
The Corridor

Volume XXXV, No. 2

Newsletter of the Old York Road Historical Society

Summer 2026

Summer Celebrations

Dear Members and Friends,

As is our custom for this summer number, it is comprised of reprinted newspaper articles of varying degrees of historical import, all from local newspapers in the Society's collections. Hopefully you find that the articles shed light on what was going on in this area in past times. Also, this summertime issue coincides with both the 250th anniversary of the founding of our wonderful country as well as the 90th anniversary of the founding of this society (look for a fall event marking the Society's anniversary). So happy reading and happy Fourth of July! And above all, thanks for your support of both country and society.

The Board of Directors

From *Times-Chronicle*
October 29, 1953

From *North Philadelphia Globe*
October 11, 1956

THOUSANDS JOIN CELEBRITIES AT OPENING OF SNELLENBURG STORE IN WILLOW GROVE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON

Montgomery and Bucks Counties first department store to be constructed in 21 years was officially opened to the public at noon yesterday following the raising of the American Flag and a ribbon cutting at Snellenburgs-Willow Grove, Easton and York roads, in Willow Grove.

William P. Abbott, Upper Moreland Commissioner, Opera Singer Elizabeth Doubleday, and Mrs. George Miller hoisted the Stars and Stripes to the top of the flagpole atop the store. The ribbon-cutting ceremony at the store front entrance was led by Alfred Blasband, Executive head of Snellenburgs, manager Carl Neu, and Bucks County clubwoman Mrs. William B. Lynch.

More than 5,000 persons packed the sidewalks and caused police to detour Easton Road traffic when ceremonies started at noon. By the time Snellenburgs new store officially opened, many additional hundreds swelled the throng.

From *The North Suburban Review*
July 1, 1887

A month or two ago the Reading Railroad Company commenced work for putting a siding between City Line and Oak Lane; they were in such a hurry to get it completed that they worked all day Sunday, as well as through the week, but after working about two weeks, the work was suddenly thrown up, and there it now lays, not half finished. The Reading takes the cake.

DOG SAVES FAMILY IN HOUSE FIRE

A dog that disobeyed a command alerted an Elkins Park family, including four sleeping children, as smoke seeped upward from a basement in flames early Sunday.

"Go downstairs, Tiger," said Mrs. Dorothy Barth peevishly as the dog pawed at the bedspread in her home at 333 Harrison avenue, rousing her from slumber.

But Tiger persisted although normally obedient.

Then Mrs. Barth smelled smoke. She jumped out of bed and followed Tiger. A switch to the downstairs hallway light failed to respond.

Mrs. Barth awakened her husband, Harry, Jr., who hastened downstairs. When he flung open a door to the basement, a wall of smoke belched forth.

Barth telephoned Cheltenham Twp. Police. Then he fought the blaze with buckets of water from the kitchen.

When Patrolmen Joseph Lynch and Hugh McCann arrived, smoke was pouring from the house.

Tiger, following through in his role of hero, led the police officers to the children's bedrooms on the second and third floors. Officer Lynch on the 3rd floor, took Henry Barth, 3rd, nine, by the hand and carried Diane, one, to safety. Officer McCann picked up Michael, four, in a second floor bedroom and guided Linda, eight, from the smoke-filled house. All four children were taken to homes of neighbors.

Firemen aided Barth in quenching the flames.

From *Times-Chronicle*
March 13, 1926

Huntingdon Valley Sells Noble Links

The Huntingdon Valley Country Club, has been sold for "close to \$700,000." The property includes 117 acres along Old York Road at Noble. Under the terms of the agreement, the club has two years in which to vacate.

This was verified by E. Pusey Passmore, treasurer of the club and a member of the site committee. The sale develops from a contemplated removal to a new site of 434 acres, a mile east of Willow Grove, which was recently purchased by the club for \$325,000, so that the organization gains approximately \$325,000 by moving, and gets a club site 317 acres larger than its present one. Plans are on foot to start construction of golf courses and other features on the new tract this spring.

William A. Law, a vice president of the club, and also a member of the site committee, said the purchaser of the present property were a syndicate of real estate developers represented by Horace S. Furman and Clarence J. Shilcock.

The new tract of the Huntingdon Valley club near Willow Grove includes the old W. W. Frazier estate and thirty-three acres adjacent to it, which formerly belonged to J. Smylie Herkness. "We will construct an eighteen-hole golf course on it," Mr. Passmore said, "and there is room for a second course."

The present site at Noble has played a leading part in golf history in the vicinity of Philadelphia. It was first laid out as a nine-hole golf course in 1898 and was one of the first four golf courses constructed in the Philadelphia district. The original property included what was known as Noble Farm.

In 1910 additional property, including purchases from Gideon Stoddard and Robert V. Massey, was obtained and the course was extended to eighteen holes. The club moved from the old clubhouse, which still stands near the tenth green, to an old mansion close to Old York Road, which was enlarged and altered and formally opened January 1, 1912. Increased traffic and the building of new roads, some of them through the property, have made a removal necessary.

Nationally known golfers have been drawn to the Noble course by the Lynnewood Hall and the Berthel Lynn cup tournaments. The club plans to continue in occupancy of the present clubhouse and grounds until the new club is laid out and completed.

From *The Jenkintown Pestle*
June 1875

On Thursday evening, May 27th, a grand entertainment came off in the Masonic Hall, Jenkintown. The spacious hall was full to its utmost capacity with an audience rarely equaled in its literary and fashionable character outside of our great cities.

The programme was promiscuous, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, comic and sentimental songs, solos, duets, and trios, readings, recitation, &c., and spelling bee. The spelling bee was fairly and efficiently conducted by Prof. Aaron B. Ivins, A.M., in which the contestants acquitted themselves creditably. Miss Laura Rose, of Phila., took the first prize; Mr. A. R. Place, of Jenkintown, the second; and Mr. Rook of Newtown, the third. It was decidedly a complete success, giving undivided satisfaction.

From the *Philadelphia Inquirer*
April 4, 1909

CAVERSHAM HOUSE SOLD

Settlement has been made for one of the largest sales of suburban realty effected for some time by Joseph M. Steele who purchased "Caversham House," the late residence of George Vaux Cresson, in Cheltenham Township, which was sold by Herkness, Stetson, & Cochrane, brokers, for \$100,000. Mr. Steele, who is of the firm of William Steele & Sons, will occupy "Caversham House" as his residence.

The house is a large colonial structure on a tract of about seventeen acres. It was built and occupied by the late George Vaux Cresson as his residence until his death about eighteen months ago. Subsequent to Mr. Cresson's death, it was occupied for several months by Frank Vaux Cresson, of the Cresson company, and afterwards was leased for about six months to George W. Elkins, pending the rebuilding of his residence, "Cheltenham House," which was destroyed by fire last summer.

"Caversham House" is a spacious structure of stone at the corner of Washington Lane and Cheltenham avenue, [now Ashbourne Road] and overlooking the Cheltenham Hills. In the immediate neighborhood are the country houses of P.A.B. Widener, Mrs. William L. Elkins, Horace G. Lippincott, Cyrus H.K. Curtis, and Hon. John Wanamaker.

From *Public Spirit*
November 3, 1917

The first three cent stamp sold at Hatboro was purchased by Dr. J.B. Carrell, who has deposited it among the curios on exhibition in the Hatboro Library.

From *Times-Chronicle*
July 10, 1926

Fourth of July Events Curtailed

Jenkintown did the best she could with the day, but the weather won by large odds and the Fourth of July celebration was curtailed.

Fortunately, it was possible for the parade to start and having once started it finished according to schedule for the little folks and the older ones too who entered the parade defied the dismal drops of rain and stuck.

Again when the clouds seemed about to depart and the ball players were in their variegated uniforms reminiscent of other days, the umpire stalked on the field and cried "Play Ball."

With those words came the drizzle which continued until Bill Boozer biffed a bounder into the Baptist's backyard.

Then the deluge. How those erstwhile ball maulers managed to flaunt their stuff in the myriad pointed shower bath is a mystery but the game continued for two innings and was not called until the ump's straw hat cried "desist." The score was 2 to 2. The game is not called off for good. Rain checks will be honored on July 17th at 8:30 p.m.

But the Baby Contest was completed in the Borough Hall. Amid the solemn surroundings of the Council Chamber, little tots, golden curled, and brunette – boys and girls – mostly shy but all adorable, gave the judges a vexatious problem to decide the winners. It was a tough job but they faced it manfully.

The fireworks were displayed according to schedule. In spite of the many disappointments occasioned by the inclement weather the celebration might even be termed a great success because of the spirit of good sportsmanship to take whatever came and make the best off it.

From *The Breeze*
February 8, 1945

BORO YOUTH CANTEEN DANCE TONIGHT

The Rockledge Canteen is holding a special dance tonight, Thursday, February 8 from 7:30 to 11:00.

A feature of the evening will be music by Ed "Buzz" Booz and his orchestra. Free refreshments will also add to the festivities of the evening. A nominal admission charge will be made.

All young people are cordially invited to attend and spend an enjoyable evening at the Youth Canteen.

From *The Breeze*
January 5, 1961

Site Selected For Erection Of Water Tank

Residents of the Fox Case area will have improved water supply when the city completes a new 1.5 million gallon elevated storage tank in this area. The tank will be erected on the grounds of Jeanes Memorial Hospital, Habrook and Hartel aves. Earlier sites proposed were found objectionable to some, and the present proposed site seems to have met with agreement.

According to Commissioner Samuel S. Baxter, the tank would be located in a secluded and wooded portion of the hospital grounds southeast of Shelmire and Burholme avenues.

Baxter explained that the new storage tank would improve the area's water supply for domestic, industrial and fire protection usage.

Mayor Richardson Dilworth has asked City Council to authorize an agreement with the hospital and Trustees of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends, Inc., trustees of the estate of Anna T. Jeanes, consenting to the facility.

The proposal is the second in recent weeks to improve water of sewerage services in the Fox Chase area. Council also has under consideration a similar proposal whereby the City would construct a sewer line through the property of the Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries, Inc., Pine road and Strahle street and the Township of Abington.

Mr. Ray Haris of the City Water Department said Tuesday that Council's action on this sewerage service, through the Medical Mission Sisters property is merely a formality, that the agreement with the Sisters had been formalized sometime ago.

Work is already underway, it is reported.

From *Times-Chronicle*
September 15, 1960

NEW OFFICE

The new building to house the Willow Grove Federal Savings and Loan Association will soon be constructed on Easton Road across from the Horn and Hardart Restaurant. The construction was awarded to E. Allen Reeves, Inc. The modern brick and marble structure will rise on a 77 by 200 ft. lot with entrances from Easton and Davisville Roads. Inside will be a spacious waiting room, telephone, private office for mortgage conferences, envelope-drop for after-hour deposits, and an expansion area on the second floor to be rented or made available for group meetings.

From *Public Spirit*
Special Edition, June 1948

IN THE SPIRIT 50 YEARS AGO (1898)

As Edwin Adam's horseless carriage was passing out Byberry Avenue, Hatboro on Saturday afternoon, the horses attached to Morgan's ice wagon scared and started to run. James Esdale, the driver, attempted to catch them and was kicked by one of them into the gutter, where he lay stunned. The horses were caught before going far and Jimmy was only badly bruised. The horseless carriage escaped unscathed.

From *People's Register*
July 21, 1905

MUST HIDE DOGS FOR 100 DAYS

Owing to the number of mad dog alarms, residents of Lower Moreland Township, Montgomery County, appealed to the State Livestock Sanitary Board, which has ordered that all dogs in the township must be penned up or muzzled for a period of 100 days, or until the ban is lifted by the Board. Any dog seen on the public highway may be shot by any person and the owner has no redress.

From *Public Spirit*
June 19, 1915

Glenside and Edge Hill

Home for Jewish Girls

Jewish working girls will benefit by the philanthropy of Mrs. Joseph Fels, widow of the late soap manufacturer and philanthropist, who has purchased the Elcock mansion near Glenside for a vacation home. The home has been placed in charge of the Young Women's Union, and will be opened on July 1. It will have accommodations for from 20 to 30 girls. Mrs. Fels, with her husband, conducted a similar home during 14 years at 6041 Kingsessing avenue. This property was sold recently, and the work will be continued at the new home.

The Elcock property consists of eight acres, all of which will be laid out for out-of-door sports. Working girls and children of poor Jewish families will be taken care of for periods of one to two weeks upon the payment of a nominal charge. The Vacation Committee of the Union, headed by Mrs. A. Bern Hirsh, will manage the project. Miss Felma March, a social worker of Newark, will be the directress. She will be assisted by Miss Daisy Masbach, of Baltimore.

From *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*
July 12, 1966

Youths Corral 6 Horses In Jenkintown Stampede

David Keegan was sitting in his car at a Hot Shoppe last night and sipping a milk shake when he heard the thunder of horses stampeding down Old York road. Now, Old York road is a four-lane highway and the drive-in restaurant is at Fairway drive in Jenkintown, so the area isn't exactly the sticks. Therefore, Keegan, 18, of Abington and hundreds of others at the drive-in thought something was amiss.

More than 30 youths ran into the road. With shirts, sweaters and belts, they collared the six horses at about 10 P.M.

The six were among 30 horses that had been released from the Sharpless riding stables when fire broke out in a hay barn there at 8.55 P. M. The stables are on the estate of Edward E. Marshall, Washington lane and Meadowbrook road, Meadow-brook. Marshall owns five of the horses; the rest were boarders.

Marshall said he was walking past the 30-foot-high barn when he saw smoke coming from the center of the building. He roused stable hands and they released the horses as the barn burst into flames.

Fire companies from Abington, Roslyn and McKinley fought the blaze, which sent flames and black smoke hundreds of feet in the air: The heat in the area was intense, but firemen estimated that more than 2,000 persons were attracted to the estate.

The blaze was under control within 40 minutes and did not spread to the stables.

Seventeen of the freed horses remained on the property and were quickly rounded up. One was found more than two miles away on Byberry road near Heaton road, Lower Moreland township. Three others were captured in the 2100 block of Washington lane, Rydal, more than a mile away.

The six captured by the teenagers galloped through back yards until they reached Old York road. They crossed Susquehanna road, in the middle of the Abington business district.

Patrolman Robert White, who said the pursuit "looked hopeless," followed the horses down Old York road after failing in an attempt to drive them off.

Cars ran onto lawns and sidewalks as the herd approached.

After the horses were finally stopped, the youths led them to an Abington parking lot by their makeshift halters, and they were held there for Marshall.

From *Glenside News*
August 29, 1940

Hiway Theatre Manager

Stanley Warner Theatres announce the appointment of Morris E. Conner who will guide the entertainment at the newly modernized Hiway Theatre, 212 York road, Jenkintown. Conner plans to double all efforts to provide the best entertainment available, superior Stanley-Warner service and the ultimate in comfort and relaxation.

Mr. Conner is no novice in show business. He spent many years with the Stanley-Warner company managing all types of theatres including the Waverly in Drexel Hill and the Frankford in Frankford and his latest promotion is in line with the policy of promotion from within the ranks of the Stanley-Warner Company. He has been chosen to guide the newly modernized Hiway Theatre because of his diversified experience in the theatre. Mr. Conner plans unusual activities for Saturdays and holidays for the children as well as well-rounded programs for adults throughout the week.

From *The Breeze*
June 13, 1963

Three Mill Reduction Likely in L. Moreland School Taxes

Lower Moreland School Board announced a three mill tax reduction in the 1963-64 tentative budget at their meeting Monday evening. This would make a tax line of 50 mills, based on an estimated assessed valuation of \$17 million and estimated expenditures of \$1,118,305.95.

Dr. Chiverton, supervising principal, explained how the board is able to have a tax reduction.

“This proposed reduction is possible as a result of the tax equalization program, an economy approach in the tentative budget, and a sizeable beginning balance left from the 1962-63 budget,” he stated.

Detailed budget figures will be available to the public at the administration office and any questions may be directed to the board before final adoption. The board will formally adopt the budget June 28.

An interesting portion of the report indicated the amount of each dollar to be spent next year as follow: four cents for administration, 52 cents for instruction, four cents for transportation, eight cents, operations and maintenance, 24 cents debt service, and eight cents for health service, fixed charges, student body activities, capital outlay, and so forth. It also showed that it would cost \$468 for the education of each pupil next year, as against \$455 this year.

From *Public Spirit*
May 20, 1916

Bryn Athyn Postmaster Fined

----- Harry V. Young is Found Guilty of Padding His Accounts

Convicted in March of padding his account of stamp cancellations, Harry V. Young, for fourteen years postmaster at Bryn Athyn, Pa., a fourth-class office, was last Monday fined \$500 by Judge Thompson in the United States District Court. Young was also station agent for the Philadelphia & Reading Railway Company at Bryn Athyn.

The Salary of compensation paid to postmasters of offices of the fourth class depends on the amount of stamps cancelled. Quarterly reports by Young to the auditor of the Post Office Department showed, it was declared, that the number of stamps cancelled by Young in certain periods exceeded the number of stamps furnished him by the department for sale. An investigation by Postal Inspector G. L. Moser followed, resulting in Young being charged with padding his accounts and embezzlement.

From *Public Spirit*
January 30, 1915

The Bryn Athyn Stone Company automobile truck became stuck in the mud on the Welsh road one day this week, and it was necessary to secure the assistances of H. B. Leedom's horses.

OLD YORK ROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Tuesdays from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Or by private appointment

From *The Philadelphia Inquirer*
March 20, 1906

CHEL TENHAM HIGH SCHOOL IS OPENED

Hundreds Brave Storm to Attend Exercises at Up-To-Date Structure

ELKINS PARK, Pa., March 19 - Nearly five hundred persons from this and surrounding towns braved a severe snow storm this afternoon to attend the opening exercises of the recently erected Cheltenham Township High School. With appropriate addresses, the members of the Board of School Directors turned over the \$84,000 building to Principal William F. Ziegler and his nearly two hundred pupils.

The structure, upon which operations were commenced in April, 1905, was completed early in February, but the dedicatory services were delayed until this month. The new building is equipped with all the modern conveniences and innovations, and prominent educators and architects declare that it is an ideal school structure. Containing nearly thirty rooms, eleven of which will be used for class rooms, the Elkins Park High School is said to surpass many of the Philadelphia sectional school houses. On the first floor is located a spacious assembly room, which will be used by the students as a chapel and study hall. Rooms are also located on this floor for Principal Ziegler, his corps of instructors and the members of the Board of School Directors.

A department for manual training has also been set aside by the School Directors, and it is their purpose to make this course one of the most efficient in the school curriculum. Capable instructors for the manual training rooms will be selected later. A gymnasium may also be installed for next year's school term. Principal Ziegler has been at the head of the Elkins Park schools for twelve years. The increased attendance at the old building became so large that he was forced to ask for more spacious quarters. His plea for a better school building was joined by practically all the parents of Elkins Park, and after a petition had been favorably acted upon the School Directors, provisions were immediately made for the erection of this school building. Mr. Ziegler presided at the exercises this afternoon. Addresses were made by Rev. Richard Montgomery, pastor of Ashbourne Presbyterian Church, and President John M. Wilson and Secretary Homer L. Pound of the School Board. Six teachers, with the principal, are included in the \$84,000 building to staff the faculty.

From *Public Spirit*
November 24, 1917

The startling news reached Willow Grove early in the week that Bandmaster Sousa had shaved his beard, that has been his treasured adornment for about forty years. He was becoming very gray and did not like the idea of looking old. You know "a man is as young as he feels."

From *The Breeze*
February 8, 1945

Buys Rockledge Property

Eugene and Elizabeth Boeing have purchased the corner property at Huntingdon Pike and Blake Avenue in Rockledge from Mr. Peter Keller. Settlement was made during this past week.

Mr. Boeing is now operating the Rockledge Tavern at 7 Huntingdon Pike where extensive alterations are being made. He is also proprietor of the Five Points Tavern.

From *Willow Grove Guide*
November 1, 1984

Just A Memory

The former Grove Theater in the York Road business district of Willow Grove was torn down last week amid little fanfare. Originally built as a movie theater with a small stage for live performances, it had not been used for that purpose since the late 1970s.

From *The Philadelphia Inquirer*
August 11, 1919

OLD ROAD IMPROVED

Germantown and Willow Grove Turnpike Nearly Ready for Traffic

Philadelphia motorists within the next ten days will have another "speedway" section from the heart of the residential section of Germantown to Willow Grove.

What was formerly the Germantown and Willow Grove Turnpike Road has been transformed into a perfect boulevard and thousands of dollars have been expended in the construction of an asphalt highway on a concrete base. A small strip remains to be finished between Weldon and Glenside, and a fifty-yard strip between Roslyn and Crestmont. The road was freed from tolls after a long series of legal battles.

From *Public Spirit*
July 15, 1916

Moore's Inn Sold

Moore's Inn, Hatboro, famous as a dinner resort for motorists has been sold for \$49,500 to Mrs. George O. Haney, of Oak Lane. The negotiations were closed on Saturday last through Wynne James, a Doylestown attorney.

The property includes a large hotel building, with ample barns and shedding, also several acres of ground. It is located on Old York Road, a great motoring highway, and enjoys a large patronage from automobile owners to whom it caters.

C.C. Moore, who is selling out, has developed the business from a small beginning. As his patronage grew he built a handsome dining room addition, added bath rooms, large kitchen, etc. The hotel stand is an old one, having done business in the days of stage coaches.

Several years ago the old building, then owned by Harry Wilson was burned. It was replaced by a modern structure.

The new owner was formerly Miss Black, of Doylestown. With her husband she conducted a general store at Oak Lane for several years. Later he was in the real estate business at Ogontz. She is said to have inherited considerable money. It is the intention of the new proprietor to improve the facilities of the hotel for entertaining motorists. A garage is a possibility.

The transfer of the property and the license will be made as soon as possible.

Hatboro will be sorry to lose the Moore's, who have contributed quite a little to the fame of the town as a magnet for motorists.

From *Public Spirit*
March 13, 1915

It is announced that John Wanamaker has made a contract with Frank D. Williams for six modern suburban homes, involving \$70,000, to be built on that portion of the Wanamaker holdings known as the Baeder tract. The Baeder tract is a large acreage immediately north of Jenkintown, in Abington township, lying on both sides of the New York division of the Reading Railway, immediately west from the extensive grounds of the Huntingdon Valley Country Club and of the suburb of Noble. Extensive landscape work has been carried out, and the tract has been renamed "Old York Road Hills."

From *Times-Chronicle*
June 14, 1979

SEPTA STARTS WORK AT JENKINTOWN DEPOT

Groundbreaking for SEPTA's parking improvements at the Jenkintown commuter rail station was held last Thursday, June 7, at noon.

Work at the station includes leveling an unused building to make way for about 100 new parking spaces. This will bring the number of parking spaces at the station to more than 500.

New parking lot lighting, paving and landscaping will also be provided.

The work at the Jenkintown station marks the start of a major \$9.9 million program to improve the regions' stations and parking facilities.

The building being torn down to make way for the parking spaces was owned by the former Nicholson Coal Co., and had been unused for more than 12 years.

"We've had a mess there for many years, with people walking through the abandoned building," said Cheltenham Commissioner Robert Haakenson. "I'm elated that the work has started."

Haakenson, according to a SEPTA spokesman, has for years called for improvements to be made to the station. SEPTA estimates the \$130,000 project at the Station will be completed in three months.

From *The Breeze*
August 3, 1942

ABINGTON DEFENSE DIARY

Mrs. Joseph Kleinbard, Evacuation Officer, is interested in receiving written opinions on identification methods from parents and guardians of the children of Abington Township. Practically all the large cities have completed a system of either tagging or fingerprinting all minors. A tag or a badge is worn by every child at all times. Records are taken thru the schools of the history of the child including his fingerprints. Please advise Mrs. Kleinbard what you would like to see done in Abington.

Mr. Bernard Fischer is looking for emergency telephone operators for the Control Center at Abington Township Building. You can take as little as one half day shift a week, and if you live close enough to the center you will be put on call for emergencies. The requirements are light. You can bring a book or your knitting to occupy yourself between calls. No demands will be made for office work unless you wish to assist. Yet your work is considered vital to our preparedness.

From *Times-Chronicle*
November 8, 1979

Library Wins Listing On National Register

Travel may have been slow then, but there was nothing slow about the building trade. A committee appointed a builder in late August, and the building was completed the day after Christmas the same year. The builder, a local carpenter named John Stines, was never famous. But it is significant that the two buildings he put up that year are still in use. One is the Lyceum building. The other was the first school house. On the school house foundation was built Jenkintown's present borough hall.

Inside, the Lyceum building had wooden benches and a platform for speakers. Around its walls were cabinets and shelves to house the members' "philosophical" collections of interesting rocks, stuffed birds, and books. This same tiny one-room building served the Lyceum Society as its invited speakers brought the outside world to Jenkintown with debates on topics like "North American Indians," "Women's Rights," and a particularly hot debate on the abolition of slavery when the son-in-law of Lucretia Mott spoke.

The same building was used as part of the primary school in Jenkintown in 1865. On Sundays, it was the first church building in town for each of the churches in Jenkintown: The Episcopal Church of Our Savior, Jenkintown Methodist, Salem Baptist, Grace Presbyterian, and Immaculate Conception.

Today, the small building has become the entrance to the Jenkintown Library. The careful preservation of the original building was done by architect Charles L. Borie when he enlarged the building in 1910. Borie's foresight in saving the original outlines may have increased the building's chances of being listed on the National Register. His addition of the main library room and the Lambert Room did much to increase the building's value architecturally.

Since its reconstruction in 1910, the historic building has housed the Jenkintown Library, an organization that is even more historic than the Lyceum building, since it was begun in 1803.

Working to see the building listed in the National Register were many borough citizens and groups, including the Jenkintown Library Board, the Borough Council, the Jenkintown School Board, the Rotary Club of Jenkintown, the Jenkintown Kiwanis Club, and the Old York Road Historical Society.

From *Times-Chronicle*
July 10, 1926

Widener Adds 202 Acres to Big Kentucky Domain

Joseph E. Widener, of Elkins Park, has added 202 acres to his small principality near Lexington, Kentucky. He purchased the land from R. E. Tipton and the price is said to have aggregated \$70,000. The land adjoins the other great acreage already owned by Mr. Widener in his magnificent Elmendorf estate.

Mr. Widener's estate now totals about 1600 acres, most of which is in blue grass and will be used for the royally bred thoroughbred race horses, stallions and brood mares he keeps here. The entire holdings are now in one body in virtually a rectangular shape. It is understood Mr. Widener may buy more land in the vicinity. His estate now ranks with the Hamburg Place and Walnut Hall properties of John E. Madden of Pittsburgh, but which was established by the late L.V. Harkness, of Standard Oil fame.

Mr. Widener is spending more than \$500,000 on his Elmendorf property and when completed it will be the real show place of the blue grass country.

From *The Jenkintown Pestle*
July 1876

RENEWED RESOLVES AND EFFORTS.

Let us take courage from our past history; let us renew our national pride and character; let us, on the threshold of a new century, resolve that our future history will surpass in moral sublimity and greatness the past; let us go forth in defense of all truth and right, and always be ready to raise our voice against vice in all its forms, public and private. We can do much to reform society; to advance science; to raise the moral standing of our country and the world. We can do much to rebuke sin, lessen crime, alleviate misery, and exhort our fellow citizens to that standard of moral excellence which ennobles human nature and purifies the soul.

It is our work to change our world from a barren desert to a vineyard, where the flowers of truth and righteousness shall flourish in perennial bloom. It is ours to plant the rose of Sharon in the waste places, and make the wilderness blossom as the rose. It is ours to convert the moral wastes of earth into Utopian fields, where notes of richest symphony shall delight the ear, and scenes of perfect beauty charm the eye. It is ours to hasten the coming of that time when the lion and lamb shall lie down together, and nothing shall mar the perfect happiness of man. Let Columbia go onward and upward! A great, wonderful destiny is in store for America!