

# HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Winter 2026

## ✧ CORNELIUS SINGER, HIS WIFE HELENA REINBOLD ✧ AND FAMILY MEMBERS

April 1, 1899, to June 25, 1917

By

Karen and Joe Cappella

**Cornelius Singer** and his wife, **Helena Reinbold**, were owners of (1279 Roudenbush Road, Haycock Township) from April 1, 1899 to June 25, 1917. Cornelius was born December 23, 1852, and died on October 6, 1931, and Helena was born in November of 1853 in Pennsylvania and died in 1944. Helena was living in Philadelphia in 1940 as indicated in the census of 1940. The census from 1860 up to 1940 has Helena living in Bucks County, with most of that time being located in Haycock Township. She married Cornelius on January 1, 1875. The 1900 and 1910 census list Cornelius as a farmer and Helena as a dressmaker. Cornelius and Helena are both buried at Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery on Old Bethlehem Road, Applebachsville, Haycock Township.

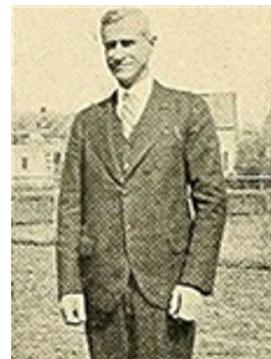
They had three children: Gertrude, Lester Byram, and Wildy Victor.

Gertrude, her nickname was Gerta, was born on September 25, 1873, in Haycock township and died in October 1963. The 1910 census indicates that Gertrude's occupation was as a dressmaker. She married John Henry Sebold in 1911.

Lester Byram was born on August 24, 1883, in Applebachsville and worked as an assistant manager for Woolworth's Department Store, a salesman for a taxi cab company, and a chauffeur for the yellow cab company. He married Luella H (last name unknown). Luella was born in Nebraska in 1886. She died in 1960 and her husband Lester died in 1961.

Wildy Victor Singer was born in Applebachsville, Haycock Township, October 9, 1878. He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in 1903 (John Sommer Stahr was President during this time). Wildy was a member of the Gymnastic team, the Beta Phi Fraternity, the Ivy club, the Football team, the editorial staff of *The College Student*, President of The Goethean Literary Society, an officer of the Democratic Club, a member of the Honor System Senate, and a member of the Debating Team. The Franklin and Marshall 1903 yearbook contains this about Wildy ... *"Here we have a second Plato. This man is a fine example of Before and After taking a wife. His experience as a married man has made him a good debater."* He was also an instructor of Natural Science and English at the Franklin and Marshall Academy. On April 23, 1883, he married Anna Minerva Moyer. They had four children and their first child, Beatrice Lenore Singer, was born on June 12, 1901, while they were living at Franklin and Marshall College. The

Franklin and Marshall 1902 yearbook acknowledged this event in "**The Kindergarten Section**" of the yearbook (a page devoted to recording the births of newborns of Franklin and Marshall students). His 42-year career in the field of education, most of which occurred in the State of New Jersey, included teacher, Superintendent of Public Schools, Supervisor of Practice (State Normal Schools), and Head of the Education Department at the State Teachers College in New Jersey. Anna Minerva died July 1, 1979, in Hackettstown, New Jersey. Wildy Victor Singer date of death and location in unknown



**LEFT:** The headstone of Cornelius and Helena Singer at Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery in Applebachsville, Bucks County. **RIGHT:** A photograph, in the Panzer College 1931 Year Book, of Wildy Victor Singer.

Cornelius Singer was the son of **Simon Singer**, the famous Haycock potter, and his wife, **Rebecca Herstine** (Cornelius worked as a potter with his father for many years). Simon and Rebecca were married in 1849. Simon Singer was born on March 5, 1822, in Baden, Germany, and died on January 16, 1894. Rebecca Herstine was born on October 3, 1830 in Bucks County and died on June 21, 1900. Both Simon and Rebecca are buried at Saint Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church Cemetery, Ferndale, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Their ten children were born between the years of 1850 and 1871.



The headstone of Simon Singer. **RIGHT:** The headstone of Rebecca Herstine Singer.

A historical article published in The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society (Summer 2016), entitled **“OUR MEMBER VIOLET FREEH,”** By Marjorie Goldthorp Fulp reads: “Violet Benner Freeh, our fellow member of the Haycock Historical Society, is the great-granddaughter of Simon Singer, the well-known 1800’s potter of Haycock Township. Violet recalls that her great-grandfather Simon was a member of the Masons, and would walk into Quakertown to attend the lodge meetings. He was the first foreign born member to become the Grandmaster of the Quakertown Lodge. Simon Singer was from Baden, Germany, and immigrated to the United States in 1846. He moved to the German settlements of Bucks County, and into Nockamixon Township, where he worked in the pottery of his future father-in-law, John Herstine Sr.”

On September 21, 2002, a Simon Singer Redware plate sold at the Pook and Pook auction for \$9,200.

Simon Singer is listed in the Haycock 1871 Business Directory as a Potter and also as the Secretary of the Applebachville School Board. John Sommer Stahr was the teacher at the Applebachville School, and then at the Applebachville Seminary from 1858-1865, and his brother, Isaac Sommer Stahr, was the teacher at the Applebachville Seminary from 1869-1875. It is noteworthy that Wildy Victor Singer attended Franklin and Marshall as well as graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in 1903. John Sommer Stahr was President of the college during this time period. The Singer family and the Stahr family must have had a long, positive relationship while living in this community.

Simon worked with John Bigly in Nockamixon Township and then purchased the Conrad Mumbour pottery on June 1, 1863, at a sheriff’s sale for \$2,500. Simon Singer became known for his elaborately inscribed slip decorated plates. When Simon died on January 16, 1894, three of his sons, Cornelius, Edward, and Milton jointly ran the business for approximately a year and then sold it to two of their other brothers.

Information written on the Landis Valley Museum website states that “Pennsylvania Germans elevated redware from utilitarian household tools to works of art through the use of slipware and sgraffito decoration. They brought these techniques from Germany and passed them down over generations. **Slipware** was a technique of decorating or covering a piece with different colored clay. Slip, or watered-down clay, was used in a variety of colors, including cream, red, or dark brown. A slip

cup was used to quickly apply linear designs onto the pieces using hollow quills that protruded from the bottom of the cup. The potter would then press the slip decoration into the piece using a rolling pin. **Sgraffito (incised) decoration** was created by using a sharp tool to scratch through the white or yellowish slip that was applied to the piece revealing the red clay underneath. The whole plate would then be covered with a clear lead glaze. A **clear, glassy lead glaze** was added to the pieces to make them waterproof since redware is very porous. The soft clay body did not combine with the hard glaze, so the glaze would often craze and crack as the fired pieces cooled in the kiln. The glazes were sometimes colored with **mineral oxides**, creating the colors you see. Oxides could also be added directly to the surfaces of the objects under a clear glaze to create various colored areas. Different oxides created different colors: iron for brown, copper for green, cobalt for blue and manganese for purple or a blackish brown. “



**LEFT:** Red earthenware, white slip decoration, lead glaze, 12 7/8 inch diameter, with a height of 2 1/2 inches, Simon Singer Redware Plate, made in Haycock Township, inscribed “This dish is made over the pattern of 1810 in Haycock, 1886 for H.H.Youngkim, S.Singer Pa”, in green slip incised verso, “Appleboxville, Bucks, Co. Pa”, and labeled verso “Appleboxville June 20, 1887, Henry Youngkim to M.H. Herbins for medical services - \$21.00 received payment in full M.H.Hervins”. This was a gift from Edwin Atlee Barber to the Philadelphia Museum of Art,

Provenance: Kahn Collection; Pennsylvania German collection, Accession Number 1894-270. **CENTER:** 12.75” diameter, Simon Singer plate with an inscription of “M. Singer Applebachville Bucks Co Penna” in the Collection of John Kolar. **RIGHT:** 13.25” Diameter Simon Singer plate in the Collection of the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.



**LEFT:** “Simon Singer, Bucks County, Pa Redware” - - Lot 124 - - July 19, 2014, Stoneware Auction, Crocker Farm, Inc. auction. **CENTER:** 19th C. PA Redware loaf dish with slip decoration, attributed to Simon Singer. 13.5” L x 9.75” W x 3”

H, John H. Rogers Antiques. **RIGHT:** Redware Charger with Copper Slip Flying Bird Decoration, inscribed "Charles Laubach / Durham PA / 1810 Pattern / **Singer Bros.**," Haycock Township, Bucks County, PA origin, late 19th century, with coggled edge, the interior profusely-decorated in copper slip with a flying bird above the inscription "Charles Laubach / Durham Pa / 1810 Pattern / **Singer Bros.**". Excellent size, color, and condition. This dynamic charger appears to be the finest example of Singer Pottery to come to auction in many years. This plate appears to be essentially unused, and survives in remarkable, near mint condition with a shallow 5/8" chip to exterior of rim and a miniscule nick to coggling. Diameter 12 7/8". *Crocker Farm, Inc. auction July 19, 2014 Stoneware Auction. Price Realized: \$8,625.00 (From Crocker Farm, Inc. website)*



In addition to turning pottery on the wheel, Pennsylvania German potters adopted the English method of forming a shallow plate by draping a rolled slab of damp clay over a convex mold. After shaping, this plate was left to firm up before glazing. The work of the potter fit into the agricultural calendar. The clay was dug in the fall: topsoil was cleared and a foot-deep layer of clay was sliced and shoveled into a wagon, hauled to the pottery, and stacked. Before freezing weather, the clay was carried in baskets and dumped into a mill – a round tub with a revolving post set with blades. A horse harnessed to a sweep walked slowly around the tub, turning the blades. Water was flushed through to clean the clay and the resulting mass of plastic earth turned gray to yellow. The clay was then shaped into one-hundred-pound blocks and stored in a cellar where it was kept moist but would not freeze. (Information from Philadelphia Museum of Art website)



By Karen and Joe Cappella

## THANK YOU

### SOURCES:

\*Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society Summer 2016, **"OUR MEMBER VIOLET FREEH "**, By Marjorie Goldthorp Fulp

\*Herstine Family Genealogy

\*Heritage Quest: 1900 census and 1910 census

\*Landis Valley Museum website

\*[A Brief History of Haycock](#), by Thomas Moll and Robert L. Leight, Tohickon Publishing, 2019

\*Crocker Farm, Inc Auction House

\*John H. Rogers Antiques website

\*DEED BOOK 410: pages 342, 343

\*Philadelphia Museum of Art website

\* Franklin and Marshall College archives and yearbook collection: fandm.edu

Thank you to Alicia Getty for donating two William Atkinson paintings. These were given to her by her aunt, Marilyn Gallagher. They originally belonged to her grandparents, Harold and Catherine Knieriem. Harold was a well know well driller from East Rockhill Township.



**IN MEMORY OF**

**John Flynn**

**February 23, 1937—December 11, 2025**

**IN MEMORY OF**

**Charles Isaac**

—

**Kringle At Benner Hall**

**By Chris Handschin**

Our Kringle fundraiser was different this year in a “lemons to lemonade” kind of way. Instead of decorating the familiar great hall of the Haycock Township Community Center, which unexpectedly closed for an indefinite amount of time, we were fortunate to have found space at Benner Memorial Hall in Richlandtown. The expansive hall once served as an indoor basketball court. Teenage Wilt Chamberlain, who would go on to become an NBA basketball all-star, played semi-professionally for the Quakertown Fays at Benner Hall, while attending Overbrook High School in Philadelphia. A few residents still remember attending his games at the hall in the mid 1950’s and following the 7'1" player's rise to fame in the 1960's.

The Richlandtown Borough Council worked with us, offering an exception to their standard rental, just for this year, because of our predicament. The space was nearly twice as much as needed, but spreading out the displays gave visitors ample ability to visit and shop. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Mary Crook, Tohickon Family Campground manager, with an extensive background in catering, agreed to oversee

the food court with amazing selections of home-made soups, chili and quick meals. She reported running out of food on the first day. Our greeters ran out of shopping baskets to hand out that busy Friday opening day as well.

Anne Landis, Quakertown nature and floral watercolorist, was the featured artist and she enjoyed a “front & center” spotlight this year among over 50 other artisans and hand crafters. Tom Schnabel, of Waterfront Blue, was our show coordinator as well as

musicians also offered their best this year with continuous live performances throughout the three-day event.

Kringle has become a time of anticipation and expectation for the Social Events Committee. The team works steadily from September through December, adding much needed help along the way. When it is over, we celebrate and compare. How was it, compared to last year? In 2024, we had two “heavy hitters” with Carolyn Keys fine jewelry and Marla Burke’s book debut, *Haycock Township Through Nature's Lens*. It was a banner year, which we did NOT anticipate topping, with nearly 2000 attendees, yet we DID just that at Benner Hall! 2,140 visitors came, shopped and loved our event. Our fundraiser was a bounding success, many thanks to the hard-working team who goes overboard to make it that way.

# Osprey nest project at Nockamixon State Park

by  
Marla Burke

This past fall, the Environmental Enrichment Committee launched a new and exciting project: coordinating the construction and installation of an Osprey nest at Nockamixon State Park. Before moving forward, the project required approval from the park manager. A meeting was scheduled with Marla Burke from the EEC, Obie Derr, the park’s manager, and Devich Forbotnic, an avid birder and experienced Osprey nest builder. The concept was presented, and everyone in attendance agreed it was a great idea.

The most challenging part of the project was locating and installing a utility pole that was both tall and strong enough, while also being accessible for installation. That is when we reached out to Perkasio Borough and the Perkasio Electric Department. We explained our vision and asked if they might have any used utility poles—still with plenty of life left—that they would be willing to donate to the project.

To our delight, they responded with a “yes,” pending approval from the Borough Council. With fingers crossed, we waited as the council meeting date arrived. The following day, we received wonderful news: not only was the donation approved, but the Perkasio Electric Department also offered to assist with the installation. Since placing a tall, heavy utility pole properly requires specialized equipment and expertise, we were beyond excited.

From the moment the crew arrived at the marina in the park, it was clear how thoughtful and capable they were. They carefully angled the pole just off the ground so the nesting platform could be securely attached. Once the hole was prepared, we watched in awe as they skillfully raised the pole and set it firmly in place. Seeing it standing tall and proud against the sky was truly remarkable. We are so grateful to Perkasio Borough for their support and expertise.

As winter transitions into spring, we will be keeping a close eye on the nest for any signs of activity. We hope the Ospreys find the accommodations to their liking and that new residents will soon be raising a family there.

If you get a chance, head down to the marina at Nockamixon State Park. As you reach the bottom of the hill, look to your left—and let us know if you spot anyone checking out the new digs.



**Assembling the nesting platform**

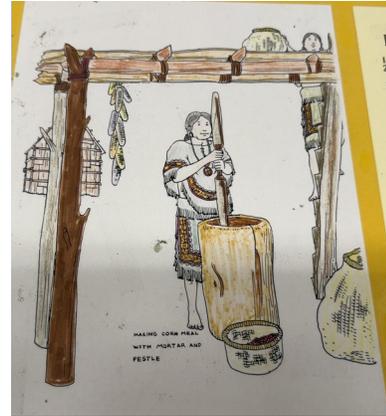


**The crew from the Perkasio Electric Department installing the pole and nesting platform.**



**Carla Messinger**

Our November speaker on Lenape culture



A few of the many items displayed by Carla Messinger at our November meeting.

<https://lenapeprograms.info/>

## FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Friday coffee at Stokes will resume each Friday from 10 a.m. until noon, on April 3, 2026 and continue until the last Friday of October 2026. Members and visitors are all welcome.

## THANK YOU

To the Durham Collective (Ravens Nest) for their generous donation to HHS

## 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](http://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 19, 2026: 7 p.m. Thomas Moll** will present on his new book *Mills on the Tohickon*. A history of the establishment, rise and demise of 41 mill sites along the idyllic Tohickon watershed in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Early settlers in the area constructed grist, fulling, and sawmills in the mid-1700s, and to these were added oil, powder, and clover mills during the next hundred years. Some of the mills were operating into the twentieth century, and many were turned into recreation sites. This is the first work to cover all the mills on the Tohickon and is a companion to *Mills on the Unami*.

**April 16, 2026: 7 p.m. How to Maintain Old Buildings**, by **Michael Cuba**. This presentation will look at common maintenance issues for historic homes and outbuildings and explore appropriate solutions. We will look at examples involving historic masonry, windows, insulation, wood and moisture management.

**May 21, 2026: 7 p.m. The Perkasio Train Tunnel**. Presentation by **Scott Bomboy**. The train tunnel was built in the 1850s. It is 2,150 feet long and took about two and a half years to excavate by means of black powder and hand tools through the Landis Ridge. There were fatalities during the construction and during an expansion to add a second track to the tunnel in the 1800s. The tunnel connects Perkasio and East Rockhill Township.

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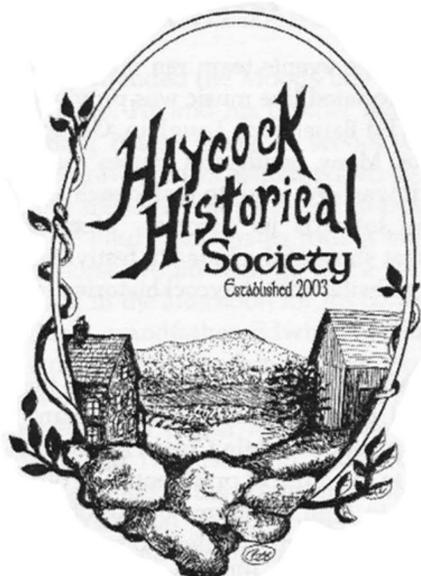
Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (267-772-0711) or [margiefulp@gmail.com](mailto:margiefulp@gmail.com)

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