

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Spring 2022

HAROLD AND RAGNHILD THERESE THORSEN

AND FAMILY MEMBERS, AND "TENANT IN POSSESSION"

GEORGE FRANKILN AND SARAH ANDRES

AND FAMILY MEMBERS INFORMATION

HAYCOCK TOWNSHIP JANUARY 2, 1920, TO MARCH 14, 1938

BY Karen and Joe Cappella (2020)

On January 2, 1920, Harold Thorsen purchased from Harry Beyers and his wife, Catharine, this stone farmhouse (currently 1279 Roudenbush Road, Haycock Township) and "40 acres and 107 perches of land more or less." Deed Book 437, pp. 234-235.

The 1920 Haycock Federal Census lists Harold and his wife, Ragnhild, as being born in Norway. Harold is listed as a farmer age 43 and Ragnhild's age is also 43. Five children are also listed: Gerta Marie age 12, Harriet age 11, Harold age 9, Norma age 8, and Margaret age 2. All of these children are listed as being born in Pennsylvania. (Esther, also one of their children who was 16, is listed in the 1930 census but not in the 1920 census.) The PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION papers for Harold Thorsen dated January 13, 1922, Common Pleas Court of Bucks County, also list a child with the name of Astrid, (this is Esther), born October 3, 1903, in Norway. While The Thorsens were living in Haycock Township, two additional children were born. Eimoer Thorsen born on May 26, 1920, and Robert Edward Thorsen born on November 12, 1922. (Because the Quakertown Community Hospital, located within the borough of Quakertown, was not opened until June 5, 1930, it is possible that both Eimoer Thorsen and Robert Edward Thorsen were actually born in this house.)

The 1930 Philadelphia Federal Census (Ward #42) lists Harold age 53 as a painter, Ragnhild age 53, Esther age 26 as a nurse, Harriet age 21 as a coiler, Harold age 19 as a roofer, Norma age 18 as a coiler, Margaret age 12, Eimoer age 9 and Robert age 7. (Both Eimoer and Robert were born while the family was living in Haycock Township)

Harold Thorsen was born on October 31, 1876, in Tønsberg, Vestfold, Norway, his father's name was Carl Johan Thorsen and his mother's name was Anna Sofie Johannessen. Harold had ten children with Ragnhild Therese (Lund) Thorsen. Harold arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 17, 1903, with his wife Ragnhild and their daughter Esther. There is a World War I draft registration card (serial #1033) dated September 12, 1918, with his name, signature and occupation listed as a Rigger. He died on May 3, 1950, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He lived to the age of 73.

Ragnhild Therese Lund was born on November 20, 1876, in Christianna, Norway. Her mother's name was Ole Kristian Lund. Ragnhild had ten children with Harold Thorsen. She died on March 13, 1935, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was buried there. Ragnhild lived to the age of 58.

The following are the names and some information about HAROLD AND RAGNHILD THORSEN'S ten children:

Esther (Astrid) Thorsen was born October 3, 1903, in Norway and died on November 17, 1994, in Gladwyne, Montgomery, Pennsylvania. The 1920 census lists Astrid Thorsen as a Servant (Kitchen Maid) for Mary Morris living at City line Road, Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This fact explains why she was not listed on the 1920 Haycock Township census as living here. Esther lived to the age of 90.

Anna Theresia Thorsen was born on January 26, 1905, in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania and died on June 22, 1905, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Carl Johan Thorsen was born on April 30, 1906, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and died on October 25, 1906, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Gertrude "Gertie" Marie Thorsen was born on August 10, 1907, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and died on February 29, 1968, in Blenheim, Camden, New Jersey. Gertrude lived to the age of 60.

Harriet Thorsen (- Muir) was born on January 18, 1909, in Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania (Doctor Harris) and died on May 7, 2002, in Collingswood, New Jersey. Harriet lived to the age of 93.

Harold Joseph "Whitie" Thorsen Jr. was born on July 27, 1910, in Cheltenham Township, Pennsylvania (Doctor Harris) and died on January 31, 1949, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Harold lived to the age of 38.

Norma M Thorsen was born on November 23, 1912, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and died in June, 1984, in Audubon, New Jersey. Norma lived to the age of 71.

Margarett Thorsen was born on August 9, 1917, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and died in June, 1984, in Audubon, New Jersey. Margarett lived the age of 66.

Eimoer Thorsen was born on May 26, 1920, in Quakertown, (probably Haycock Township in this house) Pennsylvania. As of September 13, 2020, Eimoer is listed on the Harold Thorsen Sr. public family tree page (Ancestry.com Quick links: Public Member Trees) as one of ten children but named "Private". All other children are named. On Public Member Trees a label of "private" means "Because this person is living, we've hidden personal details." We were able to determine that this was Eimoer because of census records.

Robert Edward Thorsen was born on November 12, 1922, in Quakertown, (probably Haycock Township in this house) Pennsylvania. He died on July 26, 1944, in Austria at the age of 21, and was buried in Moselle, France. His draft registration card dated June 30, 1942, states he is living in Philadelphia and working at the "Philadelphia Navy Yard for Dry Dock Associates". **Robert Edward Thorsen was a Second Lieutenant in the 419th Bomber Squadron Group (H) during World War II. He is the recipient of the Purple Heart Medal and the Air Medal. He died during active duty while in Austria and his monument is located in Lorraine American Cemetery (Block D, Row 48, grave 31, Cross), St. Avold, France. (The Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed while serving, on or after April 5, 1917, with the U.S. military and The Air Medal is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces that was created in 1942 and is awarded for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.)**

This is a photograph of the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial where **Second Lieutenant Robert Edward Thorsen** is buried. The Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial is a Second World War American military war grave cemetery, located just outside of Saint-Avold, Moselle, France. This cemetery contains 10,489 American war dead, covers 113.5 acres, and was dedicated in 1960. (Public Domain)



Birth certificates of some of the Thorsen children list Harold Thorsen's occupation as a painter living in Philadelphia before the family moved to Haycock Township in 1920. The 1930 census of Philadelphia indicates his occupation is a painter living in Philadelphia. The Thorsen family most likely lived in Haycock Township for at most ten years before they rented the property to George F. Andres.



Harold Thorsen Sr. husband of Ragnhild Therese Lund Thorsen (location and date unknown). Kim Thorsen shared this photograph on February 25, 2019, at Ancestry.com (Harold Thorsen, Public Member Tree)



Harold J. (Whitie) Thorsen Jr. and his wife Marcy Lee Gross (location and date unknown). Kim Thorsen shared this photograph on July 20, 2020, at Ancestry.com (Harold Thorsen, Public Member Tree)

At some point in time the Thorsen family moved to Philadelphia and rented their Haycock property to George

Franklin Andres. (Ancestry.com indicates that in 1930 George Franklin Andres, his wife Sarah, and their family were living in Lower Saucon, Northampton, Pennsylvania and also that the birth of their daughter Dolores Gabel Andres in 1932 occurred when the family was living in Haycock, Township.) In September, 1935, the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore seized this property for Sheriff's sale. Harold Thorsen is listed as the "Mortgager and Real Owner" and George F. Andres as "tenant in possession." Sheriff Deed Book 636, pp. 460-461 (Although the sheriff's deed spells the name ANDERS, we are absolutely convinced it was misspelled and should be ANDRES, based on our research in the 1940 census.)

On March 14, 1938, The Federal Land Bank of Baltimore sold the property to Henry Bauman. It could be possible that George and Sarah Andres and their family remained here as tenants of The Federal Land Bank of Baltimore from September 1935, until the property was sold to Henry Bauman on March 14, 1938, but there is no way of knowing that for certain. The Andres family probably lived here for at least five years. The 1940 census indicates that George F. Andres age 43, his wife Sarah age 46, and seven of their children, Gordon age 19, William age 16, Carl age 12, Donald age 11, Charles age 9, Dolores age 8, and Norman age 7 were living in the Borough of Trumbauersville. George's occupation is listed as a "salesman in the industry of retail (bakery?)." The 1940 census also indicated that the family's "Inferred Residence in 1935 was Rural, Bucks, Pennsylvania, Resident on farm". Most likely at least two of their nine children Dolores, and Norman were born while the family was living in this house.

George Franklin Andres Sr. was born on August 25, 1897, in Pennsylvania. He married Sarah A Weikel and they had nine children. His World War I Draft registration, Serial #1050, dated September 12, 1918, lists his occupation as a machinist working for the Baldwin Locomotive Works. At the time of his death he was living in Trumbauersville. He died on March 28, 1971, and was buried in Lehigh, Pennsylvania. He lived to the age of 73.

Sarah Ann Weikel was born on March 8, 1893, in East Rockhill, Pennsylvania. She died on July 3, 1946. She lived to the age of 53.

The following are the names and some information about GEORGE AND SARAH ANDRES NINE children:

George Franklin Andres Jr. was born on November 20, 1918, in Pennsylvania. He died as a teenager at St. Luke's Hospital, Fountain Hill, Lehigh County, on July 14, 1933, and was buried in Lehigh, Pennsylvania. He lived to the age of 15.

Gordon Weikel Andres was born on May 25, 1920, in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. He was a World War II veteran and served from December 7, 1941, to October 14, 1945. He died October 18, 2008, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and was buried in Hellertown, Pennsylvania. He lived to the age of 88.

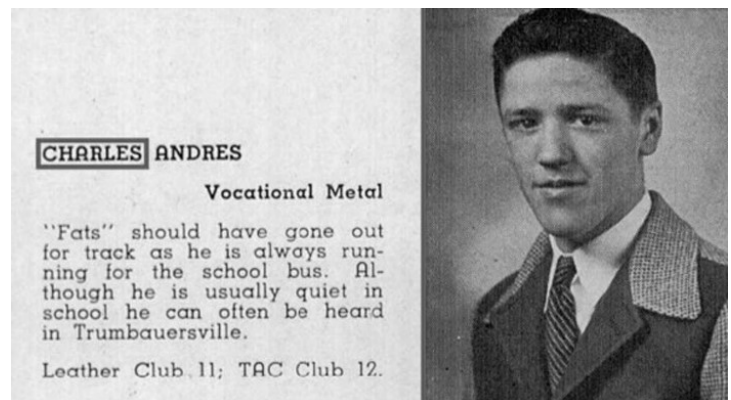
William R Andres was born in 1923. He married Mary Zwitkovits and they had four children. He died on January 6, 1999, in Salisbury Township at the age of 76.

Gerald James Andres was born August 5, 1926, while his family was living in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He married Ethel Sine and they lived in Surf City, New Jersey. He died on March 22, 1988. He lived to the age of 62.

Carl J Andres was born on September 29, 1927. The Department of Veterans Affairs indicates that he is a Korean War veteran. He enlisted in the U.S. ARMY on July 8, 1948, and he served until April 10, 1952. He died on March 5, 1992. He lived to the age of 65.

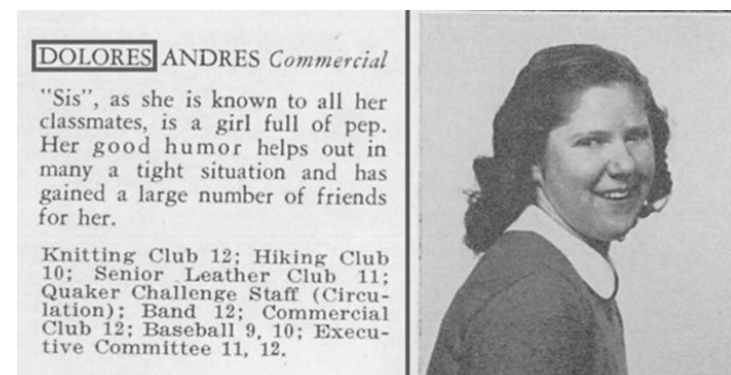
Donald F Andres was born in 1929. He and his wife Shirley had three children. He died on June 27, 2013. He lived to the age of 84. His residence is listed as Quakertown.

Charles Andres was born November 5, 1930, in Bingen, Lower Saucon Township, and died in Cedar Crest on May 31, 2019. He lived to the age of 88.



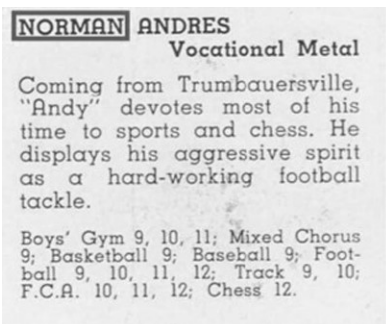
Charles graduated from Quakertown High School in 1948. (1948 Quakertown High School Yearbook Ancestry.com)

Dolores Gabel Andres was born in 1932 while her family was living in Haycock Township, Pennsylvania.



Dolores graduated from Quakertown High School in 1949. (1949 Quakertown High School Yearbook Ancestry.com)

Norman Paul Andres was born on February 3, 1933, while his family was living in Haycock, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the US NAVY on November 18, 1951, and served until October 8, 1956. He married Theresa Marie Rodolfos on November 17, 1956, in Woburn, Massachusetts. They had six children during their marriage. He died on June 15, 1994, in Boston, Massachusetts. He lived to the age of 61.



Norman graduated from Quakertown High School in 1952. (1952 Quakertown High School Yearbook Ancestry.com)

On October 31, 2004, a frail, very elderly lady, and an elderly man we believed to be her husband, knocked on the door of our house (Karen and Joe Cappella, 1279 Roudenbush Road, Haycock Township) and identified herself as a daughter of Harold Thorsen. She told us at one time the Thorsen family owned the house and lost it because of the conditions during the depression. She also told us that her parents were Scandinavian immigrants and worshipped at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Applebachsville. She asked if we would mind if they walked around outside. She also said in addition to the small shed (close to the house) that existed when her family lived here, there were many more outbuildings. She pointed in an eastward direction, up the street and on the far side of our driveway, land currently owned by the Bucks County Park System, where there are indeed many remaining foundations, including a hand-dug well. We invited her and her husband to come into the house and look around; they went upstairs and walked around. When they came down she shared this information with us: "When I was a little girl my mother fell into that big fireplace (pointing to the fireplace in the living room) and severely burned her hand." She recalled that the family would place a Christmas tree in the middle of the room, hold hands in a circle around it, and sing Christmas carols; she also confirmed that there were ten children in the family. She told us that she and her husband had driven by several times but never stopped. She said they stopped once, but did not get out of their car, when I (Joe Cappella) was replacing the cedar shingle roof on the front-door overhang and told me how well we took care of the house. I remember that encounter and that they did not identify themselves as relatives of the Thorsen's. We did invite them to visit at any time, but they never returned. We noticed that their car had a New Jersey license plate. When they left we recorded as much information that we could remember that she shared. (Unfortunately we neglected to ask her for her name. We believe it is possible that **Eimoer Thorsen may have been the**

visitor that day because of information on **Ancestry.com** (Harold Thorsen's Public member Tree that indicates she may still be alive today). We will keep checking for updates on Ancestry.com.

Karen and Joe Cappella (2020)

Sources:

Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com (Quick links: Public Member Trees) Search: Harold Thorsen, Birth: Norway, Spouse: Ragnhild, Child: Esther

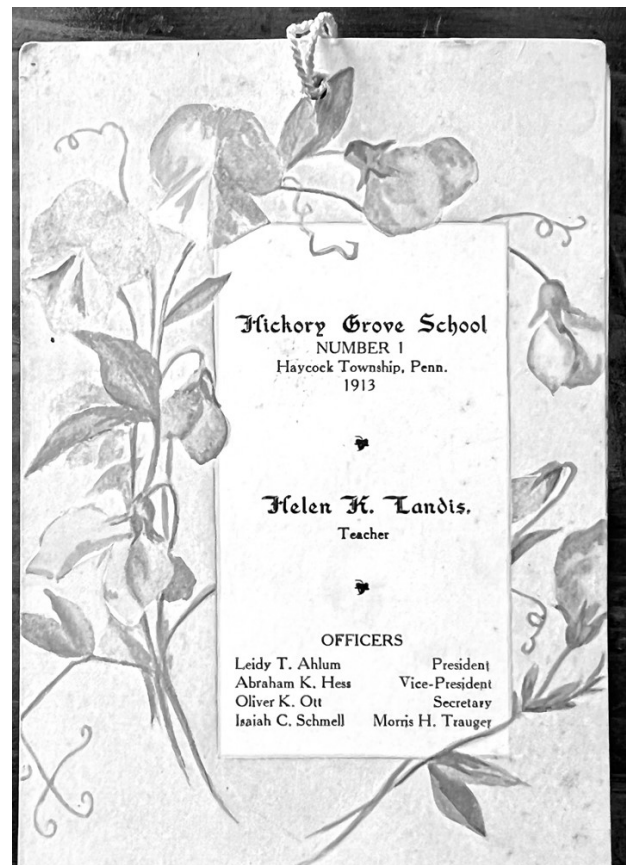
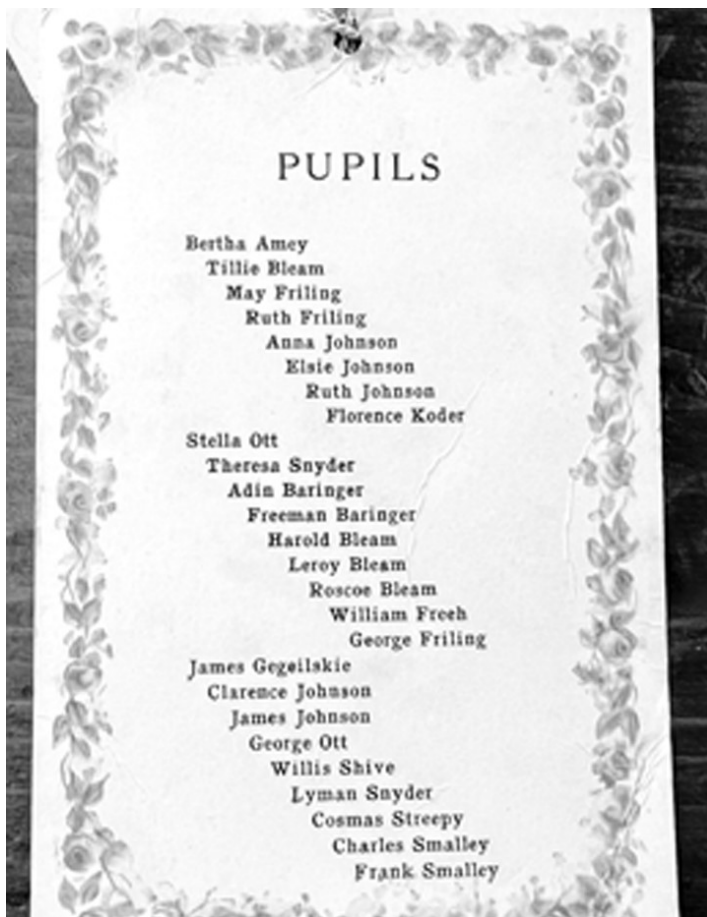
Ancestry.com (Quick links: Public Member Trees) Search: George Franklin Andres, Spouse: Sarah Andres, Place: Bucks County

Bucks County "Deed Book 437, pp. 234-235.



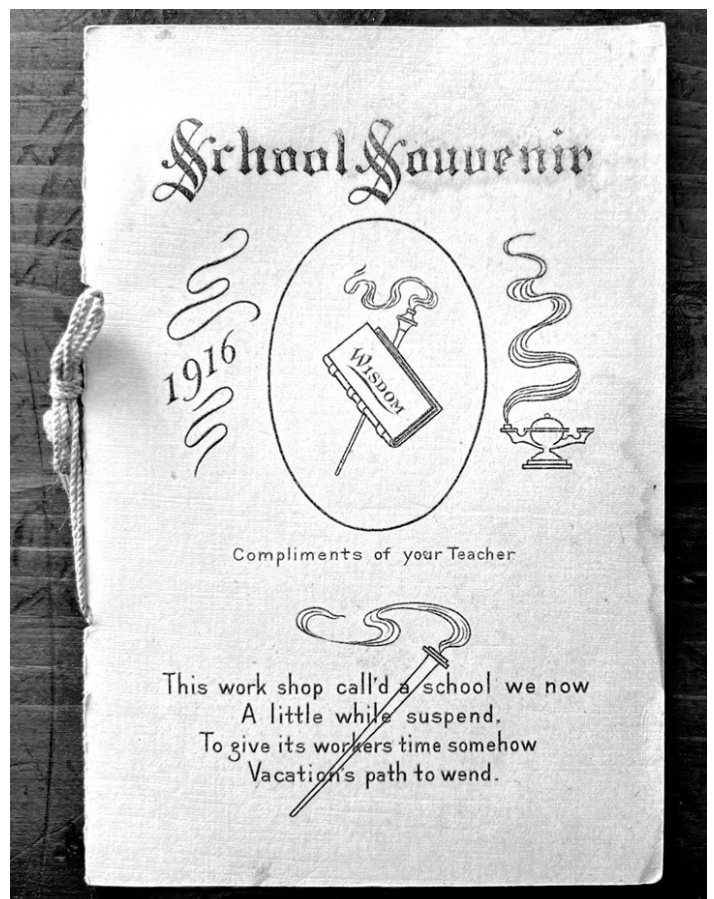
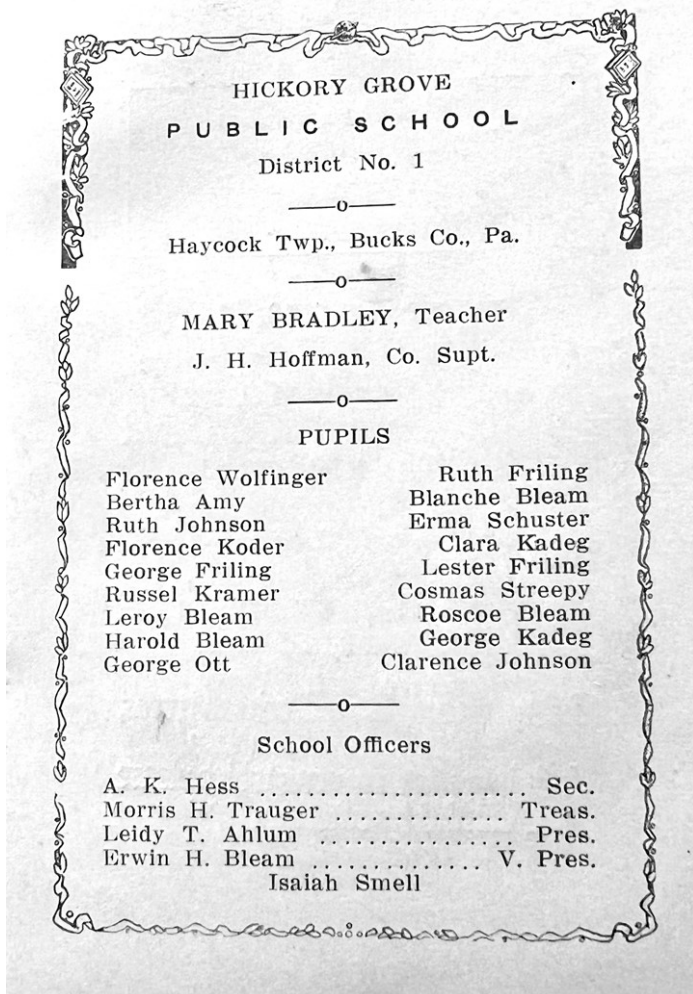
THANK YOU

Emil Jacoby for donating this unsigned painting of a Native American, possibly painted by Chief One Star. This was found in the restaurant where Chief One Star had painted two murals.



THANK YOU

David Landis for Hickory Grove One-Room School souvenirs.





IN MEMORY OF

Karen Heaton Cappella

October 5, 1949- February 22, 2022



IN MEMORY OF

Diane Vosburgh

October 31, 1946– November 14, 2020

**Members' Pot-Luck Picnic At Stokes
Sunday, June 12, 2022
from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ?**

Come on out and enjoy the beautiful setting of our Stokes House headquarters while you socialize with friends and share some favorite memories about our Haycock.

We will have live music performed by our local member musicians for your enjoyment plus all the hot dogs lemonade and water you could ask for!

Bring your lawn chairs or blankets

You can contribute to the fun day by supplying this simple wish list:

(All works well when participants bring enough to serve about 8 persons.)

If your last name begins with the letter:

"A" through "H" please bring snack foods (chips, pretzels, peanuts, etc.) or non-alcoholic drinks

"I" through "Q" please bring a casserole or salad

"R" through "Z" please bring a dessert

THANK YOU

Darwin and Evelyn Gerhart for their generous donation.

**Snacks for Haycock Fire House workers at the
Banquet Hall in the Community Center**

A small contingent of fire company volunteers continue to work on upgrades to the Banquet Hall in the Community Center each Tuesday evening. They may appreciate packaged snacks as they work. Members who would like to donate pre-packaged snacks may do so by dropping them off to the Haycock Township Municipal Building where they will be distributed to the workers. **Please contact Andrea Silvestri** for ideas: asilvestri@haycocktownship.cm



Bill Wilson of the Covered Bridge Society of Bucks County was our speaker at the April 2022 meeting.

Members' Pot-Luck Picnic At Stokes

Sunday, June 12, 2022
from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
See page 6 for details

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Friday coffee at Stokes will continue, 10:00 a.m. to Noon, each Friday through October. Come out to visit and see the garden. We will have seating outside if weather permits.

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.

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

"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

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MEETINGS

September 25, 2022: Stokes Open House on Sunday.
The community is invited to come visit with members and learn about our HHS headquarters, the Stokes House.

October 20, 2022: 7 p.m. To be announced

November 17, 2022: 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.

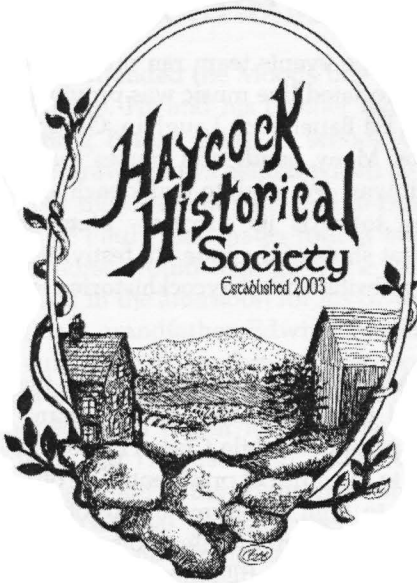
The Thursday meetings begin at 7 p.m.

OFFICERS

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Ad Hoc:	Chris Handschin	chandschin@verizon.net

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

HHD
USA



P.O. Box 715
Quakertown, PA 18951

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 _____

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PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

SEND APPLICATION ALONG WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO:

P.O. Box 715, Quakertown, PA 18951