



# HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Fall 2007



## APPLEBACHSVILLE INSTITUTE



By Michele Malinchak

In the early nineteenth century, education was viewed as a luxury only the wealthy could afford. The idea of free public education for all Americans took root slowly and was met with much opposition. Gradually, as the public gained more access to education, there was greater demand for qualified teachers. Teaching standards were raised and newer teaching methods were promoted to improve classroom instruction.

In 1858 the movement for better qualified educators came to Haycock Township with the creation of the Applebachsville Institute. During this time, teaching institutes were being organized throughout Bucks County, providing teachers with a forum for study and discussion.

An untitled document in the Richland Township Library referred to the establishment of the institute as follows: "The first district teachers' Institute was organized by the teachers and directors in 1858. The Institute was held semi-monthly and these days were counted as part of the school term. Any teacher who did not attend Institute forfeited a day's wages."

Also, in the August 1858 edition of *The Intelligencer*, an invitation addressed to school directors of upper Bucks County, stated: "As it is proposed to hold a Teachers' Institute, in the early part of next September, at Applebachsville, in Haycock Township, School Directors of the Upper Districts are earnestly invited to be present on that occasion."

In that same edition, William H. Johnson, county Superintendent of Schools from 1857-1859, said: "The spacious Church at Applebachsville (St. Paul's Lutheran Church) has been freely offered for the use of the Institute, and its size will insure the comfortable accommodation of a large audience."

Teachers who attended the institute's opening heard a presentation by Quakertown Boarding School Principal Abraham R. Horne about the importance of teachers studying the classics. There was also a discussion on what was more important—the proper arrangement of the school-house and improvements of the grounds, or the introduction of suitable school furniture. Other topics of discussion included the co-operation of parents with teachers and extension of the school term.

An array of subjects were presented by teachers includ-

ing botany, chemistry, practical and mental arithmetic, mental and natural philosophy, penmanship, physiology, reading, dictation, physical and descriptive geography, grammar and even a lecture on taste.

During breaks in their studies, teachers could listen to live instrumental or vocal music or take a ride to Haycock Mountain.

"The Institute offers many inducements to the attendance of teachers and other friends of education. Applebachsville is a beautiful village situated on the Old Bethlehem road. It is not more than half an hour's ride from the Quakertown Station to and from which the proprietor of the public house in Applebachsville has offered to run omnibuses, twice during each day, and the special accommodation of the Institute," said Johnson in the August newspaper story.

He concluded by saying, "On the whole, we may promise to the friends of education a rich treat to a feast of reason and a flow of soul."

The Applebachsville Institute was an entity in name only with no permanent location. Members of the institute met at various locations in the township. In 1862 members met at the "new school house on the Bethlehem road," according to the February 4 edition of *The Intelligencer*.

The article also said, "The teachers of Haycock township have a very flourishing Institute in operation this winter. A number of teachers from abroad have been invited to be present. Institutes have been organized in every district in the upper end of the county, with one or two exceptions."

According to this entry in the February 11, 1862 edition of *The Intelligencer*, "All the teachers in the township, and some others from the neighboring districts, together with directors and others, were present. Addresses were delivered in the afternoon by R. L. Cope and Rev. A. R. Horne, of Quakertown. Haycock is progressing."

Much has changed since the arrival of public schools in Haycock Township in 1848. While there are no longer institutes, today's educators are provided with similar services, which are held within their schools and called 'in service days'. Whether they provide a "feast of reason and a flow of soul" is a matter of speculation, but their intention remains the same—to help teachers expand their skills and become better educators.



# NEW HARRISBURG SCHOOL

Compiled by Sue Kleiner-Grew

The New Harrisburg school was constructed in 1866. Teacher's salaries were \$30.00 per month. The school building still stands but is now a private residence and is located on New Harrisburg School Road in Haycock. The photo, courtesy of Ferne and Dawn Kressler, is of Mrs. Thatcher's third grade class in 1949. Names below are courtesy of Richard Landgreen.



**Top Row (L-R)**

Teacher Mrs. Thatcher

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jean Mandic
4. Nancy Mandic
5. Barbara Muller
6. Arlene Layton
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Luke Bidher
9. Dick Landgreen
10. Gerry Landis
11. Herbert Kressler
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Kenneth Hoot
14. Lester Bauer

**Middle Row (L-R)**

1. Tom Schenk
2. Chapman Johnson
3. Richard Johnson
4. William Moll
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Sarah Keller
7. Maria Znotins
8. Ruth Frermantiz
9. John Esser
10. Howard Kressler
11. Clayton Fox
12. David Goldthorp
13. Andy Klauisp
14. Boy with face partly hidden\_\_\_\_\_

**Bottom Row (L-R)**

1. Faith Bieler
2. J. Moyer
3. Dorothy Godshall (SP?)
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Michel Znotins
7. \_\_\_ Weil
8. Roger Kressler
9. Ernest Detwiler
10. Sylvia Esser
11. Faye Weirbach
12. Evelyn Detwiler
13. Patricia Johnson



**Did you know?**

The advent of public schools in Haycock Township took place in 1848

In 1853 teacher's salaries were \$18.00 per month

*Photo of the New Harrisburg School taken around 1950, shortly after the school's closing. Courtesy of Robert Leight.*



# EARLY SCHOOL GAMES

Compiled by Pat DeWald

The following article from *The Intelligencer* was read before the June 14, 1890 Buckwampum Literary Picnic held at Stony Garden. Some of the school games are still played today, but today we use rope instead of grapevines for jump rope and an axe would definitely not be allowed in the school yard.

## Old Time School Games

By Miss Ida H. Laubach

If the time spent in our youth, in playing school games served no other purpose than to bring back pleasant memories in after years, then the time was well spent. In youth we play innocent games, think of the future, and form visions as to what position we may perhaps occupy when we arrive at the age of manhood and womanhood. At the age of maturity we are busy with things as they occur. In more mature years we begin to look back over the past, and the most pleasant memories are those of school games. The games were numerous; and of the games played a half a century ago, there are but a few that are in use now. "Pen Ball," was played more than any other; but is now only sometimes played by the boys at public sales. This game was played by two choosers; they faced each other and one tossed a stick, and the other caught it and then they took hold alternately upward until the last one to hold the stick had the right to chose his first player, and also the right to say whether he would take the corners tossed the ball one to another until they saw a good chance to hit one in the pen; if one of those in the pen was hit, then he, or one of the others in the pen, got the ball and tried to hit one of the corner players, if successful he could stay in the game; if he did not hit he was out. The corner players also if they missed to hit, they were out. If as it often occurred, happened to be "nippers" often raised serious disputes. After it was tried over, and the thrower happened to make a good hit, he would exclaim, "Sel war e'nsogger; ken mipper des mohl."

"Wolf and Sheep" was a game in which any number could take part. The children stood in a row, and one of them passed in front of the row, while selecting the "wolf" or buck and used the following for deciding who should be "buck:" "Oneery, Twoery, Zickery, Zan; Fillison Follison, Nicolas, John; Quewee, Quowee, Virgin Mary; Sing I am Sauglanm, Buck." While citing the foregoing the players were in a place called the pen and at the word buck they scattered in every direction, the buck following and trying to catch one before they returned to the pen, if he caught one then the one caught was buck until he caught one. Paddle Ball was a game in which a dozen or more could take part, it consisted of equal numbers on each side, one side used the paddle, and the other pitched the ball and caught it. The paddle players stood in a large circle or oval, and one of those that pitched the ball entered the circle, the

others remained outside, some behind the paddle to catch the ball if the striker missed it, and some stood in front of the paddle or striker, but outside the circle to catch the ball if the striker hit it, if the striker missed to hit he was out, if he hit the ball he started to run around the circle, and if the ball was caught, or on the first bounce, and the striker was hit between stopping places, then the one hit was out. "Sogger Up" was played by as many as chose to enter the game. The one having the ball would hit another and whoever was first in getting the ball had the right to hit any one of the others. This game was generally played when there was not sufficient time to chose or other games, or when the weather was very cold. It had the effect to warm the players up.

"Sky ball" was played by taking a piece of board 3 or 4 inches wide and 2 or 3 feet long, and stone or piece of wood 6 or 8 inches high, placed under the board near the middle, and the ball at the other end, and the other end was struck with an axe, sending the ball skyward, the one that caught the ball in its descent, or on the first bounce, placed it on the board and struck, sending it up.

"Pound ball" was played by each of the players making a hole in the ground with their heels, and the ball was then started to roll from one end to the other and in which ever hole the ball stopped, the owner of the hole took the ball out and hit any one of the other players. When the weather was very bad the children played games in the school-room until they got too noisy for the teacher's endurance. The inside games were generally "Blind Man's Buff", "Pussy Wants a Corner," "Mommy hut abra Stupnoodle ferlora," In playing those games the children became so noisy that the teacher became almost distracted. Other outside games were played such as "Hide and Seek," "Hop Step and Jump," and "Jumping the Rope," the last was the favorite game with the girls, but grape vines were generally used instead of ropes, this game is still played now but not as extensively as in olden times.

While the boys were playing games, those that were out, to while away time would generally gather together in a group, and soon was heard "Saug do: Ws swapsh'd do messera? Ich schwap dich uhang'e'sana. Those playing the last mentioned game, were nearer ripe to play the every day game of life. Our every efforts of life are but games. We try to become the victor.





## DIANE KELLY RECEIVES PLATE

On September 20, at the General Meeting of Haycock Historical Society, former secretary, Diane Kelly was awarded a custom designed sgraffito plate in gratitude for having served the society as recording secretary during its first four years. Vice President, Chris Handschin said, "Haycock Historical Society has made tremendous strides in the time since the group formed in 2003. We've established a dedicated newsletter team, producing quarterly periodicals, the research team is working on collecting data and there's even a hint of producing a book in the near future. We owe a lot to those who faithfully held positions during the start up years."

The plate was commissioned by Lehigh Valley Guild artist, Denise Wilz who has also been commissioned to create the society's limited-edition 2007 commemorative plate depicting the Bucks County Latvian Church in Applebachsville, Pa.

Wilz's sgraffito technique involves layering a lighter colored "slip," or mixture of clay and water, on top of the red clay base. Then, the top coat is scratched away to reveal the dark red clay underneath. The method is borrowed from a traditional German process used by the potters in the 1800s both in America and Europe.

This year the Haycock Historical Society hopes to highlight the Latvian community who established strong roots in Haycock Township during World War II. There will be a limited number of 75 plates produced, each selling for \$40.00. Each plate will be hand numbered and signed. A reserve list has been started for those wishing to purchase the plate. Those interested may contact Chris Handschin at (215) 536-0364.

The society plans to have the plates available for pick up at their holiday fund-raiser, the Kringle Christmas Shoppe, held December 7-9. Kringle will have a new location this year at the Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church in Haycock. Following tradition, it will feature the juried saleable works of strictly local artists, authors, and craftsmen and will be accompanied by continuous holiday music.

For those interested in learning about the Latvian culture, the Haycock Historical Society invites the general public to attend a pot luck luncheon at the church hall on Sunday, October 21 at 12:30 p.m. Members of the church will present a historical overview of their country and settlement in Upper Bucks County. Samples of Wilz's plate will be on display and reserve orders will be taken at the luncheon.



HHS Ad Hoc officer, Heather Radick (left) presents Diane Kelly the gifted "sgraffito-style" plate in front of her historical home from which the plate was fashioned after.



# SOCIETY NEWS

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

This year's Kringle Shoppe is set for December 7-9 at Bucks County Latvian Church on Apple Road in the village of Applebachsville. Kringle, a juried craft boutique, will again highlight craftwork of more than 30 local artists. Talented local musicians are booked to perform holiday classics during the entire event. Raffle tickets for gift certificates and items from local businesses will be offered to help raise money for the society along with a percentage of the sales going towards the society. This year guest artists Calvin Ruth and Dennis Gerhart will be among the fine artists whose work will be available for sale at Kringle. Please plan to come visit, partake in food and drink, catch up with friends and neighbors at this special holiday fundraiser.

The Upper Bucks Alliance For Creative Expression will present "A Tribute to Woodstock" on October 27, 7 p.m. at Strayer Middle School's auditorium. Mike Dugan and the Blues Review with guest artists, Pat Flaherty and Greg Kostunica will perform along with talented local teen vocalists and instrumentalists. Music from Janis Joplin, Joan Baez, Jimmi Hendrix, The Who and more will be featured.

Discounted advance tickets are \$15.00/adults, \$10.00/seniors and are for sale at Tana Kaya Boutique in Quakertown. Visit the website at [www.ubace.org](http://www.ubace.org) for more details. Again this year, HHS will operate the concessions for the show. HHS Members: Please consider donating cases of water or bottled iced tea or lemonade to sell at the show. We are also looking for donations of snacks to sell at the event. If you'd like to work the concession stand during intermission at the concert, contact Chris Handschin at (215) 536-0364 or [chandschin@verizon.net](mailto:chandschin@verizon.net)

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Research Committee meetings will be October 25 and November 29 at 7 p.m. at the home of Pat DeWald, 204 Pullen Station Road, Haycock township. Both [Ellisland.org](http://Ellisland.org) and [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) will be available to view. The research committee welcomes anyone who would like to join the group. For more information, contact Pat at 215-804-0216.

## COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

HHS has placed its order with Denise Wilz to create the 2007 commemorative plate featuring the Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church in Applebachsville. The plates will be available at Kringle Shoppe in December. If you would like to put your name on the list to purchase one now, contact Chris Handschin at 215-536-0364 or [chandschin@verizon.net](mailto:chandschin@verizon.net). The price for each plate is \$40.00. You can see a photo of the plate in the picture of Diane Kelly with her gift plate on page four.

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

The next few newsletters will include photos of the Haycock one-room school houses along with class photos. We will have some of the names of students in the photos, but will also be asking our readers to help identify any students whose names are missing, or whose names are misspelled. Please help us by contacting Sue Kleiner-Grew at 215-538-3613 or [SKG@relaxationcreation.com](mailto:SKG@relaxationcreation.com) after each photo is shown in the newsletter.

## NOTES OF THANKS

HHS thanks Sylvia and Ralf Augstoze for donating the Dedication Ceremony Program from the opening of Haycock Elementary School.

Thanks also to Marge Fulp and her husband for the donation of pictures taken of the Haycock area from years ago.

Our appreciation to Valdis Keris for the donation of the letter from his father describing his leaving Latvia during World War II.

## CONDOLENCES

The society wishes to extend its deepest condolences to Nancy Singer. Her husband Webster Singer Jr. passed away September 23, 2007. He was 83 years old.

Web was a decorated veteran of WWII. He had been an active contributor in church activities and with the community. He was self-employed as a dairy and crop farmer for 53 years operating the farm he co-owned with Nancy. Our support and thoughts go out to Nancy.

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

POT LUCK LUNCHEON at the Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church October 21 at 12:30 p.m. The church council will be putting on a cultural/historical presentation for our benefit. Please bring a covered dish to share with all. Come, join us!

On November 15 at 7 p.m., Gladys Koder will present a slide show showing photos of local scenes.

## GRANDMA'S COUNTRY KITCHEN

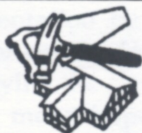


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