

# HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Winter 2009

## TOWNSHIP BOOK TO BE RELEASED IN MARCH

A book featuring stories of everyday life in 20th century Haycock Township is slated for release in March. The book, entitled, 'Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer,' was compiled by society members Pat DeWald and Eddie Bauer and includes stories dating from 1910 to 1970.

"While I was attending many of our research committee meetings," DeWald said, "I kept hearing many stories about life in Haycock Township. About two years ago, Eddie Bauer and I started to write these stories down. As I gathered this information, I wondered how to present these stories and have them for future generations. Eddie and I then agreed to write about his family, to have this as the thread that wove through the time from about 1910 to 1970.

Our goal for the book was to give the reader a feeling of what it was like to grow up and live in Haycock Township. A township, near large cities, New York and Philadelphia, a place where time sort of stood still, with dirt roads and one room schools, a place where immigrants purchased farms, families from New York City came for the summer and artists and writers lived. We hope to give the reader the feeling of Haycock, our unique township.

This book, we hope, will be a start at preserving our history. I would like to thank all who gave their time and memories."

Pictured below is the book's front cover. An excerpt appears on the following page.

### *Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer*

1910 thru 1970

By Eddie Bauer &  
Pat DeWald



Additional contributions by Sascha Sutter Baringer, Stanley Beidler, Chris Lubaczewski Handschin, Richard Landgreen, Joseph Lindmeier, Stella Konopaus Morth, William Peischel, and Victor Stevens.

## Introduction: 'Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer'

Haycock Township, with a population of about two thousand people is the least populated township in Bucks County, PA. The population has remained at this level for about one hundred and fifty years. From this, one could surmise that the area has not changed, except for modernization. But the area has changed considerably. The first settlers were farmers and drovers. Old Bethlehem Road, which cuts through about the middle of the township north to south, was one of the main arteries between Bethlehem and Philadelphia and large herds of cattle were driven to market along this route. Also, logging and the making of charcoal for Durham Furnace were other occupations mostly carried out on Haycock Mountain. As more settlers came to the area, farming was the main occupation, but most of the families carried on a second occupation, such as cobbler, blacksmith, tanner, miller, potter, or teacher. By this time Haycock was mostly open land. With much of the forest area cut, it was fields with only hedgerows. One could see the Applebachsville Church steeple from a distance, across the Tohickon creek to Kellers Church, and there was a good view of Haycock Mountain from the south side of Tohickon Creek.

Around 1900, because of advancements in transportation and the need for factory workers in the cities, some of the early families sold their farms. These farms were purchased by immigrants mostly from Poland, Germany and Latvia. Many of these immigrants worked at Bethlehem Steel or in Philadelphia leaving the farming to wives and children dur-

ing the week. Also in 1920, the state purchased much of the land containing Haycock Mountain for a state game preserve. Then the depression came and people in the area were hard up for money, but one good thing was they had land to grow some food and raise a few cattle. Some of the residents lost their farms during this time and some of the homes were just boarded up. Trees and bushes began to grow up in the once cleared fields. As the depression ebbed, the area began to be popular with writers and artists from New York and Philadelphia. These newcomers were sprinkled in with the longtime residents who had weathered the depression.

With the beginning of WWII, the township changed again. Bethlehem Steel was a big employer of residents who carried on the tradition of working the farm and having a second job. In the 1960's the state again stepped in and bought up land for the creation of Nockamixon State Park. This was a substantial change. Many of the old stone farm houses were torn down, along with mills in the area. The quaint little village of Tohickon was torn down for the park. The area is now Nockamixon State Park, and where farms and fields were, it is now lake and woods. Some of the roads were changed, such as Route 563 which cuts through the township. Before, most of the roads were gravel, narrow and used by local people.

Although the township has not seen the big housing developments other areas have, the area has changed physically. This book hopes to show the flavor of Haycock Township from about 1910 to the 1970s through the life of Eddie Bauer, a life-long resident of Haycock.

## APPLEBACHSVILLE AND THE APPLEBACH FAMILY

The following is an excerpt from the book, "Applebachsville: The Metropolis of Haycock Township," by Rollin Smith

Haycock Township was established in 1762 and made-up of odd parcels of land that remained after all its adjacent townships were laid out. It is four miles long by three and three quarter miles wide. The township took its name from the highest mountain (960 feet) in Bucks County, the twin peaks of which resemble haycocks (the stacks into which hay is raked before being loaded on to wagons). Because the land is littered with huge iron boulders, farming has always been difficult, but the soil is so rich that what crops are grown are among the best in the county. With most of the land given over to the State Game Lands, Lake Nockamixon and Lake Towhee Recreation Park, Haycock ranks next to Tinicum as Bucks County's least populated township.

Through the center of the township is Old Bethlehem Road, one of the county's major thoroughfares for stage-

coaches traveling between Philadelphia and Bethlehem since before the Revolutionary War. When a 373-acre tract of land bordering this road was offered for sale in 1847, a local

drover foresaw the possibility of a way-station for his stagecoach line. This drover was Paul Applebach and the way station soon developed into the little village of Applebachsville.

The name Applebach is an English rendering of Afflerbach, a name derived from Afholderbach, a small village near the foot of the Afholderbach Mountain in the county of Siegen, Germany. "Afholder" means "apple tree" in Old High German and various permutations of the spelling have appeared in Germany since the early 17th century such as Affholderbach, Affelerbach, and Afflerbach. With the suffix "bach," which means brook, the word refers to a stream flowing under an apple tree or through an orchard.

From Wittgenstein in Westphalia, Germany came the first of the American branch of the family, Johann Heinrich Afflerbach (1739-1816), whose



Paul H. Applebach in 1892

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# LIVING ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF HAYCOCK MOUNTAIN

by Larry Glick

This past fall I had the pleasure of attending the Bucks County Farm Bureau's annual business meeting and dinner in Upper Bucks. While there, I had the opportunity to talk to a number of farmers, many of whom were concerned about the current economic crisis. But of immediate concern were such things as the cost of diesel fuel, property taxes and an overwhelming concern as to how they will continue to farm. Remembering that many of the farms left in Bucks are generational farms, I left the dinner reminiscing about my childhood and how many of those farms played an important role in my life as a youngster growing up in Nockamixon Township some 40 years ago.

My family lived on Route 412, just a mile below Palisades High School, where my Dad still lives today. This area, especially Haycock Mountain, and the streams and fields near Church Lane were the center of my life as a kid. And, nearly all my childhood memories took place there.

Grand-Pop Winfield Shuman was a farmer, woodworker and undertaker. Many may remember the Shuman Farm, Casket Company and Funeral Home located on Church Road just south of Palisades High School. The old farmhouse still stands, but the barns are gone and the property has been subdivided into smaller lots. In the 1950's and 1960's, when I was growing up, the farm thrived. My grandfather along with his sons, Joseph, John and Ervin, and son-in-law Bill, my dad, raised wheat and tomatoes. I remember learning how to ride a wheat thrasher, bagging and tying 50 lb. bags of wheat. I remember the old John Deere tractors and riding with my cousin Johnny as he plowed the fields with an old 3-bottom trip plow. They planted thousands of tomato plants using a tomato planter, but cultivating and harvesting were done by hand. My grandfather would have migrant workers come in to pick the tomatoes during the day. Then, when his sons got home from their day jobs, they all gathered at the farm to pick up the baskets of tomatoes to be delivered to the Conti cannery in Pennsburg.

The memory that comes to me most poignantly is the night my grandfather died. That night I rode on the tractor with him picking up baskets of freshly picked tomatoes. When we were done he took me to the farmhouse for some ice cream. We sat across from each other enjoying the moment, but I must have fallen asleep. The next thing I remember, I woke up in my parent's bed with my dad. I asked him how I ended up there and he told me my grandfather passed away that night not long after we had ice cream. I'll never forget my grandfather and I'll never forget that night. He taught me that farming and working with my hands were about understanding, respect and love of the land.

My dad, Bill, worked at Bethlehem Steel, and my mom, Olive, worked at U.S. Gauge in Sellersville. With both my

parents working, my sister Terry, my brother Bob and I had little daytime supervision. We had plenty of time for roaming as well as for getting into trouble. I'm fairly certain the kind of trouble we got into in the 1960's would provide us a trip to the juvenile probation department today.

We all had guys we hung out with. Sorry, no gals at the age of 12. One of my best friends was Marty Hummer. He lived on Church Lane next to my grandfather's farm. I don't remember what his parents did, but Marty was a great saxophone and baseball player. When he wasn't sequestered in his room practicing his sax, we rode our bikes everywhere. We would get a bunch of guys together from the neighborhood and head to Haycock Mountain. On the way to the mountain we would always make a stop at the little concrete bridge over Haycock Creek. The creek's fast moving waters and the occasional glimpse of large pickerel always held us up for a good hour or so. For those who remember, the creek ran through the valley between Route 412 and Haycock Mountain. Today, the creek feeds Lake Nockamixon and the old concrete bridge at the head of Lake Nockamixon is the staging area for canoeists and kayakers.

Eventually we refocused and continued our trip to the old fire tower at Top Rock on Haycock Mountain. Climbing the mountain may not seem like a big deal today, but at 12 it was like climbing a huge mountain thousands of feet tall.

From Top Rock you could see a good portion of Route 412 and even the old post office and grocery store, once located at the intersection of Park Road and Route 412. We would go to the store, which is now gone, with change scrounged from our parent's pants pockets. It was usually enough to buy an ice cream or candy, with change left over.

Summers seemed endless at the age of ten, so finding things to do were a big deal. We all had bicycles, so moving about the neighborhood was easy. Unlike urban neighborhoods that included row homes and single family homes lining the street, our neighborhood was made up of an occasional house nestled among small farms.

It was exactly 1.2 miles from my house to the bridge on Church Lane, the same bridge that crossed Haycock Creek. It was 1.5 miles from my house to our favorite swimming hole on Haycock Run at the Miller homestead. The Millers had a small pond with a dock and diving board. Many a summer day was spent at the pond. The only creepy thing about the pond was the leeches. After swimming we all would inspect ourselves for attached leeches. The easiest way to remove a leech is to take a lit cigarette and burn it off. Need I say more?

Things are different now—more houses, new families and heavy traffic. I have more memories of the eastern Haycock area and hope to share them with you in the future.

# SOCIETY NEWS

## Happy New Year letter from V.P. Chris Handschin

As we embark upon our 6th year, we should reflect on where we have been. We at the Haycock Historical Society have accomplished more in these few years than many organizations do in decades. We've created committees, hosted events, brought in speakers, shared great newsletter articles, made cookbooks, calendars, commemorative plates and tiles. All this has been done with the desire to share our local history and build a strong community in the present.

Our 2008 Commemorative Tile, depicting Sheard's/Clymer's Mill and covered bridge, is symbolic of that goal. The tile is being offered as a fundraising item that promotes remembrance of our special community. Some of our members may remember when John Clymer ran the mill and how he operated a cider press which only ceased operations in the 1970's.

At the end of last year, member Heather Radick produced a beautiful calendar for 2009. It highlights several stone homes and preserves images of our neighborhood, past and present. We hope all our members enjoyed the thank you gift of the calendar.

In 2009, we look forward to publishing our first book, compiled by Research Committee chairwoman, Pat DeWald. The book presents the history of Haycock Township and the families that shape its past and future.

Whether you are directly involved in committees or have simply joined for the newsletter or member benefits, each of our members brings valuable assets and needed funding to our organization. We thank you all for your continued support!

Again, many thanks for being a part of the adventure! Best wishes for a year filled with health and much happiness in 2009!

## IN MEMORIAM

Ferne Kressler was 91 years old when she passed away on December 2, 2008. The daughter of the late Roy and Marguerite (McFarlan) Gutshall, she was the widow of Howard Kressler Sr. and is survived by daughters, Dawn Marie Kressler and Barbara Ann Repash; sons Howard Jr., Roger and Herbert; her sister, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A member of Quakertown Evangelical Church and a founding member of HHS, Ferne resided in Applebachsville for many years. She shared the story of her life and of the Kressler family in our summer 2007 newsletter. She will be remembered for her love of life and for keeping family history alive. Ferne will be missed and we extend our condolences to her family.

Stella "Gisella" Morth passed away Jan. 28, 2009. Born February 11, 1912, in Philadelphia, she was the daughter of the late Ludwig Konopeus and the late Theresa (Wukovits) Konopeus. She was the beloved wife of the late Alois Morth

and is survived by her daughter Lois Keil.

Stella was a member and past president of the ladies auxiliary of the Tirolier Beneficial Society. She was a member of HHS and the Rockledge Senior Citizens. Our sympathy is with her family in their time of loss.

## NOTES OF THANKS:

We have so many to thank for their support of Kringle 2008.

Our musicians included Gordon Allem, Steve Applegate, Eddie Bauer, Bucks County Latvian Church choir, Jonnie Handschin, Richard Laughlin, Tom Schnabel and friend, and Steve Wysocki. We thank them for providing a variety of music that got the holiday spirit flowing.

Nancy DePue obtained donations from local businesses for raffle baskets and also worked with our vendors. Nancy extends her appreciation for their generosity and thanks them for their support.

Diane Vosburgh was volunteer coordinator. We are grateful for all the time and effort she put into enlisting people to pitch in and arranging all the scheduling. Kringle helpers included: Paula Applegate, Fran Bast, Nancy DePue, Pat DeWald, Pat Fite, Cathi Gelwicks, Susette Kazary, Diane Kelly, Elaine Kelly, Sue Kleiner-Grew, Paula Laughlin, Sue McLaughlin, Joe McLaughlin, Jane Nase, Mary Quinn, Heather Radick, Trudi Rosencrans, Janice VanTrieste, Chico VanTrieste, and Bernadette Yost.

HHS wants our volunteers to know their enthusiasm and hard work ensure the survival of the Kringle holiday celebration. We are indebted to them for the many hours they gave to make Kringle a memorable and magical experience.

Thanks to all who helped with the heavy lifting, moving boxes and supplies from the township building to Kringle and back, plus parking and directing traffic: Henry DePue, John Flynn, Jim Grew, Richard Landgreen, Mike Quinn, and Ralph Rosencrans.

Our thanks would not be complete without acknowledging Mrs. Kringle—Chris Handschin. Chris spends much of each year working out plans for Kringle. She puts in countless hours seeing to issues large and small related to the event. Her vision, spirit, and stamina enable the Kringle tradition to carry on.

HHS treasurer, Richard Landgreen, said Kringle was a success even in the face of a difficult economy. Our proceeds exceeded last year's total. Details to be discussed at March general meeting.

Also, a giant thank you to Jane Nase for updating our member database and getting it into excel format.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Has already begun to plan for Market Place. Tentative date is May 30, 2009. Contact Chris Handschin at 215-536-0364 to join in the planning.

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# APPLEBACHSVILLE AND THE APPLEBACH FAMILY

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family were miners. He sailed from Rotterdam on the ship, Sally, and docked in Philadelphia on October 29, 1770. The few meager details of his life are gleaned from public records. Upon his arrival in this county Afflerbach gave his age as thirty-one and his occupation as blacksmith. He settled in Springfield Township and anglicized his name to Henry Applebach to conform with the colony's requirements to purchase land. In 1776, he lived with John Wolflager, the owner of an 80-acre farm, and during the Revolutionary War he served as a private in the Bucks County militia. By 1780, Applebach, now 40, married Maria

Renshimer, the daughter of a local farmer, and owned 20 acres, two horses and a cow. The couple had eight children—four sons and four daughters—and prospered. On the Federal Direct Tax of 1798, Henry Applebach is listed with an old log house (20' by 18'), a log store house (18' by 14'), a barn (36' by 18'), a stone smith shop (18' by 15"), and forty acres.

To hear more about the Applebach family, be sure to attend the May general meeting when society member Pat DeWald will present the story of General Applebach.

## SOCIETY NEWS

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Pat DeWald is almost ready to take the book, 'Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer: 1910-1970,' to the printer.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

We have over 130 active members. We hope they are enjoying their 2009 calendar. If you are an active member and did not receive your complimentary 2009 calendar, contact Sue Kleiner-Grew at 215-538-3613.

There are still a few copies left and they are being offered for sale to members at the reduced price of \$5.00 per calendar. Contact Sue to purchase.

### OFFICER'S COMMITTEE

HHS is looking for volunteers to join the steering committee. The committee would develop a plan for the direction and growth of HHS.

### SOCIETY MEETINGS

Join us for our 2009 events. General Meetings will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Applebachsville across from the firehouse. Dates and speakers are as follows:

#### Sunday, March 15, 2 p.m.

Joseph Christ - "The Iron Curtain & Berlin Wall Experience". Mr. Christ will discuss his life experiences in post-war Europe as a soldier and a civilian.

Author Kathy Zingaro-Clark will also be there with copies of her books, 'Bucks County' and 'Bucks County Inns and Taverns' available for sale. A portion of the proceeds benefit HHS.

#### Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m.

Christine Clary Pennock, fraktur artist, will demonstrate her craft and discuss the history of frakturs. She will be attired in period costume for her talk.

#### Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.

Pat DeWald will present the story of General Applebach, his life and times.

Henry DePue informed us that St. Paul's Lutheran

Church in Applebachsville will be having their Joyful Noise concert on June 20. Come join in the celebration that includes a free daylong outdoor concert, food to purchase, a classic car show, local artisans, and children's activities. All proceeds will be donated to the Quakertown Food Pantry.

### HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENERAL INFORMATION

The Haycock Historical Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to research and record the history of Haycock Township and the surrounding environs. General meetings are open to society members and the public. Meetings are held six times a year, clustered in the fall: September, October and November; and spring: March, April and May, and usually held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Applebachsville.

The society's newsletter is published four times a year and distributed to members and also available to the public at general meetings, the Haycock Township Building and other public locations in the area.

#### Officers 2009

President . . . . .Ralph Rosencrans ralphrosencrans@verizon.net  
Vice-President . . .Chris Handschin . . . . .chandschin@verizon.net  
Treasurer . . . . .Dick Landgreen . . . . .rjlandgreen@comcast.net  
Secretary . . . . .Sue Kleiner-Grew . . . . .skg@relaxationcreation.com  
Ad Hoch . . . . .Henry DePue . . . . . .hnde57@verizon.net  
Ad Hoch . . . . .Pat DeWald . . . . . .wdewald@verizon.net

Officers meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Haycock Township Building.



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