



The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Winter 2016

The Other side of the Mountain

Remembrances of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church and School from 1924 to 1941,
Haycock Run and Tohickon Village

by Joseph Lindmeier

Joseph Lindmeier is a long-time resident of Haycock Township

My parents, Fritz Lindmeier, born May 5, 1881 and Sofie, my mother, born April 10, 1881, immigrated to the United States in 1913. They left their home land in Bavaria, Germany and came to America with their 2 children Albertina, 10 years old and Fred, 4 years old.

In December of 1912, Marie Wolz and her husband Philip, who were my father's sister and brother-in-law, sailed by ship from America to Germany to see Marie Wolz's ailing father who later died and was buried on December 31, 1912. They also came to Germany to take her brother Fritz and his wife and family along with them to America. Because of the threat of World War I, after the burial of their father, they went from the cemetery immediately to the train station to board the train to begin their journey to America.

Fritz Lindmeier was a member of the German Army Reserve. Because of the threat of the start of World War I, he could not get clearance to leave Germany. So they planned to cross the border from Germany to Belgium on New Year's Eve. The border guards were celebrating New Year's Eve and did not check too closely who was crossing the border. This is how he got out of Germany.

On January 1, 1913, Fritz Lindmeier and his wife, Sofie and their two children, Albertina and Frederick, also his sister Marie Wolz, and her husband Philip, boarded a British ship "Lusitania" at Antwerp, Belgium and sailed for the United States.

They arrived in New York City on January 16, 1913. The Lindmeier family did not go through Ellis Island because they were sponsored by Philip and Marie Wolz and were considered second class immigrants. Only third class immigrants went through Ellis Island.

They took a train from New York City to Philadelphia and then another train to Atlantic City, New Jersey. Philip Wolz owned a roller coaster amusement ride on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City. Fritz Lindmeier worked for Philip Wolz maintaining the roller coaster ride. My father did not care for this type of work and after sometime he left the amusement ride and got a job at the Ventnor Boat Works in Ventnor, New Jersey. The boat works was owned by a

man named Appel. The Appel Ventnor Boat Works had a reputation for building high quality speed and racing boats. Appel built boats for Guy Lombardo and other celebrities. My father's brother, Joseph also worked for the boat works. My father, Fritz, and Uncle Joseph together built the first speed boat for the Appel Ventnor Boat Works that could travel at 100 mph.

After working at the Ventnor Boat Works for some time, my father was laid off when work slowed down. He went to Philadelphia and got a job with RCA Victor building cabinets for phonographs. My parents moved to Philadelphia. In Philadelphia, they became friends with a German couple, Ernest and Lena Puder, who later bought a wagon and wheelwright shop in Bedminster, PA. They talked my parents into buying a farm, so my father purchased a seventy acre farm for twenty four hundred dollars from Gabriel and Mary Kutsch, on September 2, 1922. The former owners of the farm were William and Anna Muller. That is how my parents and family came to Haycock Township. After moving to Top Rock Trail in Haycock in 1922, my father continued working in Philadelphia and came home to Haycock on the weekends. He would take the trolley from Philadelphia to Harrow. My brother would go to Harrow with a horse and buggy to pick him up and bring him home and then take him back to Harrow on Sunday afternoon to catch the trolley back to Philadelphia.

My brothers, Fred and Bill, did the work on the farm. They were not really happy with doing the farm work. There were times when they left the farm and went to Philadelphia to look for jobs.

We got electricity on the farm in 1935, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Rural Electrification Act brought electricity to farms and rural areas across America. My parents sold the farm in 1936 and built a house on a piece of ground they had on Route 611 in Harrow. My father had a saw mill and his own cabinet shop on this ground in Harrow.

Close to our farm on Top Rock Trail Road was a one-room school known as Hickory Grove School. It was located on Ridge Road now Route 563. It was built in 1876 and replaced the old Frankenfield School. It was used as a school



The barn on the Lindmeier property. Picture taken in 2007. The farm is now owned by the Schoenfelds. Photo courtesy of Heather Radick.

until 1942. After that the school children were sent to Stover. Hickory Grove School was then sold and turned into a private residence until it was torn down when Lake Nockamixon State Park was constructed. My brother Bill attended Hickory Grove School for a few years. Later he transferred to St. John's Parochial School. One of the teachers at Hickory Grove School from 1928-29 and 1932-33 was Lando Moyer.

The other small villages in our vicinity were Haycock Run and Tohickon Village.

Oliver Ott was the postmaster at the Haycock Run Post Office. The general store in Haycock Run was a one and a half story frame building with a porch across the front. It was about one and a half times the size of a one room school. Since the store was already closed when our family got our mail there, I was never inside the store. After the store closed, a one story addition was built on to the residence to house the post office.

The mail carrier started his day at the Perkasio Post Office. He made stops at different post offices along the way to the Haycock Run Post Office. I know he stopped at Kellers Church Post Office located at Kellers Church Granite Works where Walter Trauger was postmaster. Next stop was the Tohickon Post Office located in the Tohickon General Store in Tohickon Village. The next stop was Haycock Run Post

Office located on Old Ridge Road about one half mile in from the present Route 563. The next stop was Bucksville Post Office in Schuman's Store, Bucksville located on Route 412. The postmistress was Mae Raub - Mr. Schuman's daughter. The route continued on to the Harrow Post Office located on the northeast corner of route 611 and Tower Road. The postmistress there was Stella Fleming. The mail carrier would then turn around and head back to Perkasio.

Every year, between Christmas and New Year, the mail carrier would buy a new Chevrolet car. My neighbor friends, Herman and Oscar Frei, George Richter, and I would go to the post office before the mail carrier arrived so we could see his New Chevrolet. The mail carrier came to Haycock Run about 11:00 A.M. We were about nine or ten years old at this time.





Hickory Grove School about 1941 or 42. Photo courtesy of Heather Radick.

IN MEMORY OF

Norma Myers

February 22, 2016

HELP WANTED

We are looking for members who would like to help with newsletter articles. We need ideas for subjects and could also use help with interviews and collecting information. If you are interested, please contact Margie Fulp by Email: m_fulp@hotmail.com or by phone: 215-257-7472

All editions of our newsletter from previous years are available at the HHS website.

Our books *Our Lost Tohickon Valley*, and *Haycock township and Eddie Bauer*, are available by contacting Margie Fulp or by downloading the Kindle editions from Amazon.

The Old Methodist Meeting House Cemetery

By Dave Long

On the extreme western border of Haycock Township along Union Rd. is located an old burial grounds of a Methodist church. As early as the 1810's there had been a Methodist schoolhouse located there and by the 1840's a log Methodist meetinghouse was erected here along with a new adjoining schoolhouse. At this time the original schoolhouse was sold to a Charles Kile, blacksmith, and wife Catherine. Later this was owned by Samuel Moffly and then by D. Loux who had a blacksmith shop here also. This area was known as Loux's Corner in later years. By the 1850's the Methodist church had relocated to Quakertown where a new church with more space was built. They are currently located in Milford Township on Freir Rd.



Grave stone at the Old Methodist Meeting House Cemetery

The burial grounds have been mostly neglected over the years but has been cleaned out on occasion over the last several decades by Boy Scout groups, volunteers and more recently by the Haycock Township crew.



Artists -- *Gone But Not Forgotten...*

Members of Haycock Historical Society's Events Committee are planning a museum open-house at our Stoke's headquarters this July, sharing works by notable artists who lived in or captured the essence of Haycock township. Inspired by the recent acquisition of works by the late Calvin Ruth and a video interview with him, the committee is moving forward to organize the open-house to include works by Mr. Ruth as well as other established deceased local artists, including sculptor, George Papashavilly, and fine artists: James Schucker, Ed Lehman, Matt Clark, William Atkinson, David Frame and Hilda Heinrich.

The committee is actively seeking owners of works by these artists with the hope they will loan their artwork to expand and enrich the viewing experience of our visitors for the weekend of the show. Several members have already offered to share their private collections. The event will draw visitors from all over Bucks County and will be advertised in many local papers and magazines.

If you are interested in loaning your painting(s) or sculptures for the show in July or if you have questions regarding the event, please contact- Chris Handschin at [\(215\) 536-0364](tel:2155360364) or chandschin@verizon.net

Thank you,
Chris Handschin



Old Methodist Meeting House Cemetery

What remains of the Methodist site in Haycock Township is just an old stuccoed stone wall surrounding mostly unidentified fieldstone grave markers. But in the far left corner of the walls there are still a few white marble headstones with inscriptions that are mostly unreadable now. These are from the Leay family and there are 3 markers that read as follows: "In Memory of Caroline Leay, born August 6, 1841, aged 1 month, 21 days. In Memory of Mary Leay, born September 20, 1809, died May 11, 1844, aged 34 years, 8mo. and 21 days. In Memory of Samuel Leay, born October 23, 1801, died October 26, 1862, aged 61 years and 3 days.

There is also one fieldstone marker near the center of the graveyard with an inscription that just says: I.M. December 2, 1823. This was most likely a member of the Moffly family that lived nearby the site.

ACTIVITIES

Spring Cleanup at Stokes - Saturday - April 16, 2016 - 9 a.m. to Noon - With Lunch

Rain date - Saturday - April 23, 2016 - 9 a.m. to Noon - With Lunch

The yard at Stokes is looking better and better each year thanks to all the volunteers. This year we will be clearing some more brush and small trees up in the northwest corner of the yard. Rakes and bush whacker would be helpful. We will also like to bush whack the lower flower path and get that ready for the spring flowers.

Thanks to all, the yard is really looking wonderful.

Pat DeWald

Thank you

To Dave Long for getting all of the Calvin Ruth paintings beautifully framed. They will be on display at Stokes.

MEETINGS

March 17, 2016: Mark Fischer will give a presentation on Castle Valley Mill, which is in Bucks County. The mill produces stone ground products.

April 21, 2016: Thomas Moll and Robert Leight will give a presentation on their latest book, *Anniversary History of the Quakertown Community School District*.

May 19, 2016: Bruce Bachman will give a presentation on his collection of Native American arrowheads, and how they were made.

OFFICERS

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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

Bucks County
magazine

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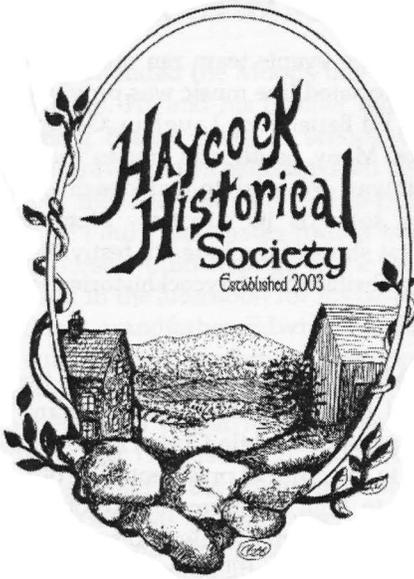
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www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

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 _____

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ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

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SEND APPLICATION ALONG WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO:
P.O. Box 715, Quakertown, PA 18951