

Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER
OF THE

PARADISE



Historical
Society

VOLUME 21 • WINTER 2020



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's hard to believe that Paradise Historical Society is starting its second decade! Our goal is to research and share stories of people, places, and activities in the township since its founding in 1848. That's why we decided early on to send this newsletter to everyone who lives in the township, whether or not they are members. If you have never been to a meeting — please give us a try! We welcome everyone to come hear — and tell — stories of Paradise.

Jane Jane Niering, *President*

Memories at the Ace Store Christmas

Almost 50 members of Paradise Historical Society gratefully accepted owner Susan Layton Newman's invitation to gather at the Ace Store for our December meeting. With its cheerfully decorated rooms, tables laden with treats, and the Store itself looking as if it were ready to open for business any day, everyone enjoyed visiting this historic Paradise landmark. Our Society's Vice President, John Layton, shared a photo montage he called The Ladies of the Ace Store — going back to his great grandmother. [PHS](#)



Mary Ann Posten Arndt



Harriet Esther "Hettie"
Arndt Ace



Mabel P. Ace



Cora Carlton

Winter



Hettie, Cora
Mabel, Miles,
Jeanne Carlton
and
other ladies

COLLECTING, PRESERVING &
DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY



A Landmark for 117 Years: POCONO MANOR INN

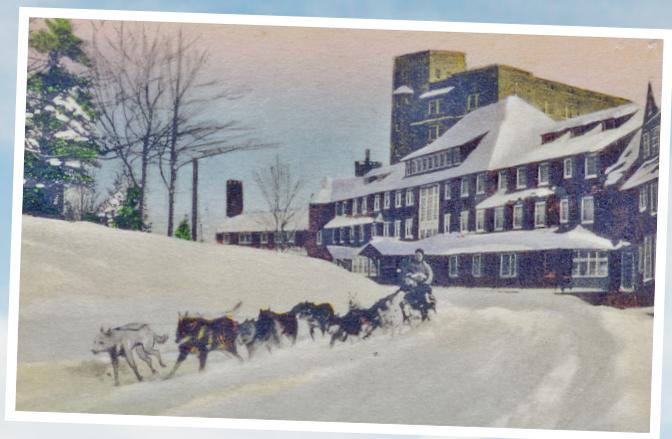
by John C. Layton

JOHN LAYTON RECOUNTS THE EARLY DAYS
OF A POCONO LANDMARK.

Friday, November 1, 2019 brought with it the devastation of The Inn at Pocono Manor as it has most recently been known. Fire consumed the 117-year-old structure. The “top of the mountain” as well as much of Monroe County lost an historical and iconic structure.

Friends or Quakers from the Philadelphia area formed the Pocono Manor Association for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a mountain resort for summer boarding and to sell lots on a developed plot plan for families to build their own private cottages. Shareholders, managers and directors of the Association were required to be members of the Society of Friends, establishing the resort as Quaker run.

Members were prominent Quaker industrialists, merchants, and professionals from the greater Philadelphia area with a few from Moorestown and Atlantic City, New Jersey, and New York City. The Pocono Manor Association was led by George Abbott, owner of the Abbott Dairy; along with William Allen, wholesale clothing; Joshua Baily, dry goods merchant; A.F. Huston, President, Luken Iron and Steel; Henry Leeds, hotel manager Atlantic City; Samuel Thompson, President of the Hatboro National Bank; Benjamin Shoemaker, glass merchant; Edward Strawbridge, Strawbridge and Clothier Store, and Frank Smedley, lumber merchant.



They initially purchased 700 acres on Little Pocono Mountain. Over time they expanded the land holdings to more than 3,000 acres. The first sale of lots occurred in 1902, with the provision that buyers had to build within eighteen months. Nuisances of all kinds and the sale of liquor were forbidden.

The Inn at Pocono Manor began life as the Pocono Inn, when the hotel opened in 1902. There were 53 guest rooms, and Mrs. Casper (Emma) Wister, from Philadelphia, was the first manager of the hotel. During August of 1902, the manager and bell-boys set about preparing the Inn for guests. They traveled to Mt. Pocono for their mail and on one occasion, as recorded in the hotel log, met and talked with Admiral and Mrs. Dewey, who were staying at the Montanessa on what is now State Route 611.

By 1925 the hotel boasted “a new fire-proof wing, accommodating 400 guests”. That addition is still standing today.

The Quakers engaged in numerous educational and social endeavors. In 1937, the Pocono Manor School was founded. In the 1940s a Community House was established in Pocono Summit. The Cottage and Lot Owners Association paid part of the salary of a school teacher.

Most recently in 1997, the Pocono Manor Historical District was entered on the National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places.

Much work lies ahead for the property owners in determining next steps in the history and life of Pocono Manor. We look forward to the creation of a community asset that would be appreciated by our Friends from the past. [PHS](#)

Pocono Manor Inn - 1908

SURPRISES AT THE GAS STATION

Thanks to Peter and Julie Niering, PHS has become the owner of miscellaneous Paradise Valley-related correspondence and two reels of movie film (see page 4).

The Paradise Valley correspondence is from the early 1900s. Gertrude Kintz, a former Postmistress in Paradise Valley, is referenced most often. Gertrude was born February 20, 1869 and died on August 5, 1956 at the age of 87. She appears not to have been married.

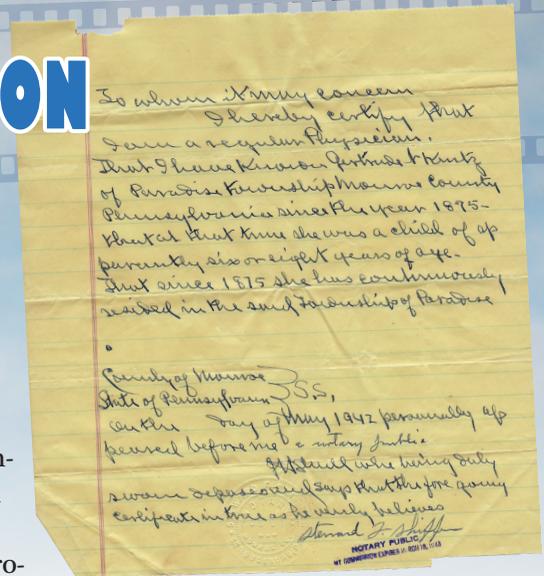
The correspondence contains an interesting 1942 exchange apparently certifying the birth of Gertrude Kintz and her being a continuous resident of Paradise Valley.

On letterhead dated October 27, 1942, from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Public Assistance, Monroe County Board of Assistance affidavits are returned to Gertrude. Included is a handwritten letter notarized by Steward J. Shiffer and signed by a physician whose signature is illegible. The physician states, "I have known Gertrude Kintz of Paradise Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania since the year 1875. At that time, she was a child of approximately six or eight years of age." There is also an affidavit from Sanford Henry and Margaret Henry dated May 19, 1942, notarized by Maurice L. Boorem, Cresco, attesting to Gertrude N. Kintz having gone to Paradise Township school with them and

that they have known her for over 63 years.

The reason for these attestations is a mystery — but one possible explanation concerns the Social Security Act of 1935. The Act provided income supplements to persons over the age of 62. Many people found that their birth certificates were either missing or had never been issued. These people then began a quest to find other means of establishing their date of birth. Various sources of documenting dates of birth were acceptable, including church records and testimony from friends and relatives as to the date of a person's birth.

The package of miscellaneous notes and letters illustrated communications before emails and telephone calls. **PHS**



Can you identify these people?

In the late 1880s and early 1900s calling cards or visiting cards were part of society. A collection of such cards was found recently that is relevant to Paradise Township history. The names printed on the cards are, for the most part, former residents. This collection raised questions as to why they were printed and for what occasion.

The names on the cards were of people born between 1880 and 1889. The cards are similar in design and size, while each has its own personality. It is certain that they were produced before 1911, since one has the maiden name Cora B. Ace, whom we know was married in 1911 and therefore changed her name. A review of old newspapers found Miss Cora Huey, born in 1883 visiting Scranton in 1905 when she would have been 22 years old. We know that several of the identified individuals were unmarried, and also that by 1900 at least, Claude B. Ace had completed Normal School, had worked as a teacher and was living in Easton with an uncle while working in a grocery store. **PHS**

These cards were found in East Swiftwater in 2019. Elaborately ornamented cards, imprinted with a person's name and a greeting, were popular in Victorian times. (For an interesting summary of how visiting cards were developed and used, go to <https://hobancards.com/calling-cards-and-visiting-cards-brief-history>)

The names on the cards with their dates of birth and fathers are:

Mabel L. Rowe, b. Oct. 17, 1882, father Hayden; Herbert Koerner, b. Nov. 14, 1885, father George; Olive A. Krauter, b. Jul. 19, 1886, father Joel B.; George F. Fanseen, b. Oct. 14, 1885, father George; Cora J. Huey, b. Feb. 17, 1883, father Thomas; Edith Knoll, b. Mar. 14, 1886, father George; Harry L. Wagner, b. May 14, 1886, father William; C. B. Miller, b. Sept. 16, 1883, father Charles; Hattie M. Bogert, b. Sept. 16, 1883, father Charles; Mabel P. Ace, b. May 5, 1889, father John; Cora B. Ace, b. Aug. 19, 1886, father John; Claude B. Ace, b. March 17, 1881, father John. Names only for the following: Ethel C. Arnold; Herman J. Houck, Malvina Walker, Mary E. Smith, Clifford H. Heller, Norman Houck, eniy (sic) F. Hamblin.

Can you add any information?
Please contact John Layton at ldlayton@ptd.net or Carol Hillestad at jimhill@ptd.net.



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

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Permit No. 1848
Cresco, PA

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Can you help identify the person in these stills from the home movies mentioned on page 3? They seem to have been traveling cross country.

Please email jimhill@ptd.net or ldlayton@ptd.net. [PHS](#)

UPCOMING PHS MEETINGS:

The Early History of Pennsylvania State Police by Mike Chaplin • *The American Chestnut Tree*
Jack the Ripper by Rick Smith • *Parks, Trails, and Open Space in Paradise* by Carol Hillestad

Become a
Member
Today!

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 2020

**PHS WELCOMES
THESE NEW MEMBERS:**

Joseph and Susan Diorio
Chuck and Joan Hannig
Sharon Michaels
Carol Warren

*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