

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE

PARADISE



Historical
Society

VOLUME 42 • Spring 2026

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We continue to prepare for "America 250," this year's nationwide celebration of the Declaration of Independence, our country's founding document — and the basis for free governments around the world.

AMERICA



In the Winter 2026 issue of the PHS newsletter, we announced the "Liberty Tree" project, a way to memorialize the Boston Liberty Tree of 1776, where patriots would gather during the Revolution. I'm happy to report that the Paradise Board of Supervisors has enthusiastically approved the idea: work is underway to acquire and plant a symbolic apple tree commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States in Paradise Township at the municipal building.

We are grateful to board chair Peter Gonze and members Michael Stein and Reda Briglia for their support.

Please keep in mind that if you are a lineal descendant of a Revolutionary War Patriot, we'd like to know about it! A "Patriot Recognition Day" is planned for July 12, 2026. So far in Barrett and Paradise Townships, twenty-two forbears have been identified who took part in the Revolution. See the list below — if one of them is in your direct line, please contact Sandy Dietz at paradisehistorical.genealogy@gmail.com

We have lots of interesting programs planned for this year! Meetings are held the second Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the municipal building. Please join us!

Al Johnson, President

★ LOCAL CONFIRMED PATRIOTS ★

James Bush
Johann Drumheller
Benjamin Fuller
Johannes Hauck
J. Melchoir Hay

Michael Heller
Caleb Hewitt
Thomas Hughes
Anthony Kintz
Henry Lake III

Jacob Learn
Casper Metzgar
J. Frederick Miller
Henry Pensyl
John Price Sr.
John Schultz

Christian Singer
Andrew Storm
Abraham Transue
Benjamin Van Horn
George Werkheiser
Andrew Woodling

Unfailing in the cause of American Independence...

Did you ever hear family stories of a Revolutionary War Patriot?

Now's the time to try to confirm (or disprove!) those family stories. The service of Patriots includes: signers of the Declaration of Independence, military service, civil service, and patriotic service, such as signer of *Oath of Fidelity* and *Support* or *Oath of Allegiance*. These free websites are good resources: www.dar.org (Daughters of the American Revolution) and www.sar.org (Sons of the American Revolution).

If you are the direct lineal descendant of a Patriot and wish to attend the ceremony and be recognized, please complete the form at www.paradisehistorical.org. Find "Celebrating Our Revolutionary War Patriots" at the top of our home page, scroll down and click the red PDF icon to download your form.

Questions? Please email paradisehistorical.genealogy@gmail.com

Scan QR Code for a Link to
MORE Genealogy Resources! ▶



Spring

COLLECTING, PRESERVING,
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY



LIVING IN COLONIAL PENNSYLVANIA

From 1681 until the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783

by Sandy Dietz



In Colonial Pennsylvania, your lifestyle depended on where you lived and your occupation. Rural farmers had different lifestyles than a merchant, skilled laborer, or professional living in Philadelphia.



What would you do on a regular day? Your bed was made of woven sacks called “ticks”, filled with straw or chaff and your covering was probably a quilt. Upon awakening, you would eat a breakfast of bread and milk, porridge, or cornmeal mush, then start your 12-to-16 hour workday, with only Sundays for a respite.

Colonial Pennsylvanians ate a large meal at midday, typically lamb, beef, or turkey, along with root vegetables that stored well, such as carrots, potatoes or parsnips, cabbage and beans, and herbs for seasoning. Fruits available would have been apples, pears, currants and grapes. As today, it was a treat to have an after-meal dessert with bread pudding, custard, or a slice of pie being the most popular. Many of these food items were locally sourced and preserved or dried for later use.

Independence cake was popular for community events – think Fourth of July celebration. The original recipe can be found in *The First American Cookbook* by Amelia Simmons, published in 1796. It calls for 20 pounds of flour, 15 pounds of sugar, along with sweet wine and brandy. You can see one made on YouTube using an updated recipe. Search for “Early American Independence Cake” or visit here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYrt4nLaVi8>



What would you do in your leisure time? Many current crafts grew out of the Colonial period, originally necessities of the household, and were seen as practical and functional for the household. Quilting, sewing, spinning and knitting, candle making and soap making are a few examples. Music was also a part of many households as a leisure activity.

Organs, violins, harpsichords, and pianofortes were available with Philadelphia, a music hub with music performed publicly at concerts and in taverns. Colonists were social, and community was a big part of their lives with fairs, parades, theater. Free time was spent visiting neighbors, reading, card playing, hunting, and fishing.

How would you pay for what you needed? Currency was a mix of British Pounds, German Thalers, and Spanish silver dollars, making bartering a widespread practice. There was no metal to coin – so paper money called “Continental” was produced, but the colony issued too much resulting in inflation and making the bills worthless. Merchants used Spanish, Portuguese, and French coins for trade to the West Indies. Currency was produced by colonies themselves but differed in value from state to state, making for confusion. In 1792 the Coinage Act was adopted, establishing the mint in Philadelphia and the first national US currency system. The dollar was introduced as the standard unit. The 1792 dollar equals \$33 - \$35 in today’s market.



Living in colonial Pennsylvania had many parallels to the way we live today: work and leisure activities, celebrations, food and family are still important in our daily routines. [PHS](#)

NO Running Water... NO Electricity... NO Telephone...
NO Internet... NO Cars...

500 Years to Here:



A CARLTON FAMILY HISTORY

Have you ever wondered about local road names? For example, Carlton Road connects Swiftwater and Paradise Valley Road. Why “Carlton”?

John Layton has explored the origins of the Carlton family in his book **500 Years to Here: A Carlton Family History**. He has been documenting the Carlton family history for over 50 years. As a family historian, he has accumulated research materials and maintains the family tree going back to 1500 in Yorkshire, England. As the 100th Carlton Reunion approached, a publishing these results seemed to be the perfect way to commemorate the milestone.

In the book, John documents more than 100 years of family reunions bringing together descendants of David Hartson Carlton since 1919. Over those years, as many as 200 Carlton descendants have gathered annually at a church or social hall in and around South Sterling, Newfoundland, Greentown, and Panther in Northeastern Pennsylvania. From the beginning, as part of the reunion, minutes have been kept recording births, marriages and deaths for the extended family. This information has formed the basis for a database (family

tree) that illustrates how wide the Carlton family shadow has spread.

Also during the reunions there have been presentations of historical events affecting the family or a particular family member. Over the last 60 years and more, these presentations have focused on the history of the family and individual members.

Because the David Hartson Carlton family tree is so extensive, tracing the origins of the family has been an ongoing challenge — which is shared in the book. Research included visits to the National Archives, Library of Congress, historical societies in New England, and travel to Yorkshire County in England. In Yorkshire John, his wife Laura and daughter Susan visited Rowley, Yorkshire England and other sites of family events.

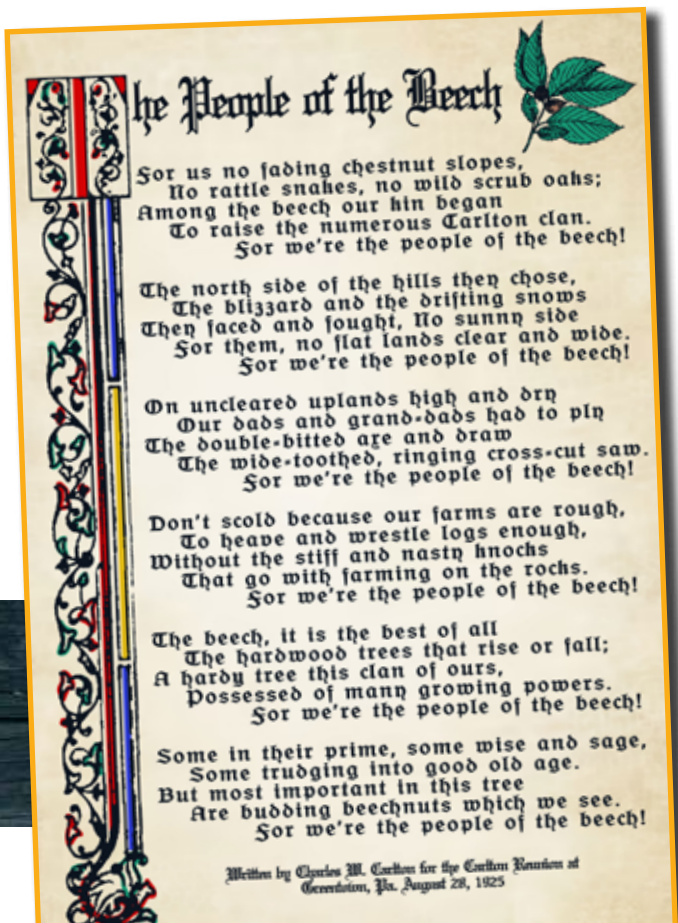
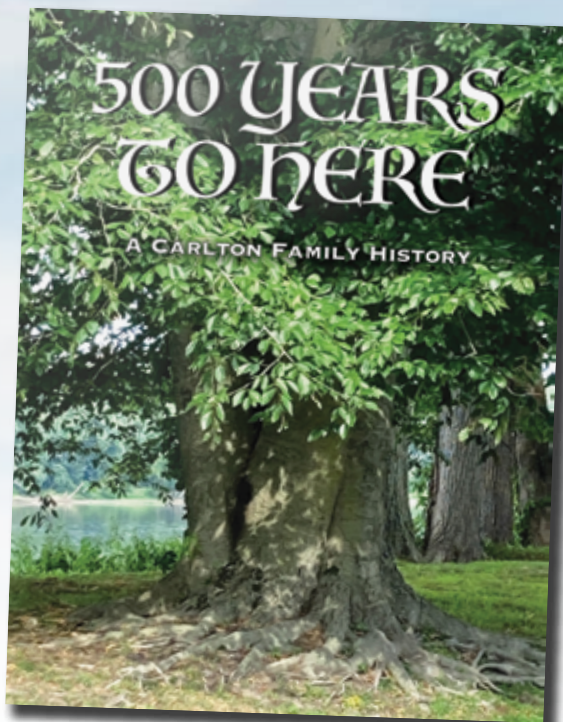
The book recounts travels of the Carleton/Carltons for over 500 years, beginning in Yorkshire with the birth of John Carleton in 1500. For the next 138 years the family

lived in various parts of Yorkshire before departing for the New World from Hull, England, with the Reverend Ezekiel Rogers and 20 families on the ship *John of London* in 1638.

Life in America was not easy, and the family travels took them from Rowley, Massachusetts, to Robb Mountain in New Hampshire and then to Weld, Maine, where they remained until approximately 1816. The next stop was South Sterling, Pennsylvania between 1817 and 1820. Members of the family still reside in the same area to this day.

As the migration of Carltons continued, some arrived in Paradise Township at various times, including two who lived on Carlton Road (in the process, giving their name to the road) or Upper Swiftwater Road. Various other descendants via marriage have also lived in Paradise Township.

If you are interested in learning more about the Carlton Family, or acquiring a copy of the book, contact John Layton at ldlayton@ptd.net. [PHS](#)



Paradise Historical Society
P.O. Box 94
Henryville, PA 18332

MEETING NOTES: The Story of the National Drug Company

At the Society's April 12, 2026 meeting at Paradise Township Municipal Building, John Layton had a full-house audience for his talk on the National Drug Company in Swiftwater.

Though the property has only a small foothold in Paradise Township, the company has been important to our community. Many local folks were instrumental in the company's success. Several attendees are former employees — some for more than 40 years — and offered fascinating recollections and personal insights that enriched the afternoon.

John outlined the history of Swiftwater campus — from humble beginnings

with Colonel Slee up to modern times as the internationally-renowned vaccine producer Sanofi. His main focus, however, was the major expansion years of The National Drug Company. A 1944 commemorative edition of *The Record* and other historic sources formed the basis of John's program. Complete audio of the program is available online www.paradisehistorical.org in the Meeting Recordings section. **PHS**

FUTURE PROGRAMS

are planned on **The Dempewolff House, Memorytown and the Dutch Farm, Hunter Farm and Family History, and evidence of the Lenape Native Americans in what is now Paradise Township — watch for details on the website.**



PHS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Andrew and Deborah Porter

Become a Member Today!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!

Please help Paradise Historical Society collect, protect & share the interesting history of our area.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student or Senior (65+) - \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple - \$20.00 | |

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Please send the completed form and check (no cash) to:

Paradise Historical Society, P.O. Box 94, Henryville, PA 18332

Spring 2026

The Directors & Officers of Paradise Historical Society are:

Sandy Dietz Genealogist / Secretary

Bruce Estell Treasurer

Peter Gonze

Carol Hillestad Editor

Aaron Imbt Archivist & Designer

Alfred Johnson President

John Layton Vice President

Laura Layton

Harold Metzgar Emeritus Officer

Newsletter design by

AARON G. IMBT design

agimbt.design@gmail.com