



Hellertown Historical Society

150 W. Walnut Street - Hellertown, PA 18055 - 610-838-1770
www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org



7th Annual Saucon Valley History Day

For the seventh year in a row, The Heller-Wagner Grist Mill was bustling with activity on April 26th for Saucon Valley History Day. Every year, the Historical Society participates in History Day to allow visitors to step back in time and learn about the history of Hellertown and the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill. Activities included live music, a yard sale, tours, a car show, and kids' activities.



Continued On



Upcoming Speaker Series: History of the Dewey Fire Company

The Hellertown Historical Society is pleased to present their fourth and final installment of the 2014 Speaker Series: *The History of Dewey Fire Company*. Please join us on Sunday, September 21 at 2:00 p.m. as we go OFFSITE to learn about the history of Dewey Fire Company at Dewey Fire Station. Also: make sure you enter the FREE raffle!



Continued On



- 16-year-old Lara Thrapp's Birthday benefits the Historical Society
-2014 Event Calendar

Page 2

- The third installment in our speaker series, by Dale Woodland, educated listeners about local railroad history

Page 3

-Tavern Room rental
-Membership Renewal

Page 4

Upcoming Events

August 16

Visit HHS at Hellertown-Lower Saucon Community Day.

Sept. 14

Visit HHS at the Saucon Valley Farmer's Market.

Sept. 21

Join us at the Dewey Fire Station at 2 pm. for the free 4th installment in our speaker series. Tours will be run, and light refreshments will be served.

Dec. 5 & 6

Our Annual Holiday Open House will be held at 7 pm in the Tavern Room, including tours, live entertainment, our train display, and refreshments.

Sundays Dec. 7- Dec. 21

Come view our train display from 12-4 pm in the basement of the Miller's House.

Dec. 14

For the kids: Visit our train display in the basement of the Miller's House from 12-4 pm. Also, Santa will visit the mill for photos with children of all ages (minimal fee).

For the adults: Shopping at the Mill will be held in the Tavern Room from 12-4 pm. Shop for last minute gifts from various vendors.

16th Birthday Party benefits HHS

On March 22, the Tavern Room hosted the birthday party of 16-year-old Lara Thrapp. What was different about this birthday party was that, unlike most teenagers, Lara wanted the guests of her party to donate to the Historical society in lieu of gifts. Lara, a rising junior at Saucon Valley High School, has a very strong character.

She cited the quote, "If you have lost money you have lost nothing, but if you have lost your character you have lost everything", as well as the strong upbringing by her parents as her inspiration for the gift idea. She did not want any materialistic gifts,

but rather gifts to the Historical Society to show her and the community's respect and gratitude.

She attributed the willingness of the guests to donate to HHS to the tight knit community here in Hellertown. *The Hellertown Historical Society would like to thank Lara for her gracious gift, and for the opportunity to get to meet this great young lady.*



~Lara and her Grandfathers~

History Day contd.

This year, the Lehigh Valley Model A Ford Club organized a group of car and truck participants who showcased a nostalgic display of Model A vehicles. Children were also given the opportunity to build and disassemble an engine, and understand how it works.

New this year was the "Passport to History". Visitors to all three historical sites (HHS- Heller-Wagner Grist Mill site, LSTHS- Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse, & SVC- Heller Homestead) who had their passports stamped were eligible to win the Saucon Valley Prize Basket, filled with goodies from various Saucon Valley vendors. Congratulations to Stanley Turel, Jr. of Bethlehem, who won the prize basket valued at \$500!

Many thanks to:

Our guests for visiting and supporting HHS and History Day; The History Day event and prize basket sponsors for their support; The Lehigh Valley Idols for providing the live musical entertainment; All the HHS volunteers, Girl Scouts, and other community member volunteers who helped to make this year's History Day a success.

Dewey Speaker Series contd.

Gerry Malone, current fire marshal and retired chief, will be coordinating the event. He is arranging a tour of their museum room, fire and ambulance equipment, as well as a 20-minute presentation of the history of Dewey Fire Company. Weather permitting; Ron Smith's retired Dewey fire truck will also make an appearance.

We are excited to highlight the history of one of the community's longest serving volunteer organizations. While we usually hold the Speaker Series in the Tavern Room, going offsite will allow visitors to see the antique pumper and other collected memorabilia that Dewey Fire Company has acquired over their many years of service.

The event will have something for all ages. There will be a bit of history, tours of equipment, and a chance to learn about career opportunities. Light refreshments will be provided. This event is free and open to the public, so spread the word and bring your friends and family. Dewey is very excited to share their museum and history with the community!

FREE RAFFLE: DEWEY HHS SPEAKER SERIES PRIZE PACKAGE!

- ~Vintage Dewey Fire Station framed print
- ~Dewey T-shirt, AND
- ~Fire gear dress-up and photo with fire truck!

Visit us at Community Day 8/16, SV Farmer's Market 9/14, or at the Dewey Speaker Series to enter to win.

Speaker Series Review: Local Railroads History



Our Speaker Series continued with its third installment on June 5th; Dale Woodland entertained us with his knowledge of the Reading Railroad. Dale is an author of several books about the Reading Line, and currently serves as the Director of Museum Operations at the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum in Hamburg, PA.

Dale began his fascination with trains when he was four, when he rode on the Reading to Philadelphia train from Norristown. His love of the Reading Railroad continued to grow, and throughout the years he took many photos of special trains on the line, collecting photos of the many types of trains that traveled

the tracks. All of this was put into a PowerPoint presentation highlighting old stations, train wrecks, and photos from the Hellertown area. Dale interspersed the photos with historical facts about the Reading line.

The Bethlehem Branch was originally constructed by the North Pennsylvania Railroad, and was often referred to as the "North Penn". Dale noted how this line had a very steep grade, which sometimes led to delays and the need for extra engines to haul heavy loads. We learned that the old roundtable from the end of the Bethlehem line had been rescued, and is stored at the Reading Heritage Museum.

Dale's presentation was complimented by some of our own artifacts that were saved from the Hellertown Railroad Station. Richard Kantor and Craig Bartholomew searched through the station and found gems such as telegraphs from the 1870's and waybills. We had some of these amazing items on display, and they can still be viewed during regular museum hours.



Hellertown Historical Society
 150 W. Walnut Street
 Hellertown, PA 18055

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 LEHIGH VALLEY PA
 PERMIT #593

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Support our Society

Have a special event coming up?

Consider renting the Tavern Room! Our venue consists of two rooms (with heating, a/c, projection screen, sink, refrigerator, and Wi-Fi) and is a great place to host events such as receptions, baby showers, birthday parties, meetings, and all sorts of special events!

Contact us at 610-838-1770 or tavern@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org for more information.



Remember to join or renew your **membership**, and please consider a lifetime membership. All levels are eligible for member benefits!

Board of Directors

- Stacie Torkos - President
- Joseph Sofka - Vice President
- Gilbert Stauffer- Treasurer
- Gloria Michael - Secretary
- Earl Hill
- James Hill
- Richard Fluck
- Linda Norris-Fiegel
- Donald Mills
- Pearl Stork

Emeritus:
Marcella Dimmick
Stella Pasternak