

# Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE

PARADISE  
Historical  
Society

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We are living through historic times! If you can contribute to our understanding of how Covid-19 has affected — or not affected — you and your part of the Township, please email your experiences to [jimhill@ptd.net](mailto:jimhill@ptd.net). If you have artifacts to contribute to PHS archives, please hold on to them for now.

I sincerely hope that everyone is staying safe and well — and also look forward to the day when we can meet again, face to face.

*Jane* Jane Niering, *President*

# Remembering KEOKEE CHAPEL

by *Suzanne Fretz McCool*

I have so many happy memories of the Keokee Chapel in Paradise Valley.

My happy memories stem from our two weeks of Vacation Bible School (VBS) every summer for all the children of Paradise Township. Several of the pastors and congregation members (usually Sunday school teachers) from other churches in our township or neighboring townships worked together to put on our VBS each summer. I can remember Rev. Foose from our own church, St. Paul's Lutheran Reformed (UCC) in Swiftwater, being present and leading some of the daily services. I even remember him playing softball with us during our recess times. Some of the kids hit the balls so far that we had to dodge the gravestones to retrieve those big hits! Keokee Chapel has a beautiful cemetery surrounding the beautiful church.

Another fond memory is that for several summers a lame deer with a big red cross painted on its back would come out of the rhododendron thicket by the stream and let us pet it. Someone named this deer Bambi. It was missing part of one leg and hoof. We heard that it had been injured during a previous deer season and that a lady in the township painted its back, so that hunters would not shoot it. However, we heard that someone shot it anyway during one of the following deer seasons. Poor Bambi!

We were allowed to wade in the creek on the really hot days during our recess time. I'm sure this would never be allowed today because of liability

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COLLECTING, PRESERVING &  
DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY



# Remembering **KEOKEE CHAPEL**

by Suzanne Fretz McCool

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issues, but the 1950s were a special time, which we children enjoyed so much; and no one ever got hurt going wading.

Does anyone remember the wonderful lady who told the Bible stories with the use of a felt board on an easel? I just loved her stories, and they were always about the Bible verses we were learning that day. In later years when I became an elementary teacher, I borrowed some of her techniques and teaching strategies. She certainly taught from love, you could tell.

The highlight of each day was bringing all the classes together for the sing-alongs in the sanctuary. They were wonderful, and we learned so many songs which we loved and which we would sing at the final program which the parents would attend on the last day of VBS.

In my research I learned that Keokee Chapel, which is a United Methodist Church (UMC) today, traces its roots to evangelical meetings conducted in Paradise Township on that site beginning in 1838. By 1851, the

congregation built a meeting place at a cost of \$400. It may have stood on the portion of today's Sunday school room. During the 1850s, the church was served by the Lehigh Circuit.


In speaking to Pam Koerner Dunlap, who has been a member of Keokee Chapel for many years, I learned a lot about the history of the church. Pam and I were in the first grade together at the Paradise School and the first graduating class at the Pocono Mountain "Jointure," now called the Pocono Mountain School District.

Pam informed me that Mary E. Monroe from Cleveland, Ohio, vacationed here for many years. Mrs. Monroe owned a home down the road from Keokee Chapel. (That home burned down at some point and Lazy Rock Lodge was built there, a mid-century modern style structure. Lazy Rock and its cottages were demolished in the early 2000s. The land is now owned by the Township.)

Mary E. Monroe and her secretary Miriam J. Carse were attracted to the little church, and most likely walked

across the road to attend services. Mary Monroe donated several items to the church and Sunday school, such as a library, carpet, an organ, a pulpit Bible, the Baptismal font, and Communion chalices. Mary and Miriam must have enjoyed their visits to Paradise Township and loved the little church.

In 1866, Mary Monroe's daughter, Mary Keokee Monroe died. To preserve her daughter's memory, Mary donated \$10,000 to erect a new church for the Paradise congregation, and it was to be called "Keokee Memorial Chapel" after her daughter's middle name. The word Keokee is believed to be a Lenape word meaning "our daughter." Because of Mary E. Monroe's generosity, the congregation received a debt-free, completely furnished church and more grounds to extend the cemetery. Pam reminded me that Keokee Chapel celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013.

In closing, I must say that Paradise Township is truly blessed to have this beautiful historic, Victorian structure still standing today. It is an active church with a dedicated pastor and congregation. It is my feeling that Keokee Memorial Chapel is a beacon of faith and hope in what is sometimes our rather chaotic world. 



**D**etails about the last expenses of a Paradise Township resident in 1928 were found in a collection of actual bills and receipts for medical expenses and the services of a funeral director. Without sharing the name of the deceased, we still find it interesting how the cost of dying has changed over the years.


The deceased began his final days with a stay in the Monroe County Hospital, in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, from January 6 to 14, 1928. The hospital bill was for eight days at a cost of \$5 per day which came to \$40. Surgery was

part of the hospital stay at \$10 for the use of an operating room, and special nurses added another \$15 to the stay, bringing the hospital bill to a grand total of \$65 (less than \$1,000 in 2020 dollars).

The hospital bill did not include doctors' fees, which came later. The patient died while in the hospital. The surgeon was from Scranton. His bill for professional services, made to the estate of the deceased, dated February 1, 1928 was for \$500 (\$7,475.35 in 2020 dollars). The services are described as "for visits and thigh amputation." Anesthetic services were performed by another doctor and his bill was for \$100. A Stroudsburg doctor submitted a bill for professional services for an additional \$42 without further describing the services rendered. In February 1928 a Mount Pocono doctor submitted a bill to the estate of the deceased for 18 visits at \$3 per visit for a

total of \$54. These visits appear to have occurred prior to the hospitalization but relate to the same illness from which the subject expired.

Funeral arrangements and burial were handled by C. E. Gantzhorn, Furniture Dealer and Funeral Director, Tannersville, PA. Burial occurred on January 17, 1928 at the Swiftwater Cemetery. The funeral director's bill is dated January 18, 1928 and describes the services rendered: "removing the body from the hospital and embalming \$25, Casket (couch), hearse and conducting funeral \$225, concrete vault \$35." The funeral cost totalled \$285. The grave digger was J.J. Heller and his January 31, 1928 services cost \$10.

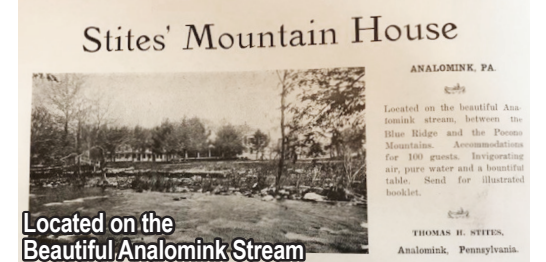
A Google search for "average funeral costs" in 2020 returns these results: \$7,000 - \$12,000 with embalming and casket or \$6,000 to \$7,000 with cremation. 

# Do You Know How the Creek Got Its Name?



Around 1900, *Detroit Publishing* circulated a few photos indicating that the scene showed "Analomink River". The location for one of the photos was identified as "Parkside, PA", which was the site of a post office slightly north of Henryville - near where the creek passes beneath Rt. 191 at the Brown's Hill Rd. intersection. [www.loc.gov/resource/det.4a07300/](http://www.loc.gov/resource/det.4a07300/)

Philadelphia Inq. 1897  
 Among some of the famous houses throughout this section is **Stites** Mountain House, Analomink, Pa., located between the Blue Ridge and the Pocono Mountains on the famous Brodheads Creek. Thomas H. **Stites** is the genial proprietor. The house has all modern conveniences, large lawns, shady porches and is located in a tract of 1000 acres. The trout fishing here is excellent.



Philadelphia Inq. 1909  
**ANALOMINK, PA. STITES MOUNTAIN HOUSE**  
 Under old management. Beautifully located on Broadhead Creek, near all points of interest; mountain streams, pine forests and rhododendrons. The finest trout fishing in the Pocono region. Good boating and bathing and all outdoor amusements. The table is supplied from the farm with fresh vegetables, poultry, butter, milk, eggs, etc. Write for booklet.  
**THOS. STITES, Propr., Analomink P. O., Pa.**  
**STITES MOUNTAIN HOUSE HEAD-QUARTERS**  
 for trout fishermen. Send for bkt. Thos. Stiles.



1888-Eastbound cattle cars went off the track and into Paradise Creek at the Spragueville Bridge

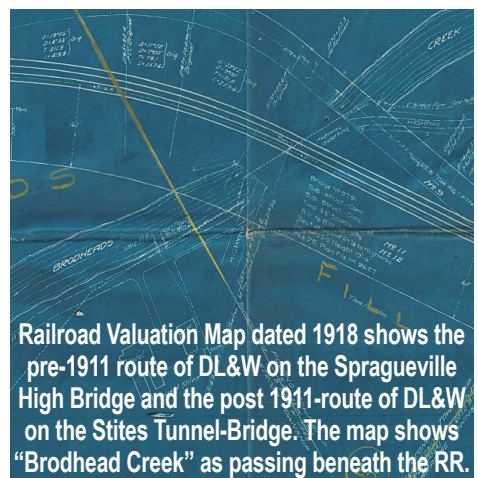
Folks interested in Paradise history often come to the Paradise Historical Society with questions about family history, places, or things. We have researched issues from a fish stick to mountains!

Now a question has arisen about the origin of the name for the Paradise Creek. An 1897 newspaper article about Stites Mountain House describes it as being "located between the Blue Ridge and Pocono Mountains on the famous Brodheads Creek." An early Stites Mountain House advertisement describes the hotel as being on the Analomink Creek. The date of the advertisement is unknown. Construction photographs of the tunnel bridge in 1911 describe the creek as the Brodhead Creek. Kim Williams found a 1924 USGS map that has the name Paradise Creek above its intersection with the Brodhead Creek. As an aside, the 1875 Beers Atlas has the name Heller Creek on what appears to be the present day Swiftwater Creek — which further illustrates how names change over time.

It is an obvious question and right at our doorstep. The origin of the name seems lost in history. We are asking readers of *Paradise Past* for assistance in discovering how the name Paradise Creek came to be. Was there an official process that created the name? Do you have anything to add? [BHS](#)

WESLEY C. HENRY. The "Park House," at Parkside, Monroe county, is one of the best of the summer hotels of this section, and its guests include the cream of society of New York and Philadelphia. Situated on the banks of the Analomink creek, with 234 feet of water front, the place presents unusual advantages in boating and bathing, while brook trout abound in this and other streams in the locality. The house is surrounded by shady lawns and a beautiful park, and 500 feet of veranda afford lounging places for the guests. A tennis court provides exercise and amusement for lovers of that game, and walks and drives to places of interest supply constant relief from monotony. Mt. Pocono is only eight miles distant. Delaware Water Gap thirteen miles and High Bridge three miles, while Paradise Falls, Red Rock Glen and other noted spots are within easy reach. A well-appointed livery stable is maintained in connection with the hotel, the equipage being of the finest, and in every way the genial and enterprising

Information about Wesley Henry in the 1900 *Commemorative Biographical Record of Northeastern Pennsylvania* published by J.H. Beers & Company describes the Park House in Parkside as located on the Analomink Creek.



Railroad Valuation Map dated 1918 shows the pre-1911 route of DL&W on the Spragueville High Bridge and the post 1911-route of DL&W on the Stites Tunnel-Bridge. The map shows "Brodhead Creek" as passing beneath the RR.



First instance of the use of the name "Paradise Creek" downstream to a junction with Brodhead Creek is on a 1924 USGS map.



1875 *Beers Atlas* does use the name "Paradise Creek" but the label is not downstream from its confluence with "Heller Creek" (present-day Swiftwater Creek) near Lower Swiftwater Road.

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

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# The LILLIAN HAMBLIN NELSON Research Grant



We are still looking for applicants for the **Lillian Hamblin Nelson Research Grant**. The purpose of the grant is to encourage high-quality research into families, businesses, roads and transportation, government and other aspects of Paradise Township history. Do you or someone you know have an idea for a subject to investigate? Go to [www.paradisehistorical.org](http://www.paradisehistorical.org) and click on the green box for information on how to apply.

## Are YOU on the PHS Email List?



To keep in touch during the pandemic, PHS has been emailing **Paradise Flash** updates to all members whose email address we have. **Paradise Flash** goes out only when we have information to share on what is happening in our community. If you are not on the list and would like to be, please send your email address to [ldlayton@ptd.net](mailto:ldlayton@ptd.net)



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+) - \$8.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$25.00      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$10.00             | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate - \$50.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couple - \$20.00                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining - \$100.00 |

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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



Summer 2020

### PHS WELCOMES THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Bill and Barbara Coffman  
Robin Ehrig  
Jeff Schroer and Meg Grace  
Robert Semler

### 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