



# The 1883 Gazette

## Welcome Letter from President Marc O'Neill

Welcome to the first edition of The 1883 Gazette, sharing our news and accomplishments with you. In 2021, the 1883 Foundation was formed to preserve and enhance the historic structures, landscape, archives, equine and equestrian artifacts and sporting art collection of Radnor Hunt, and work to advance the understanding and appreciation of Radnor's cultural heritage and contributions to local Chester County history.

We look forward to your partnership with us and being a part of the history of Radnor Hunt!



**It's Trophy Time!** Recently, the 1883 Foundation sponsored a lecture by Todd Sell of Doyle Auction House. See page 2



**Much Better Now** – The 1883 Foundation funded the restoration of the heavily damaged stone wall at the front entrance of Radnor Hunt. See page 2



**Join us!** – Interested in connecting with the 1883 Foundation? Learn more page 4

## 1883 FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

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## It's Trophy Time!

On March 29, 2023, the 1883 Foundation hosted a lecture by Todd Sell of Doyle Auctioneers and Appraisers. Located in Manhattan, Doyle is one of the world's foremost auctioneer and appraisers of fine art, jewelry, and silver. Mr. Sell shared fascinating information about the history of many of Radnor Hunt's silver trophies, which are perpetually displayed in the Dining Room trophy case.

Mr. Sell spoke to an audience of nearly 70, sharing fascinating information about the notable history and unique characteristics of Radnor's trophy collection. Many of the trophies highlighted are perpetual trophies awarded annually at the Radnor Hunt Races each May.

Many thanks to all who attended and who supported the 1883 Foundation!

## Much Better Now

With the ever-increasing amount of traffic coming through the front entrance of Radnor Hunt for its many events, there's bound to be a mishap here and there. Over the past several years, the historic stone wall that fronts to Providence Road has suffered significant damage. In fulfilling part of its mission, the 1883 Foundation stepped in, at the behest of Radnor's Board of Governors, funded the repair of the wall, ensuring its stability as well as the root protection of the iconic adjacent tree. Many thanks to 1883 Board Member Warren I. Claytor, AIA, for his tremendous oversight of this important project!





## Take a Look at Some of What We've Accomplished!

- Funded restoration of damaged stone wall at Club's front entrance
- Purchased new flagpole for grounds.
- At the suggestion of Radnor's archivist, moved Radnor Hunt's original 1886 Charter to archives room; framed and hung reproduction in clubhouse where original was hanging.
- Funded the appraisal of Radnor's silver artifacts and trophies
- Provided funding for installation of Past Radnor Hunt Presidents' Photos on "Presidents' Wall" by professional art installer
- Documented Radnor Hunt's history since 1883 with historic photos which is available on Foundation's website. [www.1883foundation.org](http://www.1883foundation.org).
- Had historical marker plaques made depicting building dates of clubhouse and Whip's Cottage; installed one on brick wall at entrance of clubhouse; waiting for installation of other on Whip's Cottage.
- Hosted 30 members of Sedgely Club in Philadelphia for lecture/video on Charles Morris Young and his paintings at Radnor Hunt. Visitors toured clubhouse and stables.
- Conducted "Walking Tour" of Radnor Hunt's historic buildings jointly with RH's Booster Club. Invited public for architectural tour of historic buildings by J. Milner Associates
- Hosted Willistown Township's Bus Tour of Willistown's historic sites as part of Chester County Annual Tours; welcomed tour goers and conducted raffle for free dinner at Radnor Hunt
- Held reception for Founders' Circle members (those donors who gave \$1000 and above); received local press coverage.
- Received donation of President of Radnor Hunt John B. H. Carter's collection of foxhunting and sporting books and Radnor Hunt photos and Bryn Mawr Hound Show menu from his daughter, Lynn Carter; books will be donated to RH library. 2022

## Riding Aside

*John C. Gregory Jr., 1883 Foundation Board Member*

Clearly, at the date of Radnor Hunt's founding, 1883, the namesake of our Foundation, women were expected to ride side saddle. Riding astride was a man's domain. Women were traditionally passengers ... or their skirts were too long and heavy ... or it was a mere function of modesty that etiquette required a woman to ride aside and not astride. The saddle which supported a woman riding aside evolved over the years. The earliest constructions were chair-like. A footrest upon which to place the woman's feet became impractical and resulted in a single footrest (later a slipper stirrup) with the other leg over the pommel of the saddle. This gave the woman rider greater control and allowed her to trot and canter safely while maintaining a degree of decency. A second pommel was introduced in the 1830s. This was considered a revolutionary development as the additional pommel gave women both increased security and additional freedom of movement when riding side-saddle, but it allowed them to stay on at a gallop and even to jump fences while hunting and show jumping.

Proper posture was an important element of the art of riding aside, after all, riding was primarily an activity of the upper class. Indeed, in the 1850's, riding and dancing were a woman's primary means of physical activity if of the aristocracy or upper class.

The first 'safety skirt' was invented in 1875. Safety skirts buttoned along the seams and later included an apron skirt buttoned around the waist covering the legs. These skirts helped prevent a woman being caught by her dress and dragged by the horse if she fell.

It was not until the early 20th century that it became socially acceptable for women to ride astride. Indeed, the Suffragettes opined that riding aside was symbolic of male domination. The art of side-saddle riding began to fall out of fashion. By 1930, women riding astride was considered acceptable, and, for many, the preferred method of riding. Until recently ...

During the last few years there has been a revival in the art of riding side-saddle. In fact, the Radnor Races has the "**Katherine W. Illoway Invitational Sidesaddle Race**" as part of its race card for this spring's races. **The 1883 Foundation is proud to sponsor this race and to be able to support a means of riding that has a long and storied history.**



**1883 FOUNDATION**



## How You Can Partner With Us!

The 1883 Foundation welcomes your support to help fulfill our mission of preserving and enhancing the historic structures, landscape, archives, equine and equestrian artifacts and sporting art collection of Radnor Hunt. In addition, the Foundation works to advance the understanding and appreciation of Radnor's cultural heritage and contributions to local Chester County history.

Your gift – regardless of size – keeps our mission moving forward. As a 501c(3) charitable organization every gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Visit us at

Consider becoming a Sustaining Member of the 1883 Foundation!! You can make ongoing monthly gifts through our secure PayPal site! A monthly gift of \$83.33 adds up to be a \$1000 gift annually! Making a big impact was never so easy!

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INFORMATION

