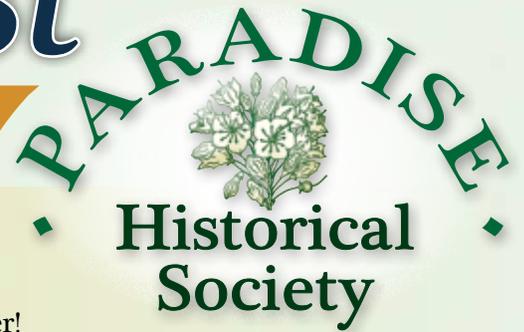


# Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE

VOLUME 24 • SUMMER 2021



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

What a pleasure it has been to be able to meet each other in person again this summer! We hope to be able to continue to meet safely. Check our website for information on future meetings.

The PHS is always looking for assistance in keeping our organization a vibrant part of our community. For the past 12 years we have been fortunate to have great volunteers to help us in this regard from preparing and addressing these newsletters to putting on programs to bringing refreshments and serving as officers and members of the board of directors. There are many ways to help out, most taking just an hour or so a month. If you believe you could assist in any aspect of our organization, please contact Laura or John Layton at [ldlayton@ptd.net](mailto:ldlayton@ptd.net)

*Jane* Jane Niering, *President*

## COLLECTING, PRESERVING & DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

Parkside and the Nash Family

# WHO WAS THE NASH FAMILY?

*by Pat Paretta*

A remarkable feature of the historic Parkside Chapel is its beautiful stained glass window depicting a figure of Christ with a child in his arms and another at his knee. The inscription at the bottom reads:

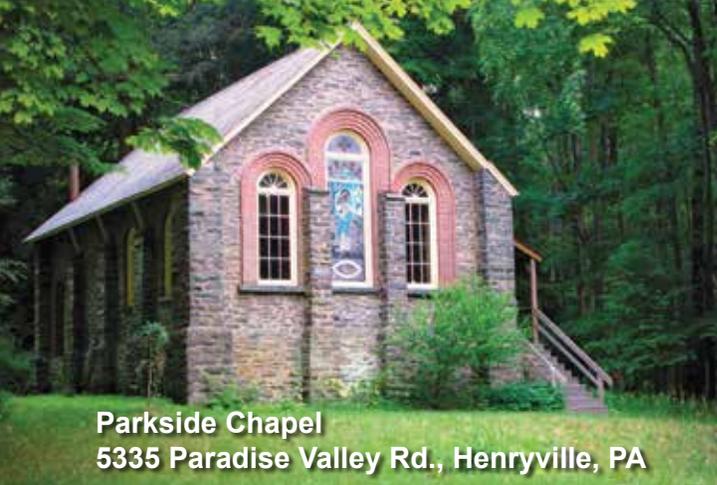
**In Memorium (sic) of  
Ada D. Nash  
Jay M. Nash  
By their loving Mother**

The parents of these two children were Job M. Nash and Frances V. Phillips Nash. Job was born in 1818 in Zanesville, Ohio, and Francis was born in 1822 in New York City. The Nash family spent time during their life in New York, Cincinnati, and LaFayette, Indiana. Sources suggest that in addition to being a "money lender," Mr. Nash was a wealthy industrialist, active in the tobacco and liquor trade, and that during the Civil War he traveled to New Orleans with a cargo, presumably of these provisions.

*Continued on Page 2*



*Summer*



**Parkside Chapel**  
5335 Paradise Valley Rd., Henryville, PA

# Parkside and the Nash Family WHO WAS THE NASH FAMILY?

*by Pat Paretta*

*Continued from Page 1*

Their daughter Ada was born in 1866 in New York and died of scarlatina in 1869. Jay was born in 1868 in NY and died at the age of 1 year and 7 months in 1870. His burial place is possibly in Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York, though he is memorialized in the Nash family plot.

The will of Job M. Nash probated in 1893 was valued at \$268,000.00. Many benefactors of the will, after his wife and family members, were churches, schools, hospitals and homes for widows, men and children. Kenyon College in Gambien, Ohio, had a Nash Scholarship fund and is still in existence today.

The Nash family is buried in the White Plains Rural Cemetery, in Westchester, NY. It contains a large bust of Job, a statue of the children similar to the window in the chapel

and a monument to their mother. The original bust of Mr. Nash was sculpted in 1884 by Preston Powers and presented to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The duplicate bust in the cemetery was produced by Hoffman and Pochizca, the leading monument artists at the time.

The cornerstone for Parkside Chapel was laid in 1893. The question arises: Did Frances finance the construction of the whole Chapel or just the stained glass window? Many "old timers" believe the window was done by Tiffany and Son, though this story has not been verified. The Henryville fly fishing communities were very prominent at that time

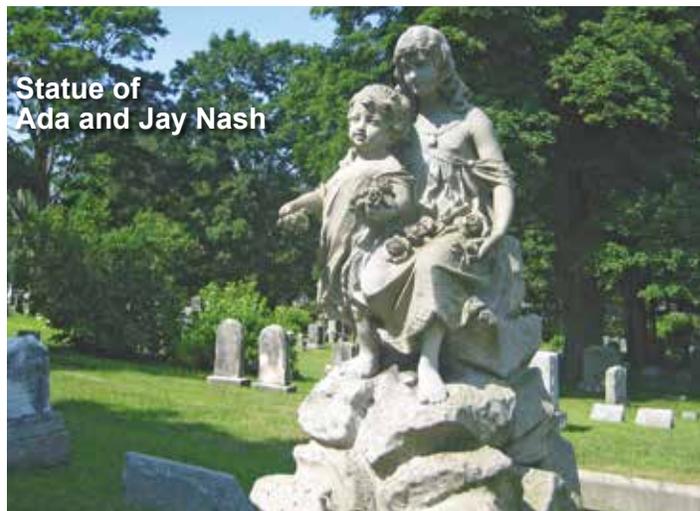


also, but we cannot find any documentary connection with them either.

Among the many family names associated with Nash were: Phillips, Wood, Bushnell, Eagleton, Peshine, Ball, and Riggs. If you have any of these names in your ancestry around 1870 to 1907, please contact Jean Wiarda, at [jwiarda@ptd.net](mailto:jwiarda@ptd.net). She is an ancestry buff who has spent many hours researching the Nash family and would really love to solve the connection of the family to Parkside Chapel! [PHS](#)



**Nash Family Plot at  
White Plains Rural Cemetery  
in Westchester NY**



**Statue of  
Ada and Jay Nash**

# A Thumbnail History *by Pat Paretta* OF THE Parkside Chapel

The corner stone for the Parkside Chapel was laid in 1893 and construction was completed in 1897. The chapel was built to serve guests of the former Park House Hotel and the Henryville House, two early Pocono resorts which were adjacent to the property and no longer exist.

Wesley C. Henry, the owner of the Park House, and his wife Annie Spragle Henry gave a portion of their land to be used for the building of the Chapel. The chapel was incorporated on September 11, 1897 by W.P. Oglesby, Wesley C. Henry, J.F. Chamberlain, David W. Henry (the station master of the Henryville Station) and Augustus Besecker, many of whom were residents of Paradise Valley.

The chapel was built without electricity or running water and has neither today.

The interior of the chapel remains as we believe it was in 1897. The pump organ is dated earlier, in 1885. It was refurbished in 2020 and is played every Sunday. The wooden chairs and altar appear to be original as do the chandeliers. A thorough restoration of the chapel began in 2010 and was completed in 2015, including restoring the beauty of the wood grain as well as preserving it for the future. It continues to be maintained each year.

As of October 7, 2020, the Chapel has been listed on the National Historic Register. It is open for summer worshipers of all denominations beginning the first Sunday in June until the last Sunday in September. Various area ministers conduct the services throughout the summer. The chapel is also available for weddings, baptisms and other religious services. [PHS](#)

**Park Hotel - Parkside, PA**  
Detroit Publishing Co.,  
between 1900 & 1906 - Library of Congress



**Park Hotel Parlor - Parkside, PA**  
Detroit Publishing Co.,  
between 1890 & 1910 - Library of Congress



## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

History happens every day. Paradise Historical Society was founded in 2009, and has issued *Paradise Past* newsletter since the beginning.

Our mission is to collect, preserve and disseminate historical information. In addition to sending our newsletter to members — and everyone who has a mailing address in Paradise Township — we fulfill that mission in many ways.

We have established an archive in the Barrett Paradise Friendly Library, where artifacts are collected and

historical documents are preserved for future reference. These are just some of the kinds of things contained in the archives:

- FAMILY HISTORIES WRITTEN BY CONTRIBUTORS
- ADVERTISING MATERIALS AND OTHER MEMORABILIA FOR RESORTS OF THE PAST
- TAX RECORDS AND MAPS
- HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF HOMES, BUSINESSES, TRAIN

*Continued on Page 4*



**First Edition  
of PHS's  
*Paradise Past***

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING

*Continued from Page 3*

### STATIONS, RESORTS AND BOARDING HOUSES, CREEKS, ROADWAYS & EVENTS

#### • INFORMATION ON CHURCHES & CEMETERIES

A complete listing of artifacts is on our website [www.paradisehistorical.org](http://www.paradisehistorical.org). You can help by adding your family stories, genealogies, photos and other memorabilia to the collection.

Our monthly meetings serve as vehicles for collecting and disseminating information about history in general and Paradise specifically. During the pandemic, while in-person meetings were on hold, we kept in touch with the *Paradise Flash*, an email update on a variety of subjects, including

research about the similarities of the Spanish Flu of 1917 and Covid-19 of 2020.

Keep in mind that what we call “history” was daily life for previous generations. Your stories, artifacts and photos of major life events — such as the pandemic — can be priceless references for future members of Paradise Historical Society. Please consider donating copies or originals for our files. [PHS](#)

### If You Enjoy This Newsletter, Please Consider Donating to PHS

We keep membership costs low - but each issue of this newsletter costs \$640 to print and mail. If you enjoy it, please consider a donation to help defray costs! Checks can be made to Paradise Historical Society, PO Box 94, Henryville, PA 18332.

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



Summer 2021

### PHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Dorothy Frank  
Kale Drake

*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