

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE

PARADISE



Historical
Society

VOLUME 26 • SPRING 2022



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We're so happy to be back to in-person meetings! To celebrate being together again, we have a great lineup of interesting events for the rest of 2022. Please join us, and support this newsletter by becoming a member!

Jane Jane Niering, *President*

JOIN US FOR COMING PROGRAMS

- June 12 – Visit to Paradise Falls (Chris Matthy)
- July 10 – Round Table Discussion: Growing Up in the Poconos
- August 14 – Picnic at the Roof
- September 11 – Preserving the American Chestnut Tree (John Wenderoth)
- October 2 – Edgar Allen Poe (Rick Smith)
- November 6 – Preserved Land and Open Space in Paradise (Carol Hillestad)

Celebrate 100 Years of Paradise Falls Lutheran Association



This private community was founded in 1922 to offer Lutheran clergy and their families healthful summer getaways, enjoying the fresh air and pure water of the Poconos.

The Board of Directors of PFLA has generously agreed to allow members of the historical society to visit this private cottage colony and walk to the beautiful falls with PFLA member Chris Matthy. Chris will discuss the history of the community.

This meeting is open to members of Paradise Historical Society. Not a member? A membership form is on the back of this newsletter.

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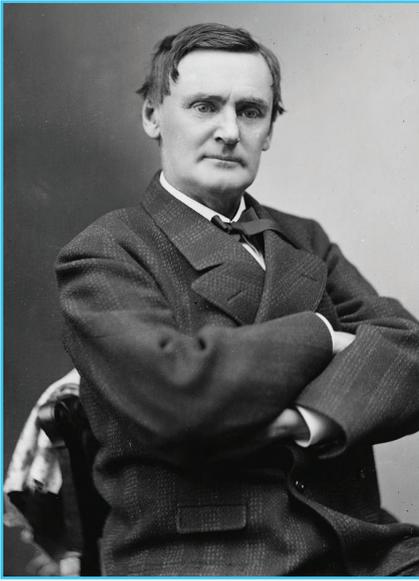
COLLECTING, PRESERVING
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

Spring

A PARADISE CONNECTION

WITH Famous Actors, Artists, & Authors of Old

At our meeting on April 10, 2022, the subject was “Actors, Artists, and Authors” who had connections to Paradise Township. Though some are no longer household names, many of these creative people were at the top of their craft and widely known nationally and even internationally.



JOE JEFFERSON

One of the most famous was Joseph Jefferson. Born into a theatrical family in 1829 in Philadelphia, Joe Jefferson began touring with them as a child, traveling from theater to theater. As itinerant actors they performed anywhere there was an audience, everywhere from Boston to Charleston to Chicago.

His first wife was actress Margaret Clements Lockyer. How Jefferson first came to Paradise isn't known, but he suggested that his father-in-law, Thomas Lockyer, should buy the Paradise Inn, which he did in 1858. It was here that Joe Jefferson developed his most famous role, as *Rip Van Winkle*, a part he played until the end of his life.

His son Thomas Lockyer Jefferson followed in the family business, acting on stage and in silent films. His granddaughter Eleanor Farjeon wrote the poem “Morning Is Broken,” which was immortalized as a hymn, later becoming known internationally in the version recorded by Cat Stevens.



BARTON HILL

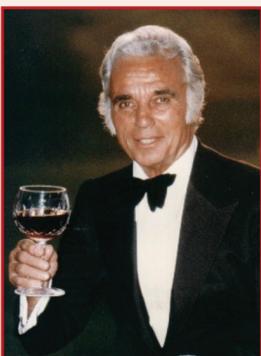
In 1864, actor Barton Hill spent three months at the “Paradise Valley House,” across the street from where Jefferson was staying at the cottage. The two families socialized, and the men enjoyed fishing together.

Hill was acquainted with actor Edwin Booth, brother of John Wilkes Booth. When the assassin's trunk of costumes became available, Hill acquired it and returned it to Edwin Booth.



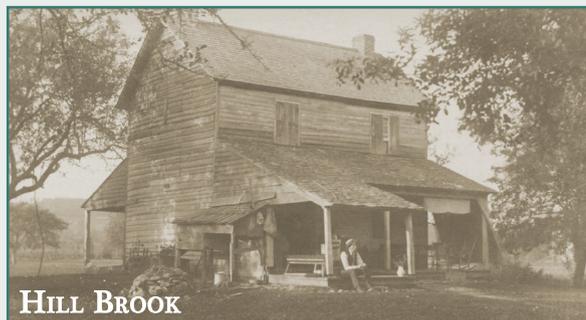
ENZO STUARTI

Italian musical star Enzo Stuarti performed at Pocono Gardens in Paradise Township and other by-gone resorts. He had a home along the Paradise Creek across from Brown's Hill Road. He appeared at Carnegie Hall, the Ed Sullivan Show, the Mike Douglas Show and voicing Ragu spaghetti sauce commercials.



Listed in journal entries of the Kintz store in the 1880s were many purchases by Barton Hill. He lived with his wife Marion, who was also a performer, down the lane at Hill Brook, toward the Paradise Creek, across from Niering's Garage.

In a 1906 manuscript about life in Paradise Valley, Barton Hill writes of others in the “dramatic profession,” who vacationed with their families in the Poconos. Notables included many people well-



known in their day including Laura Keane, J.P. Burnett and Jennie Lee, John Dyott, Robert Stoepel, Mrs. John Drew, and “many other favorites of the New York and Philadelphia theatres,” according to Hill. The grandparents of Meryl Streep, as well as her mother, Mary Wilkinson, were also guests at the Inn.



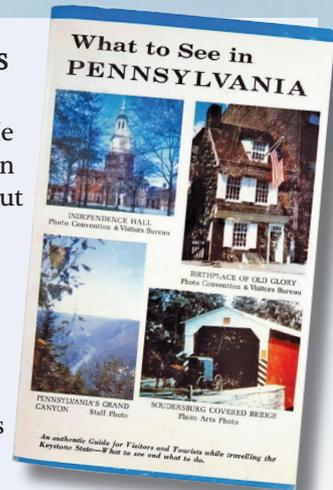
EDNA PALMER ENGLEHARDT (1897 - 1991) grew up in Paradise and lived at Locust Lodge, now Farm on the Hill. She taught art and with her sister Lillian Nauman had a shop in Barrett Township, selling art and gifts. Englehardt still has an enthusiastic regional audience for her work.

After the death of Remington, **CHARLES SCHREYVOGEL** was considered the greatest painter of the frontier West. In the early 1890s, he spent summers here, visiting Barton Hill.

MARION AMES TAGGERT (1866 - 1945) wrote dozens of books for girls with titles like *Nut-Brown Joan* and *The Little Grey House*. Around 1900, she lived in Paradise Valley on what is now Crescent Lodge property. A page in the autograph book of local Catherine Kintz was inscribed by her in 1893.

MACK ALLEN MCPHERSON lived at Hill Brook with Leila Hill Carroll for many years. She was the widow of Mr. Carroll, from Chicago.

A.H. CARSTENS lived in the area into the 1960s. He wrote well-known travel books about Pennsylvania, including *Pennsylvania's Best* in 1960 and *What to See in Pennsylvania* in 1965, and a series of guidebooks called *Discovering Pennsylvania*. 



Kudos and thanks to Bill & Sandy Dietz for preserving and researching records on which this is based, and to John Layton for presenting this interesting program.

PHS Historic Marker Project *Continues*

The historical society has created a number of historic markers which have been erected at important sites in Paradise Township, including Parkside Chapel, the site of the Forest Inn, and the site of the former Elk Farm.

At the society's April 10 meeting, Bill and Sandy Dietz were presented with a marker celebrating the Paradise Inn. The beautiful building is an icon of the Township, continuously occupied since 1838, as tavern, inn, resort, shop, and, today, private home. The Dietzes value the history embodied in the Inn and its outbuildings, and everyone who cares about the important stories and people of the past are grateful to them for their stewardship!



Photo: Kim Williams

PHS vice president John Layton presented a historic marker to Bill and Sandy Dietz, owners and protectors of the Paradise Inn, at the corner of Paradise Valley Road and Red Rock Road in Paradise Valley.



The plaque reads: "This site is recognized by the Paradise Historical Society as an important location for its contribution to the history and character of the township. The original structure was a small tavern built in 1838 by George Bowman and David Edinger. It had two rooms over the bar area. Areas of the tavern have been preserved. The tavern served as a meeting place, even including elections. During the mid-1800s, it became a full resort with rooms and meals provided. Numerous additions were made to the structure. The Kintz and Stapff families were the principal owners and operators from the early 1800s until 1981 when it ceased operation. The Inn served vacationers from far and wide seeking fresh air and open space." 

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Celebrate 100 Years of Paradise Falls Lutheran Association

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Did You Know...?

- The grounds of Paradise Falls Lutheran Association encompass several early farmlands, and today is more than 300 acres, mostly forested land.
- Lake Crawford was formed by damming the Paradise Creek, and was named after an early resident.
- “Nestledown” was an inn for many years and hosted families for summer vacations, providing room and board.
- A camp for girls flourished at PFLA for many years.
- In the early days, visitors could visit the falls in summer by paying five cents at the tollbooth.
- Many current PFLA families are descended from original owners. 

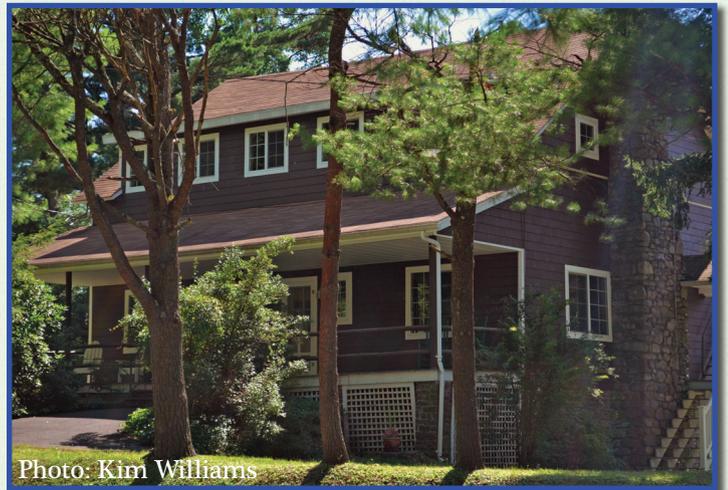


Photo: Kim Williams

**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+) - \$8.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple - \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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:

Patrick & Jean Connor
Jeanette Friedman
Tom Galluci & Michaelynn Myers
Carole McGary
Doris Ressler
Linford & Pauline Werkheiser

The Directors & Officers of Paradise Historical Society are:

Bruce Estell Peter Gonze
Carol Hillestad Aaron Imbt
John Layton Laura Layton
Harold Metzgar Jane Niering
Sandy Dietz

