

HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Winter 2021

THE JOHANNES STAHR AND MARIA BEIDLER FAMILY OF HAYCOCK TOWNSHIP:

Farmers, Ministers, Educators, their Military Service, the three houses they owned, and their connection to the *Singer*, the *Appelbach*, and the *Hartman* Families.

March 13 and May 12, 1817 to April 1, 1899

by Karen and Joe Cappella



From left to right: Reverend Isaac Sommer Stahr (Pastor of four churches in Oley Valley where he served for more than 45 years), Dr. Henry Irving Stahr (President of Hood College 1934 -1948), Camilla Belle Stahr (Dean of Women at Ursinus College for twenty-one years), Dr. John Sommer Stahr (President of Franklin and Marshall College 1889 - 1909), and Brigadier General Charles Patterson Stahr, M.D. (Chief Surgeon and Medical Director of Lancaster General Hospital)

Photo Archives at Hood College, Ursinus College, and Franklin and Marshall College

Johannes Stahr II, second generation, born July 20, 1768, farmer by trade and his wife **Maria (Mary) Beidler** lived in Milford Township, Bucks County on the farm they inherited from Maria Beidler's father, Abraham. They sold that farm, and on March 13 and May 12, 1817, purchased three adjoining tracks of land (116 acres 256 perches) in Haycock Township. They moved from Milford into their Haycock home, a stone farmhouse, with their children, the home we now own at 1279 Roudenbush Road. They had five children: **Johannes, Maria, Samuel, Anna, and Elizabeth**. On December 23, 1829, Johannes Stahr II and Maria (Mary) Beidler Stahr, his wife, transferred part of their property and the stone farmhouse at 1279 Roudenbush Road to their son **Johannes Beidler Stahr III** and his heirs. This property with the stone farmhouse remained in the Stahr and Drissel (by marriage) families for 82 years. Johannes II and Maria, with the rest of their family, moved eastward to what is currently 1324 Roudenbush Road into a house they had built. **Johannes Stahr II** lived to age 83 and his wife **Maria** also lived to age 83.

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on October 6, 1798, lived in this house with his parents and siblings, and eventually he and his wife became owners of the stone farmhouse and 42 acres, 107 perches. On December 25, 1828 he married **Sarah Sommer**. They had six children: **Marietta, Lewis, Samuel, David, John, and Isaac**. "John Beidler Stahr, in addition to operating his farm, was also a teacher. He was a very influential man in his community, in politics a Democrat, and in religion an active member and elder of the Reformed Church. His wife, Sarah (Summers) Stahr, was a daughter of Lewis Summers, a farmer of Tincum Township, who, when quite young, in Hilltown Township, entered the Colonial army during the Revolutionary War and served under Washington. The family name was originally spelled Sommers." (Portrait and Biographical Record of Lancaster County, pages 682, 683) The 1850 census lists David Summers, age 74, as blind and living in this house with the Stahr family. He is also listed in the 1840 census as living here. The variations of spelling of the name **Stahr** that we have encountered include Starr, Star, Staehr, and Stehr, and the variations of spelling of the name **Sommer** that we have encountered include Sommers, Summer, Summers, and Summers.

The deed that transferred the property and the house of Johannes Stahr II and Maria Beidler Stahr to their son, Johannes Beidler Stahr III, states: “ *John Stahr, the elder and Mary, his wife for and in consideration of the natural love and affection they have and bear unto their son John Stahr, the younger and for the furtherance of the said John Stahr, the younger in Business as his full share of the estate...and in consideration of the sum of one dollar... confer upon John Stahr, the younger and his heirs three pieces, parcels, and tracts of land.*” The first tract was 34 acres, 81 perches (part of the May 12, 1817 purchase from Jacob Smith), the second tract was 6 acres, 26 perches, and the third tract was 2 acres of timberland. (2nd and 3rd tracts were part of the March 13, 1817 purchase from John Landis and his wife, Sussanna) as stated in deed book 68 pages 446-448.

The **will of Johannes Stahr II** dated August 21, 1850, states “*To my wife Maria: all house goods, kitchen furniture in either of the two dwelling house. The clock and case shall remain in the house with my wife as long as she lives. For as long as she lives, son John is to provide her with firewood, provisions, and all her needs for the remainder of her life, at his own expense. To daughter Anna and daughter Elizabeth and her husband Alexander Texter: the plantation where they reside ... and the said horses on that farm...*” (Other children are also mentioned in this will.)

Johannes (John) Beidler Stahr III “**was a public school teacher in his early life, and later a farmer**” (History of Northampton County page 309). In the early years in Haycock, the Free School Act of 1834 was optional: Haycock Township did not accept common schools until the Free School Act was made mandatory in 1848. Until this time, teachers in Haycock ran school in their homes and charged a sum of two to four cents per day to each child. Because Johannes Beidler Stahr III is listed in several different sources as a teacher, because of the structure of the education system at that time, and because the deed transfers the house for the “*furtherance of the said John Stahr, the younger in Business*”, it is possible that this house or a building on the property at that time was used as school room space. Johannes Beidler Stahr III died on June 17, 1868, at age 70 and the property was transferred to his son, **Isaac Sommer Stahr**. Isaac’s mother, Sarah Sommer Stahr, was still living in the house at the time and she died on April 11, 1883, at the age of 82.

Maria Beidler Stahr was born in Milford. At age 16 she married Christian Fluck. He lived to age 51. They had eight children and Maria lived to age 74.

Samuel Beidler Stahr was born in Milford and lived in this house. Samuel married Lydia Clymer and they had five children. He lived to age 82 and Lydia to age 62.

Anna Beidler Stahr was born in Milford and lived in this house. Anna married Michael Martin about 1833. They had one son, **John Stahr Martin**, born April 16, 1834. Anna filed for divorce on September 14, 1834, and she and her son moved back to her parents’ family farm. John Stahr Martin married Susannah Afflerbach and had eleven children. During the Civil War he was a Private in the 32nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Co. H, 3rd Reserves, (The Applebachville Guards), Army of the

Potomac. This regiment suffered heavy losses from severe fighting and was mustered out of service to join the 54th Regiment. His date of muster in service to the 32nd Pennsylvania was September 3, 1862. He transferred to the 54th Regiment July 4, 1864, and served for a total of 3 years. Civil War Registration Records list his occupation as a carpenter. Anna Beidler Stahr lived to be 70 and her will dated May 8, 1880, leaves her entire estate to her “*beloved son John S. Martin and his heirs.*” Anna’s farm that contained 37 acres and 115 perches was an inheritance from her parents. As shown on a map of Haycock Township dated 1876, Anna’s house (currently 1341 Roudenbush Road) was across the street from her parents’ house (currently 1324 Roudenbush Road). An 1891 map of the same location shows Anna’s property as being owned by Noah Drissel, stepson of Anna’s niece, Marietta Sommer Stahr. (A very large barn at 1341 Roudenbush Road burned completely to the ground in the early 1980’s.)

Elizabeth Beidler Stahr was born in and lived in this house. Elizabeth married Alexander Texter about 1850. They had eight children. Elizabeth and her husband Alexander Texter also inherited part of her parents’ farm that is currently 1324 Roudenbush Road. Elizabeth Stahr Texter’s part of the inheritance also contained 37 acres and 115 perches. Elizabeth lived to age of 75 and Alexander lived to age 54. (A map of Haycock Township dated 1891 shows each of Anna’s and Elizabeth’s properties containing 35 acres.)

(Our friends Merrill and Betty Landes at one time or another lived in, and owned, both 1324 and 1341 Roudenbush Road. In the 1980’s they told us that the same family built these two houses and the physical appearance of the two houses were similar. The Landes family had stucco applied to the house at 1341 after they purchased it.)

Johannes (John) Beidler Stahr III and Sarah Sommer Stahr had six children. All six were born in this house: Marietta, Lewis, Samuel, David, John, and Isaac.

Marietta Sommer Stahr, Isaac Sommer Stahr, and their mother Sarah Sommer Stahr were still living in this house when Johannes Beidler Stahr III died. The property was then transferred to his son, Isaac Sommer Stahr. **Marietta** married **Johan Drissel** on December 27, 1873, and on April 25, 1874, Isaac sold the property to Marietta Sommer Stahr and her husband, Johan Drissel, with the condition that money be paid annually by Johan Drissel to Sarah Sommer Stahr, Isaac’s mother, and her heirs, until all the money for the property was paid (deed book 172 pages 264-266). Sarah Sommer Stahr remained living in the house, with her daughter, Marietta, her son-in-law Johan Drissel and his three children, until her death on April 11, 1883. Johan Drissel and Marietta Sommer Stahr had no children, but they raised the three children (Noah, Fayette, and Jacob) from Johan Drissel’s first marriage. Marietta died on March 15, 1890, at age 61. Johan Drissel lived to the age of 66. On April 1, 1897, **Noah Drissel** (Johan Drissel’s oldest son) received possession of the property as part of Johan Drissel’s estate. (Deed book 282 pages 67-70) On April 1, 1899, Noah Drissel sold the property to **Cornelius Singer** (son of **Simon Singer**, the famous Haycock Township potter).

An 1891 map of Haycock Township showing the three houses owned by the Stahr and Dressel ((by marriage) family members located on Roudenbush Road. The Stahr and Dressel families owned the property at 1279 Roudenbush Road for 82 years.



(1279 Roudenbush Road), *J. Dressel 42a*, Formally owned by Johannes Stahr II, then Johannes Beidler Stahr III, then Isaac Sommer Stahr, then Marietta Sommer Stahr and her husband, Johan Dressel, then Noah Dressel (Johan Dressel's son).

(1324 Roudenbush Road), *W. Hartman 35a*, First owned by Johannes Stahr II, then Elizabeth Beidler Stahr and her husband, Alexander Texter.

(1341 Roudenbush Road), *N. Dressel 35a*, First owned by Anna Beidler Stahr; then her only child, John Stahr Martin. **This house is not shown on the 1850 map of Haycock but is shown on the 1876 map as owned by J. Martin.**

Samuel Sommer Stahr married Sarah Ann Horn, in circa 1862, and they had four children. Samuel was a shoemaker by profession. He was also the Commander of The Jackson Guards, a military company of the Applebachsville General Militia that served in the Civil War. (Pennsylvania County Histories, Democrat newspaper, June 21, 1894) Samuel lived to age 41. Sarah Ann Horn Stahr lived to the age of 52. There is a civil war pension index record for Sarah A. of Pennsylvania, widow of Samuel "Starr" (Service E. 203 Pa. Inf.). (We have seen the name **Stahr** spelled Starr often in our research and the name of his wife is Sarah Ann. On both the 1850 and 1857 maps of Haycock Township the name is spelled as Star.)

Lewis Sommer Stahr never married and lived to age of 21.

David Sommer Stahr lived to age 13.

John Sommer Stahr IV *"Men of brilliant minds often make the poorest teachers just because they fail to understand mediocre and dull pupils. They take-too much for granted and have no patience with slow thinking. This was not the case with Dr. John Stahr. He readily took in the learner's point of view. Even with indifferent and lazy students he had a patience which was all anyone could expect."* (DR. JOHN S. STAHR AS I KNEW HIM, by Rev. Henry H. Ranck, The Student

Weekly, F and M. Feb 23,1916, No.20). **John Sommer Stahr IV** began teaching before he reached the age of 16 at the Applebachsville one-room schoolhouse, the same school in which he had been a pupil. Later, he taught at the Applebachsville Seminary (1858-1865). He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College, with highest honors, with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and earned a Masters degree in 1870, and a PhD in 1883. He received a Doctor of Divinity in 1891 from Lafayette College. (John Sommer Stahr's great uncle, Samuel Stahr, born in 1785, was also an ordained minister who served the Reformed churches in Springfield, Durham, Nockamixon, and Tinicum Townships from 1811 to 1843.) John Sommer Stahr was an assistant professor at Franklin and Marshall from 1867-1871, and became a professor of Natural Science, Chemistry, and the German Language at Franklin and Marshall in 1871. He was also a Professor of Mental and Moral Aesthetics and the Philosophy of History. He was considered to be a scholar on the

literature of the German language. John Sommer Stahr was ordained a minister of the Reformed Church in 1872. He was the president of Franklin and Marshall College from 1889-1909 and continued teaching at F & M until his death in 1915. **"His tireless energy, rare ability, good business instincts and sound judgment caused Franklin and Marshall College to make extraordinary progress. It gained constantly in wealth and numbers, reputation and influence, and Dr. Stahr soon established and held for it a high place among the smaller colleges in the country."** (Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, a History) During his presidency, he was responsible for the construction of four buildings: Distler Commons (1891); Watts de Peyster Library (1897); Stahr Hall, which housed the Science Building and Administration Building (1900), and Hartman Hall (early 1900s). (*Marshall College was founded in 1836 and named after the Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Franklin College was founded in 1787 by a generous contribution from Benjamin Franklin. In 1853 Marshall College merged with Franklin College to form Franklin and Marshall.*) John Sommer Stahr was awarded an honorary degree from Gettysburg College in 1904. He was also a member of the International Sunday school Lesson Committee as well as on the editorial staff of Funk & Wagnall's Standard Dictionary. In 1901 he was the president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association. He also is listed in Who's Who in Pennsylvania: A Biographical Dictionary of Contemporaries. He lived to age 74. John Sommer Stahr IV married Francina E. Andrews on July 23, 1872. She was the daughter of the Honorable Hugh Andrews, (Representative in the Pennsylvania State Legislature), and Francina Wilson. Dr. Stahr and his wife Francina had five children. Francina E. Andrews Stahr lived to the age of 82.

Karen and Joe Cappella

CONTINUED ON OUR WEBSITE: See the entire article, which contains more extensive research on some of our townships former residents, in the digital version of this newsletter.



IN MEMORY OF
Carole Johnson Eddings
 April 30, 1945– November 26, 2020



IN MEMORY OF
Willard Streapy
 September 24, 1926-January 21, 2021

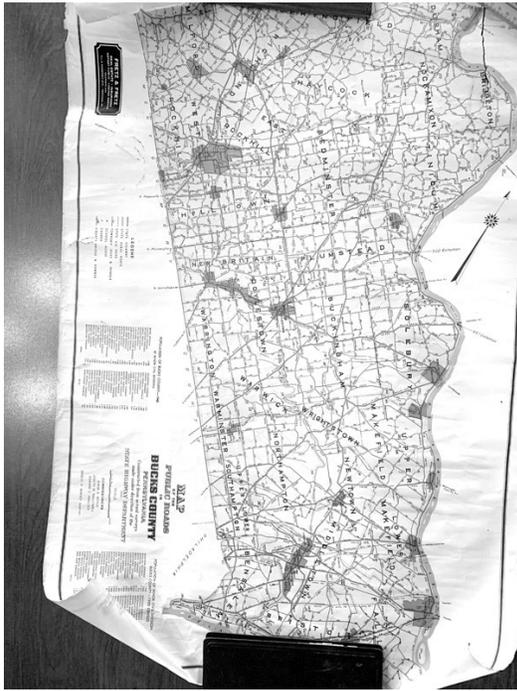


IN MEMORY OF
Patricia Fite
 December 23, 1933– February 18, 2021



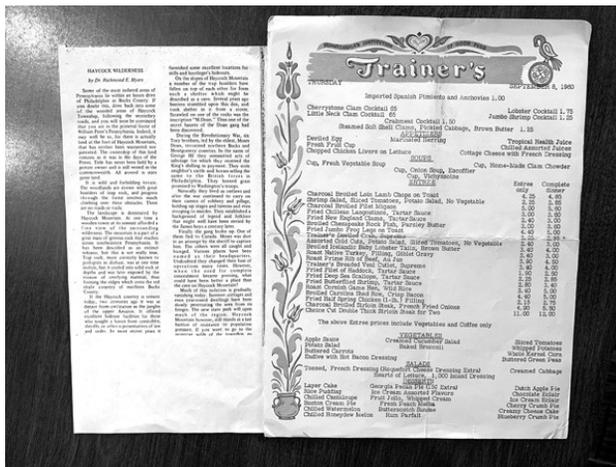
THANK YOU

Pat Fite via Steve Applegate for the donation of pictures from Mountain hike plus other pictures, and a VCR tape of Harry Hinkle on Thatcher history.



THANK YOU

Michael Dowd for the Bucks County maps and local memorabilia.



THANK YOU

Vic Stevens for his generous donation to HHS.

Residents of the Ridge Road, north of Church Hill, are guessing what makes the woods and wild lands of Haycock township so popular. Surely it is not the game there, because the visitors in that section do not go there in the daytime, and when they do go they are not armed (although they sometimes come back loaded); nor do they carry lanterns, probably being able to find what they are after in the dark. As the patrons of those forests usually meet at the same place we imagine the spot there must be better than any where else within a radius of five or ten miles.

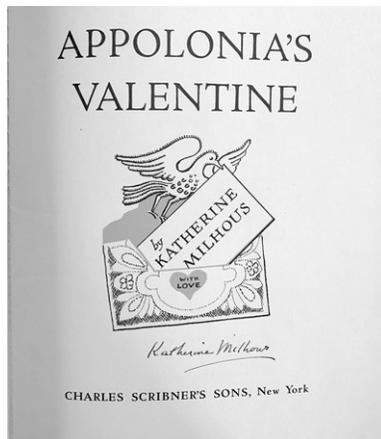
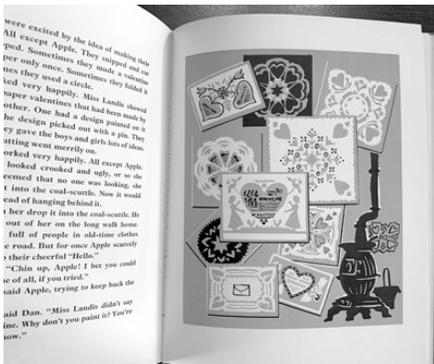
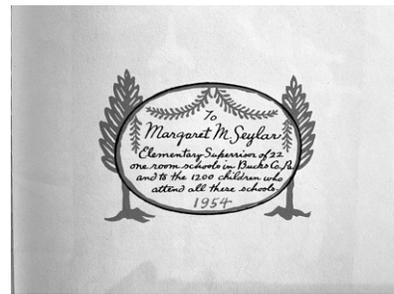
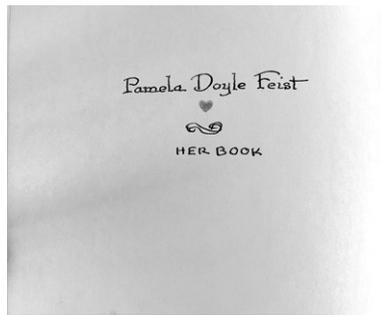
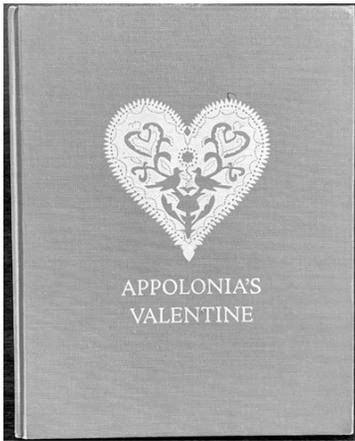
THANK YOU

Kenny Horne for the donation of flea market items for us to sell.

FIRE IN BUCKS COUNTY. — The barn, hotel sheds, etc., at Applebachsville, Bucks county, with their entire contents, all the property of Reed Laubenstein, were destroyed by fire on Monday evening of last week. The cause of the conflagration is unknown. Loss \$6,000. Insured in the Line Lexington Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

The Central News Perkasio January 24, 1935
Haycock popular in wild land

The Allentown Democrat Allentown 20 Aug 1884 Fire at Reed Laubenstein hotel barn etc.



THANK YOU

Pamela Feist Varkony for the donation of this autographed book, Appolonia's Valentine, by Katherine Milhous.

HUGE ALCOHOL STILL HALTED ON FIRST DAY OF ITS OPERATION

Federal and State Agents Take Part in Biggest Raid Recently

IN HAYCOCK TOWNSHIP

Plant Included Three 10,000-Gallon Wooden Vats

DOYLESTOWN, May 9—One of the most elaborate illicit alcohol manufacturing plants ever seized in Bucks county, a plant valued at \$15,000, that would have cheated the United States government out of \$800 a day taxes, was raided Tuesday by two agents from the State Liquor Control Board and three federal officers of the Alcohol Tax Unit.

The plant, in operation but one day, was located on the Benjamin Smith farm, one-half mile north of the Ridge Road in Haycock township.

Through efficient preliminary investigations by M. R. Myers and M. L. Gemberling, agents of the State Liquor Control Board, it was possible to make the raid on the first day the plant operated.

The entire plant equipment was brand new, including three 10,000 gallon wooden vats, a 400 horsepower steam boiler, an 18-inch column twenty-five feet high that ran from the floor of a large red barn where the plant was located, up to the roof of the barn.

Thirty thousand gallons of molasses mash, the "first run" of the newly-built still, was destroyed by the officers. The plan had a capacity of 1500 gallons of alcohol daily, equivalent to 3,000 gallons of whiskey.

Officers say the plant was operated by a New Jersey syndicate.

Those arrested in the raid slept in a portion of a farm house nearby. The plant was to have been operated twenty-four hours daily with three eight-hour shifts, and it was to have run seven days a week.

Those arrested include Joseph Smith, of 627 South Sixth street, Philadelphia; John Kelly, of 1012 Wittingham street, Trenton; Antonio Lombardo, of 5900 Blackman street, Philadelphia.

Peter Perzutta, also of Philadelphia, was arrested when he drove in the lane leading to the still, with a load of supplies for the plant, including charcoal and other materials.

The three operators, Kelly, Smith and Lombardo, were brought to the Bucks County Prison Tuesday night, and later were removed to Philadelphia, where they will be given a hearing before United States Commissioner Wacker.

Federal officers taking part in the raid included Agents H. R. Hunsicker, Vasey and McGee.

Water for the plant was furnished by a well near the barn. For weeks the erection of the plant has been under way. It was an elaborate affair. Workmen were brought up from Philadelphia and other nearby cities to erect the tanks and other equipment. There were 300 new five-gallon cans found in the barn. Storage tanks were used in the plant and from the tanks the small cans were filled. There was a large quantity of brown sugar, coke and charcoal seized.

ARTICLE FROM Bristol Daily Courier, May 9, 1935

FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE

Because of the pandemic, so far Stokes has not been open on Friday mornings. Circumstances will dictate when Stokes can reopen. Even though the Stokes building is closed, the grounds are there, waiting to be enjoyed by members and offer a wonderfully serene area to picnic or simply walk around and enjoy nature and the colonial flower garden with the new oyster shell pathways!

HHS NEEDS A WEBMASTER

Is there a member who is interested in maintaining the HHS website ?

FREE ACCESS TO PENNSYLVANIA RECORDS ON ANCESTRY

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx>

STORIES WANTED

We are collecting stories from members about what you are doing during the isolation for the COVID 19 pandemic. These stories will be placed on our website under Haycock Stories. Years later the stories will tell how we coped with the situation.

Please contact Pat DeWald with your stories.

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

www.haycockhistoricalsociety.org

"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 in Perkasio, and Margie Fulp

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DUES ARE PAST DUE

If you have not paid your dues for 2021 a reminder will be with this newsletter.

NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME

Changes will be announced as circumstances improve.

MEETINGS

March 18, 2021: 7 p.m. To be announced.

April 15, 2021: 7 p.m. To be announced.

May 20, 2021: 7 p.m. To be announced.

Third Thursday meetings are 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 Thursday meetings begin at 7 p.m.

OFFICERS

President: David Long cadklong@verizon.net

V. Pres: Andrea Silvestri asilvestri@haycocktownship.com

Secretary: Nancy Stemler grandmom42@comcast.net

Treasurer: Chris Bauer cbauer@haycocktownship.com

Ad Hoc:: Pat DeWald wdewald@verizon.net

Ad Hoc: Chris Handschin chandschin@verizon.net

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

HHD USA

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Samuel Beidler Stahr was born in Milford and lived in this house. Samuel married Lydia Clymer and they had five children. He lived to age 82 and Lydia to age 62.

Anna Beidler Stahr was born in Milford and lived in this house. Anna married Michael Martin about 1833. They had one son, **John Stahr Martin**, born April 16, 1834. Anna filed for divorce on September 14, 1834, and she and her son moved back to her parents' family farm. John Stahr Martin married Susannah Afflerbach and had eleven children. During the Civil War he was a Private in the 32nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Co. H, 3rd Reserves, (The Applebachville Guards), Army of the Potomac. This regiment suffered heavy losses from severe fighting and was mustered out of service to join the 54th Regiment. His date of muster in service to the 32nd Pennsylvania was September 3, 1862. He transferred to the 54th Regiment July 4, 1864, and served for a total of 3 years. Civil War Registration Records list his occupation as a carpenter. Anna Beidler Stahr lived to be 70 and her will dated May 8, 1880, leaves her entire estate to her "*beloved son John S. Martin and his heirs.*" Anna's farm that contained 37 acres and 115 perches was an inheritance from her parents. As shown on a map of Haycock Township dated 1876, Anna's house (currently 1341 Roudenbush Road) was across the street from her parents' house (currently 1324 Roudenbush Road). An 1891 map of the same location shows Anna's property as being owned by Noah Drissel, stepson of Anna's niece, Marietta Sommer Stahr. (A very large barn at 1341 Roudenbush Road burned completely to the ground in the early 1980's.)

Elizabeth Beidler Stahr was born in and lived in this house. Elizabeth married Alexander Texter about 1850. They had eight children. Elizabeth and her husband Alexander Texter also inherited part of her parents' farm that is currently 1324 Roudenbush Road. Elizabeth Stahr Texter's part of the inheritance also contained 37 acres and 115 perches. Elizabeth lived to age of 75 and Alexander lived to age 54. (A map of Haycock Township dated 1891 shows each of Anna's and Elizabeth's properties containing 35 acres.)

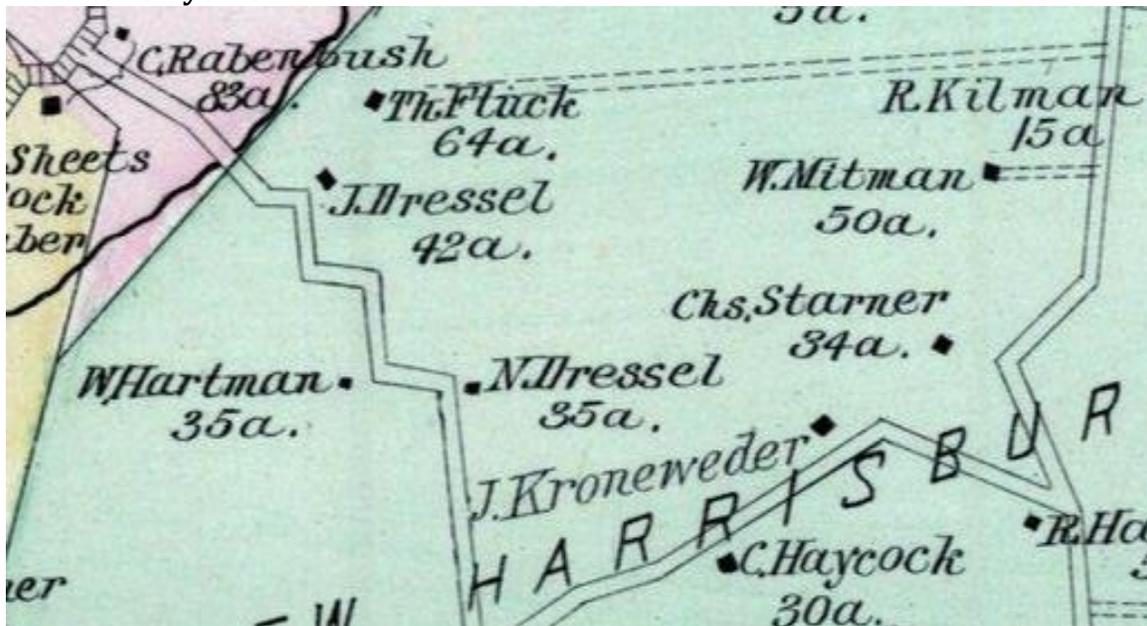
(Our friends Merrill and Betty Landes at one time or another lived in, and owned, both 1324 and 1341 Roudenbush Road. In the 1980's they told us that the same family built these two houses and the physical appearance of the two houses were similar. The Landes family had stucco applied to the house at 1341 after they purchased it.)

Johannes (John) Beidler Stahr III and Sarah Sommer Stahr had six children. All six were born in this house: Marietta, Lewis, Samuel, David, John, and Isaac.

Marietta Sommer Stahr, Isaac Sommer Stahr, and their mother Sarah Sommer Stahr were still living in this house when Johannes Beidler Stahr III died. The property was then transferred to his son, Isaac Sommer Stahr. **Marietta** married

Johan Drissel on December 27, 1873, and on April 25, 1874, Isaac sold the property to Marietta Sommer Stahr and her husband, Johan Drissel with the condition that money be paid annually by Johan Drissel to Sarah Sommer Stahr, Isaac's mother, and her heirs, until all the money for the property was paid (deed book 172 pages 264-266). Sarah Sommer Stahr remained living in the house, with her daughter, Marietta, her son-in-law Johan Drissel and his three children, until her death on April 11, 1883. Johan Drissel and Marietta Sommer Stahr had no children, but they raised the three children (Noah, Fayette, and Jacob) from Johan Drissel's first marriage. Marietta died on March 15, 1890, at age 61. Johan Drissel lived to the age of 66. On April 1, 1897, **Noah Drissel** (Johan Drissel's oldest son) received possession of the property as part of Johan Drissel's estate. (Deed book 282 pages 67-70) On April 1, 1899, Noah Drissel sold the property to **Cornelius Singer** (son of **Simon Singer**, the famous Haycock Township potter).

An 1891 map of Haycock Township showing the three houses owned by the Stahr and Dressel ((by marriage) family members located on Roudenbush Road. The Stahr and Dressel families owned the property at 1279 Roudenbush Road for 82 years.



(1279 Roudenbush Road), J. Dressel 42a, Formally owned by Johannes Stahr II, then Johannes Beidler Stahr III, then Isaac Sommer Stahr, then Marietta Sommer Stahr and her husband, Johan Dressel, then Noah Dressel (Johan Dressel's son).

(1324 Roudenbush Road), W. Hartman 35a, First owned by Johannes Stahr II, then Elizabeth Beidler Stahr and her husband, Alexander Texter.

(1341 Roudenbush Road), N. Dressel 35a, First owned by Anna Beidler Stahr; then her only child, John Stahr Martin. **This house is not shown on the 1850 map of Haycock but is shown on the 1876 map as owned by J. Martin.**

Samuel Sommer Stahr married Sarah Ann Horn, in circa 1862, and they had four children. Samuel was a shoemaker by profession. He was also the Commander of The Jackson Guards, a military company of the Applebachsville General Militia that served in the Civil War. (Pennsylvania County Histories, *Democrat* newspaper, June 21, 1894) Samuel lived to age 41. Sarah Ann Horn Stahr lived to the age of 52. There is a civil war pension index record for Sarah A. of Pennsylvania, widow of Samuel "Starr" (Service E. 203 Pa. Inf.). (We have seen the name **Stahr** spelled Starr often in our research and the name of his wife is Sarah Ann. On both the 1850 and 1857 maps of Haycock Township the name is spelled as Star.)

Lewis Sommer Stahr never married and lived to age of 21.

David Sommer Stahr lived to age 13.

John Sommer Stahr IV *"Men of brilliant minds often make the poorest teachers just because they fail to understand mediocre and dull pupils. They take-too much for granted and have no patience with slow thinking. This was not the case with Dr. John Stahr. He readily took in the learner's point of view. Even with indifferent and lazy students he had a patience which was all anyone could expect."* (**DR. JOHN S. STAHR AS I KNEW HIM**, by Rev. Henry H. Ranck, **The Student Weekly, F and M. Feb 23,1916, No.20**). **John Sommer Stahr IV** began teaching before he reached the age of 16 at the Applebachsville one-room schoolhouse, the same school in which he had been a pupil. Later, he taught at the Applebachsville Seminary (1858-1865). He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College, with highest honors, with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and earned a Masters degree in 1870, and a PhD in 1883. He received a Doctor of Divinity in 1891 from Lafayette College. (John Sommer Stahr's great uncle, Samuel Stahr, born in 1785, was also an ordained minister who served the Reformed churches in Springfield, Durham, Nockamixon, and Tincum Townships from 1811 to 1843.) John Sommer Stahr was an assistant professor at Franklin and Marshall from 1867-1871, and became a professor of Natural Science, Chemistry, and the German Language at Franklin and Marshall in 1871. He was also a Professor of Mental and Moral Aesthetics and the Philosophy of History. He was considered to be a scholar on the literature of the German language. John Sommer Stahr was ordained a minister of the Reformed Church in 1872. He was the president of Franklin and Marshall College from 1889-1909 and continued teaching at F & M until his death in 1915. **"His tireless energy, rare ability, good business instincts and sound judgment caused Franklin and Marshall College to make extraordinary progress. It gained constantly in wealth and numbers, reputation and influence, and Dr. Stahr soon established and held for it a high place among the smaller colleges in the country."** (**Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, a History**) During his presidency, he was responsible for the construction of four buildings: Distler Commons (1891); Watts de Peyster Library (1897); Stahr Hall, which housed the Science Building and Administration Building (1900), and Hartman Hall (early 1900s). (*Marshall College was founded in 1836 and named after the Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall. Franklin College was founded in 1787 by a generous*

contribution from Benjamin Franklin. In 1853 Marshall College merged with Franklin College to form Franklin and Marshall.) John Sommer Stahr was awarded an honorary degree from Gettysburg College in 1904. He was also a member of the International Sunday school Lesson Committee as well as on the editorial staff of Funk & Wagnall's Standard Dictionary. In 1901 he was the president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association. He also is listed in **Who's Who in Pennsylvania: A Biographical Dictionary of Contemporaries**. He lived to age 74. John Sommer Stahr IV married Francina E. Andrews on July 23, 1872. She was the daughter of the Honorable Hugh Andrews, (Representative in the Pennsylvania State Legislature), and Francina Wilson. Dr. Stahr and his wife Francina had five children. Francina E. Andrews Stahr lived to the age of 82.



Stahr Hall, which housed the Science Building and Administration Building. In 1988, Stahr Hall was renamed Stager Hall. Stahr Auditorium, in Stager Hall, is now named in honor of Dr. John Sommer Stahr. (Photo: Lancasterhistory.org)

An article written about Dr. John Sommer Stahr IV in the *Doylestown Intelligencer*, **June 21, 1894**, states... "The first school house was a small stone building, which was erected about 1852, a short distance north of Applebachsville. This building was torn down in 1862, and a commodious, two-story brick building erected in its place. The Reverend Dr. John S. Stahr, now president of Franklin and Marshall College, was one of its first teachers, and due to his untiring efforts in behalf of popular education, most of the success of the school is due." Another interesting article written about John Sommer Stahr was found in the History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania: From the Discovery of the Delaware to the Present Time, Volume 1 Davis, W.W.H. 1820-1910 page 467 ... Mr. Horne related the following reminiscence of the school in the *National Educator* in 1874. He says: "When the rebellion broke out in 1861, we had charge of the Bucks county Normal and Classical school at Quakertown. A spirit of patriotism was aroused among the students, and they organized a company of "Minute Men," who went through daily drills. **The captain**

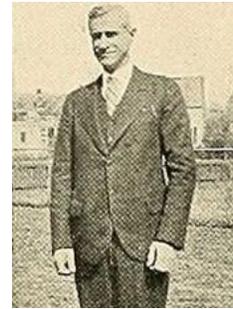
of the company was a tall, stalwart student, standing almost head and shoulders above the rest, the drummer boy was a “wee bit” of a fellow. On Sunday week we met both of these men in their ministerial capacity. **The captain is now Professor J. S. Stahr, of Franklin and Marshall College,** and the drummer boy is now the Reverend C. J. Cooper of South Bethlehem, also pastor of the Lower Saucon church in Northampton County.” (There is a Civil War Draft Registration record for “John S Stahr, age 22, teacher, and single, Haycock”.)

Wildy Victor Singer was born in Applebachsville, Haycock Township, October 9, 1878. He graduated from **Franklin and Marshall College** in 1903 (**John Sommer Stahr was President during this time**). Wildy was a member of the Gymnastic team, the Beta Phi Fraternity, the Ivy club, the Football team, the editorial staff of *The College Student*, President of The Goethean Literary Society, an officer of the Democratic Club, a member of the Honor System Senate, and **a member of the Debating Team.** The Franklin and Marshall 1903 yearbook contains this about Wildy ... *“Here we have a second Plato. This man is a fine example of ‘Before and after taking’ a wife. His experience as a married man has made him a good debater.”* He was also an instructor of Natural Science and English at the Franklin and Marshall Academy. In 1900 he married Anna Moyer. Their first child, Beatrice Lenore Singer, was born on June 12, 1901, and the Franklin and Marshall 1902 yearbook acknowledged this event in **“The Kindergarten Section”** of the yearbook (a page devoted to recording the births of newborns of Franklin and Marshall students). His 42-year career in the field of education, most of which occurred in the State of New Jersey, included teacher, Superintendent of Public Schools, Supervisor of Practice (State Normal Schools), and Head of the Education Department at the State Teachers College. Wildy Victor Singer was the oldest son of **Cornelius Singer** and his wife, **Helena Reinbold**, owners of our house from April 1, 1899, to June 25, 1917. Wildy is the grandson of **Simon Singer**, the famous Haycock potter, and his wife, **Rebecca Herstine**. On September 21, 2002, a Simon Singer Redware plate sold at the Pook and Pook auction for \$9,200. (Recent storm damage to a tree on our property, combined with an abundance of rain, has unearthed several fragments including a few pieces of broken Redware pottery.) Simon Singer is listed in the Haycock 1871 Business Directory as the Secretary of the Applebachsville School Board. John Sommer Stahr was the teacher at the Applebachsville School, and then the Applebachsville Seminary, from 1858-1865, and his brother, Isaac Sommer Stahr, was the teacher at the Applebachsville Seminary from 1869-1875.



Simon Singer Redware Plate

(Philadelphia Museum of Art)



Wildy Victor Singer

(Panzer College 1931 Year Book)

Isaac Sommer Stahr received his education in the public school in Applebachsville where his teacher, for several years, was his brother John Sommer Stahr. Isaac began teaching school at age 17, and taught for a total of eleven years in both the Applebachsville School and the Applebachsville Seminary while, at the same time, working the farm for his parents and then for himself (currently 1279 Roudenbush Road). He graduated from the Eastern Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church, Lancaster, PA, in 1877, as an ordained minister. Isaac was appointed as a Home Missionary to Lock Haven Reformed Charge, PA, where he served for six years and then accepted a call in 1883 to serve four churches in the Oley Valley area, where he served for more than 45 years. He baptized over 1800 infants, confirmed over 1100 members, officiated at over 900 funerals, and performed over 450 weddings. He was considered an authority on the history of the Oley Valley Churches. Isaac Sommer Stahr published fifteen poems, all in the German language, that suggest his **longing for times past**, his **love of nature**, his **pastoral life** and one called (*Die Alt Uhi*) "that persistently declares that **each tick of the clock finds us ever closer to eternity.**" It is possible that the inspiration for the poem called *Die Alt Uhi* came from **each tick** of the "clock and case" that his grandparents had in their house. (A "clock and case" was an item listed in Isaac's grandfather's will dated August 21, 1850.) Isaac was a Trustee of the Oley Academy and also a strong promoter of the **Ladies Aid Societies** of the Pennsylvania Dutch Churches. Part of an article that appeared in the Berks-Mont newspaper on July 13, 2010, states ... "Anyone not familiar with our church organizations might think the Ladies Aid Societies, which are part of almost every church in the Dutch country, are a secret female church sorority. Far from it. I remember attending quaint St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Lobachsville, and assumed this Ladies Aid Society was just a group of bored women! To whom I quickly apologized, and learned of their importance." The **Dignified Reverend Isaac Stahr** who served four churches in the Oley Valley was a strong promoter of Ladies Aid Societies among our PA Dutch churches in the 1880s. "By attending several PA Dutch churches, I learned that these charitable women were the workhorses of the Christian community." ((Richard Shaner, Director of the American Folk life Institute in Kutztown). On June 10, 1879, Isaac Sommer Stahr married **Hannah Camilla Applebach**. Hannah graduated from the Moravian schools of Nazareth and Bethlehem, and later graduated from The College for Women located in Allentown. Isaac and Hannah Stahr had five children. Isaac Sommer Stahr died September 23, 1930, at age 85.

Hannah Camilla Applebach, the daughter of **Henry Applebach** and his wife **Sarah Jane Ely**, lived to the age of 63. “She (Hannah) died on July 2, 1915, and the following excerpt from an article regarding her, published in one of the newspapers of the locality following her death, indicates the esteem in which she was held in the town in which she passed so many years of her life as the wife of the Rev. Isaac S. Stahr.” The article, in part, read: “If ever a woman testified by the whole of her life and devotion to the worth and strong influence for service and blessing to Christian culture in family, church and school, the life of Mrs. Rev. Isaac S. Stahr, of Oley, Pennsylvania, was a beautiful testimony.” ([History of Northampton County and the Grand Valley of The Lehigh](#))

Hannah Camilla Applebach Stahr’s father “**Henry Applebach** was an enterprising man, who with his brother, Paul did much to develop the village of Applebachsville. The brothers dealt extensively in horses and cattle, and of course also farmed, purchasing in 1847 a tract of 377 acres, upon which had been built, in 1837, one of the first country (county) seats in the upper end of Bucks County. In 1848 the brothers commenced the erection of other buildings: they established a hostelry, and eventually a village grew up, chiefly owing to their enterprise and energy. When a post office was established there, the village was given the name Applebachsville, in honor of its founders...” from the [History of Northampton County \(Pennsylvania\) and the Grand Valley of The Lehigh, Volume III](#). Henry Applebach was also a postmaster at the Applebachsville post office.



The first house in the photo from the left, near the pine tree, was the home of the Reverend Isaac Sommer Stahr and Hannah Camilla Applebach Stahr on Main Street in Oley, Pa. (Courtesy of Oley Valley Historical Society)



Reverend Isaac Sommer Stahr holding vesper services at Chapel Rocks, Oley, Pennsylvania, and a tourist site that drew many visitors. The Reverend Isaac Stahr is at the very top of the hill, far right, standing by himself. (Courtesy of the Oley Valley Historical Society)

Samuel Sommer Stahr and Sarah Ann Horn had four children: David, Sarah, Samuel, and John.

David Paul Horn Stahr was born January 25, 1863. David lived to age 27.

Sarah Ellen Horn Stahr was born April 13, 1864, and lived to age 76. She married Alfred Crouthamel who lived to age 70, and they had three children.

Samuel Eugene Horn Stahr was born April 13, 1867, and lived to age 34. He married Laura Lolly Romberger who lived to age 94; they had one child.

John Jacob Horn Stahr was born March 7, 1872, and lived to age 87. He married Elizabeth Stever Stahn and they had four children. She lived to age 86

John Sommer Stahr IV (President of Franklin and Marshall College) and Francina Andrews had five children: Helen, John, Mary, Hugh, and Charles.



Wellesley Crew Team. Helen Russell Stahr is on the far left, front row, and kneeling. She was also a Class Officer (Executive Committee), member of the Shakespeare Society, a director of the Chapel Fund Association, and Literary Editor of The Wellesley Magazine. (The Wellesley Legenda 1894 yearbook)

Helen Russell Stahr graduated from Wellesley College in 1894. She taught for three years at Lancaster High School and was Principal at the Moravian common school. In 1901 she opened the Miss Stahr School for Girls, in Lancaster County. In 1908 the school merged with Lancaster College to become the Shippen School for Girls that promoted the education of girls through academic courses, especially in literature, the sciences, and the fine arts. In 1905 Helen Russell Stahr left the Miss Stahr School to marry **Edwin Mitman Hartman, who was born in Haycock Township and taught at the Applebachsville Seminary from 1889 -1891**. He graduated with honors from Franklin and Marshall College in 1895 (John Sommer Stahr was a professor during this time). Edwin Mitman Hartman was a charter member of the Phi Beta Kappa Chapter at Franklin and Marshall. The 1895 yearbook contains this about him: "The first six years of his life he spent at home, where he exerted quite an influence upon all with whom he came in contact. After once he started to school there was no power could hold him back. He knew more than any of his teachers; was graduated in a county high school and then undertook to teach. He himself says he was a great success as a teacher, and we unhesitatingly believe him... Ed has a great future before him." He received his Masters Degree in 1898 from Franklin and Marshall and a Baccalaureate in Divinity from the Theological Seminary in 1899. From 1900-1903 he did graduate work in the Department of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. He became the administrative and financial assistant of Helen Stahr's father, John Sommer Stahr, President of Franklin and Marshall College. Dr. Edwin Mitman Hartman was also the Headmaster of the **Franklin and Marshall Academy**, a college preparatory and boarding school, for 46 years. In addition, he taught German. Helen worked at the Academy to support her husband, assist with the growth and development of the school and the enhancement of the curriculum. She also taught mathematics at the Academy. The "Helen Stahr Hartman Alumnae Award" of Franklin and Marshall College honors a female who has excelled in her field while serving as a role-model to women. Helen is listed in the **Woman's Who's**

Who of America. The Franklin and Marshall Academy was held in Hartman Hall for 40 years, during which time the Hartmans guided the Academy thru World War I and the Depression. Dr. Edwin Mitman Hartman became ill and retired in January of 1943, and the college closed the Academy at the end of the semester in June of 1943. In 1975 Hartman Hall was demolished, and replaced by Hartman Green, a 3-acre open lawn area surrounded by tall trees and shrubs, as well as the two magnolias that stood outside, which were preserved.



Hartman Hall, the Franklin and Marshall Academy Building, named to honor Dr. Edwin Mitman Hartman. “Dr. Hartman was respected by all of us at the academy. I remember his fine German accent, especially when he led the singing of ‘Stille Nacht’ (Silent Night) during the Christmas season. He had such a tremendous influence on us that I wish I could have sent my own boys to his academy” Robert Wohlson class of 1950. (Franklin and Marshall archives)



In 1975 Hartman Hall was demolished, replaced by Hartman Green, a 3-acre open lawn surrounded by tall trees and shrubs as well as the two magnolias that stood outside, which were preserved. Image Credit: Deb Grove (F and M website)

The book Franklin and Marshall Academy, the last seventy-one years of its history by Charles Stahr Hartman contained the following information about his mother, Helen Stahr Hartman: “One of the members of the faculty, Homer F.

Rebert, who attended the Academy wrote 'I cannot close this article without a reference to Mrs. Helen Hartman's influence in this school. No boys' school can be what it should be without the contributions that a woman of culture and training can give to its atmosphere and spirit. Mrs. Hartman is especially fitted to influence the life of the school in ways as vital as they may be intangible,' **and this about his father, Edwin Mitman Hartman:** "His appearance is quickly and easily described by the fact that his students affectionately, though not to his face, called him "Abie," for they thought they saw in him a resemblance to Abraham Lincoln. His manner of speech and personal contact were simple and direct, forceful yet friendly. He is described by many of his students as 'the best friend I ever had;' his heart to heart personal conferences with his boys marked the turning point in the lives of many young men who were touched with his understanding. "



LEFT: Miss Stahr's School assembles for a class photo at H.S. Williamson mansion in 1902. (Lancasterhistory.org) Right: Dr. Edwin Mitman Hartman at work in his office. (Franklin and Marshall archives)

Dr. Edwin Mitman Hartman was born, October 6, 1869, and raised in Haycock Township at what is now 1324 Roudenbush Road. His uncle, Edwin Hartman and then his father and mother, William and Susanna Hartman, each owned that farm from 1867-1902. The first owners of the farm at this location were Helen Russell Stahr's great-parents, Johannes Stahr II and Maria Beidler Stahr. Helen Stahr Hartman lived to 84 and Edwin Mitman Hartman lived to 77.

Also in his book **Franklin and Marshall Academy, the last seventy-one years of its history, 1872-1943 (pages 19,20)**, Charles Stahr Hartman writes about his father's reminiscences of the early days of his life growing up in Haycock Township: "Life on the rocky soil of those Bucks County farms was somewhat of a struggle. No one growing up in Haycock was ever spoiled by ease or luxury. It was a good place in which to grow up, if you could leave at the proper time. My father (**meaning William Hartman**) was one of those who could not leave at the proper time. For the lack of means prevented my father from going to college, as he should have done, since he had a better mind than any of his children ever had. When he (**Edwin**) applied for his first teaching assignment in the public schools of the township, the old farmer director of the schools was reluctant to appoint 'a mere boy' but finally said: 'Well your father taught a good school so I think I will take a chance on you'. At age sixteen he began teaching and had a walk of three miles through timberland

morning and evening to and from his first little one-room school located by a stream at the foot of Haycock Mountain. On his home farm there was a meadow, marsh, old orchard, pasture, timber, and a little stream. He (*Edwin Mitman Hartman*) says that these home and school surroundings no doubt had much to do with the interest in nature which has continued as one of my hobbies and which I have had the pleasure to pass on to many of my students throughout the years."

Hugh Andrews Stahr graduated from Franklin and Marshall College with honors and it was his intention to study theology. He lived to age 19.

John Miller Stahr died of scarlet fever at age 10.

Mary Isabel (Belle) Stahr (named after her mother's sisters, Mary and Isabel) graduated from the Woman's College of Frederick, Maryland, in 1898 with a B.A. and a concentration in languages. She authored *College Hill in the 80's and 90's: Memoirs of a Franklin and Marshall Faculty Daughter*, Lancaster County Historical Society Journal 75: 19-37. She lived to age 93. **The following are only a few of the reminiscences contained in *College Hill in the 80's and 90's* written by Mary Belle Stahr (Heller). "My mother dictated these at various periods during the last ten years of her life. I assembled them and gave them order. My mother loved life; she loved to recall her early days; and I have found it a labor of love to recall them with her. Jane Heller "**

"The original campus (Franklin and Marshall) was surrounded by a white paling fence. There was a gate at the entrance to the main hall, and one at the residence entrance, and another where the North Museum now stands. These gates were kept closed by a heavy chain to which was attached an iron ball. This was done to prevent Jake Weh's cattle from getting into the campus." ...

"The house in which I was born (437 West James Street, now the Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity House) was built about 1875 or 1876. My father John S. Stahr, professor of natural science at the college, built the house. He borrowed the money from his brother, and I can remember my mother fussing about the mortgage. The house was large, with big rooms and a big yard. It was a good house. Father loved trees and he loved to garden. Father had five different kinds of cherry trees, three kinds of pear trees, a quince, and some peach trees that never did well. He had grape vines, raspberry bushes, blackberry bushes, a vegetable garden and chickens. Of course, we had an outdoor toilet; everyone did in those days. I had a little playhouse built by my brothers out of old lumber. There I played with my dolls and friends. We had a croquet set in the yard where we had many happy afternoons. My father liked to play games and our neighborhood friends would come to play. We had a nice crowd of young people in the neighborhood and had lots of birthday parties and played 'Musical Chairs' and 'Going to Jerusalem.' I played a good deal with John, Charlie and Hugh. Charlie loved dogs and he always had one. "...

"Mrs. Kieffer, the wife of the Greek professor, had a little choir of us children. We would go out with her early Christmas morning in the dark and go around to the professors' houses and sing carols. We never hung up stockings, nor did we believe in

Santa Claus. We always had a tree. We did not have many ornaments. We would gather jimson pods and color them red and gold. We had some paper angels and candles." One time "Hugh and I lit the candles, and I upset one. We had cotton batting on the floor for snow and it caught on fire. Fortunately, Sophie, our maid was coming upstairs with a bucket of water for the bedroom washstands. We always had very happy festivals at Christmas." ...

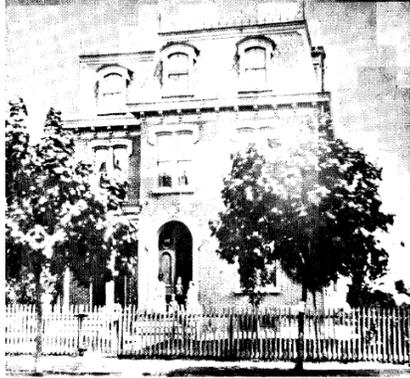
"While my father was president he always entertained the senior class and the freshman class in our home. The yard was pleasant in the summer and the fall, and we had it decorated with Chinese lanterns and lighted candles. Ice cream was always served at these parties. One time at a freshman party when it came time to serve the ice cream, my father could not find it. The sophomores had stolen it from our back porch." ...

"My father had two pairs of eyeglasses, one for close up and one for distance, they were attached to chords fastened to the lapel on his coat. One Sunday the chords tangled, and he had to stop preaching until he untangled them. On another Sunday when my father was preaching there was disorder in the back of the chapel. My father interrupted the sermon and said 'Will those young gentlemen in the rear of the chapel stop laughing and talking.' They did not so my father called out their names and asked them to leave." ...

"When I was about seven I had a very severe attack of scarlet fever and was sick for a good many weeks. While I was sick Helen, John and Charlie stayed with Aunt Mary. John got very homesick and they let him come home. He caught the fever and died. That was a sad year for my mother and father. That is the most that I remember of tragedies of my childhood. Ordinarily I think I was very happy. "...

"I often would visit with my mother's sisters, my Aunt Mary and Aunt Belle. I would sit quietly with them, read to myself, and have a simple supper. I always felt refreshed after my visit." ...

"I was accepted to Wellesley college but at that time the Reformed Church was developing the Women's College of Frederick (now Hood College) as sort of a sister institution to Franklin and Marshall. My father decided to send me there ... but it had one advantage over Wellesley; it was within visiting distance of Franklin and Marshall for football games. Football was very popular then, and the growing interest in it prompted the building of the gymnasium in 1891."



LEFT: Residence Dr. John Sommer Stahr had built at 437 West James Street, Lancaster County, Pa, photo about 1881. (Image from *College Hill in the 80's and 90's*) RIGHT: The same house as it looks today.

(Mary Belle Stahr Heller had three children, John, Hugh, and Jane. Perhaps Mary named her sons after her two brothers, who died at an early age: John who died at age 10, and Hugh who died at age 19)

Charles Patterson Stahr, M.D. was an 1897 graduate of Franklin and Marshall College. He was a member of The Goethean Literary Society, Student Handbook Committee, Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Manager of the tennis team, the Captain of the Military Battalion, and freshman class president. This quote **“Tis a wise child that knows his own father”** attributed to him as a student while at Franklin and Marshall may have resulted from the fact that his father, John Sommer Stahr, was president of the college. He received his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1900, and from 1919 to 1940, served as Chief Surgeon and Medical Director of Lancaster General Hospital. Dr. Charles Patterson Stahr was also an Assistant Professor of Bacteriology at Franklin and Marshall. For thirty-six years he was the secretary of the Lancaster City and County Medical society, and he authored Lancaster’s first Pure Milk Ordinance. As the medical inspector of the Lancaster Public Schools he initiated the first vaccination and immunization program for diphtheria for the students. In May of 1917, he organized the 111th ambulance corps of the 28th Division of the Pennsylvania National Guard Medical Corps, of which he served as commander on the battlefields of France, and led the unit through some of the fiercest fighting in World War I. In 1941, because of World War II, he was recalled to active duty as division surgeon of the 28th Division but soon retired at age 65. To honor his military career Lancaster City, in 1956, renamed their National Guard armory to Brigadier General Charles P. Stahr Armory. He lived to age 85.

(Lancaster City and County medical Society 1844, Our Medical Heritage)



Most of the men in the ambulance corps commanded by Brigadier General Charles Patterson Stahr lived in Lancaster County. The men under his command referred to him as “The Skipper”. (Franklin and Marshall archives)

The Reverend Isaac Sommer Stahr and Hannah Camilla Applebach had five children: Sarah, Mary, Camilla, Henry, and John



LEFT: Camilla Belle Stahr, in her office (1954-55 school year), was the Dean of Women at Ursinus College for twenty-one years. (Ursinus College Library Archives) On June 29, 2020 we contacted Ursinus College Archives for photographs of Camilla Belle Stahr and commented that “Camilla was quite an accomplished person.” Carolyn Weigel, the archivist at the college who assisted us, responded, “Yes, I agree. She was also respected and loved by many.” RIGHT: The Dickinson College Class of 1906 on a picnic. Mary Cornelia Stahr is the young lady standing in the middle. (dickinson.edu, archive)
Camilla Belle Stahr (A.B., LL.D.) graduated from Wilson College in 1911, studied at Oxford University, England, and received an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Ursinus College in 1958. She worked at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, for twenty-five years, twenty-one of those as the Dean of Women. She left this position for a period of time to care for her ailing father, Isaac, and then

returned to work at Ursinus after his death. Camilla retired from Ursinus in September of 1959, and lived to age 84.

The following **excerpt is from *The Ursinus Weekly*, May 21, 1956**, newspaper about Camilla Belle Stahr's nomination for The Daughters of Pennsylvania Award. *"Camilla Belle Stahr has served Ursinus College with distinction ... She has been an influence on hundreds of college girls, and her patient understanding of human problems, her devotion to her charges, her unassuming charm and her subtle humor, her unselfishness and never-failing helping hand, her serene poise in dealing with headstrong youth and directing their duties, have not only endeared her to her charges and associates alike, but also to all who have had the good fortune to come in contact with her ... "* **The Class of 1954 writes this in their yearbook about Camilla,** *"The women of Ursinus College have the priceless opportunity during their college life of becoming acquainted with a thoroughly charming and sweet individual in the person of Miss Stahr. Although gray hairs have added dignity to her other assets, Miss Stahr seems to have found the secret of eternal youth. She is a sympathetic and understanding person. Miss Stahr is our constant guide and sincere friend"* **and the class of 1958 writes** *"This most charming and dignified woman has become both confident and counselor. Understanding and sympathetic, Miss Stahr has won a place in the heart of all who know her."*

Mary Cornelia Stahr was a graduate of Dickinson College (Pi Beta Phi) and a teacher at Reading High School. Mary Cornelia was also the Principal at Oley High School from 1914-1916, and served as an historian for the Berks County Historical Society. She lived to age 87.

Sarah Jane "Sadie" Stahr was a 1901 graduate of Cedar Crest College and a member of the **Daughters of the American Revolution**. She married Charles Glase and lived in Oley, Berks County. We have found no record of her death, however on the 1940 census she is listed at age 57.

John Applebach Stahr lived to age 1.

Henry Irving Stahr, PhD was born in 1880. He is the grandson of Johannes Beidler Stahr III, and his wife Sarah Sommer, as well as **Henry Applebach** and his wife **Sarah Jane Ely**. In 1901 he graduated from Franklin and Marshall College and the Theological Seminary with honors. **(John Sommer Stahr, his uncle, was President during this time.)** He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Franklin and Marshall College. While there, Henry Irving Stahr was a member of the Students' Handbook Committee, the Press Association, the YMCA, the Bicycle Club, and the Military Company. He was also the Manager of the Baseball team, Treasure of *The College Student* publication, Chaplain and President of The Goethean Literary Society, Secretary of the Junior Class, and President of the Senior Class. He was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa and a teacher at the Franklin and Marshall Academy Preparatory School. Henry became one of the principals and taught Latin at the Academy as well as being a member of the faculty at Franklin and Marshall College.

“He was a brilliant and popular teacher of Latin” (F and M archives). He did graduate work at Cornell University and Ursinus College. He was also a Principal of Pine Grove Mills public school as well as a Free and Accepted Mason. In 1910 he became the pastor at Faith Reformed Church in Reading. Dr. Henry Irving Stahr served as president of Hood College, (located in Frederick, Maryland) during the middle of the Great Depression and during World War II. He served from 1934-1948. While at Hood he established the French and Spanish language houses. Construction of the Library, the Shop, and the Hodson Outdoor Theater (used for pageants, plays, convocations, commencements, and concerts) took place while he was Hood’s President. He also made available to the students a greater variety of sports. In 1946 he instituted courses in Early Childhood Education, and planned as well as fund-raised for the new Gymnasium. He modified the curriculum at Hood College to meet the need for nurses and stenographers, created by WW II, assisted with the sale of war bonds, and organized blood drives to support the war effort. In addition, a refugee student was invited to attend Hood College. After his retirement from Hood College, Dr. Stahr assumed the pastorate of a small Reformed Church congregation in Scituate, Massachusetts. When he retired as the President of Hood he said **“It’s better to go before people wonder why you don’t go.”** (Hood College, page 72) **Marquis Who’s Who** lists Dr. Henry Irving Stahr as a noteworthy clergyman and educator. He lived to age 81. In 1914, Henry Irving Stahr married Alice Webb Stockwell. She graduated from Wellesley College, was a teacher in the private school of Miss Helen Stahr, and then became the principal of the Shippen School for Girls (formally Miss Stahr’s School). Alice Webb Stockwell was the daughter of the editor of *The Boston Journal*. She lived to the age of 82. Alice and Henry Irving Stahr had three children, Sarah Louise, Henry Irving Stahr Jr., and Martha. At one time, the family lived at 359 E. Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA.

In 1927, Dr. Henry Irving Stahr submitted an **application for membership to The Sons of the American Revolution**. His application indicates, **“Henry Applebach (Aferbach) was enrolled in a Company of Associators, August 21, 1775. He served under Captain Josiah Bryan, 6th Company, 3rd Battalion, Pennsylvania Militia, mustered into service May 6, 1777. Proof of this can be found in the Pennsylvania archive, fifth series, Volume V, page 399.”** The Pennsylvania – German Volume IX, page 196, lists Private Henry Aflerbach as one of the sixty men under the command of Captain Josiah Bryan, sixth Company, third Battalion, Pennsylvania Militia. This would have been Henry Irving Stahr’s Great-Great-Grandfather, Johan Henrich Afflerbach. “The pioneer immigrant Johan Henrich Afflerbach embarked at Rotterdam on the ship Sally, arrived in Philadelphia October 29, 1770. He gave his age as 31 and occupation as smith ... His name appears August 21, 1775, on the roll of a company of Associators. He dropped his first name Johan and became known as Henry Afflerbach.” (pennsylvaniagenealogy.org)



From left to right: Dr. Henry Irving Stahr (President of Hood College 1934-1948), Dr. Andrew Truxal, Mrs. Alice Stahr, and Mrs. Leah Truxal. (Photo from [Hood College](#), Arcadia Publishing, 2013) **The Henry Irving Stahr Scholarship of Hood College is awarded annually** to a resident undergraduate student that demonstrates outstanding academic achievement and contributes to the quality of student life through participation in extracurricular activities or community service.

In 1953, Dr. Henry Irving Stahr, his wife, one of his daughters and her husband came to Haycock to visit **Mrs. Ellen Alix DuPoy Daniel**. Mrs. Daniel owned this house from April 19, 1949, until we purchased it from her on October 10, 1979. At the time of his visit he would have been 73. Perhaps he stopped to see the **Stahr Family Home**, the place that inspired his father Isaac's poems, one more time because he believed at his age and the fact that he lived so far away in Massachusetts, may not afford him an opportunity to return to Haycock again. Dr. Henry Irving Stahr would have had an opportunity to spend a lot of time at this house because his great-grandparents, his grandparents, his father Isaac, his aunt Marietta, and his aunt Marietta's stepson Noah each owned this house at one time. He told Mrs. Daniel that he *"liked the changes she made to the house, as well as the changes she hadn't made."* (September 9, 1953 letter to George Dillon from Ellen Alix DuPoy Daniel)

The Stahr family members have touched the lives of many people in their community. The military service they rendered to their country, the religious contributions they made to society, the influence they had on the field of education, and their devotion to promoting higher levels of learning not only benefited their generation but also had an impact on future generations. All of this began in 1817 when Johannes Stahr II, and his wife Maria Beidler Stahr moved to Roudenbush Road in Haycock Township.

Karen and Joe Cappella, 2020

SOURCES:

A special Thank You to Marianne Heckles (Collections Coordinator at lancasterhistory.org), Carolyn Weigel (Ursinus College Archives at ursinus.edu), and Mary Atwell (Hood College Archives and Special Collections) for their help with photographs and information.

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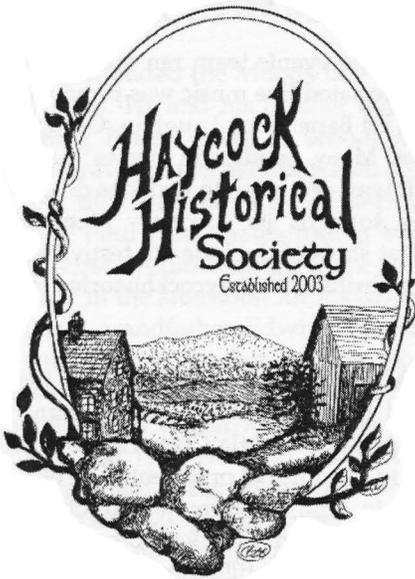
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