

# HELLERTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2013

[www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)

Issue 2



LtoR: Gloria Michael, Andrea Danner, Irene Muschlitz, Patti Mills, Erika Hill

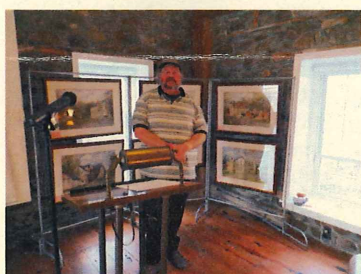


Howard Ackerman

## SPRING SPRUCE UP DAY AT THE MILL

The weather on Saturday, April 6, couldn't have been nicer for our Spring Spruce Up Day. The amount of work completed in one day by eighteen members was almost incredible. The Tavern Room floors received a thorough cleaning and waxing. Autumn's leaves were raked and removed. Trees and shrubs were trimmed. Flower beds and gardens received much needed attention and were made ready for planting over the next few weeks. A recently donated computer was moved to a new location within the Miller's House. Several outdoor benches and tables were stained. Recently donated file cabinets were unloaded and moved into place. Lunch was served at noon, and the weather allowed many to enjoy lunch at our outdoor tables. A sincere thank you to the following members for their contribution of time and work: Howard Ackerman, Carolyn Anders, Dianne Borovies, Harry Boos, Andrea Danner, Earl Hill, Erika Hill, Fran Hudock, Gloria Michael, Donald Mills, Patti Mills, Irene Muschlitz, Landon Packer, Bud Prosser, Joe Sofka, Pearl Stork, Artie Torkos, and Stacie Torkos.

## First Speakers' Night of 2013 Series - Jeff Donat on "Mills in Pennsylvania"



Jeff Donat

After the introduction of the Society's officers and board members and a presentation of pictures that reviewed the organization's events and activities of 2012, the keynote speaker for the evening was introduced. We were fortunate to have mill enthusiast, Jeff Donat, share his considerable knowledge and passion for mills. Jeff shared some incredible statistics regarding past and present mills in Northampton County. Of sixty-five documented to date mill sites in Northampton County, the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill is one of only five in the County which have been preserved and house museums. The County still has two operational flour mills-Treichlers, and Martins Creek. In addition to explaining the mechanics of various style mills, Jeff shared highlights of his collection of mill pictures and postcards. The evening was very informative. Thank you, Jeff. We hope Jeff will be able to join us on History Day to meet and greet our visitors and answer their questions regarding mills.

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## Grist Mill Events for 6th Annual Saucon Valley History Day

Circle Sat., April 27, on your calendar. Visit the Grist Mill on April 27 for the 6th Annual Saucon Valley History Day. In addition to tours of the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill and

Museums, there will be a fabulous Craft Show and the ever popular Yard Sale-both begin at 8AM and run to 3PM. Bring the kids and visit the Kids' Tent for special games, crafts, face painting, balloons and a visit with "K" the Clown! Stop by the Historical Baby



Photo Tent and vote for your favorite baby picture of Hellertown Seniors, Business Folks, and Community Leaders. Visit the HHS Tent to browse our Westerwald Pottery, Joe Sofka's Numbered and Signed Grist Mill Prints, and visit the Food Stations on the Porch of the Miller's House for hot dogs, baked goods, beverages, and ice cream from our refurbished historical ice cream cart! For the first time, there will be live musical performances beginning at 11:00 AM and ending at 2:30 PM on the Miller's House Porch. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and claim your spot on the lawn. Visit with Local Hellertown Business Members who will have booths in our upper parking lot promoting the Saucon Rail Trail. Do not miss this exciting and fun day at the Grist Mill. See you on the 27th!

## Shopping at the Mill

### "The Grist Mall"

In The Tavern Room

Sunday ~ May 5th Noon til 4 PM

### Last Minute Mother's Day Gifts

Specialty Foods - Gourmet Coffees

Jewelry - Make-up - Purses

Watercolors - Local Prints

Homemade Nut & Poppyseed

Rolls



Refreshments  
Open to the Public



**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT  
DIANNE BOROVIES**

It's April 9<sup>th</sup> and we're having a heat wave; it's 80 degrees and the daffodils are blooming. After a somewhat slushy and messy winter, everything seems to be turning green at once. The fishermen and the geese are all enjoying the Mill Ponds again, and Society members gathered last Saturday for Spring Spruce up Day and enjoyed a lunch together outside at our picnic tables. Hooray, spring seems finally to have arrived!

The first quarter of 2013 was focused on planning activities and events for 2013. Not the least of these activities was the planning and successful launching on March 6<sup>th</sup> of our **2013 Membership and Fund Raising Campaign**. We are pleased to report the response has been enthusiastic. New memberships and renewals are continuing to arrive daily. Our membership base is growing and donations are encouraging with the majority designated to date for the general maintenance fund and exterior repairs and painting. Economic times are challenging, but as someone once said, "A challenge is an inescapable opportunity." Hellertonianians, both private citizens and businesses, have heard our call for help and are rising to the challenge. Our active members are planning to continue the campaign with ongoing strategies throughout the remainder of the year. By the next newsletter, we will share a more detailed update on the Campaign. For now, thank you to those who have responded, and please help us spread the word to your neighbors, friends, and family. **Hellertown Historical Society needs ongoing support.**

Another major accomplishment this past quarter has been the completion of an audit of Society financial accounts by an **Audit Committee** chaired by Donald Mills assisted by members Erika Hill, Gilbert Stauffer, Camille Moll, and Dianne Borovies. In the conclusion of a very thorough eight page report, the summary included the statement, "the records are extremely well-maintained and well-kept." Committee Recommendations were submitted to and acted upon by the Board at the April 4, 2013, Board meeting.

We are entering into our busy spring season of activities which are covered in this newsletter. We hope to see you at **History Day, Shopping at the Mill**, and upcoming **Speakers' Nights**. A very special fundraiser is planned for Sunday, October 6, 2013. We will celebrate National German American Day, a day declared by President Ronald Reagan in 1983, to honor Americans of German heritage. For the history buffs, October 6, 1683, was the day the first significant contingent of German settlers arrived in Philadelphia Harbor on the *Concord*. These thirteen families went on to settle Germantown north of Philadelphia. Since the Hellers and the Wagners, as well as many of Hellertown's early families, were German, this will be a day to honor and celebrate their German heritage with a Craft Show, Yard Sale, Tours, Speakers, Live German musical and dance performances, and, of course, lots of delicious German foods. Start assembling your German costumes and polish your dancing shoes; there's going to be a Polka Contest and a Boomba Band! **Sponsorships are available for local businesses and families wishing to join in the festivities by supporting Hellertown Historical Society.** Watch future newsletters for more information. **Mark your calendar now. Sunday, October 6 is German American Day at the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill.**

**2013 Speakers' Series  
Kristen Mills presenting**



The second night in our Speakers' Series is almost here...Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m., featuring our very own Kristen Mills! Kristen will be presenting "Bethlehem's Moravians" in our Tavern Room.

Kristen is a graduate of Saucon Valley High School and holds a Bachelor's degree with honors in history from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She also has a Master's in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Later this year she will begin a second master's in London at the University of Westminster.

What Kristen brings to the evening's presentation is a very insightful view of the Moravians. She was baptized and confirmed at Mountainview Moravian Church in Hellertown. From there she became their youngest ever Elder on the Board of Elders. Her honors thesis, *Pietistic Religions and the American Revolution: A Case Study on the Moravian Community of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania*, and her work as Site Coordinator of the Moravian Museum of Bethlehem give her in-depth knowledge on this topic. Additionally, she is employed by Historic Bethlehem Museum and Sites.

We hope you will come out and join us for our presentation so we may get to know our neighbors in Bethlehem, the Moravians, better. Free for all Hellertown Historical Society Members and \$5.00 for non members. Tours of the Grist Mill begin at 6:30. Please join us!

*One of our Fundraisers for 2013 is the sale of matted, signed and numbered prints of Joe Sofka's watercolor painting. They can be purchased for \$60 for the print, or \$99 framed. Mousepads bearing the watercolor print are also available for \$10. Stop by our gift shop any Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday morning from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM or call 610-838-1770 for more information.*

**Contact us at:**  
Hellertown Historical Society  
150 W. Walnut Street  
Hellertown, PA 18055  
[www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)  
610-838-1770 (Please leave message)  
Email:  
[info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)

**MEETINGS:** The Board of Directors meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Tavern Room of the Grist Mill. Meetings are open to the public. For more information call 610-838-1770.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

President - Dianne Borovies  
Vice-President - Joseph Sofka  
Treasurer - Gilbert Stauffer  
Secretary - Gloria Michael

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Dianne Borovies	Pearl Stork
Richard Fluck	Stacie Torkos
Dorothy Freeman	Philip Weber
Earl Hill	Joseph Sofka
Linda Fiegel	Gloria Michael
Gilbert Stauffer	Donald Mills

*Emeritus:*

Marcella Dimmick  
Stella Pasternak

**Memorials in Lieu of Flowers**

We have seen a trend toward families of deceased ones suggesting family and friends send a donation to the Hellertown Historical Society. This is sincerely appreciated by our Society members. Should you have questions concerning "memorials in lieu of flowers" for your loved one, please discuss them with your funeral director. You may also contact the Society at 610-838-1770. The funds received through memorials are used to maintain and refurbish the Grist Mill, Miller's House and surrounding grounds...and to preserve the many artifacts associated with Hellertown's heritage.

## DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN??

Do you remember when .....Saucon Creek went dry?

A. 1959 B. 1967 C. 1983 D. 1994

Do you remember when.....Saucon Creek backed up with ice?

A. Jan. 1983 B. Feb. 1984 C. 1985 D. Mar. 1986

Albert Hoffert stopped by the Society's office recently and shared some interesting history about Saucon Creek including a notebook full of newspaper articles, correspondence, pictures, and documents relevant to our beloved Hellertown treasure, the Saucon Creek. Here is the timeline excerpted from his notebook:

- 1948 New Jersey Zinc Company reopens mine
- 1951 Wells and springs in the area begin to go dry
- 1952 At a public meeting at Lehigh County Community College, New Jersey Zinc denies their mining is causing low water levels
- 1953 New Jersey Zinc furnishes 500 gallon galvanized tanks, shallow well pump & free water to people whose wells went dry
- 1971 Account in Bethlehem Globe Times reports water downstream from mine contained 682 times more cadmium, 423 times more zinc & 43 times more calcium than upstream for the mine
- 1972 Fish kills in Saucon Creek were caused by lack of food due to silt in the stream
- 1982 Maximum mine depth was 3800 feet & pumping 24 to 30 million gallons per day
- Oct. 15, 1983 Pumps were stopped & by 2:00 PM, water level in Saucon Creek was so low that the Bethlehem Steel had to stop the pump that furnished water to the coke works
- 1983 A geologist stated the Saucon might never return to normal
- Nov. 15, 1983 Water had risen to 2200 feet from surface
- Feb. 8, 1984 Water began flowing from the mine shaft
- Mar. 20, 1984 All springs from Meadow Rd. to High St. were flowing at pre-mining rates

And of interest to our fishermen: From 1984 to 2000, Hellertown Sportsman's Association stocked 19,600 4" Brown Trout in Saucon Creek. How many of these were caught this trout season?

ANSWER TO ABOVE: 1. C, 2. A Source: Mr. Albert Hoffert

## Board Update.....

It is with regret that we acknowledge the resignation of Board Member Fran Hudock. Fran has served on the Board for thirteen years, the past three years as Vice President, and continues to provide maintenance work, electrical skills, and is always ready to lend a hand. Joe Sofka, an active member of our Board, is our newly appointed Vice President. Joe has contributed much to the organization including the donation of his beautiful watercolor painting of our mill site which was raffled off last December. Joe's creative talents and tireless efforts to help move our Society forward are sincerely appreciated. We also welcome Society member James Hill as our newest Board Member. James is a resident of Hellertown with a law practice in Springtown. His expertise will be invaluable to the Board in future decision making. At our last board meeting, Stephanie Weitzman was appointed as one of the Society's three Trustees. Stephanie serves as Assistant Vice President of National Penn Bank. We welcome Stephanie on board and look forward to her assistance with recommendations re the Society's investments.

## Society Wish List

In an all volunteer non-profit organization, the wish list often exceeds the budget, so please help us spread the word about our needs. For more details, to make a donation, or to volunteer, please call 610- 838-1770 or email us at: [info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)

Windows Software

Digital Projector

Video Camera to Record Events

Mannequins for Displaying Vintage Clothes

Picnic Tables and Benches

Outdoor Garden Benches

\*Outdoor Directional Signs to Our Buildings

Gently Used Vacuum Cleaners

Small Under Counter Refrigerator

Small chest or upright freezer

Folding 5' and 6' Long Tables

\*Bricks or Pavers to Complete Walkways

Split Rails for Fences

**FOR OCTOBER 6TH GERMAN AMERICAN DAY:**

Sponsorships

Vendors for Craft Show & Yard Sale

Sponsor for German Dance Group

Sponsor for German Polka Band

Hay bales, items of German clothing

Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers

\* Possible Eagle Scout Projects

*Please support our endeavor with  
"Genuine Caring"*



The Hellertown Historical Society and [GenuineCaring.com](http://GenuineCaring.com) recently entered into a partnership that provides for non-profits the offering of charitable donations when a song is downloaded. [GenuineCaring.com](http://GenuineCaring.com)'s goal is to be the Christian-based loyalty web platform designed to permit listeners to safely and easily download uplifting original music while at the same time benefitting their favorite charities and promoting individual artists (songwriters, performers).

[GenuineCaring.com](http://GenuineCaring.com) is distinguished by "GC" rated content and the linkage to participating charities (i.e. Download music for a cause). "GC Rated" family friendly is their standard. All music, music lyrics, pictures and content on this site reflect the pure intent to be uplifting, respectful and maintain a positive spirit of integrity that is appropriate for ANY AGE visitor to our site. To browse, discover and download original music that helps charities raise funds, go to [www.GenuineCaring.com](http://www.GenuineCaring.com). If you would like to learn more about [GenuineCaring.com](http://GenuineCaring.com), please email [customerservice@genuinecaring.com](mailto:customerservice@genuinecaring.com).

*If you are an artist, songwriter, or performer ( or know one) that has any music they would like to share in support of our Hellertown Historical Society by becoming a [GenuineCaring.com](http://GenuineCaring.com) artist, please direct them to [GenuineCaring.com](http://GenuineCaring.com)! They will create their own personalized account where they can then attach their music specifically to our non profit, and then as we ( and they) promote this partnership, our members and friends can support us BOTH by simply going to [GenuineCaring.com](http://GenuineCaring.com), search for Hellertown Historical Society, and then purchase the music meant specifically for us!!!*

**Volunteer In the Spotlight!**



**Al Groegler**

**named a "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor**

French-American unity was celebrated at the Embassy of France in Washington, DC on February 13, 2013, when WWII veterans were decorated with France's Legion of Honor, as a sign of France's gratitude for their personal contribution to the liberation of France during WWII. Al Groegler was one of twenty veterans, of whom 14 were present, who was awarded their medals in a ceremony officiated by Washington's Consul General of France, Olivier Sérot Almeras, and the Deputy Military Attaché for the French Army, Col. Jacques Aragonès.

During the ceremony, Mr. Sérot Almeras and Col. Aragonès emphasized the sacrifices that were made during WWII for French liberty.

Al has been a volunteer with the Society for the past 30 years. Among other things, he participated in the restoration of the Mill and the Pony Bridge.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

**Saturday, April 27:** Annual Saucon Valley History Day & Yard Sale

**Sunday, May 5:** Shopping at the Mill

**Tuesday, May 7:** Speakers' Series, Kristen Mills on "Bethlehem's Moravians"

**Sunday, June 9:** Farmer's Market

**Tuesday, June 18:** Speakers' Series, John Weber on "Bethlehem Steel"

**Saturday, August 17:** Annual Saucon Valley Community Day

**Sunday, September 8:** Farmer's Market

**Tuesday, September 17:** Speakers' Series, Karen Samuels and Ken Ranier on "The Hellers of Hellertown"

**Sunday, October 6:** Fall Fundraiser, German American Day Celebration in Honor of the Hellers and the Wagners

*If you haven't already done so, please consider renewing your 2013 membership!*

*Please cut out the membership form below and drop off or mail to the office at 150 W. Walnut St., Hellertown, PA 18055*

**HELLERTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

150 W. Walnut St., Hellertown, PA 18055  
610-838-1770

[www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)

**MEMBERSHIP YEAR** \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL TIME STUDENT** (10% Off Gift Shop Items, Free admission to 4 Speaker Nights).....\$ 10.00

**INDIVIDUAL < 65** (10% Off Gift Shop Items, Free admission to 4 Speaker Nights)..... 25.00

**SENIOR 65 and >** (10% Off Gift Shop Items, Free admission to 4 Speaker Nights).....15.00

**FAMILY** (10% Off Gift Shop Items, Free admission to 4 Speaker Nights)..... 40.00

**BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION** (10% Off Gift Shop, Free admission to 4 Speaker Nights,

25% Off One Tavern Room Booking Per Year)..... 100.00

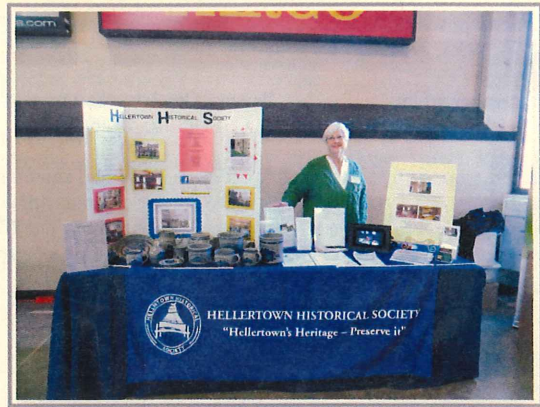
**LIFE MEMBERSHIP** (10% Off Gift Shop, Free admission to 4 Speaker Nights

25% Off One Tavern Room Booking per Year)..... 250.00

**Donation in Kind**.....

Please indicate your membership on your check and make payable to Hellertown Historical Society

**HHS at the Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Show**



*Dianne Borovies*

On March 22, members manned an outreach table to share information about our organization, recruit new members, and offer some of our Westerwald pottery and Mill prints for sale to Auto Show visitors. Thank you to Andrea Danner, Dianne Borovies, Earl Hill, Erika Hill, Gloria Michael, Donald Mills, Patti Mills, and Joe Sofka for manning the table.

**Tavern Room Available for  
Spring and Summer Events**

Please help spread the word about the availability of the Tavern Room for Graduation Parties, Weddings, Rehearsal Dinners, Bridal Showers, Baby Showers, Family Reunions, etc. Now that the weather is warming, guests may also spill out onto our grounds and benches to enjoy the mill site. Our rooms are air conditioned, and our list of cooperating caterers has been expanded. Email [tavernroomcoordinator@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:tavernroomcoordinator@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org) or call 610 838 7937.

This Newsletter is sponsored by:  
**ALAN KUNSMAN ROOFING & SIDING, INC.**  
Serving you for 50 plus years - a name you can trust!"

**HELLERTOWN  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

150 W. Walnut Street  
Hellertown, PA 18055

*This is to certify that*

*is a member in good standing  
for the year* \_\_\_\_\_