



Hellertown Historical Society

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

In This Issue

HHS Readies First Jail for Visitors – Page 1

President's Message – Page 2

HHS Mission and Vision Statements – Page 2

HHS Cryptogram – Page 2

A 1930-1940's Walk Down Main Street – Page 3

Santa's Visit to the Mill – Page 3

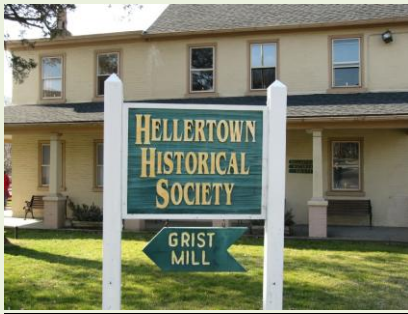
Bethlehem Airport, A Perspective – Page 4

Upcoming 2018 Events

Saucon Valley Easter Egg Hunt – March 31

History Day/Shopping at the Mill – TBD in April

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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Borough's First Jail Soon Ready for Visitors



Hellertown Historical Society made renovations and cleanup of Hellertown's First Jail a priority for 2017. Thanks to the generosity of an HHS member offering a matching donation, the Society raised \$6,000.00 to meet this goal. The jail has had a major cleanup of the site, flooring and support beams replaced, a redesign to a new hip roof installed, new wood ceiling, a reconfigured jail cell installed, replacement of the door and jam and three feet of river stone landscaping around the building preparing it for visitors.

The jail is located at the end of Laubach Street, the alley behind the 1774 Grille and Tap Restaurant, where it ends at the Silver Creek. There is no space for parking at this location and the area is surrounded by private properties, so it is best to walk to visit the site. Interested visitors should keep watch for future announcements when we hope to offer exterior and interior tours.

Meanwhile, enjoy these photos of our restoration efforts...



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,

This is the time of year when we remind you, our members and friends, to join or renew your membership with the Society. As you may know, the Society is comprised only of volunteers and your dues and support keep this organization's doors open for students, researchers, and the public. We cannot do this without you, and your support is appreciated.

Also, don't forget to contact us to book your 2018 special event in the Tavern Room. Dates are filling up fast! The rental of the room also directly supports our mission to preserve Hellertown's history and preserve our historic site.

We are always looking for volunteers to join us to have fun while making an impact. Contact me at info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org to learn more about how you can help.

Make sure that you follow us on Facebook and check back on our website for upcoming events and fundraising efforts. As we close the door on 2017, I wish you and yours a very happy New Year and, as always, thank you for supporting your Historical Society!
Stacie Torkos, President

HHS Mission and Vision Statements

As Current Today As When Created Four Years Ago...

By Gil Stauffer

In order for the Hellertown Historical Society to qualify for both public and private monetary grants, in May 2013 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 in the 1980s.

Verbiage for the statements was researched and developed over a five-month period by a special committee assigned to the task by the Board.

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 501c(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."

**Need info about us?
 We have an email address for that...
info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org**

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 the answer to be published, send your answer to the Editor at the email address below for confirmation...

editor@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

ALZ EPDA KUWIKZ

FAAOFVAWPU WU PKO APYU

WD XPDA OWSZO VFSZOU.

(Hint : Z=E)

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

X ZSO QE BXALH IFF LSWSO

I HAD MY FIRST EGG SALAD

LSPOCXUZ SH QYQ'L OXPJA.

SANDWICH AT MOM'S DINER.

(Hint : E=Y)

Mark Your Calendars Saucon Valley Easter Egg Hunt March 31



Take A Walk With Me Down Main Street

By Grumpy Ward

The other day I was thinking about all the small corner grocery stores that we had in town when I was a kid in the 30s and 40s. There was no *Walmart*, *Costco*, *Sam's Club* or *Wegmans*, just our corner stores.

Let's start walking North on Main St. and start remembering. First was **Nickums**, go another block and we stop into **Roeders** and then **Nicholas 5 & 10**. In the rear of **Nicholas**, groceries and meat were sold. At the corner of Water and Main were the **A & P** and the **Acme**. Across the street was **Rodgers** store that later became **Saucon Valley Trust Co.** Do you remember when **Acme** built a larger store and you actually shopped with a shopping cart?

Now we are all the way down to Thomas and First Ave. where **Ted Bernhart's** store was located. Are you getting tired yet? We still have a way to go, so shake a leg! Linden Street was home to **Pasternak's** and behind the store was a building where they butchered cattle. Across the street from **Pasternak's** was **Hellertown Bakery**. They made great Vienna bread, rye bread and all kinds of sweet goods.

Come on, you're lagging behind. We still have a few more stores to go.

On the corner of Main and Ackerman St. was **Solomon's** that later became **Kort's**. Up on High St. was **Diehl's**, later called **Hines**. That store is now an apartment building. **Meterko's** was beside Wolf School and had a lot of the children's business at lunch time and after school. **Kupsky's** and **Sazinski** were at Main and Hess Ave. and on Kichline Ave was **Manone's Store**.

Better take a rest, because now we have to walk all the way back to South Main St. where we started. We'll reminisce more on the way. Remember we had a milk man that delivered milk to our door in glass bottles? We also had a bread man from **Schiabes**, Flucky delivered **Freihofers**, and Ed Rohrbach delivered **Brickers** bread. **Sturgis** pretzels and **Charles Chips** came every 2 weeks with their goods in large metal cans.

We are at the end of our walk and I hope we didn't forget any of the stores on the way.

Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow... Santa Claus will Definitely Show !!!!!

By Gloria Michael



**Santa Gets Kisses from an Anxious
Friend**

Despite the snowy and slippery start to the morning of Sunday, December 10th, Santa did arrive safely to the "The Grist Mill" at noon to the delight of the kids waiting to meet him.



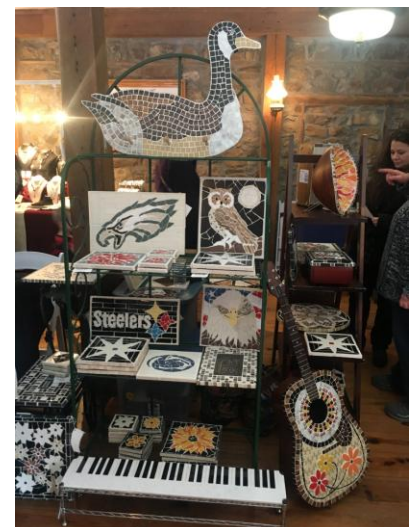
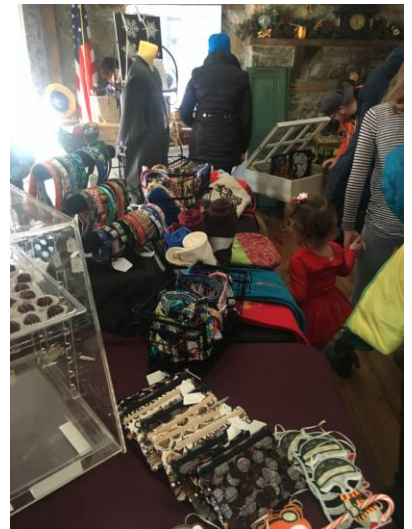
**Santa Greet Children Both
Young and Old**



Santa visited with about 75 excited children who were treated with cookies, hot chocolate, tangerines and the chance to have their photos taken with Santa.



The Tavern Room was filled with 10 local vendors selling their wares to last minute Christmas Shoppers. The day was a huge success for all.



Please watch for more information on our Spring Shopping at The Mill.

The Ups and Downs of An Airport

By Dolores Stauffer Di Paolo

My Father, Gilbert, lived on Crest Avenue as a child. Across the street an airport was being built. Since many other kids lived in the area, the man in charge of the hangar at the airport asked the kids if they would clean out the new hangar. They asked what the pay would be and he told them it would be an airplane ride. Can you imagine? A plane ride! This is something they just dreamed of but never expected would ever happen to them.

The boys worked very hard that Saturday and when they were done the hangar was spotless. They called the man back to inspect their work. He told them they did a fantastic job. The boys told him they were ready for their plane ride. The man answered "I can't do that!" the boys said "you told us that would be our pay." "Hey kids, I just can't do that."

The boys were so disappointed that they had worked so hard all day, and for what! They did come up with a wonderful idea though. They went outside of the hangar, got the dirt they cleaned out and put it all back in the hanger. Try to fool a kid will ya!

Bethlehem Realty Company, a subsidiary of Bethlehem Steel, sold 78 acres of land for \$500 an acre in 1928 to the City of Bethlehem. The land was to be used to build an airport. The City of Bethlehem first built the hangar to the tune of \$39,187. They then bought the surrounding land for \$24,499. The airport stretched from Crest Avenue to Cherry Lane. This land is now I-78.

The dedication on October 5th and 6th, 1929, drew a crowd of thousands including Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1932, a group called Saucon Valley Skyways rented the airport with Hellertonian Stanley W. Keck as manager. Keck was only 24 years old at the time. As a kid, Keck earned the nicknames "Krazy Keck" and "Kecky". He lived with his parents and three sisters in the old Miller's House on Walnut Street. It is now the home of Hellertown

Historical Society. His father operated the flour mill in the Wagner Grist Mill next door.

Keck went on to fly full-time and became known for his aerobatics, aero-photography and organizing air shows.

The airport came to an end in July 1934 because Bethlehem City Council needed the cash due to the Great Depression. They sold the property, with the exception of the hangar, back to the Bethlehem Steel Realty for \$20,000. The hangar was sold later in 1941.

Amelia Earhart flew to the airport several times in 1929, her first trip was on September 4th, 1929. Amelia continued to break records. Besides her solo flight across the Atlantic, she flew across the Pacific Ocean in 1935 and landed in California.

On May 20, 1937, Earhart started her historic flight around the world with navigator Fred Noonan. They took off from Oakland, CA flying East across Florida, Brazil, Africa and Australia.

On July 2, 1937, they were 7,000 miles from completing their trip. Earhart's next scheduled stop was at Howland Island in the South Pacific...she and Noonan never made it. Pieces of glass bottles and a finger bone were found. What happened to them is still a mystery for us to ponder. Did she live happily ever after with Noonan? Did they crash and die on another small island and these items washed up on shore? Maybe these items found have nothing at all to do with them?



Bethlehem Airport – Now Exit 67 Interchange of Interstate 78. Looking SW, Route 412 Running Diagonally from Upper LH Corner to Middle RH Side. Hellertown Manufacturing Company (Champion Spark Plug) in Background. Crest Avenue in Foreground.

Photo Courtesy Lehigh Valley History Facebook Page

Please Visit Our Website

www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

Over 28,000 Visitors Can't Be Wrong!