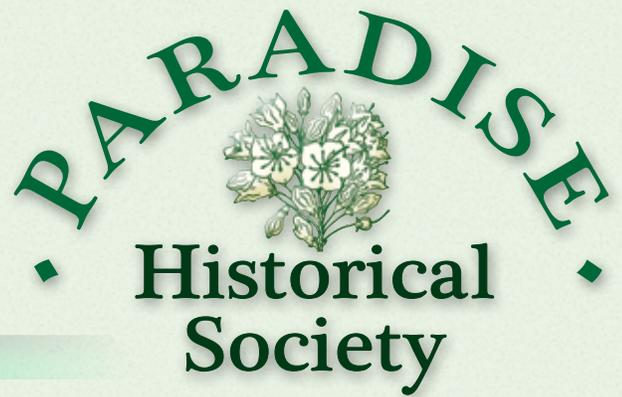


Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE



FALL 2015 • Volume 9, Issue 3

President's Letter

Our historical society is fortunate to have a group of enthusiastic, dedicated workers. It's easy to take them for granted — and one area where they need help is in thinking of programs for our monthly meetings.

You don't need to want to present a program to help brainstorm ideas. The Program Committee meets only as needed — one meeting a year is usually enough to lay out programs for the next 12 months. Please consider helping out in this easy, but crucial, way. Please call me at 570 269-4169, and get involved!

Jane Jane Niering, *President*

Human History, Natural History, Flyfishing & Golf...

At our October 4, 2015, meeting, naturalist and flyfisher Don Miller gave the Society a tour of ForEvergreen Nature Preserve. Don discussed a variety of subjects at length. This is the first in a series of reports on his talk.

Don welcomed the group to ForEvergreen, the former golf course of Penn Hills Resort. The 42-acre preserve will become home to the Brodhead Watershed Association and Pocono Heritage Land Trust, with office space, meeting rooms, display space, and a small natural history museum. The golf course is being returned to its natural state, with walking and running paths. A certified 5K running track is used by many groups. The trails are open to the public and there is ample parking.

The local chapter of Trout Unlimited, a national conservation group, is also involved, Don said. Historic research by TU members Don Baylor and Scott Cesare documents clearly that this very stretch of the Brodhead is where flyfishing in America began.

In the 1850s, as the railroads began to make getting here easier, people interested in flyfishing on the Brodhead poured in. At least 20 flies were developed specifically to fish on the Brodhead and its tributaries, flies with names like Cresco, Canadensis, and the most famous one still used all over the country today, the Henryville Special, developed specifically to fish on the Brodhead and the Swiftwater.

The railroad brought other activities — including very extensive timbering. As the land was timbered, frequently clear cut, the watershed began to change. Brook trout, the beautiful native fish which populated the Brodhead, is very sensitive to changes in

temperature, even very subtle changes. It is also very susceptible to problems caused by sedimentation in our streams. The forested ridges we see today were bare, cleared of trees completely. Lots of historic photos of that exist.

Clearcutting had a major impact on the stream. Without trees to shade the stream, it heated up and lots of sediment eroded off the clearcut hills into the stream. The wild brook trout population was decimated.

Fishermen being the fickle group that they are wanted to catch fish! And so they moved on from here, where we had destroyed the wild trout fishery, to clean streams in the Catskills — giving rise

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Fall

COLLECTING, PRESERVING & DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

Human History, Natural History, Flyfishing & Golf...

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to the erroneous notion that that is where American flyfishing started. So this stretch of the Brodhead is important for that historic reason alone.

About the same time that our streams and brook trout were suffering, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission was started. Their main responsibility was not to improve water quality so native populations could rebuild, but to get fish, any fish, back into our streams. So they sought out other species of trout that were more tolerant of warmer waters and sedimentation.

Two species were introduced. Rainbow trout eggs from the west were brought here in milk cans and raised for stocking. European brown trout were also brought here and stocked. Both being more tolerant of warmth and sedimentation, a local fishery



returned, but primarily a brown trout fishery. Brook trout have come back in our streams, but are pretty much relegated to small headwater streams, where the water is pure, cold and clear, and the insects are plentiful. Brown trout are opportunists and more aggressive feeders, and easily out-compete natives. Browns have extended their range and encroached further and further, they outcompete native brook trout. Today, flyfishers find brook and brown trout in headwater creeks, and a combination of brook, brown and rainbows downstream in the mainstem of the Brodhead.

Responsible fishing is permitted there. This is a wild, naturally-reproducing fishery — it's not artificially stocked — so within ForEvergreen catch and release only is allowed with artificial lures.

MY HOUSE: “The Brown House” AT TIMBER HILL FARM

by Edie Donaldson Stevens

On a stone foundation and supported by four hand-hewn beams of enormous trees which run the length of the building, construction on the Brown House was started in 1894. According to family lore, the farmer who built the building, completed around 1915, had only one cow to put in the massive barn and decided to give up farming. My Dad, Roderick Donaldson, bought the place in 1916 and immediately converted the barn into a summerhouse. My half-sister Barbara,

then about 3 years old, had asthma and her doctor's advice was to find a healthier environment for her and the rest of the family, then living in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Brown House is a “bank barn”, built into the hillside so the upper and lower levels are accessible at ground level. It is constructed with hand-hewn beams, put together with mortise and tenon joints and hand-carved pegs. Some of the interior walls must have come in by train,

as some boards have the shipping address, Henryville, scrawled in crayon on them. Nothing was ever painted or insulated, and the slate roof looks brand new. One of my favorite spots is one of the haymow ladders, which was incorporated into a wall.

I spent summers and weekends in the Brown House, on an active chicken farm, and moved here full time in 1944. Brown House continues to be a summer retreat for visiting friends and family.

Dad was a 1906 engineering grad of Cornell and spent a lot of time, energy, and money in improving the place. The conversion to a summerhouse in 1916 included the grand fieldstone chimney and fireplace, the main heating source. Wood was stored on the downstairs screened-in porch, and lighting was by kerosene lamps until electric came in, in the 1930s. I think there was indoor plumbing from the beginning, (the huge clawfoot bathtub surely looks over 100 years old) with an elaborate water system involving a spring house, pump, and a reservoir up the hill. Forest Hills Run, which curves through the property, was the site of many happy days of childhood, playing in the creek.

Also in the 1930s, Dad remodeled what had been the farmer's home, a log cabin, into a year-round home, which is where I have lived since 1944.

These days Timber Hill Farm supports several head of beef cattle every year, horses from time to time, chickens, hay fields, and vegetable gardens. My son Carl and grandsons Lucas and Henry are active helpers and advisers here and expect to make this their home one day. It gives me great satisfaction to know that I've protected this land with a conservation easement, ensuring that it will look as it does now for generations to come.



Photo by Kim Williams

HENRYVILLE HOUSE:

The Return of a 111-year-old Memory Stick

On October 7, 2015, a 111-year-old artifact came home.

That was when the Paradise Historical Society received a Memory Stick from the Henryville House dated August 26, 1904. This tangible piece of our history was donated by Don and Luzy Zyry of Freehold, New Jersey, and received by John and Laura Layton on behalf of PHS at the Cranbury Inn, Cranbury, New Jersey.

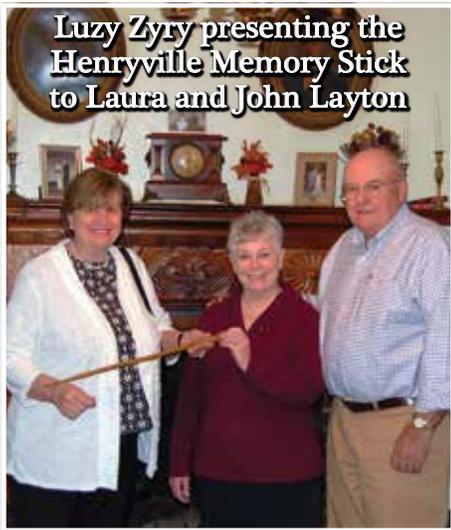
Luzy Zyry explained that the stick came into their possession many years ago from the Bernotas family, also of New Jersey. It is unknown how the Bernotas came to possess the stick. The Zyrys are cleaning out their house and trying to find homes for interesting items. The inscriptions on the Memory Stick lead Luzy Zyry to locate the PHS website and contact Aaron Imbt who is in charge of the website. Aaron in turn advised the officers of PHS, which led to the acquisition of the stick.

Long before computers and the modern flash drive or data stick, it appears people signed their names to carved pieces of wood as a way to commemorate an occasion and a reminder of a special date or gathering. In the case of the Henryville Memory Stick there are approximately 26 names. The memory stick raises questions as to who were the signers, why were they together and what was the occasion? The Henryville House was closely associated with Pocono trout fishing. Could these people have gathered here for a fishing weekend?



The Henryville Special fly, designed to attract fish on the Swiftwater & Brodhead Creeks

Who kept the stick and where has it been over the last 111 years? These questions and more remain to be answered.



Luzy Zyry presenting the Henryville Memory Stick to Laura and John Layton



The following represents the data obtained from the Memory Stick dated "Aug. 26, 1904; Henryville House"

The handwriting on the stick is difficult to read, hence all the names listed are a best guess as to the exact spelling.

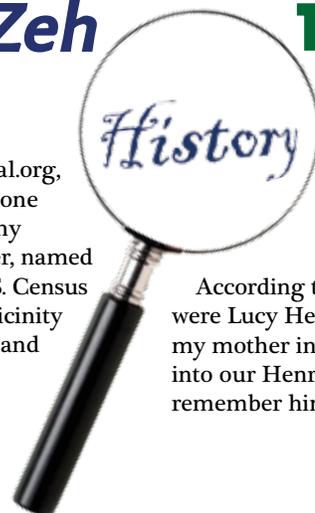
Charles N. Graves,
Henryville, PA Aug. 26, 1904
Wm. J. Henderson
CAK
VLH, St...Phila
Robt. Killule, M.D.
M.M. Johnston, Urk. Ct.
Robert Arnsberry
Louis Killbone

Russell Henry
Gralier Randall
K. Burton
J.E. Neill
E.J. Dales
Henry Fisher, M.D.
Sallie S. Fisher
Irma Day
John Henry

C.M. Pearce, Phila
Dick Essels..lyn
Geo. Brewster
Paul Neill
Dellie Dorneberg
Robt. Kildutte, 3rd
Elsie Neill
Peggy Mine
C. Rendell, Jersey City, NJ

Does Kiliban Zeh Ring a Bell?

Via our website, www.paradisehistorical.org, we have received an inquiry from someone researching an ancestor. Do you have any information about a German shoemaker, named Kiliban Zeh? He appears in the 1850 U.S. Census of Paradise Township and lived in the vicinity of others of German origin, named Utz and Reinhardt. If you can help, please call John Layton at 570 839-5702.



The Henryville Memory Stick of August 26, 1904, SPURS RESEARCH

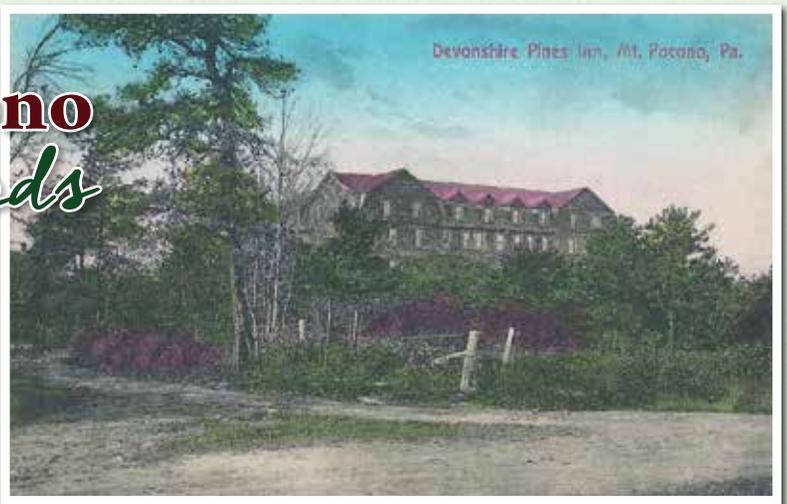
The research of the names on the stick has begun. Aaron Imbt contacted his Aunt Betty (Stellmer) Rine who remembers John and Russell Henry, both names found on the Memory Stick.

According to an email of October 8, 2015 from Betty, John and Russell Henry were Lucy Henry Raymond's brothers. "John was a school teacher and taught my mother in the little school house in Paradise Valley. When we first moved into our Henryville home in the late 1960's we bought Russell's car, so we remember him."

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

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

A Visit to *** Historic Mt. Pocono *** via Postcards



Shirley Lansdowne, a native of Mt. Pocono, presented an extensive postcard tour of the borough at the November Paradise Historical Society meeting. Shirley's knowledge of the scenes on the postcards was exceptional. She was able to explain the significance of each postcard and where the buildings were and who owned them and tidbits about the history of the property. The tour began on Rt 611 and traveled north through the borough. We learned that the present Fairview Ave. was once known as Cottage Street. The site of the first fire house in Mt. Pocono was presented along with a story about Shirley and her sister riding to Philadelphia on a fire truck driven by her father. The original post office and its various configurations were also explained. Interestingly, much of Paradise Township for postal purposes was described as Mt. Pocono. Numerous resorts in Paradise bore the address of Mt. Pocono.

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The directors and officers of Paradise Historical Society are *“Thank You!” to outgoing*
LeeAnne Dyson, Bruce Estell, Dan Hamblin, Carol Hillestad, *PHS Treasurer*
Aaron Imbt, John Layton, Laura Layton, Harold Metzgar and Jane Niering. *Eleanor Burns!*

YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!

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

- 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 & check (no cash) to: Paradise Historical Society, P.O. Box 94, Henryville, PA 18332



Fall 2015