it, which is a good object lesson about the intellectual value of pictorial items, even when not the original.





A watercolor and pen-and-ink sketch by Louis Sartain Schofield of Paoli, Pa depicting "The Mount Airy Schoolhouse" formerly located on Lancaster Pike near Daylesford, Pa. The location was identified on a map found in an atlas from 1900.



The original source for a lovely work of art that came with the Fry collection is unknown. The small watercolor and pen-and-ink sketch is identified via a typed note on the back that reads "*The Mount Airy Schoolhouse on Lancaster Pike near Daylesford Pa. as it looked in June 1915. Pen and ink sketch by Louis Sartain Schofield of Paoli, Pa.*"

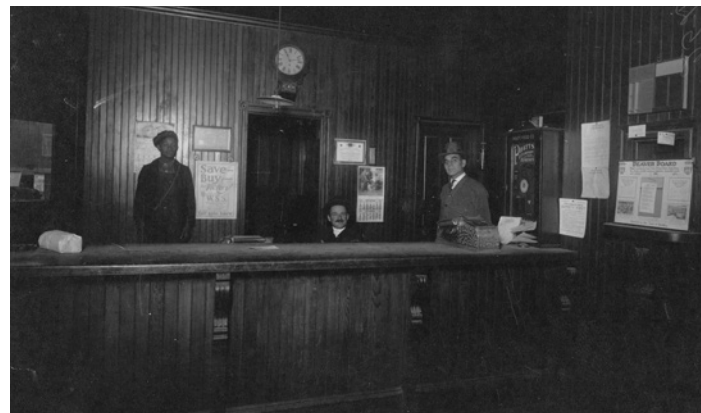
In 1852, the Mt. Airy School was built on the north side of Old Lancaster Road, at the intersection with Rose Lane, east of the railroad underpass at Daylesford. It was built to serve the children living within two or three miles to the east and west. This school remained in use until it was closed in 1892. The school was demolished in either 1895 or 1900, and the land sold for development. As a point of reference, the structure appears on a map in an atlas from 1900.

The unsigned watercolor may be the only image of the small school, as no photographs of it are known to exist. The date given by the person who added the typed label on the back may simply be an error. The artist was Louis Sartain Schofield (1868–1936), an engraver by trade. His mother Helen Sartain (1838–1901) was the fourth child of John Sartain (1808–1897), a major figure in the Philadelphia art world during much of the nineteenth century. His father was Harry (Henry) Benner Schofield (1831–1925), the Paoli-based owner of Schofield's Store from 1867 to 1912, and the Paoli postmaster from 1893 to 1897.⁸

Herb Fry's legacy is indeed a large one: articles published, talks given, friendships made, leadership provided, and his inspiration to so many will benefit the study of local history, not just for decades to come, but in perpetuity.

Other Gifts Received in 2018

The TEHS received a number of other notable gifts in 2018, some of which are described below. More information on each is available from the Archives.



(ABOVE) Fritz Lumber Office, 1930s (FRL33)

(BELOW) Fritz trade card "Fill Your Bins Now" c. 1924



The Fritz Lumber collection is a group of about forty documents and photographs donated through Stacey Ballard of Eadeh Enterprises, who purchased the property after the business closed. Fritz Lumber, on the north side of Lancaster Avenue in Berwyn, operated from 1860 to 2016, initially providing agricultural supplies, lumber, and coal, and later building supplies and hardware. The business was founded in 1860 by Henry Fritz and William Lobb. In more recent times, the business was owned and operated by Bill Fritz III, and his son Howard until its closing. The trade card "Fill Your Bins Now," with its July calendar inset is an advertisement for the coal-sales part of the business, and dates to the mid-twentieth century. Over 40 photographs, most casual snapshots, include several images of the interior of the retail store. (All of the Fritz photos from the Fry bequest can be viewed in the TEHS Image Collection database using image identifiers FRL1–FRL55). Fritz Lumber artifacts include a carpenter's apron (donated in 2016) and embossed pens and pencils (donated in 2019). Several large financial ledgers are also preserved, recording income and expenses in great detail, for the years 1886 to 1889, 1910 to 1943, and 1925 to 1949. A detailed inventory of the Fritz collection is available from the TEHS Archives.¹¹ Additional items of memorabilia related to this business would be welcome additions to the TEHS Archives.⁹



Howard Lyndaker's U.S. Army uniform jacket with Anti-aircraft Artillery (AA) shoulder patch, and cap with gold and red enamel pin.

The Society received two items of memorabilia related to the Nike missile base located in Tredyffrin township from the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s. An Eisenhower-style army jacket with an AA (Anti-aircraft Artillery) shoulder patch; and an overseas cap with red artillery piping and a "We Challenge the Sky" pin were gifts of Howard Lyndaker's children (Patty Delles and Barry David Lyndaker). The jacket and cap were worn by Acting Corporal Lyndaker, who served with PH-82, the detachment of soldiers at the U.S. Army Nike Missile Base in Tredyffrin Township. He was a radar operator from northern New York State, who served from May 1955 to December 1956 at the Tredyffrin base. The battery, operational from 1955 into 1964, was originally designated Battery "A," 176th Anti-aircraft Artillery Missile Battalion, 24th Air Defense Artillery Group. It was one of twelve batteries built during the Cold War surrounding Philadelphia as protection from Soviet bombers carrying nuclear weapons. Battery "A" comprised two locations: a missile launch site on LeBoutillier Road, and an Integrated Fire Control site atop the North Valley Hill on Horseshoe Trail.¹⁰ The Lyndaker gift is a tangible symbol of a little-known but important part of local history, as well as a reminder that this chapter of Tredyffrin history connects to national history in a very real way.

The Society is grateful to all donors of historical materials because thinking of history helps us understand the present.

In April 1954, the U.S. Army activated the initial Nike-Ajax, the world's first guided, surface-to-air (SAM) missile defense system. That revolutionary system would be deployed in the Delaware Valley ten months later. This image was taken in the summer of 1959. *Courtesy of Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society.*



This photo of Howard Lyndaker, with (we might assume) his son Barry seated on a stylish Mercury automobile, was taken at 125 Diamond Rock Rd., Phoenixville in June 1956, just before he was discharged from PH-82 in Paoli. He is wearing the "Ike" uniform jacket, and cap with pin, that were donated to our archive. Note the Private First Class (PFC) stripe on the sleeve.



Footnotes

1. Roger Thorne. "In Memoriam: C. Herbert Fry." *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, Vol. 54, No. 3 (Autumn 2018), pp. 34-35.
2. Herb Fry's Sachse and Sampson images were scanned in 2014 and added to the TEHS Image Collection database, along with descriptive notes dictated by Herb Fry, and edited by Roger Thorne. See Roger Thorne. "In Memoriam: C. Herbert Fry." *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, Vol. 54, No. 3 (Autumn 2018), pp. 34-35. Many of Herb Fry's Sampson images were also used in Roger Thorne. "The Changing Face of Berwyn." *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, Vol. 51, Nos. 3&4 (December 2014).
3. See the TEHS online Image Collection, record PA28. Cyanotypes were among the earliest photographic procedures, invented in 1842, but simple enough for most amateurs. With the introduction of dry plate negatives, about 1879, the commercially prepared paper, bearing iron salts, could be developed at home. The resulting prints display the distinctive, and very fugitive, blue color. Sachse's almost pristine prints were surely kept out of the light.
4. "Notes and Comments," *Tredyffrin Easttown History Club Quarterly*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (July 1998), p. 102.
5. See Herb Fry. "The Village of Spread Eagle," *Tredyffrin Easttown History Club Quarterly*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (July 1998) pp. 77-90. On page 86 Herb specifically mentions this site, but does not mention the mini-golf, suggesting that he did not have the clipping at that time. Also see "Perspectives on the Old Covered Wagon Inn." *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, Vol. 52, Nos. 3&4, February 2016. Thanks to Greg Prichard for help with this photograph, and the article quoted above: "Tom Thumb Golf Now All the Rage," *The Suburban and Wayne Times*, July 11, 1930, p. 1. This photograph is so rich with visual information that it could be the subject of its own article.
6. C. Herbert Fry. "The Tredyffrin Association." *Tredyffrin Easttown History Club Quarterly*, Vol. 30, No. 2, (April 1992), pp. 63-70.
7. Ray Hoffman. "Berwyn – the Heart of Pearl Nudy's 'Our Town.'" *The Suburban*, November 13, 1997.
8. Two articles in the *Tredyffrin Easttown History Club Quarterly* tell us a bit about the school: Robert L. Ward. "Public Schools of Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships." Vol. 35, Nos. 2 and 3, (April and July 1997), p. 81; and Mark L. Tunnell. "The Story of a House: A History of the Hatton House on Old Lancaster Road," Vol. 20, No. 2 (April 1982). pp. 51-62. (References courtesy of Mike Bertram. Thanks to Heidi Sproat for research help.)
9. William Fritz III. "Fritz's Lumber Yard." *Tredyffrin Easttown History Club Quarterly*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (April 1994), pp. 67-74, and Roger Thorne. "In Memoriam: William H. Fritz III" *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*. Vol. 54, No. 2 (Spring 2018), p. 35.
10. Information courtesy of Roger Thorne. See his article "When the Cold War Cast Its Shadow upon the Great Valley." *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, Vol. 49, No. 4 (December 2012), pp. 92-127.
11. The documents "Finding Aid for the Barbara and C. Herbert Fry Collection, 2018" and "Finding Aid for the Fritz Lumber Collection" are available at the Archives, and in the **Resources** section of the **Archives** page on the Society website at <https://tehistory.org/archives.html>.



Some of the pens, pencils, and other artifacts that were part of the Fritz donation.