



## COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

May 2022

Dear CTHA Members and Friends,

The Wills Mansion Museum is open to visitors on Monday mornings from 10:00 to noon, or by appointment. You may contact us by calling 570-894-4207, or by email [ctha@ptd.net](mailto:ctha@ptd.net). We are in the process of setting up new displays from recent donations to the Association.

On Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, the CTHA board joined with members of VFW Post 509 to place wreaths at the three Coolbaugh Township cemeteries and at the Veterans Memorial at the Coolbaugh Township Complex

The 2022 Tobyhanna Millpond #1 Ice Harvest on Saturday January 29, 2022 was very successful. In spite of the single digit temperatures, cold wind and snow, hundreds of visitors came out to experience living history in conditions similar to what the old-time ice harvesters had to endure years ago. Visitors quickly discovered that hand sawing the individual cakes of ice was a good way to keep warm. Horses pulled the 250-pound cakes into the icehouse and we stored 33 tons of ice. Our local VFW Post 509 served hot breakfast and lunch to many of our hungry visitors and our CTHA Wills Mansion hosted many guests who stopped in to learn about our local ice harvesting history. Our 30th annual ice harvest is planned for January 28, 2023, God and weather permitting.

We sponsored a repeat presentation of the Lost Town of Warnertown at the Wills Mansion in February. We videotaped the presentation and posted it on YouTube in case you missed it.

<https://youtu.be/C6m8ZS-7FA0>

Our annual art exhibition is returning to a full program in September. If you are interested in submitting your art or photographs see details in this newsletter. We especially welcome pieces relating to our local history.

We are excited to announce that we are setting up several local history programs this summer. We kicked off the series in May with Mr. Kim Williams presenting a program entitled "Cold Gold" pertaining to the 19 lakes that were used for the ice industry in Monroe County. These programs will be held at the Wills Mansion on Sunday afternoons. See details in this newsletter.

Our Annual Dinner Program is tentatively planned for Saturday, October 15, 3:00 pm at the Tobyhanna Methodist Church. The dinner will be catered by Fork Street Bistro and Mr. Kim Williams will present a program entitled "The Railroad History of Coolbaugh Township".

Be sure to keep informed of CTHA events on Facebook. Board member Ruth Rarick continuously updates event information and posts information and other tidbits about our local history.

Bill Leonard Jr.  
President



## **Coolbaugh Township Historical Association Summer History Programs**

### **Steamtown's Portal to the Past**

**Sunday June 26 2:00 pm** – Wills Mansion Museum 5590 Municipal Drive Tobyhanna  
Steamtown National Historic Site Park Historian Patrick McKnight will present a program focusing on Coolbaugh Township and the surrounding area as documented in the park's vast archives. Mr. McKnight will detail the documentation that are word-searchable and sortable on the internet and will demonstrate how the public can do an on-line search for this historic information. Steamtown has the largest existing archives of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad.

### **History of Monroe County**

**Sunday July 10 2:00 pm** - Wills Mansion Museum 5590 Municipal Drive Tobyhanna  
From the Native Peoples to heart-shaped tubs, Monroe County has a rich history. Monroe County Historical Association Executive Director Amy Leiser will give an informative and fun presentation titled, "History of Monroe County, PA." This program will highlight the people and places that shaped our area using photographs and postcards from the Historical Association library.

### **Molly Maguires**

#### **Heroes or Scourge of the Pennsylvania Coal Region?**

**Sunday August 14 2:00 pm** Wills Mansion Museum 5590 Municipal Drive Tobyhanna  
Local historian Rick Smith became interested in the Molly Maguires story when filming began on the movie in the 1960s in Carbon County. Although Sean Connery was the star of the "Molly Maguires" movie, the film is relatively unknown outside the Poconos and Pennsylvania Coal Region. Over the years, Rick read and researched the plight of the Irish miners and the early labor issues they represented. He tells their story, highlighting not only the terrible crimes for which they were convicted and executed but also the miscarriage of justice that was heaped upon them in the process.

### **Walking Tour of Tobyhanna Icehouses #2 and #3**

**Sunday October 9 2:00 pm** – Tobyhanna State Park – Meet at the Boat Launch Parking Area  
Bill Leonard will lead a walking tour at the Tobyhanna State Park that was once the site of two huge icehouses about a century ago. Very little evidence remains of the icehouses and boarding house other than portions of the foundations and the railroad spur that serviced the icehouses. Hear the history of the ice industry and the State Park. The walk will be approximately 2 miles and is of easy difficulty.

**CTHA Annual Dinner Program**  
**The Railroad History of Coolbaugh Township**

**Saturday October 15 3:00 pm** - Tobyhanna Methodist Church- Catered by Fork Street Bistro  
Dinner program details and reservation forms will be distributed in September.

Featured program will be presented by Mr. Kim Williams. Certain places in Monroe County are so steeped in railroad history that individual chapters should be devoted to them. This thought inspired “The Railroad History of Coolbaugh Township”, a program which admits to touching many – but not all – bases from Paradise and Tobyhanna Townships to Wayne and Lackawanna Counties.

**TENTATIVE**

**Bus tour to Grey Towers National Historic Site, Milford PA**

Details to be announced

Grey Towers was built in 1886 and was the home of Gifford Pinchot, founder and first chief of the U S Forest Service. Gifford was the father of the Conservation Movement in the United States. Tour the historic mansion, grounds, outbuildings, and “finger bowl” and hear the story of the Pinchot family.



**The Wills Mansion/Bicentennial Museum is open on Mondays, 10am to noon. Tours can be scheduled by appointment.**

Inquiries: (570) 894-4207 email: [ctha@ptd.net](mailto:ctha@ptd.net) website: [cooltownhistorical.org](http://cooltownhistorical.org)

Coolbaugh Township Historical Association is in the Wills Mansion, located in the Coolbaugh Township Municipal Center on Route 611 south of the Village of Tobyhanna.

CTHA  
5590 Municipal Drive  
P.O. Box 244  
Tobyhanna, PA 18466

**2022 Dues are now due.**

**If you are not sure if you have paid your dues please contact Ruth Rarick: by phone at (570)807-8859 or email: [drarick@echoes.net](mailto:drarick@echoes.net).**

Due to rising costs the Coolbaugh Township Historical Assoc. has decided that the newsletter will only be sent to **active members**. Please remember to pay your dues so you continue to receive your newsletter.

## ***What's Happening?***

CTHA replaced the sign on the North & South Cemetery earlier this year in our effort to preserve history in Coolbaugh Township.



Thank you to everyone who gave to the holiday season donation to help continue historical preservation in Coolbaugh Township; \$178.00 was donated in 2021.



V.F.W. Post 509 is supporting the Coolbaugh Veterans Memorial by selling a 6" x 12" granite brick for any veteran you would like to be remembered at the Veterans Memorial. Forms are available at V.F.W. 590 at 1917 Goodwin St., the Tobyhanna post office, or the Coolbaugh township office. Pavers are \$250.00 which includes engraving and setting.

CTHA continues to sort and catalog the large donation made by the William T. Grumbine family.

CTHA has made several purchases of postcards, photos, and other items to add to the museum collection.

CTHA is making plans for the annual Ice Harvest on Mill Pond #1. 2023 will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the ice harvest.

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COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
5590 MUNICIPAL DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 244  
TOBYHANNA, PA 18466  
570-894-4207  
[ctha@ptd.net](mailto:ctha@ptd.net)

2022 MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Please accept my application for membership in the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association. Please add my name to the list of active 2022 members.

Select a membership level:

- STUDENT \$2  
 INDIVIDUAL ADULT \$8  
 FAMILY \$10  
 PATRON / CORPORATE \$100

May we contact you to help with any of the following?

AREA(S) OF INTEREST:

- Budget  Bookkeeping  Cataloguing  Automation  
 Marketing/Public Relations  Newsletter  Displays  
 Interior Decoration  History  Antiques  
 Local Folklore  Museum Attendant  
 Anything Needed  General Membership

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR MEMBERSHIP - AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(s) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



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HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 244  
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**Presentation - Steamtown's Portal to the Past**  
**Sunday June 26 2:00 pm**

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