

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE



VOLUME 37 • Winter 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Members and invited guests gathered at the East Swiftwater Resort / Ace Store for our holiday gathering on December 15. The beautifully restored buildings were decorated to the nines by our hosts, fifth-generation owners Susan and Patrick Newman.



PHS Vice-President John Layton,
MCHA Director Amy Leiser,
and PHS President Jane Niering

Susan's father John Layton shared the story of how our Historical Society was founded 15 years ago, and summarized the history of "Ace's Corner," the family farm that was also a general store and boarding house resort from the late 19th century into the 1970s.

A formal presentation was made to Amy Leiser, Director of the Monroe County Historical Association, on behalf of PHS. Our gift supports the county association's expansion in Stroudsburg — a huge step forward in the preservation and dissemination of local history.

We also recognized, with gratitude, the work of Mary Ann Lewis, Director of Barrett Paradise Friendly Library in making local history widely available. The library has committed to digitize the records of three local historical societies: Buck Hill Falls, Barrett Township, and our own PHS. This "shareable history" will allow interested researchers to access items in our collection virtually, anywhere they have an internet connection. We wish you a happy, healthy, 2025!



Check out our NEW Facebook page!
Search for:
"Paradise Township PA Historical Society"

Jane

Jane Niering, President

Christmas at the Ace Store

As members sampled sweets and savories in what was once the boarding house dining room, John Layton shared a photo taken on February 7, 2010, as local residents gathered around that same dining room table to discuss forming Paradise Historical Society.

We noted that this wasn't the first such effort. In the 1980s, legacy-minded neighbors banded together to create a historical society, among them Sandy and Bill Dietz, Helen Dietz, Betty Williams, and LeeAnn Dyson. They organized displays of historic photos at Paradise Township building, among other work — and later took part in PHS from the earliest days.

John also recapped meetings over the last year and emphasized how important new ideas and community involvement are. He challenges every resident of Paradise to take part — what kind of program would interest *you*? What would *you* like to learn about our beautiful Township's history? How could you put *your skills* to work to improve the historical society? Let us know! Email jimhill@ptd.net with your ideas.



Continued on Page 2

COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

Christmas at the Ace Store

Continued from Page 1

Some photos from PHS's 2024 Holiday Party...

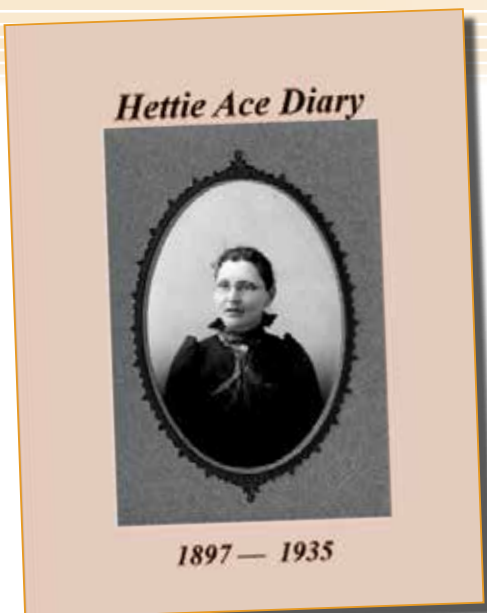


Paradise Historical Society MILESTONES

- February 7, 2010 — First meeting
- March 7, 2010 — Officers were elected, including Helen Dietz, Jack Hamblin, Eleanor and Ed Burns, Betty Williams, John and Laura Layton, Carol Hillestad, and Edie Stevens
- January 26, 2011 — IRS approved non-profit 501 (c) 3 status for PHS.
- Current number of members is 182, with 56 from outside Monroe County.
- Newsletters have been published and distributed to members and every householder in Paradise Township since 2013.
- Programs on interesting subjects are held regularly.
- Historical markers have been placed at six locations: the sites of the Forest Inn, Paradise Inn, Mt. Pocono Electric Plant, and the Elk Preserve, and at the Ace Store and Parkside Chapel.
- December 2023 *Life in Paradise* a summary history of Paradise Township was published.
- Archives of historic materials continue to grow. Genealogies of founding families are being researched. [PHS](#)



THE ACE STORE AND THE EAST SWIFTWATER RESORT



This information is a summary of John Layton's talk at the holiday gathering. The full audio is available at www.paradisehistorical.org. The Ace Store and The East Swiftwater resort were located at "Ace's Corner" — present-day Carlton Road and Upper Swiftwater Road. In the same family for 134 years, Susan Layton Newman represents the fifth generation.

The general store opened in 1890 and served local needs until 1972. The East Swiftwater resort opened sometime after 1893 and operated until about the 1930s. Much of what we know about the property and community came from *The Hettie Ace Diary 1897-1935*, and journals and ledgers from the store and resort.

John M. Ace and family come from a long line of Monroe County residents, going back to the 1700s. The Carlton family arrived in the area around 1817. John M. Ace, a merchant since his teens, founded the Ace Store selling just about everything, like general stores throughout America.

To prosper, John M. and family engaged in a variety of activities. These included digging graves at St. Paul's/ the Jones Cemetery, doing farm work for neighbors, harvesting ice and filling neighbors' ice houses, hiring out a team of horses to help harvest ice as well as purveying the necessaries of life in the store. They even provided water to the recently opened Chestnut Grove property in return for buckwheat.

The Ace and later Carlton farm produced milk and eggs sold in the store. Meat was either grown on the farm or purchased for resale. A couple of pigs a year were slaughtered for the smoke house. Hettie, John's wife, appears to have done a lot of the butchering. Vegetables came from the family gardens and were canned. The garden also produced gladiolas that were taken to the church. Ice was stored in an icehouse and used all year long for refrigeration.

Cora Ace, John M.'s daughter, married Willard Carlton, a teamster, in 1911. In 1913, Willard bought the farm of Pete Warner. Willard also dug graves and did carpentry work for added income. Willard later opened a feed and grain business that appears to have done well. During the depression he was able to help other families survive.

During the 1970s through the 1990s there was little maintenance done on the property. As traffic volume increased, vehicles hit and damaged the store porch posts and roof. Susan Newman decided to move the building back from the road, and in the process we learned that the front of the store had a hewn log sill

plate, an indicator of its age. The back of the store was on a stone foundation, with no basement and an almost inaccessible crawl space. After lifting and moving the building 150 feet back on the property, improvements were made, such as heat in all the bedrooms, two new bathrooms, and electric outlets in every room. Insulation and new siding which keeps the look of the original siding, were added. (It was learned that the building's 1955 Alco aluminum siding was one of the first such jobs in the area.) The feed house and hay barn had new concrete floors poured, the washhouse floor joists were upgraded, and the original plank flooring was replaced with new, locally sawed planks.

John Layton has produced a large-format, 68-page book detailing the history of the Ace Store and the East Swiftwater, called *Life on a Pocono Subsistence Farm*. The book describes the families that lived and worked there as well as the buildings and grounds and — includes dozens of period photos. If you are interested in a copy, email ldlayton@ptd.net. [PHS](#)

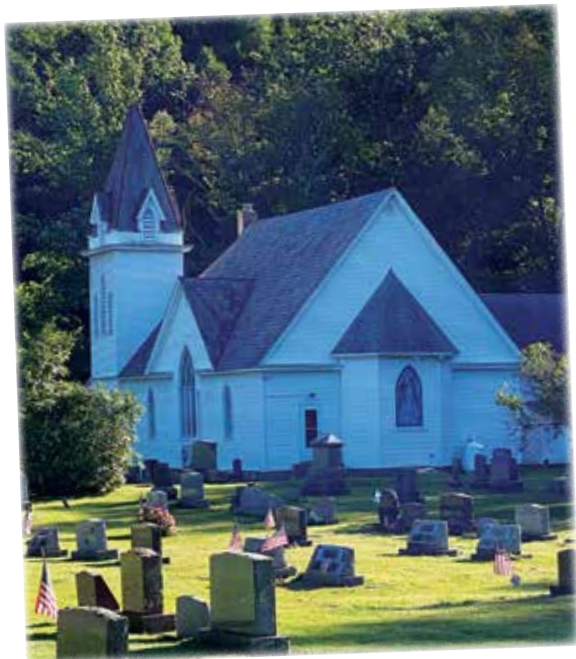
Life on a Pocono Subsistence Farm



The Ace Store founded 1890

Genealogy Chairperson Sandy Dietz announces...

Two Programs of Interest Related to Family History



The April meeting of PHS will be “Genealogy 101.” Basic research will be discussed and blank forms provided for attendees. Highlights will be looking at online resources and discussion of where to look for information on ancestors. Additionally, you will learn about the GENOGRAM, a useful tool that allows us to look at mapping family relationships. A family tree depicts simple family lineage, but genograms provide an expanded format that is useful in looking at family medical, cultural, and social connections within your tree. For example: disorders that can run in families (such as diabetes), or careers, or behavior patterns. Please join us for this fascinating new look at your family history!

The October meeting of PHS will be a walk through Keokee Chapel Cemetery with some information about the history of the church, earliest burials, and first families. Information will be provided about how the church came to be called Keokee, which family donated toward its creation and what a woman from Cleveland, Ohio, has to do with the church. Please put this walking tour on your calendar! [PHS](#)

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

Non Profit
**US POSTAGE
PAID**
Permit No. 1848
Cresco, PA

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

GETTING TO KNOW PARADISE

Members and friends share their knowledge at PHS meetings — with show and tell of interesting artifacts and programs based on research and personal experience. Some programs that are being researched include:

- A virtual tour of St. Paul's Cemetery in Swiftwater (once called "Monroe Cemetery" and the oldest parts of which were the Jones Cemetery)
- Memories of Memorytown and the Dutch Farm
- The story of the Henryville House – the early center for tourism and trout fishing at the corner of present day Route 191 and 715
- Tours of historic properties
- Tales of the founding families
- Local railroads – who are their customers and why? [PHS](#)

*Programs
in the Works*



PHS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Jim & Barbara Roberts • Rose Marie Cutropia • Nancy Pindrus • Alice & Faye Cyphers • Ed & Dottie Telesky

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

The Directors & Officers of
Paradise Historical Society are:

Sandy Dietz Genealogist

Bruce Estell Treasurer

Peter Gonze

Carol Hillestad Editor

Aaron Imbt Archivist & Designer

John Layton Vice President

Laura Layton

Harold Metzgar

Anne Nabakwe-Fields Secretary

Jane Niering President

Newsletter design by

AARON G. IMBT design

agimbt.design@gmail.com



Winter 2025