

# HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Fall 2020

## ELLEN ALIX DU POY (DU POIS, DU POISE) DANIEL

(February 6, 1889 – February 23, 1980)

JOURNALIST...AUTHOR...O. HENRY MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER ...AND THE INTERESTING PEOPLE SHE HOSTED IN HER HAYCOCK HOME

PART TWO

By Joe and Karen Cappella

### FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES THAT MRS. DANIEL HOSTED IN HER HAYCOCK HOME:



George McFadden (Sanctuary of Apollo, Cyprus) Penn Museum Archives

archaeology. In 1938-39, since housing for the team had always been difficult in the small village of Episkopi, he built a two-story house where he lived and which also served as the excavation house for the team. He left the house to the Cypriot government, and it is now the Kourion Museum. On April 19, 1953, George McFadden, an experienced lifelong sailor, went sailing in a new, small, lightweight sailboat. The boat capsized off the coast of Cyprus within view of the ruins of Kourion, and he drowned; his body was never found. A ninety-foot yacht, named the *Samothrace*, owned by George McFadden, was one of the vessels used as part of the OSS operation in Cyprus during World War II. In 1947 he sold that yacht to King Farouk I of Egypt. (See Penn Museum, George H. McFadden III) and (Classical Spies by Susan Heuck Allen)



George Dillon (Public Domain)

**G**eorge McFadden, (1907-1953) was an archaeologist associate of Mrs. Daniel's husband at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as Dr. Daniel's team member of the Greek section of the OSS (code name "Daffy" to Dr. Daniel's "Duck").

Born April 21, 1907, he was from a wealthy family whose fortune came from a cotton brokerage. He funded the fieldwork for the University of Pennsylvania's Cyprus project. He was a relative newcomer to the field of classical

**George Dillon** (November 12, 1906 – May 9, 1968). In an August 21, 1954 letter to George Dillon from Mrs. Daniel, we learned he visited her at her Haycock home. While here, he removed the green paint from the stairway door leading to the second floor of the house, and otherwise helped with the

restoration. He and Alix also worked on his latest literary project (here and also via letters) of translating the work of the French poet Racine, including Three Plays of Racine: Phaedra, Andromache, and Britannicus, published in 1961. On page XXI, the introduction of this book, George Dillon writes **“I am most grateful to Alix duPoy for her many shrewd and enlivening criticisms.”** He was a Jazz Age poet, translator, and editor of *Poetry Magazine* from 1937 to 1949. He also served in WW II as a member of the Signal Corps. Dillon published *The Flowering Stone*, his second collection, at just 25, for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. Additional honors included two Guggenheim Fellowships. (We were able to obtain 277 pages of letters from Alix du Poy to George Dillon from the archives at Syracuse University.)

**Dr. Mary Hamilton Swindler** (January 2, 1884 – January 16, 1967) was an American archaeologist, classical art scholar, author, and professor of classical archaeology, most notably at Bryn Mawr College, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Michigan. Dr. Swindler also founded the Ella Riegel Memorial Museum at Bryn Mawr College. She participated in various archaeological excavations in Greece, Egypt, and Turkey. (Various letters to George Dillon)

**Tonia Thomas** (Madame Krivitsky) was the wife of **Walter Germanovich Krivitsky**, a Soviet intelligence officer who revealed plans of signing the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact before he defected, weeks before the outbreak of World War II. On February 10, 1941, at 9:30 a.m., he was found dead with a *suicide note* in the Bellevue Hotel in Washington, DC. According to many sources, and predicted by Krivitsky himself via a letter he wrote to his wife prior to his death, he was actually murdered by Soviet intelligence. (Letter to George Dillon 8/21/54)

**Princess Alexandra Kropotkin** was a descendant of the Rurik Dynasty, the various branches which ruled Russia from 862-598 BC. She was the daughter and only child of Prince Peter Kropotkin, who had served as an aide to Tsar Alexander II in 1862. Princess Alexandra Kropotkin is known for her English translations of Leo Tolstoy’s War and Peace, and Fyodor Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment. She also authored How to Cook and Eat in Russian. (Letter to George Dillon 8/21/54)

**Suzanne Clara La Follette** was an American journalist and author who advocated for libertarian feminism in the first half of the 20th century. As an editor she helped found several magazines. She was an early and ardent feminist and a vocal anti-communist. Suzanne Follette owned a farm in Bedminster, Bucks County, not far from Mrs. Daniel, and they visited each other often. (Various letters to George Dillon)

*(In the 8/21/54 letter to George Dillon Alix writes “Suzanne, Madame Krivitsky, and Princess Alexandra Kropotkin are all coming for dinner tonight. I should serve vodka with that set-up but instead I’m serving them whiskey or rum, whichever they prefer.”)*

**Dr. Henry Irving Stahr** was born in 1880. His great grandparents, grandparents, father, and his aunt and uncle, each owned this house at one time. Isaac, his father, as well as his aunt and uncles, were born and raised in this house. In 1953, at age 73, Dr. Henry Irving Stahr, his wife, their daughter, and their son-in-law came to the former Stahr family Haycock home to visit with Mrs. Daniel. He was an educator, a minister and also the president of Hood College, Frederick, Maryland, from 1934-1948. He did his graduate work at Cornell University and Ursinus College. Dr. Stahr told Mrs. Daniel that he **“liked the changes she made to the house, as well as the changes she hadn’t made.”** (September 9, 1953 letter to George Dillon)

Dr. Henry Irving Stahr’s father, the Reverend Isaac Sommer Stahr taught at the Applebachville Seminary from 1869-1875. Isaac married Hannah Applebach in 1879 and accepted a call in 1883 to serve as pastor of four churches in the Oley Valley area, where he served for more than 45 years. Henry’s uncle, John Sommer Stahr began teaching at age 16 at the Applebachville School, later the Applebachville Seminary (1858-1865), and served as president of Franklin and Marshall College from 1889-1909. Another uncle, Samuel Sommer Stahr, was the Commander of the Jackson Guard, a military company of the Applebachville General Militia.



**Dr. Henry Irving Stahr, President of Hood College, wielding the shovel, breaks ground for the new library.**



Dr. Stahr's wife, Alice, christens the bow of the *SS Hood Victory*, 1945. (HOOD COLLEGE, Arcadia Publishing, South Carolina, 2013)

**Jenny Bradley**, international literary agent who assisted the impoverished James Joyce with money. She translated Joyce's play, "Exiles," and arranged a French-language production in Paris. At times, Alix and Jenny met in New York for a meal, and other times they met in Alix's Haycock home. (Various letters to George Dillon)

**Peg Foulet**, a friend from Princeton, NJ; Mrs. Daniel spent many Christmas holidays with Mrs. Foulet and her husband, a professor at Princeton University. (Various letters to George Dillon)

**John and Sally Nerber**, from New York and Connecticut. John was an editor and gave Mrs. Daniel the **infamous sweet-smelling rose hedge** that has become part of the Haycock spring landscape fragrance. Alix planted the rose hedge across the front of her property, because she loved being outside and hoped the barrier would give her more privacy. (Letter to George Dillon June 23, 1954)

**Marie Wilson** and her husband were close friends from Berwyn (also Avalon, NJ) with whom Alix spent most Thanksgivings, and visited quite frequently throughout the year both in Berwyn and Avalon, NJ. The Wilson's daughter, Ruthanne was institutionalized with emotional issues, and Mrs. Daniel found ways to communicate with Ruthanne in a meaningful and positive manner. (Various letters to George Dillon)

### OTHER FRIENDS OF MRS. DANIEL'S INCLUDE:

**Marion Strobel Mitchell:** A fiction writer, critic, and poet. She was also an associate editor of *Poetry Magazine* from 1920 to 1925.

**Fanny Butcher:** A writer and critic for *the Chicago Tribune* for 40 years, she worked as a society editor, club editor, crime reporter, and fashion editor.

**Joan Mitchell:** In a 3/24/54 letter to George Dillon Mrs. Daniel states she visited Joan Mitchell at her studio in New York. (Alix frequently went to New York to visit or stay with friends.) Joan was an artist and printmaker, and a member of the American abstract expressionist movement. She was one of her era's few female painters to gain critical and public acclaim. Her paintings and limited edition prints can be seen in major museums and collections across the United States and Europe and many have become *very valuable*. In an 8/21/54 letter to George Dillon, Mrs. Daniel describes where in her living room she hung the **Joan Mitchell painting** she owned. We remember seeing that painting hanging on the wall when we would visit with Alix. At that time we did not know of its possible value. **Some of Mrs. Daniel's possessions were sent to a relative in California, but most of her things were taken to the Richlandtown Auction Hall on Richlandtown Pike. It is possible that someone in this community now owns that painting.**

### TWO INTERESTING FACTS ...

The first time we met Mrs. Daniel was on April 10, 1978. On that day a real estate agent **told** us her house was for sale, and took us to see the inside of the house. The agent told us that Alix contacted him for information about moving into town (Quakertown). On that same day, the agent suggested a dollar amount to offer. We signed an offer that also included the provision that she could have until **October 10, 1979 (up to 18 months) to make settlement**. Several days later the agent told us she refused the offer and did not counter offer. He suggested we offer more money, which we did. This offer, we were told by the real estate agent, was also rejected. Next, instead of additional money, we offered, through the agent, to maintain the house until settlement. Several days later, the agent told us that Mrs. Daniel did not accept, and did not counter offer. Our suspicions aroused, we contacted an attorney who suggested that we write a letter to Mrs. Daniel. We did, and on April 28, 1978, she answered, telling us she was not ready to sell her house yet, but ... "I would like you to become owners of this place." We visited Alix in June and she told us she never saw any of the offers from the real estate agent that we submitted, and she had never signed an agreement with the real estate agent to sell her house. We continued to visit her because we enjoyed our conversations with her and believed she did also. On June 21, 1979 we received a letter from Ellis Dunn (her power of attorney as well as executor of her estate) telling us Mrs. Daniel had fallen and was going to sell her house. He told us the selling price and that **"Alix wanted us to be offered first refusal on the house."** Ellis said that Alix's attorney would draw up the agreement of sale and represent her and we were to have an attorney represent us" (no real estate agents). When we received papers from Alix's attorney, the **settlement date was October 10, 1979 (the same date as was on the papers we signed 18 months ago that were never shown to Mrs. Daniel by the real estate agent!)**. We are glad we still have all of these letters and documents in our possession to remind us of these events.

Also, the book Towers Along the Grass, by Ellen du Poise Taylor, Harper and Brothers Publishers, New York and London, is the story about Bianca Wells, the descendant of Bianca Cappello. When we obtained a copy of this book, many years after the purchase of this house, we discovered that the character's name in the book published in 1928 was just one letter different than our name, Cappella. When we first met Mrs. Daniel, she asked us twice how to spell our last name, but never mentioned this book. Now we understand the reason for her questions.

**NEA HESTIA, R. R. 3,**  
Quakertown, PA was the letterhead we found on **Ellen Alix du Poy Daniel's** stationary (February 24, 1950). N'ea is the Greek word for "new" and HESTIA is the Greek Goddess of the hearth or home. Considering Alix's marriage to Dr. John Franklin Daniel III and his work as an archeologist as well as the circumstances of his sudden and mysterious death and the journey Alix traveled that brought her here to this house in Haycock Township, **NEA HESTIA (NEW Hearth/ Home)** was a most appropriate name for the place in which she was to reside for the rest of her life.

It has been our pleasure to have known Mrs. Daniel, and to have had the opportunity to purchase this house, as well as live all of these years in such a house so full of history. We often remark on whether or not she would approve of the changes that we have made during the past 40 years. **Like Dr. Henry Irving Stahr's response to her at the time of his visit in 1953, we hope that she would say, she "likes the changes that we made, as well as those we didn't make."**

Karen and Joe Cappella, 2020

## SOURCES

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Edited by Janet Boyd and Sharon J. Kirsh Lexington Books, 2014

The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas by Gertrude Stein,  
Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1933

Gertrude Stein: The Language That Rises: 1923-1934  
(Avant-Garde & Modernism Studies) by Ulla E. Dydo, and William Rice, Northwestern University Press, 2003

O. Henry Memorial Award Prize Stories of 1927,  
Doubleday, Doran, and Company, 1928

"My Father's America," A Pioneer of the Prairie, *The Freeman*, March 10, 1952 by Alix du Poy

"The Stimulating Life with Gertrude and Company," *The Lost Generation Journal*, Volume VI, Number 1 Summer, 1979 by Alix du Poy Daniel

**Correspondence from Ellen Alix Du Poy to Gertrude Stein (1928-1946)** from Yale University, 171 pages

**Correspondence from Gertrude Stein to Ellen Alix Du Poy (1929-1945)** from Yale University, 86 pages

**Correspondence from Ellen Alix Du Poy to Alice B. Toklas (July 29, 1946)** after the death of Gertrude Stein, inviting her to come to visit

**Correspondence from Ellen Alix Du Poy to George Dillon (1935-1938, 1949-1967)** from Syracuse University, 277 pages

**Correspondence between Ellen Alix Du Poy and Kimon Friar papers (1939)** from Firestone Library, Princeton University (box 138, folder 6)

**Chicago Tribune, Illinois (March 5, 1944), Modern Art Section, Page 71.**

**Manitowoc Herald Times (April 20, 1939) page 2**

Three Plays of Racine: Phaedra, Andromache, and Britannicus by Jean Baptiste Racine, translated by George Dillon, University of Chicago Press, 1961

**CREWS Project: A Tale of Two Scholars, and the Center of Minoan Linguistic Research** that never came to exist. July 2019, Cassandra Donnelly, a PhD student at the University of Texas Austin.

American Journal of Archeology, Volume 52 Number 1: John Franklin Daniel III 1910-1948

University of Pennsylvania Museum – voluminous, on-line resources at [upenn.edu](http://upenn.edu)

Classical Spies: American Archeologists with the OSS in World War II Greece by Susan Heuck Allen, The University of Michigan Press, Copyright 2011

Families of Haycock Township, Bucks County and Vicinity by Thomas Moll

Pennsylvania County Histories, Democrat (newspaper), June 21, 1894.

HOOD COLLEGE, Arcadia Publishing, South Carolina, 2013

UT Department of History Records, 1877-1989, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin. Ellen DuPois, visiting lecturer, April 16.





**Jamie Bradley**

Jamie Bradley is working on the 4 new storm doors for our Stokes House headquarters building, and is also replacing the window that was destroyed at a break in last year. When not doing this kind of restoration work Jamie also is a Henry Mercer reenactor. He appears in the persona of Henry Chapman Mercer at various functions and covers the history of the famous archeologist and his Fonthill Castle and Mercer Museum.

## **DUES for 2021 are due by the end of December**

If you have an annual membership your dues are due by the end of December for 2021. While we have not been able to have meetings, and gatherings or fundraisers, we have been able to keep our headquarters maintained. The lawn has been kept beautiful and the garden improved significantly. We have received new items for our library and museum.

You will find a notice with this newsletter, to send in with your dues, if you are an annual member and have not already paid your 2021 dues. We thank you for your continued support and hope to resume our programs and activities in the new year ahead.

## KRINGLE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE

Regrettably, our annual holiday fundraiser has been cancelled for 2020. With uncertainty surrounding the pandemic's course heading into the flu season, there is concern for the safety of guests and volunteers. Considering the additional planning and staff necessary to accommodate anticipated changes amid an uncertain economy, this was a prudent decision. The silver lining to the situation is that we may see an amazing transformation of the former school auditorium when we finally return. Several very handy and dedicated Haycock Fire Company volunteers have been steadily working at the renovations while activities have temporarily halted at the Haycock Community Center!

### HHS NEEDS A WEBMASTER

Is there a member who is interested in maintaining the HHS website ?

### FREE ACCESS TO PENNSYLVANIA RECORDS ON ANCESTRY

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx>

### STORIES WANTED

We are collecting stories from members about what you are doing during the isolation for the COVID 19 pandemic. These stories will be placed on our website under Haycock Stories. Years later the stories will tell how we coped with the situation.

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

[www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org](http://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, The Treasure Trove in Perkasio, and Margie Fulp

## FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Because of the pandemic, so far Stokes has not been open on Friday mornings. Circumstances will dictate when Stokes can reopen. Even though the Stokes building is closed, the grounds are there, waiting to be enjoyed by members and offer a wonderfully serene area to picnic or simply walk around and enjoy nature and the colonial flower garden with the new oyster shell pathways!

## MEETINGS

**March 18, 2021: 7 p.m. To be announced.**

**April 15, 2021: 7 p.m. To be announced.**

**May 20, 2021: 7 p.m. To be announced.**

Third Thursday meetings are held at the Haycock Community Center, formerly the Haycock Elementary School, at Old Bethlehem Road and Sawmill Road, in Applebachsville. The meeting room is Community Room West.

**The Thursday meetings 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](mailto:m_fulp@hotmail.com)

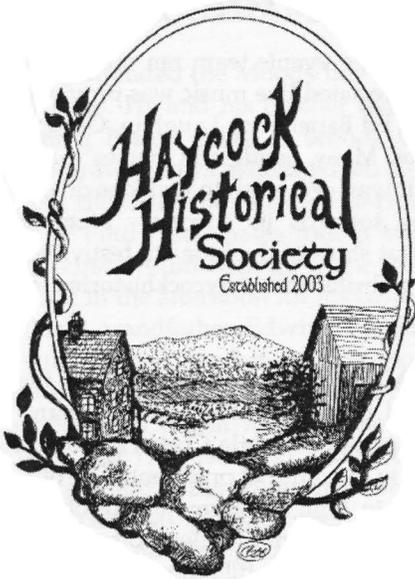
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## AN INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

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