



The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Winter 2025

HAYCOCK SETTLERS IN THE 1770's TO 1790's

(PART 3)

Upper Bucks County and The American Revolution Loyalists in the 13 Colonies and in Upper Bucks County

A Collaboration between Pat DeWald and Joe Cappella (2024)

People that opposed independence for the Colonies and remained loyal to England and King George III were called Royalists, Tories, King's Men, and **Loyalists**. They tended to be wealthy landowners, clergy who were dependent on the Church of England for their livelihood, lawyers, doctors, teachers, people with close business interests or political ties with England, servants, and slaves (who fled from their Patriot masters to join the British hoping for freedom). Some were concerned that the revolution would bring chaos to America. Many Loyalists agreed that the American colonists had suffered at the hands of the British but they hoped that a peaceful reconciliation with the British government would be possible. Being labeled a "Loyalist" during the time of the revolution was dangerous. Loyalists were subjected to public humiliation, social ostracism, and violence. Many were brutally attacked, tarred and feathered, imprisoned, or even killed. Their property was destroyed, vandalized, looted, burned or confiscated. Loyalists by the thousands fled the American Colonies for their own safety taking with them their possessions they could, but leaving behind all of their dreams.

"A Brief History of the Commander-in-Chief's Guards" by Donald N. Moran tells the story of a group of New York loyalists that formed a secret organization with their primary objective of assassinating George Washington when he arrived at Manhattan Island. The plot was uncovered and several loyalists were arrested. Among those arrested were **David Mathews** (the mayor of New York City), and **Thomas Hickey** (a sergeant in a special detachment of soldiers, known as the Life Guards, that were responsible for the safety of General George Washington). At his court martial the testimony given was enough to send Thomas Hickey to the gallows on June 28th, 1776. Other Loyalists include **Thomas Hutchinson**, the governor of the Massachusetts colony, **Joseph Galloway**, a Pennsylvania delegate to the Continental Congress who later worked for the British Army, and **John Butler** of New York who raised a force of rangers, called Butler's rangers, that raided the frontiers of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey throughout the war. Perhaps the most well-known loyalist is **Benedict Arnold**. As a Major General in the Continental Army he fought with distinction, was placed in command of West Point in New York, and

was planning to surrender the fort to the British forces. When the plot was discovered, he fled to the British lines and was commissioned as a Brigadier General in the British Army.

The Plumstead Cowboys, also known as the **Doan Boys** or the **Doan Outlaws**, were also Loyalists. They grew up in **Plumstead, Bucks County**, were raised as Quakers and assisted the British Army during the American Revolution. Their knowledge of the local area and their cleverness with disguises allowed them to gather information about the Continental Army troop movements and their locations. Brothers **Moses, Joseph Jr, Aaron, Levi, and Mahlon Doan**, and their first cousin **Abraham Doan** were the core members of the gang. The leader of the gang was Moses Doan and at various times they enlisted the help of other Bucks County outlaws, just to name a few, such as **Jesse and Solomon Vickers and John Tomlinson**.

On August 27, 1776, Moses Doan informed British Army General William Howe of an unprotected entrance into the American fortifications at Jamaica Pass, an area near Brooklyn, New York, where the Continental Army was camped. This information resulted in the defeat of Washington's army by the British at the Battle of Long Island. General Howe nicknamed Moses Doan "**Eagle Spy**" because of the valuable information the Doan Boys shared with him. **Major John Andre**, a British Army intelligence officer who later conspired with **Benedict Arnold** in a scheme to secure British control over the American fortifications at West Point, was the contact person between General Howe and Moses Doan.

The Doan Gang sold to the British Army, located in Philadelphia and Baltimore, over 200 horses they took from their neighbors in Bucks County as well as settlers living in the surrounding areas. They also planned and assisted with many of the successful escapes for British Prisoners of War that were imprisoned in Lancaster County. They robbed Patriot tax collectors and wealthy Patriot citizens, because local Committee of Safety members collected taxes from their father Joseph Doan Sr, a loyalist, as well as others that did not support or contribute to the Patriots cause. The tax collected by the tax collectors was used for military supplies and also sent to Boston to assist the people living there who were suffering as a result of the ongoing conflict

between the Patriots and the British Army.

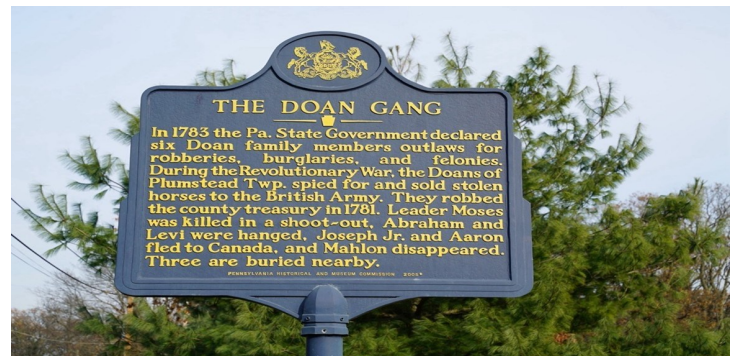
Richard Ketchum, in his book The Winter Soldiers: The Battles for Trenton and Princeton, refers to the **First Battle of Trenton** and writes, “as Christmas was approaching loyalists came to Trenton to report to the Hessian commander that Washington’s troops were planning to attack.” An article that appears on (nj.gov) titled “Buildings in the Battles of Trenton,” also references a warning received by the Hessian troops prior to Washington crossing the Delaware river. This article states the following: “Hessian Colonel Johann Rahl, who commanded the Hessian troops, was at a friend’s home Christmas evening playing cards/chess when he received a note warning that the Continental Army was approaching. The Colonel was shot in the early morning attack, and died later that day.”

Whether it be fact or fiction, the following story has been written about Moses and Abraham Doan’s role in the **First Battle of Trenton**: On Christmas Eve day 1776, Moses Doan and Abraham Doan noticed that George Washington’s Army was gathering along the Delaware River and saw the ferry barges assembling near McKonkey’s Ferry. They rode to Trenton, New Jersey, and requested to see Colonel Johann Rahl to warn him of the impending attack by the Colonial Army. Colonel Rahl commanded a Hessian Brigade of infantry of approximately 1,200 men that were stationed there. Rahl did not want to be disturbed so Moses wrote a note and requested that it be given to the Colonel. That note contained the words “**Washington is coming on you down the river, he will be here afore long. Doan.**” During the battle of Trenton Colonel Rahl was mortally wounded and died later that evening. The note written by Moses containing the information about the impending attack was found in the coat pocket of Colonel Rahl, either he did not read the note or he purposely ignored the importance of its meaning. Because of Rahl’s inaction the Hessian regiments camped in and around Trenton that he commanded were attacked and soundly defeated by the American Continental Army. Twenty- two Hessian soldiers were killed in action, including their commander, Colonel Johann Rahl, 83 were wounded, and 896 were captured. All the captured Hessians as well as the wounded were taken to Philadelphia and then later transferred to the prison in Lancaster.

On the night of October 22, 1781, the Doan Gang robbed the Bucks County Treasury and the County Treasurer’s house, home of **John Hart** and his family, in Newtown. Taken was 1,307 pounds sterling, that was at that time the largest robbery of public funds ever (**1,307 pounds in 1781 is equivalent to \$353,601.27 in 2024 United States currency**). The gang, consisting of about fifteen outlaws, surrounded John Hart’s house, held him at gunpoint, and forced him to open the vault of the county treasury. The robbery lasted for hours and involved Hart’s entire family. Seven-year-old Elizabeth, daughter of John Hart and home during the robbery, was interviewed in the 1860’s about this event. She shared the following story: “The money at the house was in the room where myself and the rest of the children were sleeping. When the robbers entered the room some of us began to cry, when one of them said do not be afraid children we will not hurt you, we are only going to take the money up to the office to your father.” The gang escaped by

way of Durham Road to the Wrightstown School House where they scattered, and went into hiding until their next robbery. Some believe this money, as well as other stolen items, may have been hidden in one of the nine different caves throughout Bucks County that are claimed to be hideouts of the Doan Gang. One of their most secure hideouts was said to be on Buckingham Mountain. The money stolen was never recovered. Recently the inscription of “1775 M” was found in the rock of a Buckingham cave along with a colonial-era bottle. Some believe the discovery of these two items is strong enough evidence to conclude that the Doan Gang used the Buckingham cave as a hideout.

Joseph Doan Sr, Plumstead Township, born about 1726, father of the five Doan brothers, 140 acres, 2 horses, 3 cattle, a carpenter, and speculated in land, was also involved with the robbery of the Bucks County Treasury at Newtown on October 22, 1781. He was captured and spent 6 months in jail. He moved to Canada with his wife Esther Dillon Doan. At the age of 92, he was killed by a falling tree. The land of Joseph Doan Sr was seized by the Government on November 30, 1782.



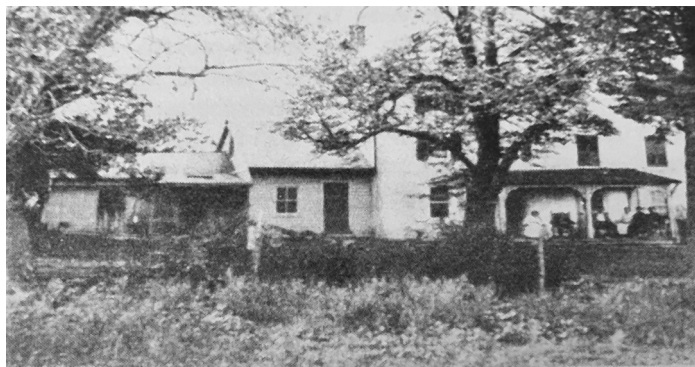
An Act passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1783 labeled the six Doan family members (Brothers Moses, Joseph Jr., Aaron, Levi, and Mahlon, and their first cousin Abraham) as "robbers, felons, burglars and traitors" to the American cause. This marker is located at 4914A Point Pleasant Pike, Gardenville, near the Friends Meeting House.

Section 1 of a proclamation from the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania that was published in *The Pennsylvania Gazette* on September 10, 1783, listed the names of “Caleb Paul, John Paul, Robert Steel, Aaron Doan, Mahlon Doan, Edward Conrad, Henry Conrad, Jeremiah Cooper, Amos White, Joseph Doan, Abraham Doan, Levi Doan, and George Sinclair, as being wanted for terrorizing and impoverishing many of the good citizens of the commonwealth, committing robberies, burglaries, and felonies” and also listed the names of “Gideon Vernon, Thomas Bulla, Amos Williams, Edward Richardson and George Burns as accomplices in these robberies, burglaries and felonies.” Section 2 of this same proclamation reads “to encourage the speedy apprehending and bringing to justice of these Robbers, Burglars and Felons, a reward for the sum of three hundred pounds is offered for each and every persons aforesaid so taken and delivered to the sheriff,” and Section 6 of this proclamation states “that in the case any person or persons shall happen to be killed or wounded, so as to lose an eye, or use of any limb, in apprehending, or in making

pursuit after such robbers, burglars, felons, receivers of stolen money or goods, harborers, or comforters of such robbers or burglars will receive, if killed, the sum of three hundred pounds, and if wounded, the sum of one hundred fifty pounds.” (300 pounds in 1783 is equivalent to \$71,423.67 in 2024 United States currency)

MADE his ESCAPE from the Constable of Plumstead township, Bucks county, the night of the 16th of November, 1775, a certain *Joseph Doan*, about 22 years of age, about 5 feet 9 inches high, black hair; had on, when he went away, a white sartout coat; his other clothes unknown. Whoever will take up said *Doan*, and secure him in any of his Majesty's goals, so as he may be brought to justice, shall have SEVEN POUNDS reward, paid by PHILIP HINKLE, Constable.

The above reward for Joseph Doan Jr was published in *The Pennsylvania Gazette* on January 17, 1776, and states: “Made his ESCAPE from the constable of Plumstead township, Bucks County, the night of the 16th of November, 1775, a certain *Joseph Doan*, about 22 years of age, about 5 feet 9 inches high, black hair; had on when he went away, a white sartout coat; his other clothes unknown. Whoever will take up said *Doan*, and secure him in any of his Majesty's goals, so as he may be brought to justice, shall have SEVEN POUNDS reward, paid by Philip Hinkle, Constable.” By September 10, 1783, the reward offered for his capture was increased to 300 pounds.



The Doan Family Homestead in Plumstead Township with people sitting on the front porch, date of photograph unknown. (Haycock Township Historical Society Archives: BUCKS COUNTY CHRONICLES, Bucks County Schools, Intermediate Unit #22, Doan Gang page 93)

The actions of the gang created so much public outrage that vigilante posses were formed to capture them and eventually, one by one, the members of the gang were apprehended. **Mahlon Doan** was captured in September 1783, in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. Some believe he escaped from prison and drowned, but others believe he escaped and fled to England aboard a Loyalist ship. **Aaron Doan**, served in the British Army, was arrested in Maryland in 1784, jailed in Philadelphia, petitioned for his freedom, was pardoned on March 28, 1787, by Benjamin Franklin (President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania) and believed to have settled in Canada. He married Rhoda Cook and they had several children. Aaron died in 1844 in Humberstone, Canada. **Joseph Doan Jr** was captured and sentenced to be executed. He escaped from the Newtown jail and fled to Canada. It is believed that Joseph

Jr. taught school in Humberstone, Ontario, near Niagara Falls. During the War of 1812 he was imprisoned by the American army in New York. He died in Canada in 1844. **Moses Doan**, the leader of the Doan Gang, served in the British Army. On August 26, 1783, he was shot in a shoot-out at Halsey's Cabin, a remote cabin in Bucks County on the Tohickon Creek, and the bullet killed him instantly. That same day his body was taken to his parents and that night he was interred in a field on the farm of his grandfather, Israel Doan Sr, in an unmarked grave. **Abraham Doan** and his cousin **Levi Doan** were both arrested in 1788 in Chester County, stood trial in Philadelphia, convicted, taken to Smith's Island and under the direction of Benjamin Franklin were executed on September 24, 1788. “**Mary Doan**, Levi's sister, pleaded for their bodies and returned home with them to Plumstead where she petitioned the Friends Society to allow her to bury them in the Meeting House cemetery. The Friends refused and the cousins' graves can still be seen outside the far-left back wall of the cemetery located on Ferry Road just past the Gardenville Inn.” Their headstones are placed back-to-back, etched with names, dates, and these two words inscribed, “AN OUTLAW.”



Replaced headstones of Abraham Doan and Levi Doan outside the cemetery at the Friends Meeting House (images from Wikipedia.org and WFMZ.com)



PLUMSTEAD FRIENDS MEETINGHOUSE (4914-A, 4914 Point Pleasant Pike, Doylestown)

“The first meetinghouse in Plumstead was erected in 1730 on 15 acres of donated land. The log cabin structure erected stood until 1752. The current meetinghouse was rebuilt in 1875 at a cost of \$1308.13. (Photo and Text from: visitbuckscounty.com)

Twenty-seven people were named in various proclamations passed by the Pennsylvania General Assembly as being either outlaws, aiders, or abettors of the Doan gang. Some of those names listed were **Moses Winder**, a tax collector in Bucks County, who was arrested in the summer of 1782 for giving the gang information. He died in Canada. Brothers **Jesse Vickers** and **Solomon Vickers** of Plumstead Township, were arrested, confessed, pardoned and then moved to Canada. **John Tomlinson** of Wrightstown was arrested and convicted of participating in and helping to plan the treasury robbery in Newtown as well as robberies of tax collectors. He was executed on October 17, 1782, in Newtown. Nathan Tomlinson was executed for burglary and robbery in New Jersey on August 29, 1782. Robert Steel, a blacksmith, was captured in Hillsborough, North Carolina, in 1785. He was pardoned after initially being sentenced to death.

Other people named in those proclamations with the last name of Doan include **Eleazer Doan**, who was tried for aiding his nephews by hiding them. He was acquitted for lack of evidence. Eleazer is listed in the 1798 direct tax records as living in Plumstead Township, 80 acres, 2 story stone house, frame shed, frame smith shop. He moved to Haycock and is listed in the 1781 Haycock Township tax records as owning 250 acres, 3 horses, 4 cattle and listed in the 1784 Haycock Township tax records as owning 150 acres, 1 house, 1 out building and 8 white inhabitants living on the property. In 1788 he is listed as the owner of the Price Tavern. The 1779 tax list includes both **Israel Doan Sr** (122 acres, 1 horse, 2 cattle, 6 white inhabitants) and **Israel Doan**

Jr (3 horses, 3 cattle) as living in Plumstead Township. It is believed that Israel Doan Sr died in prison. Israel Doan Jr, brother of Abraham, was in and out of prison for stealing horses. He died January 8, 1848. Records indicate that the Government seized land owned by one of the Doans named Israel.

John Doan (180 acres, 2 horses, 3 cattle) is listed in the 1779 tax records as living in Haycock Township and is not named in any of the proclamations. He is one of the original settlers of the Haycock area, and he signed both the 1745 Petition and the 1763 Petition for township organization requesting that this community be recognized officially as a legal township of Bucks County.

Dr. Shannon Duffy (Department of History at Texas State University) writes “The British loss of the American Revolution meant that many Loyalists would never return to America. Between 60,000 and 80,000 Americans left the country by 1783. Around 7,500 of them settled in Great Britain, while others made homes in the Caribbean, Spanish Florida, or Canada, or alternatively attempted to return to the United States. Most Loyalists faced considerable hardship in their new homes.”

The Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Bucks County, currently has an exhibit called, “The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution” that is on display from May 4, 2024, to December 31, 2026. Their interactive website DoanGang.org contains some of the information that can be found at this exhibition.

Sources: Loyalists, Fence-sitters, and Patriots, ushistory.org. The Life and Times of the Plumstead Cowboys by Peter Mulcahy, Historic Carversville Society. LaVO: Reconsidering the outlaw Doan Gang, Bucks County Courier Times, July 30, 2018. The Direct Tax of 1798, Upper part of Bucks County, Harry C. Adams, 1994. Proprietary tax list for Bucks County 1779, 1781-1786. Haycock Township tax list 1784. Bucks County Historical Society, BUCKS COUNTY CHRONICLES, Bucks County Schools, Intermediate Unit #22, Doan Gang, page 93. *Doan Presentation notes* by Joe Fite Jr. filed in Haycock Historical Society archives. WHYY, Peter Crimmins, July 27, 2024. “The Doan Boys Ride Again” by Frank Whelan, August 15, 2020. Genealogytrails.com. DoanGang.org. The Mercer Museum exhibition (May 3, 2024 - December 31, 2026), “The Doan Gang: Outlaws of the Revolution”.

Kringle Christmas Shoppe 2024 Review

With the holidays behind us, we can look back with pride at our last fundraiser!

Year #21 of Kringle was, by far, the best on record! Nearly 2000 guests attended, and we were able to accept the works of over 50 artisans, more than ever before. The Haycock Township Community Center's main bathrooms were completed on opening day, and they were such a huge improvement to the building. Many other factors came into play, such as the featured artist spotlight on fine jeweler, **Carolyn Keys**, plus the debut of our new book, *Haycock Township Through Nature's Lens*, created by **Marla Burke**, which sold 110 copies at the show plus many more afterward. *(The book has acted as a springboard to launch a very exciting addition to our Haycock Historical Society, the Environmental Enrichment Committee. All proceeds from the sales of this book will go toward projects that will enhance our township with an eye toward stewardship of nature. Already, the committee has purchased a Purple Martin Nesting Tower, at Lake Nockamixon Marina!)*

Above all, our success is due to all the helpers who came out and did what they could to assist the Social Events Committee in setting up the groundwork for our displays. These people may never know how important and how appreciated their contributions are! Without their help, we could never have accomplished this great achievement!

The Kringle Planning Committee will start meeting sporadically in late summer and will continue to meet on a more regular basis through October and November. If you would like to be part of the planning, please contact Sue McLaughlin or myself at kringleshoppe@gmail.com. We would love to have you on board!

Stay Tuned for a Summer Happening in June!

Toys, Tools & Other Treasures From The Past – A “Collections” Show at Stokes

While still in the planning stages, we hope members and friends will consider bringing collections for a fun “show & tell” on the beautiful grounds of the Stokes House. We will offer tables, chairs and tents for shade as necessary. We hope to sell hot dogs, hamburgers and other old-fashioned picnic treats to our guests as they stroll through the treasures on display. If you enjoy planning events and would like to be on our team, please help us get this event off the ground. You may contact me directly at: chandschin@verizon.net

Thanks!

Chris Handschin, Director of Events



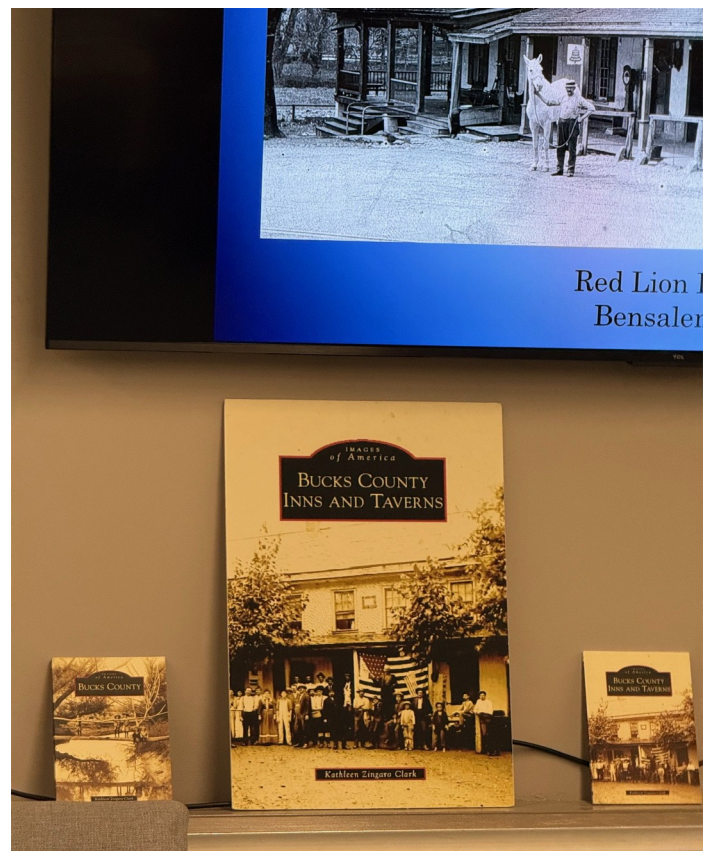


Early one morning, a Great Blue Heron skims along the water in Lake Nockamixon as the steam fog rises above the surface

Photo by Marla Burke



Author Kathleen Zingaro Clark gave a presentation on Bucks County Inns and Taverns at our November 2024 meeting.



Thinking Spring - Flowers, Stokes Garden

Saturday April 12th, 10 a.m. to Noon- with lunch

Anyone feeling the need to get outside and into the garden? Join us at Stokes on April 12. The garden needs some spring cleaning, to get ready for the season. All help appreciated. This year we are planning to add a wildflower garden.

Pat DeWald

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Friday coffee at Stokes will resume Friday April 4. Hours are 10 a.m. until Noon.

FREE ACCESS TO PENNSYLVANIA RECORDS ON ANCESTRY

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx>

Past years' issues of our Newsletter are available on our web site. www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

"Our Lost Tohickon Valley" and "Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer" are available as E-Books on Amazon

PRINT VERSIONS

"Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer" is available at Stokes Headquarters, Haycock Township Building, and Margie Fulp

"Our Lost Tohickon Valley" is available at Sines 5&10, Stokes Headquarters, Haycock Township Building, The Treasure Trove in Perkasio, and Margie Fulp

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MEETINGS

March 20, 2025: 7 p.m. "The Haycock Historical Society Environmental Enrichment Program." Presentation by **Marla Burke**. After completing the book "Haycock Township - Through Nature's Lens," the Haycock Historical Society decided to create an "Environmental Enrichment Committee" and direct the proceeds from the book to help enhance our local environment. Marla Burke, the author of the book, will explain some of the things that have already been accomplished by the committee, along with other ideas for the future.

April 17, 2025: 7 p.m. "Outlaws in the Underworld-The Doan Gang in Bucks County- Loyalists, traitors, murderers, and thieves." Presentation by **Clint Flack**, Exhibit Specialist at the Mercer Museum.

May 15, 2025: 7 p.m. TBA

Third Thursday meetings are held at the Haycock Community Center, formerly the Haycock Elementary School, at Old Bethlehem Road and Sawmill Road, in Applebachsville. The meeting room is Community Room West.

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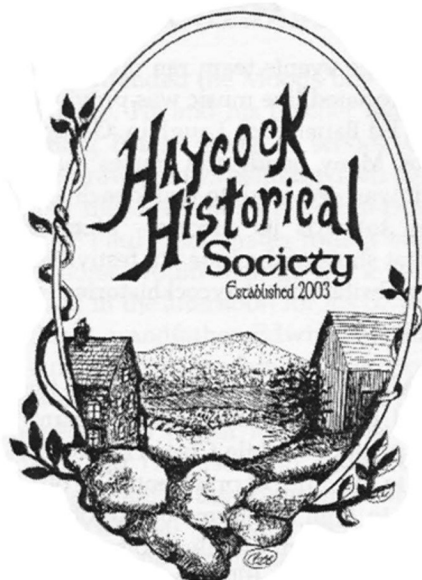
Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (267-772-0711) or margiefulp@gmail.com

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AN INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

YES, ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

I WANT TO BE PART OF RECLAIMING OUR HISTORY AND PRESERVING IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

- ☐ **Individual Membership - \$20/year**
Receive quarterly newsletter and attend all special functions this year – Jan. thru Dec.
- ☐ **Family Membership (Parents & Children in household) - \$30/year**
Receive quarterly newsletter and attend all special functions this year – Jan. thru Dec.
- ☐ **Corporate Sponsor - \$100/year**
Gain advertisement in our newsletter by yearly sponsorship (ad size smaller than business card)
- ☐ **Corporate Patron - \$200/year**
Gain advertisement in our newsletter by yearly sponsorship (ad is full business card size)
- ☐ **Lifetime Individual Membership - \$200**
Receive honorary lifetime status, receive quarterly newsletters and attend all special functions
- ☐ **Lifetime Household Couple Membership - \$250**
For just \$50 more, join as a household and enjoy all the benefits of lifetime membership

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ADDRESS _____

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PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

SEND APPLICATION ALONG WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO:

P.O. Box 715, Quakertown, PA 18951