

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

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THE MYTH OF ARIANNA MILES

by Sue Kleiner Grew

Myths are usually based on the elaboration of truth, and for the Old Bethlehem Road inn called Arianna Miles, the myths that surround it were born from both the past and present.

Pascale and Kyle McLaughlin, who lived in New York City before buying the inn in 1999, own Arianna Miles. They spoke about how they came to settle in Haycock, the myths that came with the historic inn and the one they created.

Records that came with the inn indicate the building first opened as a 'house of public entertainment' in 1784 and was owned by Michael Stonebach.

In the 1800s, the inn was called the Sign of the Sorrel Horse, but that changed in 1915 when it was purchased by Philip Ahlum who called it the Mountain House.

The name reverted back to Sign of the Sorrel Horse, but later in the 20th century, it became Country-Country when it was owned by Carolyn Maxwell.

For the McLaughlins, their move to the inn began through long talks about wanting to be inn keepers and spending a good deal of time and energy searching for the perfect location.

"It was a snowy, icy day in February," Pascale recalled. And as they made their way on Route 611 they arrived at what she jokingly said, "...seemed like the end of the earth."

Pascale said when they found the inn that was for sale, then called 'Country-Country,' initially it wasn't what they were looking for, so, "We dropped it."

But, as their search continued throughout Pennsylvania she said, "The house kept popping up." Eventually, they bought it in 1999.

Kyle is a trained chef and their idea for the inn revolved around their desire to be with people and for it to serve as a

conduit for people to be with each other in a location that would be relaxing, romantic and intimate.

Once taking ownership, they named it Arianna Miles. Pascale explained the name and shared the two stories of its origins, one being true and the other mythical.

The mythical origin of the name was invented by the couple which she said was done as a gift to their new venture. The tale starts with a vintner returning home after fighting in "The War" and his young daughter, Arianna. Upon his return, he learns that his beloved wife had died, causing him to become so distraught and disillusioned that his friends worried greatly about his future. They encouraged him to seek a new life in America and teach others the skill of wine-making.

Once he and his daughter settled in their new country, the father languishes while Arianna flourishes. She loved everything about her new home and explored her new surroundings tirelessly. One day she met a young Lenni Lenape boy who was the son of the tribal herbalist who taught her "to understand all these wild things" in the woods, especially the herbs such as sassafras and spicebush.

Her father became aware of his daughter's involvement with the Indian boy and became so incensed that he successfully arranged to have the boy murdered. The night Arianna learned the boy had been killed, she saw a hawk circling in the sky above and knew it was his spirit. She spent the rest of her life seeking out herbs to make potions. Arianna drank the potions in an attempt to recapture the way she felt when she was with her young man.

When Arianna died, the myth says that two hawks were seen in the sky that day.

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Old photo of the Mountain House, now Arianna Miles



Present day photo of Arianna Miles by Heather Radick

BROTHERHOOD OF THE UNION (AMERICA)

By Jane Nase

Displayed in the Haycock Township building is a patch embroidered with the Brotherhood of the Union (America) logo. This consists of a globe and capital letters B and A on either side of a globe and the word Applebachsville on it. This patch is a part of American history and some Haycock residents were involved in a secret society in the early 1800s. The secret society, the Brotherhood of the Union, which was known as the Brotherhood of America after the Civil War, was one of many fraternal orders of its day.

The organizational structure resembles the Masonic Lodges but the mission was quite different. Concerned with land rights, labor rights, women's rights and anti-slavery, the brotherhood had political power. This new fraternal order broke up the political cronyism and helped to start the first national nominating conventions. The members worked for the good of the common man and helped bring the political issues in the open.

The founder, George Lippard, grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania. His ideas of right and wrong developed at an early age. It was hard for him to recognize a middle ground. He did not believe in excuses or extenuating circumstances that would allow someone to commit a wrong. These ideals were shaped by his studies in the ministry and also in law. He stopped both careers since the hypocrisy of them disillusioned him. Finally he found his passion in the field of journalism. A contemporary of Edgar Allan Poe, he

wrote for a Philadelphia paper as well as wrote romance for the *Saturday Evening Post*. While writing for the paper he turned out novels at a furious pace, most of which were patriotic and socialistic. In 1849, he started his own weekly journal, the *Philadelphia Quaker City*. With his prolific writing he was actually able to make a comfortable living, which was rare for a writer at the time. He died in 1854 from tuberculosis.

One of the pieces he authored was the *White Banner*, the corner stone for the Brotherhood of the Union. It references the differences between poor and rich men. A passage from the *White Banner* follows: "The Brotherhood stood for the annihilation of the oppressions under which Labor had writhed for so long. It seeks, to band together all true men—to cement them in the bonds of a practical and peaceful association—to enable them to act for the right with one heart, one arm and one purse.

For it seeks to accomplish a perfect Unity of all the true men—all the men who desire and

are willing to work for Human Progress..." His passion for the rights of the common man motivated him to create chapters in half the states that survived well into the twentieth century.

So the small village of Applebachsville was part of the political process that shaped our nation. If you are in the Haycock Township building be sure to check out the badge of the Brotherhood of the Union.



Photo by Heather Radick

ARIANNA MILES *continued from page 1*

But as the McLaughlins have come to experience, the bed and breakfast came equipped with its own myths and legends which they experienced early on in their ownership.

While the building was being renovated, the couple lived in a front room and one day while reading in that room, the electricity went out. Jokingly, she recalled, "We asked the ghost to turn it back on," and it did. Shortly after, the incident happened a second time with the same result. They never asked the ghost again, but were struck by the occurrence.

Another time, a guest came who planned to stay for an extended period as he would be working in the area. He asked Pascale if the place was haunted. She sensed that a haunted house was not this man's cup of tea and assured him that no, the place was not haunted. He was a guest for only one night as he had an experience that led him to significantly shorten his time at the inn.

The morning after his first night's stay, he told them that while in his room, he had smelled the strong aroma of snuff (he knew what it was because his grandmother had indulged in the use of snuff). It seems he "had a visit" of some sort and was rattled enough to check out that morning.

Pascale and one of her employees had their own interesting encounter with the spirits. She and her helper both smelled the strong scent of a workman in the kitchen. It

smelled like someone who worked with oil burners. They teasingly said aloud, "Fix something since you are here," and the next thing they knew, the dishwasher broke, the condenser went in the refrigerator and the sink backed up. They quickly apologized and decided the next time the workman made himself known, they'd offer him a beer instead of trying to put him to work.

Ghost hunters have visited Arianna Miles seeking to find any ghostly activities and were able to videotape something in the woods behind the house. It appeared to be a figure on horseback. Also, the paranormal worker who accompanied the group reported that she could see a tree with someone sitting under it behind the house.

Although the McLaughlins invented the mythical vinter and his daughter, their real motive behind the name Arianna Miles is based on children. Pascale would like to name their first daughter, Arianna while Kyle wants to name his first son, Miles.

Pascale and Kyle chose this place to begin their business and married life together. She said she feels there are "so many jewels" in upper Bucks County and treasures the "easiness" found here. She hopes to share that with all who visit Arianna Miles.

THE METAPHYSICAL

DR. R. SWINBURNE CLYMER (1878-1966)

AND THE MYSTERIOUS PYRAMIDS OF BEVERLY HALL

by Beth Kerdock

Many a traveler driving along the back roads of East Rockhill Township, near the boundary with Haycock, are surprised by a collection of pyramids and Greek temples. These pieces of the ancient world stem from the avocation of Dr. Reuben Swinburne Clymer, whose mystical mindset led to his becoming the Supreme Grand Master of the international organization of Rosicrucians—also called the *Fraternitas Rosæ Crucis* or The Brotherhood of the Rose Cross.

The Clymer family was of old and prestigious stock, even if they lived a simple rural life. They were direct descendants of George Clymer, a member of both the Continental and Constitutional Congresses, who was the only person to sign both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. When young Reuben was born in 1878, he was born into a time obsessed with spiritual and occult revivals. As a young medical student in Chicago, Clymer met a Dr. L.H. Anderson who lectured on the occult and applied sciences. Clymer became so fascinated by the subject that he enrolled as a neophyte in the 'Temple of the Rosy Cross and Imperial Eulis' in 1897, and was accepted into the society in November, 1899. This was a Rosicrucian Society established in the U.S. by Paschal Beverly Randolph, a 19th century physician and abolitionist who traveled in the highest of esoteric and progressive circles which included such celebrities as George Lippard, Abraham Lincoln, and Madame Blavatsky, founder of theosophy.

Rosicrucianism goes back to the Renaissance alchemists who believed in the Hermetic Philosophy of the Ancient World. According to legend, the key to eternal wisdom was discovered by an Egyptian seer named Hermes Trismegistus who believed everything was made by one god through vibrations with mathematical patterns known as Sacred Geometry. It was believed that Hermes used this geometry to design the Pyramids and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Some thought Moses was his student.

During the Middle Ages, Hermetic philosophy was applied to math through the mystical Jewish Cabbala, and

to the earth sciences in alchemy. Early Rosicrucians believed that the highest use of alchemy was not for turning lead into gold, but for the development of medicines and for purposes of spiritual growth.

Hermetic Alchemy was also used in this period to achieve high states of alternative consciousness such as in astral travel.

After serving for a time as a superintendent of a sanitarium in New York state, Clymer returned to upper Bucks to set up his medical practice which always had an emphasis

on the holistic approach. Besides being the first registered osteopath in Bucks and Lehigh counties, he also rose quickly in the ranks of the Rosicrucian Brotherhood and became a Grand Master of the *Fraternitas Rosæ Crucis* in 1905.

It was during this time that Clymer was inspired to create a center for what he called, the "Great Work." He devoted all his resources to the creation of the gardens and buildings that make up what is today the Beverly Hall Estate. More than just a romantic group of buildings, it has been the publishing, medical and spiritual center of Clymer's "Great Work."

In 1922, Clymer rose to Supreme Grand Master and began a prolific period of writing and traveling to spread the Rosicrucian philosophy through-

out North and South America.

Dr. R. Swinburne Clymer was a man of innumerable accomplishments. Not only did he erect Beverly Hall as the center for the *Fraternitas Rosæ Crucis*, he produced many publications that are considered classics in the world of esoteric philosophy and history. He established the basis of the Clymer Health Clinic and what is today the Woodlands Healing Research Center. He was a pioneer in the areas of holistic and alternative health therapies and prenatal care. Many of his philosophic and spiritual beliefs have presaged those of the "New Age." Traveler, healer, philosopher and 32nd degree Mason, Dr. Clymer left this world in 1966; but his spiritual legacy lives on in the graceful buildings and pyramids of Beverly Hall.



Drawing of Dr. R. S. Clymer by Chris Handschin

19TH CENTURY FRATERNAL ORDERS AND SECRET SOCIETIES

by Beth Kerdock



You've probably seen their insignias on signs as you enter a town—the compass over a 'G' of the Masons, the stag head of the Elks. Their temples and lodges were often one of the most prominent buildings in small towns, but today only a fraction of the innumerable fraternal, benevolent and secret societies still remain. As silly as some of their names were, like the 'Angelic Order of Fairy Bells' and the 'Prudent Patricians of Pompeii,' the role these groups played in 19th century society was anything but.

The grandfather of fraternal societies has to be the Masons. As Masonic tradition maintains, the lodges were started in the Middle Ages to house the traveling or Freemasons who came to work on cathedrals and castles. The secret handshake apparently started with the Masons and the style of shake demonstrated what degree of masonic knowledge an itinerant craftsman had. Craft techniques were sworn to secrecy but legend has it that it was also to protect mysteries concerning the Pyramids and the Temple of Jerusalem which had been passed down by masons through the ages.

During the 17th Century it became very popular in England and Scotland for gentlemen of all stations and professions to join a Masonic Lodge. During the 1700s the Masonic Movement spread to France and the American Colonies with the first American Masonic Lodge in Philadelphia in 1731. Many of the Founding Fathers were members, such as Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. Masonic Lodges were credited as providing the environment in which the Boston Tea Party and the Bonnie Prince Charlie plots were planned as well as coordination of the American and French Revolutions. By the early 1800s, anyone of political or business importance in American society was most likely a member of the Masons.

By the 1820s, Americans were both apprehensive and fascinated by the success of the Freemasons. Although scandal and an anti-masonic movement slightly diminished the dominance of the Masons, imitation being the sincerest form of flattery soon produced a plethora of Mason-like fraternal organizations. Famous European writer Alex de Tocqueville exclaimed on traveling through America in the early 1800's: "Americans of all ages, all stations in life, and all types of disposition, are forever forming associations. If

it is proposed to inculcate some truth or to foster some feeling by the encouragement of a great example, they form a society."

Societies were formed to promote trades, share information and provide members with social benefits such as medical costs, burials or annuities to orphans and widows. There were also issue oriented associations which promoted the abolishment of slavery, women's rights, land rights, temperance, religion and war veterans. Fraternal organizations were also used to make business contacts, and in many cases the meetings were a safe place for the gentlemen of the community to have a few congenial drinks away from the disapproving tongues of their temperance disposed wives.


For all the secret signs, funny hats and handshakes, these groups were the bedrock upon which many communities were built. Fraternal and benevolent societies were responsible for the establishment of schools, hospitals, banks, prisons, labor unions and insurance groups. Most importantly, fraternal organizations designed and run for immigrants, such as the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, established in New York City in 1836, provided the new arrivals with a support system, and in time a political voice.

The popularity of these societies in 19th and early 20th century life make their records rich sources of genealogical information. Since many organizations were so specialized in their interests, knowing which societies your ancestors belonged to can help flesh out the background story of your family history. Many groups kept meeting minutes and even published periodicals and newsletters. A good place to start your research is with your ancestor's ethnic and religious roots, since so many immigrants joined these societies. Income, political and professional background as well as military service impacted what organizations your relatives would have belonged to (ie: Masons were usually middle and upper classes, while even the sidewalk pavers had their own organization.) If you know what town your relations lived in, try contacting the local historical society for a list of fraternal chapters that were active during the relevant time frame. Gravestones of the period often had markers indicating the initials of different societies (such as the RSGF-Royal Society of Good Fellows).

SOCIETY NEWS


OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING
Ghosts and Gravestones
 Thurs. Oct 28th 7:00PM
 St. Paul's Church, Applebachsville

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING
Simon Singer Pottery
 Thurs. Nov. 18th 7:00PM
 St. Paul's Church, Applebachsville



IN MEMORIUM

Sadly the Society's good friend and founding lifetime member, Betty Smell Wolfe passed away this September. Betty had many fond associations with Haycock, her parents ran the Applebachsville General Store for years. Her support and presence will be greatly missed. In her memory her family is establishing a fund for the purchase of a light for the outside walkway at St. Paul's. Further information concerning this fund will be forthcoming. All of our condolences to Betty's family and friends.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY PICNIC


Haycock Historical Society celebrated its first birthday with a covered dish picnic at Lake Towhee on June 27th this year. Member Greg Seifert offered carriage rides through the park with his team of Belgian Horses while an open mike provided picnickers all-day musical entertainment.

The Society would like to thank Greg as well as musicians Gordon Allem, Ed Bauer and Steve Applegate for sharing their superb musical talent on dulcimer and guitar. Our gratitude is also extended to junior member, Jonnie Handschin for leading the group in old time sing-alongs, to Elizabeth Rosencrans for sharing her poetry and to member, Charles Fite for vocals. Thanks to all the members who brought and shared covered the dishes we sampled. The perfect weather served to compliment a wonderful day.

Plans are underway to join forces with other local community organizations on June 26th of 2005 to sponsor a Community Heritage Day, celebrating 150 years of the village of Applebachsville. Anyone wishing to participate may call (215) 536-0364 or email Chris at chandschin@netcarrier.com.



Laura DiDonato and Greg Seifert
 Quakertown, PA
 215-804-1075
 Registered Pygmy Goats and Angora Goats
 Buck Service
 Horse Drawn Carriage Rides Llamas



Mountain Pride Farm

THE KRINGLE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

Members of the Social Events Committee are busy planning our first fund-raising venture for the society. We will be hosting the Kringle Christmas Shoppe, a juried boutique-style market collection of the local area's foremost artisans and handworkers. The Shoppe will be located at 204 Pullen Station Road and will open December 10th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Help make this event a show-place for the great talent hidden in Upper Bucks County! Pick up our flyers at the general meetings and distribute them to friends and businesses. Contact Nancy at (610) 847-5946, ncj@epix.net or Chris (215) 536-0364, chandschin@netcarrier.com for additional information. The next scheduled meeting of this subcommittee is 10/21/04, 7:00 pm at the home of member, Pat Dewald.

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