

HELLERTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 2013

www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

Issue 4



Speaker's Night Review: The Hellers of Hellertown

The 2013 Speakers' Series ended on a high note when guest speakers Ken Raniere and Karen Samuels presented, "The Hellers of Hellertown." Not only was the presentation informative, it was a timely topic for The Hellertown Historical Society.

This past summer and early fall several descendants of the original Heller Family have visited our site. Ken's research and Karen's insight helped provide a better understanding of how and why the Heller Family settled here. Of particular interest was learning about the *Winter Galley*. This ship transported the Hellers across the Atlantic to their new home, along with other families. The voyage was long; the ship was fairly small and new alliances were made on board. When viewing the manifest for the *Winter Galley*, the names of the Wagner Family were listed, who coincidentally are the same family to whom the Hellers sold the Grist Mill.

For those of you who were in attendance, here is a trivia question for you: We discussed the Heller family home named "Delay." While still unclear why such an interesting name was chosen for the homestead, we could confirm where it once stood. Where was "Delay" located? (The answer appears at the end of this article.)

The society was very pleased with the turnout for the evening. It was one of our most attended topics in the series and the guests who attended left wanting more. The bad news is this year's series has concluded. The good news is the Speakers' Series will be back in the spring! Please look for details in our next newsletter for dates and speakers!

[**Answer:** "Delay" was located near what is now Route 378 and East Raders Lane.]

Send Us Your Email Address, Today!

Stay connected and be the first to find out about events and happenings! Your email address also allows us to send the newsletter to you in electronic form. Simply send an email to info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org and indicate that you wish to be added to the society's email list.

The Hellertown Historical Society will never divulge or sell an email address to other entities, third parties, or solicitors.

Holiday Events at the Hellertown Historical Society

Holiday Open House

At the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill



Friday and Saturday, December 6th and 7th

Doors Open at 6 PM for Tours, Food & More!

Including the grand opening of our Vintage Train Display

Musical Showcase begins at 7PM

Featuring performers **Norris and James** and
The Lehigh Valley Idols



Shopping at the Mill

At the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill

Sunday, December 15 - Noon to 4 PM

Choose last minute gifts from these fine vendors...

- *Artists at Heart*
- *Freckle Face Fudge*
- *Hellertown Historical Society Gift Shop*
- *Linda's Handmade Creations*
- *Mary Kay Cosmetics*
- *Places In The Heart*
- *Premier Jewelry*
- *Tastefully Simple*
- *Unique Gifts and Crafts*



Also on the same date....

Visit with Santa for Photos *and* Tour the Vintage Toy Train



*Children of all ages are welcome to visit with Santa for a photo (minimal donation)

*Enjoy the vintage toy train layout in the Miller House lower level featuring a miniature village with scale replica buildings found in Hellertown.

**The trains will run Sundays Dec. 8 thru Dec. 22 from 1-4 PM



Making an impact: Day of Caring 2013

On Thursday, September 12th, the historical society participated in Day of Caring, an annual event coordinated by the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. Nineteen employees and an employee's spouse from National Penn Bank rolled up their sleeves and volunteered at our site for the day performing repair & maintenance and collection inventory tasks.

Since the areas that needed the most attention were outside, we watched the weather forecast for the day anxiously as afternoon showers were predicted. Unfortunately, rain drops started falling right at the start of the day while we took the group on a tour of the building and grounds.

After the tour, the repairs & maintenance group started working outside scraping and sanding the window sills. Then, as dark clouds rolled in, it started thundering and lightening and the group moved inside. Shortly, the sun came out and the group moved outside. Soon though, the rain and thunder returned and the group moved back inside. This in and out process went on for quite some time and all the members of the group were more than happy to be flexible as we shifted everyone back and forth depending on the weather.

The group was finishing tasks quicker than anticipated and we ran out of painting supplies. When our repair & maintenance crew leader took a trip down to the hardware store he was a bit surprised to see that the area had just been flooded by rain since we only received drops of precipitation. Around the same time, another member was coming from Bethlehem into Hellertown also reported that she encountered a storm. We were amazed and thankful that the severe weather passed over us, which allowed the group to make a significant impact.

Inside, the collections inventory group was working just as hard sorting through various objects, books, and documents. The day was quite warm and the group worked all day in the intense inside heat. They didn't mind the sweat as they enjoyed looking at all the "neat stuff" that they discovered.

We can't thank the National Penn Bank group enough for the work that was accomplished during the six hours that they volunteered their time for our organization. We'd like to extend an extra special THANK YOU to Luis Rosado, who not only volunteered his time, but his contractor tools and expertise as well.

Tavern Room
Available for Your Special Event

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.

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

OFFICERS:

President - Stacie Torkos
Vice-President - Joseph Sofka
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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

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