

# Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE

VOLUME 30 • Spring 2023

PARADISE



Historical  
Society

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Paradise Township was created on November 26, 1848, divided off from a portion of Price Township. According to the Monroe County Historical Association, the name "Paradise" was chosen to reflect its beautiful natural scenery.

That means that November 26, 2023 will mark our 175th year! We are working on a short history of the Township to celebrate. Stay tuned...

*Jane* Jane Niering, *President*



DID YOU KNOW... The Word for a 175 Year Anniversary is demisemiseptcentennial?

## A SWEET WALK IN THE WOODS

## AT DUTCH HILL PRESERVES



At our March 2023 meeting Laleña Stirr, who with her husband Mike Stirr co-owns Dutch Hill Preserves in Canadensis, gave a fascinating discussion and tour of maple sugaring — the process that turns maple sap into maple syrup.

"Mike and I started about 24 years ago, ordering buckets off of eBay," she said. "Our oldest son was an infant. I worked around his nap-time with a baby monitor on my hip, collecting sap." Back then, their "sugar house" was a canning vat over a wood fire in the yard.

Today, they have miles of tubing on their own property. They manage sugar bush on other lands in the area, and have a total of 3,000 taps on trees.

Because of the mild winter, 2023 has been a banner year for maple syrup.

"It's hard to compare year to year," Laleña says, "because sap production is a natural process that depends on the weather." Ideal sugar-making weather is sunny 40-degree days with a breeze from the west.

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# Spring

COLLECTING, PRESERVING  
& DISSEMINATING  
PARADISE HISTORY



# A SWEET WALK IN THE WOODS AT DUTCH HILL PRESERVES Continued from Page 1

In an average year, they will produce 300 gallons for their Dutch Hill Preserves label.

“This year it will be 500 gallons, because we were able to get the taps in early. So we began making

syrup in mid January. Instead of our usual 10-week season, we were collecting sap up until March 24.”

Dutch Hill Preserves sells their maple syrup, fruit preserves, and toppings at local farm markets and

online through their website [www.dutchhillpreserves.com](http://www.dutchhillpreserves.com).

An audio of the PHS visit is in the “Artifacts” section of our website [www.paradisehistorical.org](http://www.paradisehistorical.org)

[PHS](#)



**Laleña Stirr, a founder and operator of Dutch Hill Preserves, gave the historical society a tour of the sugar bush and sugaring operation.**



**Mike Stirr, a founder and operator of Dutch Hill Preserves, explained the distillation process - from tree sap to maple syrup.**

## How Many Ancestors Do **you** Have? by Sandy Dietz, Genealogy Committee Chair

**Y**ou probably have more ancestors than you are aware of! We tend to think of our parents, grand-parents, and even great grand-parents, but that’s only the beginning! The math is easy: we double the number of ancestors with each generation: So we have 2 parents, 4 grand-parents, and 8 great-grandparents. If we go back 10 generations, we have the potential for 1,024 ancestors!

**Below is the representation of the Inverted Pyramid Theory of Doubling Ancestors:**

- 1024 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS**
- 512 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS**
- 256 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS**
- 128 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS**
- 64 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS**
- 32 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS**
- 16 GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS**
- 8 GREAT-GRANDPARENTS**
- 4 GRANDPARENTS**
- 2 PARENTS**
- SELF**

But we need to remember that the 1,024 number of ancestors could be a little less. For example, because the population base was smaller, historically, there were marriages between second cousins, especially in small communities. This is the case in my own family tree — my great-grandparents were second cousins. That means that their grandparents were siblings.

How many ancestors can you identify in your own family tree?

*Remember your Roots... Sandy*  
**[ParadiseHistorical.Genealogy@gmail.com](mailto:ParadiseHistorical.Genealogy@gmail.com)**

[PHS](#)

*“Walking, I am listening in a deeper way. Suddenly all my ancestors are behind me. Be still, they say. Watch and listen. You are the result of the love of thousands.”*

*— Linda Hogan*

# Keeping the Past Alive: The Archives of Paradise Historical Society


On November 22, 2009, a civic-minded group met at the Ace Store in East Swiftwater. Their purpose: to collect, preserve, and share the history of Paradise Township.

That was the birthday of Paradise Historical Society.

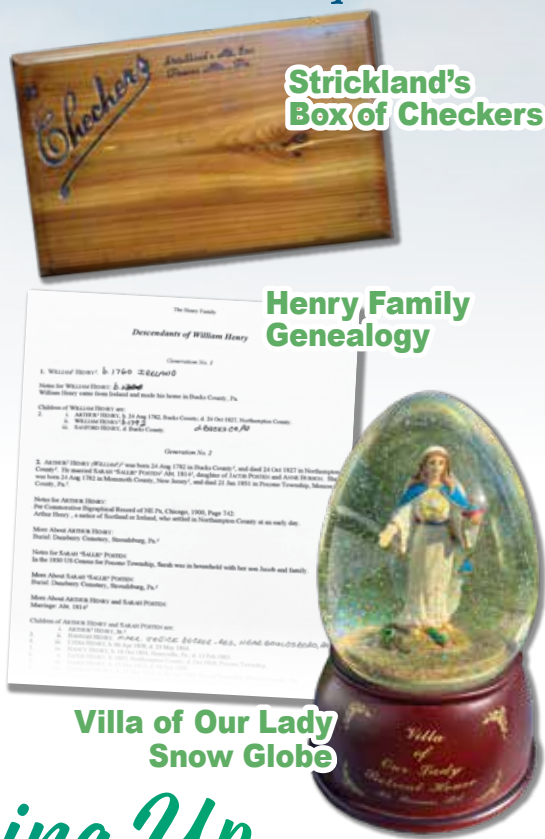
Subjects for meetings were discussed. The founders realized that sharing stories of Paradise history at meetings was important... but also knew that information needed to be documented, recorded, and preserved.

Aaron Imbt became the Society's Archivist. In addition Aaron has faithfully recorded virtually every meeting of PHS. "Anyone can listen to the audio recordings online," he says. The subjects are as varied as the Township's history.

Some examples:

- The story of the beginnings of **Paradise Brook Trout Company** is told by the late Beth Martin who operated the hatchery with her father for many years.
- The story of "**Pocono Labs**" — now **Sanofi Pasteur** — by Jeff Widmer.
- All about the history of **The Willing Workers**, as told by Betty Williams, one of its first members. Learn about how "**The Roof**" park came to be.
- The story of **Pocono Mountain Inn** — "**PMI in the Sky**" — is told by Michael Fossa who grew up there. PMI is now **Skywood Park**, where you can see remains of the Inn.
- And dozens more! 

## Some Recent Acquisitions



## Local Topics Coming Up

So far this year, we've had a field trip to Dutch Hill Preserves to learn about maple sugaring and a talk by author John Abel about his new book *Silent Legacies*. It's the story of Reverend Horatio Howell, chaplain to the 90th Pennsylvania Regiment — and what happened during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Coming up:

May 7, 2023 at 2:00 **Learn about the 400-acre Kurmes Preserve** with naturalist and educator Don Miller. Bring a lawn chair for this outdoor program off Devil's Hole Rd. Don will share information about this open-to-the-public woodland and the Flood of 1955, the railroad, and remains of railroad related

structures. If you choose, a short, flat, easy walk will lead to a vernal pool with spring wildflowers along the way. This program is outdoors and takes place drizzle or shine.

For directions go to [www.paradisehistorical.org](http://www.paradisehistorical.org).



June 4, 2023 at 2:00 **Potluck Picnic at The Roof**. Everyone loves potluck! Members are asked to bring side dishes or desserts to supplement the main dish and beverages provided by PHS. The Roof Park is off Keokee Chapel Road. Come share a meal, conversation, and some laughter!

July 2, 2023 to be announced.

August 6, 2023 at 2:00 **The Story of the Civilian Conservation Corps and Promised Land** presented by Peter Gonze. During the Depression, young men from around the country joined the CCC to build important public works,

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## Local Topics *Coming Up*

*Continued from Page 3*


make a living, and send money home to the family. Learn about their role right here in our backyard.

September 2023: No meeting scheduled. Members are encouraged to attend the Township picnic and "Community Day".

October 1, 2023 at 2:00 **Visit the historic Brown House**, guests of the owner, Edie Stevens, who will tell us

about the history of this uniquely beautiful place. This is a "members only" event.

November 5, 2023 at 2:00 **Treasures From the Attic** by John Layton. The attic at the former Ace Store in Swiftwater has been the repository of everything from old glass bottles and rag rugs to unusual antiques and historical papers. John will share his findings at this not-to-be missed meeting.

December 3, 2023 at 2:00 **PHS Holiday Party Open House at the Ace Store**. Members are invited to bring refreshments to share. Beverages provided. 

### PHS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

**Ken & Sandy Brown**

**Emmanuel & Loretta Butera**

**Roy & Sheila Clark**

**Donald & Christine Hannig**

**Bud & Debbie Harrison**

**Robert Hergenhan**

**David Pohl & Jeffrey Berger**

**Andrew Porter Family**

**Kathryn Watto**

**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 |

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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



Spring 2023

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

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**AARON G. IMBT design**

**agimbt.design@gmail.com**