

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Fall 2006

THE PENNSYLVANIA BARN

Text and photographs by Heather Radick

Second to their homes, barns were the most important buildings to farmers of early America.

Barns were used to house the animals and grain essential to survival. Haycock still has a good number of barns built before the 20th century, many of which are forebay bank barns, the most common type found in Pennsylvania. They are found throughout North America with the heaviest concentration in the northeastern states, and are known as the Pennsylvania barn. These barns are generally made of stone, wood or combination and built into a small slope of land.

Large wagon doors are located on the hillside or second story of the barn. The second floor is where the wagon or machinery is driven in and is sometimes referred to as the threshing floor. Haymows or bays are usually located on each side of this floor. The second story overshot the backside of the barn and housed the granary.

The ground level of the barn was the stable area. Barns were built so the forebay side faced away from the northeast so in winter months the grain and animals were kept warm and dry. Sometimes the forebay is located on the gable side, but is almost always opposite the bank side.

Some of the earliest barns were made of logs, a practice brought over by the Swiss-influenced Germans. About 80 percent of Haycock's first settlers were of German descent, the other 20 percent originated from the British Isles. English barns were built entirely of stone, but that changed with their immigration to America. The abundance of qual-

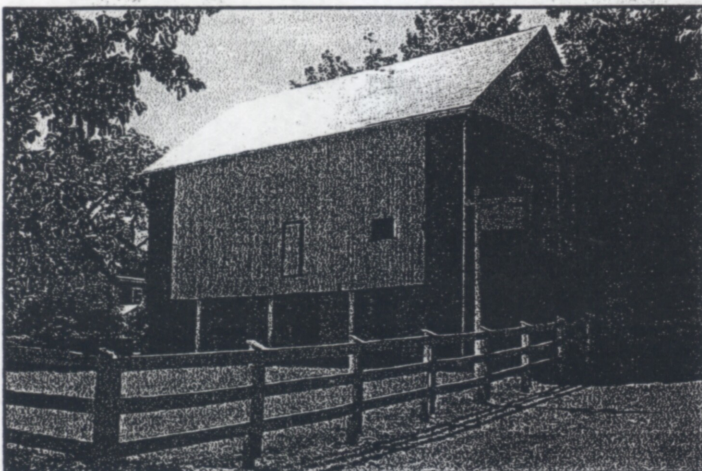
ity wood here resulted in all timber barns, sometimes built into a side hill but always lacking a forebay.

German settlers used fieldstone and wood found in this area, and a small number of Haycock barns are made almost entirely from this stone. In general, barns were made with the most accessible materials found near by. The skill of the builder and the style of barns from his homeland also dictated the construction of the barn. Stone and mortar are more difficult to work with compared to wood, so timber frame barns are more common. All brick barns are almost exclusive to south central Pennsylvania.

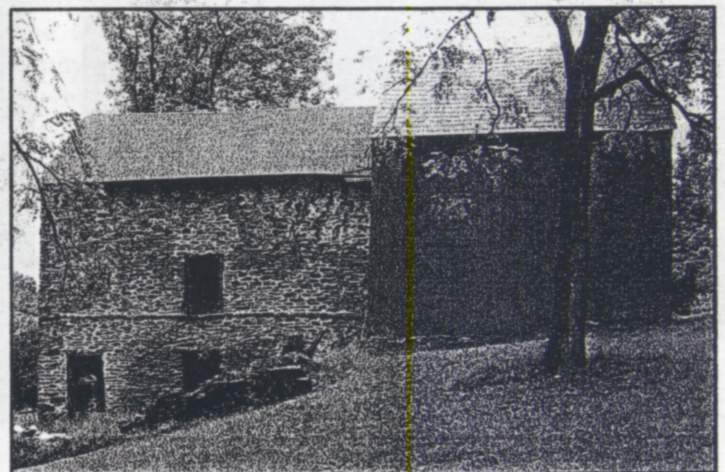
Barns needed to be coated to protect against the elements. Until paint became affordable, they were coated with a mixture of linseed oil, milk and lime. Most barns are red because ferric oxide, a fancy name for rust, was added to the linseed oil. The rust killed the mold that grew on the wood. In later years, red became the most inexpensive color paint to buy, followed by whitewash.

No matter what color or style a barn is, it is an important reminder of our history. As barns are becoming obsolete in some parts of the state, they are being destroyed or neglected to the point that they start to collapse. As a reminder, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission are compiling an inventory of all barns in this state built prior to 1960. The deadline for submission is November 30, 2006. If you or anyone you know owns a barn built in this time period and are interested in participating, contact the Center for Rural Pennsylvania (www.ruralpa.org) at 717-787-9555.

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Black Walnut Farm on Cider Press Lane



Harry & Grace Grim's barn is on Old Bethlehem Road

ON THE SIDE OF HAYCOCK MOUNTAIN

By Jane Nase

On the side of Haycock Mountain is a small Roman Catholic Church named Saint John the Baptist. It sits at the foot of the mountain near Haycock Run, which is a beautiful setting now and when it was first constructed over 260 years ago. The land was given to the Archdiocese of Baltimore by the McCarty family to construct a church and cemetery.

When the Nicholas and Unity McCarty family saw this valley full of timber and stone, they knew they were a long way away from their former land of Ireland's Cork region. In search of religious freedom, they settled in the Haycock area after purchasing 500 acres from William Penn's sons, Thomas and Richard. This land was part of the Walking Purchase of 1737. It was 60 miles from Philadelphia and had everything the McCarty's were looking for to start their life in America.

Before the church was constructed, mass was held in people's homes. Preaching was sporadic in 1741. The Haycock satellite mission was officially formed two years later. Many homes were used to host these religious services. They would light large bonfires on the hill to signal the people the priest was going to say mass the next day.

Edward McCarty, son of Nicholas, built a large home on Church Road that still stands today. This house was used often as a mission church for the Catholics in Haycock and the surrounding area. The house had a very large room on the first floor. The visiting missionary priest would say mass in the large room and then stay in a small room where his vestments and the sacred vessels

were kept secure. The earliest recorded Catholic baptism in the 13 colonies was Albertina Kohl in Haycock in 1741. She later married Nicholas McCarty who was baptized in 1742.

In 1796, John McCarty, who was Edward's great grandson, deeded one acre of land for a church and cemetery. The mission church was built by the men of the parish and was finished in 1798. The church was probably made from the stone and timber from the area. The church had a small room added to be used as a school. Prior to that school room, a school house was located on the McCarty's homestead.

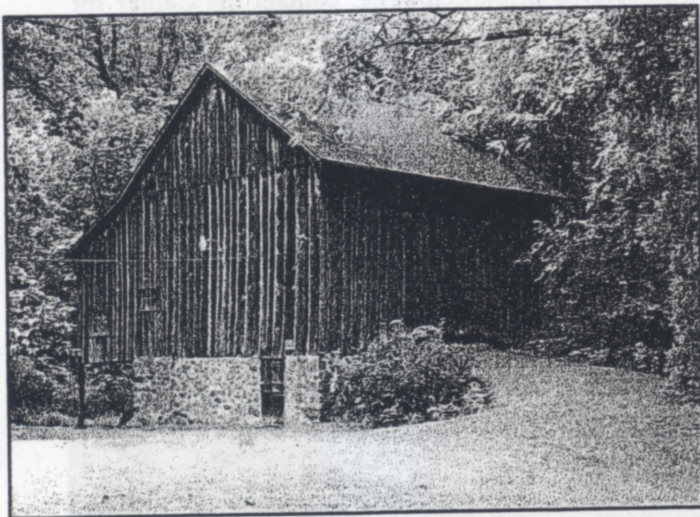
A fire in 1853 destroyed the church. The current church was built by parishioners and completed in 1855. The architectural style is the influence of the Irish and German builders from the area. The church was built with a steeple on the roof and later the present bell tower and foyer were added. The bell was used to announce services.

The main altar was replaced with one from St. Alfonzo's in Philadelphia around 1871. A primitive painting of two deer around a fountain is in the center.

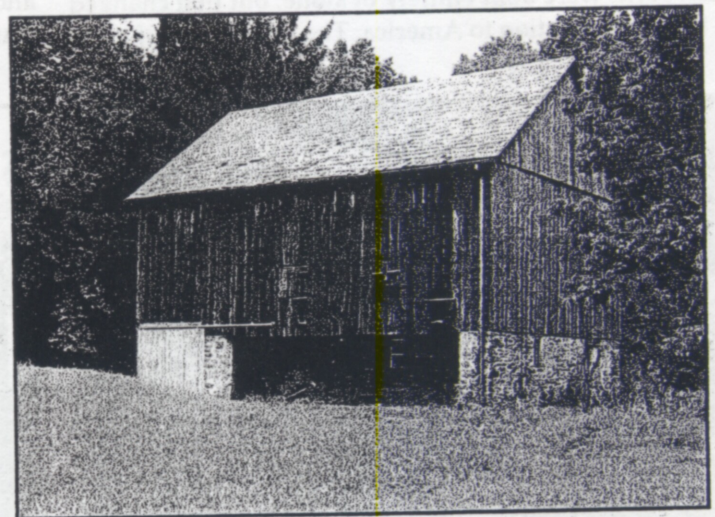
The church is the third oldest in the Philadelphia Archdiocese and built by the hands of the Haycock ancestors. St. John the Baptist Church is a testimony to God and to the hard working people of Haycock. The 11th generation of the McCarty family still worship at the church.

Thank you to Roseanne McCarty who shared several books for this article.

BARNS *continued from page 1*



The Kocsis barn on Stony Garden Road, formerly owned by Martha Kuney



The Yeakel barn on Cobbler Road was owned by brothers Richard and Norman Yeakel.

WHAT THEY DID FOR ENTERTAINMENT

by Michele Malinchak

Much of what we do for entertainment today comes by way of a simple click of a button. We can download music, watch movies on DVDs or talk to people anywhere.

If, however, you were living in the 19th and early 20th centuries, what kind of entertainment was available and did people even have time for it?

Churches and schools provided much of the entertainment of the past and old news articles from the Doylestown Intelligencer revealed that early residents were not all work and no play. Under a headline called 'Thatcher News,' in the 8/31/1900 edition of the newspaper, the story said the Applebachsville Sunday school held their picnic at a place near the church called Courtney's Grove. The article said, "Dinner and supper were served to all in the woods and Rev. Horn addressed the crowd."

Picnics held in groves were very popular well into the fifties. According to a news story from 1959, "This is the season for picnics, and our people seem determined to keep up this kind of amusement."

Schools also played an important role in entertaining residents. Pamela Varkony, a featured guest speaker of the Haycock Historical Society, has many fond memories of Stover School (now Cappie's Tavern on Old Bethlehem Road). In addition to being a school, it served as a community center. "We would always hold programs for the holidays," she said. "Each student would be expected to participate, whether that was singing in a group or solo, reading a poem, or having a part in a skit or play. All the parents came, and after the program, everyone stayed to drink cider or punch and eat delicious home baked goodies. But most of all, everyone got to talk to their neighbors."

Pam recalled square dances at the Applebachsville firehouse that were held after it was built in 1958. The dances attracted most township residents who would dance for hours. She said, "It didn't matter if you came with a partner. When the caller announced the next dance, everyone just got out on the floor and somehow you ended up with someone."

During the square dances, Pam said refreshments were sold and the prettiest cake was used for the 'cake walk.' The

walk, she explained, involved everyone forming circle on the floor and marching along to the music. Pam sometimes got to be the 'cake girl,' who would walk on the inside of the circle, carrying the cake in the opposite direction of the people. When the music stopped, the person standing next to the cake girl won the cake.

Square dancing was also a favorite activity for Haycock resident Eddie Bauer who recalled walking to dances held at Kellers Church grove in Bedminster Township. He said the dances were sponsored by the Knights of the Golden Eagle and held from the late 1930s into the 1950s.

Eddie recalled walking home at night from the dances. "I'd walk home at one in the morning. It was really dark and hardly a car went by," he said.

Born and raised in Haycock, Bill Peischel said there was square dancing every Saturday night in the Applebachsville Hotel, now the Whitehall Apartments on Old Bethlehem Road. A community band from Bedminster Township would play violin, guitar and spoons for percussion.

Another dance hall of the late 1920s called the 'Half Moon,' was located on Route 212 near the intersection of Pullen Station Road in Richland Township. The dances were held on Saturday nights and Bill recalled people dressing up in their finest to attend the dances.

During the 1950s, township resident and former tax collector Grace Grim recollected square dancing at the firehouse in the village of Shelley, located off Cherry Road and Route 309. She also remembered dances and clambakes held at Lenny's Hideaway on Kellers Church Road in Bedminster Township.

Grace, who has lived in the township for 50 years, said, "You made your own entertainment in those days — people were more family oriented."

Other news articles of the era showed that people enjoyed visiting Haycock Mountain. According to a June 1958 article in the Doylestown Intelligencer, a visitor said, "A trip to this mountain would amply repay a lover of the beautiful...and were it better known it would be more frequently visited."

Because travel was time consuming, it was not uncommon for people to stay a week or more when visiting one



LuLu Park, Quakertown

continued on page 4

ENTERTAINMENT *continued from page 3*

another. For example, the Applebachsville news section of the *Intelligencer*, dated 9/30/1899 read: "Mr. And Mrs. Charles Styer are entertaining Mrs. George Styer of Flourtown for a week." Another article, dated Dec. 4, 1899, said, "Mr. and Mrs. Charles Raudenbush have returned from a week's visit to Mr. and Mrs. Titus Benner in East Greenville."

Sometimes the entertainment would travel to the towns, as described in the newspaper on Oct. 21, 1852 when the Rivers and Derious Circus came to Quakertown. The article said it featured a "new and superbly equipped Grecian arena with feats of horsemanship and gymnastics by a full dramatic corps and splendid troupe of horses." Also on the bill was Gregorie, the 'strongest man in the world,' and Mazeppa, the wild Turkish stallion.

Bill Peischel recollects travelling medicine shows coming through Richlandtown in the 1930s. They entertained, but also wanted the audience to buy whatever products they were selling.

In 1929, early silent films were shown at the Broad theater on East Broad Street, Quakertown. Following the Broad were two other theaters: the Karlton, where the present café of the same name is located, and the Palace Theater, near where Dimmig's Appliance stands today.

Grace Grim recalled going to both theaters and also remembered the Starlight Drive-in theater during the 50's located behind Trainer's Corner. "At that time," she said, "there were plenty of westerns."

Imogene Croman, 76, has lived in Haycock since she was 12 years old. She recalled watching outdoor movies in Richlandtown where Gruver's Bar is today. Henry Ahlum showed the 16 mm movies during the 1940s and early 50s.

Another of Imogene's favorite pastimes was riding the trolley to Perkasio to roller skate at Menlo Park. The trolley, named "Tripper," also ran to Allentown. It stopped at the corner of West Broad and Main Streets, where the Urban

Edge salon stands today, and ran until 1929.

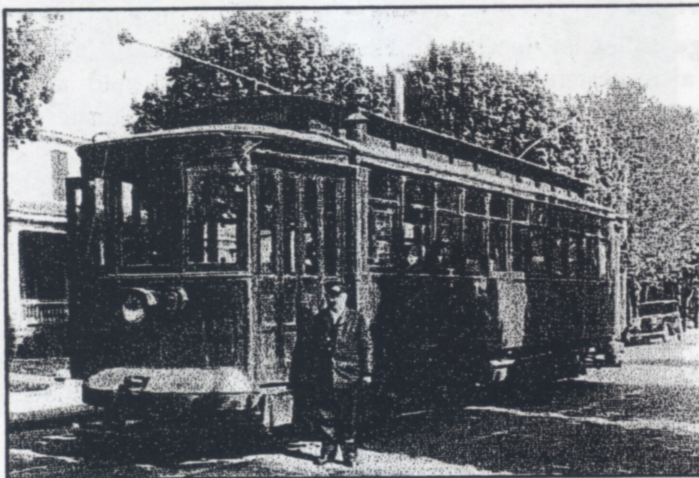
A big summer draw was LuLu Park off Park Avenue in Quakertown where the present day high school is located. Stretching from what is now Third to Ninth Streets, the park opened in 1883. During the 1920s Bill Peischel recalled annual fairs held there each summer, which included harness racing, carnival rides, food, exhibitions, music and dancing. Local veterinarian, Dr. Calvin Moyer helped organize the events. In the late 1930s, the park became the site of a country music dance hall called the Circle J. It was there that Haycock resident, Edie Reiss met her husband, Ray.

From 1912 to 1927, Quakertown was also the cultural setting for the annual Chautauqua Week, held in outdoor tents at Fifth and Juniper Streets and later at Sixth and Juniper. Chautauqua originated in New York in 1874 and offered community-based public lectures, theatrical shows and music. Towns throughout the country were inspired to hold similar Chautauqua events.

Another cultural organization was the Buckwampun Historical and Literary Society, which met from 1885 to 1903. Three of their meetings were held in Haycock, which entertained the public with lectures and concerts. (See the spring/summer '06 newsletter for Pat DeWald's article on the Buckwampun Society).

Although old time residents did not have access to modern technology, their entertainment was diversified and less insular than today's. People seemed to leave their homes and socialize more, making the most of what they had. As Pamela Varkony said, "No matter what was going on, they were wonderful gatherings that fostered a true feeling of community."

Photos reproduced from the 2002 book: 'Images of America - QUAKERTOWN,' published by Arcadia Publishing



"Tripper" the trolley and conductor John Bean



The Karlton Theater, Quakertown

HAYCOCK PROFILES:

ALBERT KINZLER

by Sue Kleiner-Grew

Albert Kinzler, 86, has lived at his family farm on East Sawmill Road since 1925. He was born in the Frankford section of northeast Philadelphia.

Both of his parents were born in Philadelphia. His mother, Elizabeth, was raised in the Bridesburg section of the city. His father, Albert Sr., grew up in the Frankford area and worked as an egg candler while living in the city. A candler uses a bright light that penetrates the shell to reveal fertile eggs.

After the family moved to Haycock, his mother cooked and cleaned for local families and his father raised chickens and farmed their land. They built their own greenhouse to start vegetable seedlings. In the greenhouse, a three foot thick layer of horse manure was packed down by walking on it to create a seed bed.

The family had farm animals such as goats, horses and cattle. The goats were purchased from Eddie Bauer's family. The cattle were taken to and sold at the Quakertown Farmer's Market.

Albert and his younger brother, Edward, nick-named the farm "Doodle's Dude Ranch" and commissioned someone to make them a sign which still hangs in his dining room.

In 1925, there was no electricity or running water in the family's home. It was not until 1937 that electricity arrived at their homestead.

Albert took his first job doing garden work when he was about 14 years old. He was paid 25 cents per hour. As an adult, he worked part-time for twenty years digging graves at Keller's Church, now known as St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on Kellers Church and Ridge roads in Bedminster Township. He once dug a grave by hand to preserve a nearby monument. For the past fifty years, Albert has served on the church's board of directors.

In addition to digging graves, Albert got a second job with what is now known as the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). He

worked for the department for 21 years in two capacities; one as a maintenance man for the Eastern Region Office of State Parks and in the maintenance department of Lake Nockamixon State Park.

His neighbor, Eva Derr, told him about the job opening with DCNR and brought him the application papers. She also alerted him that to get the job, he needed to be a registered Democrat. When the Republicans came into power, he changed political parties to maintain his employment.

His daily schedule was jam packed, running from 6 am to 11 pm. In the morning, he would feed the animals on the farm. Part of the morning regime included releasing a herd of 15 Black Angus cattle to drink from a local stream.

With farm chores completed, he then went to his job at the state park that started at 8 am. When he finished there, he returned home by 4:15 pm to take care of things at the farm.

He might also have jobs lined up elsewhere, helping other folks in the neighborhood with lawn and yard tasks.

In his job with DCNR, Albert switched between the regional office and the state park to avoid getting laid off when things got slow.

For Albert, work took precedent above all else. So much so that he never found time to marry. He said, "I was so busy, always working."

This past summer, Albert grew and canned his own tomatoes in addition to maintaining a garden that yielded string and lima beans, spinach, cabbage, and potatoes. He also raised and sold shrubs and at one time, had more than 1,000 English boxwoods and a stand of blue spruce.

Over the past several years, Albert continued to work around his own farm and also helped others work their land. He also enjoyed frequent visits from friends and neighbors.

Several weeks ago, Albert underwent hip surgery and is currently recovering from the procedure.



Albert Kinzler
Photo by Heather Radick

HAYCOCK'S ENCOUNTER

WITH AERONAUTICAL HISTORY

by Pat DeWald



"Landing of a Balloon in Haycock. —Quite a sensation was created in Haycock on Monday afternoon of last week by the landing of a balloon in that neighborhood. Its first appearance was witnessed by a number of people when at a great height, and so small as scarcely to attract notice. Some supposed it to be a kite, and others thought it merely a paper balloon that some boys had sent up into the air. No one, at the dizzy

height at which it was first seen, had any thought that it contained a human being. The apparently small object gradually grew larger as it descended, and finally landed on the farm of Gideon Wells, a short distance from Applebachsville. It was then found to be a large balloon, about twenty-five feet in diameter, and occupied by Prof. Donaldson, the aeronaut, who that afternoon had made an ascent from Reading in the presence of a large crowd of spectators. He started from that place at a quarter before three o'clock and landed at twenty minutes past four, making the trip in an hour and thirty-five minutes. The distance traveled was between fifty and sixty miles. His height above the earth during his voyage varied from 3,000 to 11,000 feet. After leaving Reading he lost sight of the earth, on account of the clouds in the midst of which he was sailing obscuring his view. He occasionally caught a glimpse of the sun shining through the clouds, and could hear the water running in the creeks and the sound of the steam whistles and the cars running on the railroad. Just before 4 o'clock it commenced raining and finally turned to hail, and the thermometer sunk to 20. He then caught sight of the earth, and seeing the country

was clear and a village near by, he began to descend. In approaching the ground he dropped his anchor, which caused the balloon to remain about seventy-five feet above the earth. In passing over a schoolhouse the anchor caught in the roof, pulling some of the shingles loose and causing a grand stampede among the children. A number of people in the neighborhood, attracted by the novel spectacle soon gathered at the place, the anchor was caught and secured and the balloon emptied and packed up. Prof. Donaldson was then taken to Quakertown, and returned by railroad to Reading. On the following evening he entertained the citizens of that place with an account of his trip in the Academy of Music."

The above was from the April 1, 1873, edition of the Doylestown Intelligencer. It was an unusual event then to have a hot air balloon land in your backyard, but ballooning had been going on in Europe for some time, but did not really create any interest in the United States until after the Civil War. One of the grand pursuits of aeronauts was to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a balloon. Professor Donaldson planned, with the help of a New York City newspaper, the *Daily Graphic*, a trans-Atlantic balloon crossing. He designed what he thought to be a suitable balloon which was built and appropriately named the "Daily Graphic". Unfortunately the balloon ruptured on its initial inflation in New York City in the fall of 1873.

Washington Harrison Donaldson began life as an acrobat, appearing on stage and at outdoor locations, at least once in the employ of P. T. Barnum. He is reported to have been the first person to ride a bicycle on a high wire and walk on a 1,800 foot long rope suspended over the Upper Falls of the Genesee River in Rochester, N.Y. He used balloons to attract attention by performing on a trapeze suspended from the balloon while it was aloft. He recorded 138 largely successful ascensions. His last and final balloon voyage was in 1875 from the Hippodrome grounds in a Chicago suburb in an attempt to cross Lake Michigan. He and a reporter from the *Chicago Evening Journal* began the ride and were headed in the right direction but also in the direction of a line of thunderstorms. The reporter was found one month later in Lake Michigan, but Donaldson has not been found.

SOCIETY NEWS

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Kringle Christmas Shoppe will be held 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 1 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3. Our gracious hostess Pat DeWald will again invite us into her home at 204 Pullen Station Road for this holiday boutique. The Haycock Barns Calendar will be for sale along with a large array of fine arts and crafts, all hand-made and produced by area residents.

The event will feature live music and an assortment of free treats and hot cocoa. Admission is free. Cash and checks accepted, but no credit cards, please. Raffle tickets will be on sale for exciting prizes during the Kringle Days.

Members who enjoy baking are encouraged to donate cookies or snacks to be shared during the event. If you would like to contribute a goodie, please contact Nancy DePue at 215-536-5103 or email Henry DePue at HDePue@viocenet.com. You may also just bring along your contribution when you visit Kringle Shoppe.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research/Preservation Committee will meet in January 2007. They plan to hold meetings at the Spruance Library to conduct research. Please look for sign up sheets at the Nov. 19 meeting for pending Bethlehem tours, which will include a visit to the Burnside Plantation on Dec. 10 and an evening lantern walk through historic Bethlehem.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We currently have 102 active members and have had a good response so far to requests for 2007 membership renewal. The next year promises to have many more fun events, public meetings and other activities for our members to enjoy. If you have not yet renewed or wish to become a member, get in touch with Sue Kleiner-Grew at 215-538-3613. You may also contact any H.H.S officer or member to obtain information about joining.

NOTES OF THANKS:

Our thanks to Life Time members Greg Seifert and Laura DiDonato for donating the large, beautiful Christmas tree for the Kringle Shoppe.

More thanks to Heather Radick for creating and producing the Haycock Historical Society's "A Year in Our Barns" calendar. She was assisted by Eddie Bauer in locating and obtaining permission to photograph each barn. The calendar will be given as a free gift to all current members and will also be available for sale to the general public.

The society would like to acknowledge those who helped out at recent events benefiting the H.H.S.:

On Oct. 14, we participated in St. Paul's Church flea market. Many thanks to Jane Nase and Sue Kleiner-Grew for hosting our

table where cook books, t-shirts, commemorative plates and calendars could be purchased. Thanks also to Pat DeWald and Heather Radick for hosting guided tours of the cemetery. They researched and produced a pamphlet with information about the history of the cemetery and those who have been interred there.

Our appreciation goes out to Heather Radick and Sue Kleiner-Grew for hosting a table at the Haycock Township open house on Oct 22. We sold several calendars and thank Haycock township personnel for inviting us to the event.

Many thanks to Chris Handschin for representing H.H.S on Oct. 14 at Durham Days .

Thanks to Joe Fite for leading the tour in search of the Chestnut tree in Haycock and to Arlene and George Yaffe for donating a deed dated 1782 to a township property called the Newberry tract.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Our next public meeting will be held at St. Paul's Church in Applebachsville 2 p.m. Nov. 19. It will be an informal gathering focusing on socializing and sharing memories of living in Haycock. Please contact Cail Silveira at 215-538-9403 if you would like to bring a food item.

We want to hear from you: do you recall when electricity arrived at your home or farm? Please get in contact with Pat DeWald or anyone from the research committee to share your story. Pat can be reached at 215-804-0216 or wdewald@fast.net.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Albert Kinzler who is recovering from hip surgery.

HHS welcomes Pat DeWald as the society's acting vice president, left vacant when Beth Kerdock stepped down because of health issues. Our prayers are with her for a speedy recovery. We also welcome Sue Kleiner Grew to the position of Ad Hoc Officer, a seat vacated earlier this year by Greg Seifert. We look forward to a progressive team of officers ready to take on new and exciting challenges.

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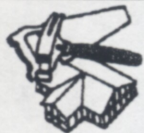
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