

# HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Spring 2021

## THE BUCKS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VISIT THE STOKES HOUSE

By Pat DeWald

In the middle of April 2021, the historical society's board realized that the lease on the John Stokes house was coming up in February 2022. The society first leased the house in 2010, for one year, at the encouragement of their members. We found the house in need of sprucing up but structurally sound. Our first board meeting at the Stokes house was in March of 2010 and the heat had not been turned on. We thought that an electric heater would help with the cold, but unfortunately, we sat there with coats, gloves, and boots, wondering what we had gotten into.



**Bucks County Commissioner**

**Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia with Dave Long and Pat DeWald**

April turned out better. The county started up the oil burner, the house warmed up, and HHS members turned their attention to painting the two downstairs rooms and the summer kitchen. We also turned our attention to the yard. The house had not been occupied for three years. The county cut the grass but did little to improve on the encroaching brambles. We had a spring cleanup and a fall cleanup, each time improving on the state of the yard. After one year it was the consensus of the members that we obtain a longer lease. HHS applied to the county for a twenty-year lease, and they offered a ten-year, which we signed. Those

ten years will be up in February 2022. So, we are again looking to the county to extend the lease for another ten years.

In the middle of April, the board sent an email to all three Bucks County Commissioners, inviting them to tour the Stokes House and to get acquainted with the HHS programs and the relationship we have with the community. To our surprise, all three accepted our invitation.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Diane Ellis-Marseglia, chair, of the Bucks County Commissioners, visited Stokes. We had a very successful meeting. She was very impressed with our programs, and outreach to the community. She was impressed with our small museum, the books we have written, the programs, like "Artists of the Past", and the care we have given the Stokes house. She was enthusiastic about continuing the lease and suggested we write to her with any concerns we have with the building.



**Bucks County Commissioner**

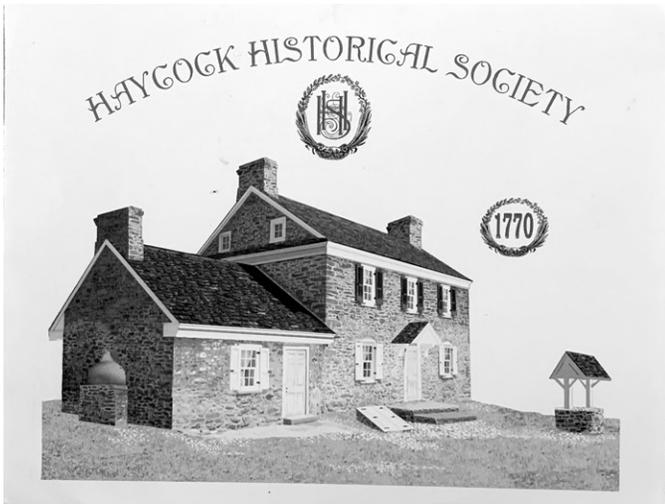
**Robert J. Harvie Jr. with Pat DeWald and Margie Fulp**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Robert Harvie Jr., vice chair of the Bucks County Commissioners, visited Stokes. Again, we had a very successful meeting. He was supportive of our efforts to have the house placed on the National

Historic Registry and complimented the society on the very good work we are doing for the community. He again was supportive of renewing the lease for another ten years.

Members, you have done a good job. Your commitment to Haycock, the history, the social sense of care for the place where you live, has been recognized by the county commissioners. And they support you as we proceed with the year 2021.

Commissioner Gene DiGirolamo had to postpone his visit, he had planned to come with Commissioner Harvie, but at the last minute had to decline but sent his regret for postponing.



Pat DeWald and Commissioner Harvie touring our exhibits.

## ❧ A SYNOPSIS OF HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ❧

By Chris Handschin

Nearly twenty years ago, a few parents of children who attended Haycock Elementary School got together to organize an annual Spring Festival at the school. The objective was to create interesting learning booths where students-- as well as their visiting friends and parents, could explore the things and people of interest in their community. One of the booths we created was a collage of interesting old Haycock maps and photographs of the area, which a few of us had collected over the years in which our children attended the school. That particular booth was always filled with people interested in learning about the area, so the next and last year the event was held, before the school closed, a few additions were added. We wondered if people in the area would be interested in a local historical society if we were to organize one? After all, we had all those wonderful pictures and maps to share and no place to go with them! We put out a ballot box and paper ballots posing a question:

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HAVING AN HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN HAYCOCK? YES/ No

Comments : \_\_\_\_\_

At the end of that long day, we nearly forgot about the box, as we hurried to break down the display before the end of the event. We didn't expect too much. After all, this was a distinctly rural area and our Spring Festival was specific to only Haycock families. Imagine our surprise when we counted 78 little pieces of paper with "YES" circled on them! Many wonderful compliments were added in the comments section as well! Apparently, there was strong interest in holding onto the treasures that make Haycock Township so unique! We announced an open meeting a few months later at the Haycock Township building and were met with a standing room only crowd!

The seeds of the society were sown at that meeting. We elected officers, named sub-committees, and asked any-

one with any interest to join and be a part of the adventure of reclaiming our history. In the fall of 2002, we had our first meeting in the home of one of our gracious members. We began collecting gifts of relics from our past – A kiln strap from Simon Singer pottery works, an old clock that kept time at the Latvian Church, Arrow heads found in our woods, and there were the donated pictures and postcards. It seemed everyone wanted to share some treasure they had or some story about growing up in Haycock. We took notes, and soon published our first book filled with the stories told and retold by one of our oldest historians. Aptly named, *Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer* names people and places Eddie knew, and stories about the buildings in the area. A lot of our early work involved oral interviews with long-time residents. Soon a second book, *Our Lost Tohickon Valley*, followed. This book documents the people and the homes lost to Nockamixon State Park through eminent domain.

We desperately needed a headquarters to work from and to house our collections. It was an amazing stroke of luck that we not only found that place in the Stokes house, but also that it had such an historical value, tracing back to the founders of the village of Applebachsville. We use the building as a meeting place for our officers as well as to hold events, such as society picnics, an Italian Dinner, an “Artists of Our Past” gallery, and most recently, a Latvian Cultural event, and a Frontiersman Day.

With a mission statement of researching and preserving our history and educating the public as to those discoveries, we needed fund-raising if we were going to expand in the directions we projected, and so Kringle Christmas Shoppe was born in 2002, and has grown each year until the Covid Pandemic temporarily halted it in 2020. Tapping into our area’s abundance of artisans and craftsmen, musicians and writers, and all those creative spirits, we seek to give them a showplace by creating an annual pop-up market for their goods and services, while reserving a percentage of revenue from sold items for our fundraising efforts. The first three years, Kringle was held in the downstairs of a private home, but soon the crowds and merchandise outgrew it. We moved to the local Latvian Church’s annex and then ultimately back to the large auditorium of the school that started the society. By this time the building had been decommissioned as a school and turned into our Haycock Community Center.

We hope to continue along the path we have set for ourselves, sharing our research, and creating events of interest to the Haycock Community, and sharing the beautiful treasure of Stokes house with the public for years to come!

An Excerpt from *Haycock and the New Harrisburg School in the Span of Years – 1875-1895*  
By A Former Teacher (Christian C.S. Sterner)  
(b. 1870 - d.1959)  
Newtown, Pa  
October 30, 1945-November 8.

## SETTLERS IN HAYCOCK

To a pioneer, water is the first in his mind. Hence these settlers hugged the edges of the nearest streams -- the Haycock Run, The Tohickon Creek and their small tributaries.

At this time, fish and wild game as food was second on their minds. A cow, or a goat or so, furnished them with some milk. The small quantity of grain brought along had to be ground-hence the need of a mill. Four flour and feed mills were built- Stover’s in the east, Shellenberger’s south base of mountain, the other, Stover’s-two miles farther west, and Baringer’s a quarter mile east from Thatcher’s store, torn down years ago.

The third necessity – shelter. At first by means of the ax-hewn log huts. The need of boards to build their houses, barns, and sheds, called for the sawmills which were at Stover’s, Shellenberger’s, Jesse Koder’s, and at Baringer’s in time.

On the farm where I was raised, stood a log hut. There, in the immediate vicinity, were three other log houses - Stephen Keller’s to the south, Felix Keller’s to the west, and Samuel Mitman’s to the north. The chinks between the walls were calked with a plaster of mud with straw intermixed.

With the product of sawn timber from the sawmills, wooden structures succeeded the stone ones and the log huts. Early proprietors of lands in southern Bucks County owned lands in northern parts of it. Such houses as they would build, by unique style – like the two Round Houses, you mentioned, may account for their peculiar build. The architectural design seems to be to lean to the colonial type. The Round (hexagonal, maybe octagonal) House I most frequently called at from 1881 to 1884 was about a half mile northwest of the then Dunlap’s Schoolhouse. The other Round House you referred to may be the General Paul Applebach’s onetime residence. To me they both seemed lovely ancient houses.



## IN MEMORY OF

Lorey Smell

March 24, 1937– April 24, 2021

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Haycock Historical Society is starting a research committee. Help research the history of Haycock Township or learn about deed research and how to research your family tree. The first meeting will be Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m., at the Stokes House, 1299 Apple Road (down the long gravel lane). If you are interested and cannot attend this meeting, email Pat DeWald at [wdewald@verizon.net](mailto:wdewald@verizon.net) for updates on future meetings.

## GARDENING

Anyone interested in getting together about gardening? The Stokes Garden has been planted and we hope to outwit the deer this year. If you are interested in helping with the garden, we are planning our first meeting Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, around 10 a.m. at the Stokes House. If there is enough interest, we would like to plan a plant exchange for the fall. The Stokes Garden has ample purple iris and red bee balm to share. If you have any questions, please call or text Pat DeWald at 267-467-7608. Hope to see you there. If you would be available at other times, we would not turn any help away.

## THANK YOU

Evelyn and Darwin Gerhart for their generous donation to HHS.



## FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Friday's coffee will begin again at the Stokes House on Friday, June 4th, from 10 a.m. to Noon. Friday coffee at Stokes will continue each Friday through the end of October. It will be nice to visit with everyone again. We will have seating under the tree if weather permits. Covid protocol will be observed.

## HHS NEEDS A WEBMASTER

Is there a member who is interested in maintaining the HHS website ?

## FREE ACCESS TO PENNSYLVANIA RECORDS ON ANCESTRY

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx>

## 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.

Please contact Pat DeWald with your stories.

**Past years' issues of our Newsletter are available on our web site.**

[www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org](http://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 WILL RESUME THIS FALL

Programs will be scheduled for the fall and announced on our web page and in the Summer Newsletter. Unless there are reversals in the progress in overcoming the pandemic we can resume our usual activities with whatever requirements are needed to be in compliance with regulations in effect at the time.

## MEETINGS

September 16, 2021: 7 p.m. To be announced.

October 21, 2021: 7 p.m. To be announced.

November 18, 2021: 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

President: David Long [cadklong@verizon.net](mailto:cadklong@verizon.net)

V. Pres: Andrea Silvestri [asilvestri@haycocktownship.com](mailto:asilvestri@haycocktownship.com)

Secretary: Nancy Stemler [grandmom42@comcast.net](mailto:grandmom42@comcast.net)

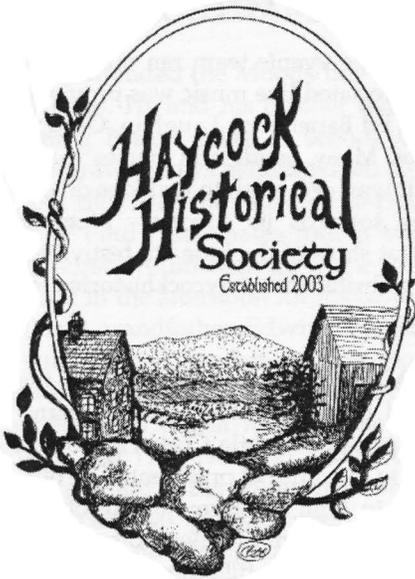
Treasurer: Chris Bauer [cbauer@haycocktownship.com](mailto:cbauer@haycocktownship.com)

Ad Hoc:: Pat DeWald [wdewald@verizon.net](mailto:wdewald@verizon.net)

Ad Hoc: Chris Handschin [chandschin@verizon.net](mailto:chandschin@verizon.net)

Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (215-257-7472) or [m\\_fulp@hotmail.com](mailto:m_fulp@hotmail.com)

# HHD USA



P.O. Box 715  
Quakertown, PA 18951

[www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org](http://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