

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Winter 2014

BIRDS OF HAYCOCK TOWNSHIP

By Paul and Brenda Teese

Haycock Township not only has plenty of history, it has plenty of nature as well. Because of the abundance of preserved space, we are blessed with a great diversity of plants and animals. In 2013, there were lots of bird species sighted within our township borders. According to eBird.org, an online reporting website for “birders,” there were at least 182 species seen at various locales in our township which includes part of Lake Nockamixon State Park, the State Game Lands (157) and Lake Towhee County Park. Lake Towhee



Towhee

alone, home to our historic Stokes House, yielded 138 species of birds. Our two parks were among the top sites in all of Bucks County for number of bird species reported in 2013, and the game lands provided one of the most diverse arrays of warblers in the county. In addition, Haycock boasted the high daily count for over forty bird species including loon, bufflehead and hooded merganser, three kinds of hawk, and eleven kinds of



Hooded Warbler



Hooded Merganser

warbler. Our township continues to be one of the most reliable places in Bucks County to find turkey, red-shouldered hawk (see 2014 HHS calendar), prairie warbler, hooded warbler and the red-headed woodpecker (the one where the entire head is completely red!). Notable rarities that were spotted here last year include a golden eagle, a saw-whet owl and a couple of prothonotary warblers. Ravens are becoming more common,

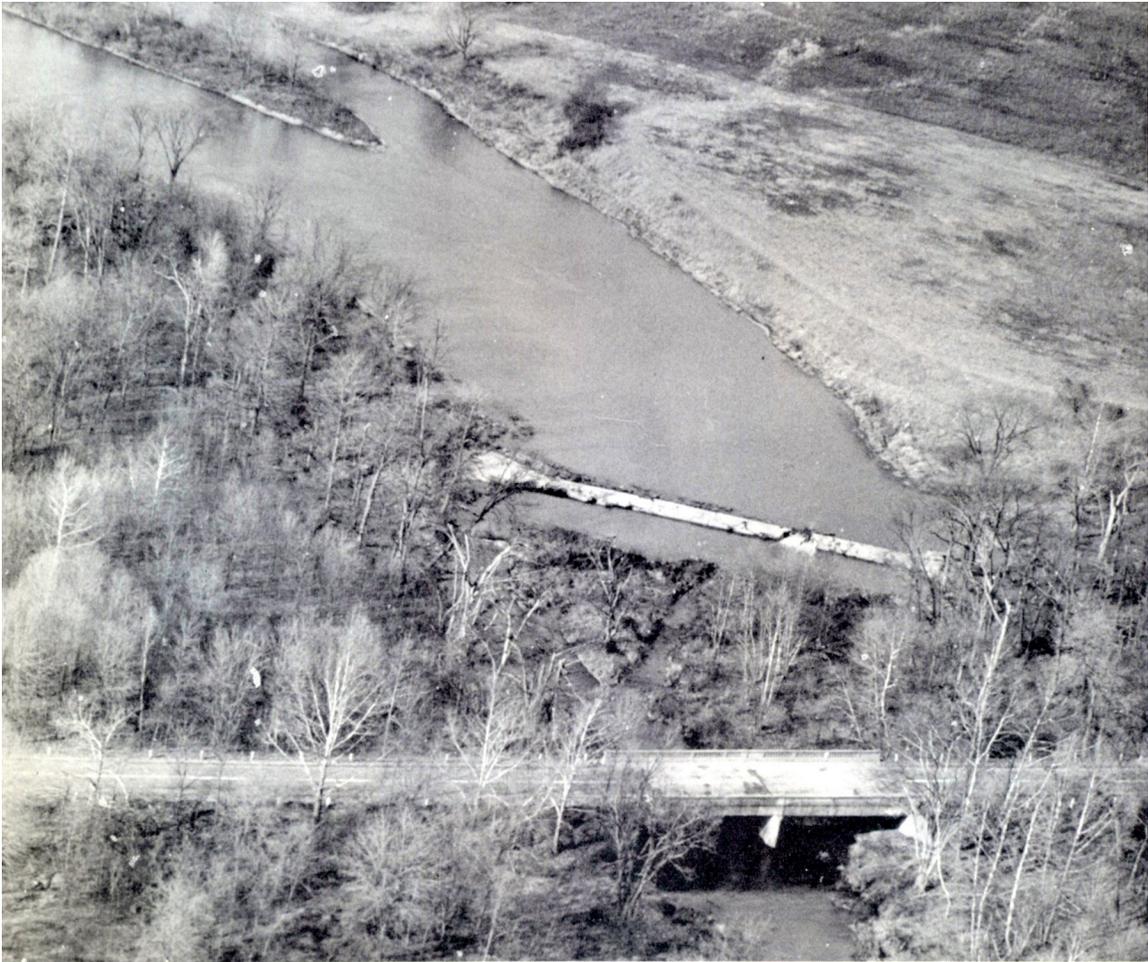


Saw-Whet Owl

and they were spotted on at least eight occasions. Woody Allen once joked that 90% of life is just showing up. Well, probably 90% of great nature sightings is just showing up too. Here's hoping that you're able to get out and enjoy our splendid Haycock flora and fauna in the coming year. And don't forget to look up to the skies. Who knows? You might see a nice flock of low flying snow geese, like we saw about this time last year. Best of luck!



This is the Jonas Stover Mill in the 1920's. It was built by his father Jacob Stover, "Miller Jake." Margaret T. Eberz, great-granddaughter of Jonas Stover, will do a presentation titled "History of the Stover family in Bucks County," at the HHS March meeting. The mill, in Stovertown/Tohickon Village, on the Haycock side of the Tohickon Creek, was demolished in the early 1940's, well prior to the building of Lake Nockamixon.



The Stover Dam on the Tohickon Creek provided the mill pond for the Stover Mill located in Stovertown/Tohickon Village, Haycock Township, and swimming for the local residents. Bedminster Township is to the left of Tohickon Creek and Haycock Township is to the right. Below, Ridge Road crosses the creek. All of this, including the bridge, and Tohickon Village, are now under Lake Nockamixon.

HISTORIC NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

TRENTON EVENING TIMES APRIL 2, 1908

Mysterious Hermit Has Many Bucks County Folk Greatly Alarmed DOYLESTOWN, April 2, 1908.

Haycock township residents are still terrorized by the periodical appearance of a mysterious, hermit-like personage, whose actions have so intimidated children until they are afraid to attend school and wives tremble at the thought of being left alone in their isolated farm houses. It has been nearly five weeks since the strange looking hermit made his appearance. One day he suddenly appears to the residents of one neighborhood. The next time he calls at a lonely farm house several miles away, and asks for something to eat. Recently he appeared to a lone woman whose husband only comes home once a week and, after asking for a lunch requested to be allowed to stay overnight. "I can't give you permission until my husband comes home, she replied" whereupon, the long haired apparition leered and knowingly replied, "Oh I know about that. He only comes home Saturday nights." Similar stories are told of him by other persons and it is said that he has shown remarkable familiarity with the history of people in the township. Said to have told one man that he knew every foot of Haycock Mountain. This latter statement residents of the township readily accept as true. One night a fire is seen on the mountain at one place while at another time these nightly fires are seen for a mile or more away. **CONSTABLES INACTIVE:** Constables, it is said, are afraid to serve warrants which have been placed in their hands and it is reported that it would be difficult to even organize a posse. One resident, Oscar Bleam, has volunteered to capture the man and was given a warrant. He returned without his prisoner and is said to tell of the remarkable quickness and expertise of the hermit with revolvers which he carried. Last week residents of the township have been in the county seat and have told stories of the fear which not only holds women and children in, but has deterred strong men from going into the mountain to bring this disturber of the township's peace and tranquility to Justice. "There is no necessity of our going into the rocky places on the mountain to give this man a chance to shoot us from an unseen shelter," said one (person) In Doylestown, "and we wouldn't know where to find him if a posse went out, for there are any number of rocks and other places where he will hide."

May 22, 1908 article in The Bucks County Gazette, Bristol, Pennsylvania, noted that "James Miller, a dyed-in-the-wool hobo" was "known as the 'Wild Man of Haycock'"

His wild-eyed, filthy, uncouth appearance terrified the residents of that township for some time.

He "had been in jail a week or so, and upon promising to get out of Bucks county the Court allowed him to go." However, the March 1, 1911 issue of The Philadelphia Inquirer indicated that "James Miller, the 'wild man of Haycock Mountain,'" had returned to said mountain, for which he was sentenced to "twelve months in the county jail" at breaking stones. Haycock Mountain is about nine miles east of Quakertown.



**Fire March 11, 1851
INTELLIGENCER**

Fire -- On the morning of the 6th, the frame Cooper Shop and Blacksmith Shop of MATHIAS SIGAFOOS, in Haycock Township, were destroyed by fire. All his tools and about fifty new barrels were destroyed.

**Post Office Change March 9, 1852
INTELLIGENCER**

Post office change -- The post office at Strawntown, in this county, has been moved about a mile further up the Bethlehem Road, the name changed to Applebacksville (Applebachville) and Josiah Stover appointed Postmaster.

**Appointment June 8, 1852
INTELLIGENCER**

Appointment --- HENRY APPLEBACK (APPLEBACH) to be postmaster at Applebacksville (Applebachville), in the place of Josiah Stauffer, deceased.

**Gettysburg Times November 15, 1939
Mountain Top on Fire Near Quakertown**

Quakertown PA Nov 15

The top of Haycock mountain ten miles northeast of here was ablaze today with over 1000 acres of woodland on fire.

Shooting high into the air the flames and smoke could be seen here and in surrounding towns as several hundred men were summoned to fight the flames.

At the foot of the mountain which lies between Quakertown and Ottsville in Haycock township, Bucks County, is the village of Haycock Run, a settlement of about 100 families. They were in no immediate danger



Spring Beauty

Dear Members,

When the days become longer and the sun warmer, it is a good feeling, even with the snow on the ground. If you have not had a chance to get to Stokes in the winter, I suggest you take a trip over. It is a beautiful setting. The lake is visible through the trees, and the stone house against the snow is a Bucks County picture. We still need to do improvements on the long driveway, so be careful if there has been a new snowfall.

With spring around the corner, we are gearing up for the coming year. We have new bylaws in place, and with the changes there are positions available on the HHS board. Our organization has grown and with growth we have new responsibilities.

I have taken care of the Stokes house now for the last three years. This has entailed dealing with the county when we have projects, ordering the oil, just checking on the house to see that all is in working order, and setting up the museum area in the house. I would like to divide this responsibility between several people. I am hoping someone will be interested in helping with or doing the museum. This would mean maybe changing the displays, improving the write-ups, or creating different displays. The other place I was hoping someone will be interested in is helping with the house maintenance. This just entails ordering the oil, checking on the condition of the house, and making recommendations as to what needs to be fixed or improved upon. For a two hundred and sixty year-old house, Stokes is in good shape. Peter McElroy, our contact with the county, has put into the 2014 county's budget a request for a new furnace for Stokes. This would be a big improvement if it happens.

Thanks to you all, the last year saw many improvements to Stokes, and the society has grown. Kringle was a big success with Chris Handschin at the helm. We thank all the Kringle Elves for giving of their time to the Haycock Historical Society and all the other members who made 2013 a very successful year. I am very proud of our society.

Best Wishes to all in 2014.

Pat DeWald, president



Hepatica (Liverwort)

THANK YOU

Thanks to HHS Social Events Committee, HHS members and volunteers from the Bucks County Latvian Church who helped in their own special way to make Kringle X so successful this year! Profits were slightly up from last year, with just under 1000 visitors reported.

A big thanks to all of those involved in donating, gathering and creating our raffle prize baskets - (Over 1500 raffle tickets were counted!).

The event is something the entire community can appreciate. Kringle's success lies in the fact that it not only highlights our wonderfully talented local artists, sculptors, craftsmen, musicians and authors but it also provides a social event for our rural community at a joyful time of year! Our greeters report that many of our visitors were first-time "Kringlers" this year and were looking forward to returning again.

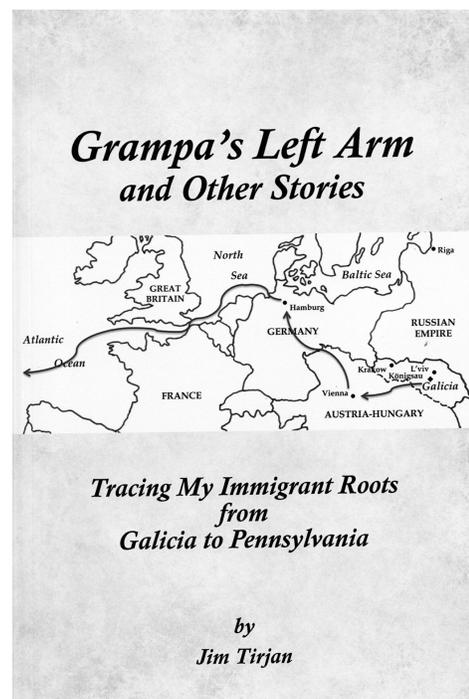
A Big "THUMBS UP" to all our Kringle Elves!

Thanks,
Chris

INTRODUCTION OF JIM TIRJAN BOOK

The book *Grampa's Left Arm and Other Stories, Tracing My Immigrant Roots from Galicia to Pennsylvania*, written by HHS member Jim Tirjan, is now available online in paperback and on Kindle at Amazon. All four of Jim's grandparents came from Galicia, in Austria, and eventually settled in Haycock Township. Their village on the Austro-Hungarian eastern frontier faded into history when the province of Galicia came under Polish rule after WWI. His book is a memoir and a history of their lives.

Jim's curiosity about the origins of his name led him to explore Eastern Europe's troubled twentieth century history and the societal transformations which shaped his political perspective of the United States.



ACTIVITIES

April 5th, Saturday - 9 a.m. to noon Clean up at Stokes HQ. Rain date April 12th, Saturday - 9 a.m. to noon

April 19 - 10 a.m. to noon - Wildflower Walk with Paul and Brenda Teese -

Meet at the Stokes house, headquarters of the Haycock Historical Society, 1299 Apple Road. Wear appropriate clothes for the weather.

Dutchman's breeches



Stokes Cleanup Days:

It will be spring again, even if it does not feel like it will ever come, and the grounds at Stokes will need the spring cleanup. We have a great incentive this year, as the county commissioners may have one of their county meetings at Stokes. And of course we want to look our best for that occasion. This is a great compliment to our society and we should be very proud of our headquarters. As it is said, "We are doing well," thanks to all of you.

Clean up dates are:

April 5th, Saturday - 9 a.m. to noon
Rain date April 12th, Saturday - 9 a.m. to noon

Rakes and chain saws are useful, as we would like to clear more of the brush out in the upper part of the yard. Lunch will be available. Put the dates on your calendars and think spring.

Pat DeWald

MEETINGS

March 20 - Margaret T. Eberz, great-granddaughter of Jonas Stover, will present "The History of the Stover Family in Bucks County." She will speak about her ancestor and show historic family items, some of which have been donated to the HHS.

April 17 - Milan J. Kralik Jr., sculptor, will give a slide presentation about Leonardo Da Vinci's "The Horse that never was." DaVinci's plans on paper made into reality. One is on the grounds of the Baum School of Art.

May 15 - Mary Musselman will present "100 Years at Grandview Hospital," highlighting the nursing school.

Meetings are held at the Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church in Applebachsville and begin at 7 p.m.

DUES WERE DUE BY DECEMBER 31

If you have not renewed your annual membership, and wish to do so, this will be your last reminder. A form in your newsletter indicates that we have not updated your membership. Please renew now or contact Charles Fulp at 215-257-7472 if there is an error in our records. To renew, please complete the form and return to our post office box.

OFFICERS

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- Secretary: Nancy Janyszeski ncj@epix.net
- Treasurer: Paula Laughlin pmlreader@yahoo.com
- Ad Hoc: Chris Handschin chandschin@verizon.net
- Ad Hoc: Diane Vosburgh dmvosburgh@gmail.com
- Ad Hoc: Joe Rumsey joelovesbarb@verizon.net

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

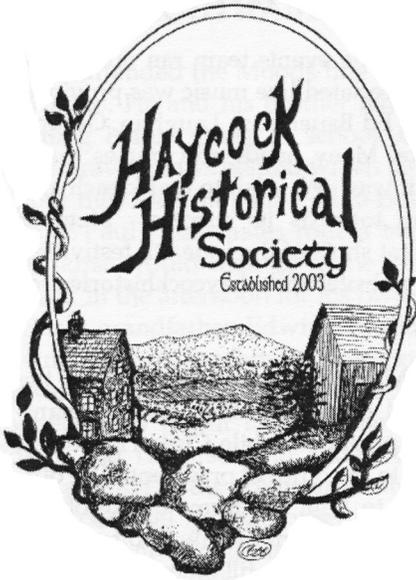
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HHD
USA



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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