



Hellertown Historical Society

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

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Upcoming 2019 Events

- Hellertown Holiday Light-Up Night – Dimmick Park Nov. 29**
Hellertown Historical Society Holiday Open House – Dec 6
Holiday Shopping At The Mill/Santa's Visit – Dec 15
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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Basket Sale... 'Pool Baskets' That Is

Article and Photos By Andrea Danner

If you grew up in Hellertown, you probably spent many glorious hours of your summer at the pool chatting with friends, visiting the snack bar and depending on your age, jumping off the old high dive, going to night swims and before sunscreen, slathered in baby oil basking in the sun. And for me, my Godmother, Betty (nee Trumbower) McManus, provided a bigger connection to the pool. She was one of the original basket girls when the pool opened. Allow me to share a brief history of our beautiful pool and explain what a basket girl did.

The Hellertown Pool opened to the public 80 years ago on July 1, 1939, to much fanfare. The pool was part of Burgess Morris Dimmick's vision for recreational space for the residents of Hellertown. He obtained 18 acres of land from the Bethlehem Steel for one dollar! Much of the land was used to create East End Park, renamed Dimmick Park in his honor in the 1960's. The pool was built on a smaller portion of the land with Work Project Administration funds, some of the first in the United States, as a way to provide local men with jobs during the Depression. B. M. Harloe, Assistant Administrator, Chief Engineer, of the Works Project Administration was a special guest at the opening.

In the early years of the pool, there was no filtration system. The pool was drained every seven to ten days. The pool would be scrubbed down by local youth and refilled with cold water from a local spring on the property. This made for a very refreshing swim after a fill! To help keep the water clean longer, people would change from street clothes into swimwear, shower and then dip their feet in a sanitizing solution all before entering the water. So as to have a place to keep their clothing, there was a basket room on the lower level of the pool, between the men and women's changing rooms. Young ladies, such as Betty McManus, assigned you a basket and gave you a matching tag on a stretch band. Your belongings would be kept safely in the basket room until you returned your tag to the basket girl at the end of your swim to retrieve your clothing.



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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,

As the year wraps up, I'd like to THANK YOU for your continued support. Our volunteers are dedicated to preserving and sharing Hellertown's history and thoroughly enjoy connecting and interacting with all of you.

It's hard to believe it's almost 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

Baskets Sale...

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Once a filtration system was installed in the pool and society became more casual, making it acceptable to wear your bathing suit in public, the pool baskets were no longer needed. The baskets were removed from the lower level of the bath house and sat in storage rusting for many years.

Recently, the borough decided to get rid of them. The Hellertown Historical Society readily accepted them. We have been at work sandblasting some of the baskets, getting rid of the rust all while leaving some of their original patina and their matching tags! We are going to sell them so anyone who wants a piece of Hellertown history will have the opportunity to own one, while raising funds for our society.

Many years ago, I was given one of these treasures by Betty McManus herself. I use mine to house other Hellertown treasures I have collected over the years. See the photos at right for some practical and useful ideas for the baskets.

We are asking for a \$15 donation for each basket. We will have them available at our annual Holiday Open House and Shopping at the Mill events in December.



Mary Theresa Pierce



(Courtesy Falk Funeral Home)

By Dolores Stauffer Di Paolo

Mary was one of our very devoted volunteers who passed away in August. Mary was 89 years young. She had a contagious laugh and happy-go-lucky attitude. She will be sorely missed.

Mary was born in Bethlehem and married to James Pierce. Her parents were the late Frank and Mary Roebuck.

If she looks familiar, it's because she worked at Brown's Cleaners and later the Spring Hill Cleaners in Hellertown for a total of 33 years. She loved movies, reading and plays and was a volunteer at the PA Playhouse for 25 years. Mary also worked for Sodexo at Stabler Arena for 3 years before retiring. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, Bethlehem.

Mary is survived by a son, David and his wife Lauri of Bath and a daughter Susan of Verona as well as numerous nieces and nephews, one being the actor Daniel Roebuck. She also has close friend Elaine Espeland.

Mary, your stories were fascinating, funny and brought back memories for all of us. Rest in peace from your friends at HHS.

HHS Word Scramble

By Dolores Stauffer Di Paolo

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, the theme "Holiday Fowl Language" seems appropriate...

PANOC
 OSOEG
 KDUC
 ONSCHIR ENH
 ECIKNHC
 USQBA
 KUTEYR

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

Answers to the last word scramble appear below.

Congratulations to all who submitted the correct answers to the Editor:

THEME: Water, Water Everywhere

YPNO

Pony

TRAW

Water

WADMSEO

Meadows

HIGH

High

TALWUN

Walnut

EHTLRELWNO RIDSGBE

Hellertown Bridges

Cemeteries of Centuries

Past - Part 3 of 3

Union Cemetery of Hellertown

By Dolores Stauffer Di Paolo

In the last two issues we visited Lower Saucon Cemetery and Lime Kiln Cemetery. Now it's on to the next one, Hellertown's Union Cemetery. To get there we go straight down Main Street (412). You can't miss it. It's at the intersection of Main and Walnut Street, and at the last traffic light in town.

The Union Cemetery was officially formed and incorporated in 1874. The land was purchased from Jacob Rentzheimer and Charles Roth. Over time more acres were purchased to expand it as the need arose. The cemetery is non-profit and a Board of Managers oversees the operation.

A beautiful cremation garden was added and dedicated on October 12, 2003. The garden can place remains either above ground in the niche section or in the ground. Flowers and shrubs add to the peace and serenity of this beautiful area.

There are about 420 plus gravesites in the Garden and are open to all who would like to use it. *The Cemetery has accommodated people from near and far and that policy will forever remain in place.*

Once a year, usually in August, the cemetery puts on a display that comes to life. A walking tour, led by a Boy Scout troop, takes a few people at a time on a walk to

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FALL/HOLIDAY 2020 Tavern Room Availability

Available dates are filling fast, book your special event now.

Please call 610.838.1770 or send email to the Tavern Room

Coordinator at tavern@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org to arrange

a tour and discuss your event requirements.

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the graves of famous Hellertonianians. There, an actor will portray the person that is interred in that spot. By the time they finish telling you about their lives and adventures, you start to believe you are really listening to that person portray their life. Each site takes about eight to ten minutes and then the group will move on to the next grave. This is a walking tour that is worth the time! These people from the past made Hellertown what it is today.



Union Cemetery of Hellertown
(Photo Courtesy Google Earth)

Save The Date
Hellertown Historical Society's Holiday Open House
Held at the Grist Mill
150 W. Walnut Street
Hellertown PA
December 6, 6PM

HHS Cryptogram

By Dolores Stauffer 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

"A Fun Day"

KEHHBUJSX OMX CMG M OMX
DEL HAASJUW, WLAASJUW MUO
AMSJUW WEEO DEEO,
AGIAKJMFXX STA DMZBFEBG TES
OEWG HMOA ZX EBL TTG.
O=D

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

BG BQ JRHLJNF GCEG
IT IS RUMORED THAT
GCN JNPLSRGBLDEJM
THE REVOLUTIONARY
AEJ CNJL, HEJTRBQ FN
WAR HERO, MARQUIS DE
SEZEMNGGN,
LAFAYETTE,
PBQBGNF LRJ
VISITED OUR
HBSSNJ'Q CLRQN.
MILLER'S HOUSE

Westerwald Pottery

Stop by our gift shop and browse our selection of Westerwald Pottery. All of the pottery is made in Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania and is wheel-thrown, brush decorated in blue and gray and imprinted with **"Hellertown"** on each piece. Because every piece is handmade, no two products are exactly alike.

In December we will be receiving a shipment with some new pieces and offering these at our Shopping at the Mill event, December 15, 12 Noon-4PM.

Stop by the Miller's House - you may just find something for that hard-to-buy-for person on your shopping list. We are open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

Below is a sampling of the pieces we carry...



Hellertown's Distinct and Historic Homes - #1

A new series featuring distinctive and historic homes in Hellertown – Answer to this home will appear in the next issue

Look at the home on left side circa 1925 and see if you recognize the same home at its current site and condition...



Trick-or-Treat at Hellertown's Old Jail

In the days leading up to Trick-or-Treat on October 31st, the weather forecast was predicting some pretty daunting weather. Heavy rain, wind, and thunderstorms were scheduled to wash out Halloween with many changing plans and setting up indoors at different organizations like the Dewey Fire Co. and American Legion to hand out candy. So, what a surprise it was to have the rain stop for just the right amount of time to not ruin the night!

The break in the weather allowed us to have Hellertown's Old Jail open for visitors, many who had never seen the jail before. Trick-or-Treaters, young and old, enjoyed being thrown in jail and "locked up", learning about the jail's history, and grabbing a treat!

Hellertown's Old Jail was built in 1872 and served as the town lock-up for 28 years. The historic structure is located just off Penn Street along Silver Creek in the alley behind Wings on Main and Ella's.



The Newsletter Editor would like to thank Stephanie Mills for the above photo of her son Logan Mills and his visit with one of the jail's long term residents.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Friday, December 6th (Snow date: Dec. 7th)



DOORS OPEN AT 6PM FOR TOURS, FOOD & MORE!

SHOPPING AT THE MILL AND SANTA VISIT

Sunday, December 15th



Noon-4PM



STOP, SHOP, AND GIVE SANTA YOUR LIST!

TRAIN DISPLAY

Dec. 6th 6-9pm

Dec. 7-8th 1-4pm

Dec. 15th 12-4pm

IN THE LOWER LEVEL OF MILLER'S HOUSE