

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Summer 2023

HAMLET OF THATCHER

RECALLED BY HAYCOCK HISTORIAN

By Carol Smith

Bucks County Herald

October 14, 2004

Applebachsville, Strawntown, Thatcher. In earlier times, a town's name came from its post office and post offices were named for prominent citizens.

In 1889, that's how the tiny hamlet of Thatcher, in the western part of Haycock Township, came into existence.

Harry Thatcher Hinkel of Doylestown told members of the Springfield Township Historical Society about the village of Thatcher and other small Villages in Haycock Township at its September meeting. About 50 people filled the society's one-room schoolhouse on Route 212 to hear Hinkel's family history and to watch a video about Haycock Mountain's old but no longer standing observation tower.

Cross over Sheard's Mill Bridge, one of 12 Bucks County covered bridges, and the Tohickon Creek to enter Thatcher. Its general store and grist mill are reminders of earlier days. The remains of the old mill, located to the south of the bridge, are in the process of renovation by the township's historical society. {See note #1} {See note #2}

In addition to a town's post office, the hub of the most rural Pennsylvania towns back in the 1800s and 1900s was the general store.

Hinkel's great-great-grandfather Samuel B. Thatcher, for whom the town was named, owned and operated the Thatcher General Store. Today, this landmark remains but is used as a private residence. These historic buildings and

Thatcher's farmstead, built in 1837, contribute to the town's quiet, rural character.

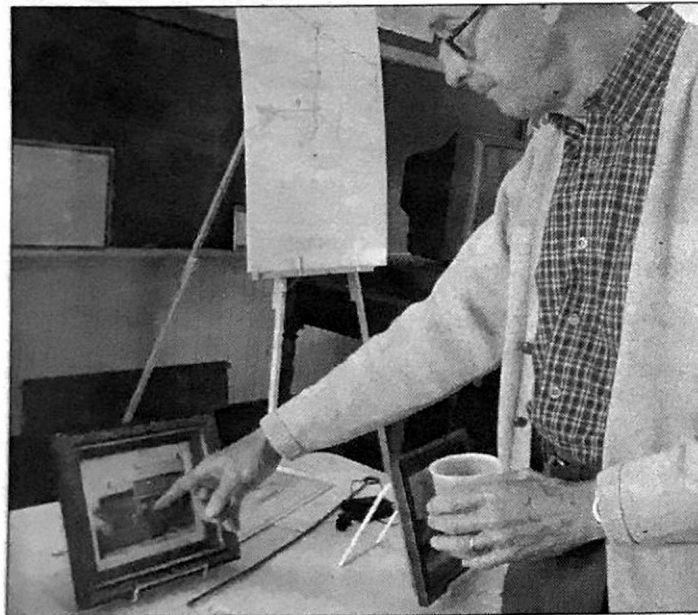
Hinkel, who spent his younger days visiting his mother's family, said that other family members preserved much of the family's history. His Thatcher relatives back in the 1600s were English Quakers who had settled in Newtown

thanks to a land grant from William Penn. Over time, they moved to New Jersey and then into Durham and Haycock.

An on-location video has Hinkel interviewing longtime Haycock resident Albert Kinzler. Kinzler has lived at the base of the 960-foot-high Haycock Mountain since 1925 and has quite a memory for details concerning a 56-foot WPA tower built for survey purposes. A U.S. geological survey pin marks the tower's location and its 1929 date of origin. This marker and a few wooden pieces from the tower are all that remain.

The tower wasn't taken care of and fell down sometime in the '60s. Hinkel said it was a shame the tower wasn't preserved. The tower, with its 15-foot square base, had a tower within a tower for stability. Kinzler and others liked to climb the tower to get a good view of the surrounding area.

A three-day forest fire on Haycock Mountain back in 1934 or 1935 has Kinzler at the age of about 13 on the scene putting out the fire as one of a 10-man crew. Each person received 10 cents an hour for carrying water packs and rakes up the mountain.



Harry T. Hinkel traces his mother's family history and how the Thatchers came to settle in Haycock Township at the September meeting of the Springfield Township Historical Society.

“You raked a fire line to let the fire burn itself out,” Kinzler recalled about his firefighting days. Although the observation tower is gone, the Pennsylvania State Park Game Commission now owns Haycock Mountain, Hinkel said. {See note #3}

Another feature at the mountain’s top is Table Rock, which Hinkel thinks was put there by man and not by nature. The large rock supported by three others has seen some damage over the years and is now filled with graffiti.

According to a Bucks County web site, Haycock Mountain (the second highest point in Bucks County) provides an excellent view of Lake Nockamixon during the winter and early spring. It should be pretty for leaf viewing in the fall also. The many giant boulders at the mountain top interest geologists, hikers and climbers.

To get to the mountain, go west on Route 563 from the intersection of Route 412 for about a mile. Take the first right after the bridge on Top Rock (no street sign). Follow this for about three-quarters of a mile to a pull-off on the left. There is a parking area and many trails head uphill. The frequency and size of the boulders increase as you climb, so hiking shoes should help the ascent to the top.

Note #1: Thatcher is on the Haycock Township side of the bridge. Sheard’s Mill is on the East Rockhill side of the bridge.

Note #2: We are not sure which historical society helped with restoration of the bridge. It was not Haycock Historical Society.

Note #3: Most of Haycock Mountain is state game land owned by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Nockamixon State Park contains part of Haycock Township along and under the lake.

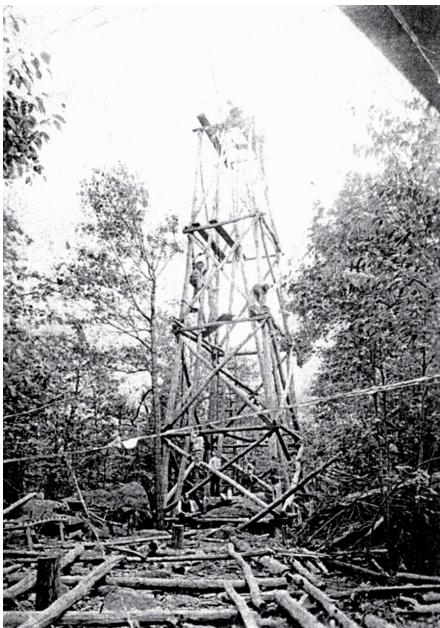


Photo of the tower being built by WPA workers on top of Haycock Mountain



Samuel B. Thatcher (1822-1905)

Village of Thatcher, Haycock township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania was named after him
Portrait from History of Bucks County, J.H. Battle, 1887

THANK YOU

Thank you to Darwin and Evelyn Gerhart for their donation to HHS.

DANNELTOWN

BY WALTER HARE

Bucks County Traveler, March 1952

This bygone hamlet on Haycock Mountain lay on both sides of a road which skirts the northern edge of the mountain and extends from Gallows (Hill) to Applebachsville. It took its name from a family of squatters who built log houses with one room, one door and one window. (“Place Names in Bucks County,” by George MacReynolds).

Some of these early log cabins of the pioneer settlers still remain, although somewhat altered and built over, during the intervening years. On the Old Bethlehem Road between Applebachsville and Pleasant Valley is a turnoff at Amity brick schoolhouse in the direction of this one-time hamlet of log houses at the foot of the mountain. There are interesting reminiscences of the people who live in them, in a rugged, primitive way, in the days of candlelight and horse and buggy.

Some of their descendants are located today, not far away, in Haycock, Springfield, Nockamixon and nearby townships. Mrs. Elmer Strawn, of nearby Amity school, when a girl, visited and slept in a hut that belonged to her maternal grandfather, William Pearson. The place is in ruins now. Her mater-

nal great-grandfather, John Pearson, also had a hut nearby.

The Simon Singer property was turning out pie plates and decorated red ware from the adjacent clay fields. Webster Singer, a grandson, still lives on the place. A very old log place that still stands was known in the 1870s as the Isaac Snyder place. It was then the home of the grandfather of Ardie and Clarence Snyder, of Quakertown.

Prayer meetings, square dances and cider parties were times for getting together in the remote, back woods settlement of Danneltown (or Danieltown), and the outside world paid little attention to what went on there, 'tis said, unless some luckless villager became a defendant on the dockets of Quarter Sessions Court at Doylestown. In summertime it was a common thing to go barefoot, to save on shoe leather.

Some of the present houses in this area are far from the log, clay chinked construction of those early times. A fine home along the old road today is the summer place of Thomas C. Egan, Philadelphia attorney, known as Round House Farm. Kleban, Huff, Henry Turn and Beardsley are among present day residents.

Some of the old-time families in Haycock Township include Ahlum, Atherholt, Copy, Frankenfield, Heft, Horn, Koder, McCarty, Pearson, Roudenbush, Ruth, Snyder, Stover, Strawn.

One room school houses, eighty years ago, were Frankenfields, New Harrisburg, Applebachsville, Landis and Dunlap's. The length of the school term then was five months, "Teachers" average salary, \$35.

At the foot of the mountain, in a log cabin, lived Julia Kramlich (or Grumlick), a picturesque personality. She was a seamstress and made her own deliveries of suits and dresses to her customers, sometimes carrying the bundles on her back over the rough roadway.

Improved road building has made it quite easy today to travel past this region in Haycock, by motor car.



Musicians and Dancers at the Irish Roots Festival.



One of the cabins in Danneltown. This one, now in ruins, was that of Mr. and Mrs. William Pearson, shown.



The Irish Roots Festival was our biggest event at the Stokes House. The parking lot was filled and several rows of cars extended across the back field.

HAYCOCK'S IRISH ROOTS FESTIVAL

7/22/2023

BY Chris Handschin

Our Delaware canal was the inspiration for the event, but then it developed wings. The canal was built by hand in the early 1800's, a time when people knew nothing of back-hoes, dirt haulers or graders. The waterway is one of the man-made wonders of our area. The Irish dug it...by hand. Their sweat, determination, and perseverance carved the 14+ mile trench. Running parallel to the Delaware river and separated by a tow path, the Delaware canal of yesteryear became the commerce route where service mules would pull the canal cargo boats to float materials throughout Pennsylvania's coastline. The canal operated for nearly 100 years. Before their efforts were lost to time, Haycock Historical Society wanted to honor those Irish workers and reflect on the flavor the Irish brought to Pennsylvania. Haycock Township was home to many of these immigrants as they set up mostly forgotten villages along the way, including in Haycock Township, where the rocky, then-undesirable land was easier to acquire. There was that story of an Irish indentured servant who worked for Mr. John Stokes but escaped from this very place to join the Navy but was caught and brought back. The summer kitchen room of Haycock Historical Society's John Stokes house was transformed into a wall of history to share with visitors for this event.

Saturday evening, July 22, 2023, was ALL ABOUT IRISH! Haycock Historical Society Events Committee members, with Chris Handschin, director, made and offered samplings of Irish cuisine, supplied Guinness Zero-Alcohol draught, raspberry lemonade, and a plentiful supply of bottled water.

On the evening's menu was member-made Irish Guinness Stew, Irish Soda Bread with Irish Kerry Gold Butter, Irish Sweet & Sour Red Cabbage, Kerry Gold Irish Cheddar, and Irish Whiskey Bread Pudding. Recipes were available for anyone who fancied the food and wanted to try making it on their own.

The first dry summer Saturday in nearly a month was attributed to the "Luck of the Irish" as over 200 visitors drove or walked down the long, narrow dirt lane to the John Stokes house in Applebachsville, (Haycock Historical Society's headquarters), to sample the food, listen to Irish music and watch dance performers plus see the museum display of information about our Irish settlers.

Visit www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org for details of the event.



Some of our guests.



Irish Dancers.

EVENTS

Sheard's Covered Bridge 150th Birthday Party:

Saturday, September 23, 2023: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

At Tohickon Campground. Parking will be on the East Rock-hill side of the bridge.

Kringle Christmas Shoppe 2023:

Friday, December 1.

Saturday, December 2.

Sunday, December 3.

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Friday coffee at Stokes will continue every Friday through October. 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

"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 21, 2023: 7 p.m. James E. Miller, Ph.D. will give a presentation on **The Spice Rack, the Medicine Cabinet, Home Depot, and Yankee Candle—everything in the Colonial Herb Garden**. With an arsenal of samples for hands-on opportunity for sniffing and touching, the critical importance of the herb garden in colonial life is demonstrated.

October 19, 2023: 7 p.m. Kathryn R. McKenna will give a presentation about her new publication **Stories Behind Peace Valley**. A glimpse into the history, businesses, mining operations, the lake project and the lives and activities of those who lived and worked there before the man-made lake was created. **Kathryn will bring her books to sell.**

November 16, 2023: 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.

OFFICERS

President: David Guttman daveguttman401@gmail.com

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Secretary: Nancy Stemler grandmom42@comcast.net

Treasurer: Charles Fulp chasfulp@gmail.com

Ad Hoc: Joseph Capella alleppac@verizon.net

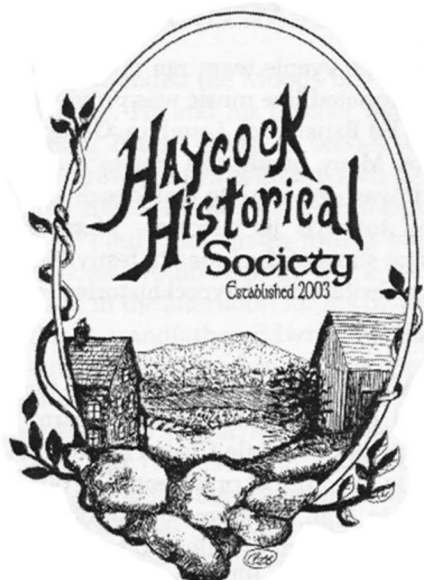
Ad Hoc: Virginia Cuba virg917@gmail.com

Ad Hoc: Chris Handschin chandschin@verizon.net

Ad Hoc: Andrea Silvestri asilvestri@haycocktownship.com

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 _____

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