

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Spring 2017

THE HAYCOCK FIRE COMPANY

by Chris Bauer

My name is Chris Bauer, I am a lifelong resident of Haycock Township and a life member of the Haycock Fire Company, approaching 30 years as a member. I have served as President, Trustee, Engineer, EMS Lieutenant and Relief Association Treasurer. I actually have been around the firehouse since I was even younger, as my brothers Jeff and Steve, as well as my mother Loretta, were involved for many years and I was brought along with them to the firehouse when they had work to do.

On July 11, 1954, a group of interested citizens gathered at the old Haycock School to discuss the idea of forming a fire company. On November 10, 1954, the charter meeting was held at Stover School. This was the start of something great, something which is still present in our community today. These men met monthly at the Stover School until January 15, 1955, when the meetings were moved to the old Latvian Church on Old Bethlehem Road, across from the old Haycock Elementary School.

A special meeting was held on March 26, 1955, to elect our first officers. They were:

Fire Chief - Hubert Graham

President - William Smell

Treasurer - Leonard Drorbaugh

Secretary - Karl Marx

Trustees - Robert Pope, Carl Nice, and Mike Knapp

Money was raised by selling advertisements that would be placed on card tables. A few of these tables remain, but not many. This money was used towards the purchase of our first fire truck. In the fall of 1955 we bought Plumsteadville's 1930 Hahn pumper for 500 dollars. It came equipped with a 165-gallon storage tank, a 500 GPM pump, 100 feet of 2-inch cotton hose and 200 feet of 1.5 inch booster

line. The truck was housed in the Essers' barn, which was the fire station for almost 3 years.

Also in 1955, a second piece of equipment was purchased, a 1947 Dodge tanker with a 1000 gallon tank for the price of \$275, but this truck needed much repair and was put into service in August 1958. This truck was housed in Howard Diehl's barn until the firehouse was finished.

In 1956, a 2-acre lot was found that was to be used for our present fire house. Work started in March 1957, most of which was done by the members and other residents who wished to help. On November 19, 1957, the first meeting was held in the newly completed building. The fire house was officially dedicated on March 18, 1958.

In February 1961, we purchased a 1930 Autocar from Southampton to replace the Hahn. The Hahn was sold to the Bucks County Fire School. A 1953 GMC oil tank truck was also purchased to replace the Dodge tanker. In April 1960, a 1938 Chevy Utility truck was purchased from Perkasio Fire Co.

Our first brand new truck was a 1967 Hahn pumper. It had a 750-gallon tank and 750 GPM pump. On April 16, 1969, we held an open house to dedicate our next brand new truck, a 1969 Ford F-250 field truck. This truck is still in service today, with 20,000 original miles (and the original paint!). It actually was ordered as a GMC but was wrecked in an accident before it was

completed, so needing the truck, the Fire Company bought the Ford off the lot instead. In 1970, a Ford chassis was purchased to replace the 1953 GMC chassis on the tanker. The old tank and pump were reused. In the 1980's a new tank and pump replaced the old equipment.



Chris Bauer with award for winning the Bucks County Firemen's Parade

In May 1972, a Ford Utility van was purchased to replace the 1938 Chevy and is currently retired. It was used to pull the boat and haul personnel and supplies.

In June 1976, we purchased a 1958 Mack N-60 with a 1200 gallon tank and 750 GPM pump from Quakertown Fire Co #1 for \$7000, to be used as a second pumper. This was sold in the late 1980's and not replaced.

Between 1976 and 2000 we added the 1987 E-One, the 1989 Ford F-350 Special Service truck and 1993 Spartan / S&S Tanker. In the early 1980's the first Marine unit was purchased from Quakertown Fire Department. In the early 1990's the QRS unit was placed in service. The QRS unit provides Quick Response Services to people who call for medical assistance. With ambulances being somewhat of a distance away this quickly became an important service to our community.

In the mid-1990's we purchased an Old Ford bread-type truck, outfitted it, and put it into service as a Dive Rescue unit to be used as the platform to transport our underwater rescue and recovery team. It subsequently was retired in December 2004, due to failure in the drive train, and deemed too costly to maintain. An enclosed trailer replaced the Ford.

Sometime in the 1980's an addition was placed on the rear of the station to allow for room to house a second tanker. This was a tractor trailer tanker that was strictly a tank, no pump. This truck was found to be too difficult to maneuver around Haycock and was not in service for long before being sold to Haines & Kibblehouse as a water tender for road construction. You may have seen it around as they left the letters HAYCOCK on the side of the trailer!

In the early 1990's we built an addition to the South side of the station, adding a much needed bunker gear room, laundry room, new handicapped accessible restrooms and a meeting room in the basement. When I joined the gear was on steel mobile racks in the truck bays and meetings were also held in the truck bays.

In October 2002, we took delivery of the present Special Service 63 which is a 2002 Ford Crew Cab (4 door) F-550 4WD utility body. This new truck replaced the aging 1989 Ford F-350 utility and was outfitted and painted before entering into service. It is used for Marine duties to trailer the Dive Rescue trailer, Emergency Medical Response QRS unit, and for additional support on fire calls. A 2010 Ford F-350, needed to pull the boat, was purchased with grant money .

The 1987 E-One was replaced with a 2004 Ferrara. We are planning to replace the Tanker, with costs approaching \$400,000. In comparison the current 1993 tanker cost around \$160,000. Both the 2004 Ferrara and 1993 tanker were demo models that we got at a discount. Other trucks were built by the firefighters, saving a ton of money. That is the "Haycock" way, do it ourselves and do it cheap but do it well!

We have always been a proud bunch, participating in countless parades over the years, spending many long nights (maybe I should call them mornings!) cleaning and polishing. One of my happiest moments was being one of three of us to clean the tanker for the big Bucks County Fireman's Parade

one year, and hearing our truck called as the Best Tanker. I will never forget that feeling. It takes near perfection to win that trophy; they literally check everything they can reach with clean white gloves. It was clean! And we had to be in uniform and know everything about the truck. It is almost military-like. Maybe we were crazy, but we were proud.

We also participated in Firefighters Olympic events in the 1990's, winning several times in Ohio, as well as three consecutive years at Milford Township's Olympics. We actually had two teams the one year and I was on the second team. My team actually came in 4th! It was a pretty grueling event but it was fun!

We celebrated our 50th anniversary in 2004 with a nice banquet, attended by many of our "old" members, some of which traveled from other parts of the country. It was a historic event for us. Myself, Todd Rummel and Matt Landis created a 63-minute video presentation (no, we really didn't plan it to be the same as our station number, honest!) that was shown at the banquet. It was quite a production, but was worth it!

Another historic event was the first cell tower in Haycock, which was erected in the rear of the firehouse, bringing a steady monthly revenue source to the Fire Company. With costs of apparatus and other equipment steadily increasing every year, having this steady income has certainly helped. The Sunday Breakfast is another steady fundraiser, it has been held for as long as I have been around, and then some. Our biggest fundraiser in my time (probably all-time) was the Bikefest, a motorcycle event which ran for ten years. It was held at Silver Creek Athletic Association for a few years, then at the park in Coopersburg. It was a huge event for our small group. Fundraising has become more work than the emergency services that we provide.

Membership in the old days was supposedly in the hundreds, today we have around 20 or so. Although I have heard that a large percentage of the members in the old days were social members (actually I think "drinking" members is more like it!). I heard that you had a hard time getting out of Smell's store without shelling out a dollar and joining the Fire Company.

So many dedicated volunteers have come and gone, but I always appreciate the Fire Chiefs we have had. As far as I can tell, we have only had these seven Chief's in the 63 years that the Fire Company has existed, so far (there's that 63 again!).

Hubert Graham
Howard Diehl
Carl Hedrick
Thad Brzezicki
Frank Lennard Jr.
Harold Ruppell
Harry Grim, III

I also very much appreciate all those men and women that had that vision back in 1954. I think only two founding members are still with us, Frank Lennard Sr. and Robert Pope Sr. I apologize if I missed anyone. I think that those that are

not with us are looking down and very proud that what they helped start is still here and still going strong.

We are always looking for new members, whether active firefighters or social members. Any help is appreciated. Things need to be cleaned, light bulbs changed, plenty of little things that can be done. If you are able to help out, please feel free to call the firehouse at 215-536-2224, contact us at the Township Building at 215-536-3641, or maybe better yet stop out at a fundraiser and speak to one of us!



Patch



Logo



Haycock Fire House
Original, 1990's and 2004



2004 Ferrara Igniter



2003 Ford F-550 Special Service 63 on the right

Congratulations to our member, Pamela Varkony, for receiving this honor.



Pamela Varkony named Pearl S. Buck Woman of Influence

From the Bucks County Herald April 6, 2017

Bucks County native Pamela Varkony, now of Allentown, has been named this year's Woman of Influence by Pearl S. Buck International, the organization founded by author, feminist, and humanitarian Pearl S. Buck.

The Award will be presented at a special award dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 4, at Pearl S. Buck International, 520 Dublin Road, Perkasié.

The Pearl S. Buck Woman of Influence Award is presented to honor a woman who, like Pearl S. Buck, has distinguished herself in devotion to family, career and humanitarian causes.

Past award recipients have included American operatic soprano Beverly Sills, columnist Erma Bombeck, First Lady Laura Bush and Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Sheryl Wu Dunn.

This year, the organization has chosen Varkony, an award-winning journalist, inspirational teacher and women's advocate. Considered to be a thought-leader on women's empowerment, her insights on life, leadership, politics and the human condition are read and heard across four continents.

Her commentaries have aired on NPR and PBS, and her columns have appeared in major newspapers across the country. From 2012 to 2014, she served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Pennsylvania State Commission for Women.

Varkony has received numerous awards for her work, including: the "Excellence in Journalism Award" from the PA Women's Press Association, the "VERA Award" from the Business Council for Peace for her work in Afghanistan, the "Athena Award" from the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce for her achievements in business, and the "Gateway Award" from the American Association of University Women for leadership in women's issues.

A resident of Lehigh County, she grew up in Bucks County and has co-authored a book on the history of the area titled, "Our Lost Tohickon Valley."

Spring Cleanup at Stokes House

Thanks to all who came out and helped clean up the yard and mulch the garden. It was a good effort by all and Stokes looks good.

Also, if you are dividing up perennials such as iris or astilbe and have plants left over, there is room in the garden at Stokes. The deer appear to be leaving the iris planted there alone. Call me at [267-467-7608](tel:267-467-7608) or text.

Thanks everyone,
Pat DeWald



Clean Up Day Spring 2017



Steve Applegate

Steve will give a presentation and demonstration for our "Settlers' Day" program at our Stokes House headquarters, on Sunday, September 17, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Steve will cook a stew over an open fire. This program will be in place of the usual third Thursday September meeting.

There will be refreshments in addition to the stew!

HHS ACTIVITIES

At our Stokes House Headquarters

Stokes is open for coffee and goodies every Friday morning 10 a.m. to Noon. Come out and visit.

Saturday June 17, 10 a.m. to Noon— we will be demonstrating candle making with an old fashion mold.

Saturday July 15, 10 a.m. to Noon— we will be making beeswax cherubs from a mold. If you have an old chocolate mold, bring it along and try making a beeswax ornament from it.

Haycock Township Community Center Events

June 2: Paint & Sip

June 3: Cleanup Day—outside 8 a.m. to Noon

July 1: Independence Day Picnic

July 8: Cleanup Day outside 8 a.m. to Noon

August 19: Johnny Rivers Day

August 25: Dessert night/ potluck

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

Sept. 17, 2017: Sunday meeting 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stokes House headquarters.

SETTLERS' DAY presentation by Steve Applegate. Steve will cook a stew over an open fire.

Oct. 19, 2017: Native American Artifacts – Walter Fachtet will tell us about his collection.

Nov. 16, 2017: To be announced

NOTE NEW LOCATION!

Third Thursday meetings will now be 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 meetings begin at 7 p.m.

OFFICERS

President: David Long cadklong@verizon.net

V. Pres: Andrea Silvestri asilvetri@haycocktownship.com

Secretary: Nancy Stemler grandmom42@comcast.net

Treasurer: Paula Laughlin pmlreader@yahoo.com

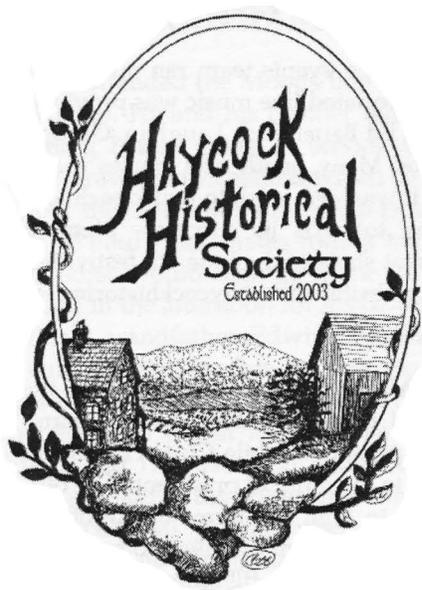
Ad Hoc:: Pat DeWald wdewald@verizon.net

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

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: