

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE

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PARADISE
Historical
Society



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

You may remember “history” as a boring subject in school, full of dates and wars and faraway places.

Local history is an entirely different story. And I do mean “story.”

Our historical society’s programs are most often full of story-telling — stories about local people and places. Even if you’ve lived in Paradise for a while, you may not know where “Blackwell’s Corners” was (and is) or the name of the very first family that took in boarders at “Mount Airy.” (Answers are on the last page of this newsletter.)

When you know the stories of the people who lived here before you, life seems fuller and more interesting — everywhere you look as you drive around the township you’ll see not just an inn, or a gas station, or an old barn, for example, but a window into past lives. Come join us! We’d love to hear *your* stories.

Jane

Jane Niering, *President*

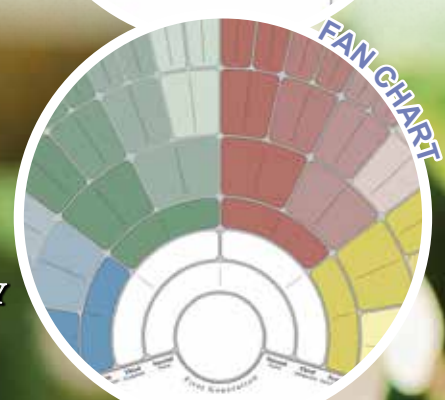
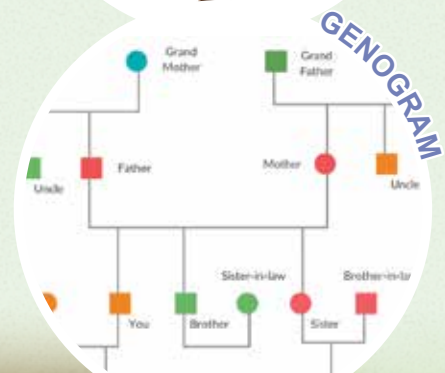
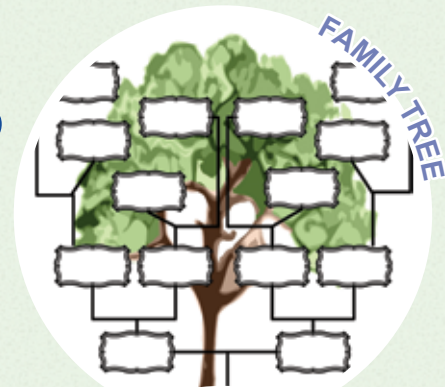
Are *YOU* Interested in Genealogy? by Sandy Dietz

Have you ever seen the television shows “Who Do You Think You Are?” or “Finding Your Roots”? Maybe you have seen commercials for Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.com, or even been on these websites.

Interest in genealogy is widespread. A 2014 article in Time Magazine speaks of genealogical research over the past fifty years and emphasizes it as one of most popular hobbies in the United States.

But WHY and HOW does one research their ancestry or family tree? There are many and varied reasons why individuals start their search: as a hobby, for a sense of personal identity, medical knowledge, understanding family connections, and thinking about history with a personal context are but a few. How did your ancestor fit into the history of this country (and the other countries they may have immigrated from)? Another reason for research is to prove lineage

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COLLECTING, PRESERVING, & DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

Are *YOU* Interested in Genealogy?

Continued
from Page 1

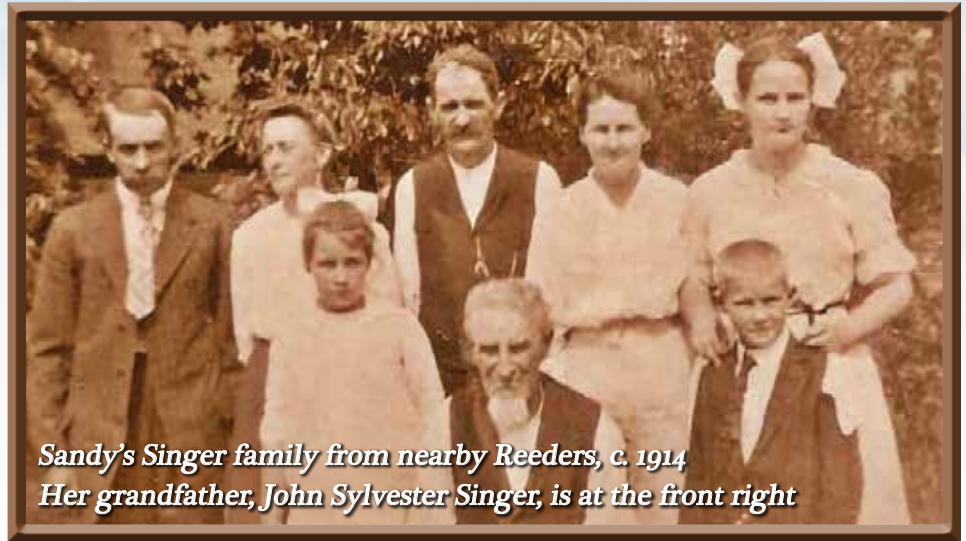
by Sandy Dietz

for fraternal organizations. For example, one needs to prove a pedigree to attain membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution or the Mayflower Society.

Many people start out with an expectation that their research will find connections with a celebrity or royalty, and some people will find that to be true. But you may also find some surprises and must be prepared for them. Your great-grandfather may have been in trouble with the law, you may find your ancestors were hard working farmers – or that you have a “crazy” Aunt Edna.

Genealogy is a 4-step process, starting with you. Write down all the information you know, starting with you, yourself, and your immediate family, spouse(s), children, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins. Include information on dates of birth, marriage, and death, place names, and cemeteries where older generations are buried. Especially important: talk to your living relatives, especially the older generation. Ask questions! Write down the answers — and follow up with more questions. Stories are what make genealogy so fascinating, and once older relations are gone, their memories and family stories are also gone.

The second step is to look at what documents and resources your family may already have:



*Sandy's Singer family from nearby Reeders, c. 1914
Her grandfather, John Sylvester Singer, is at the front right*

a family bible, photographs, old letters, yearbooks, or newspaper clippings, for instance. They can often provide invaluable information, and point to new directions of research. Stay organized and record your work – when and where it was each tidbit found. This step will save you time later as more information is collected.

Third, cast a larger net – look for birth, death and marriage records as well as census information for towns where your parents, grandparents, and great grandparents lived. Each census is unique and can provide valuable data. Other great sources to check are maps, holdings in historical societies

and fraternal organizations, churches, courthouses, and libraries.

Step four is to prove that information you have found is correct. Try to find three sources. For instance, your great-grandmother's birth information might be found in a church, baptism record, tombstone inscription, death certificate, marriage certificate, military record, or newspaper article. On this subject, an important tip is this: DO NOT BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU FIND ONLINE.

Be a skeptic — and confirm info. **PHS**

Many Digital Documents Are Now Available on the Following Websites:



Cyndi's List	cyndislist.com	FREE
Family Search	familysearch.org	FREE
Ancestry	ancestry.com	\$
Find My Past	findmypast.com	\$
Newspapers	newspapers.com	\$
Fold3 – Military Records	fold3.com	\$
Paradise Historical Society	paradisehistorical.org	FREE

If you decide to become involved with genealogy – enjoy the journey – and watch out for that “genealogy bug”...

Its symptoms include

- ★ planning vacations around visiting cemeteries,
- ★ setting your internet homepage to ancestry.com, and
- ★ owning a collection of death certificates, to name a few.



Questions? Contact Sandy Dietz, Genealogical Chair, Paradise Historical Society at paradisehistorical.genealogy@gmail.com

Beyond St. Paul's Headstones: *Exploring the Past*



In May, John Layton reported on his research about the St. Paul's churchyard cemetery.

John has long been curious about why this small cemetery has two rather grand mausoleums. His great-grandmother, Hettie Ace, recorded in her diary 87 graves that her husband and son-in-law (John's great-grandfather and grandfather) helped to dig. Several of his immediate family members are buried there. In his investigation, a source John found useful is *Silent Towns Cemeteries of Barrett, Paradise, Price Township, PA.* by Michelle Harrison-Kintner, which inventories graves in detail.

Located at the corner of Upper Swiftwater Road and Olde School House Road in East Swiftwater, this local cemetery is referred to in documents, oral history and even today by several names — including the Jones Cemetery, East Swiftwater Cemetery, and the Monroe Cemetery (on a 1916 deed), as well as St. Paul's.

The first burial at St. Paul's which Hettie Ace recorded was Mrs. Bowman in 1897, but this wasn't confirmed in other sources. John learned from John Bowman that David W. Bowman was married twice and his first wife died in 1897, leading John to find the tombstone of Marietta, wife of D.W. Bowman who died on Feb. 22, 1897.

(A) The oldest mausoleum is for Paul Hines Jr., who died in Washington, D.C. in 1947. His wife outlasted him and died in 1969, also in the D.C. area and is also entombed in the mausoleum. She was born in Russia and migrated to the United States and was once associated with the Rock Cottage in Mt. Pocono, where she lived starting in 1921. Paul and Anita Hines were principals in the Fairview Water Company of Mt. Pocono, which filed for bankruptcy in 1940. The company had supplied water to 300 consumers and had been in business for 30 years. The land today is a nature preserve.

Another Hines buried here is William Hines, originally from Henryville, who owned and operated a general store and service station in Pocono Summit for over 20 years.

(B) James Howard Barber, the occupant of the second mausoleum, was buried in 1952. He started out in life as a musician with the

(C) Walter L. Main Circus and ended up as the tax collector for Paradise Township. After his circus career, he chauffeured for A. Mitchell Palmer, who later became U.S. Attorney General. His father-in-law was Simon Warner of Swiftwater.

(D) Another interesting grave is that of Richard Child Slee, father of Col. Richard Slee, founder Slee Laboratory, which is now Sanofi Pasteur, in Swiftwater.

The Oldest Grave

The website "Tombstone Transcriptions, Swiftwater Cemetery, Swiftwater, PA, Jun/Jul/Aug 1999" indicates that an Elizabeth (last

name unknown) died in 1820 and is buried in the cemetery. Her grave is in the front row of section 1, further evidence of an early burial. The grave is between two known people, Charlie Kitchel and James M. Wagner, a civil war veteran.

The Cemetery Name

John's quest to pin down the cemetery name over time became his biggest challenge. Over the last 200 years, it has been known as Swiftwater Cemetery, East Swiftwater Cemetery, Jones Cemetery, Monroe Cemetery and lastly St. Paul's Cemetery.

It seems that the congregation of the St. Paul's Reform and Lutheran Church formed a board of trustees to oversee the cemetery — as described in the deed, which is signed by trustees, David W. Bowman, George H. Warner, and John A. Learn. The deed also bears signatures of witnesses David B. Warner and J.M. Ace.

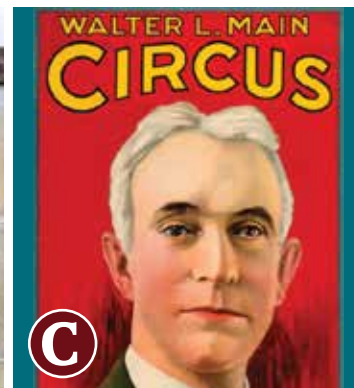
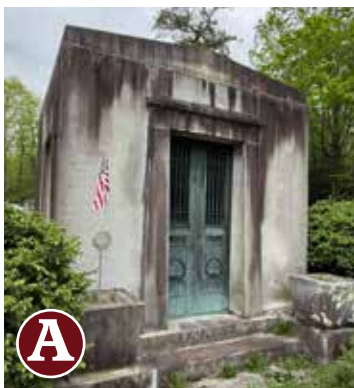
Other than St. Paul's, the most commonly used name is and has been Jones Cemetery. *The History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties*, by Alfred Mathews, c. 1886 refers to the Reform Church being known as the Jones' Church. A 1927 *History of Monroe County Pennsylvania*, by Robert Brown Keller, goes further and suggests that the church was probably built on land donated by the Joneses.

Paradise Township tax records show Joseph Jones owning property as early as 1849. He began as a wheelwright and is last reported as a farmer in 1880 when he died. His widow and family continued to own land until at least 1914. Joseph had several children, including John, born 1835; Mary E., born 1837; William, born 1842; Jerome, born 1845; Samuel, born 1847; and another whose name is illegible, born 1849. A Mathew Jones lived in the area until 1919 and owned land until 1922. John has not determined whether or not Mathew was related to Joseph.

Jerome and Samuel both owned land in Paradise Township. Samuel appears to have become a locomotive engineer and moved to California, where he died in 1928. His obituary states he was a native of Pennsylvania and is buried with his son. Jerome died in 1901 and is buried in St. Paul's Cemetery as are his wife, mother and father. Whether anyone in the family sold or donated land for the cemetery is not clear.

Reviewing the Deeds

John took a deep dive into years of deeds via the Monroe County Archivist. The details he uncovered are a fascinating study in the many ways land can be assembled, re-assembled, and conveyed. However, the cemetery grew from the acquisition of so many small, sometimes oddly-shaped parcels, that were sold and re-sold again and again that establishing a clear, direct line of ownership, whether through donation or sale, has not been possible to date. **PHS**



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

ANSWERS *from* PAGE 1

“Blackwell’s Corners” was the informal name for the intersection of route 940 and Carlton Road, named for Bob Blackwell who established the first filling station there in the 1950s.

The Fanseen family advertised accommodations at their home “Mount Airy” for tourists in the 1880s. [PHS](#)



Fanseen's Mount Airy House

At our May 4 meeting, Don Collins reminded us that Blue Mountain Antique Gas and Steam Engine Association — aka the “Jacktown antique engine folks” — has swap meets and other gatherings throughout the year, in addition to its July and October shows (which are fun for all, and not to be missed).

For info go to
www.jacktown.org

PHS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

**Jamie Berish • Jamie Willis & Don Katchmere • Phillip & Jeanne Riley
Patty Barrette Stein • Winona Whelply**

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+) - \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - \$50.00 |
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Spring 2025

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AARON G. IMBT design

agimbt.design@gmail.com