

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Spring 2025

THE PHILLIPS FARM

by

Alfred Werner

The Phillips farm was the last farm on the eastern end of Mink Road. Although in Bedminster Township, it was an integral part in *Our Lost Tohickon Valley-Haycock Township-Bucks County-Pennsylvania*. The Phillipses spent a majority of their time in New York. Mr. Phillips was a carpenter and Mrs. Phillips was an author. Their two sons loved the farm and spent much of their summers there.



Large Stone barn, silo and wagon shed demolished for Nockamixon State Park

Photo courtesy of the Historical Society of Hilltown

My parents, James and Elfriede Werner, were the caretakers of the 60 (my guess) acre successful dairy farm from 1951 through 1959. A young couple, with a young family, starting out in life, they were recommended to the Phillipses by their current employer and close friend Mrs. Walsh. And that's another story we'll get back to.

We lived in the small, stone caretaker's house. The farm had a large stone farmhouse with a recent addition connecting it to the old stone summer kitchen. The house had two large porches, one in the front and one in back by the summer kitchen entrance. There was a large stone barn with a silo and many other frame outbuildings. These outbuildings contained garages for autos and farm machinery, chicken coops, turkey pens and a workshop for Mr. Phillips. The property had a small spring fed pond, a root cellar and a spring house.

My dad tended to a herd of about 50 golden Guernsey cows. They required two daily milkings and lots of feed. Needless to say, we rarely left the farm for extended periods of time. The golden Guernsey were an expensive breed that my dad always told me should have been escape artists. I remember many a time chasing them all over the neighborhood. A very docile breed, they would always follow "Ellie," our lead cow, and head back to the barn with us. The buttery rich milk was picked up daily and delivered to Lehigh Valley Dairy in Allentown. My dad grew hay, wheat, straw and corn. We had some chickens. Once or twice during the year we had turkeys. We also tended a family garden which supplied the Werners and the Phillipses with vegetables.

I always had pets and can't remember not dragging them around the farm with me. Dogs and cats were always present on the farm but my dad was always gathering odd critters. I scaled trees to gather up baby crows, horned owlets and other birds. We would give most of them to a dentist in Perkasio. We also gave him a litter of 5 kits (foxes) we dug up after my father shot the mother while she was raiding the chicken coop.

This leads me to my most interesting pet. "Sweet Pea" was a skunk my father had de-scented. She acted like a cat. We kept her in the old turkey house. We added a caged



Phillips house

Photo courtesy of the Historical Society of Hilltown

runway but she loved to follow us around the farm. I would sneak out of the house before my mother woke up for the day and get Sweet Pea out of her pen and head for the barn. Dad was already milking the cows and he would often find Sweet Pea and me in the feed room sitting atop the molasses laden burlap feed bags. We really loved that molasses. Sweet Pea loved human contact and would snuggle up to anyone. She developed a love for the driver from Lehigh Valley Dairy. One day I forgot my duty of watching Sweet Pea. She managed to hideaway in the cab of the Dairy truck. Unbeknownst to all of us she took a ride to Allentown. When we couldn't find her later that morning, my father read me the riot act for not tending my pet. It was my fault she "ran" away. The ride must have scared her because she hid even as the driver left his truck. I still can't imagine what all the drivers thought when they arrived for work the next day. Sweet Pea was sitting on the dashboard of the truck. Our driver was heckled and had to explain her origins. She was returned to us unharmed and a lot less adventurous.

enjoyed the creek. We'd hike to the many scenic overlooks on the surrounding banks which rose rapidly from the creek.



Jimmy, Rosemary and Alfred with their mother Elfriede

The Mrs. Walsh referred in this recollection was better known as Pearl Buck. Only when I was in junior high school did I find out the woman I had known as Mrs. Walsh was a Nobel Prize winning author. I played basketball in her barn until I left for the University of Maryland in 1968.



Picnic by the barn



The Caretaker's House

I loved playing with my cars and trucks in the fine gravel of our driveway. My brother Jimmy and I would build forts in the hayloft. We all would go to the silo to inhale the fermenting silage. I loved playing with all the animals. I would enjoy swimming in the pond with Jimmy and my sister Rosemary. We also went fishing for sunnies and bass in the pond. I loved hiking to a cabin on the Tohickon Creek. My father had helped build a dam just downstream of that cabin. The neighborhood kids, the Platzes, Godlewskis, Aspinalls, Flecks and Sawyers were all frequent visitors to the little swimming hole created by that dam. The Phillipses adopted (from Mrs. Walsh's Welcome House program) an Amerasian daughter, Mitsuko, who also

My father would fish the creek. He had favorite spots and would often take me along, sometimes by car, sometimes by foot and even sometimes by tractor. I enjoyed going to the “pickerel pond” near Sterner’s Mill. My father would leave us the with some neighborhood kids at the swimming hole behind the Weisel Youth Hostel. I think the “hole” was created for Camp Kahagon which was just across the creek from the hostel. These trips usually began or ended at Mary Malacks. Mary served the best ice cream and sandwiches at her small shop on Old Bethlehem Road.

I attended St. John the Baptist church and elementary school. The school was across the street from the church on Haycock Run Road.



Mitsuko Phillips

My father met with the Army Corps of Engineers to review the dam location. He recommended moving it to the spot where they had built the small dam just years earlier. The Corps eventually relocated the dam close to that spot.

The State bought the Phillips property. The Phillipses sold the cattle and closed the farm and the Werners were headed to Quakertown. My parents, my brother Jimmy, my sisters Rosemary and Helen and I were to begin the next chapter of our lives.

But I was to return to my beloved “homestead” a few years later as a counselor for the Quakertown YMCA day camp with Mrs. Jane Stover. The dwellings as well as many of the outbuildings were still standing. Most of the buildings have since been removed. I believe only the original farmhouse remains. Reliving the memories of my early childhood was exhilarating.

I developed my love and understanding of nature here. That love of the outdoors along with the love of nature would lead to my life long career as a Professional Lands Surveyor and sportsman.



**TREE
SWALLOW**

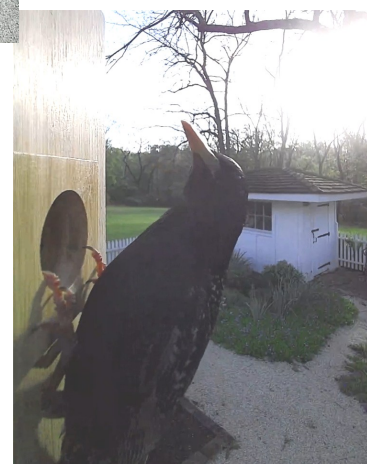
**EASTERN BLUE
BIRD**



HOUSE WREN

STARLING

**VISITORS TO THE
STOKES HOUSE
GARDEN THIS
SPRING**



Creating an Environmental Enrichment Committee

This past year, the Haycock Historical Society and Haycock resident Marla Burke created the new book *Haycock Township - Through Nature's Lens*. The book contains 72 photographs with write-ups for each photo depicting the beauty that we have locally. It was then decided what better way to honor the beauty in our area then to give back to nature locally. That is when the Environmental Enrichment Committee was created. The committee will oversee the profits from the book to support local groups, organizations, and individuals that want to improve the welfare of nature, along with sharing information that may enhance or support nature locally. So far, we have added several Bluebird boxes, an owl box, and a Kestrel box to the grounds of the Stokes house near Lake Towhee. We will also be adding some Bluebird houses around the Haycock Community Center. The largest accomplishment to date has been the purchase of an eighteen-gourd Purple Martin tower.

On March 24, 2025, Colin Monahan, the gentleman that oversees the Purple Martin towers at Nockamixon State Park, along with his adorable daughter Freyja and friend Michael McCartney, brought the new tower to the marina and began the installation. The hole had to be dug by hand which was no easy task. The base was then placed in the ground and cement was added to secure the structure. Once dried, the large pole was placed onto the base and secured to it. The hooks were added and after Pat DeWald and Marla Burke added numbers and doors to the gourds, they were placed onto the hooks and the dwelling was raised up off the ground. The doors will remain closed until the Purple Martins begin to return so that other types of birds will not try to build a nest in them. Following the migration of the birds from an online app allows them to know when they have arrived in this area. Once they have returned, the doors will be removed, and the gourds will start to fill with families. That is when the fun begins. The sounds, the acrobatic flying, the ability to catch food out of the air, are some of the incredible things you can witness. If you get a chance, come down to the marina, take a stroll around the area and see the Purple Martin towers along with the beauty that we are graced with every day.

If you would like to buy a book for yourself or for a gift for someone else, stop by the township building to pick one up. Not only will you see some of the stunningly beautiful moments that have presented themselves in our area, you will also be supporting future moments like those seen in the book to continue to occur.

Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy, Beautiful Summer.

The Environmental Enrichment Committee.



“Nature’s Notes”

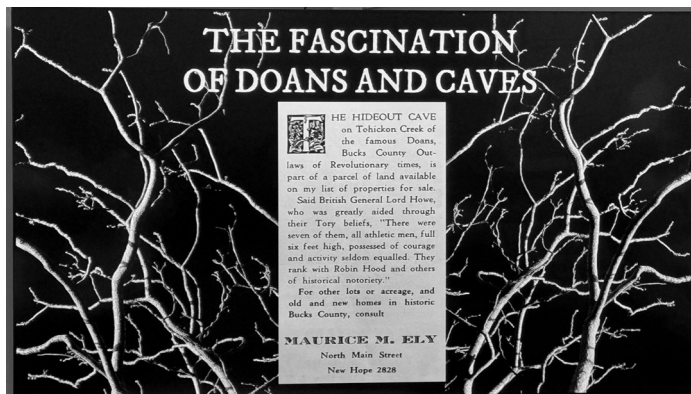
On behalf of Hummingbirds, PLEASE use only white sugar when creating nectar for a feeder. No organic or raw or brown sugar. No powdered sugar, no honey or molasses or artificial sugar. And no toxic red coloring. Mix 1 part plain white sugar (which is most like the actual flower nectar) to 4 parts water.

Change the mixture every few days. The use of other types of sugar will cause fungal spores to germinate on the Hummingbirds tongue or in their gullet, making it unable to retract their tongue. They will die because they can no longer feed. If you find that you cannot follow these guidelines, please do not put out any feeders as you will do more harm than good.

~Thank you~

Kind Earth Growers
2503 Mountain View Dr.
Ottsville, PA 18942

Kind Earth Growers, wholesalers and experts on native plants, will open their doors to the public on June 14th and June 15th, 2025, from 10am to 3pm to celebrate National Pollinator Week. They will offer garden kits and have native perennials on hand for retail purchase. Please help support our pollinators and the vital role they play in our ecosystem.



THANK YOU

Thank you, **Marla Burke** for donating this glider which is now in use at the Stokes House.



Marla Burke presented the Environmental Enrichment Committee at our March meeting.



Clint Flack presented his program on the Doans and their caves at our April meeting.

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
presents:

Tools, Toys & Other Old Treasures

SUNDAY, June 8 1-4 PM

on the grounds of historic Stokes House -
1299 Apple Road, Applebachsville, (Quakertown), Pa.
(RAIN OR SHINE)

Bring the family and explore history by viewing old collections and listening to the stories the owners tell. You may see the old engines or the tools of our ancestors. How about dolls, toys, trains and games that kept the kids busy WAY before the internet? See amazing old postcards and vintage magazines---even older, see tools of the indigenous Lenape tribe, old muskets and knives. New collections continue to be added!

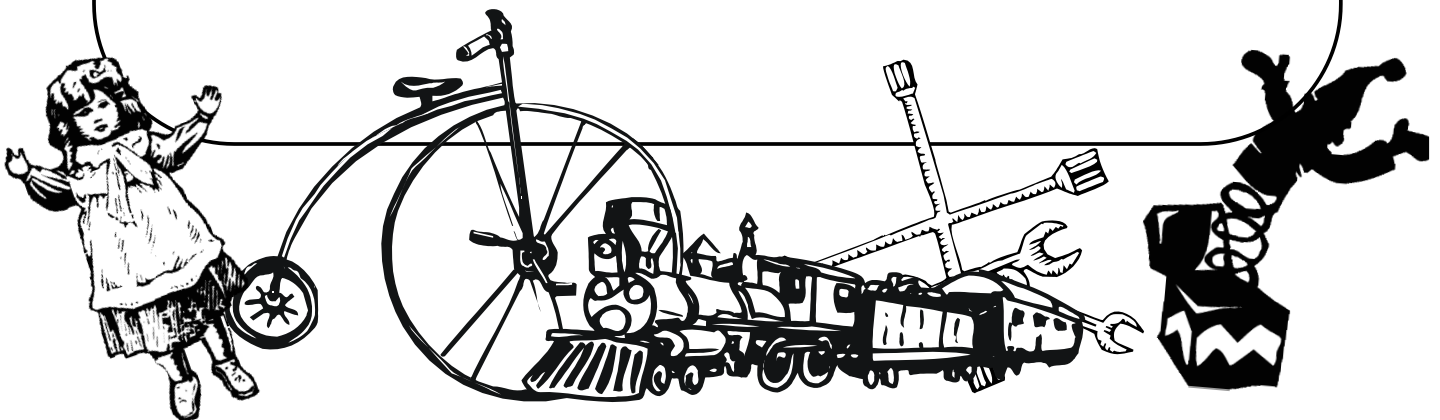
P.S.: Be sure to check out the old Stokes house museum room filled with local artifacts. Stroll the grounds to see the recreated Colonial Garden!

Done exploring? Sit a spell and enjoy lunch.

PICNIC LUNCH SERVED - \$5/person

Includes: Hot Dog or Burger, choice of picnic salads, desserts and beverages

We hope you'll leave having learned something new from seeing old treasures and listening to the stories collectors tell!



FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Friday coffee at Stokes will continue each Friday from 10 a.m. until noon, until the end of October. Members and visitors are all welcome.

Haycock One-Room-School Reunion

For those who attended a one-room-school in Haycock-Township. **August 23, 2025:** Noon to 4 p.m. Potluck lunch at Noon—Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Will be held St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Applebachsville

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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405 Farm Lane, Doylestown, PA 18901



MEETINGS

September 18, 2025: 7 p.m. To be announced

October 16, 2025: 7 p.m. To be announced

November 20, 2025: 7 p.m. To be announced

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.

OFFICERS

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Treasurer:	Charles Fulp	chasfulp@gmail.com
Ad Hoc:	Joseph Cappella	alleppac@verizon.net
Ad Hoc:	Virginia Cuba	virg917@gmail.com
Ad Hoc:	Chris Handschin	chandschin@verizon.net
Ad Hoc:	Marla Burke	marlaburke@yahoo.com
Ad Hoc:	Andrea Silvestri	asilvestri@haycocktownship.com

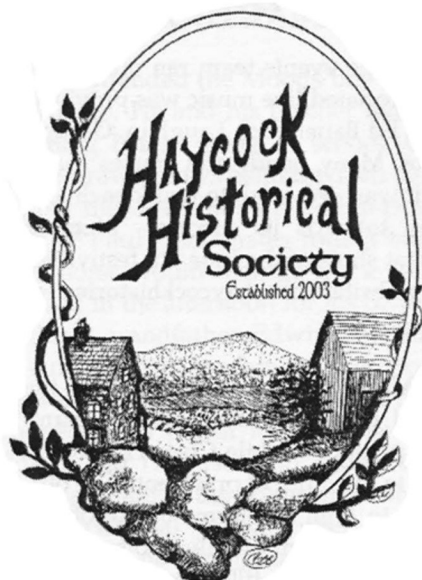
Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (267-772-0711) or margiefulp@gmail.com

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www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

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

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

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

P.O. Box 715, Quakertown, PA 18951