

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Spring 2023

SHEARD'S MILL COVERED BRIDGE AND

THE LEVI SHEARD GRIST MILL

Memories by Jacque Holliday

Down by the old (not the new, but the old)
Mill stream (not the river, but the stream)
Where I first (not the second but the first)
Met you (not me but you).

With your eyes (not your ears but your eyes)
So blue (not green but blue)
Where I first (not the second but the first)
Met you (not me but you).

Down By the Old Mill Stream
Tell Taylor – 1911

This is a song we used to sing in my elementary school in the 1950s. The lyrics are different than those of the writer, Tell Taylor, but this is the version our traveling music teacher, Miss Wieder, taught us. We sang it in two parts, the girls singing the first part, and the boys the second part. From the first time I heard the song, I associated it with *Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge* and the *Levi Sheard Grist Mill* which was about a quarter mile down the road from our house.



Sheard's Mill and Covered Bridge

I grew up on RD#3 Thatcher Road, where the covered bridge and the grist mill were located. It was not until the 1970s that the name of the road was changed from Thatcher Road to Covered Bridge Road.

Thatcher General Store, owned by Mr. Harry Grim, Sr. was the local grocery store where my mother did her bi-monthly shopping. Since she did not drive, she and I would walk about a mile from our house to the store located at the end of Thatcher Road. During that time, stores were not self-serve, so she would give her handwritten list to Mr. Grim, and he would go around the store gathering the items she needed. Each item, along with the quantity and the price, was written in a receipt book with carbon paper. She got the original copy, and he kept the carbon copy in the receipt book. Then, Mr. Grim would bag the groceries and carefully pack them in her wagon for us to travel back home.



Thatcher General Store

I recall not liking the sound of the wagon wheels as we crossed through the covered bridge. There were cracks in the boards of the floor, and you could see the Tohickon Creek below. My four-year-old mind imagined those cracks separating and my small body plunging into the creek below where I would drown in four inches of water. However, I was comforted by the fact that my mother was holding my hand – my mother always held my hand!

Thatcher General Store was eventually sold to a young couple who had two toddler boys. When I turned sixteen years old, I was hired to do light housekeeping for them as well as babysit for their boys. Three times a week I would walk through Sheard's Mill Bridge to get to work. This time, my mother was not holding my hand, but I had no fear of falling through those cracks; rather, I feared that the two sides of the bridge would close in on me. Alas, I was introduced to claustrophobia, and it has been a part of my life ever since that time.



Just before the bridge, on the East Rockhill side (the other side was Haycock Township), was a home that sat back from the road. This home, with a long lane, was occupied by the Cope family at one time. When they moved, a woman from Philadelphia bought the property as a summer home. To get away from the hustle and bustle of the city, Mrs. Harris would spend summers down by the creek. My mother did housework for her a few days a week and since I was only eight years old, I would accompany her to work on those days. Mrs. Harris put lawn chairs out by the creek, and I would sit and read. One afternoon, I decided to walk down the lane to explore what was underneath the bridge which I feared when I was four years old.



Surprisingly, I found these beautiful rocks of all sizes and shapes with clear water running beside and over them. I was still skeptical of walking directly underneath the bridge for fear that it would come crashing down on me. Oh, the minds of children!

In later years, my younger cousins who lived next door and I would walk to the Frosty for ice cream several times a week. The bridge was much less scary with my "cousin crew." During the twenty-seven years that I lived on Thatcher Road, I probably traveled through Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge hundreds of times, and each time is a memory embedded in my mind.

I especially liked *Sheard's Grist Mill*, which the locals simply referred to as Clymer's Mill, because it was owned by John Clymer. My mother raised chickens and that is where she purchased her chicken feed. When I was older, one of my chores was to walk to the mill for feed each week. I remember climbing those six steep, cement steps to enter the mill. I liked that chore because Mr. Clymer was such a friendly, happy man. He was like the grandpop I never had. He showed me the entire production operation each time I went. I still remember the smell of the ingredients which I did not like. One time he took me to the second floor to help him send the feed down the shoot to the first floor where it was bagged for sale.

Whenever I visit, I am amazed at another area of that old stone structure that I had not paid attention to previously. For instance, there are two sets of cement steps to enter the mill, one on either side of the structure. It was just a few years ago that I noticed the second set. The last time I visited, I noticed that the building needed restoration. I am glad that it is on the National Historic Registry List so that it cannot be torn down.



Sheard's Mill

In my twenty-seven years living on Thatcher Road, and the many years that I have returned to visit, the only part of the Tohickon Creek that I had ever explored was the part that ran under Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge, right beside the grist mill. On my last visit, in May 2018, I took advantage of the beautiful Spring day and decided to venture past the mill and walk along the creek (or the crick as my uncle used to call it). Now, mind you, I did not go out of sight of the road because I wasn't sure what creatures may live in the forest. I am not Little Red Riding Hood, and I could not retreat to Grandma's house if I met an unwanted four-legged or two-winged creature. I am a country girl, but not the adventurous type.

Every year when I visit my old "stomping ground" in the country where I grew up, I appreciate it more. I am very thankful to have experienced such a memorable life in East Rockhill Township.

Happy Birthday, Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge.



From
**HAYCOCK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
&
Neighborhood Bridge Friends

**YOU ARE
INVITED!**

Join In Celebrating the
150'th Birthday
of Sheard's Covered Bridge!



Saturday, September 23, 2023
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

- *Mill & Grounds Tours
- *Bridge Art Show/Sale
- *Free Cake & Apple Cider
- *Local Gift Card Wreath Raffle
- *Tohickon Restaurant Specials
- *Book signing with Scott Bomboy-
author of Bucks County Covered Bridges
- *Meet & Greet Local Representatives

At: Tohickon Family Campground
8308 Covered Bridge Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

Haycock Irish Roots Festival - Saturday, July 22, 5:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Enjoy Irish music, dance, food, and history outdoors on the beautiful grounds of our Haycock Historical Society's headquarters, The Stokes House 1279 Apple Road, Quakertown, PA 18951 Free-will donations are appreciated!

Sheard's Covered Bridge 150th Birthday Party Saturday, September 23, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M

We're celebrating the occasion in style! Mark your calendars and come out!

Haycock Historical Society will be collaborating with local friends of the bridge, Tohickon Campground Owners, Kirsten and Brad Glenn, and the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society hosting this **FREE EVENT!**

Tours of the Mill and Experts on Covered Bridge architecture will be on hand.

Local Artists will offer Bucks County Bridge renderings in our "sale & show" gallery.

Haycock Historical Society will offer bridge tiles and note cards for sale.

Scott Bomboy will be selling/signing his book, "Bucks County Covered Bridges."

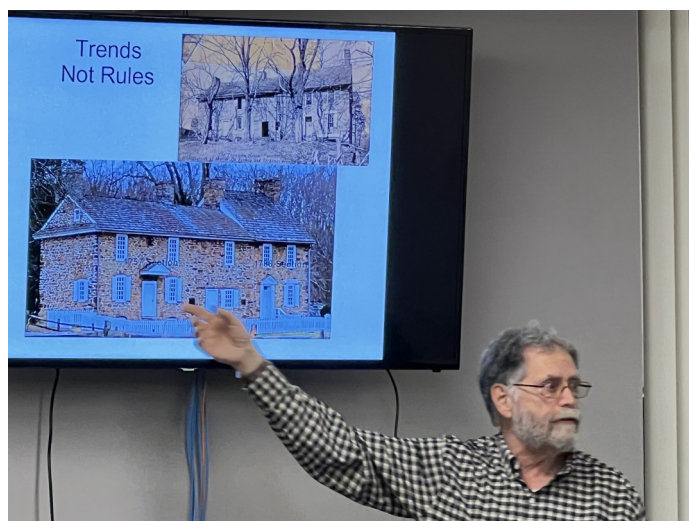
Local Representatives will be on hand to meet & greet constituents.

Tohickon Restaurant will offer a special Bridge Birthday lunch menu.

Of course, there will be free cake and apple cider!

THANK YOU

Darwin and Evelyn Gerhart for their generous donation to HHS.



Jeffrey Marshall

Our March meeting featured Jeffrey Marshall as Sherlock "Homes." Old House Detective.



Chase Palmer

Local historian and researcher, Chase Palmer, gave a presentation on “Mapping the One-Room Schoolhouses of Bucks County” at our April 2023 meeting.



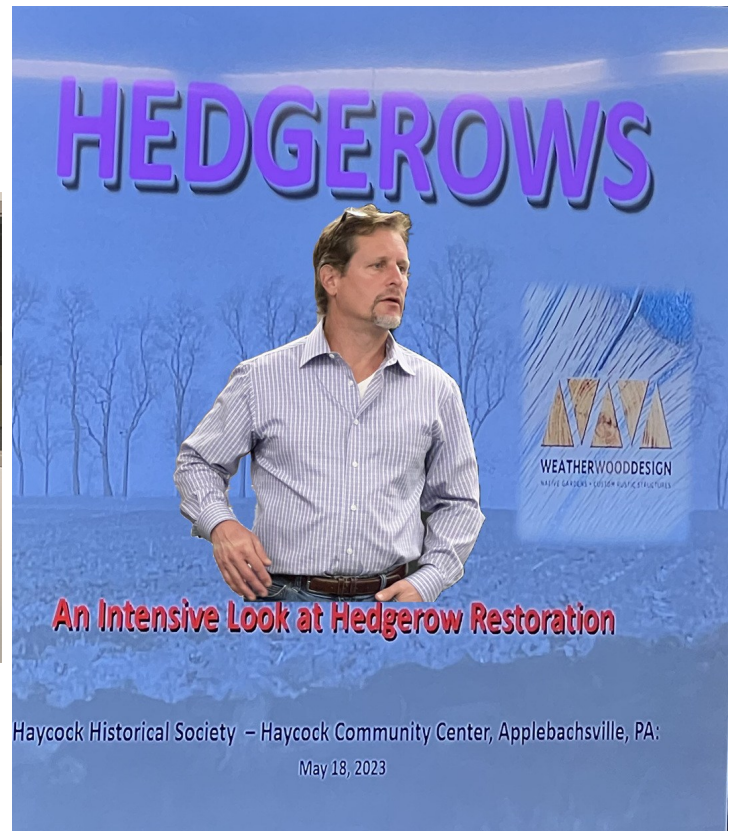
Thank You

Alice Millar for the hand crocheted snowflakes which will be for sale at Kringle.



Portrait of Florence Fluck

This portrait by Bonita Zieseniss was presented to HHS by her son, Todd Zieseniss, at the March meeting.



David Hughes

Our May 2023 presentation was given by David Hughes, owner of Weatherwood Design in Doylestown.

EVENTS

Irish Roots Festival at Stokes: Saturday, July 22, 2023:
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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.

Haycock One-Room School Reunion: Saturday, August 26, 2023. Noon to 5 p.m. at Saint Paul's Church Applebachs-ville. There is a pot-luck dinner at noon with the meeting starting at 1 p.m. Paper products and utensils provided.

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

MEETINGS

September 21, 2023: 7 p.m. To be announced

October 19, 2023: 7 p.m. To be announced.

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

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Ad Hoc: Chris Handschin chandschin@verizon.net

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

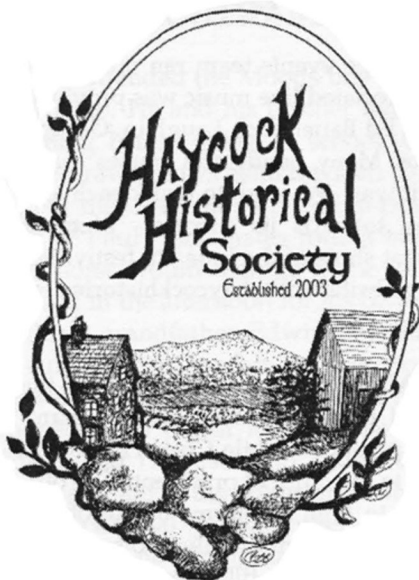
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HHD
USA



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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