

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE

PARADISE

Historical
Society

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of owners Susan and Pat Newman, our Historical Society enjoyed **Christmas at the Ace Store** for our meeting on December 10, 2023. John and Laura Layton acted as hosts on their behalf, sharing beautiful decorations, a lavish table, and good conversation in a historic setting!

From the late 1800s until 1972, the Ace Store was a general store providing most of the necessities of life to the surrounding village and farms. The store's interior remains much the same as in the early days, with a pot-bellied stove, store counters, scales, and shelving, as well as many examples of goods formerly sold, from ice cream and penny candy to sewing notions, boots, and feed.



The store was also home to the family for many decades. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the family ran it as a boarding house, with rooms to let upstairs (with shared bathroom) for tourists. Meals were served communally in the large dining room — where we gathered 'round the table for a feast of sweets and savories provided by the members.

Today the Ace Store is a private home, owned by the fifth generation of the family. We are grateful to the Newmans and Laytons for their hospitality — and for conserving this priceless piece of Paradise history. [PHS](#)

Jane Jane Niering, *President*



COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND
DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

The First Families of Paradise

BY SANDY DIETZ, GENEALOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR

The “First Families” settling in the Paradise area came from Easton and Plainfield Township, Northampton County. They were mostly farmers and probably chose the land for the natural resources: fertility of the soil, proximity to water, stone to quarry, and forests for logging. There was also an abundance of fish and game. The nearest store to obtain any other necessities was in Stroudsburg.

They came for land and autonomy, bringing wives and children with them, if not initially, then certainly by the time of the 1830 census when we find these families enumerated.

In the book “The History of Monroe, Pike, and Wayne Counties in Pennsylvania”, Alfred Matthew identifies two men as the earliest

settlers: **Henry Everhart** (1820) and **George Kleckler** (1820). Both remained for a number of years, but eventually moved away with their entire families. They had settled in Timber Hill (now Forest Hills Run) valley along with **Nicholas Bush** (1821) and **John Learn** (1822).

In the Long Swamp Creek (now Paradise) Valley came **George Dornblaser** (1822), **Abraham and Philip Transue** (1822), **Peter Wagner** (1822), **George Hilgert** (1822), **George Bowman** (1822), **Michael Nauman** (1822) and **John Setzer** (1824). They found no roads in the area, and their first priority must have been clearing land for farming and constructing shelter, homes initially made of logs. By the 1830s, buildings had been constructed and businesses



were being created, with additional families establishing residency (**Boorem, Anglemire, Nauman, Lerner/Learn, Coffman, Smith, Henry, and Heller**). We honor the first families who settled in a place they called Paradise, beginning a history that endures. [PHS](#)

Know Your Roots! Email Sandy at ParadiseHistorical.Genealogy@gmail.com



Suggestions for Future PHS Programs, or Topics for Research & Discussion

by John Layton, *PHS Vice President*

The Madison School

Paradise Historical Society meetings are held monthly and offer informative programs on historical topics that relate to Paradise Township. On occasion the program is of a more general historical nature but has influenced folks in Paradise. We continue to seek assistance in identifying topics of interest and help in formulating programs. If you have a possible subject of interest, we would like to hear from you.

Can You Help?

We currently have a couple of projects on the drawing board that could use input from the community. The first is a look at education in Paradise. Over the course of the last 175 years educating students in Paradise has changed significantly. At one time, there were no schools in Paradise and then there were four school districts each with a school. Over time the four schools combined forming just one school located on Upper Swiftwater Road. It was called the Madison school. An earlier version was on Old

School House Road. It is now a private residence. Hence, we are looking for information, pictures, report cards, historical material, etc. that helps document the existence of these early schools and how students were taught. We do have a map that shows school locations in 1870.

The second project involves the changes to Paradise because of the Great Depression. It seems likely that many local folks suffered economically during the depression, to the extent that they lost their farms and homes. Others changed forms of employment and found other ways to make a living. It is those stories that could form the basis of a program about how the depression affected Paradise. A lot of people may have stories to tell about the depression and how it affected their family in Paradise. It is expected that tax records and the US Census data will help in this project. This project's success as currently envisioned relies on input from the community — including you! [PHS](#)



Knowing the Creeks & Waters of Paradise

The beauty of our local creeks speaks to us today across the millennia as clearly as it did to the earliest people.

Named and unnamed, the creeks and waters of Paradise Township are among the enduring natural features we all live with every day.

Access to clean, fresh water is one of the essentials of life — and has drawn people to our area for millennia. For example, tools that date back 5,000 to 7,000 years, used by ancestors of the Lenape indigenous Americans — spear points, arrow heads, scrapers and grinding tools — have been found near creeks in the township. These people likely camped, fished, and hunted along Forest Hills Run and the Cranberry, Paradise, and Swiftwater creeks.


In our own era the earliest European settlers, who arrived in the 1820s, valued the creeks and springs for clean drinking water and the power that water provided to operate saw mills and grist mills. Good fishing and the game that is also attracted to water provided important sources of food.

Fishing and hunting are still important today, both to locals and sportsmen who visit our famous trout waters from around the world.

Shown on old maps as Long Swamp Creek and the West Branch of the Brodhead, Paradise Creek is the spine of the township. Its headwaters Tank Creek and Yankee Run rise on the Pocono Plateau, then drop down the steep slope on the east side of Route 940 near Mount Pocono, and come together to form the Paradise. Devils Hole Creek rises from wetlands high the Plateau and joins the Creek near Carlton Road. From there, the mingled waters run a meandering path along the floor of Paradise Valley before emptying into the Brodhead Creek just beyond the railroad bridge in Pocono Township.

The Swiftwater, Cranberry, and Forest Hills Run all run through their own valleys before joining the Paradise. Beautiful Butz Run is the last named waterway to enter the Paradise before reaching the Brodhead. (You can find excellent topographic maps at the United States Geological Survey <https://apps.nationalmap.gov/viewer/>.)

Hundreds of other named and unnamed water bodies exist in the township, as well. Small backyard impoundments, remnants of mill races, wetlands and vernal pools, intermittent streams that flow only during snow melt or heavy rains, water is life for all — and part of every day for all of us.

All the water bodies in the township are part of the watershed of the Brodhead Creek, world-renowned among fly-fishers. The waters of the Brodhead join the mighty Delaware River, designated one of America's Great Waters, which is untrammelled by manmade obstructions, and runs wild and free to the Atlantic Ocean. More at www.brodheadwatershed.org. 

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

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Did You Ever Wonder... WHY You Recieve This Newsletter?




Paradise Historical Society was formed for two main reasons — first, to gather and protect the history of Paradise Township, and second, to share that history.

That's why you get the newsletter! By sharing our common history with neighbors and friends like you, we are sharing our sense of community — past and present.

The newsletter is researched, written, and designed by volunteers, then printed and mailed to every address (including yours)

in the township, using funds from donations and memberships.

Meetings are free and open to every one, membership not required. (The next meeting is in April 2024 at the Township Municipal Building on Route 940.) If you enjoy looking through the newsletter and maybe learning a little something, please join us! Go to paradisehistorical.org for more information. 

PHS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Donald Abodeely
Dayle & Edward Malantonio
Alice Hunter & Mark McKenna & Family

Chris & Theresa Merli & Family
Terry Rapp

Barbara Royle & Family
Carl & Linda Schwartz
Salli & David White



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: _____

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



Winter 2024

The Directors & Officers of Paradise Historical Society are:
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Newsletter design by
AARON G. IMBT design
agimbt.design@gmail.com