

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Winter 2007

GEORGE & HELEN PAPASHVILY

by Heather Radick

It was 1922 when George Papashvily left his home in the country of Georgia, sailed to the United States and stepped off the ship into New York City.

And so began a twenty-year adventure across the country, which eventually led him to Haycock Township in 1935, according to his book, "Anything Can Happen," which was co-written by his wife, Helen.

George was born in 1898 in the village of Kobiankari, Georgia, a country that borders Turkey and the Black Sea. He had apprenticeships in making decorative leather crops and sword pointing. In his book, he noted that his father had said, "In the days when a man starves with one, by the other he may eat." But those skills were not in high demand in the U.S., especially in a modern New York City.

So with the help of his newly found immigrant and American friends, he made his way across the country to California. Along the way he performed various jobs including silk mill worker, dishwasher, mechanic and even assembling Packard automobiles in Detroit.

After marrying American born Helen Waite, they rented a house in Virginia to be closer to his job, which was in a paper plant.

In 1935, they moved to a farm in Haycock on Beck Road. They named it 'Ertoba', which is Georgian for harmonious place. In their book, Helen wrote, "They bought the poorest farm because it cost the least."

George described the old stone farm house as having holes in the roof so big "that every time it rained, a waterfall like Niagara poured down the attic steps, made a left turn the length of the hall, ran down the front stairs and out the door...quite an interesting sight to see, especially inside a house. But not very convenient."

It took many years and hard work, but with the help of friends, the couple brought the house and land back to life. They tried their hand at various types of farming and found success with tomatoes after bad experiences with other crops and raising livestock.

George also found a niche in sculpting. He was self-taught and began by carving wood bas relief figures of

things in nature. Janice Grim, a neighbor and friend of the family, recalled that Helen saw her husband's talent and encouraged him to work in stone.

She recalled the wooden knobs throughout the house as being carved from wood into bird shapes. A screen door had a knob carved into a rabbit with ears that when pinched, would open the door.

He carved mostly animals, and his sculptures can be

found in many places, including the Kemmerer Museum in Bethlehem, Colonial Williamsburg, a large indoor display at Pennsbury Manor, the Philadelphia Zoo, and the Michener Library in Quakertown. The largest collection is in The State Museum in Harrisburg. Friends and neighbors of the Papashvilys also have treasured collections of George's work.

Haycock residents Kay and Earl Winters were friends of the Papashvilys. When the Winters arrived at their new home in 1967, they recalled George and Helen waiting for them, so they could all "christen" the house by getting the fireplace

going and having a wine and cheese party.

Janice Grim recalled the Papashvilys as eager to have new people in the area get acquainted with one another. They were usually the ones to initiate the get-togethers.

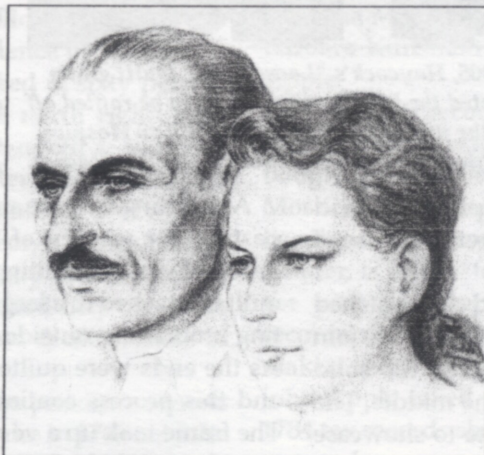
Helen and George continued to write after the success of "Anything Can Happen," which was made into a movie in 1952. Helen was a freelance writer and owned a bookstore in Allentown. She also taught writing classes in the area.

Patricia Goodrich, a writer and former Haycock resident, attended a writing class Helen taught in the 1970s. Goodrich said Helen was very influential in her career and was truly a mentor. After having the privilege of living at Ertoba Farm, she was inspired to write and publish a book of poetry about Helen and the farm.

Helen's interest in writing also had a great impact on Kay Winters, another accomplished writer of our township. George and Helen surrounded themselves with people, and as Earl Winters recalled, "They instilled a sense of community in our area."

Kay Winters said of George, "He was a man of integrity,

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*Drawing of George and Helen Papashvily,
courtesy of Lorraine Slotter*

QUILTING

By Jane Nase

Quilting is a craft that could be traced back more than 3,000 years to Egypt's First Dynasty.

Moving up a few centuries to the 1700s, quilting was used to make petticoat undergarments and coats. While most European countries had various quilting techniques, American women used the quilting methods from their mother's countries. These styles are far different from what we think of as modern patchwork quilts. The oldest North American-made patchwork quilt was dated to 1726.

In colonial America, women had many chores to do, so it was rare for them to have the time for decorative needlework. Quilts were made from May to November due to the absence of light in the winter.

The earliest quilts were whole cloth quilts. One style was *broderie perse*, which used small amounts of imported print cloth to cut out flowers or other motifs. The edge of the fabric was carefully turned to create a tiny seam and appliqué each piece to a large piece of fabric. By using the small pieces of fabric, it would stretch the use of the fine material.

Whole cloth quilts had several layers of solid cloth stitched together by using elaborate stitching or quilting to join together the fabrics. Usually the layers included the solid top, the backing and some form of filling in the middle. The quilt designs were very intricate and elaborate to showcase the small stitches.

Other quilt styles are medallion and borders, which came into popularity in the 1780s. The medallion quilts were usually symmetrical with intricate patterns of fabric displayed in the center of the quilt. Children were taught this style of quilting, often sewing a quilt for a special doll.

Quilts were made to fit the bed. Many are shown with the bottom two corners cut out so it would go around the bed post. The quilt was often displayed on the bed of the husband and wife or the "best bed." In the late 1700s, the

appliqué style dominated the quilts that were displayed.

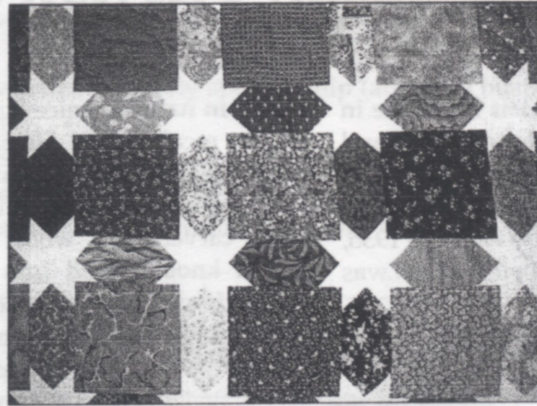
Piecing of quilts, which is the cutting and sewing of small pieces of fabric together to make a design, was popular from 1800-1840. Women made block patterns of the same size and sewed them together. Many pioneer women used scraps of fabric from various clothes or other household items such as feed sacks, flour sacks, even cigar ribbon tops.

During this time an indelible ink was developed that could be used on fabric. This spawned another type of quilt called a friendship quilt. Women would make blocks and then sign their name or write an inspirational message on the quilt. These quilts were often made for people moving to another town, and the signatures often served as a precious remembrance of a loved one. Some regional signatures were inscribed in the *fraktur* calligraphy used to document important events by the Pennsylvania Germans.

As quilting became more popular, quilting bees became a pastime for women of the community. A quilting bee is a group of women quilting a quilt top. In this arrangement, the quilt is attached to a large wooden frame with the women sitting around the outside edge of it sewing their fine stitches. As the ends were quilted they were rolled up on the frame and this process continued until the quilting was finished. The frame took up a very large space, so it was usually done outside at church picnics or other social gatherings.

The modern day quilt is more of a creative endeavor than practical. In Haycock, a group of women get together regularly to piece and quilt for enjoyment. The concept is the same but they use modern machines to make the quilt top. However, the quilting is the same as our ancestors in that it takes one small stitch at a time.

It could be said that the Egyptian women, more than 3,000 years ago, could have never predicted that quilting would be a popular pastime many centuries later.



In 2005, Haycock's "Loose Ends" Quilt group completed the Morning Star quilt to be raffled off with the proceeds going to Grandview Hospice. The raffle raised \$1500. Photo by Heather Radick.

PAPASHVILYS *continued from page 1*

very humble and so genuine, never pretentious." They loved to entertain and the big event in the neighborhood was the fall picnic.

Their friends and neighbors fondly remember George and Helen Papashvily, and to this day the people who knew them light up as they speak of them. They not only left their marks on stone and paper, but in the hearts of those they knew.



"Helen's Garden," 1971



Papashvily sculpture owned by Lorraine Slotter. Photo by Heather Radick.

JOHN APPLE'S DEED OF MARCH 2, 1782

by Pat DeWald

In November 2006, the historical society was given an authentic 18th century deed for a property in Haycock Township called the Newberry tract. The document was found in the attic of the home of Arlene Yaffe, which at one time was an old church on Mechanicsville Road in Philadelphia.

The deed is dated March 2, 1782, and lists the sellers as the Bachman, Marstaller, Kunsman and Clymer families and the purchaser, John Apple.

According to the deed, Apple bought 151 acres of fields and 142 perches, or about 2,350 square-feet, of woods for 700 pounds, which is equivalent today to \$1,367. From the description of the land, those who lived adjacent to the property were Nicolas Bock, Ludwig Nuspickle, Peter Heft, George Emig and Peter Myers. The tract's southern boundary is today's Oak Lane with Old Bethlehem Road passing through the southwest corner.

The deed describes the property as follows:

"Beginning at a marked white oak, thence by land in the tenure of Nicolas Bock north one hundred & sixty perches to a Stone thence by Ludwig Nuspickle north eighty nine degrees thirty eight minutes east, one hundred & sixty one perches to a stone thence by land in the tenure of Peter Heft south twenty two minutes west one hundred & sixty one perches to a stone thence by lands of George Emick (Emig) & Peter Myers west one hundred & sixty perches to the place of beginning, containing one hundred fifty one acres & one hundred & forty four two perches & allowances of six acres percent for roads etc."

The deed also provides a history of the previous owners that include Thomas and Richard Penn who in 1769 sold the property to Christian Gayman. The deed describes it as: "Thomas Penn & Richard Penn Esq, late Proprietaries of Pennsylvania by their Patent bearing date the fourth day of

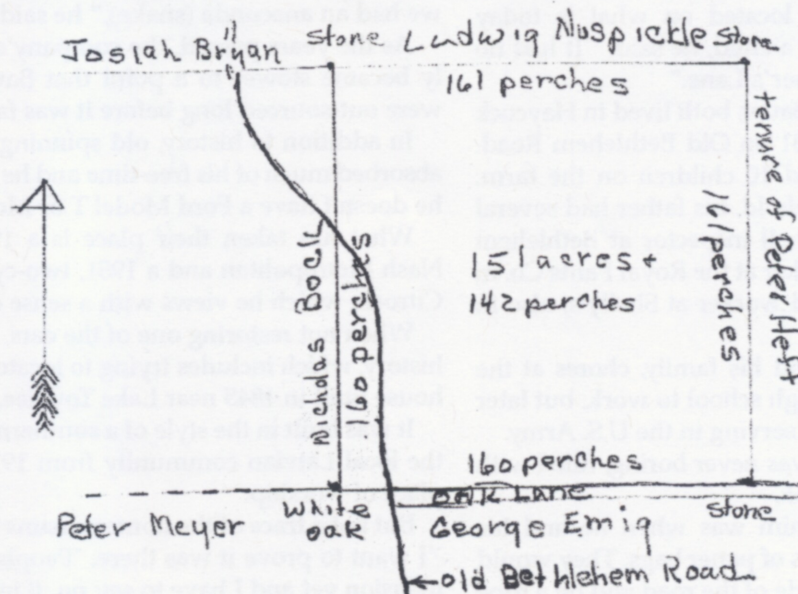
July 1769 granted & confirmed onto a certain Christian Gayman a certain tract of land Called Newberry situated in the Township of Haycock & County of Bucks aforesaid." This deed was recorded in Philadelphia in Book AA vol 11 page 99.

In 1776, Gayman and his wife, Mary, sold the land to Elizabeth Bachman, Susanna Marstaller, Mary Bachman, George and Barbara (Clymer) Kunsman and Ann Clymer.

That sale was described in the deed as: "And Whereas the said Christian Gayman with Mary his wife by their Indenture bearing date the Seventeenth day of June 1776 for the consideration therein Mentioned Granted & confirmed all the said described tract of land unto the above named Elizabeth Bachman, Susanna Marstaller, Mary Bachman, Barbara Clymer, since married to the said George Kunsman and Ann Clymer, To Hold..."

In 1782, John and Elizabeth Bachman, Henry and Susanna Marstaller, Jacob and Mary Bachman, George and Barbara Kunsman and Ann Clymer sold the land to John Apple.

In 1778, Haycock Township tax records show a Henry and Susanna Mosteller as one of the owners of the land who bought it for about \$5. The 1779 tax records list a Henry Mostier (Marstaller) as another owner of the land and being taxed on 150 acres. In 1781, George Kunsman, a cord winder, is also listed as being taxed on 150 acres. In 1782, the year the property was sold to John Apple, the tax records show George Koonsman, (Kunsman) then a shoemaker, listed as having 0 acres, 1 horse, and 2 cattle, and John Apple taxed on 150 acres, 0 horses and 0 cattle. The 1784 tax records show John Apple taxed on 150 acres as well as one house, one outbuilding, which could be a barn, 7 white inhabitants and 0 black inhabitants. This is the last entry in the tax records for John Apple.



Map of the Newberry tract drawn by Pat DeWald

HAYCOCK PROFILES:

EDDIE BAUER

by Charles Malinchak

The history of Haycock is often collected through the usual avenues of research such as libraries and the archives of newspapers, but there is another source and his name is Eddie Bauer.

Ask Bauer about the small, white Victorian cottage on Deerwood Lane. He will tell you that it was the Flourtown library that was moved to the property by the Forbes family.

Or about Cobbler Lane, which he will tell you was Yeakels Lane because the Yeakel family used to farm that corner of land that intersects Old Bethlehem Road. He'll even tell you that the Yeakels used to plough the ground with a white-faced horse.

Bauer, who resides on Deerwood Lane, likely knows more about Haycock history than anyone else in the township. He makes no claims of knowing everything, but he always has enough to launch the person inquiring in the right direction.

At age 73, Bauer continues to be fascinated with history and explained that being an amateur historian is something that has always held his interest.

For local history, he said, "I always liked the old people (when I was kid). They could really tell a tale. They knew what was going on."

Much of the talk he heard came from being at the right places to hear tales. Those places, he said, included the Kellers Church post office, Mountain House store (formerly on Old Bethlehem Road) and a blacksmith shop on Black Birch Lane.

Bauer was born on a farm located on what is today Boulder Lane, but when he was a child, he said, "It had no real name. Sometimes it was Bauer's Lane."

His parents, Oscar and Anna Bauer, both lived in Haycock and met at a house party in 1931 on Old Bethlehem Road. They eventually wed and raised 10 children on the farm. While his mother kept the household, his father had several occupations including a bombshell inspector at Bethlehem Steel during WW II, a textile worker at the Royal Pants Co. in Perkasio and then a lumber yard worker at Shelly's, also in Perkasio.

His childhood revolved around his family, chores at the farm as well as school. He left high school to work, but later got his high school degree while serving in the U.S. Army.

He recalled a childhood that was never boring, filled with activities and the occasional prank.

One prank that sticks with him was when he and his friends wrapped old tires in strips of paper bags. They would throw the wrapped tires at the side of the road and tie a rope to it. When a motorist would see the tire, they assumed it was

new and would stop and attempt to pick it up.

At the moment they were about to grab the tire, he said, "We'd yank it ... people would get really burned."

As he got older, he recalled going to square dances at what is today called the Hideaway in Bedminster Township - in the 1950s it was called Knights of the Golden Eagle.

Looking back at the area near the Golden Eagle that is now under Lake Nockamixon, Bauer fondly recollected, "Some of the most beautiful places (in the township) are gone."

As for marriage, Bauer said, "No, I never married. I read that Dear Abby too much. But I've also seen too many people (married couples) hating each other so I said why bother."

In 1956, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Korea with the 17th Infantry. He was stationed 25 miles above the 38th parallel, which was the line of demarcation made after World War II.

After being discharged in 1958, he returned to a profession he began before the army, which was a textile worker. He worked for the Harvey Clothing Co., which was on Mill Street in Quakertown, the Gegan Clothing Co. in Perkasio and from 1964 until his retirement in 1992, at Bucks County Fur, also in Quakertown.

He said Bucks County Fur processed mostly rabbit furs that would be made into garments by another company. They also periodically processed other furs including Australian possums and lamb.

"One time we had a lion. It died of old age ... another time we had an anaconda (snake)," he said.

As the years passed, the company's business progressively became slower to a point that Bauer described as, "We were out-sourced long before it was fashionable."

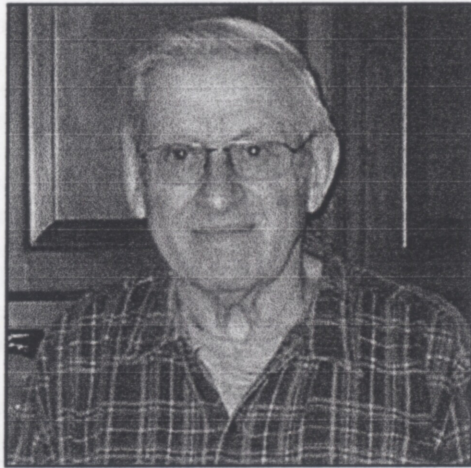
In addition to history, old spinning wheels and cars have absorbed much of his free-time and he said it is only now that he doesn't have a Ford Model T or Model A in the garage.

What has taken their place is a 1956 Volkswagen, 1956 Nash Metropolitan and a 1981, two-cylinder Deux Chevaux Citroen, which he views with a sense of historical pride.

When not restoring one of the cars, he continues studying history, which includes trying to locate the remains of a stone house built in 1845 near Lake Towhee.

It was built in the style of a southern mansion, he said, and the local Latvian community from 1918 to 1933 used it as a place of worship.

But not a trace of the home remains to which Bauer added, "I want to prove it was there. People ask me if I found the mansion yet and I have to say no. It just drives me crazy."



Eddie Bauer

Photo by Heather Radick

SOCIETY NEWS

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The third annual Kringle Christmas Shoppe, organized by the Social Events Committee, was held the first weekend in December 2006. The committee members' devotion of time and energy to the event is deeply appreciated.

Many thanks to the artisans that participated as well as the musicians who played throughout the event that included Gordon Allem, Steve Applegate, Leah Augstroze, Eddie Bauer, Jonnie Handschin, Richard Laughlin, and Steve Wysocki.

The society is truly indebted to our gracious hostess Pat DeWald for opening her home for the third year in a row for the event.

The Kringle Christmas Shoppe raised nearly \$3,000 through sales, donations, raffles and sale of promotional items such as our 2007 calendar, "A Year In Our Barns".

We continue to search for a new location for the Kringle Christmas Shoppe in 2007. Please contact Chris Handschin if you have a new location or would like to host it.

Plans are underway to hold a Marketplace event in May or June 2007.

The society's Social Events Committee was created to organize fun events and to raise money. The next meeting is March 13, 7 p.m. at the home of Nancy DePue and new members are welcome. For more information or if you would like to join, call Chris Handschin at 215-536-0364.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

In December 2006, Committee Chairperson Diane Kelly organized a group tour of the Burnside Plantation in Bethlehem. It was a great trip and the tour guide was very informative. We visited the main house and outbuildings and saw a variety of farm equipment, all of which are beautifully restored. Diane also arranged for a few members to go on the Christmas lantern tour of Historic downtown Bethlehem in December 2006.

The committee will try a new meeting site this year at the Spruance Library in Doylestown. The first meeting at the new location was held Feb. 13 while another is being scheduled for spring. For more information or joining the committee contact Diane Kelly at 215- 536-4297.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Please do not forget to renew your membership for 2007. The support the society receives through membership dues allows continued growth.

Among the many benefits of being a member are receiving the quarterly newsletter, attending members-only special events and discounted fees when participating in fundraising events.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

New members or contributors are welcome. If you would like

to share your tales about Haycock or write for the newsletter, please contact Sue Kleiner-Grew at 215-538-3613.

OFFICERS COMMITTEE

There will be elections for new officers this spring. Please consider running for office. Participation as an officer provides the opportunity to contribute in a significant way to the Haycock Historical Society.

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 for fundraising purposes such as t-shirts, hats, mugs, etc. To join, contact Chris Handschin at 215- 536-0364.

Applebachsville artisan and society member Tom Kazary has been commissioned to make the 2006 commemorative plate for the society. While the plate proved difficult to reproduce in clay, the image of the Towhee Bird, the society's name and the year will be reproduced on a slip mold plate using Tom's original design. Information about the plates will be available in the future

NOTES OF THANKS

The society extends its appreciation to Gary Krause for renewing his support as a corporate sponsor for another year.

Thanks also to Michael and Marla Burke for upgrading their membership to lifetime status.

A sincere thanks is extended to George and Arlene Yaffee for contributing to the society an original 18th century deed to a township property known as the Newberry Tract. The deed was donated in Nov. 2006.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

March 18, 2:30 p.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Applebachsville. A presentation by David Kimmerly of the Heritage Conservancy about the history and culture of the Quakertown Swamp.

April 19, 7 p.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Applebachsville. Robert Leight will share research on his newly published book, "Richard Moore and the History of the Underground Railroad in Quakertown". His book will be for sale for \$15 at the meeting. Also, nominations will be accepted for secretary and treasurer of the society.

May 10, 7 p.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Applebachsville.. A presentation by Kathy Aurbach, of Bucks County Community College, about historical preservation and research in Upper Bucks County. Elections will also be held for the society's treasurer and secretary.



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