



COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 244  
5590 Municipal Drive  
Tobyhanna, PA 18466

## **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**Saturday December 14, Noon to 5:00pm**



## *COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION*

November 2024

Dear CTHA Members and Friends,

The Coolbaugh Township Historical Association had another busy summer. We conducted guided history hikes in the spring to the Warnertown Icehouse and to the Bradys Castle and Icehouse. Our Summer History Programs included; The Mystery and Ruins of Devils Hole, Pocono Mountain Public Library, History of the Tobyhanna Conservation Association, and The Barns of Coolbaugh Township.

The CTHA sponsored field trips to the Sciota Old Mill/ Fenner-Snyder-Robacker Estate and to the Lackawanna Coal Mine. Our Annual Art Exhibition was held in May with 80 entries. See the list of winners in this newsletter.

Steamtown National Historic Site ran an excursion to the Tobyhanna Train Station on October 12 with 144 passengers. The CTHA partnered with the Pocono Rail Historical Society, A New Beginning in Christ Temple (former St Ann's Church), and other groups to provide a tour of the Tobyhanna Millpond #1 Icehouse, a walking history tour of the Village of Tobyhanna, and a tour of A New Beginning in Christ Temple and the Annie Wills Family crypt. CTHA had a display about the history of Huckleberries in Coolbaugh Township

Our annual dinner program was held at Pocono Farms Country Club with a program on the History of Pocono Farms. The presentation covered the beginnings of the housing development in 1964, including the horse stables and rodeos, the golf course and first private Country Club in Monroe County, and other history of the Farms.

Our annual Christmas Celebration will be held at the Wills Mansion on Saturday December 14 featuring the Mount Pocono United Methodist Church Bell Choir. The mansion will be fully decked out in holiday fashion. See details under Calendar of Events. Hope to see you there.

Bill Leonard Jr.  
President

# CTHA Calendar of Events

## **Wreaths for Veterans – Saturday December 7, 2:00 pm**

On Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, in remembrance of those who served in the Armed Forces, the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association and VFW Post 509 will be placing a wreath at each of the three cemeteries in the township and at the Coolbaugh Veterans Memorial. The wreaths will be placed at the Saint Ann's Cemetery, the Spruce Grove Cemetery, and the North-South Cemetery and at the Veterans Memorial in front of the Coolbaugh Township Municipal Center, 5520 Municipal Drive in Tobyhanna at 2pm. All are welcome to attend.

## **Annual Christmas Celebration - Wills Mansion Museum. Saturday December 14, Noon to 5:00 pm**

The Wills Mansion Museum will be decorated for the holidays, the Mount Pocono United Methodist Church Bell Choir will provide musical entertainment from 2:00 to 3:00, and refreshments will be provided. The celebration is open to all.



## **Annual CTHA Board of Directors Meeting - Sunday January 12, 2025 2:00 pm- Open to the public**

## **The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ice Harvest on Millpond #1 Saturday, January 25, 2025**

The Ice Harvest will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:00 pm at 2071 Lakeside Drive in Tobyhanna, provided we have sufficient ice.

The CTHA Wills Mansion Museum will be open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Check the Ice Harvest Hotline at 570-894-8205 or  
Coolbaugh Township Historical Association FB page for  
updates on ice conditions.**



This holiday season at the Wills Mansion we would like to continue the tradition of allowing you to have one of the window candles lit or to hang an ornament on a special "family" tree in memory or in honor of someone special to you. We ask a \$5.00 donation to light a candle or hang an ornament - a card will be placed by it for all visitors to see. A memorial list will also appear in our next newsletter. Please fill out the form below and mail with a check to the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association (CTHA).

**\*If you are sending a check after December 1,** please call Ruth Rarick at (570)807-8859 and let her know so we are sure to have your donation recognized in time for our Christmas party.

You may also make a holiday donation to help continue historical preservation in Coolbaugh Township.

\_\_\_\_\_ (your name)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (amount enclosed)

*Your donation is greatly appreciated.*

I would like to light \_\_\_\_\_ (# candles) at \$5.00 each - \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to hang \_\_\_\_\_ (# ornaments) at \$5.00 each - \$\_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (total enclosed)

This candle or ornament (circle one) is lit in memory or in honor (circle one) of

\_\_\_\_\_ (person's name) by

\_\_\_\_\_ (your name)

This candle or ornament (circle one) is lit in memory or in honor (circle one) of

\_\_\_\_\_ (person's name) by

\_\_\_\_\_ (your name)

This candle or ornament (circle one) is lit in memory or in honor (circle one) of

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Mail to: COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 244  
TOBYHANNA, PA 18466



# 2024 Art Celebration

We had 80 entries to our annual Art Celebration this year. Andrea Levergood-Flaherty served as our curator and judge, and the Coolbaugh Township Supervisors chose the Best of Show Supervisor's Award for the best representation of Coolbaugh Township. The Wills Mansion/Museum was open several days for visitors to view artwork. Following are the winners from our 2024 show.

## Best of Show - Supervisor's Award

Lenore Fiore Mills                      On the Road to Mill Pond #1

### Painting

First	Jean Benfante	Thomas Darling
Preserve		
Second	Ann Shincovich	Late Summer Meadow
Third	Lorelei Fox	The Barn

### Photography

First	Jeanette Kuhns	Shadows on the Snow
Second	Eric Goins	Low Pass
Third	Jim Miller	Thistle
HM	Regina Matarazzo	Earth's Majestic Being

### Crafts

First	Lenore Fiore Mills	Four Ice Harvesters
Second	Brigitte Lane	Butterfly quilt
Third	Karl Pope	Jewelry Box- wood
HM	Francis Piraino	Square Root Clock

### Drawing

First	Jose Mendoza	Caffeine Nightmare
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### Digital

First	Jose Mendoza	Displacement of Time
Second	Autumn Mellano	Falling For You
Third	Karen Garcia-Moore	Unbearable Lightness

### Student Art K-6

First	Kinsleigh Church	Abstrack
Second	Jordan Skidmore	Grasshopper & Snake
Third	Kinsleigh Church	Raining in Japan

### Student Art 6-12

First	Tyler Regan	Evening Above Town
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### Sculpture

First	Mike Casey	Eruption
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**Lenore Fiore Mills- Batik Painting**



# Coolbaugh Township and Huckleberries

Coolbaugh Township has always been known for an abundant crop of blueberries and huckleberries. Although they are 2 distinct species, many of the local folks call them all “Huckleberries”. After the area had been lumbered off in the late 1800s, huckleberries were plentiful and it was reported that 2 to 3 railroad carloads of berries were shipped from Tobyhanna and Pocono Summit Train Stations daily during the peak of the harvest.

It is difficult to differentiate between huckleberries and blueberries. Huckleberries are usually dark purple, almost black, have 10 large seeds and a blueish purple inside. Blueberries are always blue, have smaller seeds, and a greenish-white inside. They grow in both highbush and lowbush varieties.



Blueberries and huckleberries have been documented in the eastern United States more than 11,000 years ago by archaeological analysis. The berries were among the wild fruits the native people harvested each season. By drying the berries in the sun, they were mainstays in their diet year-round.



**Mr. L. T. Smith**, an enterprising merchant, at Forks Station, in this county, has taken in and sold *seven hundred and thirteen* bushels of “Huckleberries” this season. The berries are unusually fine. Mr. Smith found his principal market in New York.



## Tons of Huckleberries.

The huckleberry season on Pocono mountain is now at its best, and tons of berries are daily shipped for points up and down the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western line, many of them coming to Scranton. The most berries are found at Pocono Summit, but bushels are also gathered at Mt. Pocono, Tobyhanna and Cresco. Men, women and children are all engaged at gathering them, and their profits are considerable. The station agent at Pocono Summit is authority for the statement that \$20,000 worth of berries will be shipped from that place before the end of the season.



**DAYS GONE BY** - The 1937-38 basketball team from Coolbaugh posed for this group shot, which is from the photo collection of Mrs. Joseph Wilton of Tobyhanna. In the front row, left to right, were Frank Dailey, Joe Kovich, Grover Dailey and John

Eggert. In the second row from left were Harold Pope, Norman Wiley, Chauncey Wilton, Steve Kovich, Tom McHale, Joe Vashlishan and Donald Pope. Readers are invited to submit old photographs for possible publication in future issues.

**Can you guess who this is?**



2025 dues are now due

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Select a membership level:

- INDIVIDUAL \$8
- FAMILY \$10
- PATRON / CORPORATE \$100
- LIFETIME \$150

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

AREAS OF INTEREST:

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

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_