



ICONIC BUCKS
THE CUTTALOOSA
VALLEY



PUBLIC ENEMY #6
TREE-OF-HEAVEN AND
GOOD INTENTIONS
GONE WRONG



TWIN CREEKS FARM
BEAUTIFUL
HISTORIC
CONNECTED



THE DAY BUCKS CO.
SAVED THE UNION
IT'S A SMALL WORLD
AFTER ALL

CONSERVATOR

Iconic Bucks: Cuttaloosa Valley



The Historic Cuttaloosa Valley District in Solebury Township is a charming, picturesque, and historically significant area that showcases the rich cultural and natural heritage of Bucks County.

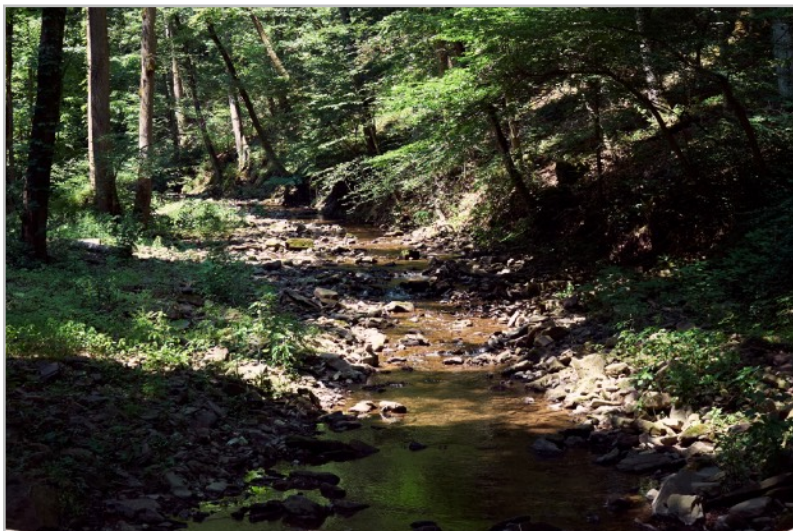
History

Prior to European settlement, the Lenape Native Americans inhabited the area utilizing the valley's natural resources for sustenance. The name Cuttaloosa is an anglicized form of the Lenape "Quatalossi" which was the name of their village in the valley. European settlers began arriving in the

late 17th and early 18th centuries and soon recognized the valley's potential for agriculture and milling. The fertile land of the Cuttaloosa Valley was ideal for farming and numerous farms were established contributing to the County's development as an agricultural region.



The construction of Cuttaloosa Mill in the early 19th century played a crucial role in the local economy by grinding grain for the areas farmers. The mill, along with its farm and buildings, is a quintessential example of Bucks County's rural heritage and remains one of the best-preserved examples of early American industrial architecture in the region.



In 2000, the Cuttaloosa Valley Historic District was entered into the National Register of Historic Places. The district, which runs from Sугan down to River Road, is comprised of twenty-three homes and accessory structures.

One of the most scenic roads in Bucks County is Cuttaloosa Road with its mix of woodlands, open fields, and Cuttaloosa Creek. The picturesque setting makes it a popular spot for simply enjoying nature.



There is a natural spring, piped from the hillside to Cuttaloosa Road, that was built in the 19th Century for travelers to collect drinking water. It features a flagstone trough, stone wall, and apparently people still collect water from it.



Heritage

Cuttalossa Valley is dotted with historic stone houses and barns, many of which date back to the 18th and 19th centuries. These structures reflect the architectural styles and building techniques of the period.

One of the most notable residents of the area was Daniel Garber, an American Impressionist painter associated with the New Hope Colony. Garber moved to the area in the early 20th century and established his home and studio at Cuttaloosa Farm.



The beauty of the landscape inspired many of Garber’s works and his presence in the valley brought an artistic dimension to the area’s heritage.

Historic Preservation

There have been ongoing efforts to preserve the historic and natural beauty of the valley. Solebury Township has implemented zoning regulations and with the Land Trust has put conservation easements on many of the properties to protect the area from development. Local historical societies and preservationists also work to maintain the area’s historic buildings and landscapes.

[Find out more about Cuttaloosa Valley](#)

Cuttalossa Valley is a unique and treasured area that offers a glimpse into our past while continuing to be a beautiful part of the community.

Ermentrout Appointment



The Land Trust is delighted to announce the appointment of Laurie Ermentrout to its executive leadership team.

Laurie will serve as the Trust's operations director where she will lead many of the organization's operational functions including membership, communications, information technology, and outreach strategy.

A longtime director and former president of the LTBC Board, Laurie served for over sixteen years before stepping down in April 2023. Her decades of experience—both inside and outside the organization—will not only help the Trust improve its operational functions but improve engagement with the communities where our work is focused.

The former President of E&S MedEd Group, Laurie has held management roles at several medical education and technology companies.

Hazardous Waste Recycling

Summer is around the corner and once again Bucks County is providing an easy way for us to get rid of our hazardous waste. Here is the schedule for the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events:

June 29: Central Bucks Central Bucks South High School, 1100 Folly Road, Warrington, Warrington Township

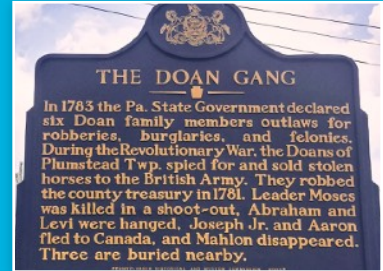
August 10: Lower Bucks Bensalem High School, 4319 Hulmeville Road, Bensalem, Bensalem Township

October 26: Upper Bucks Strayer Middle School, 1200 Ronald Reagan Drive, Quakertown, Richland Township

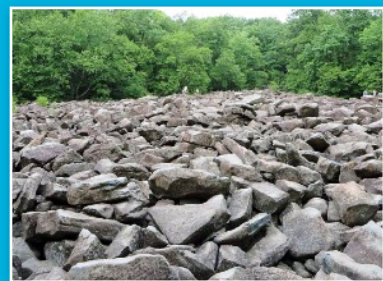
The reclamation and reuse of these hazardous materials is good for the environment and good for us. [Click here to find out more about this important public program.](#)

Did you Know?

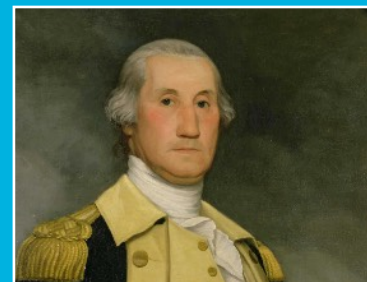
[Click and Learn](#)



[The notorious criminal gang known as the Doan Boys were from Plumstead](#)



[Ringing Rock Park features a field of boulders that ring when struck](#)



[Goerge Washington was denied lodging when he tried to stay at the Black Bass Inn](#)

Public Enemy No. 6

Public enemy #6 in our ongoing series on invasive species is tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). It is also commonly known as Chinese sumac, paradise tree, stink tree, and just plain ailanthus. Native to China and Taiwan, ailanthus is a non-native invasive plant that has spread across the United States due to its adaptability and resilience to various climates and soil types.



The history of ailanthus in North America is a story we have heard before when it comes to invasive plants and another example of good intentions gone wrong. It is a story of how an exotic ornamental plant introduced in Pennsylvania became one of the most notorious invasive species in the United States.

Ailanthus was introduced to North America in 1784 by a wealthy Pennsylvania gardener named William Hamilton who brought it from England to his estate, The Woodlands, in Philadelphia (now the Woodlands Cemetery.)

The Spread

Valued for its rapid growth and ornamental appeal, ailanthus became popular in the early 19th century in urban landscaping due to its ability to thrive in poor soil conditions and polluted environments. It was planted along streets and in gardens in many cities. As American cities expanded, ailanthus spread from urban areas into the surrounding rural landscapes. Although its adaptability allowed it to thrive in disturbed environments such as roadsides, railways, and mines, by the late 19th century it was recognized as a problematic invasive species.

[Learn more about ailanthus](#)

The tree's prolific seed production and ability to sprout from roots and stumps contributed to its rapid spread. Each tree can produce an astounding 350,000 seeds annually which are easily scattered by the wind. Ailanthus also secretes chemicals into the soil from its root system—a biological phenomenon known as alleopathy—that inhibit the growth of other plants giving it a competitive advantage and allowing it to dominate wherever it becomes established.

The Problem with Ailanthus

Ailanthus outcompetes native vegetation and can eliminate or even cause the extinction of native plants and animals. Its rapid, dense growth and alleopathic properties displace native flora resulting in reduced biodiversity and altered ecosystems. As with other invasive plants we have looked at, its aggressive root system can damage sidewalks, foundations, and sewer systems, leading to significant economic costs for infrastructure maintenance. It also happens to be the preferred host plant for an invasive insect that has received a lot of press recently: the spotted lanternfly.

[A tree-of-heaven grows in Brooklyn](#)

Control and Management

Today ailanthus is found in 44 states and is particularly prevalent in the eastern United States. In Pennsylvania, it is one of the most common invasive plants found in natural areas.

Recognition and a coordinated control strategy is important in controlling ailanthus, but before anything is done, care must be taken to identify it because there are look-a-likes that are native to our area. In particular, ailanthus and the eastern black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) are easy to confuse due to the similar shape of their leaves. There are three things to look for that makes it easy to distinguish one from the other:

Ailanthus leaflets have one to two coarse serrations at their base and the rest of the edge is smooth. Black walnut leaflets are finely serrated along the entire edge.



Ailanthus



Black Walnut

Ailanthus' bark is also much smoother than that of the eastern black walnut:



Ailanthus



Black Walnut

Then of course there are the walnuts which drop in the fall and are edible. Ailanthus does not produce nuts.



Once identified, ailanthus can be eradicated over time with a combination of mechanical removal and chemical herbicides. However, its ability to re-sprout from roots and stumps makes eradication difficult. These methods often require repeated applications to be effective.

In recent years, research has focused on finding biological control agents, such as natural predators or pathogens, to help manage it. *Verticillium nonalfalfae*, a fungus native to Asia, is one example being studied for its potential effectiveness.

Contact the PA Department of Agriculture for information and advice on safely dealing with ailanthus, stink tree, Chinese sumac, tree-of-heaven, or whatever you want to call it.

Twin Creeks Farm

Occasionally the Land Trust of Bucks County features preserved properties to highlight not only their history and importance, but the role these properties played in the growth of our region. Many of the families that were raised on these farms played a prominent role in the development of our county and sometimes even the nation. In this issue we are pleased to feature a property located on Lower Mountain Road in Solebury Township called Twin Creeks Farm.



Twin Creeks Farm

The Twin Creeks Farm we see today is a subdivision of the original 500 acre parcel deeded to John Scarborough by William Penn. Scarborough constructed a house at the location of the present day Partridge Hall (aka Bradshaw Farm) on Street Road just southeast of the village of Lahaska. In 1786 they separated a 104 acre parcel that stretched from the present day Route 202 to Lower Mountain Road and sold it to an Allen Bye of Buckingham. The Bye family farmed the property and constructed the original house and

barns. They lived there until the late 1870's and then sold the entire 104 acre property to a local self-made business man and farmer named Jacob Kooker.

Jacob grew up in the Holicong area where his father was a founding member of the Baptist Church at Canada Hill. The church was located at the intersection of what is today Route 202 and Upper Mountain Road (now an antique shop). Jacob Kooker became an extremely successful and respected entrepreneur in the Central Bucks area and was the first person to use the railroad to import carriages manufactured elsewhere and sell them locally at retail. His business model, located in Doylestown Borough, was a forerunner to the present-day automobile dealership and was called Keystone Carriage Works.



Partridge Hall

By the late 1800's, Jacob had assembled land holdings that stretched from Route 202 to all the way past Stoney Hill Road along Aquetong Road. In addition to running his other business ventures, Jacob was a farmer who raised horses and cattle.

Stemler Oliver.....	Hotel.	4
Van Horn Chas.....	Miller. M	4
Ziegenfus Alfred A.....	G. S. G	3
Ziegenfuss Wilson H.....	G. S. G	3
AQUETONG, Bucks Co.		
Pop. 100—Bkg. Town Lambertville, N. J.		
Kooker Jacob.....	Wagons, Harn, &c. E	2
Naylor Jesse P.....	G. S. & Lime. G	3
ARAM, Adams Co.		
(E. D. Fayetteville.)		
Pop. 50—Banking Town Chambersburg		
Kauffman Geo. H.....	G. S. L	4
Kauffman Jacob H.....	G. S. L	3½
ARARAT, Susquehanna Co.—2 K		
Pop. 100—Banking Town Susquehanna		

Kooker listed on Dun & Bradstreet

In 1891, when the Pennsylvania Railroad Company extended the rail line to New Hope, the new line actually bifurcated his farm. He negotiated with the railroad to have a rail siding, a short railway track next to the main rail line where freight cars can be left when not in use, placed at Lower Mountain Road adjacent to his property.

He used this rail system to import carriages, harnesses, and pianos which he sold directly from a building on the property in front of his house (the structure no longer exists). Jacob Kooker truly was the first vehicle dealer in the New Hope area.

In 1867, Jacob married Martha Naylor. The Naylor's were also from the Village of Aquetong and operated a large lime kiln on the adjacent Paxson Farm. In the early 1900's Jacob divided his property in half and sold one portion to the Naylor's who constructed and ran a general store there until the 1940's. That location is now the home of the Paramount Wood Company.



Naylor's General Store



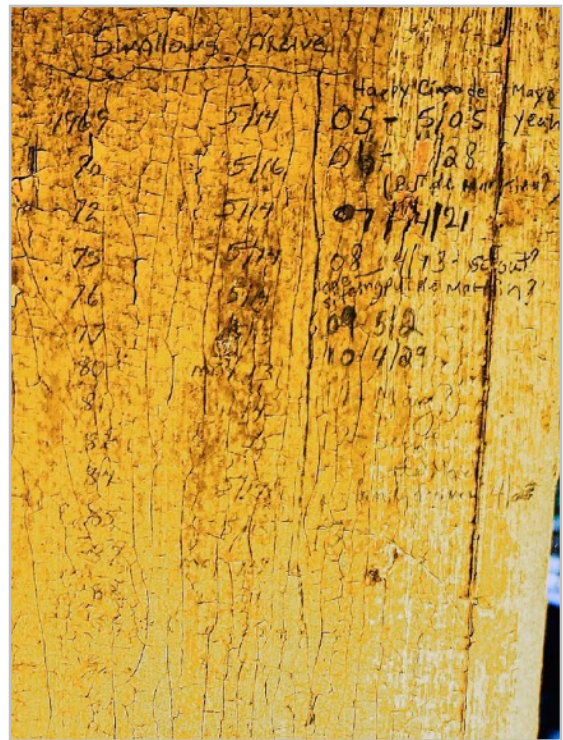
Caption

Jacob Kooker passed away in 1917 and his land holdings were sold off. He is buried, along with his wife and parents, in the cemetery of the Solebury Baptist Church.

Kooker's remaining 54 acres were purchased by Albert Woodward. Originally from Minnesota, he and his wife farmed the property until it was sold again in the 1960's to a prominent diamond dealer named James Hossley.

The Hossleys at the time acquired several properties stretching from Stoney Hill Road to Aquetong Road on both sides of Lower Mountain Road.

The Hossleys operated Twin Creeks as a beef operation and started an interesting tradition that has been carried on by the present owners. Starting back in 1969, someone has charted and marked the arrival and departure dates of the barn swallows which nest in the barn following their migrations. This record is handwritten on a post in the old forebay barn. The first noted arrival was on May 14, 1969 with a departure date four months later on September 20th. 1994 marked the first year the swallows shifted their schedule by arriving in April and departing in August. A trend that continues to this day.



Swallows arrival at Twin Creeks



Twin Creeks Farm was sold by Hossley in the early 1990s and changed hands several times before being acquired by its current owners John and Elizabeth Augenblick. The Augenblicks have meticulously restored the property and continue to operate the

farm. The pastures are all hay fields now including the spot where Jacob Kooker once sold carriages, organs, and pianos right on Upper Mountain Road at the Pennsylvania Railroad crossing.

The Day Bucks County Saved the Union

By David Johnson

In completing my research for Twin Creeks Farm I went down the rabbit hole of history and found a story that needs to be told. Interestingly, the story has a connection to two preserved farms in Solebury Township that currently border each other: Twin Creeks Farm and the adjacent Bradshaw Farm

formerly known as Partridge Hall. Both were once owned by John Scarborough. It must be said in advance that this story has an element of six degrees of separation, but bear with me as we connect the dots. The story is about one day during the civil war that had a profound effect on our local and national history. It's a long story so we are going to present it in two parts. Part one is about what happened on May 31st 1862 at the Battle of Fair Oaks. What happened afterwards, and its effect on the region, will be told in part two.



Twin Creeks Farm

Our story begins with Mr. Jacob Kooker who owned Twin Creeks Farm in the late 1800's.

Jacob's grandfather, who emigrated from Germany and settled in Holicong, was a widower who found love again later in life with a local widow by the name of Mary Myers. They married and relocated to Tincum Township where they settled on a farm there.



104th Infantry monument in Doylestown

Mary had a son named Jacob who after the outbreak of the civil wanted, like many in the north, to preserve the union so he volunteered for the newly formed 104th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment. The 104th was comprised of ten companies, each with about one hundred men, and all recruited from Bucks County. Jacob was in Company G with other men from the Tincum and Nockamixon area.

On May 31st 1862 Company G and the rest of the boys from the 104th were the sharp tip of the spear for the Army of the Potomac. They were only five miles from the Confederate capital of Richmond Virginia and part of the 4th

Army Corps in General George McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. On that sunny Saturday morning the men from the 104th could hear church bells ringing in the city but they knew there was major

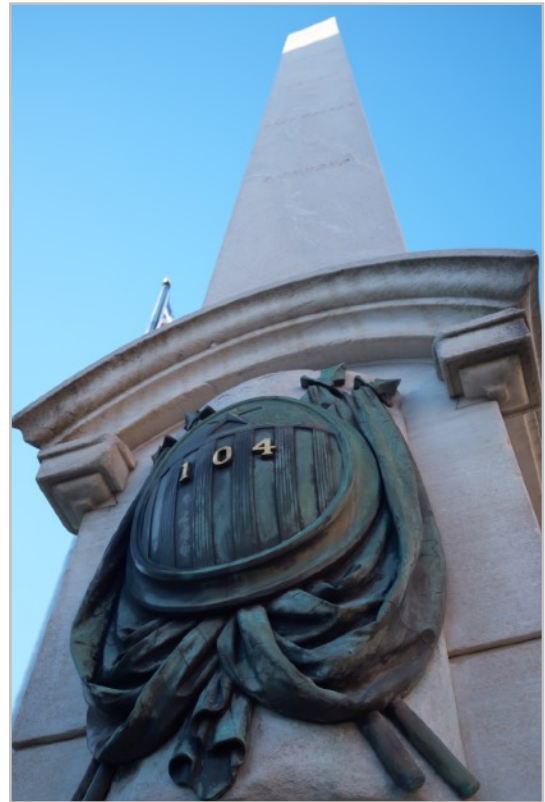
trouble brewing. Massive thunderstorms had moved through the night before and torrents of rain had not only soaked everyone, but also flooded the Chickahominy River which took out the bridges and separated the entire 4th Corps from the rest of the army. Until the Union engineers could rebuild the bridges they were cut off and the Confederates knew it.

The Confederate General Joseph Johnston put the Army of Northern Virginia in motion to attack and destroy the Union's 4th Corps. It was a complicated battle plan that was not initiated until late in the morning, when two Confederate army corps went into battle against the



Colonel William Davis

undersized Union corps. For the 104th and the boys from Bucks County this was their first major engagement and no one knew how well they would fight, but they were capably led by Colonel William Watts Hart Davis—a veteran from Doylestown—and they stood their ground against multiple waves of Confederate attacks. Eventually the entire Union line gave way, but Colonel Davis refused his flanks. He bent the regiment into a “U” shape to try and buy time for the rest of the corps to get back across the river.

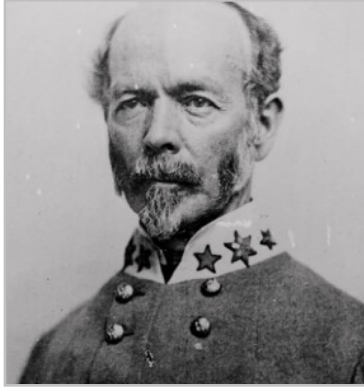


The fighting became desperate and at one point the regiment was at risk of losing its regimental colors. For any regiment, be it Union or Confederate, to have its colors captured (i.e., their identifying flag) was a grave embarrassment. The color bearer was shot and the Virginians facing the 104th raced to grab the flag. In an iconic moment, Colonel Davis ordered his adjutant, Major John Greis, to take some volunteers and save their colors. Major Greis grabbed Jacob Myers and Hiram Purcell, both friends from Company G, and the three of them rushed forward. Sadly, Major Greis was immediately shot and mortally wounded. Jacob Myers was also wounded in the leg, but was able to return to the Union lines. Despite being wounded three times, Hiram Purcell fought off the Confederates by hand and rescued the colors bringing the flag back to the Union lines. With the 104th's colors secured, Colonel Davis ordered a full retreat.



The Battle of Fair Oaks

Although the regiment suffered casualties of over 60% (many of whom were captured) they joined a supporting artillery battery from Maine and succeeded in delaying the Confederate attack long enough for the majority of the Union's 4th Army Corps to get back across the Chickahominy River. It is this author's opinion that their heroic efforts in that battle, and their delaying tactics, changed the course of the war.



General Joseph Johnston

The Confederate General Joseph Johnston became increasingly frustrated with his army's inability to advance and it only worsened when Confederate President Jefferson Davis actually rode out from the capital to observe the battle. Johnston recklessly rode too close to the action and was severely wounded by an artillery shell burst from the Maine battery supporting the 104th. Davis immediately appointed Kentucky native General Gustavus Smith to command the army but he promptly suffered a nervous breakdown. It was then that Davis promoted Robert E. Lee to commanding general and the rest, as they say, is history.



General Robert E. Lee

The next day Lee attacked all along the front and drove McClellan off of the Peninsula and out of a job. An interesting historical fact is that the Democratic Party would later nominate George McClellan to run as an anti-war candidate against Lincoln in 1864, and he almost won. With Lee in command, the war would drag on for three more years and cost 500,000 additional American lives.



Hiram Purcell

Jacob Myers recovered from his wound and returned to Bucks County to live out his life as a farmer. Hiram Purcell was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courageous actions that day and is the only Bucks County native to do so.

Colonel Davis was wounded in the elbow and in a strange twist of fate was treated by a young assistant surgeon from the 103rd Pennsylvania regiment named Dr. William Stavely. Stavely grew up on his father's farm, a farm called Partridge Hall, on Street Road in Lahaska. No doubt they discussed the irony as the doctor dressed the wounds.

[Learn more about Hiram W. Purcell](#)

Two Bucks County men who lived 6 miles apart from each other meeting randomly on a chaotic Civil War battlefield.



Partridge Hall

Both men would return home after the war. William Watts Hart Davis returned as a brigadier general. He founded the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880, authored several books, and was editor of the Doylestown Democrat. Local historians consider Davis the patron saint of Doylestown.



[Learn more about William Watts Hart Davis](#)

[Did you know the Bucks Co. Historical Society has a research library?](#)

William Watts Hart Davis

Doctor William Stavelly would practice medicine in Lahaska until his death. He lived with his wife and family in the famous Bleak House at the corner of Street Road and Upper Mountain Road on a farm which at one time was part of his father's estate. The property is now owned by Solebury Township and used as a park.

Both men are buried in Doylestown Cemetery.

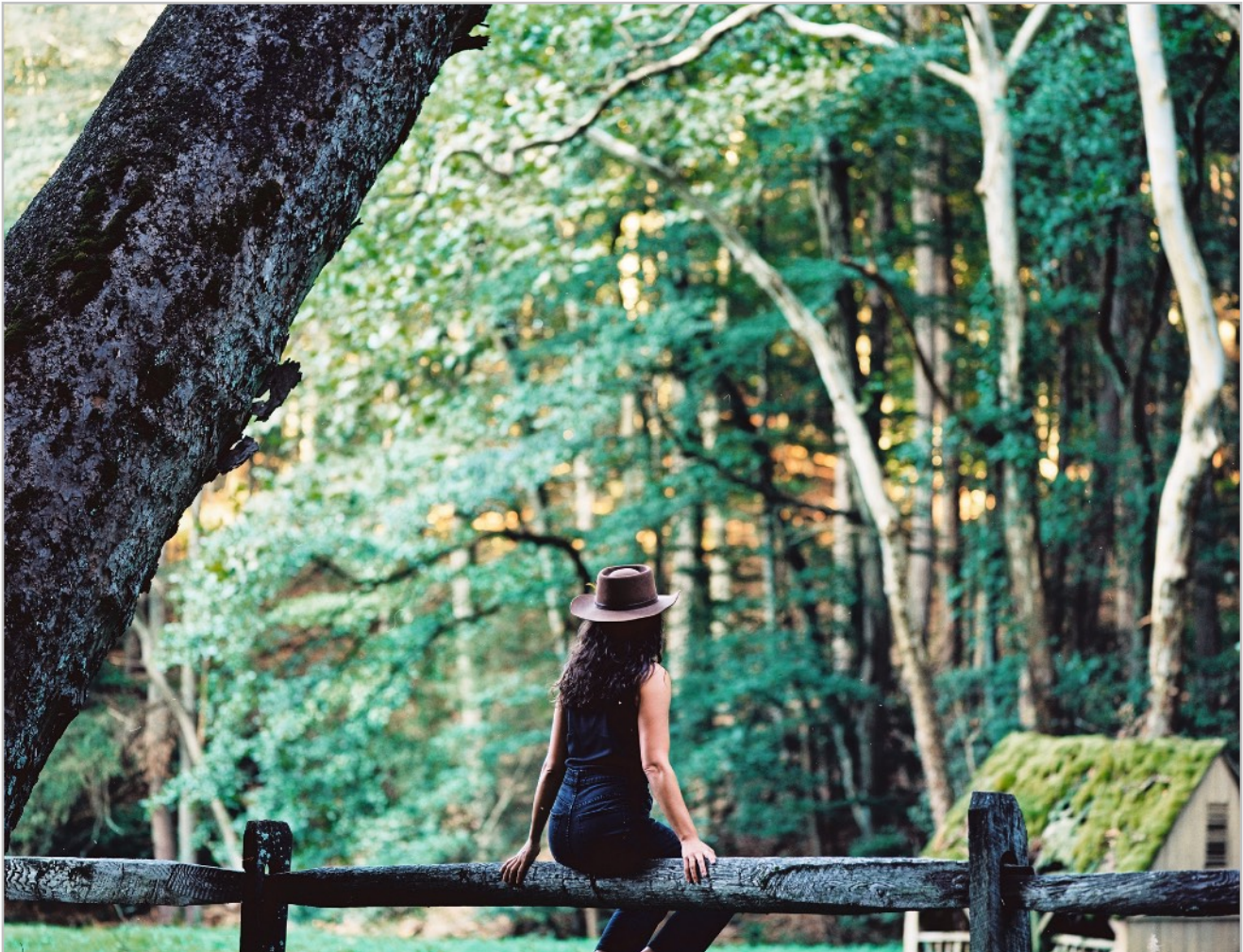


Bleak House

Brigadier General Davis was so moved by the actions of that day that he commissioned a local artist to paint what happened. The painting is entitled “The Rescue of the Colors” and its story will be the focus of part two.

David Johnson is a Bucks Co. farmer and the Executive Director of LTBC.

In Summer, the Song Sings Itself



Summer on Cuttaloosa Road - Quote by William Carlos Williams

Especially in Bucks County. If you are a supporter of the Land Trust of Bucks County, or would like to be one, then it is time to participate in our membership drive. You may have recently received a renewal letter. If not, it is on the way. We need you to renew your membership and we need new members. Money raised from this drive helps to underwrite many of the Trust's activities.

If you think land conservation is important, donate. If you like this newsletter, donate. If you think Bucks County is a great place to spend the summer, donate. You will be doing a good thing and you will hear the song as we do. Happy Summer!

The Land Trust of Bucks County, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established in 1997 by a small group of local residents to protect and preserve what makes Bucks County special. It's about the land.

A blue rectangular box containing the Land Trust of Bucks County logo at the top, a QR code in the center, and the text "Click Here" at the bottom in a white, italicized font.