

# HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Fall 2022

## OUR LITTLEST ELF

By Chris Handschin

Remember those potholder craft-kits that were popular when you were a kid? Can you imagine how such a kit would kindle a lifelong passion for creating? That is the case with our 2022 Kringle Featured Artist, Fran Bast! As I conversed with her by phone from her place in Florida, I asked the typical journalistic question; “When did you start crafting?” The answer was surprising! “I was five years old.” “I made so many potholders that I gave them as gifts to all of my relatives at Christmas, - and it was a big family!”

At barely 5 feet, Fran Bast, our littlest Kringle Elf, (our affectionate moniker for Kringle production teammate) is also a gifted craft vendor, Haycock Historical Society member and a powerhouse of energy. She has been with Kringle since the first show in the private home of our member, Pat DeWald, in 2003. Fran has a natural talent for blending color and design. It has grown along with her sales over the years.

Fran’s early life was spent in Clarks Summit, where she regularly visited her grandparents’ dairy farm nearby. She learned how to crochet from that grandmother and knit from the other. She later moved to Bath in 1973, and Wescosville in the early 1980’s. As a young adult, she would crochet baby outfits and blankets for her friends who were having babies. Along the way, she learned crewel, cross stitch, and dry-floral arranging. One of Fran’s first ventures into selling her work was creating pressed-floral art, using dried and flattened petals, and arranging them in the shapes of bouquets, then gluing them onto silk cloth, preserved under convex glass

frames. These she sold at local craft shows. When silk flowers became popular, she expanded her expertise into silk floral arranging, creating beautiful wreaths, swags, and centerpieces.

By her mid-thirties, then the mother of two small children, she remarried and became part of a blended family of seven and moved to Emmaus, where she lived for 16 years, raising the brood with husband, Roger. The five kids were about the same age, and all got along well. For them, there was always someone to play with.



FRAN BAST

**Kringle Featured Artist 2022**

About that time, she recalls an early work experience, employed by a home accent designer. The job was recreating her boss’s designs again and again to fill orders for the big box retailer, Boscov’s. She grew tired of the repetition and yearned to do her *own* creations and sell them herself. She, along with a handful of like-minded friends, started and operated a successful craft show in a local school gymnasium for many years until she moved to Haycock township. Roger had a home in the Poconos and the family vacationed there regularly, but it was a bit far from the relatives and friends they knew. The couple decided to build a home of their own and began the

search for suitable building sites. Since they both loved the outdoors and fishing, and Roger loved to hunt, and Nockamixon State Park was close to one of the first open lots in a new subdivision called Nockamixon Chase, they thought it the perfect choice. Fran remembers her house was being built during the worst tragedy to happen on American soil, 9-11, sad for all the lost lives but glad to be living in the country.



I asked her how the very popular barnwood Santa figurines came about. One day, while visiting her grandparents' farm, she discovered a gnarled old piece of wood sticking out of the ground. She pulled it up, remembering having seen décor made from found objects. This piece of wood was special. She could instantly envision a Santa face in it, with a long, flowing burgundy gown. She took the weathered board home, washed it and painted it to resemble a rustic Santa. Everyone who saw it loved the figurine and asked where she bought it. She kept that original piece and laughingly adds that it will be part of her children's inheritance! That Santa was the first of many! Soon she was collecting old barnwood from felled sheds and dilapidated barns and making barnwood Santa figures to sell in all different shapes and sizes. The biggest ever is 7' and it sits in her home. She's made other large barnwood figures for gift shops as entryway



greeters. The antique burgundy figures fit with any décor, whether traditional or contemporary. Each is unique and is sure to elicit a smile from onlookers. She reflects though that as people began to discover the value of their old, weathered wood for interior design purposes, it has become more difficult to scavenge but she continues to be on the look-out, sometimes even buying the old wooden boards.

It was shortly after Fran's move to Haycock, serendipitously, that Haycock Historical Society was incorporated in 2003 and began hosting Kringle, which is now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year. Fran was there from the beginning, not only as a participating artisan, but also helping with set-up for days before the show. She seemed to innately know how to make the surroundings beautiful and appealing to the shoppers and remains an asset to the team today. Kringle has run continuously each December for all but one year, 2020 -when the Covid 19 Pandemic limited travelling and gathering in large groups. Visitors never tire of her whimsical figures, and each year her sales get better. That speaks volumes! This diminutive Elf is a veritable dynamo. She is a people-person and truly enjoys the comradery of the group of workers as well as interacting with the customer who have come to know her. **Recognizing her talent and creativity as our featured artist is our long over-due honor.**



Nowadays, Fran divides her time between the couple's home in Florida and the one in Haycock township. Even while in Florida, she is busy finding things to make those Santa figures from. Florida is abundant with palm trees that shed seed pods, particularly from the giant Queen palm and the smaller Pindo palm trees. She has collected those and painted both varieties in the likeness of the jolly, white-bearded symbol of Christmas.



Always looking for new ways to be creative, recently Fran has added jewelry-making to her list of talents. For many years, she has been collecting interesting semi-precious stones and beautiful beads. She brings a complete line of wire-wrapped pendants and bracelets to Kringle. At this life juncture she is a young grandmother of 7 and dealing with Arthritis. Working with smaller pieces seems like a natural fit.



So, it is true! Great things DO come in small packages! You will see our littlest Elf in person on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> this year at Kringle, along with the fabulous works of over 40 juried artists. This year promises to be the best yet!



**SEPTEMBER HHS MEETING**

Our September meeting, Open House at Stokes, featured paintings by local artists, Florence Fluck and William Atkinson





**Sheard's Bridge and Clymer/Sheard's Mill**

This painting by Florence Fluck, was done for Rita Feikels' daughter and loaned to us for the September Open House meeting and Local Artist show. Paintings by Florence Fluck and William Atkinson were featured



**Amadeus Atherholt**

Amadeus Atherholt is the center of this photo. Amadeus is the great-grandfather of Gary Atherholt. Gary's grandfather is on the left. The women are sisters of Gary's grandfather. The home is an old stone house in Applebachsville, largely hidden behind other houses.



**Photo of the hotel in Applebachsville in earlier times.**



**View of Applebachsville House of Amadeus Atherholt**

This photo was taken before houses were built in front of the property.

**THANK YOU**

**Thank you** to Gary Atherholt for the photos of the home of his great-grandfather, Amadeus Atherholt, in Applebachsville, and for the photo of the hotel in Applebachsville in earlier times.





**THANK YOU**

**Thank you** to Todd Zieseniss for the portrait done by his mother, Bonita (Whitham) Zieseniss, of Haycock teacher Florence Fluck. Bonita was a student and good friend of Florence.

**THANK YOU**

**Thank you** to Diane Rathgens for her donation to HHS.



**THANK YOU**

**Thank you** to Jane Cope for pen and ink drawing of Stover Carding Mill. The drawing was done by Jane's uncle, Charles Wehmeyer. The mill, built in 1745 on Stover Mill Road, was demolished in 1970 for Nockamixon State Park.

**Private Sale.**  
 I will sell the following described property, situated in the township of Haycock Bucks county, to wit:—  
**ONE FARM,**  
 bounded by lands of George Landis, Henry Landis, and others, and the township line of Richland, containing 106 acres of land, well proportioned for timber, meadow and plow land in a firm state of cultivation, apple orchard and other fruit trees; the building a dwelling house, and large barn and wagon house, well of water and pump in at the door, two springs of lasting water, a tenants house, &c. One other farm in said township of Haycock, containing 37 acres of land, bounded by lands of Michael Smell, late John Stokes and others, the Old Bethlehem Road, and a daily line of stages passing through the same a good proportion of meadow and plow land, in a high state of cultivation, a large dwelling house, convenient for two families, a large barn with two floors, cider house, and two wells of water and pumps in at the door, large APPLE ORCHARD; and other fruit trees; a tenant house and blacksmith shop. &c. Also, two lots of timber land, for terms apply to the subscriber in Doylestown.  
 WILLIAM STOKES.  
 September 27, 1836.



**Eileen Hockman and Bonnie Gehman**

Owners of the **Treasure Trove** located at 6 South 7th Street in **Perkasie**, presented a program on antiques and treasures which included the appraisal of many items brought by attendees at our October meeting.





**Charles Fulp and freshly painted fence**

Joe Cappella and Charlie Fulp repainted the picket fence and shed at our Stokes garden, in early September.



**Joseph Cappella**

Joe manned the Haycock Historical Society table at the Community Night Out event at the Haycock Community Center.



**June Potluck Picnic**

The June Potluck Picnic at the Stokes House was well attended in spite of the threat of rain. Many guests from the neighborhood were in attendance.



**Brenda Lee and Tom Schnabel  
of Waterfront Blue**

Performed their music at our June potluck picnic.

## **Kringle Christmas Shoppe**

**Friday, Dec. 2, 10:00 - 7:00**

**Saturday, Dec. 3, 10:00 - 6:00**

**Sunday, Dec. 4, 10:00 - 4:00**

Haycock Twp. Community Center

1014 Old Bethlehem Rd. Quakertown, PA

## Kringle Christmas Shoppe

Friday, Dec. 2, 10:00 - 7:00  
Saturday, Dec. 3, 10:00 - 6:00  
Sunday, Dec. 4, 10:00 - 4:00

Haycock Twp. Community Center  
1014 Old Bethlehem Rd. Quakertown, PA

### FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Friday coffee at Stokes will resume in April 2023.

### STORIES WANTED

We are collecting stories from members about what you are doing during the isolation for the COVID 19 pandemic. These stories will be placed on our website under Haycock Stories. Years later the stories will tell how we coped with the situation.

### 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

## CORDES LAW LLC

ANDREW J. CORDES  
Attorney at Law

27 SOUTH STATE STREET  
NEWTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA  
18940  
WEBSITE [cordeslawllc.com](http://cordeslawllc.com)

PHONE 215-968-2248  
FAX 215-968-4568  
E-MAIL [a.cordes@cordeslawllc.com](mailto:a.cordes@cordeslawllc.com)  
E-MAIL [cordeslawllc@gmail.com](mailto:cordeslawllc@gmail.com)

## MEETINGS

March 16, 2023: 7 p.m. to 4 p.m. To be announced

April 20, 2023: 7 p.m. To be announced

May 18, 2023: 7 p.m. To be announced

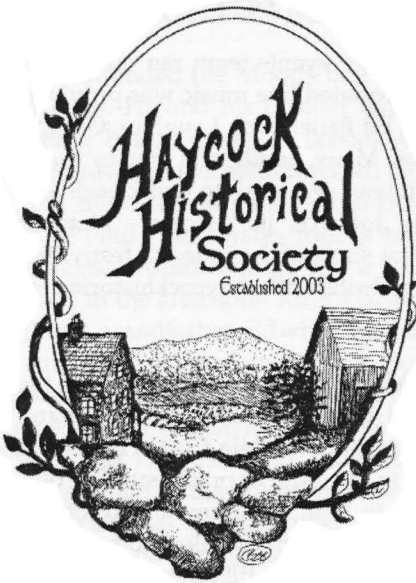
Third Thursday meetings are held at the Haycock Community Center, formerly the Haycock Elementary School, at Old Bethlehem Road and Sawmill Road, in Applebachsville. The meeting room is Community Room West.

## OFFICERS

President:	David Guttman	daveguttman401@gmail.com
V. Pres:	Michael Cuba	michael@transomhpc.com
Secretary:	Nancy Stemler	grandmom42@comcast.net
Treasurer:	Charles Fulp	chasfulp@gmail.com
Ad Hoc:	Pat DeWald	wdewald@verizon.net
Ad Hoc:	Joseph Capella	alleppac@verizon.net
Ad Hoc:	Virginia Cuba	virg917@gmail.com
Ad Hoc:	Chris Handschin	chandschin@verizon.net
Ad Hoc:	Andrea Silvestri	asilvestri@haycocktownship.com

Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (215-257-7472) or [m\\_fulp@hotmail.com](mailto:m_fulp@hotmail.com)

# HHD USA



P.O. Box 715  
Quakertown, PA 18951

[www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org)

### **Kringle Christmas Shoppe**

Friday, Dec. 2, 10:00 - 7:00

Saturday, Dec. 3, 10:00 - 6:00

Sunday, Dec. 4, 10:00 - 4:00

Haycock Twp. Community Center

## **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**