

1. T. LAWRENCE EYRE – (1862-1926) A graduate of West Chester Normal School (now West Chester University), long time Republican political leader and elected official, culminating in the position of Majority Leader in the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. One story says that he threw shiny new dimes to the waiting children when he participated in local parades. Constructed and lived in “Eyreview”, which still stands on North High Street, West Chester, Pa.

2. MAJOR GENERAL SMEDLEY D. BUTLER, USMC – (1881-1940) Major General Smedley Darlington Butler, one of the most colorful officers in the Marine Corps’ long history, was one of the two Marines who received two Medals of Honor for separate acts of outstanding heroism.

General Butler, later known to thousands of Marines as “Ol’ Gimlet Eye”, was born July 30, 1881. He was still in his teens when, on 20 May 1898, he was appointed a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps for the War with Spain.

His first Medal of Honor was presented following action at Vera Cruz, Mexico, 21 and 22 April 1914, where he commanded the Marines who landed and occupied the city. General Butler (then a Major) “was eminent and conspicuous in command of his battalion. He exhibited courage and skill in leading his men through the action of the 22nd and in the final occupation of the city”.

The following year, he was awarded the second Medal of Honor for bravery and forceful leadership as Commanding Officer of detachments of Marines and seamen of the USS Connecticut in repulsing Caco resistance at Fort Riviere, Haiti, 17 November 1915.

During World War I, he commanded the 13th Regiment of Marines in France. For exceptionally meritorious service, he was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, and the French Order of the Black Star. When he returned to the United States in 1919, he became Commanding General of the Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia, and served in this capacity until January 1924, when he was granted leave of absence to accept the post of Director of Public Safety of the City of Philadelphia. In February 1926, he assumed command of the Marine Corps Base at San Diego, California. In March 1927, he returned to China for duty with the 3d Marine Brigade. From April to 31 October he again commanded the Marine Barracks at Quantico. On 1 October 1931, he was retired upon his own application after completion of 33 years service in the Marine Corps.

General Butler died at the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, on 21 June 1940, following a four-week illness.

General Butler was a descendant of two old and distinguished families of Quakers. His father was Thomas S. Butler, for over thirty years a Representative in Congress from the Delaware-Chester County district of Pennsylvania, and a longtime chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee. The general’s mother was a Darlington and a Hicksite Friend, daughter of Smedley Darlington.

3. THOMAS S. BUTLER – (1855-1928) A nephew of Judge William Butler, was better known as Congressman rather than as a lawyer or judge. He was the son of Samuel Butler and son-in-law of Smedley Darlington, two of Chester County’s most influential Republicans.

Following his defeat for another term as Judge of Chester County in 1889 (by Joseph Hemphill, a Democrat), he was then appointed to serve out the unexpired term of Judge Futhey. He was subsequently elected to the United States Congress where he would serve for 33 years. While a member of Congress, he was Chairman of the Naval Committee. When the Japanese gave the now famous cherry trees to our national capital, Butler was a member of congress and received a seedling. This tree is still standing and flourishes in the side yard of his old home at 228 West Miner Street, West Chester, Pa.

4. WILLIAM H. WHYTE – (1917-1999) Was a West Chester native born and raised in the north end of the borough. He was a prolific and nationally known writer. In 1956 he published the bestseller "The Organization Man", a groundbreaking study of the relationship between large corporations and their executive employees. He was also Editor of "Fortune Magazine". His other works include:

- *Open Space Action, Report to the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, 1962
- *The Last Landscape, 1968
- *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces, 1980
- *City. Rediscovering the Center, 1988
- *City. An in-depth Look at the People, the Movement, and the Buildings that Make a City Live, 1988

5. JEAN CLAUDE ANTOINE BRUNIN deBOLMAR – (1797-1861) Born in Bourbon-Lancy, France. Educated at the Imperial Lyceum until the downfall of Napoleon. In 1828 he emigrated to Philadelphia where he taught French. Following the outbreak of a cholera epidemic, he moved to West Chester and in 1834, he took charge of the West Chester Academy, located in the vicinity of Gay and Darlington Streets. Six years later he purchased Mrs. Phelps Young Ladies Boarding School and converted it to a boarding school for Young Men and Boys, conducted in a manner which reflected his military background. According to Futhey & Cope, “This school speedily became one of the most popular and flourishing institutions in our country. It acquired a world wide celebrity attracting numerous pupils from distant places especially from southern states and West Indies”. The energetic principal was regarded as the Napoleon of teachers... No boy could ever boast that he had outwitted “Bolly”, as he was familiarly called by his pupils.

6. THE GAWTHROP FAMILY – A prominent legal family in Chester County with three generations of judges and lawyers, including The Honorable Thomas S. Gawthrop, Chief Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County, The Honorable Robert S. Gawthrop, III, United States Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Robert S. Gawthrop, Jr. founder of one of the oldest law firms still operating in the County. Mr. Gawthrop was a long time member of the Board of Oaklands Cemetery.

7. THE TAYLOR FAMILY – Acquired in 1851, Oaklands Cemetery is located on 22 acres of the Taylor Farm. The Taylor family was given a large lot in the cemetery which they use to this day.

8. SAMUEL BARBER – (1910-1981) Samuel Barber’s music, masterfully crafted and built on romantic structures and sensibilities, is at once lyrical, rhythmically complex, and harmonically rich. Born March 9, 1910 in West Chester, Pennsylvania, Barber wrote his first piece at age 7 and attempted his first opera at age 10. At the age of 14 he entered the Curtis Institute, where he studied voice, piano, and composition. Later, he studied conducting with Fritz Reiner.

At Curtis, Barber met Gian Carlo Menotti with whom he would form a lifelong personal and professional relationship. Menotti supplied libretti for Barber’s operas "Vanessa" (for which Barber won the Pulitzer) and "A Hand of Bridge". Barber’s music was championed by a remarkable range of renowned artists, musicians, and conductors including Vladimir Horowitz, John Browning, Martha Graham, Arturo Toscanini, Dimitri Mitropoulos, Jennie Tourel, and Eleanor Steber. His "Antony and Cleopatra" was commissioned to open the new Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center in 1966.

Barber was the recipient of numerous awards and prizes including the American Prix de Rome, two Pulitzer Prizes, and election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His intensely lyrical "Adagio for Strings" has become one of the most recognizable and beloved compositions, both in concerts and films (Platoon, The Elephant Man, El Norte, Lorenzo’s Oil).

9. HARRY DUNN – (1929-1998) Born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, a Chester County artist. He studied in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the Philadelphia College of Art. Mr. Dunn also studied at the Art Students League. While in the Army, Mr. Dunn worked as an artists-draftsman and after his discharge became a designer for Elektra Film Productions in New York. In his position he designed many television commercials for major networks as well as working on commercial, industrial and entertainment films, some of which he wrote himself.

Harry Dunn created the NBC peacock. His work has been represented in major collections in the U.S. and abroad. Harry Dunn’s murals can be seen at the Penn Federal Banks in Pennsylvania and the Presidential Apartments in Philadelphia. Many shows throughout his career include: NY Museum of Modern Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, Paris and other American museums. Harry’s works have made their way to Target headquarters Minneapolis, MN. His sketches and paintings brighten many Chester County homes and offices.

10. DR. JOSEPH TRIMBLE ROTHROCK – (1839-1922) He became known as “The Father of Pennsylvania Forestry,” and was at various times (sometimes simultaneously) explorer, surgeon, botanist, professor, and Michaux Forestry Lecturer; Pennsylvania Forestry Association president, vice president and spokesman; editor of Forest Leaves; member of the Pennsylvania Forest Commission; and the Pennsylvania Forest Commissioner and Administrator of Tuberculosis Sanitariums. Rothrock was energetic, persuasive, involved, and a lover of forests since childhood. Yet he never professed to be a forester. His credentials were those of an informed scientist, botanist and medical doctor.

Rothrock was born April 9, 1839, in McVeytown, Pennsylvania. He died, at age eighty three, on June 2, 1922, in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Numerous memorials recall his contributions to improving the state’s environment. His name is carved in the gray stone of the former Education Building in Harrisburg with other eminent Pennsylvanians. A plaque on a boulder at McVeytown commemorates his place of birth. An inscription honors his achievements in a corridor of the State Capitol. A state forest is named for him.

In 1862 Rothrock earned a bachelor of science degree in botany from Harvard, where he was deeply influenced by the renowned Harvard botanist, Asa Gray. He enlisted in the Union Army from Harvard in July 1, 1863, and saw action at Antietam and Fredericksburg, where he was seriously wounded. By the end of the Civil War he was a Captain in the 20th Pennsylvania Cavalry. His service ended June 6, 1864.

He was described as “small in stature, energetic, enthused.” He had been ill as a child, spending much time outdoors and walking to recover. He worked one summer as an axman for the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, cutting wood for the rail lines, reveling in being outside and working hard. Rothrock described himself as “an Episcopalian and politically a Republican, when my conscience will endure it.” He almost drowned as a child, almost died from wounds at Fredericksburg, and often said that because of these events he felt his life had been given back to him twice and that he consequently owed a debt to life. He repaid that debt many times over.

11. WILMER WORTHINGTON MACELREE – (1859-1960) Lawyer and author, progenitor of the MacElree family which has produced two County judges. His books, including “Sidelights on the Bench and Bar of Chester County” (1918) and “Along the Western Brandywine” (1912), are delightful reads and great insights into the life and history of Chester County. Mr. MacElree was apparently named for Dr. William Worthington, one of the founders of Oaklands Cemetery.

12. ROBERT T. CORNWELL – (1835-1927) Born January 29, 1835 died April 20, 1927, began as a teacher, was an officer in the Union Army, captured and incarcerated in the infamous Libby Prison in Richmond, VA, was exchanged, was Provost Marshall of Third Division VI Corps operating in the Shenandoah. Took up residence in West Chester after the war and studied for the bar. Among his other activities, he was a member of the Board of Directors of Oaklands Cemetery. His grandson, Gibbons G. Cornwell, also served on the board and his great grandson, Moses Cornwell, is currently on the board. (For more information on Captain Cornwell see “Libby Prison & Beyond”, edited by Thomas M. Boaz, Burd Street Press, 1999)

13. BARCLAY RUBINCAM – (1920-1978) Nationally known local artist whose affectionate portrayals of old West Chester are on display in the lobby of the First National Bank of West Chester, and whose paintings of local landmarks are found in many Chester County homes. His work has been displayed at the Brandywine River Museum and prints of his work are highly prized and on view in many public spaces.

14. COLUMBUS PENN EVANS – (1824-1854) Apprentice to his brother Henry S. Evans at the "Village Record" (newspaper started by Charles Miner) but soon moved to Wilmington, Delaware to edit the "Republican". In the Mexican War, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and by 1848 showed gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Cherubusco. He also fought at Molino Del Rey and again with merit at the culmination battle of Chapultepec. He was elected mayor of Wilmington in 1851 but did not choose to seek reelection. He died of consumption in 1854, and was buried with full military honors at the new Oaklands Cemetery.

15. DR. WILLIAM DARLINGTON – (1782-1863) A man of almost encyclopedic interests. Studied medicine under Dr. John Vaughn of Wilmington at the same time learning French and then later Latin, Spanish and German. In 1804 he was the first citizen of Chester County to earn the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. He also became interested in botany and was so successful that his name became known and respected throughout the botanical world.

In 1805, he was disowned by the Society of Friends because he took a position as Regimental Surgeon to a local militia unit. During the War of 1812 he served as a Major but saw no action. In 1814 and again in 1818 and 1820 he served in the United States Congress. In 1822 he was appointed by the Secretary of War as a Visitor to West Point and his report attracted great attention throughout the country. In 1826, he assisted in organizing the Chester County Cabinet of Natural Sciences and published his "Cestrica", being a catalog of plants growing around the Borough of West Chester. Behind his residence on South Church Street can be seen the cedar of Lebanon which he planted over 100 years ago and was caught on canvas by local artist John Supplee.

In 1828 he helped found the Medical Society of Chester County and was immediately elected as its head. That organization still exists and has taken the responsibility of maintaining his grave site.

Aside from his medical and botanical efforts, he was very active in the commercial world. He headed the company which built the West Chester Railroad. In 1830 he was elected President of The Bank of Chester County which he had helped organize in 1814.

During all these activities he continued to publish botanical works and practice medicine until the end of his life.

Dr. Darlington received the degree of Doctor of Law from Yale College and Doctor of Physical Science from Dickinson College and was an elected member of more than 40 literary and scientific associations including the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia and the Botanical Society of the Netherlands.

16. ISAAC BARNARD – (1791-1834) Reached the rank of Major in the 14th US Infantry; fought in several battles in the northern theatre during the War of 1812, and was distinguished for his actions in leading his regiment during the battle of Lyons Creek. Returned to the practice of law and held several appointed offices before being elected to the Senate of Pennsylvania. Married Harriet, eldest daughter of Judge Isaac Darlington. Organized the Republican Artillerists, a body of militia men similar to the current National Guard and was "instrumental in securing the monument and grounds memorializing the Battle of Paoli (Paoli Massacre). Later appointed Secretary of the Commonwealth and subsequently elected (by the legislative as it was done in those days) to the United States Senate. His unbroken political ascendancy was terminated when he failed to receive the nomination for Governor of the Commonwealth because of opposition from within Chester County itself. Quite soon, his health deteriorated and he died at the young age of 43 on February 18, 1834. When grave yards were outlawed within the Borough limits his remains were transferred to Oaklands Cemetery on October 19, 1854.

17. JOSEPH EMLEY BORDEN – (1854-1929) Major league baseball player in the early years of professional baseball. He was born into a prominent family in Jacobstown, New Jersey and pitched under the pseudonym of "Nedrob" which is Borden spelled backwards. On July 28, 1875 he pitched the first recorded major league no-hitter, while pitching for the Philadelphia "Fillies" in the National Association. In 1876, while playing for Boston in the newly formed National League, Mr. Borden won the first game played in the league. His baseball career included only those two years, after which he moved to West Chester, married Henry S. Evans' daughter and became a local businessman. He died on October 14, 1929, which, coincidentally, was the day the Philadelphia Athletics won the World Series from the Chicago Cubs in nearby Philadelphia.

18. De WITT CLINTON LEWIS – (1822-1899) Captain, Co F, 97th Pennsylvania Infantry (Civil War). Our second Medal of Honor recipient, for action at Secessionville on June 16, 1862. The citation reads, "While returning with his men before a heavy fire of canister shot at short range, returned in the face of the enemy's fire and rescued an exhausted Private of his company who, but for this timely action, would have lost his life by drowning in the morass through which the troops were retiring".

19. JOSEPH HERGESHEIMER – (1880-1954) Born in Philadelphia, February 15, 1880. Giving up the study of painting, he turned to writing and became the author of many novels, short stories, biographies, histories and criticisms. He is best known for his stories about the sophisticated corrupt lives of the very wealthy. It is said that many old West Chester families were discernible in his novels.

Information in this guide came from (and is recommended reading for those interested in Chester County History):

West Chester to 1865: That Elegant and Notorious Place, Douglas R. Harper, Chester County Historical Society

History of Chester County Pennsylvania, Futey and Cope, Louis H. Everts Publisher, 1881; reprinted by Chester County Historical Society

Court House Cavalcade 1786-1986, Wayne C. Woodward, Chester County Historical Society, 1988

Chester County Notebook, Paul A. Rodebaugh, Taggart Printing, 1987

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