



# Hellertown Historical Society

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

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## Upcoming 2017 Events

- Holiday Open House – December 1, 6PM  
 Shopping at the Mill – December 10, Noon  
 Santa's Annual Visit – December 10, Noon  
 Train Display – Sundays December 3-17, 1-4PM

*All of us at Hellertown Historical Society wish you a wonderful and safe Holiday Season and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!*



*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.*

## Newsletter Email Contacts

Managing Editor – Donald Mills  
[editor@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:editor@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)  
 General Information  
[info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)  
 Hellertown Historical Society  
 150 W. Walnut Street  
 Hellertown PA 18055  
 610.838.1770  
[www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)



## HHS Float Earns Second Place In Saucon Valley Spirit Parade



On Oct. 22, the Annual Saucon Valley Spirit Parade was in full swing with floats and groups marching down Main Street. The theme of the parade, "Honoring Hellertown's Past," fit the Historical Society's bill of preserving the history of Hellertown and garnered the float second place in the "Best Appearing Float" category.

The float, submitted by the Society's members and driven by member Larry Sutton, featured homage to some of the significant places and time periods from Hellertown's past. The truck that pulled the float was decorated with letters that spelled out some of the former notable places of interest around town, including the Eagle Hotel, Brookfield Dairy, and Grant's 5&10 among others.

In the truck bed, several clothing items from the early and mid-twentieth century were displayed to showcase some of the textiles featured in the Grist Mill Museum, including an old Hellertown baseball uniform, a World War II military jacket, an older Hellertown police uniform and a World War II civil service jacket.

Behind the truck hung the original Hellertown train station sign along with pictures to pay homage to the transportation hubs that once bustled through the town as well as highlight the significance of the train display that HHS puts on each December. In the trailer bed was a staged living room scene from World War II, complete with an era appropriated family consisting of Wayne Packer and Andrea Danner as parents, Ben Schaller and Megan Madigan as eager 1940s-esque children, and Manny Aguiar as a soldier fighting in the war.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## 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,

We had a lot of fun working together to create a float for this year’s Saucon Valley Spirit Parade on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year’s theme was Honoring Hellertown’s Past. We have been honoring Hellertown’s past for 36 years and were proud to participate and also be awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Float category. We love our community and really enjoyed seeing all of you along the parade route. Now, we are getting ready for our favorite time of the year!

Each year we look forward to decorating our historic site and hosting our annual holiday events. If you have never visited us during this joyous time of year-- check out the details that follow in this edition, and make sure to mark your calendars and join us.

Come listen to the Lehigh Valley Idols, take a tour, see the train display, enjoy refreshments, shop for unique handmade gifts & give Santa your list. Happy Holidays! We can’t wait to celebrate the holiday season with you!

*Stacie Torkos, President*

## You Can Make A Permanent Mark On The Future Of HHS

*By Gil Stauffer*

Members tell us the friendships they formed and the experiences they had growing up in Hellertown continue to have a strong and lasting impact on their lives. One of the questions we receive most often from members is “How can we do more to preserve those memories for future generations?”

As you know, the mission of Hellertown Historical Society is to preserve Hellertown’s heritage. In today’s economic environment it is a daily challenge to raise the funds necessary for a nonprofit organization – like Hellertown Historical Society – to support the buildings, grounds, research materials, displays, etc., that make us such a valuable community treasure.

We understand that tight family budgets affect charitable giving, but there is a way you can support Hellertown Historical Society and ensure a strong future for the organization: **Simply include Hellertown Historical Society as a beneficiary in your Will, Life Insurance, or Retirement Plan.**

By directing a portion of your estate to the Hellertown Historical Society you are making a permanent mark on the future of the organization. Your support will ensure the Society will face the future in a stronger financial position, continue to provide resources that will preserve history, and provide tools for research and education of future generations of Hellertonians.

First...please discuss your gift with your attorney and/or financial consultant. Then, contact Gil Stauffer, Treasurer or Stacie Torkos, President at Hellertown Historical Society for additional information.

*Hellertown Historical Society is a 501c3 nonprofit organization*

## 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](mailto:editor@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)

X ZSO QE BXALH IFF LSWSO  
LSPOCXUZ SH QYQ’L OXPJA.  
(Hint : E=Y)

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

KL K QCO, OCO XJN AJ EJ  
**AS A KID, DID YOU GO TO**  
EUB LKNGJPK EJ TKEGU  
**THE SAUCONIA TO WATCH**  
LGKDX QJYCBL SCQB  
**SCARY MOVIES LIKE**  
“EUB LSJL” ?  
**“THE BLOB”?**  
(Hint : A=G)

## HHS Speaker Series Continues...

### Journey To Bethlehem--Roads, River and Rails

*By Gloria Michael*

Local historian, Ken Raniere, was the guest speaker in the Tavern Room on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Ken explained the history of transportation to the Saucon Valley back in the 1800’s up to the present time. He discussed how the industry in the area was impacted by stagecoaches on the roads, boats and barges on the waterways and steam engines on the rails. All of these sources helped to make Saucon Valley a viable marketplace for the products that were being manufactured in Philadelphia.

The room adjacent to the Tavern Room was decorated with photos of old steam engines that used our local railways. On display was the original HELLERTOWN sign from the train station that was located on Front and Depot Streets.

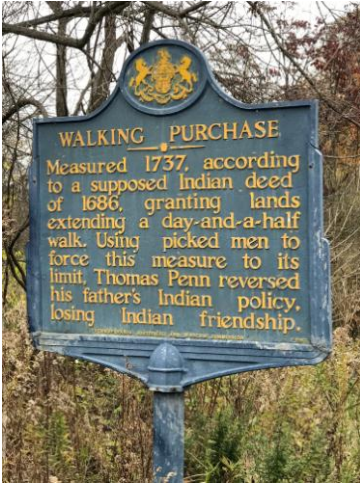
There was a crowded audience of people very interested in his topic with questions and answers along the way. We look forward to having Ken return as a guest speaker in the future with a new topic.

**Need info about us?**  
**We have an email address for that...**  
[info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)



## Hellertown History In The Making

By Dolores Stauffer Di Paolo



While I was driving down Main St. in Hellertown, on Route 412 last month, I went past Bechdolt's Orchard near Springtown, where I saw the historic sign about the "Walking Purchase". I got to thinking. If they went through Springtown area, they more than likely went through Hellertown. That's all I needed and I was off and running to research how Hellertown fit into the whole scheme of things. I saw maps online, but I just couldn't prove to

myself and the readers that Hellertown was involved. Then it happened! Ken Ranieri was our speaker at Hellertown Historical Society last month, and when he mentioned the Walking Purchase, I almost fell off my seat. "This might be my proof," and by George it was! With the help of Ken and his maps, we could prove that Hellertown was involved.

For those of you who don't know exactly what the Walking Purchase was, and like me, didn't care about it in History class, here is the sad story.

When William Penn left Pennsylvania, he went back to England and left his son Thomas in charge. A big mistake! Like a lot of sons, even today, he racked up a lot of debt, and to pay off his creditors he sold off land. Like a true scam artist, he sold land that didn't belong to the Penn's, but to the Lenape (Delaware) Indians.

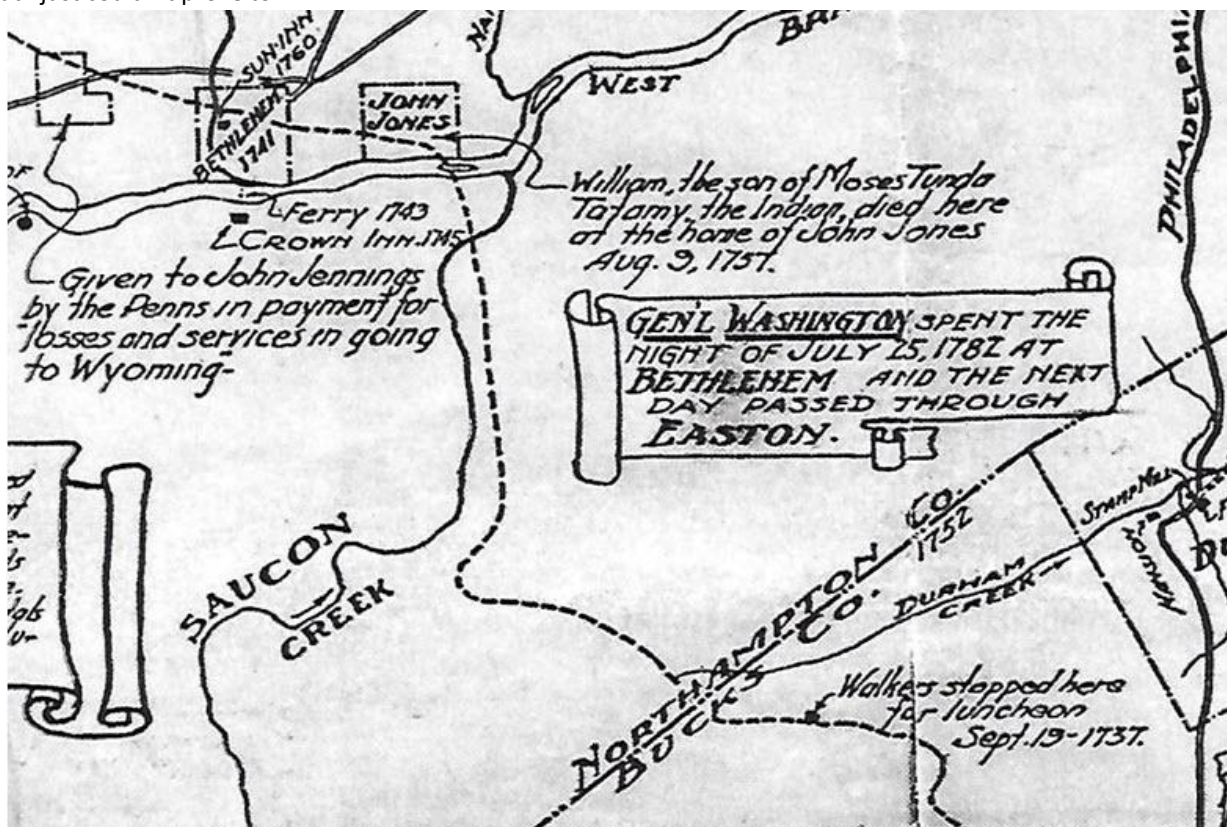
Thomas and his agents had to somehow come up with a plan to get this land so they could call it theirs. His father, William, had a good relationship with the Delaware Indians, but when Thomas presented them with a deed stating that the Indians made a deal with William 50 years ago, they were a bit suspicious. This deed, from 1686 said the

amount of land would be measured by a day and a half walk from an agreed starting point. The deed lacked the customary signatures of an English deed and the Delawares, who were a part of it, had either moved or were dead. The biggest thing, and I don't know how they got away with it, William Penn never signed the deed because he failed to send enough goods to the Indians to complete the sale. Nevertheless, the walk went forward, but not without trickery on behalf of Thomas Penn and his agent.

Thomas Penn's thinking was, "Why walk when we can hire trained runners". So the plot started to thicken. The first thing they did was to hire the runners, Edward Marshall, James Yates and Solomon Jennings. The Penn agents found three Delawares willing to witness the trek. Next Penn had some colonists, before the walk, check out the land in question and clear paths for the runners.

Now, we are set for the run, or walk as the Delawares assumed. On September 19, 1737 the walkers set out at a rapid pace and then probably, when out of sight, broke into a run. The first guy, Jennings, dropped out. Ahh, the

*(Continued on Next Page)*



Map of the Walking Purchase. The dotted line shows the route the walkers used through what is now Hellertown.

*(Courtesy Ken Ranieri)*

poor guy was exhausted. Next Yates dropped out the second day for the same reason but Marshall completed the "walk." He covered 65 miles in 18 hours.

Thomas Penn and his agents got the best land and the Lenapes were left with the bad land. The Delawares that remained ended up working on colonist farms as laborers or as servants. Over the years the Delawares of eastern PA moved to the Ohio River Valley and started trading with the French. This was the onset of hostilities of the Seven Years' War. Many of the Delaware sided with the French. During the French and Indian war, the Delawares raided Pennsylvania frontier towns because of the Walking Purchase.

The Delawares were forced to

move again, by the Government. After 130 years, they ended up in "Indian Territory" which is now Oklahoma.

What do you think? If we had it to do over again, would things be the same? I'm afraid that human greed would again take over. If William Penn would have stayed here and not trusted his son, would things have been different? I have a feeling it would have changed history and the innocent Pennsylvania frontier town's people would have lived to see another day. I wonder what William thought when he heard about the mess Thomas made of things.

Although the Walking Purchase did come through what is now Rt.412, there was no Hellertown at the time.

## Did You Know?...

*By Bill Frey*

In the past 130 years, many severe storms have hit Hellertown with flooding causing much damage; hurricanes Diane in 1955, Agnes in 1972 and Ivan in 2004.

On July 17, 1890, a very rare tornado hit Hellertown causing an estimated \$25,000 in damages, about \$630,000 today. The mighty rushing storm of wind, lightning, rain and hail that swept through the Saucon Valley was described by the Bethlehem Daily Times Newspaper as "Death in the Whirlwind". The storm came from the Northwest passing through Hellertown heading toward Springtown. The winds were so severe that it pushed a railroad freight car down a siding off the tracks into a ditch. Many farm buildings, roofs and telegraph poles were destroyed. The Bethlehem paper reported that nearly every property owner in Hellertown suffered wind damage.

The big story of the storm was the complete destruction of the year old, well-built, Agricultural Works located in the area of Saucon and Front Streets. Sadly, the paper also reported on the death of 11 year old John Freeman, son of Dr. E.J. Freeman of Freemansburg. The young boy was visiting the Agricultural Woks for the day with a friend and was trapped inside the building as it collapsed.

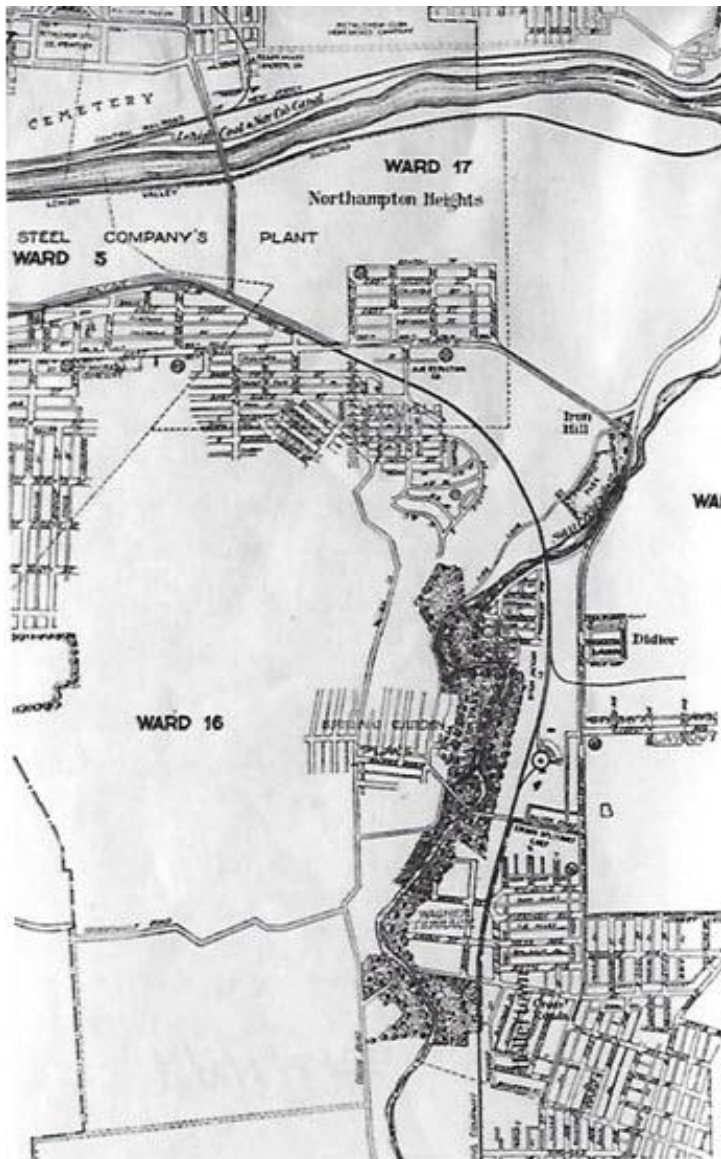
## Thank You Mayor Fluck

*By Bill Frey*



**Mayor Fluck, center with L-R Herb Payung, Earl Hill, Tom Rieger, Cathy Hartranft, Mike McKenna, Phil Weber, Jessica O'Donnell and Ricky Gower**

Hellertown Historical Society thanks Mayor Richard Fluck for his 47 years of service to the Borough of Hellertown. Hellertown honored Mayor Fluck earlier this year on Community Day, August 19, at the Dimmick Park Bandshell. Besides his many contributions to the Borough, Mayor Fluck also served on the HHS Board of Directors for many years.



**Map after Hellertown is established shows same the route walkers used. The solid line is nearly identical to that of Route 412/Main Street. (Courtesy Ken Raniere)**



## HHS Float Wins Prize...

*(Continued from Page 1)*

On the sides of the trailer were two sketches, drawn by member Joe Sofka, of the “Borough of Hellertown” training aircraft that was named after the town due to their achievement in selling war bonds in support of the troops fighting overseas. Walking along the parade route to hand out candy, fliers, and tavern room promotions were HHS President Stacie Torkos, Tavern Room Coordinator Jude Floria, Kiersten Torkos, intern Allison McCausland, former intern Erin Grube, and Liam Farrell.

Preparation for the float started as early as September. Danner, McCausland, and members Gloria Michael and Cathy Savitske served as the main committee behind creating the award-winning blast from the past. Their hard work would not have been as period correct with the World War II aspects without the input and information provided by member Bill Frey, a history buff for the era.

After a successful showing in the parade coming in second to the Mountainview Moravian Church, also in the same division of floats, the HHS participants got a short respite from their efforts before diving back to prepare for the upcoming holiday season.

The recognition of the work that the Historical Society does in “honoring the past” of Hellertown for 36 years will hopefully bring in a large crowd for the annual Open House on Dec. 1, Shopping at the Mill on Dec. 10, and the ongoing Holiday Train Display on Sundays from Dec. 3 - 17.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks for more information about these events and how you can help or participate in supporting HHS.



## HHS Nick-Name Game

*By Andrea Danner*

Here are the answers from the Nick-Name game that appeared in the last edition...how well did you know *those* names?

- 1) g, 2) d, 3) t, 4) k, 5) m, 6) s, 7) a, 8) q, 9) o, 10) l, 11) b,
- 12) r, 13) c, 14) l, 15) p, 16) f, 17) n, 18) e, 19) j, 20) h



# Hellertown Historical Society Opens Centennial Museum Display

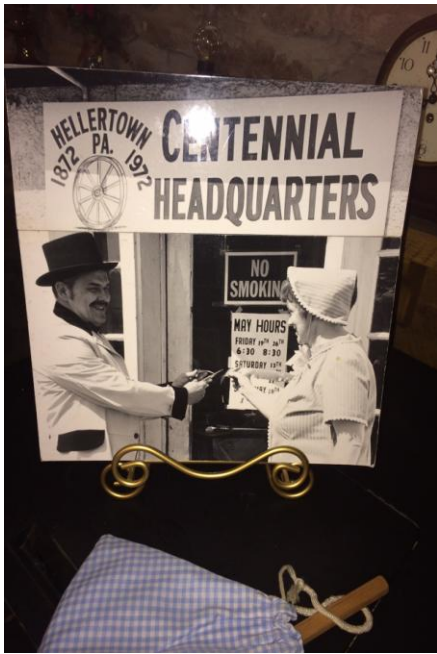
(By Don Mills)

As previously publicized, Hellertown Historical Society observed the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hellertown Centennial which was celebrated over a ten day period in August of 1972. As part of this recognition, we have transformed

a section of our Museum with Centennial Memorabilia and Artifacts. This new section was opened and dedicated with an Open House at our facility on August 25<sup>th</sup>. In attendance were many of our members, friends and guests to visit the new area and relive the celebration with complimentary refreshments and listen to tales from those who participated in the event 45 years ago. Here are a few photos to share of that evening...

Interested persons are urged to make arrangements to visit the HHS Museum to see this special area as well as many of our other historical displays representing Hellertown's history. Call or write an email to the Society using the contact information on the front page to make arrangements to visit our facility. You won't be disappointed!

Special thanks to Allison McCausland who organized this event during her Summer internship with HHS.



## Meet More of Our Volunteers/Members...



**Gil Stauffer**

**Where were you born?**

I am a 76 year resident of Hellertown, born and raised in the Mountainview section of Hellertown.

**Where do you live?**

I still live in Mountainview....over 50 years at the same address.

**Where are you retired from?**

My entire work career was in the banking industry. I retired from Wachovia Bank (now Wells Fargo Bank) in 2008. At time of my retirement I was Vice President in charge of Community Relations for the Northeast Pennsylvania Region of Wachovia Bank. I was also the Northeast Pennsylvania representative for the Wachovia Foundation responsible for handling, recommending and processing charitable grant requests from community based non-profit organizations.

**How long have you been with Hellertown Historical Society?**

I joined Hellertown Historical Society as a volunteer shortly after my retirement in 2008.

**What do you do for Hellertown Historical Society?**

I am Treasurer of the Hellertown Historical Society and a member of the Society's Board of Directors. In addition to my role as Treasurer I am also responsible for maintaining the society's financial records and preparing periodic budget and financial reports for review by the officers and members of the Board of Directors.

**Why do you like being a part of Hellertown Historical Society?**

I enjoy interacting with other Hellertown Historical Society volunteers! We are a volunteer family and each member is truly committed to the overall success of the organization. I also enjoy the level of responsibility that comes with my position as Treasurer and Board Member...the position is very fulfilling and quenches my thirst for meaningful volunteerism.



**Dolores Stauffer Di Paolo**

**Where were you born?**

I was born and raised in Hellertown, Mountainview to be exact.

**Where do you live?**

I have lived in several states and cities, but about 4 years ago I moved back to Hellertown. I'm very happy I did.

**Where are you retired from?**

I retired in 2001 as a Dental assistant. I also worked for Berks Technical Institute and Allentown Business School

**How long have you been with HHS?**

I became a volunteer at Hellertown Historical Society about 3 yrs. ago.

**What do you do for HHS?**

I do whatever office work needs to be done. I delegate tasks to three other volunteers. I also contribute to our Newsletter.

**Why do like being a part of HHS?**

I found a whole new group of friends and family at HHS. It's a fun place to volunteer because the people are so much fun and all pull together when a project is at hand.



**Donald Mills**

**Where were you born?**

I was born and raised in Hellertown.

**Where do you live?**

I have always lived in Hellertown. During my youth I lived on Henry Street, later in Mountainview when my parents moved to a new home. After marriage, I bought a Mountainview home and still live there.

**Where are you retired from?**

I am still employed working full time as a Senior Mechanical Designer for Mack Trucks in Allentown.

**How long have you been with HHS?**

I was appointed to the Board of Directors at Hellertown Historical Society in 2012.

**What do you do for HHS?**

I handle the Technology Resources for the Society. That is I maintain and update the Society's website, computer systems and any associated technical work that needs updating and maintenance. I am also the Managing Editor of the Society's Newsletter, coordinating articles and other news information provided by other members of our organization. I also volunteer for various events when my available time permits.

**Why do like being a part of HHS?**

I have met new friends at the Society, ironically two of which are my neighbors. I also enjoy learning about history in general, in this case Hellertown's history. I'm also pleased to be giving back to the Community through my service.



Take a Try Solving This HHS-Themed Word Search...

By Don Mills

P	T	G	D	X	S	W	D	X	L	R	V	I	P	N
O	L	X	H	J	V	S	U	G	J	Z	C	A	D	O
D	B	R	L	E	S	I	E	W	C	W	M	W	Y	I
L	Q	Y	A	W	H	G	I	H	S	G	N	I	K	N
P	C	V	P	T	N	L	V	F	D	W	V	L	X	U
W	R	M	B	L	H	Z	S	B	Y	R	H	O	V	T
T	C	O	H	D	W	L	G	X	C	B	A	G	Z	S
A	W	R	S	S	T	E	R	N	S	K	J	W	E	I
H	Z	X	J	S	P	O	R	E	L	L	E	H	O	R
T	K	S	B	T	E	H	D	I	M	M	I	C	K	H
G	H	Y	N	A	M	R	E	K	C	A	N	B	Y	C
Y	S	A	U	C	O	N	I	A	J	K	H	L	H	A
H	E	L	F	I	R	L	L	O	M	O	F	X	Z	X
N	G	N	I	R	D	O	O	W	N	E	L	L	A	F
K	C	I	L	L	I	D	R	O	F	T	N	O	M	Y

Word List

THOMASIRONWORKS  
 MOLLRIFLE  
 DIMMICK  
 ALLENWOODRING  
 WEISEL  
 EMERSONMILLS  
 HELLERTOWNCENTENNIAL  
 KINGSHIGHWAY  
 LIBERTYBELL  
 CHRISTUNION

HELLER  
 HOWARDHESS  
 WINTERGALLEY  
 DETWILLERPLAZA  
 LOSTRIVERCAVERNS  
 MILTONKELLER  
 MONTFORDILICK  
 ACKERMAN  
 STERNS  
 PROSSER

SAUCONIA