

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE

PARADISE



Historical
Society

VOLUME 25 • FALL 2021



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As the holidays roll around in 2021, many of us reflect on how much we have to be grateful for. Even in difficult times, we look forward with optimism to a new year.

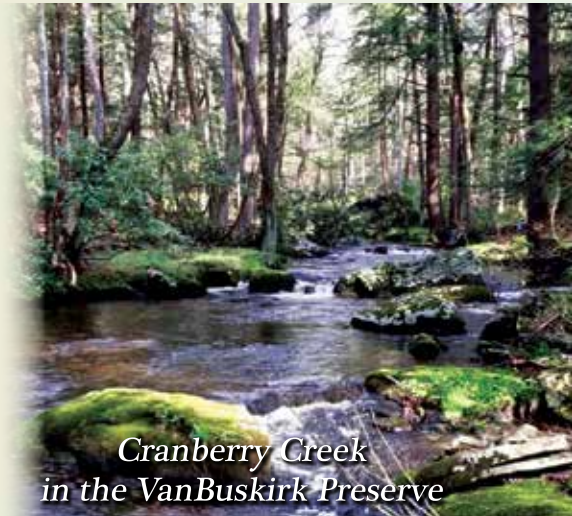
I'm thankful for many things — family, friends, and health among them. The pleasure of living in a place as beautiful as Paradise Township is also high on the list!

Going about my daily tasks, the changing views I see of creeks and hills in Paradise are a pleasure. And I love knowing about the history of buildings, bridges, railroads, people and businesses — the stories that have unfolded over time against this backdrop.

So I'm also thankful that Paradise Historical Society collects, preserves, and shares these stories! If you are a member of PHS, thank you for your support. And if you're not a member yet, now is a great time to join us using the form at the end of the newsletter.

With warm wishes for happy holidays and a healthy, in-person 2022!

Jane Jane Niering, *President*



*Cranberry Creek
in the VanBuskirk Preserve*



Horatio Stockton Howell: GETTYSBURG CHAPLAIN

Local author and PHS member John Abel spoke at our June 2021 meeting at The Roof. He summarized his talk for our newsletter. His 2019 book **The Murder of Theodore Brodhead** is available at Barrett Paradise Friendly Library or online at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Horatio Stockton Howell was a Presbyterian minister who became chaplain to the 90th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment. He was killed on the first day of the three-day battle of Gettysburg.

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COLLECTING, PRESERVING
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

Fall

Horatio Stockton Howell:

GETTYSBURG CHAPLAIN

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Born near Trenton, NJ, in 1820, he was ordained in 1846 after graduating from Lafayette College in Easton, PA, and Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

He served in small churches in southeast PA, married in 1848, and was assigned to a larger church in Elkton, MD.

In Maryland he saw slavery first-hand and was repulsed by it; using his position as a minister, he spoke out against it.

In 1853 Reverend Howell was sent to Delaware Water Gap with instructions to build not only a congregation, but a physical church. This assignment leads me to the conclusion that Howell was recognized by the management of the denomination as a young man with a lot of potential.

In just one year Howell had developed a congregation and built a church which is active to this day — the church that my wife and I got married in.

Howell then built a school. He developed the curriculum, taught, and served as principal. It was called the Delaware Water Gap Classical School for Boys. Today that building is the Glenwood Hotel.

In March of 1862 Howell enlisted in the Union Army and was made chaplain of the 90th Pennsylvania. The 90th Pennsylvania was highly involved throughout the Civil War. They were engaged at 2nd Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness.

Howell suffered all the deprivations of a soldier living in the field and performed all the duties of a combat chaplain.

He held church services and prayer meetings, wrote and read letters for the wounded, comforted the dying, and kept morale up and fear and loneliness at bay. He was highly respected by the men in the 90th. He was paid, as were all chaplains who held the rank of captain, \$100 a month plus rations, plus feed for one horse.



On July 1, 1863, a field hospital was set up in a church on Chambersburg Street in Gettysburg. As Confederate forces overran Union troops, the wounded were taken to the church, and Chaplain Howell was there, ministering to the wounded and dying.

Around 4 p.m. he stepped out of the church and stood on the porch. A passing rebel soldier pointed his rifle at Howell and demanded his surrender. There are several variations on what happened next. But there was one eye-witness, Sergeant Archibald Snow, and his written account seems accurate and is the most plausible.

Sergeant Snow writes that Howell was not wearing the prescribed chaplain's uniform, and he was carrying his dress sword. Howell did not follow the protocol for surrendering, which was to raise hands and say 'I surrender.' Sergeant Snow goes on to tell us that Howell attempted a



State Flag of Pennsylvania, Circa 1863

'dignified explanation' of why he was exempt from capture. A shot from the skirmisher's rifle ended the controversy. Rev. Howell was briefly buried in the courtyard of the church until his remains were taken to the Green-Wood cemetery in Brooklyn. He was 42 when he was killed.

There is a monument to Howell on the steps of College Lutheran Church where he was killed. It was placed there in 1889 by the survivors of the 90th Pennsylvania Regiment, a tribute to Horatio Howell and an indication of the deep love and admiration the men held for him. [PHS](#)

Christ Lutheran Church



MEETING NOTES...

In July, a small and enthusiastic band of PHS members explored some of the natural history which abounds in Paradise Township. Led by Carol Hillestad, we followed the Woodland Road trail along Forest Hills Run, part of the Mount Airy Trail Network. From left: Harry Niering, Suzanne Smith, Mary Ellen Flood, Aaron Imbt, Laura Layton, John Layton, and Jane Niering. Not pictured, Jim and Carol Hillestad.



In August, we visited Paradise Lutheran Presbyterian Congregation cemetery. What a difference from our last "clean-up" visit in 2014! Thanks to Supervisors Peter Gonze, Gary Konrath and Reda Briglia, Paradise Township Road Crew keeps the grounds tidy — no longer overgrown with weeds and saplings. Legend has it that several Native Americans are buried in one corner, in unmarked graves.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

MEETING NOTES...

No meeting was held in September, to avoid conflicting with the Township Community Day.

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In October, local historian Rick Smith got us ready for Halloween with harrowing descriptions of the unsolved rampage of brutal serial killer Jack the Ripper in London in 1888. Rick detailed some surprising police-work standards of the day. For instance, although photography was widely used by that time, no one thought to photograph any of the crime scenes. They did make photographs of the victims in the the morgue. Nor were crime scenes protected for evidence-gathering. A fascinating, if gruesome, presentation! [PHS](#)



OCTOBER

**Become a
Member
Today!**

YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!

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

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

**PHS WELCOMES
THESE NEW MEMBERS:**

Nathan Korkolis
Michael and Regina O'Hea

THANK YOU to Mary Ellen Flood,
who volunteered to help Secretary
Laura Layton w/ membership tasks!

*The Directors & Officers of
Paradise Historical Society are:*

Bruce Estell Peter Gonze
Carol Hillestad Aaron Imbt
John Layton Laura Layton
Harold Metzgar Jane Niering
Kim Williams

