



Hellertown Historical Society

Dedicated to Preserving the History and Heritage of Hellertown and its People

In This Issue

President's Message – Page 2

Photos : Trick or Treat At HHS Jail – Page 2

Moravian Students Volunteers – Page 3

Photos : HHS Train Display – Page 4-5

New HHS Website is Live – Page 6

New Pottery Choices Are Here! – Page 6

HHS Games – Page 7

Armistice Centennial – Page 8

Another Way To Support HHS Tax-Free –
Page 8

Camp Fire Girls History – Page 8

Upcoming 2018 Events

Holiday Open House – Dec. 7 at 7PM
(Snow Date Dec. 8)

Shopping at the Mill/Santa Visit – Dec. 16
Noon-4PM

Train Display – Select Sundays in December
1-4PM

Keep Watch for Additional Events



*Feedback is essential for any publication to improve and grow. We welcome readers to provide their opinions, **suggestions and comments about the content featured in our newsletter.** Please send your feedback to the Editor at the email address below.*

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The HHS Train Display Excels Among Visitors

We are not sure how, when or where the pairing of electric toy/model trains and Christmas began, but it is one that has endured for many, many generations. We're sure most people have visited an active model train layout at one time to see trains winding their way across a vast modeled landscape complete with towns, villages and cities. These feature detailed buildings, trees, bushes, grass, people, animals, vehicles and so much more going about their normal activities seemingly frozen in time, while the trains actively run their routes around the layout. In most cases, there are active operating accessories and lighting to display a representative comparison to the real thing. There are several open houses featuring such layouts in our nearby area that are often featured at Christmastime...again, that pairing of trains and Christmas!

One of the most pleasurable experiences of touring Hellertown Historical Society's Heller-Wagner Grist Mill complex is visiting our train display in the Miller's House lower level, built and operated by HHS Volunteer, Fran Hudock. Young and old enjoy the sounds of our model trains racing down the tracks followed by the 'oohs' and 'ahhs' of the nighttime lighting once the room lights are switched off. Fran has had an interest in model trains for many years displaying, trading and selling his own collection from his home. Therefore it was natural for Fran to volunteer with our layout to give all visitors, young and old, a moment to relax and enjoy model railroading. All of our engines, rolling stock and other railroading items have been donated to the Society over the years by current and former Hellertown Historical Society members.

The HHS train display had its beginning on the first floor of the Miller's House, built by Society members Albert Hoppes and Bill Frey in the early 1990's. This same area had a dual purpose as a meeting room so the display had to be disassembled and stored when not in use and reassembled when shown. Moving it to the basement of the Miller's House for storage each time was a demanding effort as well. It was later decided that another area needed to be found where the display could remain operational at all times. In the year 2000, with finishing touches to our historic Tavern Room complete, all events could be held there freeing the Miller's House. After some minor cleanup and remodeling, the basement of the Miller's House became the new home for the train display. After rebuilding of the entire layout twice and performing annual updates over the last few years, the completed layout is now in place.

Article Continued on Page 7

(Train Display Photos on Pages 4-5)

Submit Articles or Stories

Hellertown Historical Society

Newsletter seeks any stories or news articles pertaining to Hellertown's History and its people. Anyone is encouraged to submit articles, stories or news to the

newsletter Managing Editor for consideration in upcoming editions. Submissions may be edited for content and/or space requirements. Please use the contact information on this page to submit your entry.



President's Message:

Dear Members and Friends,

We had so much fun opening the recently restored Old Jail for Trick or Treat on October 28th. In addition to handing out candy and stickers, we also offered photo opportunities inside and out. Kids big and small enjoyed being "thrown" into jail and "locked up". Most visitors never knew that the jail even existed and shared with us what a great time they had. We are so pleased that we were able to host this event and introduce our historic building to so many in the community.

Now, we are getting ready for our favorite time of the year! Each year we look forward to decorating our site and hosting our annual holiday events. If you have never visited us during this joyous time of year-- check out the details that follow in this edition, and make sure to mark your calendars and join us. Come listen to the Lehigh Valley Idols, take a tour, see the train display, enjoy refreshments, shop for unique handmade gifts & give Santa your list. Happy Holidays! We can't wait to celebrate the holiday season with you!

Stacie Torkos, President

Trick or Treat at the Historic Hellertown Jail



Heritage Day for Moravian College

By Meagan Ryer



Every year, since 2016, Moravian College hosts "Heritage Day" where students participate in community service locally rather than going to class.



The day involves waking up early, listening to various speakers on the impact community service makes. Each student becomes randomly assigned to a location; we have 48 locations on and off campus. The locations vary anywhere from the Hellertown Historical Society, to Feed the Children, to Cops and Kids and even planting trees at the Archibald Johnston Park.

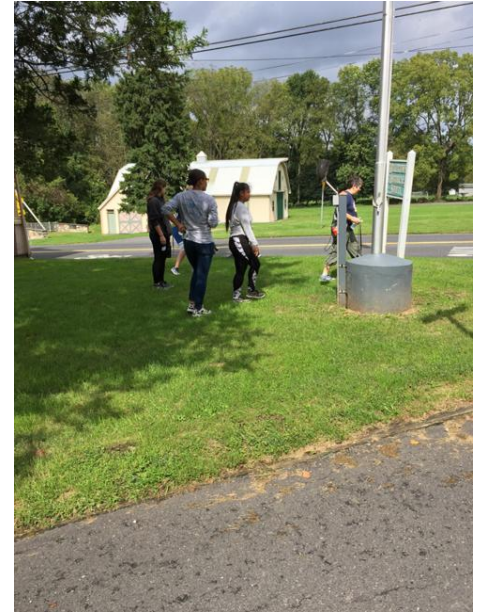
When we return to campus, we reflect on our experiences and converse with other students on their diverse services.



In 2017, 1,271 students and faculty participated. We hope to keep growing it for years to come.



This time our Moravian student volunteers donated our time to Hellertown Historical Society. The HHS volunteers, along with our team, combed through many donated items from the recent closure of the Hero Electric store on Main Street. Ledgers, receipts and orders were found in the third floor of their building. These items were from former businesses that were housed in the same building dating back to the 1800s. All the volunteers searched these items to find historic information, tabulate and catalog it for retention.



Note – Hellertown Historical Society wishes to thank Meagan for writing this article and the rest of the Moravian student volunteers for their gracious donation of services. We always welcome volunteer groups to join with us in helping Hellertown Historical Society grow and improve through various ways from the cataloging and organizing of historical items, maintenance and clean-up of our facility or simply helping to plan and run events that benefit the Society. Anyone or any groups are welcome to offer assistance to the Society by contacting us–

610-838-1770 or email the Society
info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org



Need info about us? We have an email address for that...

info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

**A Few of the Featured Historical Replica Structures Constructed By HHS Member Roger Shaffer for the Train Display
(More on Next Page)**



Clockwise from Top Left – Hellertown’s Lodge Hall, The Weisel Harness Shop, Detweiler Plaza/Clock Tower, The Reading Railroad Station



Clockwise from Top Left – Hellertown Borough Hall, Heller-Wagner Grist Mill, The Historical Society's Pony Bridge, Mountainview Moravian Church

HHS Introduces New Website

By Don Mills

If you are a regular visitor to the Hellertown Historical Society's website, you already know the big change that has occurred. If you don't visit or haven't in the last month, you are in for a new experience.

Thanks to Jonathan Schultz from QoSITSolutions.com, a redesigned website is now live as of about the middle of October, replacing the old one we have been using for several years. The new website is visually appealing, easier to navigate and most important is a cost-savings for us.

The information from the old website was transferred to the new re-designed format. So you may still find the same information albeit in a new look. The website will continually undergo changes with new features and added information. One of the beneficial features with the new web building software is the ease with which information can be added or revised.

Some new features are the inclusion of an introduction video on the home page and 'quick links' to social media along the left side of every page. Future development will see the option to renew membership online, an online store to purchase HHS items and more.

Return often to explore the website, see new content and new changes as the website grows.

Visit the website at

www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

**Join us at
Hellertown Historical
Society's Holiday Open
House
December 7 at 7PM
(Snow Date December 8)**

New Pieces Have Arrived...just in time for Christmas!

Looking for something for that hard to buy for person on your shopping list, stop by our gift shop and browse our selection of Westerwald Pottery.

Westerwald Pottery, handmade in Scenery Hill, PA, is blue and gray in color with **Hellertown** imprinted on each piece. Because every piece is handmade, no two products are exactly alike.

The new pieces added to our collection are:



Back row: 2 Quart Jar - \$20, 2 Quart Pitcher - \$27, Flower Vase - \$25
Front row: Small Crock - \$20, Quart Pitcher - \$21, Quart Jar - \$20, 2 Quart Salt Crock - \$26.

We also have Christmas tree ornaments that would make good stocking stuffers - round wooden ornaments of the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill and actual slate pieces with various photos of and around the Grist Mill.

Call 610-838-1770 or email info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org



Wood: \$6 **Slate:** \$10

HHS Train Display...

Continued from Page 1

When visitors view the HHS Train Display, they do not find it to be the same as those mentioned above, in fact, it is unique from any other. Oh sure, there are some scenes of life displayed and there is lighting to provide a nighttime realism. However, the layout's unique features are the many scale model Hellertown buildings. These model structures were hand-built from scratch to 1:64 scale by former HHS member Roger Shaffer. Sadly Roger passed away several years ago, but his talent and legacy lives on through his passion to create such treasures to be shared by all who visit. Among the many featured historic Hellertown structures are Borough Hall, the Reading RR Train Station, Mountainview Moravian Church, the First Hellertown Jail, replica buildings of the HHS Complex and more.

Originally the train display was only open for Christmas, but it has become a successful part of our entire complex year-round. In conjunction with our Holiday Open House and the upcoming Christmas season, the display will be open to the public on December 7 from 6PM-9PM. Also the display will be open on December 16, 23 and 30 from 1PM-4PM weather-permitting. Unfortunately, access to the display is not ADA accessible as there is a short flight of steps to enter the lower level of the Miller House. We invite everyone to marvel at this wonderful work of passion. There is no fee to visit however donations are always accepted with gratitude.

See photos of the train display on pages 4 and 5.

Cathy Savitske, Bill Frey and Don Mills contributed to this article. Thanks to Fran Huddock for offering an interview for this article and operating the display.

HHS Cryptogram

By Dolores Di Paolo

See if you can solve this "Hellertown Historical Society" Cryptogram. The answer will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter. If you cannot wait for it, send your answer to the Editor at the email address below for confirmation...

editor@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

Merry Christmas

AGE'D PONG OI BAL
 VODPSBIGL
 RPKSDEJOD QSEP
 UBURBXI OIL
 RXOIMGXXSGD
 DEXCIZ BI EPG
 XGOA EXGG.

HINT: D=S

The last cryptogram appears below along with the answer. Congratulations to all who submitted the correct answer to the Editor.

AHS NFLV UMHUOM
HOW MANY PEOPLE
 EZM JMEJ CL KLCHL
ARE DEAD IN UNION
 IMNMXMZV ?
CEMETERY ?

Answer: FOO HG XAMN !
ALL OF THEM !
Hint - H=O

This antique holiday sleigh has greeted visitors to Hellertown Historical Society's Tavern Room for many years. The sleigh was on loan from Mr. Panick (owner of Neighbors and a long-time supporter of Hellertown Historical Society), and now he is formally donating it to the Society. Thank you Mr. Panick!

HHS Word Scramble

THEME: Happy Holidays

HCTSEUNTS
 BACRESERNIR
 ZTPU
 RGUSA MSLPU
 EGROSNA
 OKOSEIC

Unscramble the above words. Answers will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

Answers to the last word scramble. Congratulations to all who submitted the correct answers to the Editor:

THEME: Stores of Old

ESRORSPS
PROSSERS
 WONT VNATER
TOWN TAVERN
 MPP
PMP
 UAINEP LS
PAULINES
 CLAHISNO
NICHOLAS



The End of World War I: 100th Anniversary

November 11, 2018 marked the centennial of the Armistice that brought an end to World War I.

World War I occurred between July 1914 and November 1918, and was one of the deadliest conflicts in world history. In only five months of fighting at the end of war, 116,516 U.S. soldiers gave their lives in combat, with another 200,000 wounded – a casualty rate far greater than World War II.

Seven Hellertonian made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I. Their names appear on a plaque attached to the water fountain outside the Edward H. Ackerman American Legion building on Main Street in Hellertown.



**To all Veterans - thank you
for your service.**

Did You Know

By Bill Frey

March 17, 1912 marked the founding of the Camp Fire Girls of America. Incorporated in Washington D.C., the program originally started in Vermont as an organization for girls, similar to that of the newly founded Boy Scouts of America. By 1919 there were as many as 100,000 girls participating in the Camp Fire Girls programs. The Bethlehem Globe newspaper stated in 1919 that Bethlehem has 11 active

SUPPORT HELLERTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY WITH A TAX-FREE DONATION FROM YOUR IRA

Actually...you are already supporting Hellertown Historical Society through your membership. In fact, your membership has allowed your society to explore, research, and establish new and exciting ways to preserve Hellertown's heritage.

There is another way - in addition to your membership - for you to express your support for Hellertown Historical Society. If you are over the age of 70 ½ you can make a contribution from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) directly to Hellertown Historical Society...a non-profit 501c3 organization.

Best of all, your contribution to Hellertown Historical Society from your IRA may count towards your Required Minimum Distribution. Depending on your personal tax situation, a donation from your IRA directly to Hellertown Historical Society may yield better tax advantages than a direct donation.

How do you make it happen? Easy! Simply contact the custodian of your IRA (Financial Institution, Insurance Company, Brokerage, etc) and instruct the custodian to make a donation from your IRA directly to the Hellertown Historical Society.

Your IRA custodian may need additional information to complete records surrounding your contribution. Please contact gilstauffer@rcn.com for more details. Again...It is very important for the custodian to make the check payable to Hellertown Historical Society.

You are encouraged to consult with your attorney, tax advisor, or accountant to determine if a donation to Hellertown Historical Society directly from your IRA is right for you. If so...great!

Thank you for your support, and thank you for making Hellertown Historical Society part of your financial life!

groups with approximately 125 girls between the ages of 14 and 20. Participation in the program included honors that could be achieved through work at church, home, school and community affairs.



The Camp Fire Girls adopted a service uniform consisting of a white blouse, a navy blue skirt or bloomers, a white Navy cap and a red tie.

President Woodrow Wilson praised the Camp Fire Girls for the major efforts to help the US economy by raising pigs, chickens and growing vegetable gardens during World War I. They also made major contributions to the country's war effort by participating with Red Cross assistance and selling Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps.

Listed in the *Saucon High* Journal* of April 20, 1919 are the officers of the Hellertown Area Camp Fire Girls. They are: Guardian, Mrs. J R Barton; President, Margaret Hoffert; Vice President, Marion Raudenbush Frey; Secretary, Florence Boehm; Treasurer, Elsie Boehm. Originally the Hellertown Area Camp Fire Girls were called 'Elyta' (Smiling Valley), but shortly after the groups started they changed their name to 'Saucona'.

**In 1919 the Wolf School on High Street was Saucon High School*