

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Spring/Summer 2006

THE NEED FOR TAVERNS IN EARLY HAYCOCK

by Heather Radick

Early places for weary travelers to rest have been called by different names: inns, taverns, ordinaries, and public houses. Through the years, Haycock has had its share of such places. In the mid 1700s to mid 1800s, slow going due to poor conditions along Old Bethlehem Road had travelers knocking on homeowner's doors in search of a place to feed and rest themselves, and their horses.

Property owners found these intrusions to be a burden, but some recognized this as an opportunity to make a profit. Homeowners living right on Old Bethlehem Road were regularly put on the spot as people came hungry and tired to their doors. Households must have been in an upheaval with riders and their wagon teams needing shelter and pasture for their animals, and would be wanting for themselves a meal and place to sleep. So in hopes they would be granted a license to house travelers and serve food and drink, they needed to go before the county court. Sometimes, nearby residents would hear about such a request and they would petition the court to not grant the license. Records indicate individuals having to ask the court many times over for a tavern license until it was finally granted.

The earliest request for tavern license on record in Haycock is that of Jacob Ziegenfus, 1760. Jacob wanted a license to sell liquors, wine and rum to passersby from his home. He writes: "I have comodites for travellers and am much troubled in rough weather wen the creek is heigh. My hous is much on the great road to the blue mountain and it is no Tavern in the whole township on the Haycock." There is no accompanying petition against Ziegenfus, but the word 'rejected' is just barely visible on the 246 year old document.

In 1770, The Dutch Reformed Church (Tohickon) heard news that Adam Loudensleighter, one of the earliest settlers in Haycock, was applying for a license. They expressed great displeasure that such an entity would be located so close to their place of worship. They were "fully of the opinion that the Licensing of the said hous will bee Hurtfull to our meeting and ingarious to the publick." Not only did the church elders find Loudensleighter to be destitute and not fit to run such a business, but in their petition pled "the licensing of more Publick Houses will bee destructive of the publick good by encouraging tipling and drunkenness." Loudensleighter's petition stated that wagons traveling to points south were in need of a house of entertainment because of the "freshes" that swelled the

Tohickon Creek on the Bethlehem Road, making it unpassable. He described travelers having to drive their teams six or seven miles back to another tavern or having to intrude on private houses. The court felt that these facts warranted the need for a tavern. Despite the church's efforts, Loudensleighter's Inn opened on the Haycock side of the Tohickon, just across from Weisel.

In other instances applicants had a number of associates willing to back their cause with their own petition of support. On February 4, 1850 Henry Applebach asked the court to grant him a license to keep a tavern in his newly built house to be called the Applebachsville Hotel. In a separate petition, at least fourteen signers including Felix Walp, William Strawn, Peter Shive and Abraham Stover all "certify that we know the House for which the License is prayed; the buildings are new, large and accommodating" They went on to say "And we further certify that we are personally acquainted with Henry Applebach, the within

continued on page 6

*Petition for License
for Public House or
Inn in Haycock
by
Henry Applebach*

5688

*Filed Feb. 4th 1850
License Granted the
8th February 1850
by the Court
J. R.*

Photo of Henry Applebach's petition by Heather Radick

ORIGINS OF HAYCOCK'S ROAD NAMES

by Heather Radick

Driving along any of Haycock's country roads, have you ever wondered how they got their names? Besides the self-explanatory ones such as Oak and Pine, what exactly are the meanings behind names like Roudenbush and Cobbler?

Prior to about the 1940s, Haycock's roads were completely unmarked. Houses had mailboxes with numbers in no particular order and boxes were not always located near the homes. Kenneth Horne, 72, a former rural mail carrier, dairy farmer and long time resident of Haycock, remembers the days before marked roads. Finding one's way around was not a problem for locals, he said, because "back then everybody knew each other." But the narrow unpaved roads tended to all look the same. If you were not familiar with the area, getting around could be quite trying. There were no street signs, so directions consisted of counting how many roads one passed, and relying on houses or road bends for landmarks. In later years, with the increasing population, emergency services needed to be able to locate houses. This issue was one of the reasons for official road names and eventually a new numbering system.

Dave Long, 46, life-long resident and Haycock Roadmaster, recalls clearing what are now Reed and Potters Lanes, which he remembers as "nothing more than trails through the woods." Potter's Lane refers to the nearby site of Singer Pottery. Reed Lane was named after the Reed family. Other roads in the township also carry family's names. Boulder Lane was once known as Bauer's Lane. East and West Thatcher, Roudenbush and Kinzler are all

names of past and present residents.

Stony Garden Road is in reference to the huge pile or "garden" of rocks found on Haycock Mountain. Cider Press Lane is named after the cider press located in Sheard's Mill. The old Clear Spring Creamery was located on Creamery Road. On the hill at Creamery and Thatcher Roads is the Mount Airy Schoolhouse, after which nearby Mount Airy Drive is named. The stretch of Apple and Creamery roads between the old store in Applebachsville to the Mount Airy Schoolhouse was known as Applebachsville Road. The theory behind Cobbler Road is that Applebachsville cobbler Jacob Egolf had lived on that road. There were once two sawmills located on what is now East Sawmill Road. Pullen Station Road refers to the location of the former Quakertown & Eastern Railroad station. Roundhouse Road had nothing to do with trains, but rather an actual round house located there.

Three roads were lost during the construction of Lake Nockamixon: Stover Mill Road, and Shady and Butter Nut lanes. The old wooden sign from Butter Nut Lane has been retained in the township building. Stover Mill Road picks up where it left off across the lake in Bedminster Township.

Many of the other roads not mentioned describe the various trees and wildlife found in the township. As new roads spring up in Haycock, the township reviews names a developer comes up with. In the future, Long would like to see proposals for new road names that are more significant to Haycock's history.



Photos by Heather Radick

BUCKWAMPUN HISTORICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY, 1885 - 1903

by Pat DeWald

The conception of this society began by a chance meeting on Buckwampun Mountain between historian William J. Buck and geologist and naturalist, Charles Laubach. Buckwampun Mountain, located near Bursonville in Springfield Township, is a paradise for botanists. Buck grew up near Bursonville and in 1885 was revisiting places of his childhood. Laubach, of Durham Township, was interested in the natural landscape and geology of this unusual mountain. The two met and became close friends. While exploring the mountain they conceived the idea of starting a historical and literary society for upper Bucks County and decided to name it the Buckwampun Historical and Literary Society. Thus, on Sept. 25, 1885, the day of their meeting, the idea for this society began.

The idea became a loose net group that organized public meetings during which local professional people, such as doctors, lawyers, business people and teachers, would give lectures on various subjects. Most of the topics were local history, biographies and the sciences. There were also concerts featuring local orchestras.

The meetings were free, open to the public and advertised in local newspapers as 'literary picnics.' As many as 400 people would come to the events as far as 15 miles away. Their reasons for coming ranged from simply wanting to hear the lectures, the music or just to socialize.

It was not until three years later on June 14, 1888 that the first meeting of the society took place on Buckwampun Mountain. During those three years, Laubach visited with all the teachers of Durham, area ministers and professors, urging them to take part in the society.

The first meeting was a success, with the audience unanimously wanting it to be an annual event.

Three of the meetings were held in Haycock Township: Stony Garden, Applebachsville and Pullen. The Pullen meeting was on the Heft farm just over the line in Springfield Township.

An excerpt from a newspaper account describes the Stony Garden meeting on June, 14, 1890:

"Stony Garden never presented a more animated appearance than it did last Saturday...in the midst of nature's works and sheltered by the moss covered monarchs of the forest, in the very crater of a long extinct volcano, the Literary Society of Upper Bucks County romantically met and passed the day

in sweet and profitable concourse. Through the efforts of the committee of arrangements and particularly of Henry H. Younkin and Charles Laubach, the spot heretofore very difficult of approach, was made easily accessible, an amply sufficient speaker's stand was erected and other conveniences were afforded for the ease and comfort of the assembled guests..."

These meetings attracted large audiences, and people arrived early, in all types of conveyances. Each meeting took place at a spot that had a unique feature. At Stony Garden it was the rocks.

A newspaper account of the Stony Garden meeting told of Dr. J.H. Ott playing the rocks with the Euterpean Orchestra of Springfield and the Pleasant Valley Band. With hammer, Ott played on a crude lithophone that consisted of pieces of Stony Garden rocks selected for their tone and arranged to form a musical octave.

Another newspaper account describes the society's June 9, 1894 meeting in a grove just outside Applebachsville. A platform for speakers was built and tastefully decorated in the national colors and flowers." The account described the meeting as featuring the Quakertown Orchestra and being so full, many sat in their carriages or stood in the grove. One speaker at the event was Bucks County District Attorney William

Applebach who read a paper titled 'The Once Bustling Village at the Foot of Haycock.'

A newspaper account documents the June 9, 1900 meeting at Pullen, which was a railroad station on the Quakertown and Eastern Railroad. Located where the boundaries of Haycock, Springfield and Richland townships converge, the meeting was held in woods owned by William Heft in Springfield Township and several hundred yards outside Haycock.

A lack of a volunteer was the demise of the group, which held its last meeting Aug. 15, 1903, at East Springfield School. Laubach, who the group's secretary, became ill and died on Aug. 23, 1904. Buck died three years earlier on Feb. 13, 1901. No one was found to fill the secretary position and because of that, the society ended.

The newspaper excerpts were taken from the scrapbook of Buckwampun articles compiled by Dr. B. Fackenthal, Jr. now at the library of the Bucks County Historical Society.

BOTTLE COLLECTOR, DAVE LONG

by Sue Kleiner-Grew

Dave Long began collecting bottles at about age 11. His father first got him interested in it, and in the 1970s, they would travel around the township searching for bottles. They would forage in trash dumps near houses and farms in the area. The deeper they dug, the older the bottles they found. The trash dumps tended to be situated at the far end of a property. They would look for a dump along a stone wall or at the edge of a wooded lot. Dumps might also be found in deep depressions in the woods near a residence.

Born in 1959, Long has lived most of his life on Roudenbush Road with his wife and daughter, next to the home where he was raised.

For the past 10 years, Long has focused mostly on milk bottles and has an extensive collection on display in his home. He once owned 500 bottles but has pared down to about 120 bottles. The oldest bottle in his collection is from 1916 and the newest dates from the 1960s. He also has a rare quarter-pint milk bottle, called a Gill, from a Quakertown dairy.

Though milk bottles are usually made from clear glass,

some from the mid to late 1940s might be painted. Long said he has also seen one from the 1920s that was painted.

One of Long's bottles is from a dairy once located in Haycock called Fernwood Farm Dairy, located on Old Bethlehem Road near the firehouse. It was owned by Monford K. Shuman and the milk was bottled on the premises.

In the early 1900s, there were as many as 20 dairies in Quakertown. One large dairy was Walnut Bank Farm whose claim to fame was that they had tuberculin tested cows. The dairy stood on what is now a housing development.

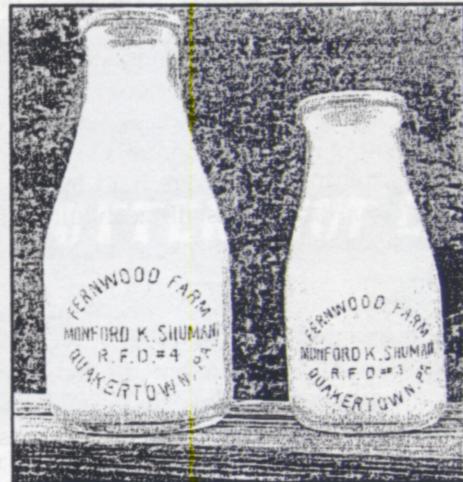
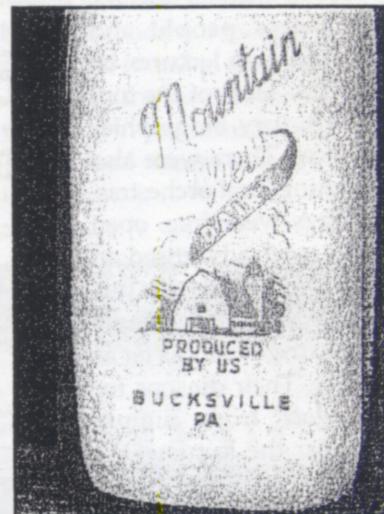
Long also recalled that Woodson Dairy in Red Hill delivered milk to his family when he was a boy.

In addition to being a long time Haycock resident, Long has been an employee of Haycock Township for more than twenty years and currently serves as roadmaster.

Long continues to add to his collection by going to flea markets and trading with other collectors. He also sells some of his bottles and had a sale table at the Haycock Historical Society's Market Place event this summer.



Photos by Heather Radick



HAYCOCK PROFILES:

IVAN BELAC

by Sue Kleiner-Grew

Ivan Joseph Belac was born August 1932. For the first few years of his life, he lived with his parents and older sister on Roundhouse Road at the border of Springfield and Haycock townships. His father, Joseph Belac, emigrated from Croatia after World War I. His mother, Katherine Belac (who coincidentally shared the same last name but was not a relative and grew up in the same village as Joseph), also came to the United States from Croatia. The family moved into Applebachsville when Ivan was a young boy.

Belac's father was employed as a laborer at Bethlehem Steel. He worked twelve hours a day, six days a week for six cents an hour. His mother worked as a trimmer, who trimmed threads off clothing being produced for the Navy. The factory where she worked was in Perkasie.

In his youth, Belac spent a lot of time on his own because he was not as old or young as most of the children in the neighborhood. He would often go down to the creek to play. There was a time when he was with some of the older neighborhood kids and they were pole vaulting across the creek. Belac took his turn, but his pole got stuck between the rocks and he was pitched into the creek. It was November and the water was freezing cold. The kids rushed him off to one of the houses in the village to get him dry.

Belac recalls a prank pulled by kids in the village. One person would tie a piece of magneto wire (very thin wire) to the handle of a home's screen door. They would pull the wire across the street and tie the other end to the screen door of another home. They would then knock on the door, run away and watch. As one person opened their door, the door across the street would slam shut.

He remembers one special person from the old neighborhood, Johnny Rivers, who would later serve in the military in World War II.

Rivers was well respected and loved by the kids in the village. One cold and cloudy day, Rivers and some big kids were playing football. Ivan stood by and watched, and then he was invited into the game. Rivers threatened to knock out anyone who hurt Belac in the game. Belac went on to play center for both sides.

As a student at the one room school house in Applebachsville, he fondly recalled his teacher, Frances Cramp. He said she was a phenomenal person. She managed the bad kids, fights and back talk. One day at school, someone put a shotgun shell in the coal bucket. When Miss Cramp fed the coal stove, the shell went in too and exploded scattering BBs all over the floor.

Belac attended the school from first through eighth grade. Upon the completion of eighth grade, there was a formal graduation held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in

Applebachsville. He then went on to Quakertown High School.

At age 21, he entered the National Guard and was stationed at Sampson Air Force Base near Geneva, New York. While there, he attended a buddy's wedding and met his future wife, Loretta Claudette Palmer. She was only 17-years-old when they met. Belac was taken with her, but she was too young at the time, so he gave her a dime and told her to call him when she turned eighteen.

Belac served as a staff sergeant in the National Guard for nearly 4 years. He was honorably discharged from the Guard in October 1953 but in December of that same year, he received a draft notice. By January of 1954, he was inducted into the U.S. Air Force. Serving stateside, he was in the service for nearly four years. When he completed his tour of duty, he hoped to live in Geneva, but there was no work. He returned to the Quakertown area and resumed his job at Bethlehem Steel. He was also a lieutenant in the 803rd squadron of the Civil Air Patrol in Quakertown. He says he got the job because he was willing to do the squadron's paperwork.

In 1951, he and Loretta moved to Richlandtown and had three children. He worked numerous jobs before being forced to retire upon developing a vision disorder called Ischemic Optic Neuropathy.

After retiring, Belac became more involved with his wife's ceramic business, which eventually evolved into making pottery and their present day business, Belacraft Pottery. Belac throws the clay for their pottery and Loretta finishes the work by decorating and glazing the pieces.



Ivan Belac and his father

Their pottery is typically adorned with impressions from real leaves.

The Belac's pottery has been showcased at the Haycock Historical Society's Kringle Shoppe. They also participate in other area craft shows.

Today, the couple reside in Quakertown where they continue to create pottery and will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year on September 29.

THE BIRDS OF HAYCOCK

by Cheryl Allem



Haycock has a fantastic variety of bird species, which is delightful to me as a longtime bird enthusiast. Over the years, I have identified at least 60 different birds, just on our own farm.

Very early one morning, shortly after moving to Haycock, I witnessed a rather amusing scene. I had some white tube socks with red bands hanging on the porch wash line and as I walked past the window, I saw movement. I looked more closely and realized there was a hummingbird poking at the red bands on the socks. I had never seen a hummingbird before then. That day, a feeder was placed on the porch, and ever since then, our flower gardens and porch baskets have been planted with hummingbird-friendly plants. My earliest spotting of the little birds was April 25th and the latest was October 1st, so our feeders are up two weeks before and two weeks after those dates and we have many hummers flitting around the yard, gardens and across the porch all summer long.

I was also amused by a pair of house wrens who insisted on tossing my clothespins out of the clothespin bag unto the porch, and filling the bag with sticks. When I removed the sticks for the third time and took the bag into the house, they filled the leg of my husband Gordon's jeans (hanging

on the line) with their pile of sticks. It was then that I asked Gordon if he had an extra nail bag. He did, and I hung it at the far end of the porch for the wrens. Within five minutes they had checked the nail bag out and were filling it with nesting materials. When the babies were little, we would tap on the clothesline and their little heads would pop up out of the pocket. The wrens raised two families in there that year and came back again the next few years; then they must have found something they liked better, because I didn't see them again.

This year, we had barn swallows in the barn again, for the first time in several years. We love having them there to help keep the bug population under control and the little ones are fun to watch as they perfect their swooping skills. Several times in the late afternoon, there have been blue herons fishing in the swamp below the back yard. One evening we had a pileated woodpecker practicing his "chainsaw" imitation on an old stump in the pasture—what a sight! As I watched him, I hoped he wouldn't spot the barn! Some of the less commonly-seen birds to pass through our place were cedar waxwings, indigo buntings, rose-breasted grosbeaks, towhees, scarlet tanagers, Baltimore orioles and even a solitary sandpiper visited one afternoon.

I had no idea when I moved to Haycock, that I would finally be able see most of the birds that I had studied about when I was in my fourth grade's Junior Audubon Society.

Cheryl Allem has lived in Haycock Township since 1983.

TAVERNS *continued from page 1*

Petitioner, that he is and we know him to be a of good repute for honesty and temperance."

The hotel probably started out as more of a drover's stand then stagecoach stop. According to Henry's petition, the large number of cattle drovers traveling from New York to market warranted the need for an overnight stop. Being described as a "newly erected large and commodious stone house" it was well furnished and built with only the best materials. It also boasted a carriage house, shed and stable all located next to the largest grazing farm in the county.

In later years it housed the Applebachsville post office, with Reed Laubenstein as postmaster and hotel proprietor. It was also known as the White Hall Hotel.

The tavern down the road from Applebachsville, now known as Arianna Miles, was kept under several names including the Mountain House and the Mt. Airy Hotel. In 1784, Michael Stoneback was the Petitioner that "liveth contigeus to the Bathteam road in the Township of Haycock." He continued, "that the said road in fall and spring is exceeding bad which puts a number of travelers under the necessity of stoping at his house" On the bottom of the document are the words "We whose names are under signed

from our acquaintance with the petitioner thinks he will keep a good house of Entertainment for travelers." There are at least 40 signatures. His license was allowed. A number of years later, in August of 1790, Martin Geiger was granted a to keep a public house in the place where he resided, which was "that old and well established Tavern on the Bethlehem Road in Haycock Township, known by the name of Stoneback's Tavern."

The tavern in Strawntown, now known as the Raven's Nest also has a lengthy history. Previous families associated with this tavern include Ahlum, Maulbeteck and Upeneek. From 1913 to 1920 families from Philadelphia of Polish descent ran the inn. More recent owners were the Millers and Block, after which it was named Block's Tavern.

It is hard to imagine having such difficulty traveling Old Bethlehem Road, as one drives along it now, smoothly paved with bridges to carry vehicles over the water. Looking back through the records of tavern petitions gives a small glimpse of what life must have been like for new immigrants living in Haycock along Old Bethlehem Road. Look for future articles on the extensive histories of Haycock's individual taverns and the people that ran them.

SOCIETY NEWS

GENERAL MEETINGS

Thurs., September 21 at 7 p.m. • Thurs., October 19 at 7 p.m.
Sunday, November 19 at 2 p.m.

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL MARKETPLACE

On June 17 the Social Events team, headed by member Trudi Rosencrans, held the 2nd annual Haycock Historical Marketplace. The fund raising event was held at the Haycock Fire House and included antiques, crafts and flea market items. A white elephant table with items donated to the society was also featured. A mix of musical entertainment was provided by HHS members Steve Applegate and Rich Laughlin as well the "Rock and Blues" band members from Quakertown's Alliance for Creative Expression. Our thanks go out to all who participated and helped us to raise \$508.13

THANK YOU

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Pat DeWald for hosting our annual members picnic July 23. Pat welcomed us into her home again this year for a day of sun, swimming and music. Members brought a variety of delicious covered dishes to share while enjoying the perfect summer day and music played by Gordon Allem and Steve Applegate.

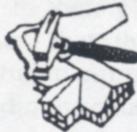
The HHS would like to express their appreciation to former resident Dan Ritter who donated his Haycock Fire Company member wallet badge to our archives. Mr. Ritter acquired the badge through his service with the fire company in the 1960's.

Violet Freeh also made a contribution to our archives when she donated old fashioned greeting cards from the one room school house era. The cards will be a wonderful addition to the society's growing collection. We thank Ms. Freeh for her gift.

Member Ivan Belac and his wife Loretta will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on September 29th. Our congratulations and best wishes go out to them both.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Social Events Committee met on September 12 at the home of member Pat DeWald. The Marketplace event was reviewed and our fall agenda was planned which includes a cemetery tour at St. Paul's Church in Applebachsville, participation in Durham Days on October 14, and our main fund raiser, Kringle Christmas Shoppe. We are actively in search of a host home to hold Kringle IV., 2007! This residence ideally should be in Haycock Township, have parking for at least 10 cars and be easily accessible. Providing space for Kringle Shoppe is a wonderful way to support the society and have your home dressed for the holidays. If interested, please contact Vice-president Chris



KRAUSE
CONSTRUCTION

ADDITIONS ▼ REMODELING

Gary Krause

Certified Remodeler
(610) 847-5253

170 Buck Run Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

Handschin at 215-536-0364 or chandschin@netcarrier.com

Research Committee headed by Diane Kelly met on September 14 at Pat DeWald's home. Anyone interested in researching, archiving, or the preservation aspect of the society is invited to contact Diane at rdrdk@ptd.net

Newsletter Committee would like to apologize for the interruption in the delivery of the quarterly newsletter. We hope this Spring/Summer 2006 edition will have been worth the wait. Thank you to all our members for your patience.

Membership Committee is pleased to announce we currently have 102 active members and three corporate sponsors. Many thanks to Tom and Susette Kazary for upgrading their membership to lifetime status. Take note of our corporate member's advertisements seen on this page. Feel free to contact membership chairperson Sue Kleiner-Grew at 215-538-3613 or skg@relaxationcreation.com with any questions or concerns.

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Paul's Church Cemetery Tour

Join us on October 14th for a tour of the church cemetery in Applebachsville. Tours will be led by member Pat Dewald and her team at 10 am and noon. The tours will highlight the important forefathers buried there, interesting gravestones, and provide a bit of history about the church. While you are there, stay and enjoy the flea market the church is hosting which will benefit the Quakertown Food Bank. St. Paul's will also offer lunch which can be purchased during your visit.

Haycock Historical Calendar Pre-Orders

Member and photographer, Heather Radick is producing a 2007 Black & White Calendar, featuring some of Haycock Township's old barns which the society plans to sell as a fundraiser. Reserve your copy (which should sell for under \$10.00), by sending a note to Haycock Historical Society, P.O. Box 715, Quakertown, or by emailing your request to chandschin@netcarrier.com (Please Do Not Send Money!). There will be a very limited supply.

RALPH J. ROSENCRANS
REALTOR®

(610) 847-3300 BUSINESS

(610) 847-2919 FAX

(215) 534-1995 CELL

r.rosencrans@cbhearthside.com

8340 Easton Rd.

Ottsville, PA 18942

www.cbhearthside.com

Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated

GRANDMA'S COUNTRY KITCHEN



at
Tohickon Family Campground

8308 Covered Bridge Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

215-536-7951

www.Tohickoncampground.com