

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Fall 2008

POWWOWING TRADITIONS

by Michele Malinchak

When the first German settlers arrived in Pennsylvania in the early 18th century, they brought with them an ancient healing practice called *braucherei*. In English it is known as *powwow*, a word of Algonquin origin that implies a gathering or an exchange. The chief purpose of this folk medical practice is the healing of physical ailments in humans and animals. It is also used to offer protection from physical or spiritual harm and bring good luck.

Although based in the Christian faith, *braucherei* shares its roots with Native American and Celtic cultures, Judaism and even ancient Rome.

Both men (*braucher*) and women (*braucherin*) practice *powwow* which is handed down from male to female and vice versa. This assures an equal number of practitioners and maintains a balance.

The cures come about from a connection between human beings and the divine, not the devil. The basic premise of *braucherei* is to draw out the evil and illness and transfer it to another receptacle. It should not be confused with *hexerei*, a practice associated with witchcraft and negativity.

During the healing process, the *braucher* passes on the love and power of the Holy Spirit through prayer, herbal remedies and the laying of hands. Certain charm books containing rituals are also used, the Bible being the most common source of incantations. Other popular *powwow* books are the *Long Lost Friend* by John George Hohman, *Egyptian Secrets* by Albertus Magnus, and the *Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses*.

Perhaps no other publication had as much impact on *powwow* as the *Long Lost Friend*, published in 1820 in Reading, PA. Containing recipes, spells and instructions, it was the second most widely used book next to the Bible. If you were seeking protection against injuries, you might have tried this remedy from the book: "Whoever carries the right eye of a wolf fastened inside of his right sleeve, remains free from all injuries." Or, if you wanted to catch more fish: "Take rose seed and mustard seed, and the foot of a weasel, and hang these in a net, and the fish

will certainly collect there." Another remedy to stop bleeding said: "Count backward from fifty inclusive till you come down to three. As soon as you arrive at three, you will be done bleeding."

Haycock native, Kenny Horne, had a grandmother who practiced *powwow*. Born here around 1880, Minnie Horne was his paternal grandmother and lived off Creamery Road. She lived there 50 years and had five sons and a daughter. The house is no longer standing and only a stone foundation remains.

Kenny recalled his grandmother cutting his hair between the new moon and the full moon, which was supposed to promote hair growth. He laughed as he gestured to the cap on his head, saying, "For me it didn't work."

Other practices did work, though, like the time he had a large wart on his hand. One night after dark, his grandmother cut an onion and rubbed it on the wart. She then planted the onion, and shortly afterward, the wart fell off his hand. Again, this was done in accordance with the moon's alignment.

Kenny said his grandmother went strictly by the Farmer's Almanac when it came to planting. She also had *The Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses*, which has since disappeared and is no longer in the family. Kenny is unclear as to how much the book was used, but remembered his grandmother saying, "What goes around comes around." Whether things happened on their own or were helped along by the book, Kenny is unsure. He merely said, "You could cast good spells and bad spells."

Today, the practice of *powwow* continues, though not as extensively as in the past. Three Sisters Center for the Healing Arts is very interested in reviving the spiritual, herbal and agricultural wisdom of the Pennsylvania Germans. Recently, a member of the group lectured on *powwow* at the Springfield Historical Society. Located in Pottstown and Kutztown, PA, the group offers workshops, holds gatherings and publishes a newsletter. Their website is www.threesisterscenter.com.



Front cover of one of the popular books used in practicing *powwow*

APPLEBACHSVILLE SCHOOL, 1922

Submitted by Heather Radick



Row 1 L-R: 1. ? 2. William Borse 3.? 4. Howard Kessler 5. Joe Safer?
Row 2 L-R: 1. Milton Gable 2. ? 3. Charles Peischel 4. Ben Borse 5. Reno Miller 6. Harold Orman 7.?
8. Russell Homer 9 Herbert Kressler
Row 3 L-R: 1. Irma Palmer 2. Mildred Burnhart 3. Mildred Gable 4. Evelyn Horne 5. Mary Frey
6. Lillian Price 7. Lydia Orman 8. Florence Kressler 9.-11. ? 12. Viola Mackey
Row 4 L-R: 1. Walter Lapping 2.? 3. Alice Monroe 4.? 5. Mildred Miller 6. Alida Hayfield
7. Helen Price 8. Arthur Borse 9. Charles Schmell
Row 5 L-R: Teacher, Charles Trumbauer 1. Nina Kressler 2. Emily Dillenschneider 3 Hank DePue "Sutter"
4.? 5. William Mackey 6. Harold Thorsen 7. Gladys Monroe 8.-9.?

Applebachsville School was located at Old Bethlehem and West Sawmill roads. It was a two-room school with the primary school on the first floor, and grammar school on the second floor.

GHOST MOUNTAIN STORIES

By Sue Kleiner-Grew

Local lore has it that in Springfield Township there is a place known as Ghost Mountain. The intersections of Township, Bursonville and Knecht Bridge roads mark the center of that region. But Winding, Maple and Mink roads are part of the area as well. There are rumors of sightings of eerie lights on the mountain and other unexplained events.

Wayne Dundon, who lives on Mink Road, experienced several ghostly events since he and his family moved into their home in July 2004. The episodes tended to happen when changes were made to the home. The initial occurrence came on the heels of their first renovation project about six months after they moved in.

The basement was converted to make a bedroom for their eldest son. Shortly after their son moved into the room, he told his parents, "There's somebody in my room." He told them that a real old guy with a long gray beard had been standing at the foot of his bed. The boy said he looked like the Gorton's fisherman. The appearances occurred three times during a two-month period.

The whole thing was quite unsettling for the boy. He shared his worry with his grandfather who advised him to tell the ghost to go away and that he did not belong in the house. The boy took his grandfather's advice and the ghost never appeared to the boy after that.

About two years ago, Wayne needed to dig a trench to help drain runoff water away from the house. He brought in a backhoe to dig out the area. From Friday through Sunday during the work, it rained nonstop, leaving puddles everywhere. On Sunday, when he had finished, it finally stopped raining but everything was totally drenched.

The family was back in the house when they heard something that sounded like rain again, but when they looked outside, they saw a huge, blazing fire in the fire pit. It burned intensely and then, as quickly as it turned into an inferno, it extinguished with not a trace of smoke or smolder.

Wayne offered no explanation for the occurrences; he can only confirm what he and his family experienced.

SOCIETY NEWS

NOTES OF THANKS

Nancy Singer donated a plate from the Singer pottery works to HHS in memory of her late husband, Web Singer. We are very grateful for this gift which enriches our collection of local treasures. The plate is now on display at the Haycock Township building.

Marjorie and Charles Fulp donated a matted 18 x 24 copy of a hand drawn map of Haycock Township. It was begun in 1953 and updated in 1955, listing family names and pond locations in Haycock. HHS deeply appreciates their gift which will be added to our growing collection of artifacts.

CORRECTION:

In the Spring 2008 newsletter, Web Singer, Jr., was incorrectly identified. He was the great-grandson of the famous potter, Simon Singer.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

A message from Diane Vosburgh who is putting together a schedule for volunteers for Kringle:

In just a little over 6 weeks, it will be time for Kringle Shoppe. Those of us on the social committee are all excited and are already working hard to make this another successful year. In order to do this, we need a lot of members to donate their time. Any amount of time you can give us will be most appreciated, no amount is too small. If you can help us out, please contact Diane Vosburgh via email or telephone at: dmvosburgh@gmail.com or 267-467-4548

KRINGLE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE 2008

This year, an exciting artful mix will again be presented by members of Haycock Historical Society's Events committee. Kringle will be held at the Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church again this year.

Dates and times are as follows: December 5 from 1 pm to 8 p.m., December 6 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and December 7 from 12:30 pm to 4:30 p.m.

Our guest artist will be Rebecca Bell who has captured dozens of familiar places with her oil paintings.

Haycock's own children's book author, Kay Winters will offer her new, signed book. There will be over 30 other artists, potters, sculptors and handworkers all presenting beautiful and unique items for purchase.

All items at Kringle are made by local people, from the stocking stuffers to the fine art and sculpture. Come enjoy continuous live holiday music as you browse through the beautiful displays.

The hospitality kitchen will offer a tempting array of holiday treats that you can enjoy while you visit or take home to give as gifts. This year, women from the Latvian Church will offer Latvian foods for sale to help raise money for their special charities. The church will break with tradition by holding their 10:30 service in English for the benefit of our guests who wish to attend.

HHS member, Greg Seifert of Mountain Pride Farm, will offer Belgian horse and carriage rides from the church and through the village on Saturday and Sunday of the event,

(weather permitting). Mark your calendar for these special dates and come to Kringle to get into the holiday spirit!

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Pat DeWald has been putting the finishing touches on the book "Eddie Bauer and the Families of Haycock."

She is awaiting word on the grants that she applied for to fund publication of the book.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We currently have 124 active members.

If you have an annual membership, it will expire on 12/31/08.

Right now is a good time to renew. Keep up your membership so that you don't miss out on all the great things that come with being an HHS member. As an active member, you receive 4 newsletters a year, you are given passwords to access to several historical information websites, you are entitled to use the laptop computer to perform your own research and access to our ever expanding database. You might also want to use the newest addition to our resources, a docupen portable scanner device. You will also receive discounts on certain activities during the year.

Please contact Sue Kleiner-Grew at 215-353-0007 and she will help you with membership renewal.

Or you may want to visit our website: www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org where you will find application forms for membership renewal.

You might also consider becoming a lifetime member and never again have to worry about renewing your membership.

OFFICERS COMMITTEE

HHS purchased a Docupen scanner. It is a wand shaped portable scanner that will allow you to make copies of documents of all kinds and store them or transfer them onto your computer. It is a great tool for researchers to use and will be stored at Pat DeWald's home. You can contact Pat to use the docupen.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

At the October meeting, member Greg Seifert won the door prize which was an HHS cookbook.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 23 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Applebachsville, at 2:30 p.m.



KRAUSE
CONSTRUCTION

ADDITIONS ▼ REMODELING

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