



Hellertown Historical Society

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

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Upcoming Events

Holiday Open House – December 2, Doors

Open @ 6PM (December 3 Snow Date)

Shopping @ The Mill/Santa Visit –

December 11, Noon-4PM



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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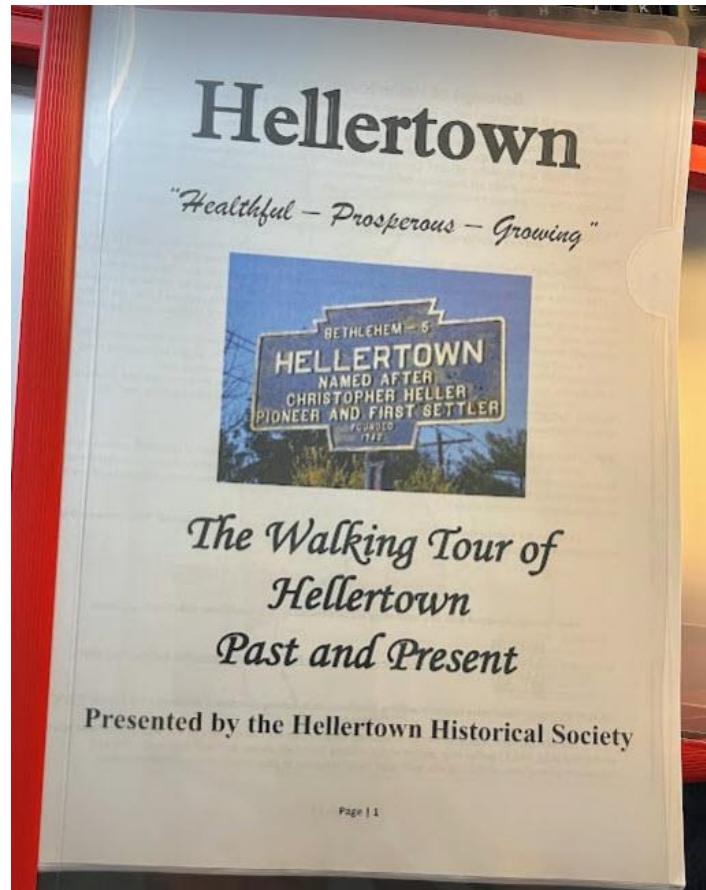
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Introducing the Walking Tour of Hellertown



The Re-Issued, 91-Page Walking Tour Booklet

The Borough of Hellertown, founded in 1742 and 130 years later incorporated in 1872, offers a great deal of early history. As early as the Revolutionary War, recorded data indicates Hellertown has been a part in our Nation's founding and history. Now, in 2022, as we celebrate our 150th Anniversary of the Borough's incorporation, the Hellertown Historical Society is re-issuing a new, updated Walking Tour of Hellertown.

This Tour is based on the original Walking Tour that Borough resident, Nathan Yonney, created and presented to the Society as his project toward attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. Originating around the mid-1990's, Mr. Yonney included many historical buildings and sites, in walking order, along a route that began at the Historical Society's facility and ended at the Union Cemetery on Main Street.

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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,
 Happy Fall! We have missed all of you! We are excited to be out in the community and planning the hosting of events again.

Each year we look forward to decorating our 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 enjoy live entertainment, check out the museum, 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

HHS Cryptogram

By Dolores Stauffer 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, send your answer to the Editor at the email address below for confirmation...

KEHHBUJSX OMX CMG M O
 MX DEL HAASJUW,
 WLAASJUW, MUO
 AMSJUW WEEO DEEO MUO
 GEHA ED JS CMG DLAA.

editor@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

Where To Find Us

Hellertown Historical Society can be found online with Facebook, Instagram and our website: hellertownhistoricalsociety.org. Soon we will have Twitter and You Tube accounts as well.



We also have representatives at the Saucon Valley Farmers Market on the fourth Sunday of each month. They provide an overview of the Society's function, why it exists and answer questions about the organization. They also provide information about volunteering with HHS and the benefits of membership.

Hellertown Historical Society also offers our 1760's period Tavern Room Venue for parties, meetings, banquets, etc.

Representatives offer brochures and other information to take along and review. We hope to see you there!

Re-Issued Walking Tour

Continued from Page 1

This re-issued tour now includes many more sites and historic information as well as photos of how businesses and homes once appeared in early Hellertown. Learn about early Hellertown founders and key people whose influence formed the young Borough. Learn historic facts that are intertwined with our nation's revolutionary history and how Hellertown played a key part. Find items and locations in Hellertown you probably never knew existed. Learn about early Hellertown life and how our town progressed over the years.

The new Tour is split into three separate, easy-to-follow "loops", each less than 1.5 miles in length and each starting and ending at a convenient, free, off-street parking area. Each Walking Tour "loop" includes a map showing key items that are found along the walking route as well as addresses that may be used with GPS technology. Currently, there are nearly 60 key sites listed in all. However, more sites are being considered for addition to expand the Tour. The Tour also includes a QR Code which when scanned by a smart device, opens an on-line, interactive map showing the same map key items as the booklet as well as offering brief historical data and photos of each key item. Internet access will be necessary to access this option. This interactive map does not include the walking directions.

The 91-page Walking Tour booklet may be downloaded to view/print from the Historical Society's website by going to the Events page and clicking the link in the Tour description. The Tour booklet provides parking

locations for each tour "loop" as well as walking directions so as maintain utmost pedestrian safety.

For those unable to download the booklet from our website or choose to have the hard copy in their possession, we offer complete booklets at our facility for a \$10.00 donation request which offsets the cost of printing and preparation. Please call the office at 610-838-1770 or email us at info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org to arrange a pickup time.

We hope you take advantage of this unique way to learn about Hellertown history and early life that helped to form our town into the enjoyable area it now is. Special thanks should be given to the original creator/author, Nathan Yonney, whose wonderful idea was the catalyst of what this Walking Tour has become.

Which Was Your Favorite Flavor?



Courtesy Dan Ruth

Scouting Display Case Dedicated in HHS Museum

A brief ceremony was held July 31 last year to dedicate a new display case to house 100 years of scouting items in the Hellertown Historical Society museum at the Grist Mill. The display case, an Eagle Scout project built and finished by Joey DiRusso, was installed in the second-floor museum area.



Thanks to Joey's initiative, talent and generosity, an abundance of scouting items in possession of the Historical Society now have a beautiful display case for museum visitors to admire.



Joey DiRusso is the son of current Postmaster, Joseph DiRusso, who also serves as the Scoutmaster for Troop 319 in Hellertown.



Trick or Treat at the Jail

Trick or treaters are welcome to visit the first jail in Hellertown for Halloween on October 31, 6-8PM! See the inside of the jail where criminals were locked up to serve their punishment for such high-stakes crimes as public intoxication and horse thievery. Wanted posters and other law enforcement records will be on display.

Hellertown Historical Society volunteers will be there to offer tours of the jail and discuss its history as well as offer Trick or Treaters tasty treats for their Halloween bags.

Visitors will have the opportunity to have their photos taken while at the jail.



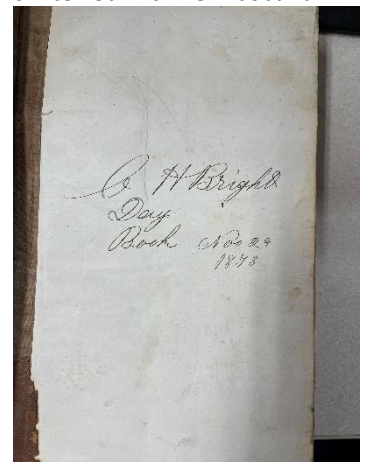
The jail is located at the far North end of Laubach Street, an alley behind Wings on Main on the corner of Main and Penn Streets. No parking is available; visitors must walk via Laubach Street (Alley) to the jail from Penn Street. The closest address location would be the rear of 631 Main Street.

Early Business Ledgers

Recently the Hellertown Historical Society was contacted by a local resident who found an old ledger in the basement of their home. Slightly water-damaged and emitting a musty odor, this ledger is a key to a past business in Hellertown. The ledger outlined accounts and purchases made by then prominent Hellertown residents via handwritten entries.



The owner of the general store was Charles H. Bright, who was confirmed to be an early resident of Hellertown and operated his general store forty years. Born in Bucks County January 21, 1844, Charles was the husband of Elizabeth W. (Wagner) Bright. They had two daughters, Amelia J. and Mary Ann Bright. Charles died December 7, 1921 and was interred in Union Cemetery in Hellertown. His wife, Elizabeth, died just slightly more than a year before on November 21, 1920 and is interred with her husband.



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HHS 2022 HOLIDAY EVENTS

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Friday, December 2nd at 7pm (Snow date: Dec. 3rd)
Music, Food, Tours, & More!



SHOPPING AT THE MILL

Sunday December 11th Noon—4PM
Stop, shop, and give Santa your list!



Hellertown's Distinct and Historic Homes - #6

A series featuring distinctive and historic homes in Hellertown – Answer to this home location will appear in the next issue

Look at the home on left side circa 1925 and see if you recognize the same home at its current site and condition...

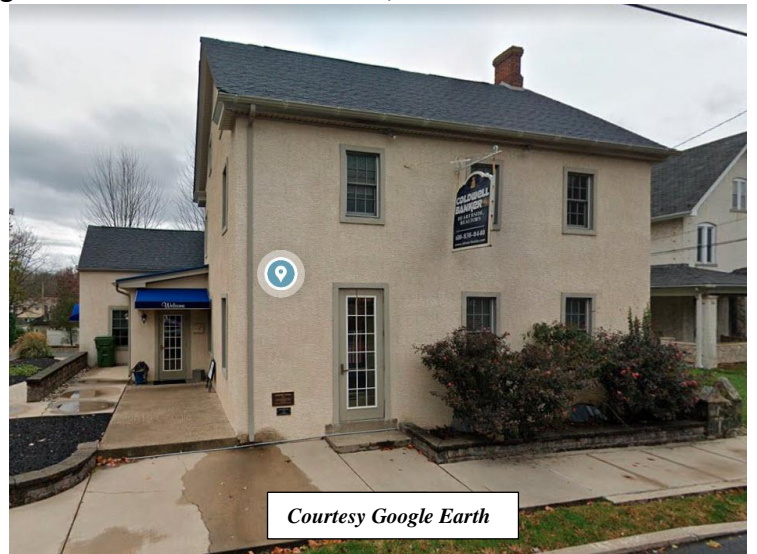


Courtesy Google Earth

Hellertown's Distinct and Historic Homes - #5 Answer

A series featuring distinctive and historic homes in Hellertown

This was the home of Milton J. Hess, Chief Burgess of Hellertown 1884-1893, 186 Main Street.



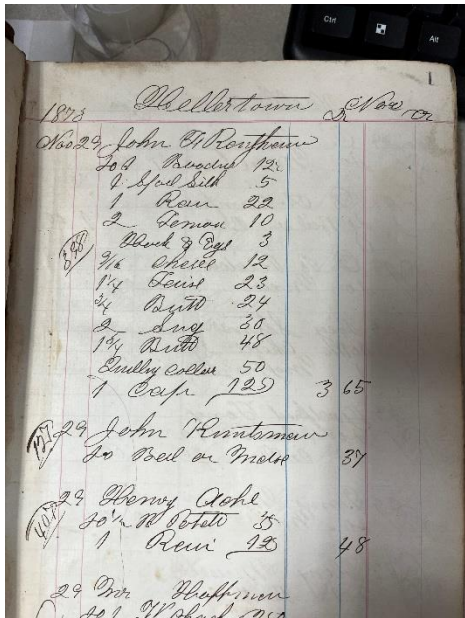
Courtesy Google Earth

Early Business Ledgers

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The location of Mr. Bright's general store was 425-427 Main Street at the corner of Durham and Main Streets. A map of this area from 1885 shows that the building at that location was identified as a "general store". Another map of this location from 1915 confirms the same business being there. It was not unusual for a business owner and his family to live in the same building, either above, behind or next to the actual business.

This particular ledger has handwritten entries from November 1873 through July 1875. Since Charles' obituary states he ran his general store for forty years, it might mean there are other ledgers somewhere that cover various years before and/or after those years this ledger covers.



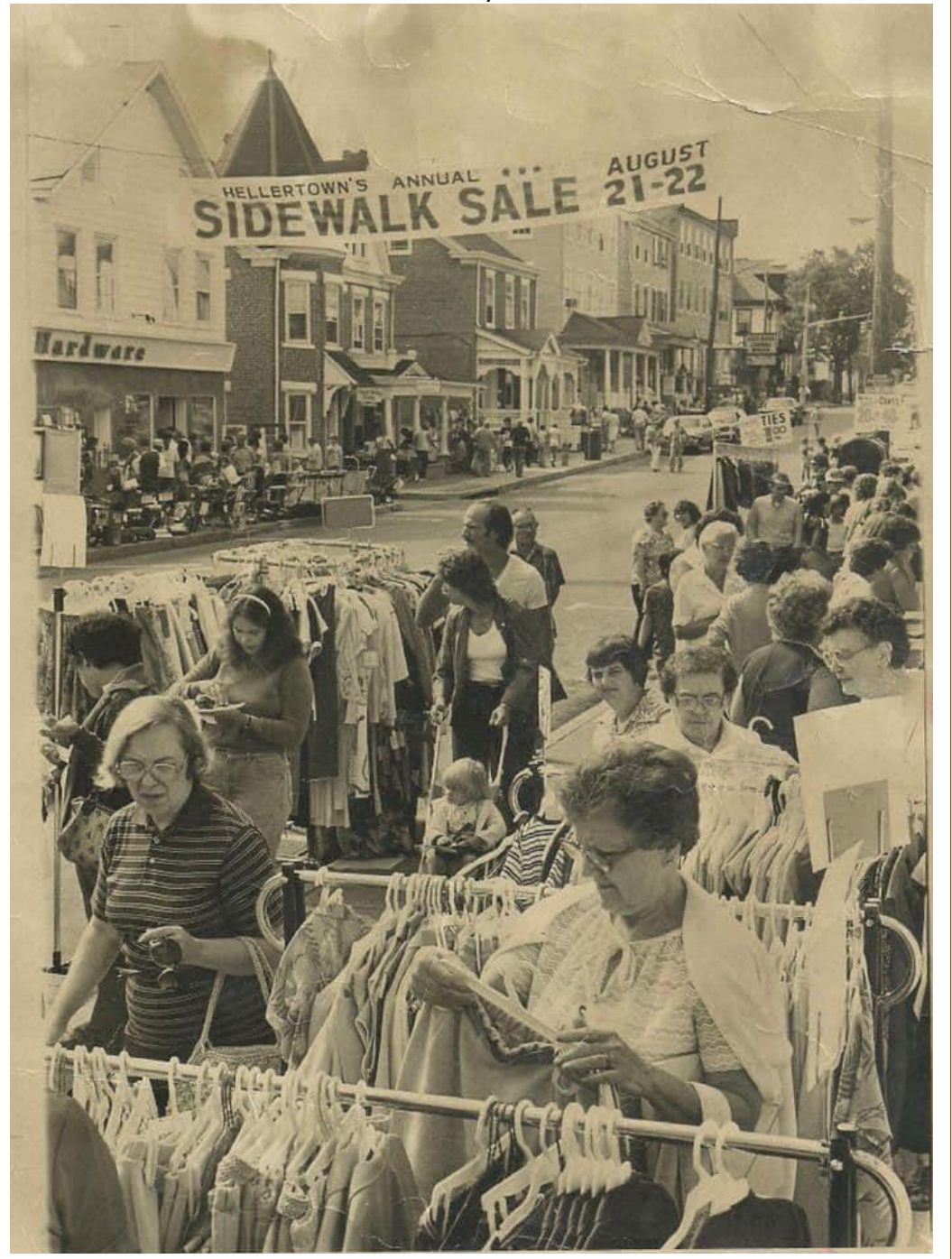
The Hellertown Historical Society has possession of dozens of ledgers much like this one. Perhaps some of those may be from Mr. Bright's store? There are many other business owners known to have operated shops in early Hellertown history. One of the on-going projects our volunteers are working is to review and organize all these business ledgers to build a catalog library of early business owners.

The Hellertown Sidewalk Sales, once held in August annually, was the prelude to today's Community Day. Crowds of customers descended on several blocks of Main Street where local businesses moved wares onto the sidewalk with prices slashed so low, no one could refuse the bargains!

Some businesses offered 'eats 'n treats' along with their normal inventory. It was reminiscent of a carnival atmosphere and an extremely popular event.

Unfortunately, road closures on Main Street and traffic re-routing became unpopular with PennDOT officials signaling the end of this well-attended event.

Photo Courtesy Dan Ruth



Jail?...What Jail?

If you ask most any Hellertonian, where is the First Hellertown Jail located?, they probably can't tell you. Likely it is because of where it is located, at the end of a small alley, roughly in the center of Hellertown, practically hidden from view.

With the upcoming Trick or Treat event that will be held at Hellertown's First Jail, October 31, it seems appropriate to advertise its existence, facts about it and some related information.

The Jail was built in 1872, under the first Chief Burgess of Hellertown, Thomas R. Laubach. Mr. Laubach built the jail for the town on land he donated for the Jail site, though he retained ownership of the property. As such, the property changed ownership through family members over the years until finally becoming the property of Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Hess, wife of the late Howard Hess who was Chief Burgess of Hellertown 1946-1949. Mrs. Hess stated her husband used the structure to house garden equipment and continued to maintain the structure.

In 1984, Mrs. Hess, a Hellertown Historical Society member, decided to gift the Jail building and property to the Society. Of the five buildings the Society maintains, the Jail is the only one that is owned by the organization. The Society added a historical plaque to the exterior of the Jail to recognize its historical significance. Here are some other facts about the Jail and surrounding area....

- It was known as "the lockup".
- Served the community until cells were added to the Dewey Firehouse at 318 Saucon Street about 1899-1900.
- Howard Hess was the great grandson of Chief Burgess Thomas Laubach who built the Jail.
- The nearby building, once known as Ella's Restaurant and Carson's Hardware, was originally a carriage shop owned by Thomas Laubach whose name was given to Laubach Street, the alley. That carriage shop building served triple-duty also housing a blacksmith business and tinsmith business.
- Detainees who were found on the wrong side of the law, were mainly guilty of minor crimes, such as public intoxication. However, Hellertown organized a group of men to oversee those who committed more serious crimes. As a result, a few horse thieves received a long tour of the interior.
- The nearby St. Paul United Methodist Church at 645 Main Street was once the site of Hellertown's first school house.
- The current Hellertown Borough Hall was once the home of Dr. Henry Detwiller, later acquired by his son, Dr. William F. Detwiller. After William's death in 1907, it became the Central Hotel until 1918. It was even used as an A & P grocery store at one time. In 1939, the Borough purchased the building from Dr. Heller's widow and started using it as Borough Hall.
- Saucon Manor apartments, on nearby Northampton Street, is the first federally-funded housing building in the Borough providing affordable housing for fix-income seniors. It opened in 1979.
- At the South end of Laubach Street at Penn Street, is the Wings on Main restaurant which was originally the Pennsylvania Hotel built around 1741-1760. Throughout the years it was passed on to the Heller Family who changed the name to the Tavern House. Later it was sold to John Rentzheimer who later sold it to Thomas R. Laubach. Thomas Laubach changed the name back to the Pennsylvania Hotel. In 1872, the first elections were held here with Thomas Laubach being elected the first Chief Burgess of Hellertown serving from 1872-1873.

Did You Know?

On Monday, October 29, 1929, the Hellertown-Lower Saucon Board of Education agreed to the formation of a High School Band. The Board agreed to have Mr. Milton Warmkessel organize and instruct the new band, he was to receive \$5.00 a week for tutoring the band members.

Today the Saucon Valley High School Band consists of instrumental students in grades 7-12. The program offers competitive marching band, symphonic wind ensemble and a jazz ensemble that perform several concerts, competitions and parades throughout the academic school year.

(Courtesy svpanthers.org)



Hellertown-Lower Saucon High School Band Circa 1933