

COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

5590 Municipal Drive, P.O. Box 244, Tobyhanna, PA 18466 Phone/Voice mail: 570-894-4207 www: ctha@ptd.net

Newsletter

Fall / Winter 2025



'tis the Season!

A message from the Prez...

Dear CTHA Members and Friends,

We had a busy summer at the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association!

Our Summer History Programs featured presentations on Devils Hole, the Airport Inn & Horseshow, the Tobyhanna Military Reservation, and the Schools of Coolbaugh Township. Videos of these programs are available on the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association YouTube Channel.

Our Annual Community Craft and Yard Sale was a great success, with many vendors offering their wares. We raised \$670 for the Association and connected with numerous visitors who were previously unaware of the CTHA Wills Mansion Museum.

The CTHA Board has honored former board member Francis Piraino with the title of Board Member Emeritus, recognizing his longstanding dedication and invaluable contributions to our organization. His commitment to preserving Coolbaugh Township's rich history is deeply appreciated.

Please join us for our Annual Christmas Celebration on Saturday, December 13, from Noon to 4:00 PM at the Wills Mansion Museum. The museum will be beautifully decorated for the holidays, with musical entertainment and refreshments provided. We invite everyone to light a candle or hang an ornament in memory or in honor of someone special. (See the form included in this newsletter.)

Save the date for the Annual Tobyhanna Millpond #1 Ice Harvest, scheduled for January 31, 2026. The harvest is dependent upon ice conditions, so be sure to follow us on the CTHA Facebook page for updates and details. Thanks to the skill and dedication of local mechanical craftsmen Mike Fairservice, Dave Fairservice, and Harry Smith, our 1918 Gifford Wood Ice Saw has been meticulously restored to factory showroom condition, preserving a remarkable piece of Coolbaugh Township's ice harvesting heritage.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11, at 2:00 PM at the Wills Mansion Museum. All are welcome to attend.

Finally, this will be my last CTHA President's Letter, as I have decided not to seek reelection. It has been an honor to serve as president of this Association for the past five years.



Bill Leonard

CTHA President





Wills Mansion Christmas Party
Saturday December 13
Noon to 4:00 PM

See the Mansion decked out for the holidays
Live Christmas Music from 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Refreshments will be served
Free Admission

Coolbaugh Township Historical Association
5590 Municipal Drive
Tobyhanna



Memorial Candles and Ornaments

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. There will be a memorial list placed in the mansion, and it will also appear in the winter 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 6** please call Ruth Rarick at (570) 807-8859 (cell) and let her know so we are sure to have your donation recognized in time for the holiday party on Dec. 13.

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

_____ (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)

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



Remembering the Pocono Summit Fire Company



In 1960 the Pocono Summit Civic Club decorated this tree (left) to celebrate the holiday season. It stood near the intersection of old Route 940 and the railroad tracks, around the old Cramer's Lumber Company. The Pocono Mountain Civic Club was instrumental in building facilities, getting and keeping equipment, and helping in the organization of a fire company to service the area.



Wreaths for Veterans

To honor those who served in the Armed Forces, the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association and VFW Post 509 will be placing wreaths at three township cemeteries—Saint Ann's, Spruce Grove, and North-South—as well as the Coolbaugh Veterans Memorial.

**Millpond No. 1 Ice Harvest
Saturday, January 31, 2026 9am-2pm**



2071 Lakeside Dr. Tobyhanna, PA 18466
570 894-8205
bdleonard@verizon.net Facebook: Tobyhanna Ice Harvest
with support from the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association



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Your Membership Counts!

Membership Application and Renewal

___ Individual - \$8
___ Family - \$10
___ Patron / Corporate - \$100
___ Lifetime - \$150

Help Coolbaugh Historical Association collect, protect and share the interesting history of our area.

Please send the completed form and check (no cash) to:

Coolbaugh Township Historical Association
P.O. Box 244
Tobyhanna, PA 18466

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

Information and interests: _____