

You could be living in Rock Bearry Township

It could have been "Rock Bearry" or "Mansfield," but the county judge who in 1762 approved the creation of some 21 square miles in central Upper Bucks County as an incorporated political subdivision favored Haycock.

When residents of the area petitioned the court to create the township, all three names were submitted, according to "Bucks County Place Names."

The name that was selected, according to the historical reference, likely was first given to the unusually high hill that rises 960 feet above sea level in the northeastern section of the township.

Not all materials can be taken to recycling center

According to township personnel, there is a problem at the township recycling center. Road Assistant David Long said that some people are bringing items that the township does not accept. "It's becoming a problem," Long reports, "we are finding all kinds of junk in the recycling bins that doesn't belong there."

Steel cans, light bulbs, window glass, aluminum foil, and just plain trash is finding its way into the bins. These items can cause a whole load of otherwise recyclable material to be rejected by the recycling center, causing problems, and expense, for the township.

Residents are reminded to bring ONLY the following items to the township drop off center: aluminum beverage cans; clear, green, and brown glass food and drink containers; and newspaper.

This is your facility, please help keep it clean and running smoothly.

Haycock first again in firefighting olympics

Haycock Fire Co. teams placed first and fourth in the recent Milford Township-sponsored Firefighting Olympics. Another Haycock team placed second in Olympics competition sponsored by the Doylestown, Ohio, Fire Co.

The Haycock team that placed second in Ohio was the overall winner in 1992. The difference between the two years, according to Fire Chief Harold Rupell, was that the tug-of-war competition, won by the Haycock team in 1992, was eliminated from the list of competitive activity this year.

The book states that the name Haycock "doubtless comes from the contour's resemblance to a couple of haycocks, those small, conical-shaped heaps of hay raked up on the hay field by old-time harvesters prior to loading it on wagons..."

"Place Names" also raises an interesting question.

"Much of the territory...southeast and southwest of Haycock Mountain was early known as "Stokes Meadow," after John Stokes, who purchased 347 acres in the vicinity of what is now Applebachsville in the early 1730s."

No increase in township taxes for twentieth consecutive year

The real estate tax rate in Haycock Township has been the same for 20 years — five mills.

Supervisor Chairman Kathleen Babb called it sound fiscal management.

Speed limit reduced on Old Bethlehem Road

The state Department of Transportation will lower the speed limit on most of Old Bethlehem Road from 45 to 40 miles per hour. The speed limit in the Village of Applebachsville will stay at 35 miles per hour.

This action was prompted by a request from the township asking Pen-

The Stokes, wealthy and influential farmers based on descriptions of their holdings, disappeared from the township after the last of their lands was sold in 1832.

Although it was located "in the vicinity of Applebachsville," no other records of this apparently very successful and progressive homestead appear to exist.

In the interest of compiling and preserving this piece of early township history, anyone who has information about the Stokes family and/or Stokes Meadow is asked to contact the Township Building at 536-3641.

By keeping equipment updated during prosperous years, the board is able to "tighten the belt" and make it through leaner years with no increase in taxes or decrease in services.

nDOT to do a traffic study to determine a safe speed for the road.

The study revealed that in addition to lowering the speed limit, signs to warn motorists of curves should also be installed.

Installation of the new signs was started in the beginning of October.

Meeting Directory

Board of Supervisors	First and third Mondays	8 P.M.
Planning Commission	Second Monday	7:30 P.M.
Zoning Hearing Board	Meets at the call of the chairman	

All meetings are held at the Township Building, 640 Harrisburg School Road.

Haycock Township
640 Harrisburg School Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

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Haycock Township Report

No. 2

Published by The Township Supervisors

Fall, 1993

New emergency plan gets test in blizzard

In compliance with state requirements, the Board of Supervisors has established an Emergency Operations Plan and is taking steps to implement it in stages.

The plan calls for establishing and maintaining an Emergency Operations Center, and appointing staff to coordinate public services during an emergency condition. The Township Building has been designated as the Operations Center.

Appointed to the volunteer post of Emergency Management Coordinator was Kenneth Derstine, who is employed by an industrial communications firm in Easton. Derstine, formerly an active member of the Haycock Fire Co., has broad experience in radio communications — a vital component of effective emergency management.

According to Thomas Roeder, township roadmaster, one of the first steps was to lower the radio tower at the township building and refurbish it. The tower was equipped with an upgraded base station antenna, repaired and painted. In addition, a two-meter ham radio antenna and a scanner antenna were added.

A future move will be to purchase a large electric generator. The township now has a small generator but it is not large enough to provide power to the Township Building in the event of a power outage during an emergency.

All municipal governments are required to have a functioning Emergency Operations Plan. Municipal activities are coordinated by the county Emergency Management Agency.

The March blizzard proved the value

of the Emergency Operations Plan even before it was fully operational.

On the night before the blizzard, Derstine, Roeder, and fire company officers met at the firehouse to set up a communications network.

A temporary command center was set up at Derstine's home. A number of Haycock fire fighters volunteered their time and equipment to man the firehouse with snowmobiles, and Roeder maintained communications from the truck he was using to plow snow. In addition to being able to report and respond to motorists who were stuck in snow drifts, the communications network resulted in getting a youngster with a possible concussion from his isolated home to the Quakertown Hospital at the height of the blizzard.

66% of homes in township have cable TV

Service Electric Cable TV Inc., has provided cable television in Haycock Township since 1980. There are cable TV lines strung along 53.65 miles of roadsides in the township providing a coverage potential for 776 homes. Of the 776 homes that could have cable TV, 66 percent, or 512 homes are subscribers.

According to Larry Kisslinger, the public affairs manager for Service Electric Cable TV, the Lehigh Valley based firm is committed to providing the best service possible to Haycock residents.

Kisslinger feels his company is doing a good job in meeting the requests for coverage and pointed out that the company has provided wiring along roads that have as few as 9.5 homes per mile.

Pertaining to Haycock, He said, "The company's ultimate goal is to offer 100 percent coverage..." but added the cost/return ratio of running the lines to the most remote or least populated areas is a problem.

Service Electric Cable TV has recently signed a contract for the installation of their first 100 miles of fiber optic cable.

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The township has purchased a new Ford dump truck for use in repairing roads and in plowing snow. A plow can be attached to the front and a salt spreader can be used in the rear.

Roudenbush Road work weighed

The Board of Supervisors is considering completing the final stage in the reconstruction of Roudenbush Road.

Township Engineer C. Robert Wynn has recommended that the road be widened from its present 15 feet to a minimum of 16 feet and preferably 18 feet.

After the road base has been widened, Wynn recommended paving the road and installing modified stone shoulders.

The total cost of the job will be approximately \$32,000 with the paving material, equipment, and crew comprising about two thirds of the cost.

Six first responders qualify as EMTs, one as a paramedic

Last year's initial issue of this newsletter reported on the formation of a Haycock Fire Co. Quick Response Service to supplement regular ambulance service for township residents.

The initial response team included nine specially-trained persons who are first on the scene of medical emergencies and provide treatment within the limits of their training until an ambulance arrives.

Since last fall, six of those first responders have continued training and now are qualified as emergency medical technicians.

A seventh has progressed to full paramedic status, although he requires more equipment than the fire company has on hand to perform those functions. That person, however, is qualified to use his diagnostic skills when confronted by an ill or injured person.

Emergency medical technicians are qualified to serve on ambulances, so that when they respond to emergencies they can provide further treatment.

The QRS unit, as first on the scene of an emergency, is trained to provide treatment within the limits of training. Of equal importance, they can assess a patient's condition and relay that infor-

mation to the oncoming ambulance.

"This," said Fire Chief Harold Rupell, "gives the ambulance personnel the advantage of knowing the patient's condition and save valuable minutes in determining the appropriate treatment."

Haycock is served by the Lifestar ambulance and the Riegelsville/Palisades Ambulance Squad.

Because the Quick Response Service is a volunteer group, it cannot assess charges for the critical service it provides.

The primary funding source of this and other Haycock Fire Co. services is the annual contributing fund drive. Residents who have not yet contributed are urged to do so in order that these valuable services can continue.

Township Building meets Federal Disabilities Act

Township workers have completed improvements to the Township Building to bring the facility in compliance with the federal Americans With Disabilities Act.

The act guarantees entrance and use of all public buildings to handicapped persons.

The improvements included renovation of the public rest room and paving of a portion of the office parking lot. The rest room was enlarged to provide more space to maneuver a wheelchair, the door was widened, and special fixtures were installed. The parking lot improvement will provide separate handicapped parking spaces and a paved surface for wheelchairs.

All of the improvements were funded by a Community Development Block Grant so it was not necessary to use township funds to do the work.

Cable TV

Continued from page 1

Eventually, fiber optic cable will replace all of the existing cable lines in the company's coverage area. The new fiber optic cable will provide a better quality signal and allow subscribers to have access to more channels and service options.

If you want cable TV but do not currently have access to it, call Larry Kisslinger at 861-8508.

Ann Reichert holds post of zoning officer

In 1986 Ann Reichert was hired as Haycock Township Zoning Officer. Seven years later she still holds the position that she describes as "very interesting."

After many years of work in the private sector, first in the textile industry and later as secretary to a local physician, Ann decided to apply for the part-time zoning officer position that had become available when Nancy Yodis accepted appointment to the township secretary-treasurer post.

Working closely with Yodis, the transition went smoothly. The challenge of learning the intricacies of the new job was met by Reichert in her usual energetic style. Ann studied the township Zoning Ordinance and became familiar with all aspects of the job.

She continues to serve the township well in a capacity that covers a full range of duties from issuing building permits to dealing with zoning law violators.

Ann noted that there have been some changes in her job since she started. "I find that I am devoting more time to paperwork relating to requests for information by people like real estate agents and engineering firms," she said.

These requests indicate to her that people are interested in living in Haycock. Ann feels the rural nature of Haycock Township is attractive to home seekers.

She points out that because the land here is mostly heavily wooded and rocky, much of it is unsuitable for private septic systems.

This fact, together with the unavailability of public sewer and water service has limited development.

"Most of the permits I issue deal with single family dwellings," she said, adding "fortunately we don't have the sort of development that has affected some other parts of Bucks County, and I don't believe we will see much in the way of large developments in the immediate future."

When asked what she enjoys about her job, Ann said, "I feel that my job is very rewarding in the sense that I am providing a service that is important to the township. I enjoy working with most of the people I come in contact with, and have gotten to know many new residents".

Parish celebrates 250th anniversary

St. John's Church traces its roots to 1743

Parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church, of Ottsville, — whose history is traced to the creation of a parish community in Haycock in 1743 — are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the parish.

Roman Catholic worship in the township, however, began six years earlier with the township's original settlers, Irish and German immigrants who fled intolerance and warfare. The first recorded baptism of a Catholic infant in Colonial America occurred in the township in 1741.

Services were held in private homes and officiated by "circuit" priests who traveled on horseback until 1798, when the first church was built on or near the site of the existing church.

The wooden church was destroyed by fire in 1853, but rebuilt with native stone the following year. It was then that a steeple towering 55 feet over the center of the structure was erected. It was moved to its current location at the front of the building during one of a number of renovations. Despite these renovations, St. John retains much of the Irish-German architectural influence of its original builders.

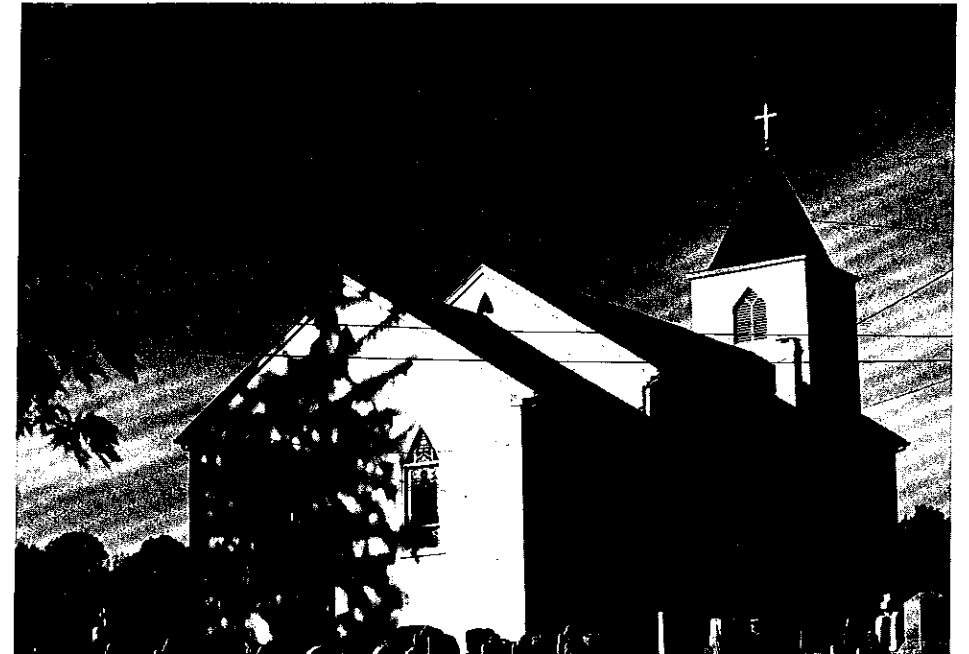
Shortly after the Civil War, Father Henry Stommel, who came from Germany via Philadelphia, became the parish priest.

He first gained recognition by reinvigorating the parish, rehabilitating the church and starting a small parish school. Next, he established three mission churches in Upper Bucks County. He was to become known as "The Church Builder."

His next assignment was to move south to Doylestown to establish a parish and build a church in that growing town. Within a few years he also built churches in Lansdale, Ambler, New Hope, Quakertown and what is now northeast Philadelphia.

In the late 1960s, it appeared that the church and its cemetery would be doomed by the impending development of Lake Nockamixon in the giant state park. Church leaders had started to formulate plans to build a convent, parish house and new church.

At the same time, however, sentiment to spare the historic structure was growing. Eventually this sentiment was strong enough to force the state to revise its plans. The old parish school and rectory



St. John the Baptist Church is celebrating its 250th anniversary.

were not able to be saved, but the church and graveyard, located on higher ground, were spared.

Today the waters of Lake Nockamixon are close by St. John The Baptist;

close enough to be reflected upon the stained glass windows of this venerable structure that is so steeped in history, heritage and religion.

Need help to evacuate home? Return this form to the township

The township has begun to compile a list of residents who would require special assistance for emergency evacuation from their homes.

According to Kathleen M. Babb, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Bucks County's Emergency Management Agency is urging all municipal governments to compile such lists in the event of fire, hurricane or major storms, power outages during especially cold weather, etc.

Persons who would need assistance in leaving their homes are asked to complete the attached brief questionnaire, tear it from this newsletter and mail it to the Haycock Township Building at 640 Harrisburg School Road, Quakertown, PA 18951.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Emergency contacts (Friends/relatives)

Name _____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Phone # _____

Nature of your handicap or disability _____
