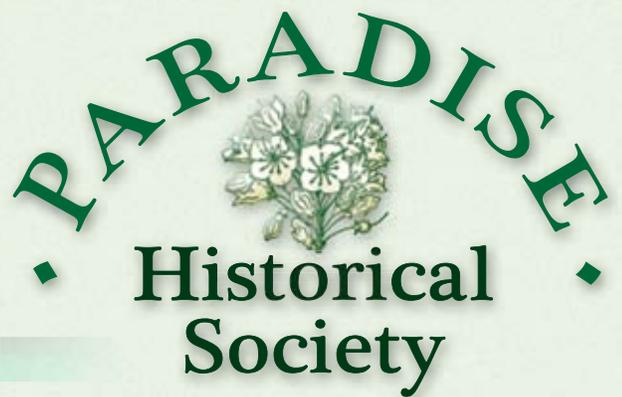


# Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE



WINTER 2014 • Volume 8, Issue 3

## President's Letter

2014 is off to a lively start at your Historical Society. You'll find reports of winter meetings in this issue of Paradise Past, along with queries from fellow members and the interesting final installment of Dan Hamblin's talk about life at the Devil's Hole. Though we are a young organization, we are working diligently toward establishing a permanent home for the information and artifacts donated by members and friends. We welcome your thoughts on this — and any other! — subject.

*Coming up:* **March 2:** field trip to Trinity Episcopal Church, **April 6:** TBD, **May 4:** field trip to Ransberry Cemetery, **June 1:** Fred Lehrer will share his research on Abraham Lincoln, and then, **July 6:** a potluck picnic at The Roof park. Hope to see you there!

Check out [paradisehistorical.org](http://paradisehistorical.org) for the latest on upcoming meetings, extensive audio archives of past presentations, great historical photos and much more!

*Carol*

Carol Hillestad, *President*

## HISTORICAL SHOW & TELL

February 2, 2014, otherwise known as Groundhog Day, was an occasion for the PHS to have a short business meeting followed by a "show and tell." Super Bowl 48 also happened to fall on Groundhog Day this year, but that did not deter an enthusiastic group from gathering. Many members brought an interesting collection of artifacts to show and discuss.

Paul Reisch, who resides at the Paradise Falls Lutheran Association brought a 100,000 year old piece of bald cypress to show. It was discovered about 50 years ago when the Philadelphia subway was being excavated. The entire base of the tree was found during the digging and pieces were cut up and distributed to residents of the area where the tree was found.

Jane Niering provided us with historical documentation from 1886 entitled "The History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe County" by Alfred Mathews.

Next, Jack Hamblin shared some history of the young adult baseball league that existed in the 1920s. He had a well preserved early Paradise wool uniform along with high-top socks, baseball hats and a sign bearing the words "Baseball Swiftwater - A.C."

Ellen Davis shared a log cabin quilt believed to be made by Elizabeth Heckman, Skip Davis's grandmother. The quilt was beautiful and illustrated fine workmanship. We also received some tips on maintaining old quilts.

Harley Collins shared pictures taken of the silver fox farm operated by his parents from 1930 to 1939. It was observed that during this period of time there were several fox and mink farms in the Paradise area.

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Ellen Davis shows a  
log cabin quilt

# Winter

COLLECTING, PRESERVING &  
DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY



# Life AT THE Devil's Hole THE ELK & THE GAMELANDS



In our last issue, excerpts from Dan Hamblin's talk about the history of his family property on the west rim of Devil's Hole Creek focused on the railroad and the aftermath of the 1955 flood. In this issue of "Paradise Past," Dan concludes the story. Audio and hard-copy versions of Dan's talk are available for members of the Society.

Today's Pennsylvania State Gameland #221 also has a fascinating history. The portion nearest the Hamblin property was an original landgrant to Isaac Gibbons. Later, a wealthy New Yorker named Carl Tielinius, who imported food from around the world became fascinated with the area. During the 1880s, Carl and his wife were passengers on a train going through the Poconos when his wife suffered a heart attack. They got off the train at Mt. Pocono to seek medical help.

While Mrs. Tielinius stayed in Mt. Pocono recovering, Carl would come to visit her on weekends. On one occasion, he rented a horse and buggy to explore the area — and fell in love with the Devil's Hole. He bought 1,600 acres, included much of the canyon, fenced it all in, and stocked it with elk, bear, and deer. The elk, which are plentiful in his native Sweden, were brought by freight train from Wyoming. Carl built an attractive two-story stone lodge one-half mile up the canyon, with a road and bridges connecting it with Devil's Hole Road. He also planted trees and vines imported from all over the world in the canyon, some of which you can spot to this day.

Carl moved to Mt. Pocono, where he built his residence, and also a riding academy, a unique, 10-sided building called the Tandem. According to Shirley Lansdowne, the Tandem was located behind the present-day Wendy's restaurant, and his residence and other outbuildings were nearby, in the general direction of Route 196. The last of these buildings to be demolished may be remembered by old timers as "Raffo Pines," a small resort off 611 a short distance north of Wendy's. These buildings are pictured in my 1893 book of Mt. Pocono area scenes. He entertained dignitaries at his hunting lodge in the canyon, including Teddy Roosevelt.

After Tielinius's death, his daughter Marie lived in the canyon retreat for several years. The fence around the park gradually deteriorated, allowing the elk to escape. Many were killed by trains or poachers. In 1925, the State Game Commission sponsored a legal elk season, which was a sellout — and essentially the end of elk in the Poconos.

I should mention that Tielinius also developed the Fieldstone Farm property off Devil's Hole Road in Coolbaugh Township, which was recently purchased by Pocono Heritage Land Trust.

Eventually, Carl's daughter sold the canyon property to local hotel owner Thomas F.J. Howlett, who improved the lodge as something of a small resort, built a ski-tow on the side of the canyon, and added two large outdoor fireplaces with cornerstones dated 1946. The resort burned around 1950, Mr. Howlett died, and the flood of 1955 washed out the road and bridges.

From 1945 to 1955, Ben Williams, Sr., who lived on Devil's Hole Road (in the stone house where his son Ben still lives) was a member of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. A dedicated hunter and outdoorsman, Ben worked tirelessly for eight years to create State Gameland #221. He eventually succeeded in having the state purchase the Howlett land, as well as portions of the huge S.S. Kresge estate on the mountain behind Cresco and Mountainhome, creating the 4,500 acre Gameland which we have today.

Williams once said that was the last huge land transaction in Monroe County. He is remembered and honored by the monument near our house.

## Help! Who, What, When and Where?



At the PHS "Show and Tell," Skip Davis provided some cancelled envelopes that were from the 1940's and 1950's bearing the return addresses of various apparent commercial establishments that may have been in Paradise Township. Interestingly, the cancelled stamps were 3 cents each. We need help in identifying these establishments. Therefore, if you know the "who, what, when or where" about these places please contact the PHS. You can contact John Layton via email at [ldlayton@ptd.net](mailto:ldlayton@ptd.net), by phone at 570-839-5702 or write to PHS at PO Box 94, Henryville, PA 18332.

- Paradise Farm, Swiftwater, postmarked 1943 and 1947
- Mountain Rest Farm, Henryville, postmarked 1954
- Lone Pine Inn, Henryville, postmarked 1942 and 1945
- Springview House and Farm, Paradise Township, postmarked 1942

Also shared by Leeanne Dyson was a postcard pictured to the left that is a mystery to us. We could use help in identifying the location of this establishment: High-Wood Farm, in Henryville.

# PARADISE FROM THE SKY

The first Paradise Historical Society meeting of 2014 began with the expectation of rain, possible snow and freezing temperatures. Nonetheless, an enthusiastic group met at the Paradise Township building to learn about "Paradise from the Sky in 1939." Glenn Ryerson and Kim Williams, both PHS members, had prepared an interesting program based on Penn Pilot Aerial photos. The program included aerial photographs from 1939 and a well diagrammed map showing the modern road system. The changes in highways were evident from the photos as well as the effects of the flood of 1955 on several waterways. Those present were interested in seeing what their properties looked like in 1939. The photographs showed a landscape that was void of trees where trees now exist and forested where homes are now located. Old landmarks were obvious, including the Paradise Fish Hatchery and the intersections of main roads. During a previous meeting, the PHS group made a field trip to the site of the former Pocono Mountain Inn and now the site of Skywood Park. We were able to see from the sky the former Inn that no longer exists.



As the program progressed, rain could be seen falling outside. The program had held the attendees' attention and finally a text message from a spouse not present warning us of the freezing moisture on the roads brought the presentation to an end. After cake and beverages from the Friendly Community Center in recognition of the support of the Paradise Historical Society members, we departed and found a frozen parking lot.

FOR MORE GREAT AERIAL PHOTOS OF PA FROM THE 1930s TO THE 1970s, VISIT [pennpilot.psu.edu](http://pennpilot.psu.edu)



## HISTORICAL SHOW & TELL

From Page 1

Beth Reindl brought the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book of Paradise Falls Lutheran Association featuring the community's 87 original homes.

Dan Hamblin donated several items on behalf of the Hamblin/Bowman family to the historical society. Included in the items was an envelope postmarked "Parkside, PA." Apparently at one time parts of Paradise Township were known by the postal designation of Parkside.

John Layton shared aids to hearing from 1900 and 1928. The 1900 aid was known as the "London Dome" and the 1928 aid was the "Acousticon Silver Anniversary Model 56."

Laura Layton shared an Edna Palmer Englehardt floral painting and a similar painting created by a student Cora Carlton. Ms. Englehardt was one of the most well-known artists from Paradise Township. Apparently one of Englehardt's teaching techniques was to paint a scene and have the students paint the same scene.

Others contributed photographs, newspaper clippings and advertising materials. The broad spectrum of items was illustrative of the many aspects of local history. The first show and tell was well received, and very informative.

*Top Photo:* John & Laura Layton with paintings by Edna Palmer Englehardt and her student Cora Carlton

*Bottom Photo:* Jack Hamblin holds an antique sign bearing the words "Baseball Swiftwater - A.C."

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

Non Profit  
**US POSTAGE  
PAID**  
Standard  
Permit No. 1848  
Mailed from 18326



PHS has received inquiries from people interested in Paradise history and attempts to find answers or refer the questions to people who might be able to respond. In an effort to further facilitate answering inquiries, we are including some questions in our newsletter to see if we can better serve our readers.

Recently we received correspondence from two of our members who do not live in the area, asking for assistance in documenting points of interest or ancestors. Their requests are paraphrased in this newsletter. If you have information that may help answer the questions raised we would appreciate you providing such information to the historical society.

First we are looking for information on the spring known as "Whiskey Man Spring" located on state route 940 north of the railroad overpass. The origin of this spring's name is unknown and of interest to one of our members. While the spring is not located in Paradise Township, but rather in Mount Pocono, it is very close to the border.

Second, Bush Road appears to have been so named for the Bush family that lived on the road. The genealogy of the Bush family is of interest to another of our members. He has inquired specifically about an Abraham Bush from the Henryville area and any connection that may have existed with the Bushes of Bush Road.

Any information about either of these subjects would be greatly appreciated. Your input may be provided to PO Box 94, Henryville, PA 18332 or with an email to [ldlayton@ptd.net](mailto:ldlayton@ptd.net).

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!

Emma G. Arndt                      Jo Murray

Donald Collins                      Margaret Simpson

Richard Collins

Paul and Lisa Fancher              Clark and  
Marjorie Smith

Joan and  
Chuck Hanning                      Linda Stevenson

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!** Please help Paradise Historical Society collect, protect & 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

