

# HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Winter 2018

## Applebachsville and the Peischel farm on Woodbine Lane, late 20's into the early 40's: Part one

By Bill Peischel

From the HHS book "Haycock Township and Eddie Bauer" by Eddie Bauer & Pat DeWald

In the late 20's, Applebachsville was one of the bigger "little" cross roads in the area. It contained the Lutheran Church, the hotel, owned by the Kresslers, that was also the post office, a butcher shop run and owned by Herbert Kressler, a store across the street from the hotel, a black smith shop and about two dozen homes. The black smith in Applebachsville was John Koon, and once a week he would drive his 1920 Ford car past our farm into Quakertown. It was one of the few cars in the area and the once a week visit to Quakertown was about the only use this car saw. Other people living in "town" were Johnny Rivers, George Boettger and George Mengelson. All were World War II veterans killed in action.

I remember the hotel with the porch all along the front. As kids we would hang out there on Friday evenings. At that time the hotel had been electrified and the porch light would be on and there was a light across the street at the store. Otherwise Haycock was mostly dark. On Friday evenings, our father would take eggs to Herbert Kressler for him to sell Saturday at the butcher shop he had at market center in Bethlehem. After my dad delivered the eggs, he would usually meet Charlie Hafler at the hotel and they would share a quart of beer for 25 cents. We kids would hang outside along the hitching rail and talk about kids stuff.

At this time the hotel was run by Maurice Block. He had two children Francis (Fritz) and Evelyn. He had a beer license, but not a liquor license. The barroom was on the south side of the building and ran the length except for a small room at the end. At one time a wooden addition was added to the back of the hotel. The original portion of the hotel was made of stone. At one end of the barroom was a fireplace,

and the walls were covered with advertisements for merchants in the area. The bar ran across the back of the room, and in front of the bar were tables and chairs. A lot of card playing went on at those tables. On the other side of the center hall was a large room and on Saturday nights there were dances. A group from Bedminster, which consisted of a fiddle, guitar and accordion, played country music.

Sometimes on other Friday evenings my dad would stop by the Mandic farm to purchase moonshine. You brought your own gallon jug and for 50 cents, you would get a gallon. It was powerful stuff. If you drank it straight and lit up a cigarette, you could set your mouth on fire. My dad diluted it with some other drink. I never tried the stuff. But I wasn't

always so good; one time Joe Hrabina's cows got out and came down from Pullen Station Road all the way to our farm. Joe asked Adolf, my brother and I to herd them back to his farm. When we got back to Hrabinas with the cows, Mrs. Hrabina gave us Christmas cookies and Joe gave us each a nickel. Leaving Hrabinas we met up with Steve Strubie at his farm and told him about getting a nickel. Well he went searching for a nickel and scrounged through all his drawers coming up with five pennies. We all then went to the Applebachsville store and bought a pack of cigarettes with our combined fifteen cents. Cigarettes were fifteen cents a pack back then.

The store directly across the street from the hotel was owned by Fred and Mary Eagle. I never saw him in the store; it was always Mary who waited on the customers. They sold sugar, flour, cookies, and other groceries, along with boots, gloves, and some clothing. Kerosene was 5 cents a gallon; you brought a container and got the kerosene from a drum on the porch. They also had two gas pumps out in



**William (Bill) Peischel 1938**

*Photo courtesy of Bill Peischel*



0. BUCKS COUNTY (PA.) VIEWS.  
Arnold Bros., Printers, Roshland, Pa.

WHITE HALL HOTEL, APPLEBACHSVILLE  
Matthew Miller, Prop.

### The White Hall Hotel in Applebachsville about 1909

front; turning a crank pumped the gas. The store sold penny candy. Mary Eagle was from Germany and when you would pay for the candy, she would count out loud onies bit betson, try bit betson etc. The store was open from morning to night.

On the north side of the store was a stairway that led to the room above. I was never in this room, but was told it was a large room. I would see people from the area going up these stairs every so often for a meeting of the brotherhood. My father belonged to this; he paid two dollars dues every year. The brotherhood was a sort of insurance plan, if you were sick or disabled for awhile they would provide financial help while you recovered. The brotherhood had an initiation tradition that included showing the candidate a chair with a spike in the middle of its seat. The candidate was then blindfolded and guided to the chair to sit down. The spike was actually made of rubber.

Next to the hotel was the stable, owned by H. S. Kressler. He also owned the hotel and the house on the other side of the hotel across Apple Road where he lived. He was a butcher and used the stable and pastures in back of the stable and hotel to keep cattle until time for slaughter. The stable was two stories and on one side was a stairway leading to a large room on the second floor. This room was used for township meetings and was the township polling place. On occasions the area farmers used it for meetings. Sometimes it was used by the county to give agricultural classes. In winter a pot belly stove was used to heat the upstairs room.

In the winter when it snowed, local workers were paid 20 cents an hour for shoveling the roads. Leidy Heft who lived on the upper side of Applebachsville was in charge of keeping track of who was working and for how long. He and his brother Amos drove around with their team of horses and wagon to keep track. To get paid you would go to the stable and go upstairs to this large room where Mr. Kressler would be writing checks for the work.

Leidy and Amos Heft were two bachelor brothers who lived together on the north side of Applebachsville. They were carpenters and each had their own tools. I went to their house with a friend once to have the wooden top of his sled fixed. In the kitchen, each brother had their own cabinet of tools with a lock on it. Amos went over to his cabinet and unlocked it and got his tools to fix the sled. Amos liked to

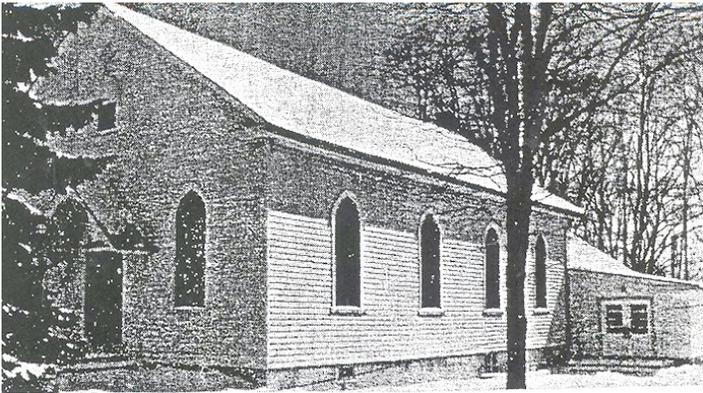
drink and was less reliable, one time he was supposed to seed two acres with rye grass, on the way to the field he decided he didn't want to do it and dumped the rye seed over the side of the wagon into the ditch and went home. You could always tell if Amos had too much to drink. He never used the sidewalks to go walk into the center of Applebachsville. He walked down the center of the road. He needed the entire width of the street.

Some of the friends who I would see in school and lived in Applebachsville were Johnny Rivers, and George Boetcher alias John Flexer. The two lived at Elvin Horne's house and were orphans. One year George Boetcher was gone from school, and no one knew where he was. Then word came that he was in Texas and had tried to join the Marines. When he was on the run he used the name John Flexer, but when he tried to join the Marines he used his real name and they found out he was a runaway. One night while we were milking the cows he came to our barn.

He had hitch-hiked back from Texas. That night, we tried to persuade him to return to Elvin Horne's but he didn't want to go back. Later in the evening he finally agreed to go over to Applebachsville. We went over and stood across the street from the Horne's house, then Johnny Rivers came out of the Horne's house to dump the trash. George called to Rivers and Johnny recognized the voice, and said, "Is that you George?" Johnny Rivers came over and talked to him for awhile but he still wouldn't go back. So that night he slept in Horne's barn. He did go back to Hornes the next day and started school again. He had a hard time in school, partly from being gone for so long and partly he just didn't seem interested. Eventually he did join the Marines and was killed in WWII.

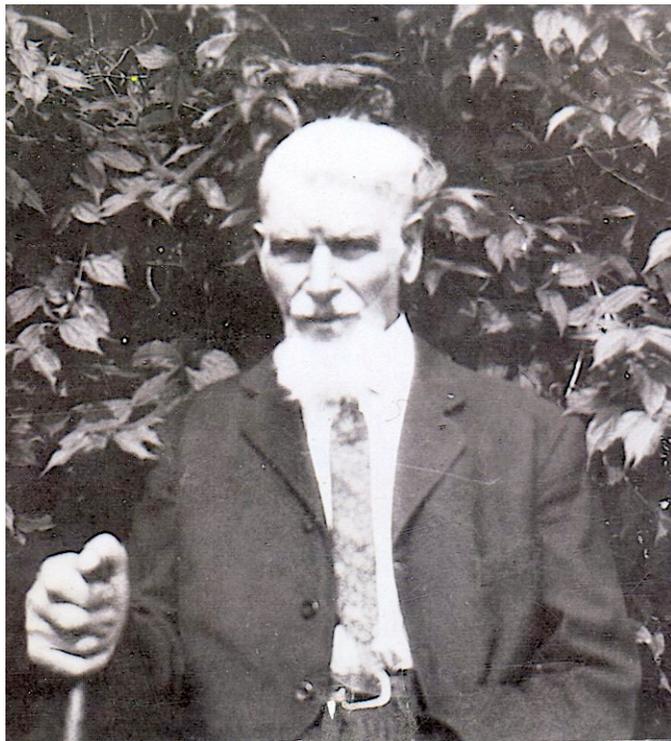
Another family in the area that took in orphans was Charlie Williams. The county would pay so much per child. Charlie Williams had two children of his own, Willie who was my age and Lillie a few years older. The two orphans who were living with them were Charles and Clarence. At first the children attended Applebachsville School, where I went to school, but later switched to the Mt. Airy School.

My sister Clem and I walked to school from our farm on Woodbine Road. Our farm and the Laskoski's farm, which was across the road from us, were two of the farms farthest from the school. The Laskoskis had four daughters, Stella, Wanda, Virginia and Florence and one son Walter. As we walked along Apple Road towards Applebachsville, we would be joined by the next group of kids going to school. By the time we got to Applebachsville, it was a small gang of kids. Sometimes our teacher, Miss Cordilia Ruth, would be driving to school in her car which was a coupe. She would stop and give us a ride to school. All the girls would pile into the front seat and the boys would stand on the running boards and hang on to the top of the car. While I was attending Applebachsville one room school, Miss Ruth married a man by the name of Davy. She and her new husband moved to Florida. After about a year in Florida, while she was visiting her relatives in Richlandtown, her husband left. She then returned to the area and taught again at Applebachsville School. She was a very good teacher but we thought we had a lot of homework to do. She would leave school with all the days' papers sticking out of her school bag and come back the next day with everyone of them marked. At this time she had



**Latvian Baptist Church,  
Apple Road, Applebachville, PA.**

*Photo courtesy of Eddie Bauer*



***The Reverend Henry Hermansons 1843– 1929***

***Baptist Minister and Farmer***

*Photo courtesy of Eddie Bauer*

about 50 students.

On Mondays most of the mothers would be hanging the wash out and if you had done anything bad in school or else where, you would hear about it from these mothers. The mothers mostly spoke Pennsylvania German so I could understand what was said. One time when I was coming home from school, there was a group of men on Apple Road, at the next lot after the store. Charlie Williams was there so I asked him what they were doing; he told me they were building a Latvian Baptist Church. The Bucks County Latvian Baptist Church stands there today.

*Henry was married to Christina Livingsten, they had five children; August (1877-1952) a farmer, Natalie (1882- 1953), Adolph (1883-1961) stair builder, Herman (changed his name to Harry Spencer*

*1885 – 1943) real estate lawyer, Alfred (1892 – 1969) stair builder. The family immigrated to the United States from Riga Latvia in 1900. When they immigrated they spoke only Latvian and settled in Virginia. There they became citizens of the United States on 11/6/1908 in Sussex Court House, Virginia. Later Henry lived with his son August on a farm in Bedminster, PA. He was a founder of the First Latvian Baptist Church of Applebachville, PA. He was minister there and also in a church in West Philadelphia, PA. Henry is buried in the St. Paul's Church Cemetery in Applebachville, PA.*

In the mid 30's my dad bought a Fordson tractor. It had been sitting in a field not used for awhile, but it was one of the first tractors in the area. The tractor had big iron wheels with steel cleats. These wheels were dangerous and you had to be very careful while driving it. The tractor was a real convenience, but was very hard to start. You had to get it just right, and crank it to get it started. Once the tractor was started, we would let it run instead of turning it off even when we were putting gas in the tank. The gas tank sat over the engine and with the motor running it was pretty dangerous to do this. Also the exhaust pipe would get red hot. We never parked the tractor near the barn for fear the exhaust pipe would start a fire. We also had a team of horses which we used for plowing. My dad would take the team to Applebachville and plow the truck patches which most residents of Applebachville had behind their houses.

There were two phones in the area, one at the Kressler house and the other one at Elvin Horne's house. If you needed a doctor you went to either of these places to make the call to the doctor in Quakertown.

*To be continued in a future newsletter*



**Online interview with Bill Peischel at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeJHVAvgBMw&feature=share>



**HOBO KING**

**Karl Teller** gave a most interesting presentation at our November meeting.





**KRINGLE 2017**



**KRINGLE 2017**



**IN MEMORY OF**

**Joanne Isaac**

**– Nov. 19, 2017**



**IN MEMORY OF**

**Paula Laughlin**

**March, 1954– Jan. 8, 2018**



**The Stokes House as it may have appeared in the past**

**Thank You**

**Doug Goldthorp** for this drawing based on research by **Pat DeWald** and **Doug Goldthorp**

**THANK YOU**

**Clayton and Linda Fox, Bill Carr, and Al King**  
for building the frame for our Chief One Star mural.

**THANK YOU**

**Janice Peischel** for her generous donation.

**Saturday, April 21, 2018 - 10 a.m. to Noon**

**Stokes House Clean-up Day:**

Please come and help with the spring cleaning of the Stokes House. April 21st from 10 a.m. to Noon. The Heritage Conservancy is giving a tour of the Stokes House on Friday, April 27, 2018, so let's make Stokes shine for the tour.

Pat DeWald

**VISIT BY THE HERITAGE CONSERVANCY**

On Friday, April 27, 2018 from 10 a.m. to Noon: **The Heritage Conservancy** will take a tour of Stokes House.

**CORRECTIONS**

Fall 2017 issue: Bill Cramp graduated from high school in 1951. One of the organizations he umpired for was the Amateur Softball Association, not the American Softball Association

**E-MAIL CHANGES**

Please notify Charlie Fulp whenever you change your preferred E-mail address.

Reach him at [ChasFulp@gmail.com](mailto:ChasFulp@gmail.com)

Please put HHS in the subject line.

**“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, Perkasio and Margie Fulp

**MEETINGS**

**March 15, 2018:** Mary Shafer will do a presentation on **metal detecting.**

**April 19, 2018:** **The Heritage Conservancy** will give a presentation.

**May 17, 2018:** Hugh Boyle will speak about Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln.

**Third Thursday meetings will now be 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.**

**The meetings begin at 7 p.m.**

**OFFICERS**

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Treasurer:

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Ad Hoc: Chris Handschin [chandschin@verizon.net](mailto:chandschin@verizon.net)

Ad Hoc: Nancy Janyszeski [ncj@epix.net](mailto:ncj@epix.net)

Please submit material for the newsletter or suggestions for interviews to Margie Fulp. (215-257-7472) or [m\\_fulp@hotmail.com](mailto:m_fulp@hotmail.com)

**Past years' issues of our Newsletter are available on our web site.**

[www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org)

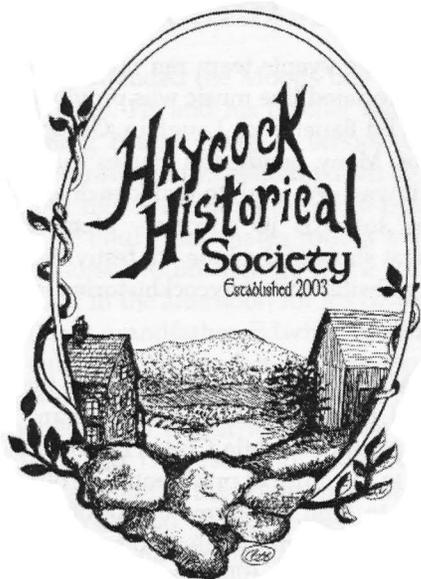
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**[www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org)**

## **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**