

# Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE

PARADISE



Historical  
Society

VOLUME 35 • Summer 2024

THE FACTS &  
FANTASY OF


## Pocono People's College

### Mark Your Calendar!

Pocono People's College was a short-lived — but very influential — college for the people. It was located at Hunter Farm in Paradise, part of an international movement in the early 1900s that still has ripples today. Many people throughout our area have heard about it and wondered about it, but have only hazy — or scandalous! — ideas as to what it was all about.

To help fill in the blanks, Paradise Historical Society arranged with Franklin Eccher of UPenn, an education researcher, to dig into the story. The work was supported by a **Lillian Hamblin Nelson Research Grant**.

Frank will be sharing his results in a talk to the PHS meeting on October 6. The meeting will be held at Paradise Township Municipal Building, Route 940, starting at 2:00 p.m. All welcome. Refreshments will be served. This is one not to be missed!

Your historical society is always interested in programs about Paradise history — people, places, buildings, events, businesses, transportation, genealogy. Do you have a topic you'd like to know more about? Or a topic you would like to discuss at a meeting? Let us know! Email [jimhill@ptd.net](mailto:jimhill@ptd.net) with your ideas. 

*Jane*

Jane Niering, President

## New Series:

# “Early Settlers of Paradise Valley”

*Long-time Paradise resident Sandy Dietz enjoys tracing the roots of local family trees. Working with others who share her interest, she is developing profiles of the first European families to arrive in Paradise Valley in the early 1800s. This is the first.*

## BUSH GENEALOGY

Van der Bosch / Bosch / Bush Family  
by Sandy Dietz, Genealogy Chair

Have you ever traveled on Bush Road? It was actually named after a local family and early settlers of what is now Paradise Township.

Emigrant Jan Wouters Van Der Bosch was born in the Holland in 1633 and emigrated to New York. After arrival, he married Arentje Arents of Flatbush, New York.



In Dutch,  
“Van Der Bosch” means  
“from a woodland area”

Their son Hendrich Johanson Bosch married Marie DuBois and made their home in the Kingston, New York, area. Their son Johannes (1691-1748) eventually moved south into Pennsylvania.

Ten men with the surname BUSH can be found on the 1800 Tax List for Smithfield Township, Northampton County. (Did you know that Paradise was once a part

*Continued on Page 2*

One of the loveliest roads in Paradise Township, Bush Road is also one of our oldest roads, and named for one of the first European families to arrive here.

COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

*New Series:*  
**“Early Settlers of Paradise Valley”**

**BUSH GENEALOGY** *Continued from Page 1*  
**Van der Bosch / Bosch / Bush Family**  
*by Sandy Dietz, Genealogy Chair*

of Smithfield Township?) Their names were: John Sr., John Jr., James Sr., James Jr., George, Benjamin, Thomas, Richard, Nicholas, and Henry. The Bush family continues to be identified in the area through all federal census enumerations to the present day. In 1848, Paradise Township was officially designated and in the first census thereafter (1850), the following men are enumerated: Nicholas Bush (laborer), Joseph Bush (farmer), Frederic Bush (farmer), and Benjamin Bush (laborer).

In 1825, steps were taken to erect a church. Work began under the supervision of Henry Bush. He had assistant carpenters John Bush, Jacob Bush, Henry Dietrick, and David Acterdy. The work was completed and the church of Lutheran denomination was dedicated in 1826. (*History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties* by Alfred Mathews, page 1260).

The Jones Church was erected in 1856 in Swiftwater at the cost of \$800 (Mathews, page 1261). It's clear that the Bush family lived nearby this church, as many are buried in Jones' / Saint Paul's Cemetery, the oldest being Nicholas Bush (1779-1861). Burials for the Bush family descendants can be found not only in Swiftwater, but many other area cemeteries, from Canadensis to Minisink Hills to Stroudsburg, Shawnee, Tannersville, Middle Smithfield, and beyond.

Joseph Bush and Charles Bush were school directors for the Paradise one-room schools. One of the 5 schools was located on what is now Bush Road and another was located at the intersection of Lower Swiftwater Road and Route 191. Both educated local youth, including Bush children.

Although some have moved on, and now live across the country, many descendants of the Bush family continue to live in our community and the greater Monroe County area.

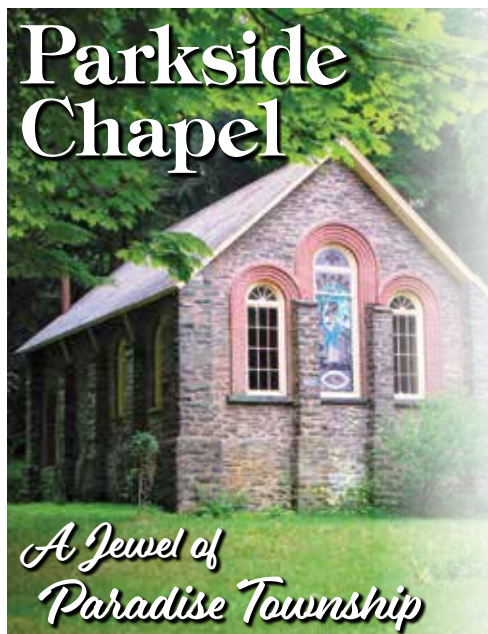
If you would like to secure more specific information about the Van der Bosch/Bosch/Bush family, or if you have any information you would like to share for the PHS archives, please contact the Historical Society at [paradisehistorical.genealogy@gmail.com](mailto:paradisehistorical.genealogy@gmail.com). Additional references are available upon request. **PHS**

SCHEDULE 1. - Free Inhabitants in Paradise Township in the County of Monroe State of Penn. enumerated by me, on the 1st day of Sept 1850. Wm. Drake Marshal

Dwelling house or other habitation	Family number of head of household	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Sex and Color			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate	Place or Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Males 20 years of age and over who are unable to read and write	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Male	Female	Color					
490	490	Henry Bush	34	M	Wh	Farmer	Penn.			
		Elizabeth	24	F	Wh					
		Catharine	4	F	Wh					
		Charles	3	M	Wh					
		George	2	M	Wh					
491	491	Nicholas Bush	72	M	Wh	Laborer				
		Nannah	71	F	Wh					
		Ann Maria Larance	15	F	Wh					
492	492	Joseph Bush	38	M	Wh	Farmer				
		Catharine	26	F	Wh					
		Julian	8	M	Wh					
		Melchior	6	M	Wh					
		Charles	4	M	Wh					
		Mandy	2	F	Wh					
493	493	Fredrick Bush	32	M	Wh	Farmer				
		Catharine	31	F	Wh		Penn.			
		Agabell	1	M	Wh					
		Amos	7	M	Wh					

**Ever since Paradise Township was formed in 1848, members of the Bush family have been found in federal census counts.**

There were marriages with other local families (Koerner, Nauman, Coffman, Metzgar, Smith, Jones, Wagner, Price, Heller, Henry, Williams, Learn, Imbt, and others). The families were large and hard working.



**P**arkside Chapel is one of the first buildings you see as you enter Paradise Township from the south on Route 191. Demurely set back from the road, surrounded by trees and landscaping, it is a welcoming sight.

At the Society's September meeting, the lead conservators of the property Larry and Pat Paretta, welcomed us to the property, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They described the work of protecting, conserving, and tending the building and its original artifacts, while making it available for ecumenical public worship and occasional intimate weddings.

The building dates from 1893 and is completely original — there is still no electricity or running water. The beautiful sanctuary woodwork, from freshly-refinished floors to the walls and soaring ceiling, take special care, as do the original organ and piano. Every summer starting in June, services are offered at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. The last Sunday of September, the service is a rousing hymn-sing.

All are welcome! For more information, visit Parkside Chapel of Henryville on Facebook. **PHS**

# DID *You* KNOW?

## Connecticut once claimed the lands of Paradise Township...

The earliest people to walk the lands of what is now Paradise Township were the indigenous Lenape, whose life in our area goes back more than 7,000 years.

Eventually, foreign governments claimed the land, and vast swaths of land were under the umbrella of the English. King Charles II gave Connecticut a Royal Charter for lands in 1662, and Pennsylvania received their Royal Charter in 1681. It was found that there was overlap between the two charters, leading to conflicts, known as the Pennamite Wars between the two states. Both claimed the same land in northern Pennsylvania (see map). Connecticut didn't give up their claim until after the Revolution, in 1786.

The land of Paradise Township has changed governance over time, first belonging to Bucks County, one of the three original counties in Pennsylvania. Next the land became part of Northampton County upon its creation in 1752, and then Wayne County. When the first European families began to settle in Paradise in 1820-1822, the land was a part of Middle Smithfield Township, Pike County, and then Price Township, Pike County, in 1830.

These changes mean that in researching early deeds starting in 1814, they may be found in the Pike County archives until 1836 when Monroe County was created. Paradise lands were still in Price Township, but now in Monroe County. It wasn't until 1848 that Paradise Township was formally created as the township that it is today.

There was one last adjustment in 1859 when a part of Paradise Township was taken to create Barrett Township and the boundaries defined as are known today. (Sources available upon request)

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Source: [www.localgeohistory.pro](http://www.localgeohistory.pro) 



## October is Family History Month...

*Here are some ways to celebrate!*

The entire month of October is dedicated to finding, preserving, and celebrating YOUR family history. Finding dates, names, and relationships for ancestors is important in knowing one's heritage, but family history is more than that. It includes letters, photos, stories and memorabilia that bring the basic family tree information to life.


### Here are some simple ideas to get you started:

**1 INTERVIEW** Who is the oldest living relative you know? Talk with them and record their answers. Once these individuals pass on, their stories may also be gone. Maybe they knew your great-great-grandfather, and can share some tidbits about what elders were like. These stories are the fabric of your family. You may learn that an aunt was good at painting, or what it was like running a business in a past decade. With the holidays coming up, this is a good time to start collecting valuable oral histories.

and confidence in the world. Provide them with a genealogy-based activity, or guide them as they interview a relative.

**4 PARTICIPATE** Create a group activity that celebrates your genealogy. One example is to collect recipes from family members – a family food history. For each recipe, include the source and any story that may be an accompaniment. In putting recipes together in a booklet for distribution to family members, consider including a short genealogy section and/or photographs to enhance the project.

**5 COLLECT** Memorabilia can be very useful. Look for letters written, newspaper articles, items handed down through generations (a ring, a tablecloth, a watch, a figurine). Old newspaper articles are useful and entertaining reading. Memorabilia can be valuable in providing information and context about your family.

The important thing is to make an effort to find the stories... they are the special part of what genealogy is about. 

**2 PHOTOGRAPHS** Organize your family photos. Use technology to create digital copies of those photos that are in the back of the closet. One very important task is to identify those in the photograph AND write the names down so that future generations may know what their family members looked like.

**3 ENCOURAGE** Get the children involved! Knowledge of their family history may give them a sense of connection



Paradise Historical Society  
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## In the Months Ahead...

Society member John Layton never tires of peeling away the years to understand ever-more fully the history of the Ace Store and The East Swiftwater Resort. Located at the heart of Paradise Township and cherished in the hearts of many residents, the Ace Store is a living relic of our shared past.

Fresh from completing his 500-year history of the Carlton Family, John is writing a new book. The working title is *Subsistence Living on a Pocono Farm*, about his memories of the family's life at the corner of Red Rock and Carlton Roads in Paradise in the early 20th century through the store's closing in 1972.

Look for updates and excerpts in the fall and winter issues of *Paradise Past*. [PHS](#)

### PHS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

**Ann Merli & Justin Holtkamp   David Pohl & Jeffrey Berger   Paulette Samson   Kirby & Joyce Upright**

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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple - \$20.00                  |  |

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Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the completed form and check (no cash) to:

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

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