

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE

PARADISE



VOLUME 32 • Fall 2023

Historical
Society

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This coming December, Paradise Historical Society plans to publish an illustrated book summarizing the history of the Township to mark the 175th anniversary of the Township's founding. A lot has happened since 1848! In words, photos, maps, ads, and other artifacts, the book gives an overview of the history of Paradise Township. For publication date and details, watch for the winter newsletter, or go to www.paradisehistorical.org.

Until then, enjoy nature's gorgeous fall display in beautiful Paradise Township!

Jane Jane Niering, *President*



A Visit to "THE BROWN HOUSE"

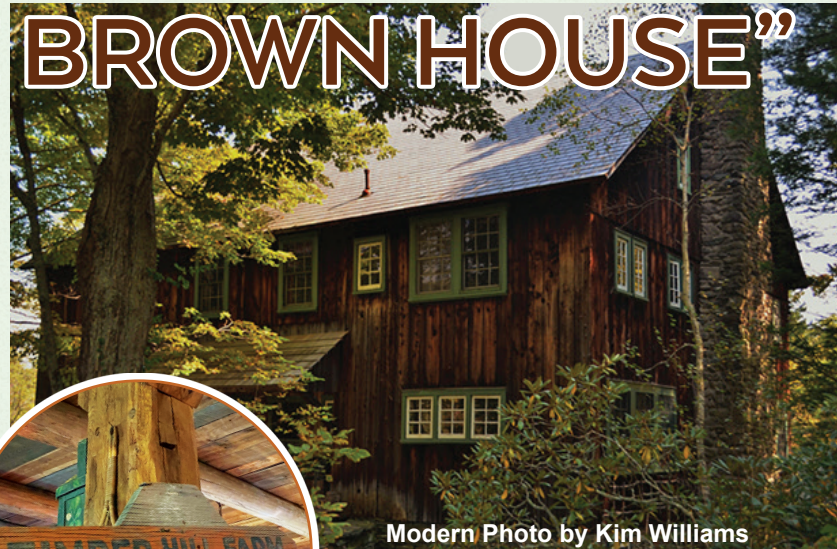
Tucked away on a ridge above Forest Hills Run seems to be a farm that time forgot. Established in the late 1800s and operated ever since, at first glance you would think it hasn't changed over all those years.

But if you look a little more closely, as members of PHS had a chance to do on October 1, 2023, you'll find solar panels, a geothermal heating system, heat pumps, and brand-new buildings, built of old wood.

Eddie Donaldson Stevens welcomed about 30 members of the Historical Society to visit the Brown House — the original bank barn converted into a five-bedroom summerhouse — and told the farm's history, sharing many historic photos.

Eddie's father, Roderick Donaldson, of Ardmore, PA, bought 90 acres in 1916 (for \$1800) from Jacob Smith, who had inherited the land from his brother Amos just two years earlier. He acquired smaller contiguous parcels from a farmer called Hardenstine.

Continued on Page 3



Modern Photo by Kim Williams



Photo from 1927

COLLECTING, PRESERVING
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

fall

SCHEDULE I - Free Inhabitants in Paradise Township in the County of Alleghene

enumerated by me, on the twentieth day of Sept. 1850. Silas Drake

Household	Name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Age	Sex	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of such Male Persons over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Marital Status			Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
							Married	Single	Widowed	
966 966	Jacob B. Deel	37	M	Blacksmith	200	Penna				
	Burdeman	6	M							
	Lida Bidler	24	F							
	Silvester Hester	1	M							
	John Stocker	24	M	Laborer						
967 967	Jacob Shuck	23	M		200					
	Sarah	20	F							
	James	18	M							
	Mary Shuck	14	F							
968 968	James Wilcox	50	M	Farmer		England				
	Isabella	40	F			Ireland				
	John	21	M	Laborer		Penn				
	Mariah	14	F							
	James	8	M							
	Mary Ann	6	F							
	Sarah	4	F							
	Kathleen	1	F			Poland				
	Francis Poland	60	M	Laborer		Poland				
969 969	John Stocker	29	M	Farmer	400	Penna				
	Amelia	27	F							
	Mary A.	25	F							
	Henry	1	M							
	Kannah Pencil	22	F			England				
970 970	George Barley	27	M	Laborer	150					
	Ann	26	F							
	James	2	M							
971 971	Christian Seibenbaumert		M	Farmer	900	Germany				
	Cristian	45	F			Penna				
	Jacob	14	M							
	Christian	12	M							
	Catherine	10	F							
972 972	Jacob Crotter	27	M	Farmer		Germany				
	Magdalena	21	F			Penna				
	John	4	M							
	Mary Ann	7	F							
	Charles	5	M							
	Jacob S.	3	M							
	Henry	5	M							
973 973	George Wilkey	26	M	Farmer	500	Penn				
	Elizabeth	22	F							
	John	5	M							
	Thomas	2	M							

Paradise Population Yesterday & Today

BY **SANDY DIETZ** CHAIR, **PHS GENEALOGY COMMITTEE**

The Paradise Township website (paradisetownship.com) states that the township currently serves 2,899 residents. Let's compare that with some information from earlier in our history.

Paradise was organized in the fall of 1848, from part of Price Township, and the first census was conducted two years later, in September 1850, by Silas Drake. Silas was from Stroudsburg and came north to make the count.

He found a total of 73 separate households with 428 people (231 male, 197 female) living within the confines of the township. The majority of those identified as head of household were farmers or skilled tradesmen (cooper, tanner, blacksmith, wheelwright, carpenter, lumberman). Additionally, we had merchants, innkeepers, weavers, a miller, and a couple shoemakers. While the majority of residents were born in Pennsylvania, the census also identified those born in New Jersey, England, and Germany.

Page one of Paradise Township's 1850 Census

In 1860, the population grew by 64% to a total of 700 people (in 117 households). Interestingly, the 1860 census shows that there were more employment opportunities available, partially due to the railroad coming through the township. We can see many entries for people who were day laborers and teamsters. In addition to the points of origin mentioned above, this is the first time that we see people coming here, having been

born in New Hampshire, Maine, Ireland, Switzerland, and France. While some people moved on — maybe to a new job opportunity, or to be closer to family — the core names remained the same over decades: Koerner, Warner, Anglemeyer, Learn, Storm, Heller, Price, Henry, Bowman, Bush, Koch, Transue, Hilgert, Coffman, Kintz, Koerner, and Utt (among many others).


Think how the Township has grown and changed from those early days!

If you are a descendant of any Paradise resident and want to share their story, please contact the genealogy committee at: paradisehistorical.genealogy@gmail.com

Remember your Roots... Sandy 

"Preserve your memories, keep them well; what you forget, you can never retell."
— Louisa May Alcott

Interested in Local History?
GO TO ParadiseHistorical.org

Paradise Historical Society's website is chock-full of information. You'll find an archive of previous issues of *Paradise Past*, audios of meeting presentations going back more than ten years, and much more. 


HOME | MEETING SCHEDULE | MEMBERSHIP | ARTIFACTS | CONTACT US

The Paradise Historical Society presented...
The Civilian Conservation Corps and Promised Land State Park


Walking Tours of Stroudsburg

Offered by Monroe County Historical Association

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Monroe Historical Association offers one-hour walking tours of Stroudsburg, our county seat. Volunteers share stories about the people and places that built the borough. Do you know where the vinegar factory was? Or the Indian Queen Hotel? Or eerie stories of the county jail in Courthouse Square? Call MCHA at 570-421-7703 to book a tour, or go to monroehistorical.org.



Photo courtesy MCHA
by Peter Olwyler, 1951

PHS

A Visit to “THE BROWN HOUSE”

Continued from Page 1

Donaldson named the place Timber Hill Farm after the nearby creek (today’s Forest Hills Run).

One of Donaldson’s children suffered from asthma, and doctors had suggested the clean, pure air of the Poconos as therapy. He converted the barn to accommodate the family for the summer, with an enormous fieldstone fireplace for heat, windows everywhere, and screened-in porches. A four-room log cabin served as the resident farmer’s house. Until the 1930s, when power was installed, the buildings used kerosene lamps for light and an icebox to keep perishables cold. The spring-fed farm pond provided the ice, which was stored in the stone icehouse which still stands. Later, the log

cabin was painted white in 1927, and a large stone addition was built in the 1930s for the family. A new farmhouse and barn were built just down the lane at the same time.

After the death of his first wife, Donaldson married Edie’s mother in 1932. He moved his family to the farm full-time in 1943, when Edie was a child.

In 1977, Edie came back to Timber Hill Farm full-time. In 1999, she placed the property in a conservation easement with Wildlands Conservancy, protecting it from development by future owners. When she won the Pocono Mountain fire company raffle in 2010, she used the money to install an array of solar panels. Now there are two, which provide electricity for both her home and the Brown House.

A new workshop was recently built — also equipped with solar panels. In keeping with Edie and her son’s conservation ethic, the new construction re-used lumber from an old building on the site, along with lumber milled with a portable sawmill from ash trees which had been killed by the emerald ash borer.

The exterior walls of the Brown House are planks of hemlock, and the door frames and other interior details are of chestnut. The ceiling beams are tree-sized logs. Sitting there by the roaring fireplace, listening to Edie tell the story, it’s easy to imagine the generations of family and friends who have stayed here — and to fervently hope that Timber Hill Farm remains unchanged forever.

PHS




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

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Cresco, PA

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED


Has This Ever Happened to You?

A member of PHS was talking with a new acquaintance about the history of the Township. The Ace Store came up — and the newcomer asked where that could be? He'd never seen an Ace hardware store locally. The mystery was quickly cleared up — today's hardware chain is one thing, and our own Ace Store is quite another! The Ace Store still stands at the corner of Red Rock and Carlton, moved from its original position right on the roadside by its current, fifth-generation owner. 



The general store John M. Ace opened in 1890, pictured here in its early days, has no relation to the nationwide hardware chain.

**COMING
Soon...**

On November 5, 2023 at 2:00 we meet at Paradise Township Municipal Building at 5912 Paradise Valley Road, Cresco for a talk by John Layton, part of a series John calls *Treasures From the Attic*. Over its long life, the Ace Store attic has been home to everything from old glass bottles and rag rugs to rare antiques and historical papers. John will share his findings at this not-to-be missed meeting. Refreshments will be served. 

PHS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Emanuel & Loretta Butera Jane Hunter Smith
Tom Woodward Jennifer Manson Silverman

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 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

Fall 2023

The Directors & Officers of
Paradise Historical Society are:

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Bruce Estell Treasurer

Peter Gonze

Carol Hillestad Editor

Aaron Imbt Archivist & Designer

John Layton Vice President

Laura Layton

Harold Metzgar

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