

# Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE

PARADISE

Historical  
Society

VOLUME 20 • FALL 2019



Jeanne Carlton Layton  
1920 - 2019

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

From the earliest days of our historical society, Jeanne Carlton Layton was a quiet, powerful force. Already in her 90s when PHS was founded, Jeanne was always ready to stuff envelopes, suggest meeting topics, answer questions and remember names of people from long ago. Mrs. Layton died on October 15 in the 100<sup>th</sup> year of her life. Our friends in the Layton family know our hearts are with them as we celebrate with gratitude Mrs. Layton's long and productive life.

See her obituary at [BolockFuneralHome.com](http://BolockFuneralHome.com)

Jane

Jane Niering, *President*

## Remembering Music AT PARADISE SCHOOL

by Suzie Fretz McCool

At a used book sale several years ago, I picked up a songbook with a red cover. I thought there was something familiar about it. When I looked inside I noticed that it was stamped with the name of a school, HoHoKus Township School, Matawan, New Jersey, and that the copyright date was 1940-1941 by the Hall & McCreary Company.

A wave of nostalgia washed over me. These were the songs Miss Audrey Hamblin taught to us at the Paradise Township Elementary School. Miss Hamblin played the piano beautifully, and with the double doors opened, the entire school would have these wonderful sing-a-longs. We kids didn't know this qualified as our music class, just that it was so much fun. Many years later at Mansfield State College, I had a course called "Teaching Music in the Elementary School."

Now as an adult, discovering this find, I am amazed that kids in Matawan, New Jersey, were singing the same songs we kids were singing at Paradise School in the early 1950s. The fourth song in the book was called "Fair Hills and Valleys." It is a Viennese melody, arranged by Catharine Quimby and has the most beautiful words. Do any of you Paradise kids (who are now senior citizens) remember these words? And the melody?

*Continued on Page 3*

COLLECTING, PRESERVING  
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY



Fall

# A Paradise Valley PARADISE BRO



The old hatch house is slated to be modernized.

*“May 8th, 1902. A meeting of the stockholders in the proposed Paradise Brook Trout Company was held at the Scranton House in Scranton, PA... The stockholders present in person were Charles Robinson, Victor Koch, Wesley C. Henry, W.W. Trimpi, W.R. Buller, Ed. J. Sterner and J.B. Williams. H.C. Trexler, another stockholder in said proposed Company was represented at the meeting by the said Ed. J. Sterner...”*

*From the charter of Paradise Brook Trout Company*

**I**n 2009, Charlie Conklin, who owns Big Brown Fish & Pay Lake in Effort, bought Paradise Brook Trout Company from George Stack, Jr. George had taken over the business from his father, and he and his daughter Beth Martin managed the business until the sale.

On October 6, 2019, Charlie’s son Allen Conklin conducted a tour of the hatchery operations for Paradise Historical Society. Allen, a 2015 graduate of Penn State with a background in aquaculture, has been in the business since he was 10 and is working with his father to modernize the hatchery, make it more efficient, and expand capacity.

Started in 1901 and incorporated in 1902, Paradise Brook Trout Company was the first privately licensed hatchery in the state and is one of the longest-operating fish hatcheries in the country. In the early years, the company was a major seller of trout eggs to other hatcheries, in this country and around the world. Now they sell fish only — rainbow, brook, brown and gold rainbow trout — to fishing clubs throughout the east and into Wisconsin.

After an introduction in the office, Allen conducted a tour of the Hatchery grounds. He pointed out that birds of prey are a challenge, so workers protect the ponds with tents of netting.

We visited the “hatch house,” which is not currently being used — a plan to modernize it is being developed. Brood stock is at Big Brown, where they start taking eggs in mid-October, and raise the small fish called “fry.” Trout are cold blooded and so growth is minimal in winter. The Paradise fish-and-pay lake operates from early April until Columbus Day. Three-quarters of their fish sales is in a three-month period in spring when they are shipping trout to fishing clubs, most of which want fish 10 inches and larger, though for special orders, they grow fish up to 30 inches.

Trout are very susceptible to stressors such as water that’s too warm, polluted, or where the ph isn’t right. Stresses such as these can affect fish health and growth for weeks — so clean, cool water is essential.

Avid trout fisherman Don Miller, right, talks with Allen Conklin about the finer points of raising trout.



One of the original hatchery buildings.

Disturbed by all the activity, an osprey takes off.



# Paradise Institution: PARADISE BROOK TROUT COMPANY

A common misconception is that hatchery water comes from Paradise Creek. In fact, the entire operation is fed by springs at the north end of the property. The water's downstream movement is gravity-powered. The ponds and races have been narrowed to make cleaning easier and make it possible to use "crowders" to select out fish of needed sizes. Flooding is a serious risk, so overflow areas have been carved out.



Allen allowed us to walk the property on our own, and members visited downstream ponds which held very large fish, the old ice house, a barn, and of course the fish-and-pay lake. Kim Williams got some fine photos of a fascinating, misty day at Paradise Brook Trout Company. 

## Remembering Music AT PARADISE SCHOOL

by Suzie Fretz McCool

Continued from Page 1

*Fair hills and valleys of my native home, Tonight I dream again of thee alone;  
of sunlit peaks that touch the bluest skies, Tonight I'm dreaming while the  
firelight dies. Then from the curling smoke that seems my world, There rise  
to thrill me memories of old, Broad fields of grain appear and forests tall,  
cool rippling sands beneath a waterfall: My native land of mountain lakes aglow,  
of rushing winds, to thee in heart I go, tho' this strange voice within that calls  
my name, Finds silent answer in the sinking flame.*

One of the other songs we Paradise kids sang often was: "Early One Morning", an English Folk Song in which the boys in our school got carried away with the whistling section. Do kids today know how to whistle a song? I'm thinking it's becoming a lost art.

We learned several songs by Stephen Foster: "Beautiful Dreamer," "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair," "Camptown Races," "Some Folks," and "My Old Kentucky Home." Miss Hamblin must have loved Foster's music. Many think of Foster as a southerner, but he actually was born in Lawrenceville, PA. His beautiful home in Towanda, PA, in the Endless Mountains is an historic landmark I used to see every time I rode to college to Mansfield. I didn't get my first car until I signed my first teaching contract in 1966, so I always bummed rides. I should also add that Camptown is very near Towanda, PA. This gave "Camptown Races" its name. Stephen Foster was considered the "Father of American Music" by many. He was born July 4, 1826 the day both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died.

Miss Hamblin taught us many patriotic songs, as well as songs from other cultures such as: "The Troika," "Irish Airs," "Shortnin' Bread," "Home on the Range," "Ciribiribin," "Cielito Lindo," "Dixie," "Kemo Kimo" (a Tennessee Mountain Song), "Skip to My Lou," "Santa Lucia," "Sweet and Low," "Loch

Lomond," "A Merry Life" (Funiculi, Funicula), and "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny" to name a few. We learned lots of spirituals: "De Boatman," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "Deep River," and "The Boll Weevil." Some of our other favorites were "The Erie Canal," "Alouette," "Auld Lang Syne," "Good Night Ladies," and "Home on the Range." And who could ever forget "Grandfather's Clock"? Remember the final line - "It stopped, short, never to go again when the old man died."

We sang hymns in the book around Easter, Christmas, and Thanksgiving. I remember dressing up like Pilgrims for an evening program at Paradise School, and we all sang "We Gather Together" from the "Prayer of Thanksgiving," and we loved "Come Ye Thankful People." Looking through this songbook jogged my memory and evoked so many happy feelings.

I guess that's what people mean when they talk about the "Good Ol' Days." We baby boomers have been blessed with many special memories from Paradise Township school days. 

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

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# Community OUTREACH

**P**HS is fortunate to have a lot of people interested in Paradise Township history and who are willing to provide information and ask questions. We never know what interesting tidbit awaits us. During the last few months we have received pictures of the Bogert and Rowe families from Polly Metzgar, a member who lives out of the area. These historic photos have become the basis for researching the Swiftwater Valley and the families that settled there. We also have heard from Susan Zweighaft who is interested in the area known as Mt. Sophia. Her ancestor is believed to have named that location after acquiring the property in either 1907 or 1908. Ms. Zweighaft was referred to **PHS** by township personnel and we are grateful for their assistance in researching the history of Paradise. [PHS](#)



**Bogert family photo from Polly Metzgar**

**UPCOMING PHS MEETINGS:** No meeting in January • *Fishing the West Off the Beaten Path* by Don Baylor  
*The American Chestnut Tree* • *The History of Pennsylvania State Police*  
*Jack the Ripper* by Rick Smith • *Parks, Trails, and Open Space in Paradise*



## YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!

Please help Paradise Historical Society collect, protect & share the interesting history of our area.

- Student or Senior (65+) - \$8.00
- Individual - \$10.00
- Couple - \$20.00
- Family - \$25.00
- Corporate - \$50.00
- Sustaining - \$100.00

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please send the completed form and check (no cash) to:*  
Paradise Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 94, Henryville, PA 18332



Fall 2019

**PHS WELCOMES  
THESE NEW MEMBERS:**

John and Doris Arnold  
Carol Gehring  
Susan Kreckman

*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