

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Spring 2016

ROBERT SMELL FAMILY OF HAYCOCK TOWNSHIP

by Marjorie Goldthorp Fulp

Many Haycock Township residents were familiar with the Smells' Applebachsville store, owned by Willis and Sadie Smell from 1945 to 1969. What might not be as well-known is that the Smell family in Haycock goes back to 1779, and perhaps earlier. The name Michael was very popular in the Smell lineage.

It all started with:

Michael Smell: (b. 1705) who arrived in America circa 1739. His son,

Michael Smell, (2) *Owned 200 acres in Haycock Township in 1779, is shown as head of a family with three dwelling houses, 3 outhouses, and 19 inhabitants. It was probably he who took up 50 acres. 17 p. of lottery land in 1768.* His son,

Michael Smell, (3) was taxed since 1786. Michael and his wife Elisabeth's son,

Michael Smell, (4) (b. Feb. 24, 1795, d. Jan. 27, 1867) married Susanna Mann (b. Jan. 28, 1798, d. Sept. 13, 1867). At the time of Michael's death there were nine children living. Michael and Susanna's son,

William M. Smell, (b. March 28, 1840 d. Jan. 7, 1926) married Susanna Grube (b. July 19, 1842 d. Sept. 9, 1906). William and Susanna's son,

Frank Smell, (b. Sept. 12, 1867, d. July 6, 1959) was born on what was later the Heinrich farm, also known as the "Log Cabin House," north of Applebachsville on Old Bethlehem Road. Frank married Emma Angeny (b. July 31, 1871, d. Feb. 26, 1960), daughter of Jacob and Lydia (Fluck) Angeny. Jacob Angeny built his house in 1872 in Haycock Township. His farm was down a long lane off of what is now named Roudenbush Road. Frank Smell later bought the Angeny farm. Frank's and Emma's son,

Willis Smell, (b. June 25, 1899, d. Sept. 1, 1973) was born on the Angeny/Smell farm. Willis married Sadie Reiter (b. April 2, 1907, d. May, 1986), of Red Hill, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and they lived in Quakertown, PA. Willis and Sadie had two children: Elizabeth (Betty) Smell Wolfe, (b. 1925) and **Robert (Bob)** Smell (b. Feb. 14, 1938). Both children were born in Quakertown. In 1938 Willis, Sadie, and their children moved to his parent's farm.



Lorey and Bob Smell

In 1945 the Angeny family held a 40th year family reunion, with a large assembly of relatives, on Frank Smell's farm. (Frank and Emma Smell later sold the farm to George and Bernice Dunn, who then sold the farm to Bucks County, for the making of Lake Towhee Park. The Angeny/Smell/Dunn house is still in Lake Towhee Park, and is now in a state of deterioration.)

Bob Smell lived his first six years on his Smell grandparents' farm. He remembers Billy the horse, and the chickens. Like many others in Haycock, his family went into the woods to cut down a cedar tree for Christmas. Bob went to the New Harrisburg one-room school for first grade. The school is on what is now named Harrisburg School Road. Bob took a shortcut across fields to get to and from school. His school day ended at noon when he was allowed to go home.

In 1945, Willis and Sadie Smell moved to Applebachsville, Haycock Township, when they bought a general store from Harold Bickley, who had previously owned the store for one year. The store was in the middle of the village, at the intersection of Old Bethlehem Road and Apple Road. Bob grew up in Applebachsville, where there were other families and plenty of children. There was a good number of boys, from whom came much mischief in the village, the stories of which will not be repeated here. Halloween brought on extra activity and shenanigans. Applebachsville was a lively place

in which to live in the 1940's and 50's. Bob's boyhood friends in the village included John, Bob and Dick Landgreen, Ken Laino, Howard, Herbert and Roger Kressler, Wayne Keller, Carl Marx, and Billy Renner. Bob attended the Applebachsville one-room school from second through eighth grade. At lunch time on school days the boys came down from the school to the village and played basketball across the street from Smells' store. There were also basketball nets on the barn at the store and on Landgreens' barn. Between the two schools Bob attended he had three teachers, Ellen Werner, Meda Thatcher, and Frances Cramp.



Bob Smell and Billy the horse

In the later 1940's Latvian refugees arrived in Applebachsville. They had fled their country of Latvia to escape the Soviet communists who reoccupied Latvia during WWII. The Latvians came to Applebachsville, where there were the Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church, and the Latvian community that had been established in the village earlier in the century. Many of the new Latvians did not speak English



Angeny Family Reunion at the family farm.

yet, but understood German. Willis and Sadie spoke Pennsylvania Dutch well, and could converse with the Latvians in that way. Bob remembers the Latvians as being excellent craftsmen.



L-R Mabel (daughter), Emma, Ezra & George (brothers of Frank) , Willis (front -son), Frank, Cora Mae (daughter)

Bob was friends with Tom Schenk Jr., whose mother worked at the Smell Store. Bob spent time visiting at the Schenks' home on what is now named Sawmill Road. The Schenks had a large pond that the boys could enjoy year-round, for swimming and ice skating. Tom Jr.'s father was the well-known artist Tom Schenk. Sometimes Bob watched Tom Schenk work on his paintings. Tom did a painting for Sadie Smell, of a scenic picture that she loved. Tom Schenk used his creative abilities and skill to remodel his home, doing much of his own work.

Willis Smell and Hubert Graham started the Haycock Fire Company in 1954. Willis was president for many years of the Fire Company. Bob was also active in the company and helped to build the firehouse.

After eighth grade, Bob went to Quakertown High School, where he met his high school sweetheart, Lorey Rhoades, who was born and raised in Quakertown. Lorey and Bob graduated from Quakertown High School in 1956, and were married in 1958. For six months they lived in a mobile home behind the store and then moved to the apartments across the street from the store. Willis and Sadie closed the store on December 31, 1969. That same year Bob and Lorey moved to Dublin, where they now reside.

Bob worked as a tool maker at Thomas & Betts in Montgomeryville. Lorey worked at Hellbergs Nursery in Chalfont in the late 1970's and early 80's. From 1984 to 1995 she worked at the Pansy Shop (a Hallmark Store) in Perkasio. She remembers it as a fun job to have. After that, Lorey babysat for grandchildren. Bob and Lorey have two children, Judy and Jeff, plus six grandchildren and one great-

grandchild. Lorey tells us that Bob always loved working in the gardens at home and was handy at doing anything around the house inside and outside. Lorey loved working around the house and decorating. She also enjoyed and had fun taking

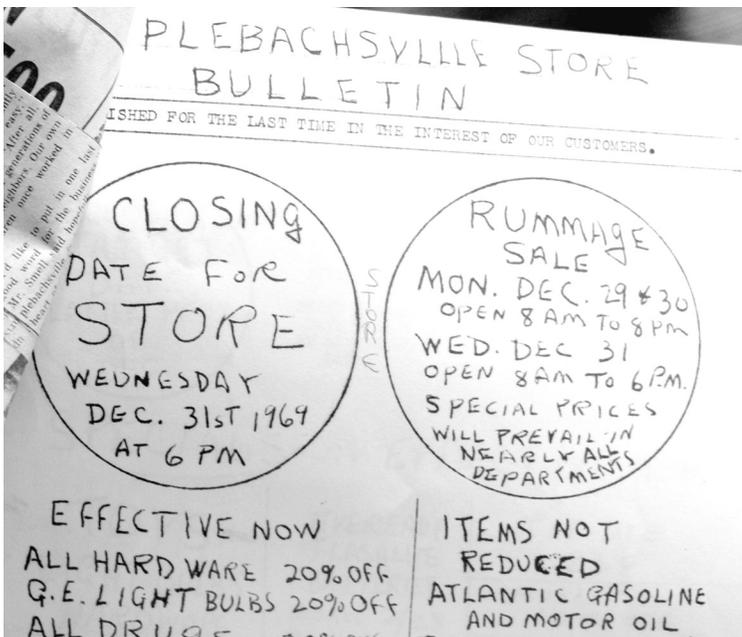
care of the grandchildren when they were in nursery school and younger.

After Willis and Sadie Smell sold the store, it was open a short while with other owners, but is now a private residence.



NEW HARRISBURG SCHOOL, HAYCOCK TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, PA ~1906
 Front Row, L-R. Margaret Bennet, Willis Smell, Frank Swaguer, William Palmer, Ulyssis Kellenberger, Cora Hafler, Sarah Wolfinger, Norman Fluck, John King, Louisa Palmer.
 2nd Row, L-R. Leidy Mitman, Wilmer Wolfinger, Theodore Kellenberger, Frank Wolfinger, Wilson Hafler, Andrew Palmer, Erwin Person.
 Third Row, L-R. Emma Shivo, Clara Kilmer, Cora Smell, Rosa Streapy, Florence Singer, Truman Hess (Teacher)

Willis Smell (first row second from the left)



Flyer from the Smell Store closing

THANK YOU

To Haycock Township for the donation of \$2500.00 to HHS.

To Chris Handschin for the donation of the book *The Anniversary History of the Quakertown Community School District*.

To Jackie Mohr for the donation of post cards showing swimmers in Sheard's Mill Pond.

To Alfred and Ruth Frei for the donation of Florence Fluck Paintings of Stover Mill Dam and Hickory Grove one-room school.

To Dave Long for the donation of a hanger from the Frankenfield Store.

To Nancy Singer for the donation of the Singer Pottery kiln's hook and eye band.

To Pepper Scotto for the donation of Emma Applebach's Bible.

THE SMELL STORE

By Dick Landgreen

Going “back in time” to the 1940’s and 50’s of my boyhood, the two main resources in Applebachsville were the Smell Store and Marx’s Butcher Shop. Without those two businesses supporting the people of Applebachsville and Haycock Township, life could have been hard and unforgiving. The Smell Store was the center of communications (like the cell phone): it was our food and gas supply, our ice cream and candy supply, our hardware supply (with instructions), the gossip supply and the meeting and hangout corner. All directions started from the Smell Store. The Smells were good people and tolerant. I tried their patience often. Our home (and my birthplace) was two houses south of the store on the same side of the street. One of my chores was to fulfill notes my mother left for me in the morning before she went to work. Notes: pick up a loaf of bread, quart of milk, or etc. at Smell’s for supper (not dinner) tonight, and so the note went on. Often I missed her notes or just overlooked items. One night at supper, there is no bread, a command rings out, and I am told to get a loaf of bread. But Smell’s store was closed! I would have to go to the back door and ask Mr. Smell to let me in for the bread. I really hated doing this, but



Smell Store painting by Calvin Ruth

I had forgotten to get the bread. A sharp second command was given, there was no chance of doing without bread at supper, Mom wanted bread. Down our hallway and out the back door I would go, across the neighbor’s backyard, jumping their fence. This always brought yelling and a broom from the neighbor. She was a little touchy. I could have gone down the driveway, up the old sidewalk, and then across Smells’ yard to their back door. Just too far, so I took the neighbor’s yard, yelling and broom. I could really run and jump their fence and be at Smells’ door in one minute. Things never seemed to change. The older I got, the faster I went, breaking the time of this one-minute run. The hardest part was yet to come; I had to get Mr. Smell to let me in the back door for the bread. Doing the run back over the fence,

across the yard, the yelling and broom was nothing. I remember this part like it was yesterday. I would bang on the back door, the hall light would go on, and then the outside light. Down the hallway would come Mr. Smell (never Mrs. Smell or Bobby), always Mr. Smell. “Oh boy,” I would think to myself and put my head down. The door opened. Now, Mr. Smell is no small guy, he is like a giant to a ten-year old. With a deep voice, his greeting was... “Yessss?” I would say, “Mr. Smell, I was so busy today, I forgot to get a loaf of bread and we really need it. It’ll only take a minute for me to get.” He would reply, “But Dickie (I didn’t like that Dickie stuff and he knew it), the store is closed and all the lights are out.” “You don’t need to turn on any lights. I know right were to go and will be gone in a minute.” That was true. I knew every part of that store even in the dark. As I went down the hall, I

would shout, “Tomorrow I’ll help you clean the store.” His reply was “Make it snappy.” Now this went on for years and years. You know, I never did get to help Mr. Smell clean the store. You see, he had a big heart and was a pushover with the kids. It’s sad to write, but I believe the last time I saw Mr. Smell was at the back door. Today, I carry but one regret of

my childhood days in Applebachsville, and it is that I never realized what an important part the Smell Store was to my childhood. If only I would have gone back and told Willis and Sadie Smell how much I appreciated them, and, “Thank You.”

You know the saying, “what goes ‘round comes ‘round.” Well, we moved from the village in 1957 and bought a store (like Smells) in Weisel. I was Store Keeper a lot of my life, it seemed. My first challenge: The Landgreen Store is closed and there is a bang at the back door. I get up from the supper table (my Mom was a stickler for family suppers together) and go to the back door. A boy’s voice asks, “Mr. Landgreen, I was so busy today, I forgot to get a loaf of bread and we really

need it.” I stiffen up, my lips tightened and I am about to shout out “Can’t you see the store is closed? We’re eating supper, don’t be so rude, and wait until tomorrow.” {Before I shout out, let me pass on a piece of history, brought on by my memories of the past: Behind our store, by the Feist Quarry, along the Tohickon Creek, lay Indian Burial Grounds. The State of Pennsylvania says, “no proof of that.” Why do they say that? Because the State flooded them with water (an untold story).}

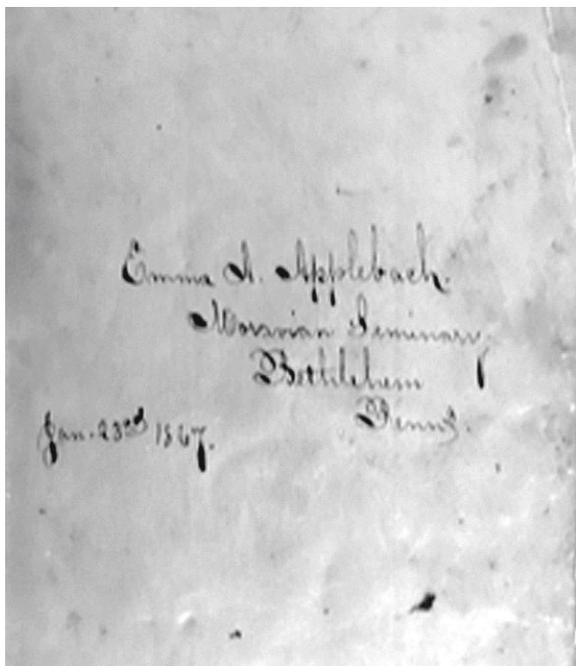
Now, back to the back door: I am about to shout out, but then go silent. I don’t know how long, my mind is swirling. It’s there but not there. Like in a dream; you can’t touch, feel or see it. It just engulfs you like a misty spirit. My mind is flying backwards, going home, and then ... “Yesss.” I get this boy his loaf of bread and go back to the supper table and say, “Mom, I did my good deed for today. I helped a boy out of a jam.” She replies, “Good boy, Richard.”

There are so many good memories wrapped around the Smell Store for so many people. In fact, each house in the village carries the memories of some kid. I often think of those kids as I pass through, as they now have become people of the world. Applebachsville, as history might show, may be the “Heart of Haycock.” I have lived in the village and learned in Haycock. I am often torn by feelings of Applebachsville, about how it stands now, and how it would be numbered: 1, 2, 3, or ? of my 7 wonders of Haycock.



Paintings by Florence Fluck

Donated by Alfred and Ruth Frei



Page from Emma Applebach’s Bible

Donated by Pepper Scotto



**Hanger
from
the
Frankenfield
Store**

**Donated by
Dave Long**



IN MEMORY OF
Joyce L. Cramp
May 15, 1936—April 27, 2016



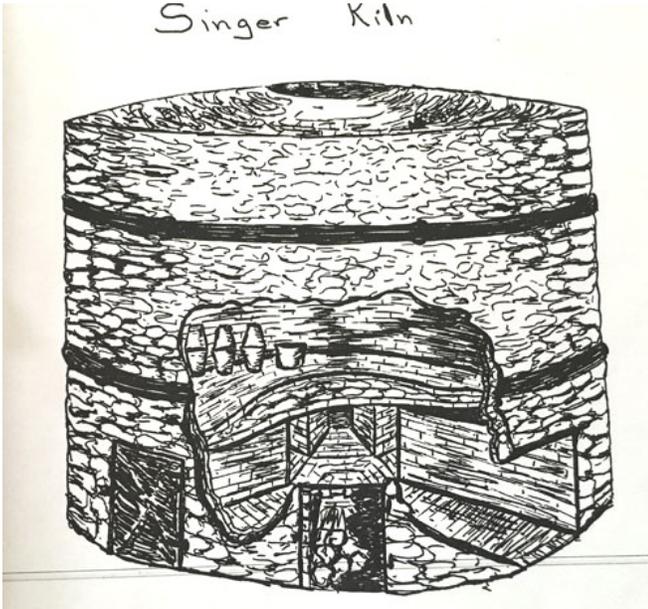
IN MEMORY OF
Faith E. Gerhart
June 10, 1941- November 9, 2015

ACTIVITIES

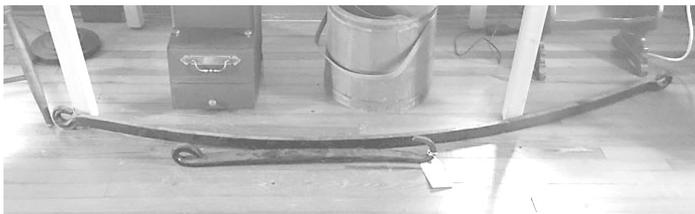
The Stokes House headquarters is open every Friday morning from 10 a.m. to Noon, April through October.

Gardening at the Stokes House Thursday mornings at 9 a.m., contact Pat DeWald or stop by if you can help.

Singer Kiln



Drawing of the Singer Pottery Kiln



Singer Pottery Hook and Eye Band
Donated by Nancy Singer



Post Cards
Donated by Jackie Mohr

Members! SAVE THIS DATE!!!
Saturday, July 30, 2016 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

“Artists of Our Past”

Haycock Historical Society Presentation at the Stokes House

Featuring: **Calvin Ruth** – Quakertown watercolorist & local architecture painter

William Atkinson – East Rockhill Twp. local Landscape painter

---plus works of distinguished Haycock Twp. Resident/Artists:

George Papashvily – Sculptor

David Frame- Painter/Bucks Co. Magazine Cover Illustrator

Ed Lehman –Illustrator/Architectural Concept Designer

Oliver Wendell “Tom” Schenk – Artist & Photographer

James Schucker – Illustrator 1903-1988

Matt Clark – Artist/Illustrator

Hilda Heinrich – Landscape Artist

Florence Fluck – One-Room School Teacher/ Painter

Herb Sutter – Mixed Media Sculptor

Chief One Star – Painter/Advertising Artist

*****Silent Auction*****

Stokes House Oil Painting by Upper Bucks Co. Impressionist Painter, **Jim Lukens** www.JimLukensArt.com

Wood Sculpting Demonstration by Haycock Twp. Sculptor/Instructor, Ron Bevilacqua

www.buckscountysculptor.com

MEETINGS

September 25, 2016: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. SUNDAY MEETING

Steve Applegate will give a presentation on the long rifle. This will be held at the Stokes House and will replace the usual Thursday Evening meeting in September.

October 20, 2016: To be announced

November 17, 2016: To be announced

With the exception of the September meeting!

Meeting are held at the Bucks County Latvian Baptist

OFFICERS

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Secretary: Diane Vosburgh dmvosburgh@gmail.com

Treasurer: Paula Laughlin pmlreader@yahoo.com

Ad Hoc:: Pat DeWald wdewald@verizon.net

Ad Hoc: Chris Handschin chandschin@verizon.net

Ad Hoc: Nancy Janyszeski ncj@epix.net

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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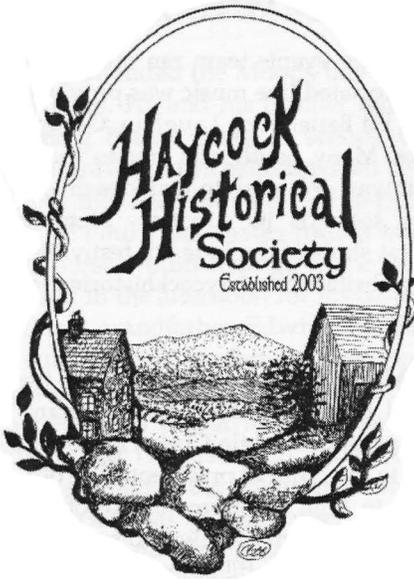
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USA



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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

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