

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

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CAMPBELL'S TOMATOES IN HAYCOCK

By Heather Radick



The tomato is a relatively new plant grown for food consumption. In this country, tomatoes started out as strictly ornamentals, not to be eaten. With their red, shiny fruit and being a member the nightshade family, they were believed to be poisonous in this country until about 1850. People were even warned against eating tomatoes, with doctors saying they caused ailments ranging from appendicitis to stomach cancer.

As people's attitudes changed about tomatoes, they were eventually grown throughout the United States with the intention of food use. Although technically a fruit, for trade purposes, The Supreme Court in 1893 designated the tomato a vegetable. Highly acidic tomatoes were perfect for canning, and through the 19th century the tomato was canned more than any other fruit or vegetable.

In 1897, the world was introduced to condensed soup by Joseph Campbell, and it is believed that this made the tomato as popular as it is today. As early as 1912, growers contracted with the Campbell Soup Company to raise tomatoes for their cannery. Campbell's hired then agriculture expert Henry Hall to advise farmers on growing seeds to produce the perfect soup-making tomato.

In the late 1930s, Bucks County and New Jersey farmers started signing contracts with the Campbell's in Philadelphia to grow tomatoes for their cannery. Even fields in Haycock Township were dedicated to tomatoes that would eventually become Campbell's Soup.

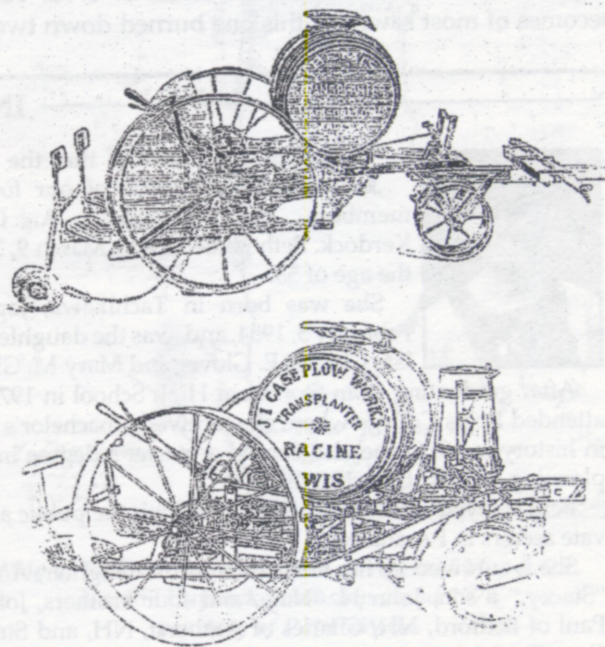
Brothers Dick and John Landgreen grew up in Haycock and were busy in the 1940s and 1950s growing and picking tomatoes on their grandparent's farm in Haycock. Cedar Hill Farm, on Hillside Lane, was owned by William and Pearl Kiniuk, and to this day remains in the Kiniuk family. John, 70, was born at the farm. Dick, 67, was born in Applebachsville. The Kiniuk's 85 acre farm had 50 to 60 acres devoted entirely to tomatoes. The 8-10 inch plants from Campbell's were planted in the ground with a piece of farm machinery specially designed for tomato planting. While being pulled by a tractor, the planter sat two people, who would drop the plants through the planter and down into the ground. The tomato planter also watered as it went along. The acres of tomato plant rows were kept weeded by

a tractor cultivator.

John recalled picking the tomatoes. As they were picked, they were graded according to quality. Bruised would be a 1, unripe a 2, and so on. The better tomatoes, of course, were always kept on the top of the tomato baskets, with the more unsightly ones at the bottom. Bugs were hand picked off. They were paid 10 cents a basket, and one cent for each green tomato worm. John and Dick agreed that 30 baskets full could be picked by one person each day. Each basket measured a peck, which is smaller than a bushel. John recalled the baskets to be the same size and shape as a peach basket, larger at the top and tapering off at the bottom.

Dick recalled not only picking tomatoes, but operating the tractor, and even driving the truck full of picked tomatoes to the city.

After the 1950s tomato farming went into decline, and farmers starting raising soybeans, a field crop that continues to be widely grown here today. Bucks County is still one of the major contributing farming communities. Out of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, Bucks ranks 12th in agriculture production, with 8,044 acres of preserved farmland.



Examples of transplanters from the early 1900s, courtesy of Pat DeWald

SAWMILLS IN HAYCOCK

by Jane Nase

Sawmills dotted the landscape in Haycock in the late 1800s. Pennsylvania's abundant resources allowed for early development of industries. The waterways in Haycock were the source of power for mills. It is surprising to think what seems like a small stream today could support several sawmills. A stream was typically dammed up to provide a reliable water source to power the mill and create a mill race.

Haycock was a prime region for sawmills, the timber was usually dragged down the mountain side on sleds during the winter months. The need for boards to build houses, barns and sheds were necessary during this time of settlement in the area. Haycock had a dense forest mostly of white oak, hickory, maple and ash trees. No where in the country had shell-bark hickory as plentiful as Haycock. This wood was used for mechanical purposes due to the qualities of elasticity and strength. Surprisingly, considerable quantities of this wood were exported to Europe, California and other western states.

On all sides of the mountain, a large number of springs would feed into Haycock Run.

Several sawmills used the water power of the 5 mile long Haycock Run. The mills were typically called the name of the owner; Youngken, McCarty, Shellenberger, Hechler, Stover and Koder families all owned sawmills in the area.

The Youngken Sawmill was erected on 89 acres on Haycock Run which was constructed in 1792. As what becomes of most sawmills this one burned down two times

and was rebuilt. Another sawmill was constructed near St. John's Church. It was owned by Nicholas Mc Carty. This mill was used until 1840. Some traces of the dam can be seen on Thomas Mc Carty's property.

If you travel down Haycock Run Road near the single lane bridge and look closely you can see the remains of a mill race from another sawmill. Also on East Sawmill Road under the overpass of Route 563 near the parking area for the path to walk up the mountain, you can see some stones remaining for the Shellenberger mill race.

The Stover Sawmill was in the village of Tohickon which is now under Lake Nockamixon. Besides a sawmill and a grist mill, this village also had a country store. Typically, houses and small communities sprang up surrounding the area of mills.



Photo of Koder's Mill, courtesy of Pat DeWald

The Koder Sawmill was constructed at the corner of E. Sawmill Road and Stony Garden road. The mill pond is still evident on the property. An ad found in *The Intelligencer* on July 31, 1866 stated: For Sale Cheap. Farm Fifty-four acres, one half mile from Applebachsville, Bucks County, part woodland, two houses, sawmill, cider press and all out-buildings. This property was just sold recently.

The sawmills in Haycock haven't survived due to weather or fire. However, pictures of Pennsylvania sawmills that are still flourishing can be seen at www.millpictures.com. Astonishingly, there are 529 Pennsylvania sawmills still standing today.

Thank you to Pat DeWald and Eddie Bauer for information about sawmills.

IN MEMORIAM



It is with great sorrow that the society says goodbye to one of our founding members, Beth (Elizabeth A. Glover) Kerdock. Beth passed away March 9, 2007, at the age of 53.

She was born in Tachikawa, Japan on February 5, 1954, and was the daughter of the late Charles E. Glover and Mary M. Glover.

After graduating from Stoneham High School in 1972, Beth attended Regis College where she received a bachelor's degree in history in 1976. She also earned a master's degree in urban planning from Rutgers University.

Beth enjoyed a career in planning in both the public and private sectors in PA and NJ.

She is survived by her husband, John, a daughter, Anastasia "Stacey," a son, John N. "Nate," and four brothers, John and Paul of Bedford, NH, Charles of Amherst, NH, and Steven of Greenfield, MA.

A memorial service was held on March 23 in Beth's honor at

St. Isidore's Catholic Church in Milford Township, PA. Her contribution in assisting with the planning of and advocacy for the church was gratefully acknowledged by parish priest Rev. Frederick Riegler.

Beth was a driving force in the establishment and on-going growth of the Haycock Historical Society. She was co-founder of the society and also served as co-vice president for H.H.S.

Beth lent her spirit, energy and knowledge to the development of many aspects of the society. She was generous in sharing her time and talents, and was a voice of practicality and wisdom. Those who had the privilege of spending time with her benefited from the depth of her knowledge and amazing capacity to recall details about whatever she was researching. When Beth researched a topic, she did a thorough and exhaustive job, and enjoyed the process. Always present was her love for history and the desire to preserve it for future generations.

Her absence will be felt deeply by us at the H.H.S.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Haycock Historical Society, P.O. Box 715, Quakertown, PA 18951.

THE STOKES FAMILY: EARLY SETTLERS OF HAYCOCK

by Pat DeWald

The following is an excerpt from a paper read by Paul H. Applebach, Esq. of Doylestown, at the June 9, 1894, Buckwampun Literary and Historical Association meeting held in Applebachsville:

"Applebachville is situated along the old Bethlehem road, in the upper part of Haycock township, and at present contains about twenty-four dwellings. Most of the land upon which the village is built belonged to the Stokes family, who came from England about 1680, and settled in Burlington county, N.J. John Stokes, the eldest son, came to Haycock about 1743, and remained until about 1750, when he returned to N. J. While here, a son was born, who was also called John, and was the immediate ancestor of the Stokes family that lived in the township for many years. On the 7th day of the 3d month, 1786, John Stokes of Willingborough township, Burlington county, N.J., by his will, which was proven in the register's office of Bucks county, on the 12th day of September, 1806, devised unto his son, John Stokes, all his lands and improvements being in Haycock township, Bucks county, Pa., where the said John Stokes, the son then lived, upon condition that he pay to his mother or her heirs the sum of 100L in gold and silver coin, within one year after the death of the testator.

This tract of land, at the time contained about 400 acres, and consisted largely of meadow and woodland which was used extensively for grazing purposes and raising of stock. The son, John Stokes, on the 30th day of the 3d month, 1809, by his will, which was proven before the register of wills of Bucks county, on the 14th day of August, 1813, devised about 380 acres of the above tract to his son, also called John, and to another son named Stogdell who held the land as tenants in common until the first day of April, 1817, when Stogdell, by deed conveyed the one equal undivided half part in the above tract to his brother John, who then became the absolute owner of the farm and held it until the 5th day of January, 1837, when Timothy Smith and William Stokes, as administrators of the said John Stokes, deceased, conveyed the same to Wilson Dennis for the consideration of \$9200, who on the same day, for the same consideration, conveyed it to William Stokes, and who in turn on the 27th day of March, 1837, for the consideration of \$11,000 conveyed it to George Dutch. It will therefore be seen that for almost a century this large tract of land was in the possession of the Stokes family, and during the early part of the present century was known as "Stokes' Meadows." While in the possession of this family, large numbers of cattle were raised upon it, which was the principle business of the Stokes, the land

being especially adapted for that purpose, and from which they realized a handsome profit. This farm is not without some historical interest, as it is said that when General Sullivan made his celebrated march into New York State to chastise the Indians after the Wyoming massacre in 1778, the expedition spent some time on this farm and Susan Stokes, the wife of John Stokes, the second, frequently related to her friends, how when she was a young wife and lived upon this 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 excerpt for this article came from the publication, 'Applebachville, The Once Bustling Village At The Foot of Haycock,' located in the Frankenfield Collection of the Spruance Library, Doylestown.



Map of Stokes Meadow is part of Warrant Map S.G.L.
No. 157 Haycock Township about 1770,
courtesy of Pat DeWald.

HAYCOCK PROFILES:

BILL PEISCHEL

by Sue Kleiner-Grew

The words that come to mind when spending time with Bill Peischel are perseverance and adaptation.

Born in May 1920 at the family farm on what is now Woodbine Lane, Bill's life is a study in adapting to change and improvising.

Beginning at the time of his birth, life was about making the most of what you have been given.

His arrival was unexpected because his mother was unaware she was having twins. And since they were only expecting one child, his parents had to quickly find a name for him. He was named after Dr. William Weisel Sr., the doctor who delivered him and his twin brother.

Bill attended the one-room Applebachsville School in Haycock. Although he missed the first two months of eighth grade because he was needed on the farm, he made up the schoolwork before the end of that same year.

After graduating eighth grade, he took a break from his education to continue working on the farm. Bill said of that time, "You do what you have to do."

Early in his life, he knew what it was like to communicate without a telephone. He recalled hearing news of the Hindenburg disaster from people waiting in line to deliver milk to the Breuninger dairy on Union Road in Richlandtown.

When he was young, children would congregate outside Block's Tavern (now Whitehall Apartments in Applebachsville) where information about current events was shared in the glow of one of only two electrically lit places in Haycock.

Bill's first job after the farm came in 1937 at Casper's Café in west Philadelphia. While working at the café, he lived in north Philadelphia and commuted two hours to the job by way of elevated train, subway and trolley. He stayed at the café until 1941, which was the year he learned of the bombing of Pearl Harbor from a newspaper in he was reading on the trolley.

His older brother, Charlie, and twin brother, Adolph, were already serving in the military so he returned to the Haycock farm to keep things running.

By the summer of 1944, after the crops were harvested, Bill was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served with the 104th Regiment, 26th Yankee Division. Bill's unit was sent into combat in Czechoslovakia where he was severely injured by a sniper's bullet.

The incident, he explained, happened while he was in a foxhole with his carbine rifle situated between his legs. The sniper hit him from behind causing the bullet to tear through his chest and shattered three ribs. After passing through his body, the bullet struck his carbine, ricocheted and hit his left

leg where it severed a main artery.

He was treated for the injury at several Army hospitals for a year until receiving an honorable discharge on May 17, 1946.

When he returned home, he now had limited use of his leg. However, he said he adapted to the physical limitations and created ways to accomplish the tasks required of him on the farm.

Of his disability, he said, "You make the best of what you have."

Because he was injured in the line of duty, the military provided him with vocational testing that revealed he had an aptitude for radio repair. The military sent him for training in that field at a Philadelphia technical school. Television was an emerging technology at the time, so his training also included television repair.

In 1947, he met his wife Janice while commuting on a train to the technical school. She was a senior at Temple University and about to complete a degree in education. The two were married in 1951 and moved to a home on Seventh Street in Quakertown.

After finishing his training, he worked at Dimmig's appliance store in Quakertown as a radio and television repairman. In 1952, he was hired to work in the radar lab at the Johnsville Naval Air Development Center in Warminster. The majority of the lab work was related to research and development for the zeppelin program at the naval base in Lakehurst, NJ.

Part of Bill's job was to adapt machinery the engineers created to fit into the small confines of the zeppelins.

The job required him to attend many seminars to stay current with the technology, but he made time to attend night school at William Allen High School in Allentown. He attended the school for 13 years to complete his high school diploma.

One teacher was so inspired by Bill's perseverance that even when all the other students dropped out of the class, the teacher continued to meet with Bill one-on-one so that he could complete his course work.

He retired from the naval center in 1982. In his retirement, Bill serves on both the Quakertown Borough and the Quakertown Area planning commissions. One plan close to his heart is the creation of a park on the site of the former Krupps Foundry at Mill and Fourth streets in Quakertown. The park is moving ahead and Bill serves on the steering committee charged with recommending plans for the park structure.

Bill believes life's difficulties should not cause one to stop moving ahead. He said his approach to life could best be summarized in a quote from Gen. George Patton. The words of the general were, "You fight until you die."



Bill Peischel

SOCIETY NEWS

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The social committee operated a concession stand at the Beatles concert sponsored by the Alliance for Creative Expression (A.C.E.) on April 21. Many thanks to all who donated home baked items and bottled drinks as well as to those who worked the stand. Special thanks to Chris Handschin who made the concession stand a success, which netted more than \$500.00 for the society.

Congratulations to the A.C.E. members who put on a fabulous show at Strayer Middle School. Many thanks to John Ruby who invited H.H.S to run the concession.

OFFICERS COMMITTEE

After careful consideration and price comparisons, we have purchased a Panasonic camcorder. It will be used to record guest speakers and society events. The recorded events will be available on DVD which members can borrow for viewing.

The Kerdock family has graciously directed memorial contributions in Beth's name to be donated to H.H.S. Currently, we have \$1550.00 in donations to the Beth Kerdock Memorial Fund.

The society will purchase a laptop computer in honor of Beth's love of research and desire to share information. It will contain all our archival data and pictures. We plan to subscribe to Ancestry.com so members can do genealogic research via the laptop which will be at the Haycock Township building.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in clipping articles about Haycock or its residents from the *Daily Intelligencer* will be provided scrapbook journals and supplies to help archive our current history.

We appreciate that Cathi Gelwicks and Bill Peischel are covering *The Morning Call* and Heather Radick is taking care of the *Bucks County Herald*.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The society is pleased to report that we have ninety-nine active members. We are especially appreciative that Gerry Deegan of Grandma's Country Kitchen at Tohickon Campground has renewed his corporate sponsorship for another year.

COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS COMMITTEE

The society is seeking members or other township residents with some art background to form a Commemorative Items Committee.

The group would locate and offer items such as t-shirts, hats,

mugs, etc. for fundraising purposes. To join, contact Chris Handschin at 215-536-0364.

NOTES OF THANKS

Much appreciation to Haycock Township for their \$300.00 donation to the Beth Kerdock Memorial fund.

Thanks to Diane Kelly for serving as society secretary since its founding in 2003. She will be stepping down from the position in May.

Thanks to Dave Kimmerly of the Heritage Conservancy for his presentation at the March meeting about the Quakertown Swamp.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

May 19, 10 am to 3 pm, Festival of Learning at Haycock Elementary school. Society representatives will be present to provide historical information.

May 20, 9th Annual Art Show at Cedar Maze in Point Pleasant. Those interested in car pooling can meet at Sue Kleiner-Grew's home at 11 am. The works of stone sculptor Steve Snyder and other artists will be on display and the grounds of Snyder's home will be open to the public free of charge. Contact Sue at 215-538-3613 for details or visit www.stonesculpture.net.

June 23, 10 am to 4 pm, "Joyful Noise" benefit concert at St. Paul's church in Applebachsville. The society will conduct a historical tour of the church cemetery during the event.

June 30, 9 am to 1 pm, H.H.S Historical Marketplace at the Haycock Fire Company in Applebachsville. Antiques, crafts and flea market items will be featured. Rates: \$20 for indoor table, \$15 for outdoor table. Members receive \$5 discount on table rental. Contact Trudi Rosencrans at 215-536-8849 or trosencrans@cbsd.ord to reserve your space.

GRANDMA'S COUNTRY KITCHEN

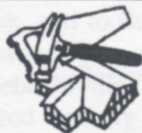
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8340 Easton Rd.
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www.cbhearthsideside.com

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