

Hellertown Historical Society

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Newsletter

"Dedicated to Preserving the History and Heritage of Hellertown and Its People"



Raymond "Scotty" Gozzard: A Man of Service, Resilience, and Hometown Pride

By Ken Bloss

During World War II, many young men and women from Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township answered their country's call to service. Among them was Raymond "Scotty" Gozzard, a member of Hellertown High School's Class of 1942, whose courage, perseverance, and dedication exemplified the spirit of the Greatest Generation.

Like many local servicemen, Ray stayed connected to his hometown through the efforts of the Saucon Valley Defenders Committee, which regularly sent Victory Mail (V-Mail) newsletters and greetings to local men and women serving around the world. Ray's responses, preserved in the committee's records, offer a glimpse into the life of a young sailor far from home.

In December 1943, Ray wrote that he hoped to see someone he knew while stationed in the Middle East. By June, 1944, writing from "somewhere at sea," he reported that he was "striking for Quartermaster 3/c" and added simply, "I am fine and can't complain." Four months later, in October 1944, Quartermaster Third

(continued on page 2)

Halloween Parade Has Long Tradition

By Lauren Kachmarsky

One of the most memorable parts of growing up in Hellertown is the annual Halloween Parade, this year to be held October 18.

Generations of kids remember sitting on the curb on Walnut and Main street, chasing after Tootsie Rolls and Dum-Dum pops, and watching marching bands and costumed kids prance around. Many people, however, don't stop to think about the origins of this tradition, when Hellertonians first donned a mask or cape and marched.

The earliest mention of a Halloween parade in Hellertown was in 1921. The parade was held on Halloween and took a familiar route, beginning at the corner of Walnut and Main streets and continuing north on Main Street.

In 1929, the Hellertown High School band led the parade, with Dewey Fire Company volunteers marching as well.

In 1932, it was reported that more than 1,000 children attended the parade. The Dewey Fire Company was the ending location, which at that time was a beautiful brick building on Saucon Street near the town's original Christ Lutheran Church. After the parade,

the company hosted a Halloween party, with refreshments and treats for the community.

By 1949, more than 5,000 people attended the parade, and more community organizations, bands, and people were involved. In the 1980s, fundraising for the parade was having a difficult time matching its budget. In 1985 the community held a roller skating party at Skateway in Bethlehem to raise money. Admission was \$1.50, and all proceeds went to funding the parade.

In the 1960s, the parade began on Cherry Lane at the north end of town. Bands, floats, children and parents in costume, mounted horsemen, and other October revelers walked, marched, and rode south on Main Street to Durham Street, turned left on Penn Street and continued to Dewey Fire Company where hot dogs and beverages were served to everyone.

The Halloween parade has always been a labor of love for Hellertown. Community groups, local businesses, schools, and the borough work together to create a fun and memorable century-old tradition.



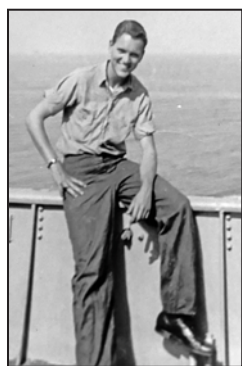
Legend has it that dancing ghouls and hobgoblins appeared in groups on Hellertown streets long ago in 1921. Then came bands, floats, and an annual tradition called the Hellertown Halloween Parade.

(Scotty Gozzard, continued from page 1)

Class Gozzard acknowledged receipt of the committee's newsletter and birthday greeting, a welcome reminder that the people of Hellertown had not forgotten him.

Just weeks later, Ray would face one of the most harrowing episodes of his naval service.

Serving aboard the destroyer USS Cooper (DD-695), Ray was assigned to operations in the Pacific Theater during the campaign to liberate the Philippines. On the night of December 2-3, 1944, the Cooper joined two other destroyers for a mission against Japanese shipping in Ormoc Bay on the island of Leyte.



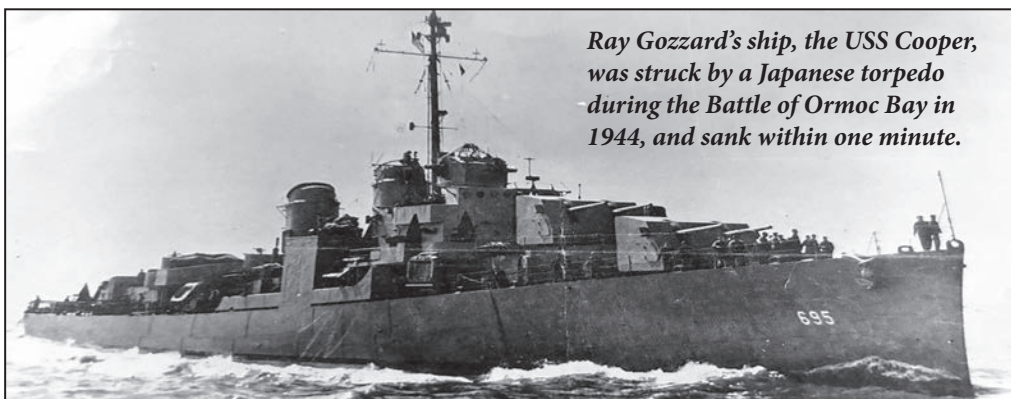
Shortly after midnight, the destroyer was struck by a Japanese torpedo. The explosion tore into the ship's starboard side, and the Cooper broke apart and sank within a minute. Rescue efforts were delayed by the continued presence

of enemy forces, leaving survivors struggling in Ormoc Bay for many hours. Of the ship's crew, 191 men were lost.

Scotty was working on the top deck of the USS Cooper when the torpedo struck. He was wearing a communications helmet when he was blown off the deck. When he was picked up from a life raft filled with survivors being rescued, Scotty had a wire wrapped around his neck. Someone saved him. He helped pull men into the raft. According to his daughter, Denise Gozzard Goodrich, her dad told her, "the worst part of the rescue was having to push dead sailors/crew into the sea."

Ray was among the fortunate survivors.

Ray's daughter also mentioned that her father told her that the life raft he was on



Ray Gozzard's ship, the USS Cooper, was struck by a Japanese torpedo during the Battle of Ormoc Bay in 1944, and sank within one minute.

rescued another Hellertown sailor, Sammy Schushaer. We have been unable to obtain any additional information about his rescue, so if anyone is aware of this, please contact the HHS.

According to a later article in The Hellertown Herald, he spent about seventeen hours in the sea off Leyte, enduring exposure and the threat of enemy aircraft before rescue finally arrived. Along with dozens of other survivors, he was picked up by a Navy patrol aircraft during what was reported to be a record-setting rescue operation.

According to Ray's daughter, Denise, after Scotty recovered from the sinking of the USS Cooper, his parents did not know whether he was alive for almost two weeks. Shortly after, they were surprised and shocked when Ray walked unannounced into the Town Tavern on Main Street one afternoon.

Despite the trauma of the sinking, Ray continued his naval service. He later served aboard the battleship USS Missouri, the most powerful battleship in the United States Navy at the time. During his wartime service, he earned numerous decorations, including the American Theater Ribbon, European Theater Ribbon, Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Admiral's Commendation, and the World War II Victory Medal.

When peace returned, Ray brought the same commitment and leadership back to his hometown. He then attended and graduated from West Chester College, where he played

soccer on the college team. Ray became a physical education teacher at Hellertown High School, where he helped sustain the growth of the school's soccer program. Generations of students came to know him as a dedicated teacher and coach. Many residents still remember his contributions to local athletics and his enthusiasm for sports. Long before his naval service, Ray had played on Hellertown High School's soccer team.

Ray Gozzard's story reminds us that the history of World War II is found not only in famous battles and distant places, but also in the lives of local citizens whose courage carried them through extraordinary circumstances and who returned home to strengthen the communities they loved.

As we remember the sacrifices of Hellertown and Lower Saucon's wartime generation, Ray Gozzard remains an enduring example of service, resilience, and hometown pride.

Thank you for your service:
Raymond "Scotty" Gozzard
7/17/1924 - 6/5/1980

Find out more about Hellertown Lower Saucon teachers who served during World War II by searching the V-Mail blog at:

www.saucon-valley-vmails.blogspot.com

You'll also discover how the Saucon Valley Defenders Committee used V-Mail (Victory Mail) to send letters to and from active members of the armed forces and their families throughout World War II.

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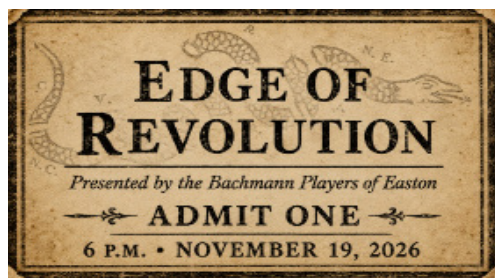
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The Bachmann Players of Easton will present an original play – “*Edge of Revolution*” – at the Hellertown Historical Society’s Tavern Room on November 19 and 21, beginning at 6 p.m. each night. Tickets, limited to 24 patrons per evening, are on sale through the historical society’s website at www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org

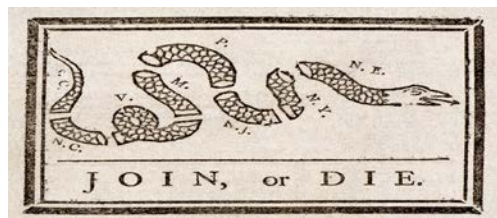
Tickets are \$70 for the public and \$60 for members of the Hellertown Historical Society. Attendees will be served a traditional colonial tavern dinner of chicken pot pie in individual pans, carrot cake muffins, a salad, and apple cobbler for dessert. Cheese and cracker trays will be placed at each table, and adult beverages will be provided.

“*Edge of Revolution*” takes place in the wake of the Boston Tea Party. The British Parliament has closed the port of Boston and imposed harsh new laws upon Massachusetts. Now, citizens of Easton and Northampton County must decide where they stand.

In a recreation of a meeting that occurred in the Courthouse on Easton’s Center Square in June, 1774, Patriot George Taylor, outspoken loyalist Louis Gordon, and their fellow townsmen gather to debate the crisis. Tempers rise, alliances shift, and the future of the colonies hangs in the balance.

Blending drama, humor, history, and audience participation, “*Edge of Revolution*” invites you into a divided colonial community when protest is becoming rebellion, and ordinary citizens must choose between loyalty, conscience, and independence.

Tickets are being sold on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be mailed ahead of each event. To order tickets, click the URL below. <https://hellertownhistoricalsociety.org/product/edge-of-revolution/>



Who are the Bachmann Players of Easton?

By Lauren Kachmarsky

You might recognize The Bachmann Players of Easton from past events at the HHS: Tavern Room Talks, our Colonial Tea, Heritage Day presentations. But this November, you’ll see them in a whole new light. “*Edge of Revolution*” is a new production, a fully immersive and transportive play written by Christopher Black, who has managed the Bachmann troupe for years. I sat down with Christopher to understand how a program like “*Edge of Revolution*” is produced, and how the actors prepare.

How did you become interested in 18th-century reenactment?

“It was Mr. Benjamin Franklin, you can’t look into his life without getting enriched about the period he was in, the difficulty and the challenges, and what life was like.”

Is there a reason this period attracts so many reenactors and so much interest?

“I think the revolution gets the lion’s share of the attention, which is a little sad in a way. That’s just one part of it, and it was actually relatively brief. Most of the founding fathers were very loyal British citizens for a long time. Franklin held out until 1775; he was very against the Boston Tea Party.”

“The revolution reels people in, and then I think they get a little deeper, and life is just so different. It’s a deep escape, but we can know a lot about it.”

Why do you think reenacting is an important way to educate people on history?

“What we really try to focus on is making people feel like they really met a person. There’s a purity in the stuff that’s based on real documents and newspapers and things like that.”

“What’s happening in this particular play, which is really valuable, and what we want to get people to understand, is that this is based on a meeting that happened in June of 1774 in the Easton Courthouse. I went to Lafayette College and read the original notes on that meeting, where Northampton County decided what resolutions they would have to pass to support Boston in the event of the intolerable accident, the Tea Party. So, it’s real: The audience is kind of involved in the debate, and they get to hear some of the acts read and some of the real debate about it, because it was a time of uncertainty, when every community was trying to understand how to deal with the

(Continued on page 7)



President’s Corner

by Don Mills, HHS President

A good ending coming up to a very good year.

Hello! By the time you read this, we will be experiencing cooler weather and changing leaves. We have enjoyed a very successful year so far. And more is on the way to finish 2026, our 45th year as a non-profit volunteer organization.

May’s Heritage Day was a tremendous success, and plans are well underway for next year’s event. We also raised much-needed funds by selling food at Dimmick Park during one of the Music in the Park events, which we look forward to participating in next year. We took part in National Night Out with the Hellertown Police Department and Hellertown Community Day, both at Dimmick Park. The final public tour of our museum and other buildings takes place at 10 a.m., October 24. Our “Talks in the Tavern” have been outstanding, with our final presentation about colonial currency on October 15.

*There is still much to look forward to, including the Hellertown Halloween Parade on October 18; Trick-or-Treat at the First Jail on Halloween night; our Election Day Bake Sale on November 3; The “*Edge of Revolution*” dinner play on Nov. 19 and 21; and our Holiday Open House and Santa’s Visit on December 4 and 13, respectively.*

Thanks to grant funding, we have restored the Historic Grist Mill Herb Garden and continue our Historic Hellertown Walking Tour video series. Plans are also in place to replace the walkway and ramp leading to our museum entrance with an ADA-compliant entrance. We are proud of these accomplishments, but much work remains. We need to address restoration and repair needs for our buildings and pedestrian bridge, all of which are part of the National Register of Historic Places. These projects require substantial funding and will likely require additional grant opportunities.

To accomplish these goals, we need more volunteers of all ages, especially younger volunteers. Please consider donating a few hours each month. There are opportunities from mowing lawns and removing snow, to writing grants, leading public tours, archiving artifacts, and more. We provide training.

Please stop by the Miller’s House office - next to the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill - and introduce yourself. Business hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Keep up to date on all our activities via our website:

<https://hellertownhistoricalsociety.org/contact/>

Archives Ledgers Reveal Material Needs of Hellertown's Early Settlers

By Bonnie and Dan Stohl

Hellertown, Pennsylvania was founded in 1742. At that time, Hellertown was on the fringe of the frontier. Our founding fathers were rugged frontiersmen. They survived by hunting, growing, gathering their food, weaving their clothes and using local materials to build their homes.

In 1753, the Moravian Church of Bethlehem opened the Bethlehem Store (the Lehigh Valley's first store). The store greatly enhanced the lives of Hellertown's settlers by providing goods they could not produce themselves.

This article offers a brief description of the Bethlehem Store and a look at the authentic accounting system (ledgers and journals) of the early Moravian church.

THE BETHLEHEM STORE

The Bethlehem store, also known as the Strangers Store, opened on Market Street in Bethlehem, then called "Ladengrass," in January, 1753. It operated in a stone addition to the house occupied by Timothy Horsefield, Bethlehem's first Justice of the Peace.

The Bethlehem Store first functioned as a primary store for the Moravian community to sell excess goods to travellers and non-Moravian neighbors, also known as strangers. Since the Moravian Community was somewhat isolated, the store served as a kind of bridge between the community and outside world.

The store was highly advanced for its time, offering more than 200 different items mostly produced by local Moravian craftsmen. Ninety percent of the goods were produced by local people while 10 percent were imported goods.

The locally produced items included: textiles, pottery, iron works, leather goods, local brass hardware, metal tools, clay pipes, processed oils, linseed oil, butter, raw processed wool, and gun parts made by local gunsmiths.

Imported goods included: refined sugar, coffee, chocolates, exotic spices, fine wine, British ceramics, glassware, and porcelain and textiles imported from China.

There was no bargaining for these goods; the Moravian Church regulated the purchases. The price was based on the cost of raw materials and the financial needs of the church.

There were no labor costs; the church supplied food, clothing and shelter for all craftsmen. The church operated under the "Just

Remarkably preserved Bethlehem Store ledger pages such as these show 1768 purchases and credit transactions by Johan Christoph Heller and his son, Michael. The store's ledger entries also show material sales to Johan's sons Simon, Daniel, Ludwig, George (Christoph, Jr.), and Dieter.

Price Principle," an ethical economic concept stating that the fairness of a transaction relies on a price reflecting a product's true value, covering production costs, and allowing a modest profit without exploiting buyers or sellers.

The Moravian Archives at 41 W. Locust Street, Bethlehem, houses examples of the Moravian Bethlehem Store's early accounting system. Original ledger and journal entries that include transactions of our own Heller and Wagner families members are found here. For instance, on July 13, 1767, Christopher Stoffel Wagner purchased sundries and in 1775, he purchased green cloth with yellow binding. In May of 1766, Michael Heller purchased 25 yards of linen and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards of calico. In 1783, he purchased an iron kettle and, on numerous other occasions that year, he purchased butter.

Ledgers and journals are the store's only accounting records found in the Archives;

another component - called wastebooks - are not found in their entirety, only remnants because entire wastebooks usually were discarded. The Archives refers to wastebooks as daybooks, terms that were often used interchangeably.

Here is an example of how it worked. Let's say Christopher Heller purchased a bag of refined sugar. The clerk would record the purchase in the wastebook. This would be a rough, chronological record of the transaction. From here, it would be recorded in a more refined journal. In the journal, the entries would be summarized and categorized before being recorded in a ledger.

The Society of Archivists puts it in simple terms. The clerk scribbles everything in a wastebook, then cleans it up and transfers it to a journal, which is eventually moved to a finished product, the ledger. Pictured above are original ledger entries of Johan and Michael Heller found at the Moravian Archives.

Calling All Hellers!

The Hellertown Historical Society (HHS) will host a Heller Family Reunion for descendants of Hellertown's founder - Johann Christoph Heller - at its annual Heritage Day celebration on May 15, 2027. Heller descendants across the United States with genealogical ties to Johann Christoph are invited to attend. The reunion is being organized by the HHS and Heller family members in eastern Pennsylvania.

Heller descendants interested in learning more about the reunion are asked to contact the historical society at info@hhstours.org. Responses already have been received from descendants in states from Maine to Washington and Florida to the Southwest.

★
SERVICE
COMMUNITY
TRADITION
ALWAYS
★

★ 100 YEARS ★

HELLERTOWN'S EDWARD H. ACKERMAN LEGION BUILDING MARKS ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY



— HONOR
REMEMBER
TOGETHER
FOR TOMORROW

- 1927 ★ 2027 -

Post 397 was named in honor of Hellertown's first World War I casualty, Edward H. Ackerman.

One of many successes in Hellertown's history came with the completion of the American Legion building at the corner of Main and Chestnut Streets. The Betsy Ross Club placed a memorial fountain at the site on June 21, 1924.

After seven years of fundraising by Hellertown's citizens and businesses, groundbreaking for the building was held on April 22, 1926. Dedication of the newly constructed Legion building took place on October 1, 1927.

The building not only served the needs of the brave men and women of the U.S. military, but also became a central gathering place for the Saucon Valley area. It served as a movie theater and hosted dances, parties, banquets, dinners, pageants, athletic banquets, and many other community celebrations.

Today, 100 years after its dedication, Edward H. Ackerman Post 397 continues to offer a great variety of events and activities that support the Saucon Valley area and carry on the proud tradition established by the citizens of Hellertown a century ago.

★
Past • Present • Future



Decoration Day (Memorial Day) May 30, 1935



Groundbreaking Ceremony April 22, 1926



*Cpl Edward H. Ackerman.
First Hellertonian lost in
World War I*



*The Betsy Ross Club donates the
memorial fountain on June 21, 1924*



*Dedication Ceremony of the
memorial fountain on June 21, 1924.*



Post Commander Eric Medei leads the 100th Anniversary Ceremony at the Legion on June 6, 2026

HONORING OUR PAST ★ STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY ★ INSPIRING OUR FUTURE

A Tornado in Hellertown? In 1890, Everyone in The Little Borough Was Caught Off Guard

By Dennis Scholl

The Hellertown Agricultural Works was an industrial facility built in 1867 to manufacture farm machinery, castings, and iron implements. It was a cornerstone of Hellertown's rapid transition from a quiet farming community into a booming industrial center following the arrival of the North Pennsylvania Railroad in December, 1856.

Located somewhere just south of the intersection of present-day Saucon and Front streets, the Agricultural Works functioned primarily as an industrial foundry and machine shop. Among its core activities was the manufacturing of specialized farming tools and equipment crucial to the region, such as plows, harrows, cultivators, and corn shellers. Iron castings were made at the facility by machinists who used raw iron from nearby operations, such as the nearby Saucon Iron Company, to mold stove castings, window sash weights, and custom hardware.

Despite operating out of a relatively small Pennsylvania borough, the factory was highly successful, selling its farm machinery and iron products to markets across the United States and around the world.

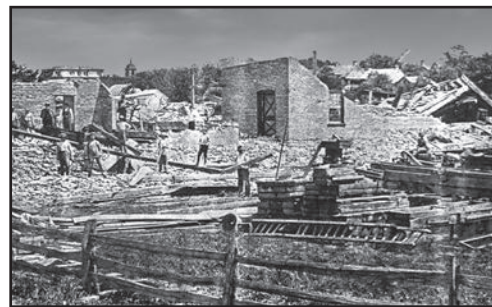
That is, until one infamous day: July 17, 1890, when a violent tornado swept through Hellertown and struck the Agricultural Works at the height of its fury, lifting the structure

through massive suction, twisting it, and smashing it completely to fragments, severely injuring the superintendent and several workers inside, and killing a 10-year-old boy vacationing in Hellertown with a friend.

Young John Freeman - son of Dr. E. J. Freeman, of Freemansburg - had spent several days with his friend, Charles Barba, the son of Agricultural Works foreman, William Barba. John Freeman was in the mill when the storm came and was caught under the falling mass and instantly killed. For Hellertown, the unexpected tornado and the damage it caused produced a calamity of historical proportion.

Several men who were caught in the yard of the Agricultural Works were picked up by the storm and carried several hundred yards into adjoining fields, but were little injured. Portions of the three-story building's tin roof, weighing hundreds of pounds, were twisted into balls and carried a thousand yards, one of them lodging in the backyard of a home on Main Street.

The storm continued in a southeasterly direction, striking a frame slaughterhouse and barn and tearing them to pieces. Another nearby barn was lifted off its foundation and into the air, falling to the ground in twisted pieces. The lumber yard of Hess & Brothers in the south end of Hellertown, was turned into a chaotic state. Lumber was carried off, and



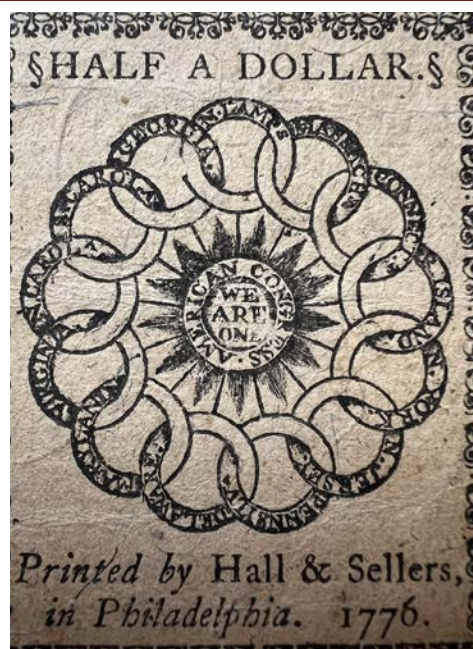
The Hellertown Agricultural Works was destroyed by the 1890 tornado, but rebuilt two months later.

great quantities of it hung on trees in a nearby orchard following the storm.

The roof of Christ Union (later Lutheran) Church at the corner of Saucon and Northampton streets was blown off. Portions of the Park Hotel on Main Street were damaged, along with many homes. The roof of the Odd Fellows Hall on Main Street (now a dance conservatory) was badly damaged.

Demonstrating the industrial importance of the facility, the owners rushed to reconstruct it immediately. The factory was fully rebuilt and officially resumed operations on September 8, 1890, just over two months after being completely destroyed.

Hellertown has not witnessed such a force of destruction in the last 136 years, and hopefully never will again.



Tavern Room Talk

Thursday, October 15, 7p.m.

"The Colonial Beginnings of American Currency"

As America's 250th anniversary celebrating separation from Britain continues, Quakertown resident, John Ambrose, discusses a very practical obstacle along the path to our country's independence: how to finance the Revolutionary War and conduct commerce in the absence of a banking system.

The evolution of money, especially early colonial paper currency, tells a fascinating story about the birth of our democracy. Every colonial note was hand-

signed in ink, often by leaders in society who also were leading the struggle for freedom. Meet some of these patriots who risked it all in the colonies' fight for freedom. Learn their stories by examining actual colonial notes that bear their names, and explore how currency and colonial coinage was used. There is no charge to attend. Seating is limited to 50 persons; doors open 6:30 p.m.



Old Newspaper Sale Notice Sheds Light on Content of Grist Mill in the Early 20th Century

By Dennis Scholl

Historical Society Board of Directors member, Bill Frey, is a lifelong resident of Hellertown and likely knows more about the borough's history than anyone. He also likely owns more pamphlets, books, downloaded articles and photos about his hometown than anyone. Bill loves to peruse the Internet for newspaper articles about Hellertown and often comes up with winners. He found one article recently that is a true humdinger in the annals of the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill.

Listed in the December 19, 1913 edition of the Allentown Morning Call, was a public sale notice for "Valuable Real Estate and Grist Mill", known as "The Hellertown Mills."

This was the mill we know today as the 1761 Heller-Wagner Grist Mill, which is maintained by the HHS and became an addition to the the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places in 2025.

The mill was listed for sale by Victor S. Wagner, who purchased it in 1904 from family member, Jacob Wagner, one of a long line of Wagners descending from Christopher Stoffel Wagner, the first Wagner to own the mill in 1772. The mill remained in Wagner family hands until Victor S. Wagner advertised its sale in the Morning Call in 1913 and sold it to George Keck in July, 1914, ending the Wagners' ownership of the property at 142 years.

The Morning Call sale notice at the right, which was accurately transcribed from the original newspaper notice, lists everything in and around the mill that George Keck bought. It's worth reading, and fills some holes about the grist mill, the property, and what all was there in the early 1900s.

The Wagners weren't done, however. In 1945, George Keck sold the mill to Catherine Parsons and John Wagner, who turned around in August of that year and sold the property to the Borough of Hellertown. In 1984, the Borough granted a 99-year lease to the HHS.



The Heller-Wagner Grist Mill has changed hands many times since Simon Heller first started a sawmill at the site sometime between 1761 and 1764.

PUBLIC SALE

OF

**Valuable Real Estate and Grist Mill
Known as "The Hellertown Mills"**
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST, 1914

On the premises at 2 p.m., containing 9 acres and 103 perches, more or less, with a private railroad siding. The improvements consist of the following: a stone grist mill 30 x 60 feet, with a stone warehouse attached. Frame warehouse near siding 26 x 26 feet, with a New Fairbanks Standard Wagon Scales, under roof. Stone and brick dwelling with a steam heat plant and bath room, with Borough Water. Stone and frame barn 22 x 54 feet, one wagon shed, one wood shed, one pig stable, one wash house, a new hen house and one 28 foot long corn crib. The mill has 2 turbine water wheels, 2 chop stones and 2 wheat grinding stones. It has a good water power with dam, head race and tail race on land, all belonging to mill property. There is a good custom trade and a large amount of shipped feed is being handled as the mill is centrally located in a thriving farm and dairy section adjoining the Borough of Hellertown. The property is nicely located along the North Penn Branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, with in one block of trolley road and ten minutes walk to Hellertown depot. The business being established over 100 years and doing a business at present of over \$50,000 a year, and with every chance to increase it. Terms: Three-fourths of purchase price can remain on first mortgage at 4 1/2 per cent. Interest, payable semi-annually, 10 per cent. Payable on day of sale, balance upon delivery of deed. Possession given to suit purchaser.

V.S. Wagner

(Bachmann Players, from page 3)

British Government. And you rarely see that part presented."

What kind of resources do you use to construct a program like this?

"The internet is huge. I'll find a piece of information and say, well, where do they get that? On my shelf I have a lot of original documents recreated, like all the letters of John Adams. I find resources for sources."

What part of creating this kind of event do you find most difficult?

"Herding the cats, the schedule. I want to direct and act. I don't want to stage manage, manage rehearsals, find their costumes. I don't not like that, but it takes a lot."

With such a dense period of history, how do you keep the play entertaining and engaging?

"I went to the National Shakespeare Conservancy, so the language isn't too far away for me as it might be for some people. I think it's about making it dramatic and making it clear. It's the fights between people who want to stay with the king and the people who want to leave the king. It's about people being paranoid. Conflict is important to getting people to follow it along."

Speaking with Christopher, I really felt like I could get a sense of what this production is going to be, and the scale of it. It was right before a rehearsal, and I could feel the energy of people excited to perform and to teach. At one point during our talk, Christopher quite literally became Benjamin Franklin before my eyes, taking his hair down and talking to me about the Penn family and taxes. He morphed into Franklin, almost like a reincarnation. He won't be playing Ben in the play, but it will excite me to see him transition to a new character.



**Christopher
Black**

Upcoming Events

Tavern Room Talk

October 15, 7 pm; doors open at 6:30 pm

Hellertown Halloween Parade

October 18, 2 pm

Theme: "250 Years of Freedom"

HHS Fall Tavern Concert

October 28, 7pm, Tavern Room

Two string musicians performing Light snacks/beverages after performances

Trick or Treat Night at the Old Jail

October 31, 6-8 pm

Election Day Bake Sale

November 3, 8 am-6 pm, Miller's House porch

Upcoming Events

Decorate Grist Mill for Christmas Season

November 14, 9 am

Volunteers gather to decorate buildings and grounds for the holidays

Tavern Room Dinner Production - "Edge of Revolution"

November 19 and November 21, 6 pm

Tavern Room

See article on page 3 of newsletter

Holiday Open House in Tavern Room

December 4, 7-9 pm

Santa Visit

December 13, 12-4 pm

Volunteer Spotlight



Jennifer McCarthy

Jennifer McCarthy moved to Hellertown three years ago. She discovered the HHS by attending different events and meeting HHS members. Jen enjoyed it all. She was asked to consider becoming the "Venue Coordinator" responsible for scheduling private rentals and HHS events in the busy Tavern Room. Jen accepted. Her hopes is to increase the number of Tavern Room bookings, which benefits the Society's public exposure and financial health. Welcome, Jen, and thank you!

Heritage Day Needs Volunteer Help . . . and Lots of It

Saucon Valley Heritage Day has grown, and it's going to grow more in 2027 when it's held on Saturday, May 15 at Grist Mill Park and the Michael Heller Homestead. Everything is being upsized: living historians, antique and classic cars, colonial artisans, history talks, food and ice cream trucks. And the HHS is hosting a large Heller Family Reunion, at which the public can attend presentations on Hellertown's early history. *BUT*, Heritage Day needs more volunteers to make it a success. We need people to set up, manage parking, and we really need people to organize volunteers for specific activities. Please try to attend the next Heritage Day meeting on October 20, at 6:30 pm in the Michael Heller Homestead, 1890 Friedensville Rd, Bethlehem PA. Email questions regarding volunteers to info@hhstours.org

"Dedicated to Preserving the History and Heritage of Hellertown and Its People"



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