

More Haworth History

Mary Lou Boyd, Haworth Historian

FIRSTS

The FIRST people to live in Haworth were the Lenape Indians.

The FIRST street in Haworth was Schraalenburgh Road, a Dutch name meaning “Little Ridge.” It was a dirt trail left by the Lenape Indians. The trail was widened and became a muddy dirt road, then was covered with tar and gravel and finally asphalt.

The FIRST house built in 1782 and is located at 265 Schraalenburgh Road. The home was owned by the Garret Durie Family. Other FIRST families were Zabriski, Westervelt, Ackerman, Opdyke, Vanderbeck, Kipp and Haring.

The FIRST railroad was built in 1883 and the railroad station was built in 1888. The land was donated by John D. Phyfe who had a wooden bridge constructed for his wife Jane to use if the railroad crossing was blocked by a broken down train.

The FIRST school was constructed in April, 1894 at Valley Road and Haworth Avenue. It was yellow and had a bell to call the children to school. Miss Kingsland taught all the pupils in one room. The school burned down on June 2, 1898.

The FIRST home builder was the Haworth Land Improvement Company established in 1888.

The FIRST business was at the “Old Saw Mill” at a lake located between Lakeside East and Lakeside West. In 1883 it made railroad ties for the railroad being constructed in and through Haworth.

The FIRST hotel was built in 1885 and was located at the eastern end of Hardenburgh Avenue and was called “The Antlers” (now Andiamo’s). Travelers stayed overnight and at meals there.

The FIRST Fire Department was formed on June 20, 1908. It’s first fire house was located at the northeastern corner of Schraalenburgh Road and Madison Avenue and was built in 1911 at a cost of \$335. They also served as the Ambulance Corps. In 1994, the Haworth Volunteer Ambulance Corps. became an independent organization.

The FIRST water supplied to Haworth homes came from the tank on “Tank Hill.” Most homes had their own wells. Water was pumped from an artesian well on Owatonna Street to the tank. It took all day Sunday to do this.

The FIRST policeman in Haworth was Eugene (POP) Weiss in 1915. All his duties were performed “on foot.” On August 7, 1923, Edward Menze was hired as the town’s first patrolman along with his motorcycle. The FIRST police car was purchased in 1927. He became “Our Chief”. He retired in 1964. The Chief loved Haworth and Haworth reciprocated.

The FIRST building in Haworth was constructed in 1904 on Terrace Street. It housed the Borough Hall, the Police Department and included a jail, the fire truck, the library, many other businesses and also apartments.

The FIRST mayor of Haworth was William T. McCulloch who served from 1904-1908. He owned the FIRST car in Haworth and his daughter, Helen McCulloch Phyfe wrote the FIRST book, "The Haworth Story" which recorded the history of Haworth.

The FIRST Post Office was part of the railroad station in 1894 and eventually moved to the 1914 building on Terrace Street. Carolyn Cowan was the Post Mistress.

The FIRST church in Haworth, 1908, was the First Congregational Church located on Haworth Avenue and Owatonna Street. The constructed cost was \$5,750 and Charles Jones was the FIRST minister.

The FIRST tax collector was Everett Bell and served as the collector of property taxes in 1907.

The FIRST and only Department of Public Works was organized in 1927 and was headed by Wilber LeCompte.

The FIRST golf club house, May 1, 1902, was White Beeches Golf and Country Club located on Maple Street between Ivy and Jefferson Avenues. It cost \$16,000 and included 120 members paying annual dues of \$40.00. William T. McCulloch was the FIRST president.

The FIRST Boy Scout, Troop 73, of Haworth began in 1920 with Walter Rohdenburg and Steve Wager as the Scout Masters.

The FIRST Girl Scouts formed in 1934 with Mrs. Julia Hudson as their "Captain."

The FIRST famous person who lived in Haworth was General Henry P. Robert, from 1898-1904. He married the Haworth Public School Principal, Isabel Hoagland. He is the author of "Robert's Rules of Order."

The FIRST Borough Clerk was Walter Lewis, followed by George Aken.

The FIRST Haworth Public Library was formed in 1911-1912. Books were kept in many places: Borough Hall, Community House of the First Congregational Church in 1928-1938, Terrace Street, in the present Borough Hall which was constructed on April 11, 1964, then their own library building which began construction January, 1990. Caroline Renier was the FIRST salaried librarian.

Haworth is 2.26 square miles. It contains 1,450 acres and comprises .09% of the area of Bergen County. There are 74 streets in Haworth, 32 miles of town streets and 4.21 miles of country roads. At its highest, we are 145 feet above sea level and at the lowest 25 feet, along the Oradell Reservoir.