

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE



SPRING 2013 • Volume 2, Issue 1

Don Miller's "The Other Paradise"

Noted local naturalist Don Miller was one of the speakers at the Society's February meeting. (The other, Dan Hamblin, has provided notes of his presentation elsewhere in this issue.) Don refers to the northern part of Paradise Township as "The Other Paradise," upstream and uphill from the Valley, where he and his wife Gayle live in a 130-year-old farmhouse off the Devil's Hole Road.

"Water shaped the landscape of Paradise," Don said, "and determined where and how Paradise Township was settled." Reaching back through the millennia, Don showed topographical maps — and gorgeous photos — demonstrating the work of glaciers and water. The water of high-gradient streams tumbled off the escarpment of the Pocono Plateau, then slowed, dropping their payload of nutrients and soil and forming arable land in the Valley. This is where the first settlers made their homes, close to water and agricultural lands.

Don noted that the Paradise and Brodhead Creeks were once considered one system and were called "The Brodheads." The Paradise Creek we know has its start at the confluence of Yankee Run and Tank Creek in the Kurmes Preserve on the right side of Route 940, heading to Mount Pocono. The source of Yankee Run's headwaters is the 5-points intersection in Mount Pocono, and the source of Tank Creek's headwaters is a small rhododendron wetland in Coolbaugh Township, in the Pocono Farms development.

Nature's influence on humankind's activities can be seen in the way the railroad bed was sited — following the contours of the escarpment. The long steep climb from Cresco required steam-driven trains to take on water for the final push to Pocono Summit. Tank Creek got its name for providing the water to fill those tanks and generate the steam to make the summit.



In warmer weather, a hike to see these creeks in person is planned, and we invite Don to return to flesh out some of the tantalizing stories he started. If you are interested in how the geology of our area developed, borrow a copy of *Annals of the Former World* by John McPhee from the library. The section called "In Suspect Terrain" starts in Brooklyn and moves along Route 80 through to the Poconos on the way to Indiana showing how the land was formed.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Paradise Historical Society is growing — more than 120 members and counting! See the new membership list in this issue, and invite friends and neighbors to join us.

Getting out and seeing historical sites — and sights — in Paradise and throughout Monroe County just got a little easier. On page 3, Laura Layton describes the "Passport to History" program getting started at Monroe County Historical Association, which may intrigue you.

As spring makes outdoor programs possible, we are planning field trips to historical places in the township. Is there someplace you know of we should visit? Come to the next meeting and let us know!

Carol.

Carol Hillestad,
President

Spring

COLLECTING, PRESERVING &
DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY



THE PARADISE SCHOOL PROJECT UPDATE

Since our last newsletter additional material has been collected on the history of the Paradise School Districts. Historical society members have been busy researching the locations and finding materials on the early schools of Paradise. One of the findings is an 1898 list of students attending the Koerner School.

A PEEK AT THE 1898 KOERNER SCHOOL

The PHS has received correspondence from a member in Virginia sharing with us some interesting history of the Koerner family. The Koerners were one of the early families to settle in what is today Paradise Township. In fact one of the earliest schools was named the Koerner School and was located where Famularo's catering is presently located. The building has also served as an Assembly of God Church. Additions have been made to the building over the years.



Coincidentally, another member provided a Koerner School Teacher's Term Report prepared by the teacher James A. Dorshimer of Effort, PA. Dorshimer had attended the Fairview Academy, located in Brodheadsville, PA. Koerner School had 49 pupils in attendance during the school term which began October 4, 1897 and ended April 5, 1898. The school had a black board which was a painted wall that measured 90 square inches.

NAMES OF PUPILS		
<i>First Grade</i>		
1	John R. Miller	6 108
2	Hoyd A. Wagner	7 92
3	Julia M. Koerner	7 99
4	Marcia Carlton	6 40
5	Oliver Miller	7 111
6	Lawrence H. Hamman	7 102
7	George Koerner	8 108
8	Julia Koerner	6 40
9	Joe V. Miller	7 81
10	Walter M. Carlton	8 58
11	Levitt H. Wagner	7 100
12	Norman Busby	8 165
<i>Second Grade</i>		
1	Blifford A. Bomser	8 85
2	Oliver Miller	9 99
3	Herbert Koerner	12 96
4	Walter A. "	10 93
5	Frank H. Farnham	8 113
6	Arthur Koerner	10 112
7	Alfred J. Mitchler	8 102
8	Harry Wagner	12 93
9	Leifley H. Pima	9 89
<i>Third Grade</i>		
1	Effie M. Mitchler	10 82
2	Nettie Hamman	11 79
3	Maria Hamman	10 99
4	Annada P. Boorem	9 100
5	Winnie M. Mitchler	10 100
6	Beatrice A. Miller	12 115
<i>(next page)</i>		

This photocopy shows the students in grades one and two and number of days present during the term. (Note we also have the names of the students in the other grades which are not shown.)

In response to the question what other apparatus belonged to the school the teacher replied "Not any, not even a globe." Grades one through five attended the school. Mr. Dorshimer estimated the supplies needed for the next term as follows: Slates: 10, Pencil Tablets: 10 doz., Pen Tablets: 2 doz., Lead Pencils: 12 doz., Slate Pencils: 20 doz., Pens: 2 boxes, Pen Holders: 20, Ink: 3 pints, Boxes of Crayons: 5 and Blackboard Erasers: 6. Concerning the students' performance he accounted for their attendance during the term as well as the students' grades in individual subjects and for "average scholarship."

A photocopy of the Daily Program prepared by the teacher.

DAILY PROGRAM.			
FORENOON	TIME	AFTERNOON	TIME
Opening Exercise	8:50 10	Advanced Arithmetic	2:15 20
Advanced Arithmetic	9:25 20	Primary Reading	1:45 15
Secondary "	9:50 25	Advanced History	3:15 20
Mixed Lessons	10:10 20	Secondary "	2:25 20
Advanced Geography	10:30 20	Writing	2:35 10
Recall	10:45 10	Recess	2:45 10
Secondary Geography	11:10 20	Secondary Grammar	3:15 30
Advanced Grammar	11:20 20	Primary Reading & Spelling	3:30 15
Primary Reading	11:40 20	Physiology	3:45 15
Secondary "	12:10 20	Advanced Arithmetic	4:00 15

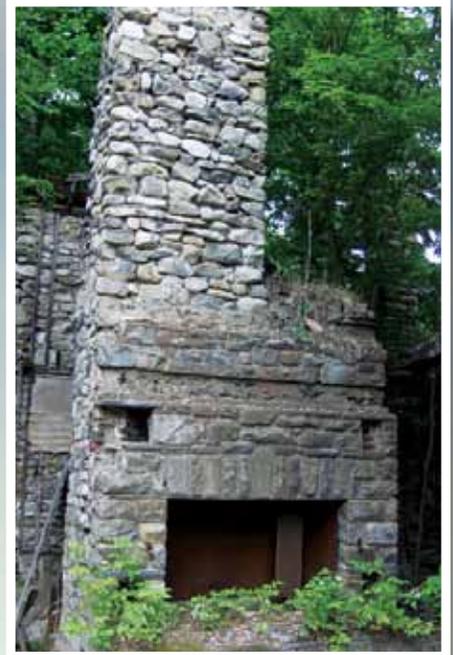
Life AT THE Devil's Hole

Dan and Sara Hamblin built a home on the west rim of the Devil's Hole canyon in 1975 and have lived there full-time since 1985. Over those years and earlier, Dan has hiked the area and researched the land at the County Courthouse. Here is Part I excerpted from his remarks at the Society's February 2013 meeting. The full talk is available for members to listen to on CD.

After the Indians departed from our area prior to the American Revolution, early settlers could apply for a certain piece of land, and, if qualified, would receive what was variously called a patent, warrant or landgrant from the colony, or later, the state of Pennsylvania.

Our property was part of a landgrant to James Glentworth. The next owners were Joseph and Cathrine Williams, who farmed part of the land. The foundation of their farmhouse is visible today, across Devil's Hole Creek, within 100 yards of the railroad. In 1907, the Williams sold 122 acres to Dr. Nina Mae Price and Charles Baierle. Dr. Price was one of the earliest female physicians in Monroe County. Her husband was an itinerant Seventh-Day Adventist Preacher, who was seldom at home.

Dr. Price wanted to build a sanatorium, all the rage in those days for the treatment of people with tuberculosis. The Poconos were thought to be a perfect location to rest and breathe the fresh mountain air. Dr. Price's dream was completed by 1910. Trains would stop in the Devil's Hole, on request, to discharge passengers, who would be met by a carriage and delivered to the sanatorium. Water was pumped from the creek to a concrete cistern, half a mile away and 300 feet higher in elevation, whence it flowed by gravity to the building. The sanatorium burned after just one year in operation. You can still see the remains of the sanatorium, its tall chimney, and the cistern.



Dr. Price was so discouraged by the loss that she walked away and stopped paying taxes. My grandfather, J. Burton Hamblin, bought the 122 acres at a tax sale on December 31, 1912, for \$750 — \$6 per acre.

In our next newsletter, the story continues with an experiment in bringing electricity to our rural area using water power from the Devil's Hole Creek.

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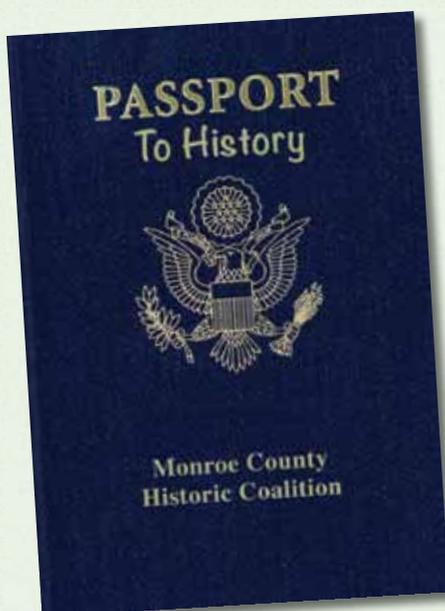
PASSPORT TO HISTORY

The Monroe County Historic Coalition, which is made up of the various local historical societies in Monroe County and surrounding counties, is about ready to kick off a new program called "Passport to History".

The program will be highlighting historical and cultural sites throughout the county by using a "passport," a booklet that will include brief descriptions, directions, and pictures of the various sites. Passport holders will be encouraged to get their passports stamped after visiting each site.

The Paradise Historical Society is a member of the coalition and has selected 3 sites in Paradise Township to be included in the program. They are the Parkside Chapel of Henryville, the Niering's Garage in Paradise Valley and the Ace Store in Swiftwater. Peter Niering at Niering's Garage will be stamping the passports for the two sites that are not open to the public. (Thank you, Peter!) In the future, we plan to increase the number of historic sites to be included.

So be on the lookout for the kick off for this program. You just may want to get your own "Passport to History" and get out on the road!



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

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The directors and officers of Paradise Historical Society are Ed Burns, Eleanor Burns, LeeAnne Dyson, Dan Hamblin, Carol Hillestad, Aaron Imbt, John Layton, Laura Layton, and Harold Metzgar — and we welcome our new members!

John Abel	Dorothy Frank	Joan Montgomery
Irene Acker	Drew & Kathy Friedman	Linda Musselman
Gary & Kathie Calandra	Randall Gardner	Kathryn Padian
Barbara Chastain	Sam & Betsy Goll	Paul Reisch
Benito & Myrna Cid and Family	Steven Henry & Family	Alfred Ruggiero
Pat Clark	Gary Koerner	Paulette Samson
Harley Collins	Gene & Jeannette Kresge	Rob Sullivan
Dave & Cindy Cook	Bill & Mary Ann Krolikowski	Audrey Thompson
Richard & Cindy DeLuca	Bob & Shirley Lansdowne	Dave & Louise Troutman
Dominic & Kelly DiPaolo	Ida McIntyre	and Family
Pam Dunlap	Donald Magdzak	Adam Weiss & Sierra Laidman
Albertine Falkenhain	Don & Gayle Miller	

YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS! Please help Paradise Historical Society collect, protect, and share the interesting history of our area. Become a member today!

- Student or Senior (65+) - \$8.00 Family - \$25.00 Individual - \$10.00
 Corporate - \$50.00 Couple - \$20.00 Sustaining - \$100.00

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

