

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Fall 2003

HAYCOCK ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE REUNION

by Sue Kleiner Grew

Dick Landgreen's dedication to the Haycock One Room School House Reunion Group was evident this summer for several Saturdays and a few nights a week as he cut down grasses in the field at the corner of Sawmill and Old Bethlehem roads. He moved rocks and cleared paths to allow access to the place where the reunion will be held this year on September 14th.

His enthusiasm was visible as he discussed how he became involved with the reunion group in 1998. He heard through his brother there was a group gathering and read about it in the *Pennypower*. At the first meeting Dick attended, approximately 10-12 alumni were present.

"I thought it was the greatest thing," he said.

It reminded him of the days when, he said, "They all lived around here.... when you lived in Haycock in those days everybody knew everybody". Dick believes that the foundation of any township or even our country is its education.

1999 was Dick's first year as president and to host the event. The reunion was held at Keller's Church grove. There were covered dishes galore and they played several rounds of the game "cake walk" (it's sort of like musical chairs with prizes), which was a hit with the group. At one of the reunions, they had a contest for oldest married couple of all the alumni. It required an actual count to deter-

mine the winner. The couple married 70 years won out over another who'd been married only 69 years.

The Haycock One Room Schoolhouse Reunion Group has grown over time and there were 54 people at the last gathering.

The first educational institution in Haycock was a subscription school that opened in 1784. By the turn of the century, 6 schools were providing public education in Haycock Township. Five of the school buildings still exist, one having been destroyed to make way for Lake Nockamixon. There were 7 grades in each school and the students sat in rows according to grade level.

"Discipline" and "respect" were the order of the day. Dick attended Applebachville School and recalls with a chuckle that his first teacher Mrs. Werner actually used a rubber hose to enforce the rules. When asked if he ever was on the receiving end of the hose, he replied, "you bet." But lest we tarnish Dick's fine reputation it must also be acknowledged that he earned a certificate for "no absences or tardiness" as a pupil of the one room schoolhouse system.

There will be a collaboration between Haycock One Room Schoolhouse Reunion group and the Haycock Historical Society for the September 14th picnic. Each group has a desire to preserve our history and promote a greater sense of community.



Haycock One Room School House Class Reunion 1999 at Keller's Church Grove.

L to R top row: Pat Cope, Rich Cope, Ken Hoot, Dick Landgreen, Jane Clayton, Sally Keller, Eddie Bauer, Bob Landgreen, John Landgreen, Herman Yeakel, Wayne Keller. L to R bottom row: Betty Kiniuk, Ginny Bauer, Doris Miller, Pat Harmer, Bonnie Whitman, Esther Yost, Clem Peischel, Carol Ahlum.

LIFE IN THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL

by Jane Nase



Just finished the farm chores and now it is time to gather your brothers and sisters and walk to school. The schools were run by the township and situated within walking distance of the farms in rural America.

Students from 5 to 15 years old were taught in one classroom. Some schools had as many as 50 students. The younger students would sit up front and the older students in the back of the room.

The teacher would ring the bell to start school. Chores, such as bringing in the coal and wood for the stove were an important job at the start of the day. Once chores were finished, opening exercises would include the Pledge of Allegiance, the Lord's Prayer, singing songs and the reading of several Bible verses. Displaying the flag on the porch was another chore for the students.

English and reading were taught in the beginning of the day. The younger students were called "up front" for recitation while others did seat work. This process continued until all groups of students had their lesson with the teacher.

During lunchtime, which was an hour, some students walked home for lunch. Others stayed at school, eating lunch quickly so they could play games with their classmates. Since the land surrounding the school was fairly small, usually about a half acre, games were inventive. Kick the wicket was played like kickball with part of a bicycle tire. 'Giggeley Over' or 'Anthony Over' was another game. This would include teams of students on each side of the schoolhouse. One team would throw a ball over the roof and the other team would catch it. With the ball in hand the group would run to the other side and try to tag the other team members with the ball. If the person was captured, then he would play with the other team until all were

caught. If the school were situated near the woods, some would explore the woods at recess.

Arithmetic was taught in the afternoon by the same process as the morning with students coming "up front" for the lesson. Students completed problems on the chalkboard.

Other subjects such as geography, history, health and hygiene were studied, but not as often. The arts and music were not formally studied in one-room schools.

Some form of a competition "bee" was used as part of any lesson, such as a spelling bee or geography bee identifying states and capitals. Being able to hear what the other students were being taught was helpful. If you were unsure about a concept, it provided a review and a preview of what was to come the following year.

Graduation from the eighth grade was a major accomplishment. All the eighth graders in the township would take an all-day examination. If the students passed the examination, a diploma would be issued in an elaborate graduation ceremony. Some students would decide to go on to junior high in town, others to work or back to chores on the farm.

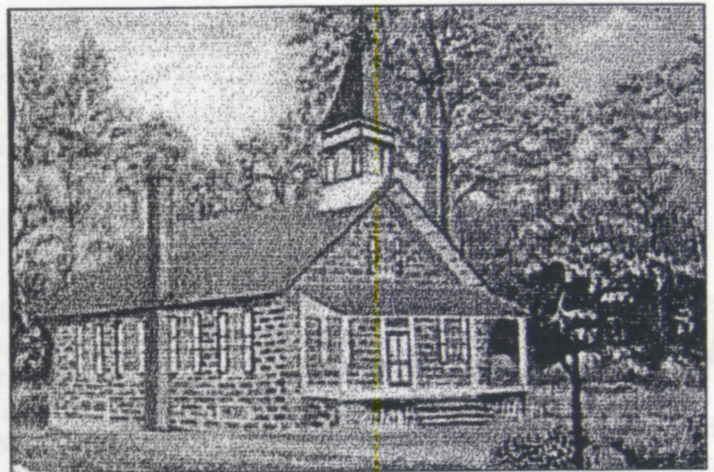
Most students from one-room schools enjoyed their schooling. A sense of family was evident. Most students took pride in the building and helped with the upkeep. Many helped each other with their studies. A strong foundation in the basic skills was established.

A special thank you to Dr. Robert Leight who attended a one room school and shared this information with me. He is also a co-author of a book on this subject, 'Country School Memories; An Oral History of One-Room Schooling'.

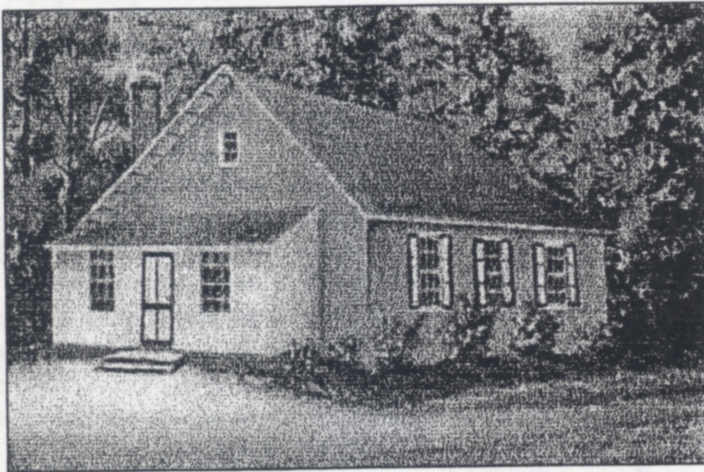
HAYCOCK'S ONE ROOM SCHOOLS



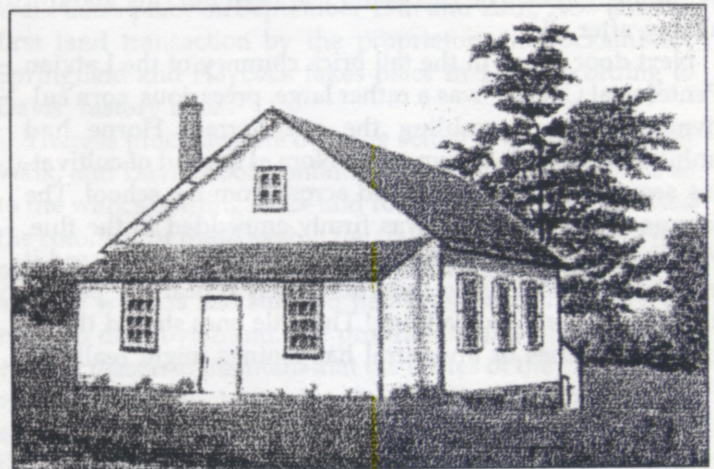
Applebachville School
Old Bethlehem and West Sawmill Roads



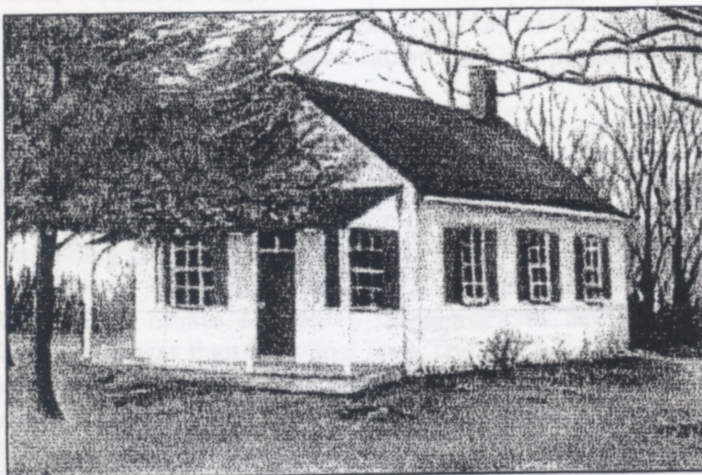
Stover's School
Old Bethlehem Road and Route 563 (now Cappie's)



New Harrisburg School
Harrisburg School Road



Mt. Airy School
Thatcher and Creamery Roads



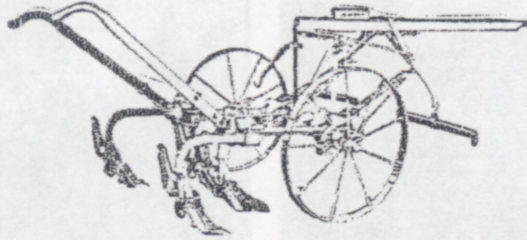
Dunlap School
Roundhouse and Stoney Garden Roads



Hickory Grove School
In the area which is now Lake Nockamixon

HILLSIDE TALES – THE PRANK

by Chris Handschin



Old Bethlehem Road bends ever so slightly as it catches up with the intersection at Sawmill. But from that intersection, you can see it all unfolding.

The bell rings and a rag-tag brigade of kids spills out of the small gray stone school onto the dusty crossroads, glad to be on their way home, even if it means a mile walk on that crisp October day. And that's just the way it was one day, back in the 1930s. Only a stone's throw north of the school, a splinter group stops to gape at the strange sight before their eyes. The classroom had been buzzing about it all day, after all.

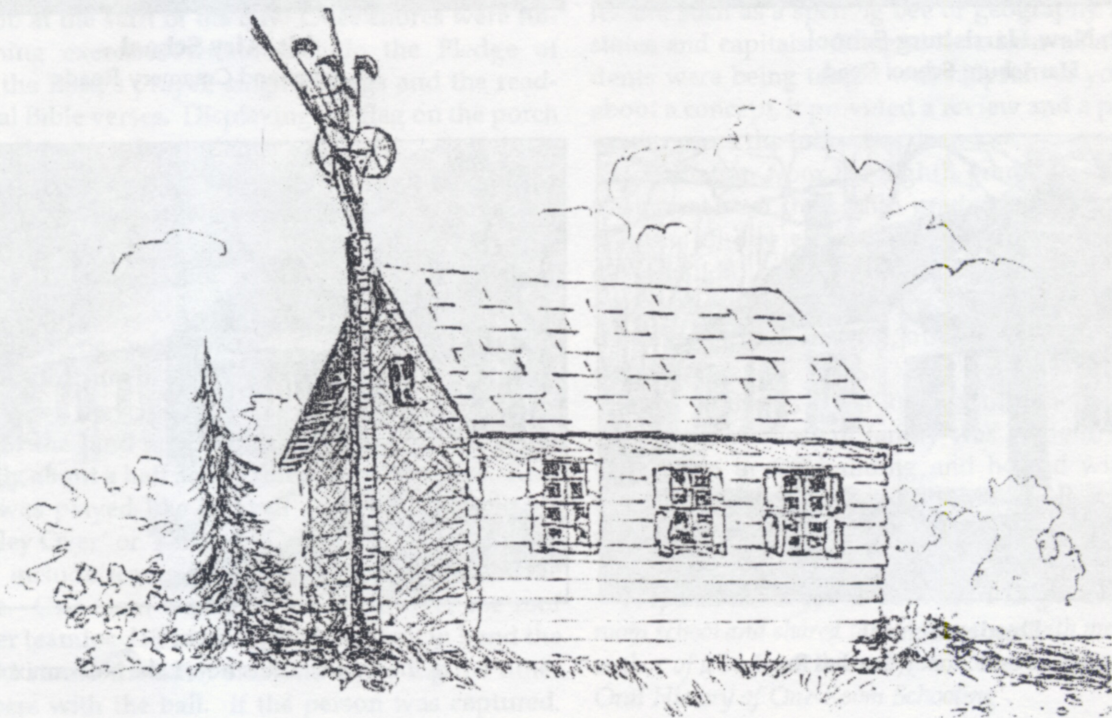
Next door, stuck in the tall brick chimney of the Latvian Pentecostal Church was a rather large, precarious corn cultivator, oddly resembling the one Farmer Horne had unhitched from his brown mare, Nora at the end of cultivating season and left in the field across from the school. The tongue of the cultivator was firmly embedded in the flue. Was there a freak windstorm that picked it up and tossed it ever so methodically in the flue? Surely no earthly person could have done such a thing! The little ones started thinking those stories of unnatural happenings might really be

true, and worse yet, going on right here in Applebachsville!

There were a few in that group who knew, though. The rest just shook their heads in amazement at how this 150 pound mechanical monster could have ended up in the chimney in perfect shape.

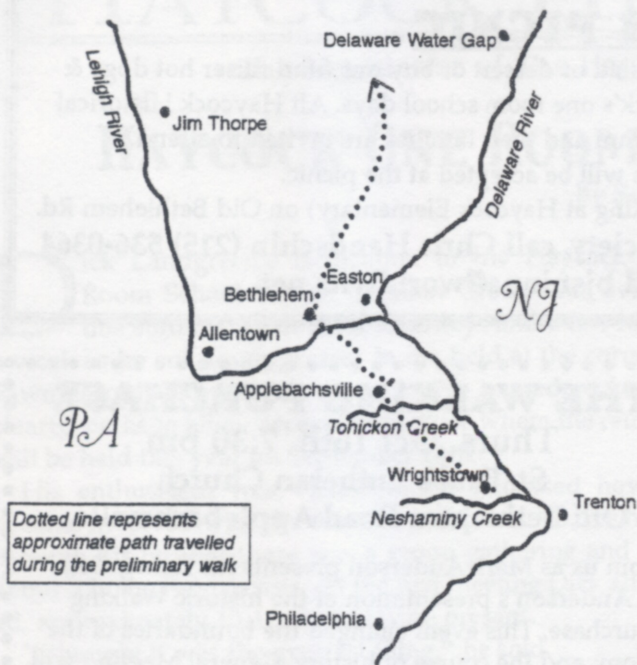
'Course, we'll never really know how it got there. The point was, it WAS there. Bigger than....well, bigger than life! There are a few folks around who can tell you the whole event was a very big deal. The police came right into little Applebachsville School and hauled the culprit away. There was a harsh whipping to follow at home, but HE'D DONE IT! And the feat would live on into the next century because, surely I am writing about it now! Kind of funny how you do one prank like that and folks remember it forever, even if they forget about you.

For those of you who might want to know what Elvin Horne's cultivator looked like, I dug up this picture for you. Old Nora would drag it around behind her while Elvin walked behind, holding the handles as it ripped up the weeds on either sides of the young corn plants, row after row, all day, in the hot sun. What a job! So you can see why ?? put it where he did.



DID THE WALKING PURCHASE WALK THROUGH HAYCOCK?

by Beth Kerdock



In the 1730's, William Penn's sons claimed to have discovered a "Lost Treaty" which gave ownership to the Indian land from Wrightstown to the north "as far as a man can go in one day and a half" or what is today, Jim Thorpe.

Penn was the first proprietor of Pennsylvania, which means he got the development rights from England to acquire land from the Indians, survey land, sell land and create townships. When he left the state and later died, his sons and associates inherited the right of proprietorship.

In 1735, while negotiations with the Lenapes were going on, the proprietors decided to prepare for the Great Walk by doing a preliminary walk without the Indians' knowledge. For nine days in April a trail was blazed and marked for the official walkers to follow.

Using citations from the notebook of John Watson, Davis' History of Bucks County maintained that the preliminary walk:

- started in Wrightstown
- went north along Durham Road to a point in Bedminster
- went to Haycock Mountain which Indians called Catatuning Hill
- followed Tohickon Creek to the Applebachsville area (then called Stokes Meadow), up along Old Bethlehem Road which was then the Minsi Trail. The Minsi Trail would have taken them through Northampton County and northeast into present day Carbon County.

And why did they go that way? By 1735 most of the Bucks County townships were established, or had been subject to formal land transactions. Formal land sales could not take place until the proprietorship had legal right to sell the land. The exceptions were Haycock, Springfield and

Nockamixon. Tincum was being settled but was still referred to as an Indian Township. In Davis' chapter on Tincum Township he states: "Teedyuscung, the great Delaware Indian king, frequently declared the Tohickon (Creek) to be the northern limit of the white man's country, and that the land to the north of it had been taken from them fraudulently."

This means that at the time of the preliminary walk the townships north and east of the Tohickon Creek, with the exception of Durham which was covered in a separate treaty due to the iron works, would have been Indian Territory. The proprietorship would have had an important vested interest in protecting the land claim to these townships (Springfield, Haycock and Nockamixon). The route chosen for the preliminary walk would have protected the claims to these townships while following established roads and trails. It should be noted that the Great (or Official) Walk takes place on September 19th and 20th, 1737 and the first land transaction by the proprietors in Nockamixon, Springfield and Haycock takes place in 1737, according to Davis' history book.

There is much dispute over the actual course of the Great Walk, and Davis' book contains many conflicting reports as to the walk's starting place and route. The Lenapes accused the colonists of fraud saying the trail used in the Great Walk of 1737 had been marked in the preliminary walk of 1735 and the walkers had run and had eaten their meals 'on the run'. To disprove fraud, the proprietors and their supporters had reason to maintain that the routes of the preliminary walk were different from the Great Walk and that the walkers had stopped for meals. To have changed the course of the trail marked by the preliminary walk would seem to have been against the proprietors' best interest, unless circumstances (like weather) on the day of the Great Walk warranted it.

Much information about the Walking Purchase and early Bucks County comes from Davis' book, *History of Bucks County*, written in 1884. General Davis came from old Bucks Co. families and was a hero of both the Mexican and Civil Wars. He established the Bucks County Historical Society, and due to his rank and lineage had access to many private letters and documents unavailable to others. Most local histories written in the 19th century involved subscribers who, for a fee, would have family histories written. This allowed the historian to gather more information for the general history as well as defray the costs. Davis, like his contemporaries, took an archival approach to local history, the emphasis was on collecting as much information as possible, sometimes hearsay, sometimes conflicting, all recorded with the knowledge that future information may prove one version over another. Editing of the time also tended to scatter relevant information throughout the text, so that a person referred to in an event in one chapter, may be more fully described in another.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH • 1pm

(NOTICE: DATE OF EVENT WAS CHANGED TO THE 14TH)

HAYCOCK ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE REUNION & HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COVERED DISH PICNIC

Music, Hayrides & Memories! Bring your favorite casserole, salad or dessert or buy our fund raiser hot dogs & drinks, grab your lawn chair and share in the history of Haycock's one room school days. All Haycock Historical Society Members, Haycock One Room School House Alumni and their families are invited to attend.

(For non-members, membership applications will be accepted at the picnic.)

To be held at the field opposite Haycock Elementary School (parking at Haycock Elementary) on Old Bethlehem Rd.
For information or to join the Haycock Historical Society, call Chris Handschin (215) 536-0364
or Beth Kerdock (215) 538-1807 e-mail bjsninpa@worldlynx.net

IN MEMORIAM

A. Eugene Anderson 1916-2003

Sadly, we will miss the friendship and historical research contributions of our friend, Gene Anderson. A successful inventor and researcher in electrical engineering during his professional career, Mr. Anderson had an avid interest in local history in retirement and was a valued member of the Society. Mr. Anderson was awarded the Society's "Local Treasures" award on May 15, 2002, after having given his presentation on "The Mystery of Haycock's Rocks."

Mr. Anderson had been preparing a presentation for the Oct. 16th general meeting on the "Walking Purchase." Gene's son, Mark Anderson, will be honoring his father's efforts by presenting for him.

HISTORY OF FRAKTURS

Thurs. Nov 13th 7:30 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Old Bethlehem Road, Applebachsville

Mr. Ron Trauger will present a colorful slide presentation on the origin and history of Frakturs (*Frakturs are elaborately scripted German documents, often illuminated with flowers and pictures, usually celebrating an event such as a baptism, marriage or birth. Many families in the area kept them in family Bibles for safekeeping.*) On today's collectors market, Frakturs can be quite valuable. After his presentation, Mr. Trauger will offer FREE EVALUATIONS! of any Frakturs brought to the meeting and offer to translate the German to English.

THANK YOU

The Haycock Historical Society would like to express its appreciation to Haycock Township. The Township has generously presented the Society with five hundred dollars in start up funds. Our deepest thanks to the Township for its contribution for the preservation of local history.

THE WALKING PURCHASE

Thurs. Oct 16th 7:30 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Old Bethlehem Road Applebachsville

Join us as Mark Anderson presents his father, Gene Anderson's presentation of the historic Walking Purchase. This event changed the boundaries of the colony and the course of history. General Meeting will be held at 7:00.

SOCIETY NEWS

(All the Committees Welcome New Members)

Social Committee

The Social Committee has had a very busy summer. Besides a third hike up Haycock Mt. (to see the rock shelter, thanks again to Joe Fite); a Benny Surket/ Chief One Star lunch was held on July 19th at Emil's Restaurant. Two very colorful characters fondly remembered by many long-term residents, Emil's is the last location that still has a remaining wall painting by Chief One Star. The Committee has also been planning the One Room School Picnic for Sept. 14th. The next social committee meeting will be held August 27th (call Chris Handschin (215) 536-0364 for time and location).

Research Committee

The Research Committee held its last meeting on July 31st. Diane Kelly, who has been studying the art of gravestone rubbings, presented rubbings she had done and explained the process. Joe Fite had pictures of the last Haycock Mt. hike. Chris Handschin shared poems by Chief One Star that were given to the Society by Emil's owner. The next meeting will be Oct. 2nd at 7:00pm. Call Diane Kelly (215) 536-4297 or e-mail rdrdk@juno.com for location and information.

Newsletter Committee

The next newsletter meeting will be held at 7:30 on Thurs. Sept. 18th. Call Beth Kerdock (215) 538-1807 e-mail bjsninpa@worldlynx.net for information and location.

Governing Committee

The next meeting has yet to be established.