

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Fall 2016

The Godlewski Family

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, PA

MORE OF OUR LOST TOHICKON VALLEY

As told by Thomas Godlewski and Pauline Godlewski Ruppert to Marjorie Goldthorp Fulp

When creating Nockamixon State Park and Lake, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by eminent domain, took the Bedminster Township farm of Edward (b.1913 d.1995) and Henrietta Gryziecki Godlewski (b.1913 d.2010), their children, Thomas and Pauline, and Edward's parents, Frank (b. about 1883) and Florence Godlewski (b. about 1894). Three generations lived and farmed there. Frank and Florence Godlewski immigrated from Poland. In the 1920 census, Frank and Florence, along with their three children, Edward, Eugenia, and Frank, lived in Philadelphia. Frank was a weaver in a woolen mill. The family moved in the 1920's to Bedminster Township, Bucks County, PA. Edward and his siblings grew up on the farm. Edward married Henrietta Gryziecki who had lived in Perkasio, PA. They had two children, Thomas, born in 1941, and Pauline, born in 1945, who both lived on the farm until 1963, when the state took it. The family attended St. John the Baptist RC Church in Haycock Township.

This active and very productive 80-acre farm was on Mink Road in Bedminster Township. The large farm house was stucco over wood. It was a double house, a duplex. The grandparents, Frank and Florence, first lived in the larger half of the house, and Edward and Henrietta lived in the smaller half. Later, the families switched, with Edward and Henrietta and their children in the larger side of the house. Both sides of the house were heated by wood/coal stoves. Frank and Florence used a wood cook stove and Edward and Henrietta used an electric stove for cooking. There was a

huge fireplace, with a "chimney large enough to crawl into," in the older half of the house. Edward enlarged his family's side of the homestead by adding on a kitchen, a sitting room, and 2 bedrooms. The big barn had a stone with the date of the late 1800's, so the house is probably from the same century.



Thomas and Pauline Godlewski

Frank had 10 milk cows which he first milked by hand, and later with electric milking machines when electricity came to their area. Milk was taken to the creamery in Ottsville. The farm had about 2000 chickens. The Godlewskis would buy chicks and start them out in three brooder houses, which were about 12 feet by 12 feet each, with about 300 chicks to a house. The chicks were kept warm with a kerosene heater in the middle of the structure. A circular "fence" would keep the chicks close to the heat source, and prevent them from going into corners, where they might pile up onto each other to keep warm, and suffocate. When the chicks were old enough, they were moved to chicken shelters where they would be fenced in at night to be safe from animals, but allowed to roam free range during the day. The chickens provided eggs and were sold for eating. Ducks were also bought as babies, raised to adults, and sold. Buildings on the farm included the house, barn, corn cribs, three chicken shelters, three brooder houses, and a shed. The barn held the cows and pigs.

As a teenager, Thomas would buy young heifers from the local farmers, keeping a herd of about 50. They were pure bred, and after he had raised them, they were sold as milk cows. He didn't do any milking himself. The family bought

piglets at the Quakertown Farmers' Market and raised them to become 200 pound hogs to be sold at market. The Godlewskis had 60 hogs.

There were 3 cisterns on the farm, each 25 to 30 feet deep, and 10 to 12 feet in diameter. They were hewn out of rock, and good spring water seeped out at the rocky bottom of the cisterns. One cistern was for the barn, another for the shed, and the third for the house. When electricity came to the farm, the water was pumped into the house for indoor plumbing. At another location, the property had a spring



Pauline Godlewski on her horse, Jupy

which never stopped flowing, even in a severe drought.

The family grew all their own grains and hay. They rotated their crops of corn, wheat, oats and hay. Grandfather Frank used horses in the beginning, and next an iron wheeled tractor. After that, the tractors were a Case and a Farmall, with rubber wheels. Tom never had to drive an iron wheeled tractor. Frank and Edward had their own equipment: a combine, baler, plow, discs, rake and a harrow. Edward would go around to sales to pick up what he needed. The grains and corn were harvested and taken to the Dublin feed mill where they were ground and mixed into feed for the animals, and bagged to take home. The family did not raise their own vegetables.

Edward Godlewski was also a paper hanger and a huckster. He had a box truck, about 8 feet wide and 10 to 12 feet long, with dual wheels on the back. On Thursdays and Fridays he took turkeys, chickens and eggs to Philadelphia to sell to the small corner grocery stores in the city. Some of his products were bought from other farmers, and he had butter from the creamery. On Wednesdays, neighbors came to work at preparing the poultry for selling. Edward bought ice blocks from the Quakertown ice house and chopped them up into small pieces to fill an insulated box in the truck. The eggs, butter and poultry were packed in the ice to stay fresh.

The farm was down a long lane, and when it snowed, the family had to shovel all the snow by hand. Tom remembers a few times when they flagged down a passing bulldozer to come plow them out. He recalls some deep snows in the 1950's.

Around 1961, when the State Park was proposed, the Godlewskis were told that a creek which ran through their farm (not the Tohickon Creek, which also bordered their land) would flood when the dam was built, and so they had to sell their farm to the state. Pauline, about 16 years old at the time, was heartbroken when she had to give up her horse, Jupy, whom she had been given when she was 10 years old. They would not have a place for the horse at their next home. Her family moved to Quakertown in 1963. Tom went to George Washington University and when he returned home, the farm was gone.

As it turned out, the dam was built farther away than it was first thought to be, and the Godlewski's land did not flood. The family possibly could have kept their farm, and Pauline her beloved horse Jupy. The old farmhouse and barn and other buildings are now gone, torn down by the state.

Thomas Godlewski and his wife Irene now live in Florida. Pauline married Edward Ruppert and they also moved to Florida, near to Tom and Irene, where Edward now resides. Pauline passed away on February 13, 2013.



The Godlewski Home

Pauline Godlewski Ruppert's memories:

My parents' farm was located on Mink Road, the same road that takes you to the dam. We were the second farm away from the dam. The farm closest to the dam was owned by the Phillips Family. This was a great place to grow up with my parents, my brother, and my grandparents. My dad, Edward Godlewski, went to Yost (one-room) school, as did my brother, Thomas. I went to Pipersville, a two-room school for grades one through fifth. For sixth grade, I went to Deep Run, a one-room school. For junior high, I went to Sell-Perk Jr. High, and then on to Pennridge High School.

One good holiday memory would be hunting for the perfect Christmas tree. My brother and I would go out into the woods and select a pine tree. He would climb the tree with a saw (these trees were very large and tall) and cut off the top. A good summertime memory would be riding my horse, Jupy, down to the Tohickon Creek. Sometimes I would meet my good friend, Arlene Fleck, there. There used to be a small dam and a cabin there. Arlene knew the folks who owned the cabin. Many times we would swim, and I would take my horse into the water. At that time the water was no more than four feet deep at the dam. This dam was almost in the same spot where the new dam is today. My favorite pastime, no question here, was riding Jupy down to the cabin and the dam, and also riding over to the town of Tohickon Village, crossing over the Tohickon Creek by way of the (five) arched bridge.

I attended Yost School for grades one through three - Pipersville Elementary for grades four through seven, and Penridge Jr. and High School for grades eight through twelve.

Summertime on the farm was mostly taking care of the livestock, harvesting the crops, and baling hay. My favorite pastime was going hunting and fishing, going on 5 mile walks along the creeks which ran through the farm, and the Tohickon Creek, which ran alongside of some of our land.

Special places remembered are swimming and fishing in the Tohickon Creek, and standing on some really nice overlooks of the Tohickon Creek. It was a really beautiful valley which is no more, so peaceful and quiet. It was really nice to grow up on a farm. I loved it.

Special places remembered:

There used to be another dam along Ridge Road. (This would be Stover's Dam). After you pass Frei's Garage, heading towards St. Johns R.C. Church, on the left side was a dam, where many folks would go swimming, especially on weekends.

On Sunday mornings, we used to stop at Traugers' Store to pick up the Sunday paper. They also used to make tombstones, along with running their little general store. Good memories! I still remember our phone no. on the farm – Sweetbriar 5-3221.

We had a herd of cows, and we milked them every morning and every night. In the summer when I did not have school, I would help with the milking and then I would go with my dad to Ottsville to the creamery to deliver the milk there. I would walk up the street to the store and get my favorite food---ice cream! Still is my favorite.

My dad had a route in Philly, where he would sell the chickens and turkeys that were slaughtered every Wednesday at our farm. He would go on Thursday to deliver them to many stores and delis. Sometimes I would go with him. We also raised chickens and pigs, and he took eggs to the stores in Philly. It was a fun time for me. One of the storekeepers became real friends with my dad and I got to pal around with their daughter, Irene. She was about four years older than I was, but that didn't matter, we got along really well. She loved coming to the farm and staying for a few days. She just loved all the animals and my horse, also. I stayed a few days in Philly, which was quite interesting, since I was a country girl and the city was certainly different from what I was used to.

Anyway, as time went on, Irene got interested in my brother. They started dating, and low and behold I lost my girlfriend and gained a sister-in-law! We are still very close to this day.

Thomas Godlewski's memories:

Our farm was the second in from where the dam is today. There were three farms on our side of Mink Road. The Phillips' farm was closest to the dam, then ours and then Lears'. On our farm we grew grain and raised cattle and hogs and chickens. Our farm was around 80 acres. I raised 50 head of cattle, 60 hogs, and 2000 chickens.

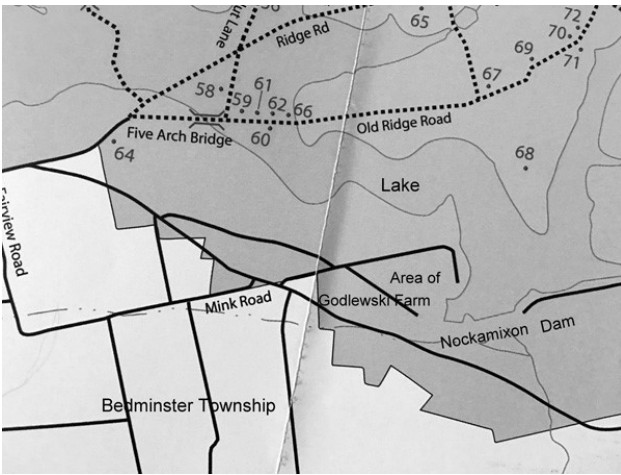


Henrietta and Edward Godlewski



Frank and Florence Godlewski

Photo and map continue on the next page



Map showing the area of the Godlewski Farm

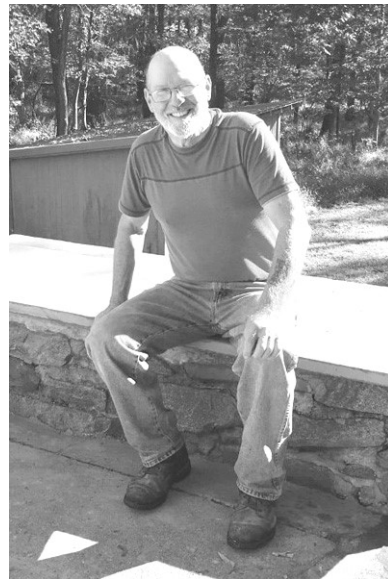


Edward Godlewski, Bill Urban, and Thomas Godlewski 1961



Steve Applegate

Demonstrating his flintlock at our September meeting.



Gordon Allem

Sits on the stone work he completed on the Stokes house porch



FALL CLEANUP

The Stokes House Headquarters is looking like the park land it is.



Pat Dewald

Watering the new boxwood plants.



LUNCH

Some of the cleanup crew having lunch

2017 Kringle Christmas Shoppe Featured Artist, Debbie Molettiere: Inspired by Haycock's Beauty

by Mary Shafer

It's safe to say Debbie Molettiere is an outdoor kind of gal. She and her husband, Bill Amey, own and operate Nature's Way Canoe & Kayak on Mountain Road in Nockamixon Township, and make the rest of their living as Nature's Way Landscape Arborists, spending their days creating designs using trees, plants, rocks and other natural materials. But it's what she does in her leisure hours that truly connects her to nature in a most personal way. Debbie uses natural clay and glazes to create artwork as Nature's Way Pottery, a ceramics studio housed above her garage right here in Haycock Township.



Debbie has been making art "since I was a kid. I fell in love with clay in elementary school," she recalls, "back when art was still considered an important part of a well-rounded education." She remembers vividly a school field trip to Mercer Tile Works, where she was first exposed to this time-honored, three-dimensional art form.

"I enjoyed slab work in class, but when I saw them working on a wheel, I was intrigued. I asked my parents for one of those little craft potter's wheels. My mom asked if I really wanted it, because it was expensive. I told her I really did, so they got it for me, but it didn't have enough power and was a huge disappointment."

Nevertheless, the love of clay stayed with her, and was nurtured throughout her elementary and secondary education. She credits her schooling with helping her progress in her ceramics skills. "I went to the central Bucks School District, and they had a good art program. I had a great high school teacher, from whom I took pottery classes all three years. The arts were still really big then."

After she graduated in 1980, Debbie continued her ceramics education on her own, at first taking classes through retail stores, where they painted pottery. She then progressed to craft shows, where she saw artists at work, and was exposed to different firing techniques using gas and wood, supplementing her electric kiln experience from school. "Making art never left me. Once I left school, I did eventually buy a used kick wheel at a garage sale, and found a place to take night classes," she notes. "I've also taken a lot of workshops with well-known ceramic artists in our area, including some of the people who brought ceramic arts to prominence today."

She eventually created a studio over the garage she shares with Bill here in Haycock. The view overlooks the woods, which she finds inspiring.

"I make a lot of birdhouses — my main product — and those are definitely inspired by nature," she explains. She also makes many other functional items, including birdbaths, fountains, vases, and bowls. For the holidays, she creates whimsical Santas and snowmen, which you'll find in this year's upcoming Kringle Christmas Shoppe, along with her other unique pieces. A few years back, the Michener Museum sold some of her items in its gift shop, and took several pieces of her work, as an example of traditional Bucks County folk art, to the annual expo on Museum Row in Philadelphia (<http://www.pmacraftshow.org>).



All of her companies are named Nature's Way after the inspiration she gets from the beauty of the natural world such as she finds in Haycock. It also signifies the fact that she's mindful of the environment. "I mix my own glazes, fire with wood instead of electric when I can, and try always to incorporate environmentally friendly processes into my work," she says. "I like designing my birdhouses to fit into the natural environment, and I love the idea of people putting them outside to enjoy how it feels to live with my art

in their own yards, and to watch the birds that use them. I want my work to impart a feeling of peace and calm."

Debbie would like to be able to have more time to make more detailed pieces, but "I only get to do that in wintertime," when landscaping is slow, she admits. She's looking forward to doing just that after this year's Kringle Christmas Shoppe, as the holidays give way to cold weather, snow and ice. You can learn more about Debbie and her work by emailing her at claypot8@verizon.net.





Members! Welcome back to our little Christmas Shoppe chocked full of BIG talent where all items offered for sale are made by our talented pool of LOCAL artisans!

This years' featured vendor is pottery artist, **Deborah Molettiere**, owner of Nature's Way Pottery and Nature's Way Canoe & Kayak, in Haycock Township. She is well-recognized for her charming stoneware birdhouses and anagama pottery creations. You'll find a bounty of Deborah's submissions this year plus works by over 35 other participants, (many brand new vendors!) which include sculpture, fine art, photography, quilts, jewelry, stationery, home & garden decor, fashion apparel & accessories, holiday ornaments, pantry items, holiday treats and so much more.

We are honored to have the last tribute sale of a limited amount of items made by former lifetime member and participant, Loretta Belac of Belacraft Pottery.

We'll have amazing Raffle baskets and Gift Certificate Wreaths! Artisans and local businesses have joined together, donating hundreds of dollars gathered into overflowing prize collections. A dollar chance or better yet, six chances for \$5.00 give you the greatest odds for winning big.

Stop by our hospitality kitchen for free coffee, cocoa and sweet treats donated by fellow members! Our Latvian hosts sell hot dogs with their famous Latvian sauerkraut for the hungry shopper. Enjoy continuous live holiday music performed by volunteer member/musicians and friends while you shop for the special people on your holiday list! All purchases support Haycock Historical Society so you can feel good, buying quality juried, locally-made items while supporting your local non-profit historical group.

When you come, be sure to visit our host facilities' Latvian Kiosk for culture, a glimpse of traditional folk costumes, beautifully re-worked Baltic amber jewelry and Latvian foods. *Proceeds from sales of Latvian items go to the congregation's ear-marked charities.*

Cash, Visa/Mastercard & approved checks are accepted and admission is free.

Members, please take a moment to share your past experiences at Kringle on our **Kringle Christmas Shoppe** FaceBook page and welcome neighbors and friends to come visit with you!



Located At:
Bucks County
Latvian Baptist Church Annex
1142 Apple Road, Quakertown, PA 18951

Kringle Christmas Shoppe XIII



Names of Students in 1903 Dunlap School Photo

Presented to Sadie Singer by Webster Singer teacher

Front Row, left to right: Sadie Daniel-Clarence Snyder-Annie Trauger-Lizzie Frick-Victor Daniel-Joe Frick-___Leslie-Florence Singer

Back Row, left to right: Irvin Ring-Sadie Singer-Clara Pearson?-Artie Snyder-Webster Singer (Teacher)-Ida Wasser-Raymond Daniel

IN MEMORY OF
Loretta C. Belac
January 11, 1938- October 7, 2016

CORRECTIONS

Corrections to the Violet Freeh story in the Summer 2016 newsletter:

On Page 1, Florence was 14 years old, not 11, when her father died, and she started working in the cigar factory. On page 3, Violet hand wrote the copy of her grandfather (not great-grandfather) Tilghman Benner's records.

Violet's mother Florence Singer and aunt Sadie Singer are in the Dunlap School photo on this page..



Donation of Chief Joe One Star Mural

A mural painted by Chief Joe One Star has been donated by Sharon (Shearer) Frank and Moira (Shearer) Dorse, in memory of their parents June (Gieseke) and Allen Shearer. The mural was painted circa 1950.

Our members, Clayton and Linda Fox, drove to Bradford County, PA, to pick up the mural at the home of Richard and Sharon Frank, in Burlington, PA. The mural is 4 feet by 12 feet, and an enclosed trailer large enough for this was needed. Sharon Hursh, another of our members, loaned the use of her trailer for Clayton and Linda to fetch the large painting.

The mural is now at Stokes, and will be framed and hung on the wall in the summer kitchen.

Thank you to Sharon and Moira, from the Haycock Historical Society, for this treasured artwork done by our Haycock icon Chief Joe One Star.



Richard and Sharon Frank



THANK YOU

Robert and Lorey Smell donated another Chief One Star creation to our collection.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT

Go and check out the Stokes yard! It is looking great. Thanks to all the hard work of the grounds crew, we are looking GOOD.

We have new paths through the woods, our bird/flower trail was cleared and will be ready for those spring flowers and birds.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication to Stokes.

Everyone try to take a stroll at Stokes on one of these nice fall days or winter days.

For you that have not been to the Stokes house, it is 1299 Apple Road. At the end of the long lane.

Thanks everyone.

Pat DeWald

Past years' issues of our Newsletter are available on our web site.

www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

“Our Lost Tohickon Valley” and “Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer” are available as E-Books on Amazon

PRINT VERSIONS

“Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer” is available at Stokes Headquarters, Haycock Township Building, and Margie Fulp

“Our Lost Tohickon Valley” is available at Sines 5&10, Stokes Headquarters, Haycock Township Building, and Margie Fulp

KRINGLE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

Friday - **December 2** 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday - **December 3** 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday - **December 4** 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

MEETINGS

March 16, 2017: To be announced

April 20, 2017: To be announced

May 18, 2017: To be announced

Meetings are held at the Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church in Applebachsville and begin at 7 p.m.

OFFICERS

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Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (215-257-7472) or m_fulp@hotmail.com

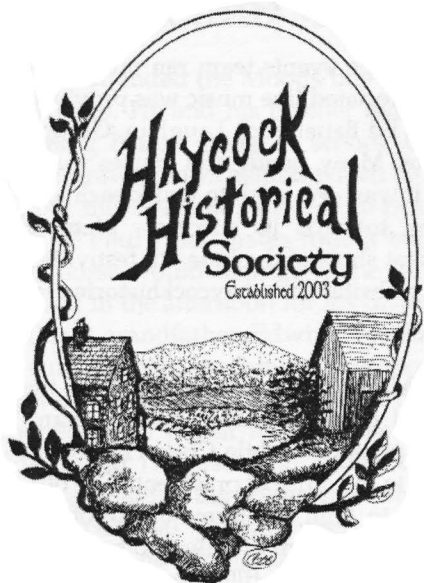
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www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

AN INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

YES, ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

I WANT TO BE PART OF RECLAIMING OUR HISTORY AND PRESERVING IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

- Individual Membership - \$20/year**
Receive quarterly newsletter and attend all special functions this year – Jan. thru Dec.
- Family Membership (Parents & Children in household) - \$30/year**
Receive quarterly newsletter and attend all special functions this year – Jan. thru Dec.
- Corporate Sponsor - \$100/year**
Gain advertisement in our newsletter by yearly sponsorship (ad size smaller than business card)
- Corporate Patron - \$200/year**
Gain advertisement in our newsletter by yearly sponsorship (ad is full business card size)
- Lifetime Individual Membership - \$200**
Receive honorary lifetime status, receive quarterly newsletters and attend all special functions
- Lifetime Household Couple Membership - \$250**
For just \$50 more, join as a household and enjoy all the benefits of lifetime membership

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

**SEND APPLICATION ALONG WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO:
P.O. Box 715, Quakertown, PA 18951**