



John and Hannahs' oldest son, **John Stokes III** (1747-1809) was born in Haycock, and around the year 1769, at age of about 22, returned to his parents' farm Stokes Meadows, with his wife **Suzanna Newton** (1751-1790). The 1779 tax records for Stokes Meadows indicates that the farm at that time consisted of 425 acres of land and having 2 horses, and 12 cattle. The Direct Tax of 1798 describes Stokes Meadows as having a two-story 34 feet X 24 feet stone house, an 18 feet X 16 feet stone kitchen, a 75 feet X 30 feet stone barn, an open shed with no description, 353 acres of land, and a total valuation of \$4860, and the 1784 tax indicates that Stokes Meadows contained 350 acres of land, 2 dwellings, 2 out houses, 13 white inhabitants, and 0 black inhabitants. Until the property was sold on January 5, 1837, the Stokes homestead remained in the family for over 100 years.



**The John Stokes house as it may have looked in 1776 with the summer kitchen added at a later date but before 1798. The oven, that is attached to the summer kitchen, called a beehive oven, is dome shaped because this shape traps heat inside the oven that causes food to be more evenly cooked. The segmental relieving arches over the first-floor windows and the triangular pediment hanging over the front door, as can be seen on the facade of the Stokes house, are typical characteristics of pre-Revolutionary War homes. (Drawing by Doug Goldthorp)**

As written in a paper read by Paul H. Applebach, Esq., of Doylestown at the June 9, 1894, Buckwampun Literary and Historical Association meeting held in Applebachsville: "The wife of John Stokes frequently related to her friends, how when she was a young wife and lived upon the farm during the Revolutionary War, she drove the pasturing horses into the woods to keep them out of the clutches of the soldiers, who were scouring the country for animals."

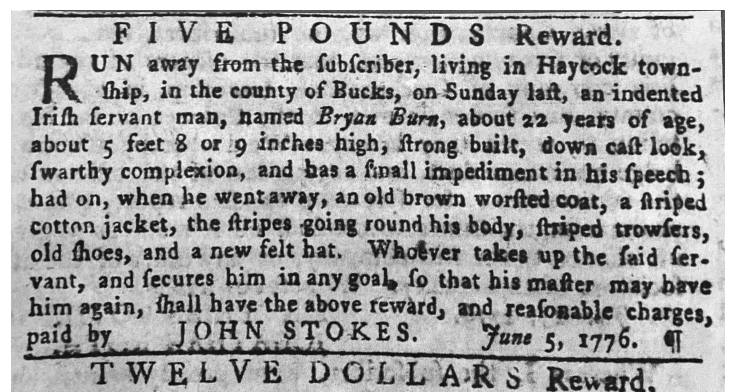
The Stokes eventually had nine children they needed to take care of, along with the challenges and dangers they constantly faced and had to overcome in order to survive while living in the wilderness. Strenuous work was required to maintain their farm and care for their livestock. Their two-story stone home, that still exists today, was probably under construction or recently completed. During this time period, John and Suzanna Stokes soon realized additional help would be beneficial and around the time of 1775, they signed a contract with an indentured servant.

Although an official record of an agreement of an

indentured servant contract between **Bryan Burn**, age of 22, born in Ireland, and John Stokes III, of Haycock Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, has not been located there are two pieces of compelling documented evidence that such a contract did indeed, at one time, exist. Records indicate that about 1753 Bryan Burn was born in Ireland. His occupation while living there was listed as a "Husbandman." A husbandman leased land for an agreed period of time for agricultural purposes and was regarded as only an average farmer. Bryan left Ireland, and while in London, England he booked a voyage on a ship named *HAWK*, whose destination was the colonies, and eventually in 1775 arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He had an indentured servant contract working on the 350 acres of land near Haycock Mountain that was warranted to John Stokes.

Bryan decided to run away, and as a run-away indentured servant he enlisted in the Continental Navy. On June 4, 1776, he was assigned the rank of Active-Duty Line Operations Landsman (menial, unskilled worker, with little or no sea experience) and served 26 days under the command of **Captain Thomas Read**. Bryan was attached to the **USS Montgomery**, a 24-gun frigate, until someone found out he was a run-away servant and alerted John Stokes. Bryan's short-lived career in the Continental Navy ended and his service is recorded in the official *MUSTER ROLLS OF THE MONTGOMERY, JUNE 1776, MILITARY ACCOUNTS RECORDS OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL AT D.P.R.*, and includes this statement, "A servant taken by his Master 30<sup>th</sup> June 1776."

A reward notification was placed by John Stokes in The Pennsylvania Gazette (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), for June 5, 1776, seeking help with the return of Bryan Burn. It reads: "FIVE POUNDS Reward. Run away from the subscriber, living in Haycock township, in the county of Bucks, on Sunday last, an indentured Irish servant man, named Bryan Burn, about 22 years of age, about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high, strong build, down cast look, swarthy complexion, and has a small impediment in his speech; had on, when he went away, an old brown worsted coat, a striped cotton jacket, the stripes going around his body, striped trousers, old shoes, and a new felt hat. Whoever takes up the said servant, and secures him in any goal, so that his master may have him again, shall have the above reward, and reasonable charges, paid by JOHN STOKES. June 5, 1776.





The **USS *Montgomery*** was a three-masted, wooden-hulled sailing frigate and one of the first 13 ships authorized by the Continental Congress in December of 1775. Because on August 27, 1776, the British defeated the Continental Army at the Battle of Brooklyn and captured New York City and with the closing of the Hudson River, the ship was never completely finished. On October 6, 1777, to prevent its capture and utilization by the British Navy, the *Montgomery* was burned. The frigate *USS Montgomery* was named after the fallen General, killed by British artillery, Richard Montgomery. At the beginning of the American Revolution, he was a member of the British Army and soon sided with the American cause. Eventually he was commissioned a Brigadier General by George Washington.



**Artist James A Flood’s rendition of a three-masted, wooden-hulled, 24-gun, Continental Navy Frigate**

Early in his life **Thomas Read** entered into a career as a merchant ship captain. As master of the vessel *Aurora*, he sailed the trans-Atlantic and West Indies trade routes where ships transported raw sugar, cotton, coffee, rum and other goods.

At the start of the revolution the colonies had no real naval force but did have many private merchant vessels used for both domestic and foreign trade. The captains and crews of these merchant vessels were not only familiar with the sea but also with warfare because colonial ships and their seamen took part in the British naval expeditions against Spain and France and also engaged in privateering during the French and Indian War.

As a merchant vessel captain Thomas Read discovered important information from England and shared that Intelligence with the Second Continental Congress. The information he offered was instrumental in helping John Adams convince Congress to create the Continental Navy and in October of 1775, the Continental Congress authorized its creation. At that time, the British Navy was the most powerful navy in the world and its control of the oceans created major issues for the rebelling American colonies. Similar to the Continental Army’s challenges with shortages of arms, ammunitions, clothing, food, and shelter, the Continental Navy also faced challenges. It was underfunded, undermanned, and outnumbered. Because of inexperienced commanders, and crews that lacked both training and discipline, the fledging Continental Navy only occasionally achieved success at sea. Many of the colonies’ best seamen that were available were participating in privateering. While they were not technically pirates, they shared many similarities but still played a very essential role in the American war effort.

In 1776 the Continental Navy had only 27 ships compared to Britain’s 270 ships that were properly supplied with munitions, competent captains and well trained and disciplined crews. By the end of the war, the British total number of sea vessels had risen to about 500, and the American total had dwindled to 20.

As written in *Pirates of the American Revolution* by Jack Campbell, “Around 800 vessels were commissioned as privateers by the Americans during the war. Vessels of every type were used as well. If it could do damage, it was generally acceptable. John Paul Jones is perhaps the most famous privateer of the American revolution.”

Because of his expertise and experience as a sea captain Thomas Read volunteered his services to the Pennsylvania State Navy and in coordination with the Continental Navy, their ships sailed on the Delaware River actively defending the city of Philadelphia. Later, Thomas Read was assigned to the Continental Navy and on June 7, 1776, was appointed to the rank of Captain, the highest commission in the Continental Navy. He was assigned to command one of its four largest ships, the 32-gun frigate *George Washington*, then still being built. While awaiting the completion of his ship he volunteered for land service, and was sent by the Committee of Safety to join Washington’s troops. He gave valuable assistance to General Washington’s army when they crossed the Delaware river and also at the Battle of Assunpink Creek, Monmouth County, New Jersey, also known as the Second Battle of Trenton on January 2, 1777, which resulted in an American victory.



**Naval Officer Thomas Read, (1740-1788) of New Castle, Delaware and his Coat of Arms (Wikipedia)**

At Assunpink Creek, Captain Read commanded a battery of guns taken from his own frigate. He and his men were positioned on the south side of the Creek. Their artillery protected the stone bridge across the creek and their strong defense repelled the British three times from crossing over that bridge, causing British General Cornwallis to withdraw, regroup and lay plans to finish the battle the next day. This defeat and retreat of the British forces at Assunpink Creek allowed Washington to move his forces overnight around Cornwallis’s camp, outflank his enemy, and defeat the British forces at the Battle of Princeton the next day. This series of defeats prompted the British to withdraw from most of New Jersey for the winter. There frequently are reenactments, and also commemorations, of the Battle of Assunpink Creek and the battle of Princeton held at the Princeton Battlefield State Park, New Jersey.

On November 7, 1775, John Dunmore, royal governor of Virginia, issued a proclamation that offered freedom to all slaves who would leave their patriotic masters and join the British army. This document became known as Dunmore's proclamation and had profound implications on the American Revolution. His offer for freedom inspired thousands of enslaved people to seek freedom behind British lines throughout the Revolutionary War. These freedom seekers became known as Lord Dunmore's Royal Ethiopian Regiment and their uniforms featured the words "Liberty to Slaves."

Dunmore's proclamation states: "I do hereby farther declare all *indentured servants, Negroes, or others* (appertaining to rebels) *free*, that are able and willing to bear arms, they *joining his Majesty's troops*, as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this colony to a proper sense of their duty, to his Majesty's crown and **dignity.**"

Although Dunmore's Proclamation applied only to those living in Virginia that joined the British forces, it was printed in newspapers throughout the thirteen colonies. Published on December 6, 1775, Dunmore's Proclamation, offering freedom, did appear in the *Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser*, **exactly six months prior to Bryan Burn running away!**

In her book *Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World*, Maya Jasanoff writes that "approximately 20,000 Black enslaved men joined the British forces during the American Revolution. In contrast, historians estimate that between 5,000 and 8,000 Black men served in the Continental Army." George Washington never had more than 20,000 troops under his command at any one time. Most of the American soldiers were young, ranging in age from their early teens to their mid-20s, landless, unskilled, and poor. Others were indentured servants and slaves who were serving as substitutes for their masters and had been promised freedom at the war's end. There were also many women in the Continental army who cared for the sick and wounded, cooked, mended clothes, buried the dead, and sometimes served in combat. The number of free and enslaved people that served as soldiers and sailors, as part of George Washington's troops fighting for the Revolutionary cause, were approximately 5,000.

Perhaps the reason Bryan Burn ran away from Stokes Meadow to join the Continental Navy was because he may have believed that by offering his services to the American Revolution, he could legally cancel his indentured servant contract with John Stokes.

***The John Stokes Homestead is located at 1299 Apple Road, Haycock Township, 18951, PO Box 715. The Stokes house is open for coffee, conversation, and visitations, free of charge, on Fridays 10 AM to Noon, April through October. All are invited!***

**Research by Pat DeWald.**

**Sources:** The Irish Slaves by Rhett Akamatsu, Copyright 2010. *Indentured Servitude: The Philadelphia Market, 1771-1773* by Robert O. Heavner. *Indentured servants in the U.S.*, pbs. The Pennsylvania Gazette (Philadelphia, Pa) June 26, 1776 and September 3, 1778. Ancestry.com. Wikipedia Encyclopedia. Journal of the American Revolution, Thomas

Read of the Delaware, Part 1: The Creation of the Continental Navy, by William H. J. Manthotpe. Journal of the American Revolution, Thomas Read of the Delaware, Part 3: Continental Navy Commander, by William H. J. Manthotpe. Rescuing the Revolution, Knox Press, 2016, by David Price. Spring 2007 Haycock Historical Society newsletter "THE STOKES FAMILY: EARLY SETTLERS OF HAYCOCK" by Pat DeWald. Bucks County Farmhouses by Jeffrey L. Marshall, 2009. Dunmore's Proclamation, History.com Editors, Oct 6, 2021. Pirates of the American Revolution, frauncestavernmuseum.org. Digital History ID 3219, *The Revolutionary War*, digitalhistory.uh.edu, Copyright 2021.



**THANK YOU**

Donna Maugle Milligan for the donation of two paintings by Florence Fluck



**Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick** speaking at the Sheard's Covered Bridge birthday celebration



# An Applique Angel

By Bernie Rumbaugh DuBois



Barbara Harr is being featured in this year's celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Haycock Historical Society as part of the Kringle Christmas Shoppe where she will display her sewing-machine-applied quillets and wall-hangings along with other beautiful fabric art.

Barbara creates wall-hanging quilts made from cotton, batiks and wool. The wool is recycled from clothing that has been washed and dried at a high heat to "felt" which compresses the fibers to thicken the wool.

Barbara speaks of the older generations as having to "make do" with whatever they had, and Barbara's family was no different. When she was about 7 years old, Barbara began to cross-stitch and make her own doll clothes and she also learned to macrame and even do some quilting, which is an artform using strips of paper to create interesting pieces of art



Barbara now focuses on quilting pieces such as *Santa in North Woods*

Long before it was popular, Barbara was "green," since she recycles sweaters to make lovely, warm mittens that are lined with fleece. She also makes cross-stitch pictures and small cross-stitch pillows. The recycled sweaters, also, begin new lives as sweater pillows. You will find potholders, fabric ornaments, framed cross-stitch pictures and small cross-stitch pillows among these many treasures.

Barbara's interests and skills are "home-grown," since her mother was a sewing pieceworker in Quakertown and her father a finish carpenter.

As a graduate of Quakertown High School, Barbara studied at Bloomsburg University, obtained her master's degree at Arcadia University (then Beaver College) and began her teaching career in Bensalem, PA.

Barbara's first quilt was a wedding present to her husband in 1977. But it wasn't until 1990 that she seriously began to make quilting a large part of her life. She makes one-of-a-

kind quilts that are customized based on the type of fabric, the color as well as the appliques that she chooses for each quilt. After retiring from 38 years as a teacher of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, Barbara still has the energy to be what she calls a "Craftsman" which describes her talents as a quilter and a counted cross stitcher. Barbara is now able to devote much of her time to her passion for quilting.

Along with her husband, John, Barbara has raised a daughter, now in Ashville, NC and a son who lives in Quakertown. John is very supportive of her work, not minding when Barbara disappears into her work area for as much as 8 hours a day. And John is very helpful in carrying those large bundles of fabric for Barbara.

Additional support for her craft comes from her membership in the *Keystone Quilters Quilt Guild of Quakertown* "where modern & traditional quilters come together!" The Keystone Quilters are an inspiration to about 100 members who share the love of quilting. Barbara appreciates this group as well as friends who have the same interests.

Some of Barbara's counted cross stitching pieces:



You will find pieces like these when you visit Kringle Christmas Shoppe at the Haycock Township Community Center in December.



This whimsical piece could easily be a scene from Bucks County with all the mischievous bears that we have in our neighborhoods.

Barbara certainly has captured the fun that some bear cubs would have in the snow, playing with a snowman. Her artwork is very affordable as it ranges from \$30 to \$90, depending upon the size and intricacies involved in the creating process.

Always on the look-out for interesting fabrics and ideas, Barbara enjoys going fabric-shop-hopping to support her ever-so-satisfying time spent quilting.

Kringle Christmas Shoppe is pleased to have been showcasing talents such as Barbara's since 2003.





**IN MEMORY OF**  
**Lester M. Goldthorp**  
**March 28, 1938—September 15, 2023**



**THANK YOU**

**Susan Hursh** for donating this sleigh for Kringle



**Speaker Kathryn McKenna: Stories Behind Peace Valley**



**THANK YOU**

**Sue Lafferty** for the framed photos of Sheard's Covered Bridge in four seasons



**Speaker James E. Miller: Everything in the Colonial Herb Garden**

## EVENTS

### **Kringle Christmas Shoppe 2023:**

**Friday, December 1, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 2, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

## DUES REMINDER

Annual dues for 2024 are due by December 30, 2023. There will be reminder with this newsletter for all who are not already paid for next year.

## FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Friday coffee at Stokes will resume every Friday through starting in April. Hours are 10 a.m. until Noon.

### **FREE ACCESS TO PENNSYLVANIA RECORDS ON ANCESTRY**

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

**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 Perkasia, and Margie Fulp**

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## MEETINGS

**November 16, 2023: 7 p.m. Michael Cuba, "Tale of Two Houses"** This presentation will explore two of the earliest properties settled in the area—the Stokes and Emig houses. Michael Cuba and others from the Haycock Historical Society will explore the history and architecture of these two neighboring houses. Recent discoveries have changed our understanding of the timelines of the settlement of these properties and raised new questions.

**March 21, 2024: 7 p.m. Scott Bomboy will talk about the moving of the South Perkasia covered bridge to Lenape Park in Perkasia**

**April 18, 2024: 7 p.m. Barbara Michalski, Chief Bluejay, will tell us about her Lenape heritage**

**May 16, 2024: 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.**

## OFFICERS

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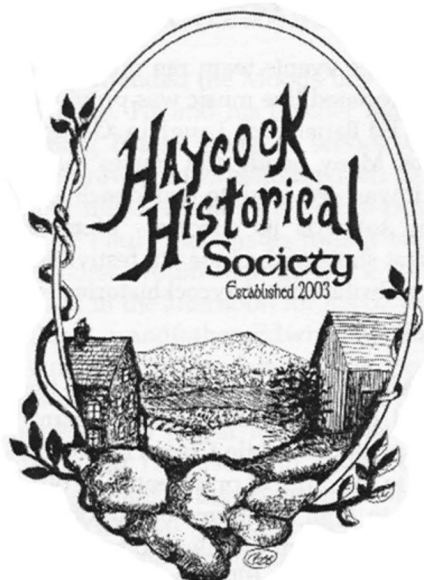
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Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (215-257-7472) or [m\\_fulp@hotmail.com](mailto:m_fulp@hotmail.com)

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## AN INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

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