

HELLERTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

August 2013

www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

Issue 3



Heller Family Visit

Saturday, July 27th 2013 was a very special day at the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill. A group of 18 descendants of Johann Cristoph Heller and Johan Simon Heller visited Hellertown. They came from Ohio, Florida and New Hampshire to for a family reunion and to celebrate the 50th Wedding Anniversaries of two of the Heller family brothers.

The group arrived at the Mill in the morning to have family pictures taken by a professional photographer. After they enjoyed some coffee and other refreshments that included shoo-fly pie, a tour of the site was given by Fran Hudock and Harry Boos. The group also spent time shopping our Hellertown pottery and Joe Sofka prints of the Heller Homestead and the Grist Mill. A side note: we were completely cleaned out of our Hellertown mugs after they shopped—a good problem to have!

After their visit with HHS, they went on to visit the Heller Homestead, had lunch at the Hellertown Diner and finally a visit to Lime Kiln Cemetery where some of their ancestors are buried.

Linder Heller, the organizer of the Heller family visit, shared some wonderful feedback regarding the group's visit. She said, "It was wonderful! Your volunteers and the tour guides were wonderful. We can't THANK YOU enough! Your site was the highlight of our trip for sure! We certainly felt welcome."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

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

Sunday, October 6: German American Day - Cancelled

Friday, December 6: Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 15: Visit with Santa / Shopping at the Mill



**Stacie Torkos
Named Historical
Society President**

The Board of Directors recently announced that Stacie Torkos was named society president after the resignation of former president Dianne Borovics.

A Hellertown native, Stacie holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Communication and Management from DeSales University. She has been an active Hellertown Historical Society volunteer and member of the Board of Directors since 2012.

She brings to the position a diverse background in volunteerism, particularly with historical societies. While completing her degree in communication, Stacie completed internships with Historic Bethlehem Partnership as a Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, and Moravian Historical Society (Nazareth, PA) as a Development Assistant.

At Hellertown Historical Society Stacie has exercised her volunteer talents in the areas of development, events, and outreach.

"While planning events and initiating fund raising efforts is a necessary and exciting part of maintaining a viable historical society," Stacie recently commented, "I would like to focus future initiatives on efforts that will build, enhance, preserve, and share Hellertown's heritage for future generations."

Stacie also noted the need for additional volunteers and for implementation of initiatives to increase the number of regular and life members.

Saucon Valley Spirit Weekend

Saucon Valley will celebrate a family weekend on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013 and conclude with the

Saucon Valley Spirit Parade and 4-County Fireman Parade, Sunday, October 20, 2013

Volunteers are also needed. More information:

www.svspirit.weebly.com

Why We Send You a Newsletter And, Why We Need Your Help

By Don Mills

I really enjoy receiving the Society's newsletter! It offers news and information about the Society and takes a personal look at the volunteers who keep the organization running smooth.

The newsletter's calendar keeps me informed about upcoming events, and reports on activities I may have missed. In many issues there are articles that bring back memories of people and happenings that occurred decades ago.

Best of all, the newsletter displays various ways I can help the Hellertown Historical Society continue to be a viable part of the community.

The Newsletter is Expensive to Produce

The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you up-to-date with various announcements and news items, and is one of the benefits of joining and supporting the organization. Unfortunately it is expensive to compose, print, and mail a quality newsletter...averaging between \$400 and \$500 an issue.

There is a Solution...but the Society Needs Your Help

We can eliminate the bulk of these costs, and the challenge of seeking sponsors, by using twenty-first century tools...the computer and email!

By creating a mass email list of members, friends, and supporters of the society the newsletter, announcements, etc. can be distributed at either low or no cost.

Those who share their email address, and are on the email list, will receive an electronic copy of newsletter, and all other society communications, in their personal email box...quickly, easily, and efficiently!

All the society needs is your email address! It's that easy. And, you'll be helping the Historical Society save production costs...funds that can be better utilized to help preserve Hellertown's heritage. Your heritage!

If you Don't Have Email...Not a Problem

Of course, those who do not have email addresses would continue to receive printed copies of the newsletter and other communications. However, the number of recipients would be dramatically lower, and production costs would be correspondingly lower for the society.

***Don Mills is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hellertown Historical Society. He produces and maintains the Society's website and is the go-to person for all things computer related.*

Send Us Your Email Address, Today! (Before You Forget!)

Elsewhere in this newsletter you read that we need and want your email address. Once your email address is received it will be included with your membership information and added to the email mass mailing list. So, each time an announcement or other newsworthy item is released, you will receive your copy immediately.

If we already have your email address you may be already receiving items from the society...or you will in the near future. If you are unsure, please send your email address to us anyway.

To include your email address, simply send an email to info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org and be sure to indicate that you wish to be added to the society's email list either in the body of the message, the Subject Line, or both.

The Hellertown Historical Society will never divulge or sell an email address to other entities, third parties, or solicitors. You can be assured your email address will remain private and will be used only for Hellertown Historical Society related activities.

Volunteer & Internship Opportunities

-Development/Administrative: Outreach, special events, fundraising, membership initiatives, grant writing, and general department tasks.

-Marketing: Marketing efforts and materials, desktop publishing, website, social media, and general department tasks.

-Museum/Curatorial: Guest services, research, design and installation of exhibitions, and general department tasks.

-Educational programming: Research, program design and implementation, and general department tasks.

We appreciate any time or talents you can contribute.

Please contact us at 610-838-1770 or info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org.

*Volunteers are unpaid,
not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless*

-Anonymous-



Lori Stack & John Weber

SPEAKERS' SERIES REVIEWS

The 2013 Speakers' Series continued on May 7 with Kristen Mills speaking on The Moravians of Bethlehem and John Weber and Lori Stack on June 18 with a photographic presentation of Bethlehem Steel.

Kristen, one of our very own HHS members, has extensive knowledge on the Moravians. She was Site Coordinator of the Moravian Museum in Bethlehem and wrote an honors thesis entitled *Pietistic Religions and the American Revolution: A Case Study on the Moravian Community of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania*. Her enlightened presentation explained how the "Love Feast" and other traditions began. We learned the Moravians actually divided up the men, women, children, etc... by "choirs" to live, and named each building accordingly. That is why today we can visit buildings called the Widow's House and Brethren's House to name a few.

The duo of John Weber and Lori Stack provided a visual walk down memory lane for many of us who remember Bethlehem Steel when it was in operation. Both presenters are avid photographers, both professionally and personally, and they generously shared that passion with us. They utilized photographs from John's mentor, Barney Baunach, to further document Bethlehem Steel's past.

To paraphrase Lori, it is important to capture history on film while it is here. Once it is gone, it is gone forever. All of our speakers managed to capture history and bring it to life once again. For many of us, it was wonderful to see sights that we once took for granted on a day to day basis and to better understand the history that remains.

"The Hellers of Hellertown" *Final Speaker Series Event of 2013*

The Hellertown Historical Society's Speakers' Series comes to a close for the 2013 season on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. We are pleased to present "The Hellers of Hellertown" presented by Karen Samuels and Ken Ranieri. The event is free for members and \$5.00 for non-members. The Grist Mill museum will be open at 6:30 p.m., prior to the presentation, for tours. Please use the door by the Mill Pond to access our tours and the presentation.

One of Hellertown's Best Kept Secrets Grist Mill's Beautiful and Picturesque Tavern Room

Book your holiday event before it's too late!

As our website states "The Tavern Room is one of Hellertown's best kept secrets." Actually, the Tavern Room consists of two rooms, and is available for daytime and evening events on weekdays and weekends. The area is heated, air-conditioned, and contains enhancements such as Wi-Fi, a projection screen, a service sink, and refrigerator. Visit our website, www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org for pictures and additional information. Or, better yet, stop by for a visit and tour. We know you'll agree that it is beautiful, picturesque, and perfect for your special event.

"Shopping at The Mill" was a hit!

On Sunday, May 5th, the Tavern Room was transformed into "The Grist Mall" featuring eight local vendors selling their wares. Held on the Sunday before Mother's Day, there was a crowd of shoppers who came out to purchase last minute gifts. The vendors included Tastefully Simple, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Premier Jewelry, Freckle Face Fudge, Briva Coffees and Vivian's Desk. Refreshments were also served.

Due to the success of this first time event, there will be a "**Christmas Shopping at The Mill**" on Sunday, December 15th from noon to 4PM. This will coincide with our 2nd annual Santa's Visit and Photos that day. Please Save the Date and look for more information on this event in our next Newsletter.

Stepping back in time:

SANDT'S GROCERY STORE

Do you know what business is here today? Answer on bottom of page 4.



Board of Directors Approves Updated Mission and Vision Statements

In order for the Hellertown Historical Society to qualify for both public and private monetary grants, the Board of Directors recognized the need to update the society's Mission and Vision statements. Both of these statements had not been revised since the organization was formed nearly 30 years ago.

Verbiage for the new statements was researched and developed over a five-month period by a special committee assigned to the task by the Board. The team consisted of former society president and board member Dianne Borovies, and board members Dorothy Freeman and Gil Stauffer. Camille Moll, society member and volunteer, also assisted in the effort.

The Mission Statement reinforces the society's commitment to preserve Hellertown's heritage, while the Vision Statement looks to establish the society as the preferred destination for those seeking information about Hellertown's rich history. The Vision Statement also recognizes the value of state-of-the-art technology in reaching and achieving established goals and objectives.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hellertown Historical Society, a nonprofit 501 c(3) organization, is to preserve the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill, Pony Bridge, Miller's House, Wash House, and related historical buildings and to preserve Hellertown's heritage through collection, preservation, and exhibition of selected mill-related and Hellertown related documents, artifacts, and photographs for viewing by the public and to provide educational opportunities about Hellertown's heritage.

Vision Statement

The Hellertown Historical Society will be the preferred destination for those seeking reliable, informative, and verifiable information about Hellertown's heritage. This will be accomplished through use of state-of-the-art technology, programs, and exhibits.

The Heller-Wagner Grist Mill, Pony Bridge, Miller's House, and Wash House will be vibrant places where visitors, through guided and/or self guided tours, will encounter, explore, and learn about the past. Permanent and rotating museum exhibits will focus on the daily life of Hellertown's people, organizations, and businesses.

Educational programs will be the cornerstone of an interactive curriculum designed for both children and adults...programs designed in cooperation with local school districts to convey the rich history of Hellertown's diverse and unique heritage.

Hellertown Historical Society will be the leader in conveying a deep understanding of Hellertown's rich history with the on-going vision that knowledge from the past will benefit the future.

OFFICERS:

President - Stacie Torkos

Vice-President - Joseph Sofka

Treasurer - Gilbert Stauffer

Secretary - Gloria Michael

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Stacie Torkos

Pearl Stork

Richard Fluck

Dorothy Freeman

Earl Hill

Joseph Sofka

Linda Fiegel

Gloria Michael

Gilbert Stauffer

Donald Mills

James Hill

Emeritus:

Marcella Dimmick

Stella Pasternak

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.

Contact us at: Hellertown Historical Society

150 W. Walnut Street

Hellertown, PA 18055

www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

610-838-1770 (Please leave message)

Email: info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

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Thank you!!!

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