



Haverford Township Historical Society



THE LLOYD FAMILY – HAVERFORD’S GREATEST BENEFACTORS

By Richard D. Kerr

When Horatio Gates Lloyd became a wealthy and prominent person in society, he moved to Haverford Township. In 1910 and 1911, he hired architect Wilson Eyre to design and oversee construction of his new country estate home, which the family named “Allgates.” The selfless giving of personal time and money to the benefit of Haverford Township and its people by Mr. Lloyd and his sons, H. Gates Lloyd Jr. and Richard Wingate Lloyd, remains lastingly evident today, although their family name has been shamefully allowed to lapse from public memory.

Background on Horatio Gates Lloyd Sr. and Family

Horatio G. Lloyd was born on January 14, 1867 in Middletown, Delaware. His father was a farmer, while his mother’s father was a military general and lawyer. From the farm, Lloyd went to and graduated from college, then entered the banking business, where he thrived. “The Bankers Magazine” in February 1912 noted, “Mr. Lloyd had been president of the Commercial Trust Co. of Philadelphia. He is credited with having played an important part among the Philadelphia bankers who succeeded in restoring confidence during the panic of 1907.” In 1910 Lloyd became associated with the prestigious banking house of Drexel & Co. of Philadelphia, and in 1912 he was made a partner in the four Morgan firms (J. P. Morgan & Co. in New York; Drexel & Co. in Philadelphia; Morgan, Grenfell & Co. of London and Morgan, Harjes & Co. of Paris). “Moody’s Magazine” in February 1914 stated, “During more than a half century the Drexel houses have financed the largest international banking operations, placing thousands of millions of Government, corporation, railroad and other loans and securities. In magnitude and commanding influence their record will be found without parallel even by the greatest European houses.” Lloyd rose on his own merits at a time when most bankers came from already prominent banking families, and only a few of those men succeeded as well as he did.

Throughout his career, Lloyd undertook civic and charitable work. In Philadelphia, he served as the chairman of both the Bureau of Unemployment Relief and the Committee for Unemployment Relief, successive organizations founded in 1930-1932 to deal with relief and care during the onset of the Great Depression. They provided over 46,000 families with financial relief, until the city transferred this task to its Department of Welfare.

Horatio G. Lloyd had married Mary Helen Wingate (a descendant of John Wingate of colonial New Hampshire) in 1897 in Brooklyn, N. Y., and they had sons H. Gates Lloyd Jr. and Richard Wingate Lloyd. A family story says that when they were searching for a name for their new Haverford country estate, Mrs. Lloyd (nee Wingate) said, “Why don’t we call it ‘Allgates,’ since we are all ‘Gates’ here?”



*Horatio G. Lloyd Sr.
(1867-1937)*

Serving Haverford Township

In Haverford Township, Horatio G. Lloyd was a founding township commissioner when the township became incorporated in 1912. When the first president of the Board of Commissioners, John R. Valentine of Highland Farm fame, died unexpectedly after one year in office, Lloyd replaced him as president on January 6, 1913 and served in that role until stepping down as a commissioner in 1922. Lloyd also provided the stone from the quarry at Allgates to build the 1916 township administration building in Oakmont. The service of Lloyd and his family to Haverford Township did not end there.

Re-establishing Public Trust in Township Governance

Since 1875, Delaware County had been under the political control of the father-son team of William McClure and John J. McClure of Chester. John McClure corrupted and controlled the county Republican Party through an unofficial committee and parallel structure that he led, called the Delaware County Republican Board of Supervisors, colloquially known as the "War Board." Favoritism and patronage permeated the county and municipal governments. One of three McClure "lieutenants" on his committee, tasked with controlling the northern townships, was Thomas Weidemann, characterized by the Delaware County *Daily Times* in his obituary as "30 years political boss of Haverford Township." Weidemann was elected as a Haverford Township commissioner from 1924 to 1937 (board president 1925-1932) and as a State Representative from 1929 to 1938. In 1931-1932 Weidemann faced a few political power setbacks. He had charges filed against him by Haverford's treasurer and assistant treasurer, and he promptly brought countercharges against them in return. Trials in Media Courthouse (before a Republican county judge) vindicated Weidemann but found the two less powerful and influential men guilty, whereupon they served brief sentences before another judge released them.

In the aftermath, the Haverford Township board of commissioners, seeking to address public concerns about the propriety of the township's finances, reached out to Horatio G. Lloyd in mid-1932, asking him to serve as township treasurer and restore public confidence. He, in his mid-60s and as one of the most powerful financiers in America, agreed to do this, indicating that he would donate all compensation beyond his direct expenses to Depression-era charity. He served as treasurer until he died; then his son Richard W. Lloyd was appointed on January 27, 1937 to serve until the November 2 municipal election. In April Richard told the commissioners that his compensation was "too great," leading to a newspaper headline declaring "Tax Collector Says He Gets Too Much." Like his father, Richard Lloyd gave his compensation above direct expenses to charity. In a wry political twist, the following year the commissioners appointed Thomas Weidemann, who had stepped down from elected office, as township treasurer and tax collector, a position that he held until 1954.

Giving the Haverford Township Free Library a Permanent Home

In 1933 a committee of interested civic leaders began meeting to establish the Haverford Township Free Library. The fledgling library opened in a vacant store on May 28, 1934, with various organizations donating the monthly rent, but by 1936 it had outgrown that space. The Haverford Township Title & Trust Co., a victim of the financial collapse of the Depression, had a stone building on the northeast corner of East Darby and Mill roads. Horatio G. Lloyd Sr. worked behind the scenes, as a prominent financier could. An agreement was reached and approved for the Library Association to purchase the former bank building. Lloyd then generously offered to contribute the first \$1,000. He died before the deal was finalized, but his sons carried out his benevolent wishes. In the end, Richard W. Lloyd informed the association that "his father's estate had met and agreed to pay \$12,000 for the purchase of the building" – the full cost. A dedication and grand opening has held on May 27, 1938. The Haverford Township Free Library still occupies that building today, thanks to the personal efforts and the financial generosity of the Lloyd family. A plaque still in the Library today commemorates their involvement.

Horatio G. Lloyd Sr. died at Allgates on January 21, 1937 and is buried at the Church of the Redeemer cemetery in Bryn Mawr. His wife, Mary Helen Wingate Lloyd, had pre-deceased him on September 23, 1934. Sons H. Gates Lloyd Jr. and Richard W. Lloyd dutifully continued to carry forward their father's civic wishes.



*H. Gates Lloyd Jr.
(1900-1993)*

Horatio Gates Lloyd Jr.

H. Gates Lloyd (as he was called, while his father went by Horatio G. Lloyd) was born on December 6, 1900 and graduated from Princeton University in 1923. He joined Drexel & Co. after a one-year stint at Cambridge and became a partner of the firm in 1927. A large piece of land on the southwest side of Darby Road was sold off from his father's Allgates estate for Gates and his family, and architects Willing, Sims and Talbutt designed their house "Linden," built in 1930. (This house later became the general administration building for The Quadrangle lifecare community.) After serving in World War II with the Interceptor Command in Philadelphia, Gates took a leave of absence in 1950 to join the Central Intelligence Agency. He served as its deputy

director of administration under director Allen W. Dulles from 1954 until retiring in 1964. Gates Lloyd died locally on November 9, 1993.

Preserving the Polo Field

In the Fall 2021 issue of *The Haverford Herald* we presented the history of the 18-acre Polo Field in the northeast corner of Haverford Township, noting the following: "By the time the U.S. entered World War II in 1941, the Polo Club no longer existed, the Horse Show and the Hound Show were suspended, and the mortgages and taxes on the land had become seriously in arrears." Second-generation financier H. Gates Lloyd Jr. offered to assist the township to resolve the Polo Field situation, avoiding potential development on the land. He spent much time and effort investigating the details and devising a workable plan, which he presented to the township in 1942. He personally negotiated arrangements for the purchase of a mortgage existing on the property and settlement of a second mortgage. He persuaded the Haverford Township School District and Delaware County to grant relief of the unpaid back taxes, and Haverford Township reluctantly agreed to do the same. In 1943 some derelict horse stables were dismantled, with the remaining stables kept to store horse show equipment and salvaged lumber. A "Bryn Mawr Playfield Association" was incorporated in 1944 to hold the title, following Lloyd's plan, and technically still governs the use of the field. The horse and hound shows continued on the site for more several years, with proceeds going to Haverford Township. It is thanks to H. Gates Lloyd's ingenuity and perseverance that today the Polo Field exists in perpetuity for public recreation.

Richard Wingate Lloyd

Richard W. Lloyd was born on August 5, 1904, graduated from Princeton University in 1928, married Margaret Champlin Perry on June 14, 1941 in Philadelphia and later moved to South Carolina, where he died on January 10, 1980.



*Richard W. Lloyd
(1904-1980)*

Parks and Playgrounds

While in Haverford, Richard Lloyd was instrumental in improving township parks and playfields, and funding playground equipment for children. In those days, the parks were a mixture of responsibility by the township, the school board, and even various neighborhood civic associations that took it upon themselves to establish and maintain parks and provide organized activities in them.

As stated on the Brynford Civic Association website, “Preston Field got pieced together in ways strange even for Haverford Township.” The Quaker-affiliated Preston Reading Room Association, the Haverford Township School Board, and the township government itself all staged a protracted soap opera spanning from 1889 until 1972, when the 1913 Preston Public School building was razed and today’s 11-acre Preston Field was fully realized. Cameo appearances were made by Horatio G. Lloyd Sr., who was instrumental in the purchase and funding of two of the four major properties that make up today’s park.

Meanwhile, in 1938 the school board, with funding from community benefactor Richard Lloyd, undertook a program to install modern playground equipment at all schools, “not including Preston . . . due to the fact that their section have a well-equipped playground adjacent to the school.”

Summary

Today we cannot overstate the debt that we in Haverford Township owe to Horatio G. Lloyd Sr. and his two sons, H. Gates Lloyd Jr. and Richard Wingate Lloyd. Between them, they tried to launch our present form of township government with a steady foundation, worked to right it when it went off course, gave our library its permanent home, and greatly aided the development of our wonderful parks with their leadership and generosity. Theirs is a name that should be memorialized and remembered in Haverford Township. They deserve no less.

[This article originally appeared in “The Haverford Herald” newsletter of the Haverford Township Historical Society, in the Spring, 2022 edition.]

©2022 by Haverford Township Historical Society. Personal non-commercial use permitted; all other rights reserved.