



NEWSLETTER

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Early Settlers in Barrett Township

By Jacqueline Magann

At a court of general quarter sessions on March 4, 1859, in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, a petition was presented by the “subscribers”, “residents” and “citizens” of Price and Paradise Townships petitioning that a new township be formed out of parts of Price and Paradise Townships.

The original petition, kept at Monroe County Archives, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, shows that the said petition was presented before the Honorable George G. Barrett, presiding judge, and Abraham Levering and Michael H. Dreher, associate judges. The petition reads in part as follows:

To the Honorable, the judges of the court of quarter sessions of the Peace, in and for the county of Monroe. The petition of the “subscribers”, “residents” and “citizens” of the Townships of Paradise and Price in said county, respectfully represent that the said Townships of Paradise and Price are too large in point of territory to afford the citizens thereof a convenient and economical administration of their affairs and that the convenience and interests of all citizens of said Townships would be subserved by the erection of a new township out of parts of the said Townships of Paradise and Price . And, also to inquire into the propriety of granting the prayer of your petitioners, and your petitioners further recommend and “pray” that the said new township when erected may be called “Barrett”. And we will ever pray.

The petition was signed by forty-two “subscribers”, “residents” and “citizens”, some of whom have descendants living in Barrett Township today.

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Presidential Message

What a summer for the Barrett Township Historical Society. After two years of waiting for the COVID-19 pandemic to subside we were finally able to get together at the Cresco Station Museum. First was the Grand Reopening Celebration during Memorial Day Weekend in May. Then there were the two excursions from Steam Town that brought visitors from Scranton to Cresco for the afternoon once in July and once in August. Once again we put our best face forward and our guests left happy to have spent some time in Cresco.

At the Library and Research Center we held two exhibits with the first being in June with the Bridal Gowns through the years and then the 67th anniversary of the Flood of 1955. In addition to these big events we held monthly program meetings and the seasonal exhibit at the Barrett Paradise Friendly has been expertly updated.

As you can see the Historical Society is an active group. As president I want to thank everyone that has volunteered this year to keep our activities running. Of course if it wasn't for you, the members, there wouldn't be a Historical Society at all.

To show our appreciation there will be a special membership event at the Cresco Station Museum on Sunday, October 16 from 1 – 4 pm. There will be live music, food and other activities. We also want to encourage all of our members to bring a friend who isn't already a member and introduce them to the Society, visit the museum and the LRC and see for themselves what a special organization we are.

Have a fantastic fall everyone!

Darryl Speicher
BTHS President

 Mistakes?

If there is something that needs to be corrected, let me know! Please email me at alesiagallo@yahoo.com or give me call at (570)972-6422.

2022 Board of Directors

Shirley Lansdowne Jayne Blair Mary Price Marie Guidry Claudia Stuart

2022 Executive Officers

President	Darryl Speicher
Vice President	Marie Guidry
Recording Secretary	Ellen Davis
Corresponding Secretary	Hannelore Gaupp
Treasurer	Stu Malin

Treasurer's Report
Stu Malin, Treasurer

DATE:

Checking	\$1,077.21
Money Market	\$1,162.89
CD ESSA	\$8,501.90 2/15/23
Investment	\$40,497.73 ^{Loss of} \$1,497.73
CD ESSA	\$5,924.67
Total	\$51,239.73

2022 Executive Committee

Archivist for LRC & CSM	Consolidated in LRC & CSM activities
Cresco Station Museum	Mickey Miller & Joanne Seese
Curator for LRC & CSM	Joanne Seese
Finance	Stu Malin
Historian	Jacqueline Magann
Hospitality	OPEN
Information Systems	OPEN
Library Research Center	Jacqueline Magann & Joanne Seese
Membership	Jackie Speicher
Newsletter	Alesia Gallo, Editor & Jacqueline Magann, Co-Editor
Oral Tradition	OPEN
Programs	Mary Price & Malinda Bender, Co-Chairs
Publicity	Marie S. Guidry
Research	OPEN
Ways & Means Committee	OPEN

Exec Committee Meeting Dates

Held at LRC, 145 Sand Spring Road, Cresco
 Executive Committee meetings are held on the 2nd
 Tuesday at 3 pm monthly at LRC
 Oct 11
 Nov 8
 Dec 13
 Jan 10

General Membership Meeting Dates

Venue: Friendly Community Center
 Oct 21 at 7:00 pm
 Nov 18 at 7:00 pm
 Dec 16 at 7:00 pm
 Jan 20 at 7:00 pm



Committee Reports:**Cresco Station Museum** Mickey Miller & Joanne Seese

The museum will be open the second Sunday of the month from 1-4pm beginning October.

Archivist & Curator for LRC & CSM Joanne Seese – Nothing to report**Finance** Stu Malin *As of 9/27/22*

Our Total Income to date is: \$ \$10,373.99

Our Total Expense to date is: \$ \$15,346.15

Our Total Deficit to date is: \$ 4,976.16

The Executive Board voted at its September meeting to cash in the CD and divide the proceeds between the checking account and the money market account.

We need suggestions and help with fund raising. Please contact a member of the Executive Board with your ideas and if you can help with fund raising. Please note our financials on page 3.

Historian Jacqueline Magann

Nothing to report.

Hospitality OPEN

Due to COVID, we are not currently serving refreshments at programs.

Information Systems OPEN

Nothing to report.

Library Research Center Jacqueline Magann

A lot of effort went into putting the 1955 flood display together with display boards, display cases and films shown on our new 90" TV. Many came to view the display; we even hosted the passengers on the August excursion train from Scranton. Many thanks to Darryl and Jackie Speicher for helping out when I was in quarantine for possible COVID.

Our helpers on Tuesdays are Laurie Dunlap and Darla Williams. We get a lot done sorting and filing. Right now we are concentrating on the Resort file – a huge undertaking.



Flowers Donated by Sharon Rose Price

Sharon Rose Price gave her program on the Sommers' Heritage again by request on Sunday, September 25, which we all enjoyed. She donated one of her special flower arrangements as a door prize (pictured) won by Gloria Smith, a visitor that day.

The LRC will be open only the second Sunday of the month 1 pm to 4 pm until spring. Our Tuesday work day will continue 10 am to 2 pm, weather permitting. We welcome new volunteers to help preserve the Barrett Archives. There is always new material coming through the front door! Please call Joanne at 570-460-9279 or Jackie at 570-595-9233.

Membership Jackie Speicher

Please see the membership form at the back of the newsletter and return it as soon as possible.

Newsletter Alesia Gallo, Editor & Jacqueline Magann, Co-Editor

Deadline for submission to the January 2023 Newsletter is December 27th. Send by email to: alesiagallo@yahoo.com

Oral Tradition OPEN Chair is Needed

Programs Malinda Bender & Mary Price

Programs are normally held at the Barrett Friendly Community Center on the dates and times indicated below:

October 21, 2022 @ 7pm

The Art of Repairing and Building Musical Instruments

Dr. Ed Kosmahl, a gifted musician who performs with the Doug Smith's Dixieland All-Stars being skilled at performing on most fretted instruments, will be speaking on how he became involved with the building of his own instruments. Be prepared for a demonstration of his musical talents.

November 19, 2022 @ 2pm

Early Settlers in Barrett Township 1860-1880

Follow the footsteps of U.S. Census taker James Place, portrayed by Darryl Speicher, as James tells stories of the life of the early settlers in the newly established Barrett Township in the 1860's and beyond. Are you a descendent of Barrett's early settlers? If so, we as historians would like to add your name to our list of Barrett families.

December 16, 2022 @ 2pm

Christmas in Times Past

"Christmas in Times Past." For our Christmas get-together we would like to have everyone submit "old time" pictures of buildings in Barrett Township decorated for the holidays. These can be of businesses or private homes. Please submit your pictures by the third week of November to stationmuseum@gmail.com. so we can put these together for a slide show for all to enjoy. Also, please bring with you a "special" Christmas ornament and let us know the story behind why it is so special. Of course, what is Christmas without a "cookie exchange"? Please bring a dozen of your favorites if you would like to participate. There will be Christmas music by Ruth Kochera and also a little "extra surprise" for your enjoyment.

January 20, 2023 @ 2 pm

The Sprag Mill" by Mickey Miller

Did you know that Theodore B. Price invented the Sprag? It was first used in 1902.

Our program for July was to be an Introduction to Bee Keeping. Since we were unable to have this program through the Monroe County Bee Keeping Association, it has been rescheduled for our meeting in April and will be presented by Darryl Speicher who is well qualified to do the presentation.

Our program for August was the "55" flood. Several people who attended the meeting related their memories from the night of the flood. We were able to record these and hope to have these typed and available for viewing as part of the collection of 55 Flood memorabilia at the Library Research Center. An extensive display of flood-related material was set up for all to view at the meeting.

Program for September was the Hike at Ice Lake. Darryl Speicher gave a brief history of Ice Lake as well as the Seguire house. One of the attendees present brought with him old pictures of activities happening at Ice Lake including ice fishing. It was a very enjoyable evening.

If you have any questions or comments about our programs, we would welcome hearing from you. Also, is there a program you would be interested in attending? Or, a program you would like to present? Just let us know. You can contact Malinda Bender at bender32@verizon.net or Mary Price at maprice13@hotmail.com.

Publicity Marie S. Guidry

Follow the Barrett Township Historical Society on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Barrett-Township-Historical-Society-814825878582400/> or on our **NEW** website at www.barretthistorical.org

Research - OPEN**Ways & Means Committee**

A new ways & means committee will need to be formed due to the majority of the current membership moving across state, or out of state. If you would like to volunteer for this important role, please contact Darryl Speicher.

Visit our website at www.barretthistorical.org

Early Settlers in Barrett Township *(continued from front page)*

They were, by order of signing: William S. White, tannery and post office owner; Daniel Staples; George G. Shafer; Gilbert Palen; P. A. Castle; E. Perry; Hiram Shaw; Amonk Miller; Jesse Anderson; R.M. Eilenberger; Almeron Utt, son of Adam Utt; George Bush; Jacob Hartman; Peter Sandow; George Dressel; Henri Roesting; Leon Happish; L. P. Richard Labr (Labar); Jacob H. Price; father of Theodore B. Price; David L. Bisbing; George W. Price; Lewis Boyer, son of Charles Boyer; Charles Boyer; Orris Sayre; Thomas Ely; Richard Compton; M. B. Rinehart; Fritz Raisin; Charles Klintner; Jacob Rinehart; Godfrey Reenwitz (Reisenwitz); George Shafer; Henry Shaler; Ely Utt (son of Adam Utt); Jacob B. Teel; Theodore Brodhead; Daniel Callahan; Nicholas McCormick; David Cobby; Charles Utt; Thomas E. Huey; Joseph Spangenburg; John Piztech; Escadade Finich; Charles Wolbach; Samuel Wolbach; Jacob J. Koerner; Frederick Fuchs; Daniel M; Francis Keller.

After the petition was presented the court made the order for 3 commissioners to look into the propriety of granting the prayer of the petitioners.

Meanwhile, just 12 days later on March 15, 1859, a new petition against such a division was presented to the same court by the "Taxable Inhabitants" of Paradise Township. The petition read in part as follows:

The "Taxable Inhabitants" of Paradise Township would respectfully represent that we think there should be no division of said Township as it would by the lines proposed for the new Township take from Paradise the greater portion of the unseated lands and leave the old Township with nearly all the roads which can hardly be kept in good repair even with the taxes received from unseated lands. This, we conceive, would be unjust to the inhabitants of the part of Paradise Township, outside of the lines of the proposed new Township. This petition was signed by fifty-nine "Taxable Inhabitants" of Paradise Township.

They were, by order of signature: John Setzer; Abraham Gish; Thomas Trine; Joel E. Dunlap; John Devers; F. Gilbert; Jacob Sansenberger; Peter Dornblazer; John Bowman; Jonathan Koerner; Jacob Schneider; George J. Koerner; John Coffman; Jacob D; John A. Transue; Abraham Transue; Joseph Coffman; Levellan Koch; Charles Hilgert; Jacob Hilgert; Peter P. Storm; Samuel Hilgert; Francis Wagner; George W. Nauman; George Hartnett; Francis Boorem; Joseph Jones; Abraham Halteman; Jacob Frantner; George Baley; Joseph Holland; James Wilson; John Wilson; John Stocker; George Wagner; George R. Smith; Jacob B. Teel; Theodore Brodhead; Nicholas McCormick; David Cobby; Charles Utt; Thomas E. Huey; Joseph Spangenburg; John Pixtech; Escadade Finich; Charles Wolbach; Jacob J. Koerner; Frederick Fuchs; Daniel M; Francis Keller.

On December 31, 1859, by order of Judge George Barrett at the Monroe County Courthouse, Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, a new Township was erected out of parts of Price and Paradise Townships called Barrett. The prayers of the March 4, 1859 petitioners were answered. Early settlers in parts of Price and Paradise Townships that went to bed on December 30 woke to find themselves in the newly erected township called Barrett.

Those families who came to Barrett Township from Price were:

Albert, Adam	Price, Ichabod
Bender, Michael	Price, Jacob
Featherman, Joseph	Price, Jacob H
Long, William C.	Price, Jane
Palmer, James	Price, Smith
Price, Charles	Sees, Peter
Price Charles C.	Strite, Simmon

Those families who came to Barrett Township from Paradise were:

Deubler, Frederick
Rinehart, Jacob

Utt, Adam
Utt, Almeron

The residents of the newly formed township wasted no time in establishing local government, some of which our Township follows today.

The first U. S. Census in Barrett Township was taken in June of 1860. It showed that:

The total population of the Township was 703, 389 males and 314 females. Of the total population there were 312 children age 15 and under. Of that number there were 96 children attending one of the 7 one room schoolhouses closest to their home.

The population origin of birth in the United States included Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The population origin of birth overseas included England, Germany, Ireland, Poland and Scotland.

The occupations of the early settlers included blacksmith, cabinet maker, clergymen, clerk, day laborer, farmer (50), goldsmith, lumberman, mason, miller, rope maker, saddler, sawyer, seamstress, shoemaker, tailor, tanner (21), teacher (men only), telegrapher and woodsman.

The U.S. Industrial Census for Barrett Township in 1860 shows:

3 blacksmith establishments owned by: Palen and Northrup, Shafer and Rinehart, and William S. White

7 sawmills owned by: John Deubler, Palen and Northrup, Charles Price, George W. Price, Ichabod Price, Jacob Price and James Price

2 tanneries owned by: Palen and Northrup, Canadensis, and William S. White, Mountainhome

Many of the males listed in the 1860 population census worked in the tanneries or sawmills as day laborers. Some were boarding with Barrett families and moved on when the tanneries closed.

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The U.S. Agricultural Census for Barrett Township in 1860 shows:

Numbers of acres owned, both improved and unimproved; cash value of farm; value of farm equipment; livestock and value; vegetables grown and value (big on Irish potatoes); dairy goods and value; wine and hops and value; bee hives, beeswax and honey and value; buckwheat and flax seed and value.

Name	Acres Improved	Acres Unimproved	Cash Value
Jacob H. Price	40	140	\$1,100
Icabod Price	80	550	\$3,000
Jeremiah Sees (Seese)			X
Jacob Rinehart	30	70	\$1,000
Robert Lomax (Lomas)	35	566	\$3,000
Joseph Braun (Brown)	30	170	\$ 600
Charles Price	50	138	\$ 300
Michael Bender	35	15	\$ 600
Christopher Summer (Sommer)	40	10	\$1,800
Josephine Summer (Sommer)	40	90	\$1,000
Frodrnan Gravitl (Gravel)	60	30	\$3,000
Adam Albert	35	70	\$1,500
Henry Zager (Zeiger)	30	187	\$6,000
William Price	35	85	\$1,600
Charles Price	50	190	\$1,000
Smith Price	75	105	\$3,000
Charles Boyer	35	15	\$1,000
George W. Price	45	385	\$2,500
W. Deubler	18	160	\$1,200
Jacob Price	30	250	\$2,500
Shafer and Rinehart	65	550	\$7,000
Frederick Deubler	65	48	\$4,000

The Ligget's Gap Railroad, chartered in 1832, was incorporated in 1849. In 1851 the name was changed to Delaware, Lackawanna and Western. A depot was built at Oakland Station in 1857. On May 25, 1857, the schedule shows a stop at Oakland Station (Cresco) for freight and passengers. Imagine, the newly erected Barrett Township could claim rail service, both passenger and freight. What a boon!

The 1860 Census, Barrett Township, tells the story that the early settlers were eager for economic betterment, and as pioneers put their shoulders to the wheel to make it happen. Above all, they believed in God and Country and helping their fellow man.

We of this generation, 163 years later, can look back with pride in the accomplishments of all the early settlers who made their home here and left their mark on the land.

Resources: U.S. Census - 1850 Paradise Township
 1850 Price Township
 1860 Barrett Population
 1860 Barrett Agricultural
 1860 Barrett Industrial

Wayne, Pike & Monroe County Counties, Pennsylvania, Matthews
 Ringing Axes and Rocking Chairs, Peggy Bancroft
 The Price Family of Barrett Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania,
 Violet H. Price

Be sure to attend our general meeting on November 18 at 2 p.m. (new time) at the Friendly Community Center in Mountainhome. The program will be on "Early Settlers in Barrett Township". Darryl Speicher will portray James Place, U.S. Census taker for the 1860 Census in Barrett Township. Perhaps you are related to some of those early settlers, perhaps to John Price, Price Township, 1728-1802, progenitor of the Price family in Barrett.

****As a continuation of the article on Early Settlers we (Malinda Bender, Laurie Dunlap, Marie Guidry and Jacqueline Magann) took a ride to McComas Chapel Cemetery in Canadensis and photographed the gravestone of Early Settler John Price, Sr.

PVT. JOHN PRICE, SR.
1728 - 1802
MEMBER OF
NORTHAMPTON CO MILITIA
5th BATT 8th CO

VET REV WAR



Share Your Collection at the Library

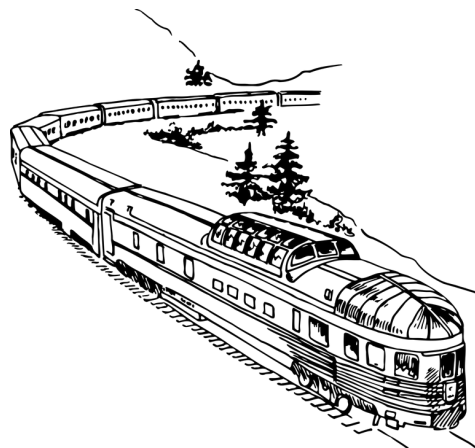
The Barrett Paradise Friendly Library would like our collections for displays in the cabinets. Can you share a collection or hobby themed items for a month or two? Items are safely locked in the display cases by the copier for all to see. So far we have had a collection of tea pots, Darryl's soccer items, Summer Days photos, & just now School Days photos of the area. December will feature a Santa collection. Please call 570-481-4622 or e-mail stationmuseum@gmail.com, let a message & we will get back to you.

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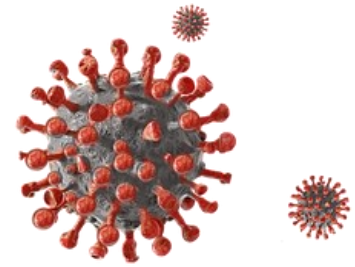
Summer Celebrations at the Station!



New Omicron COVID Boosters Coming Soon

By Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

Newly updated COVID booster shots designed to target omicron's BA.5 subvariant should be available in September instead of October as previously announced. The new booster will be bi-valent, which targets both the original COVID strain and omicron's BA.5 subvariant. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions:



I never received the COVID vaccine, can I start with this vaccine?

Because of this design of this vaccine, if you have not been primed with at least two doses of the original vaccine you are not eligible for the up-dated booster vaccine. You need two doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccine or one dose of the J&J vaccine prior to getting the bivalent omicron BA.5 subvariant vaccine.

Who is making the Omicron COVID vaccine?

Both Pfizer and Moderna are making the new booster mRNA bivalent omicron BA.5 subvariant vaccine.

Does it matter which one I receive?

As in previous boosters, the recommendation is that if you originally had the Pfizer vaccine you stick with that vaccine booster, and if you had the original Moderna vaccine you stick with that booster. If you had the J&J vaccine, you can have either the Pfizer or the Moderna as a booster, but which ever you choose as your booster vaccine, stick with that as your booster vaccine for future boosters.

Who can receive the new Omicron COVID vaccine?

The initial rollout will be for anyone over the age of 50; anyone with immune compromised illness over the age of 12; pregnant women; and anyone over the age of 5 needing their 1st booster dose. Other situations may apply. As more supplies come on to the market, the booster will be available for all as in the past rollouts.

Sources:

Weiland, N & LaFraniere, S (7/28/2022) Biden Administration Plans to Offer Updated Booster Shots in September, *The New York Times*. Accessed on-line 8/22/2022 <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/28/us/politics/covid-booster-shots.html>

Tate, N (8/4/2022) New Omicron COVID Boosters Coming Soon: What to Know Now, *WebMD*.

Accessed on-line 8/22/2022 <https://www.webmd.com/vaccines/covid-19-vaccine/news/20220804/what-to-know-about-omicron-boosters-for-covid>

CDC.gov Accessed on-line 8/22/2022 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

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Historical Recipe Side by Side – by Mary Kate Reeves-Hoché

Prior to about 1910, the fat used in cakes was animal fat or occasionally, if the recipe was from the Mediterranean area or the Middle East, the fat was olive oil. That changed in the United States in about 1910 when William Proctor and James Gamble developed a solid white vegetable fat from cotton seed oil and marketed it as a healthy alternative to animal fat, under the brand name of Crisco. With the roll-out of the new product were new recipes and new methods of mixing the dough. Our grandmothers have passed down recipes such as: Hot Water Pastry – a thick sturdy pastry that can hold its shape all by itself; Hot Water Cookies – a moist light fluffy cookie in which the hot water melts the Crisco and jump starts the baking soda action; Hot Water Breads – yielding softer, fluffier breads with shorter rise times. Now, since we have learned about Trans-Fats, we know that Crisco is not a healthy fat, and we now make cakes with vegetable oils. Below are two Chocolate Cake recipes, both are snack cakes, the first from 1915 using Crisco and hot water, it will serve 4. The second is Chocolate Cake in a Mug cooked in a microwave which was adapted from a Joanne Fluke's 2019 Hannah Swensen Bakery Mystery Series.



1915 Chocolate Snack Cake

Preheat Oven to 350 F

9 x 9 inch pan greased but not floured

Mix together the following:

- 1 egg
- ½ cup cocoa
- ½ cup shortening (Crisco)
- ½ cup milk
- 1 ½ cups flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla

Boil ½ cup water and add 1 teaspoon soda. Add to the above ingredients and mix well. Pour the entire mixture into the greased pan and bake 30 minutes. Remove from oven when toothpick inserted into cake comes out clean. Let cool about ten minutes then serve warm with ice cream.

2019 Chocolate Cake in a Mug

12 oz Mug or larger that is Microwave safe

Spray the inside of the mug with PAM or lightly grease

Add the following dry ingredients to the Mug and mix together:

1/3 cup Flour

3 Tablespoons sugar

2 Tablespoons Cocoa powder

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/8 teaspoon salt

Next add the liquid ingredients to the Mug and mix well into the dry ingredients

1/4 cup milk

2 Tablespoons vegetable oil

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Optionally, top with a dozen chocolate chips (my husband says this is the best option)



Place the Mug in the center of the Microwave and “Nuke” on high for 90 seconds. Occasionally, if your mug is too small the cake might overflow over the top of the Mug. Depending on the wattage of your microwave, the cook time might be 60 seconds up to 2 minutes.

Use oven mitts to take out of the Microwave. Let rest 90 seconds before enjoying this cake hot – the center should be molten, runny like hot chocolate lava.

Sources:

KingArthurBaking.com blog Accessed on line 8/21/2022 <https://www.kingarthurbaking.com/blog/2021/12/21/hot-water-crust-breaks-all-the-rules>

Ramsey, D & Graham, T (2014) How Vegetable Oils replaced Animal Fats in the American Diet. *The Atlantic*, April 2014. Health. Accessed on line 8/21/2022 <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2012/04/how-vegetable-oils-replaced-animal-fats-in-the-american-diet/256155/>

Fluke, Joanne, 2019 Chocolate Cream Pie Murder, a Hannah Swensen Bakery Mystery.

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CRESCO ANNIE: *BLAST FROM THE PAST*

Over the years, our dear Annie has been on many adventures. During this time, our membership and reader base has grown and changed greatly. There are many folks reading who may not be aware of Annie's past or how she ended up where she is today. In the next few newsletters, we will be reprinting the first chapters of Annie's life to give our new readers a glimpse of our dear friends past.

CHAPTER ONE

By "Annie" as told to Joanne Seese

Let me introduce myself. My name, as far as I know, is Cresco Annie. I live at the Cresco Station Museum with my daughter and granddaughter. We are waiting for the 4:20 passenger train to Hoboken and though we've been waiting for several years, it seems to be very late. So, to pass the time, I've started a journal of my life and would like to share it with you kind people of the Barrett Township Historical Society.

I must be suffering from a case of amnesia because my first memories are of awakening in a barn in Appenzell. I was in terrible shape; my hair and clothes were tattered, I was filthy, but saddest of all, I had lost my hands. My friend was in even worse shape, having lost head, arms, and legs. He was the strong silent type.

As I became fully conscious I heard voices discussing whether to purchase us along with other items they were bidding on for something called The Station. My next recollection is of being dumped rather unceremoniously into a very dark place. I later learned it was a closet. I stayed there for what turned out to be several months. At last, though, I was brought out and taken on a ride in the back of a pickup truck. I had no idea where I was going for all I could see was the trees above me, but the air smelled fresh, wonderful after that stuffy closet, and I knew it was spring.

The truck finally stopped and I was rather ungraciously carried into a green building I was to later learn was the Cresco Station Museum. There were several people busily moving things, hanging things, cleaning, hammering, and talking about something called "a grand opening". When they saw me they laughed and laughed. I must admit, I looked a mess; torn dress, no shoes, dirty painted face, no hair, and no hands. At first, they had no idea what to do with me, but after much discussion, they decided if I had a new dress, some hair, and was cleaned up a bit I might look good in the kitchen.

I won't go into details about my bath and such for it is not polite for a lady to talk about such personal things. The ladies from the Society dressed me in a new blue calico dress and apron and found a place for me in the corner of the kitchen. They decided my lack of hands might upset some of the children and more sensitive adults who were visiting but were not sure just what to do about it. Suddenly, I heard a baby cry and I knew she was mine. Before they had a chance to make any other suggestions I was holding her in my arms, wrapped in a beautiful quilt and snuggling, contentedly.

Now, dear reader, you may be wondering why I didn't mention my child sooner but you must remember, I was suffering from amnesia and all of that is quite hazy. How it happened doesn't matter. We were together at last and spent a wonderful summer watching all the people pass by our kitchen. Some stopped to ask me questions but since my baby was sleeping, I chose not to answer them. I just stood quietly waiting for whatever would happen next.

As the days in my kitchen grew shorter, it became quite cold. I could see snow falling outside my window; no one came to visit and it would have been very lonely if I had not had my daughter to keep me company. In the quiet dark days of winter, my adventures really began. Oh, the stories I have to tell. Trips on the old D.L. and W. with my friend Phoebe Snow, being lost and found again, and but that will have to wait until next time. I hear my little girl calling me.

CHAPTER 2

It was on a particularly cold and dark day in my kitchen that first winter in The Station that something strange happened and one of my first adventures began. I was humming a lullaby to my baby and must not have heard the door open because suddenly there stood before me a beautiful young woman dressed completely in white; from hat to shoes, gloves to parasol. She was so quiet and still that at first I thought she was a ghost or my imagination but then she spoke. This is what she told me.

“My name is Phoebe Snow and I’ve waited a long time. I was born in 1900 on this very railroad; The Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad. How well I remember my first trip. I always wear white because they say that anthracite coal is so much cleaner than the soft coal the steam engines used to use that I can stay perfectly clean. When World War I came along the government banned anthracite coal in steam engines, so I retired until World War II. Then I rode the train again, in an all white military uniform. I really liked all those wonderful young men and I was sad because they were going off to war. One time the train stopped at this very station and they loaded a whole lot of dog cages on board. Even the sled dogs were going to serve their country. In 1949 they named the first steamliner passenger run, from Hoboken, NJ to Buffalo, NY after me. In 1960 I went all the way to Chicago; but sadly, in 1966 when they closed down the railroad and this station, I disappeared until now.”

Phoebe and I became such good friends. She stopped in often and we would chat over coffee in the kitchen; my baby and I in our big rocker and Phoebe in the station master’s chair, fastidiously brushing away crumbs with her white gloves. She told me so many stories about her travels that I longed to see more of the world than just the snow drifting outside my kitchen window.

One day, over a cup of tea, Phoebe asked me to come with her the next time the train came by. We could ride all the way to Buffalo and then to Niagara Falls for just \$4.50 or \$5.00 round trip. It didn’t take me long to decide to go. The Society folk had not come to visit in months, not since we celebrated Christmas by lantern light and they certainly wouldn’t miss me and my baby if we took a little trip. I quickly packed everything in my old metal suitcase, bundled my baby warmly in her quilt, and stepped out of the station with Phoebe to wait for the #565 bound for Niagara Falls.

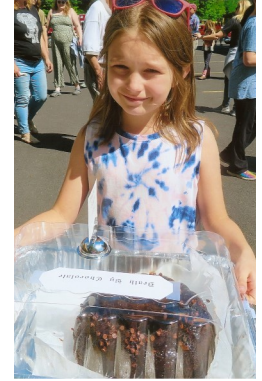
The engineer looked a little surprised to see us but stopped anyway and we boarded the train. It was such a fancy passenger car I was afraid it would be too expensive but Phoebe whispered not to worry, she would take care of everything. She spoke to the conductor who looked at us and smiled, nodded his head, and found us a seat together. Slowly the train pulled away from my home, The Cresco Station Museum, and our first adventure began. Little did I know then that years would pass before I would see my kitchen again, my little girl would grow into a lovely young woman, and I would have a beautiful granddaughter.

But, I’ve getting ahead of myself, so back to that trip to Niagara Falls. My baby was getting a little cranky so I told Phoebe I was going to take her for a walk. We passed from one car to another, and “Baby” was finally soothed by the swaying train when there was a sudden jolt, a loud bang, and then an awful screeching sound. The car started to move backward down the mountain, picking up speed as it careened around curves, tipping left and right on the sharp corners. We were in a runaway train car and all the other passengers were screaming and crying. It seemed like we were flying but then we stopped abruptly and the car teetered from side to side finally landing on its side in the snow.

I must have bumped my head because when I woke up a very kind gentleman was helping me get out of the train. I was quite worried about my baby but he assured me that someone was taking care her and when I got out into the swirling snow, I was again holding her tightly in my arms. I looked around and realized I was one of the lucky ones and although a bit dazed, I started to walk back down the track, hoping that we had not gone far and I might get back to my Station. I walked for hours and finally saw lights glowing from a window of a building beside the tracks. It was an old hotel, the ancient sign dangling precariously from one hook. I couldn’t read the name of the hotel in the darkness but I was so tired it didn’t matter where I was; I needed to sit down and get warm. Cautiously I pushed open the door and an amazing sight greeted my eyes. But there I must leave you, dear friend, until next time, for I have some chores to tend to and the next chapter in my journal must wait.



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