



# HAYCOCK HISTORICAL NEWS

The Newsletter of The Haycock Historical Society • Spring 2010

## HAYCOCK PROFILES: ELEANOR PALM ROBERTS

### A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE

by Jeannie Flynn

While we sat in her spacious farmhouse kitchen, Eleanor discussed her life in Haycock Township. Eleanor and I first met 28 years ago and convinced this city girl that life was good in the country.

Eleanor was born in Philadelphia on August 26, 1928. When she was four years old, her family moved to Haycock to a farmhouse on Deerwood Lane. The move occurred because her father was employed at Bethlehem Steel and worked second shift. All she remembers from the move was a screaming baby in her bedroom- it was her new brother, Vernon, lovingly called Sonny.

About two years later, her family moved up the road to her current home on the corner of Mission and Deerwood. They lived with her paternal grandparents, Nancy O'Hara and Pawpa. Soon afterwards, Pawpa left home and no one heard from him again. No one was ever able to give Eleanor any further details, but she wasn't sure he was her biological grandfather since his last name wasn't Palm.

Good memories exist of her early education of eight years at the New Harrisburg School. One of her favorite games was giggly-over. It was played with a large ball thrown across to the other side. They played along the side of the school building with teams formed by whoever wanted to play. One not so good memory was a spanking she received from Mrs. King, her teacher. Eleanor was spanked for sliding on a large rock covered with ice. She thought it was fun, but was disciplined for her actions.

Once she learned how to read, she couldn't read enough. Her first favorite book was *Little Women* by Louisa Mae Alcott. She developed an avid love for reading, which she still enjoys today.

Like many children her age, she had many chores to do after school. When she came home from school she had to tie up the cows, milk and feed them. Her father would turn the cows out before he left for work.

The highlight of the week was the Saturday afternoon matinee at the movies in Bethlehem. On Sunday, church service was at a small non-denominational church on Old Bethlehem Road across from the present Haycock School. Later when the Mennonite church moved to Mission Road,

the family joined that congregation.

After graduating from 8th grade, Eleanor was frightened to go to Quakertown Community High School. She thought it was too big and scary. However, her fears were relieved when she met another student, Martina Boorse, who was also enrolling in business classes, or commercial classes as they were called then. They became lifetime friends and once her fears were relieved, Eleanor enjoyed her high school days. Martina's recent death was a great loss for Eleanor.

A favorite commercial teacher at the high school was Zena Alhum. Eleanor said, "She was a tough lady. It was good she kept you on your toes, but was strict and fair at the same time."

After graduation, Eleanor worked as a secretary in the Ford dealership on Broad Street in Quakertown. Later she worked at Park Avenue Motors on Park Avenue and Rt. 309. Besides her secretarial duties, several times a year she and a few friends would fly to Kneosha, Wisconsin to the dealer headquarters. Their job was to drive the new car models back to Quakertown. On one trip, she stopped at a nursing home in Ohio because she had heard her grandfather, Pawpa, was a patient there. Unfortunately, he wasn't living there.

She met Don, her husband of 54 years at a wedding reception. He was in the Navy, but fell for Eleanor and told his mother that he had met the girl he was going to marry. After his discharge, they were married and built a house across the road from the family home.

The couple had three children: Keith, Karen and Kurt. There are now five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Karen and Kurt reside in Haycock, but Keith lives in Indiana. Kurt and his family live in the home Eleanor and Don built. In 1972, Eleanor and Don refurbished the farmhouse of her childhood, where they now reside.

For the past 23 years, Eleanor and Don have spent the winter months in Florida. Currently, the Florida house is on the market and the Roberts intend to spend the rest of their days in Haycock. As Eleanor said, "This is a good place to live, with many happy memories."

# THE STOKES HOUSE

by Pat DeWald



*We are including the following write-up on the Stokes House because of its consideration as a possible headquarters for the Haycock Historical Society.*

The Stokes House is an extremely significant historical building for the Haycock area. It pre-dates the history of the surrounding village of Applebachville. The seventeenth century farmhouse, which is a fine example of Bucks County stone farm houses, sits upon the land once known as Stokes Meadow. John Stokes came to Haycock about 1743, but the Stokes may have been in the area even earlier. Around 1737, Stokes Meadow was mentioned in a description of the route to be taken by the first "Walking Purchase."

The Stokes house is listed on the direct tax list of 1798. The Stokes family resided on this land until March of 1837, when the farm was sold to George Dutch, a merchant from New

York City. After adding a large home and barns, the merchant gave the farm to his son, George F. Dutch in 1842. The younger Dutch lived there until 1847 when he sold the property to brothers, Paul and Henry Applebach, successful cattle drovers. The brothers built a hotel on part of this land at the corner of Old Bethlehem Road and Apple Road. This event marked the beginning of the village of Applebachville.

General Paul Applebach resided on the farm until his death in March, 1872. In Paul Applebach's will he bequeathed 60 acres and the new house built by George Dutch, known as the mansion, to his sister Hannah, and the remaining 400 acres were sold as a farm. This farm contained the stone Stokes house which is now in Lake Towhee Park.

We in Haycock Township are very fortunate that the hotel, store and most of the homes in Applebachville, including the stone Stokes house, are the original homes from the 1800s.

## HAYCOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY INVESTMENT SURVEY

by Paula Laughlin

Haycock Historical Society is no longer in its infancy and it is time to decide on new goals and directions for the coming years. To help understand what our members see as the important goals and directions our Society should take, the officers constructed a survey and included it in our last newsletter. THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Currently, we have between 130-140 members, from whom we received 22 surveys. This is more than a 15% return and apparently the norm for such an endeavor. Investing in a home for the society and one that has historic value was indicated as having the most importance. Fifty nine percent rated this as very important and when combined with the rating of somewhat important it received a full 73%. The idea of investing in a home without historic value was less well received with only 25% believing it is very important.

Research took second to finding a home. It was considered somewhat important by 70% of our responders indicating that they saw this as a vital and meaningful function of our Society. The role of historic preservation was deemed somewhat less important (or less possible due to finances?) with 36% stating it was not important.

The funding of educational activities (speakers, trips) was somewhat to very important to 63% of our responders while the awarding of scholarships and grants to young residents-53%.

An assortment of comments were shared by about half of our responders. Several expressed a desire to obtain a good building not only as our home but to house a Living History Museum. The Stokes farm was seen as a good possibility. As said by one member, when we find a home, all else will fall in place. Fundraisers will be needed to reach this goal. The lack of young people at our meetings was noted with sadness as these young people are losing valuable knowledge about Haycock. It was hoped that our Society has and will continue to search for and purchase historically important items before they "slip away." The importance of our website and newsletter was stressed. Lastly, Benner Hall in Richland was suggested as a possible site for the 2010 Kringle Shoppe.

The Haycock Historical Society has formed a steering committee to merge all these ideas and create a working plan to achieve items our members deem most important. Please continue to communicate your thoughts and ideas as we want to create a plan that will involve and excite everyone.

# SOCIETY NEWS

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

**Country Marketplace — Tentative Date: June 12,  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Haycock Fire Hall**

Old tractors & small antique engines welcome to set-up & display. Contact Chris: (215) 536-0364 to register antiques. Craft & Flea Tables available both outside & inside the hall \$20.00 inside, \$15.00 outside. Members receive a \$5.00 discount on table rental. Contact Trudi: (215) 536-8849 to book your table.

### **Haycock Historical Pot Luck Dinner and Business Meeting**

**June 17, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church**

At the last officers meeting, we discussed that it would be a good idea to hold a meeting where we can have a discussion about our goals and future of the society and not be confined to having a speaker too. So we thought a pot luck dinner will allow us to have a longer time for discussion and hopefully generate some new ideas. The new officers will be installed at that time too.

So bring your ideas and goodies to share.

If your last name begins with:

A-F bring salad or side dish to serve 6 people

G-L bring main entrée to serve 6 people

M-R bring dessert to serve 6 people

S-Z bring beverage or rolls and butter to serve 6 people

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE SUMMER SCHEDULE

Research Meeting May 27, 2010, 1 p.m. at Pat DeWald's house 204 Pullen Station Road.

All are welcome to a reenactment of the third annual literary picnic of the Buckwampun Society which was held at Stony Garden on June 14, 1890. We will meet at the Stony Garden parking lot on Stony Garden Road at 1 p.m. on June 13, 2010 and walk to Stony Garden and read the poem, "Stony Garden" and play the rocks as was done in 1890. Weather permitting.

July 14, 2010 field trip to Peter Wentz Farmstead, located on Shearer Road near the intersection of Routes 73 and 363, Montgomery County. Admission free. We will meet at Pat DeWald's house at 1 p.m. or if you would like to drive yourself meet at Peter Wentz about 2 p.m.

July 18, 2010 field trip to Evans-Mumbower Mill, located on Swedesford Road near the intersection of Routes 202 and 73, Montgomery County. Admission free. We will meet at Pat DeWald's house at 1 p.m. or if you would like to drive yourself meet at Evans-Mumbower mill about 2 p.m.

## CALENDAR SCAVENGER HUNT RESULTS

Members and non-members alike enjoyed trying to figure out the clues to the calendar scavenger hunt. The answers for the picture clues are:

Cover - Lake Nockamixon

January - Jenny the donkey 1371 E Saw Mill Rd

February - Farm at 563 and Top Rock Trail

March - Wishing well 52 Harrisburg School Rd

April - Fence at St. Paul's Church

May - War Memorial at Haycock School

June - Birdhouses in Lake Nockamixon Park

July - Bridge Haycock Run Rd

August - Water Pump 1341 Roudenbush Rd

September - Stone Bus Stop 1843 Stony Garden Rd

October - End of E Saw Mill Rd near Albert Kinzler

November - Stone Arch on barn 1778 Stony Garden Rd

December - Sled fence 1400 Apple Rd

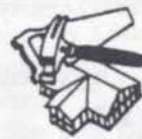
Congratulations to the winners : 1st place - Ella Schaeffer, 2nd place Bob and Kelly Shaak, 3rd place Bob and Marie Barger, Ron and Janet Medori, and Dave Long. Thanks for playing.

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

May 20, Carol Schroding, Master Gardener

The Haycock Historical Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to research and record the history of Haycock Township and the surrounding environs. General meetings are open to society members and the public. Meetings are held six times a year, clustered in the fall: September, October and November; and spring: March, April and May, and usually held at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church across from the Haycock firehouse in Applebachsville.

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



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