



# COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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

March 2025

# Newsletter



## *Record Breaking Ice Harvest Thrills Attendees at Mill Pond #1*

The 2025 Tobyhanna Ice Harvest was one of the best in 32 years, featuring 13 inches of clear, grade-A ice and attracting a record crowd of attendees and volunteers who helped cut and stack 42 tons of ice. The Leonard Family and CTHA expressed gratitude to all who helped keep the ice harvest going year after year, acknowledging the support of friends and volunteers. The next ice harvest is scheduled for January 31, 2026.

### *President's Letter*

Dear CTHA Members and Friends,

The Coolbaugh Township Historical Association has been busy with programs and events and we are planning another year full of programs. We closed 2024 with our annual Christmas Celebration with the Wills Mansion decked out in holiday splendor and the Mount Pocono United Methodist Church Bell Choir treating us to a fantastic performance.

We began 2025 with a good old-fashioned winter that was good for the ice crop. After a 2-year hiatus due to lack of ice on Millpond #1, the ice harvest boasted a record crowd of visitors from near and far, with seasonable weather and a nearly full icehouse.

The CTHA took our ice harvest tools on the road to participate in the Nescopeck State Park Winterfest in early February and told the story of the once important ice industry.

See more details in this newsletter about our past events and a tentative listing of our 2025 programs and events.

Bill Leonard Jr.

President



### *Christmas at the Mansion*

With the mansion in festive decor for the holidays, the CTHA Christmas Celebration was enjoyed by many who gathered to mingle, snack on munchies, and listen to the beautiful sounds of the *Mount Pocono United Methodist Church Bell Choir* for musical entertainment.



# Ice Harvesters at *Winter-Fest*

Nescopeck State Park *Drums, PA*

The CTHA set up an ice harvesting display and took a 7¼" thick sample ice cake from Lake Francis to show ice harvesting techniques and history.

## Wreaths for Veterans.

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



## The Old Mill in Sciota

The Coolbaugh Township Historical Association organized a tour of the Old Mill in Sciota, PA, originally built in 1730 by Jacob Brinker. Once a storehouse for General John Sullivan's march, the mill later operated with an overshot wheel for grinding corn. The tour also included the nearby 1805 Fenner/Snyder/Robacker estate.



## The D & H Annual *Canal Festival*



An archeological dig and live music in Hawley at the Canal Festival

At the D&H Canal Park, the CTHA hosted a booth featuring historical photos, artifacts, and displays, showing insights into Coolbaugh Township's history and heritage.

# CTHA 2025 Calendar of Events *Coolbaugh Township Historical Association*

January	Saturday, January 25	<b>Ice Harvest 2025</b>
February	Saturday, February 1	<b>WinterFest</b> at Nescopeck State Park
March		
April	Sunday, April 6, 2:00 PM	<b>History Hike - Devils Hole Power Plant.</b>
May	Friday, May 9, 2:00 PM May 10-18	<b>Artists Reception</b> at the Mansion <b>Art Exhibition</b>
June	Sunday, June 1, 2:00 PM  Sunday, June 29 (or Sept. 28), 2:00 PM	<b>Seven Mysteries of Devils Hole - Folklore, Tales, and Legends.</b> Presentation at the library. <b>The Women Veterans Museum</b> - Claudette Williams.
July	Saturday, July 26, 5PM-9PM  Sunday July 27, 2:00 PM	<b>Coolbaugh Township National Night Out/America250</b> at the Coolbaugh Township Municipal Park. <b>Airport Inn &amp; Horseshow</b> presentation by Suzanne McCool. At the Mansion.
August	Saturday, August 9, 9 AM to 3 PM Saturday, August 16, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	<b>Community Yard Sale</b> – (Rain date: August 10) <b>D&amp;H Annual Canal Festival</b> in Hawley
September	Sunday, Sept 14, 2:00 PM	<b>Tobyhanna Military Reservation</b> presentation at the Mansion
October	Saturday, October 11, 3:00 PM  Sunday, October 26 at 2:00 PM	<b>Annual Dinner Program.</b> Pocono Farms Country Club Program: History and Culture of the Lenape by Shelley DePaul <b>Schools of Coolbaugh Township</b> presentation at the Mansion
November		
December	Sunday, December 7 Saturday, December 13	<b>Wreaths for Veterans</b> - Pearl Harbor Day <b>Annual Christmas Celebration</b> at the Mansion

## Summer History Program summaries:

**Devils Hole (Encore Presentation) at Library** – Bill Leonard - Sunday June 1, 2:00 PM

*“Seven Mysteries of Devils Hole - Folklore, Tales, and Legends.”*. The Devils Hole, partially located in Coolbaugh Township, is shrouded in mystery and mystique. There are several building ruins along Devils Hole Creek, exciting waterfalls, stories about an Elk Farm, peculiar artifacts, and a significant impact from the 1955 flood.

**The Women Veterans Museum** - Claudette Williams -Sunday June 29 or Sept 28 at 2:00PM.

The museum in Mount Pocono was created to honor and celebrate women service members, veterans, and military family members for their past, present, and ongoing service to the United States. The founder Claudette Williams, a 30-year Army Veteran and Retired Sergeant Major, will talk about her firsthand experiences and her passion for preserving a legacy.

**Airport Inn & Horseshow** – Suzanne McCool – Sunday July 27, 2:00 PM

A presentation about the Airport Inn and the once widely acclaimed horse show in what is now Mount Pocono.

**Tobyhanna Military Reservation** – Bill Leonard - Sunday Sept 14, 2:00 PM

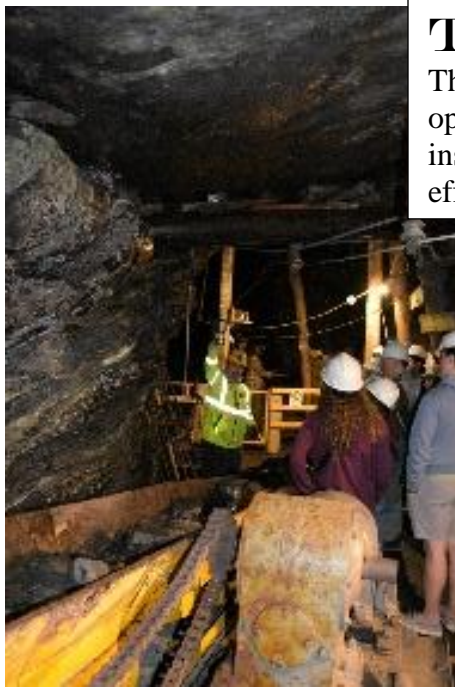
The Army first came to Tobyhanna in 1912, and they have been here ever since. This presentation will cover the multiple uses of the reservation including artillery training, high explosives storage, Prisoner-of-War camp, glider storage, Signal Depot, and Tobyhanna Army Depot today.

**Schools of Coolbaugh Township** – Vern Cramer Saxe- Sunday, October 26 at 2:00 PM

This presentation will explore the history and development of the township's educational institutions, highlighting their impact on the community.

## Coolbaugh Township Historical Association Board of Directors

Bill Leonard – President, Donna Kay Kinsley - Vice President, Kathleen Grady Slagle - Secretary, Phyllis Williams – Treasurer, Zack Abada, Mary Barlieb, Lucille Dever, Brian Heverin, Mike Peterson, Ruth Rarick, Vern Cramer Saxe, Kathy Winowich, Mary Ellen Wood



## THE LACKAWANNA COAL MINE

The CTHA enjoyed a tour of a restored coal mine, which originally began operations in 1860. Guided by an experienced miner, the tour provided insights into deep mining techniques and highlighted significant historical efforts associated with the Coal Mine on Bald Mountain Road in Scranton.

*Left: A miner leads the coal mine tour.*

*Right: Mining machinery on display.*



## ***Barns of Coolbaugh Township***

Vern Cramer Saxe, a local newbie to the CTHA, delivered his research on the remaining barns in Coolbaugh Township, an area that formerly had many operational farms with barns and outbuildings.

## History of the ***Tobyhanna Conservation Association***

Bill Leonard presented the history of the Tobyhanna Conservation Association. Set up in 1966 by local sportsmen, the TCA is dedicated to promoting conservation and the responsible harvesting of fish and game. The presentation provided an overview of the organization's history, its efforts in trout raising, youth programs, and the contributions of the Gleogler Family.



DONATIONS TO THE CTHA

*From the scrapbook of*

## Mr. John Fahey



*Above: An image of Bing Crosby*

*Special thanks to Andrea and Billy Flaherty for donating a scrapbook to the CTHA from the late John Fahey of Tobyhanna. The scrapbook was full of snippets about interesting local historical information and theater memorabilia including a letter and signed photo from Bing Crosby. The scrapbook will be a good addition to our historical archives.*

John Fedish donated memorabilia and documents from his grandfather, Charles Fedish, the last resident of Warnertown.



*Above: Mr. Charles Fedish. 1943.*



*Elk antlers from the Devils Hole Elk Farm, which was active in the early 1900s, were donated to the Wills Mansion Museum by Dan and Linda Vashlishan.*



*A wallet inscribed with 'Mountain Ice Company' was donated by Mert and Patsy Quick*

# STEAMTOWN

## Visits Tobyhanna



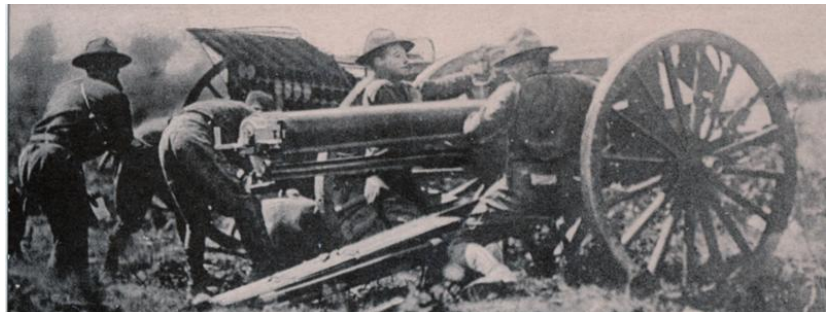
A trainload of visitors embarked on an unforgettable excursion from Steamtown to Tobyhanna, where history came to life. The stop featured captivating exhibits, including vintage trains, classic cars, and the beautifully preserved Tobyhanna Station. Guests strolled through the charming town, explored an authentic icehouse, and gained exclusive access to the historic Wills-Coroner crypt. With perfect weather setting the scene, the day was filled with discovery, nostalgia, and breathtaking scenery.



*... and now, a presentation preview:*

## THE TOBYHANNA MILITARY RESERVATION

by Bill Leonard



Join us Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 2:00 PM for an informative presentation about the Tobyhanna Military Reservation.

Here's a brief history: **Early 20th Century:** The site was established in 1912 for U.S. Army artillery training. **World War I & Interwar Period:** The U.S. Army continued artillery training and field hospital companies and tank training center used the reservation. **World War II:** The site was used for anti-aircraft artillery training, prisoner-of-war camp, and a storage point for gliders used in the D-Day landings at Normandy. **1953 -** Tobyhanna Signal Depot was established. **1962 -** The name was changed to Tobyhanna Army Depot with a mission for the repair, overhaul and fabrication of a wide variety of electronics systems and components. **Today:** Recognized leader in providing world-class logistics support for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Systems across the Department of Defense.

# 2024 Christmas Memorials

## **CANDLES**

### **Candles in Memory of:**

Julia Grady by The Grady Family  
John T. Grady by The Grady Family  
John W. Grady by The Grady Family  
William A. Grady by The Grady Family  
Mary Ward by The Grady Family  
John Gryboski by Kathleen Grady  
Joe Telford by Major Anne M. Barlieb  
Mr. McCarthy by Major Anne M. Barlieb  
Dr. Jack Fowler by Major Anne M. Barlieb  
Brenda Blodeyn by Major Anne M. Barlieb  
Bob & Emily Pope by Phyllis Williams  
Al & Pauline Bynum by Phyllis Williams  
Elaine Ackroyd Kelly by Phyllis Williams  
Mark and Beverly Hay by The Rarick Family  
John C. Barlieb by Mary Barlieb  
Mr. Bill" Fields by Wilson Fischer Post 413  
Fred Cruetz by Wilson Fischer Post 413  
Lawrence "Tulip" Flowers by Wilson Fischer Post 413  
Bill "Boone" Dewitsky by Wilson Fischer Post 413  
Vincent Piraino by Francis Piraino  
Bessie Blake by Patty Flaherty McQuade  
Bill Flaherty by Patty Flaherty McQuade  
Gertrude Flaherty by Patty Flaherty McQuade  
Jack Wood by Mary Ellen and Broudia Wood  
Verdon Rustine by Barbara Rustine  
John Fretz by Suzanne Fretz McCool  
Viola Fretz by Suzanne Fretz McCool  
Audrey Grabowsky by Suzanne Fretz McCool  
Jim Kinsley by Kay Kinsley  
William L Leonard Sr by Marilou and Bill  
Thelma Leonard by Marilou and Bill  
Joe Leonard by Marilou and Bill  
Nelson Saxe by The Ice Harvesters  
Deceased TCA members by Tobyhanna Conservation Assn  
Annie Wills by The CTHA  
Jim Kinsley by The CTHA.  
Bertholda Wash by The CTHA  
Claude Pope by The CTHA

### **Candles In Honor of:**

June & Al by Cousin Jody  
Tracy & Marshall Pope by Phyllis Williams  
The People of Ukraine by Michael & Smitty Gadomski

## **ORNAMENTS**

### **Ornaments In Memory of:**

Grandpa Darryl by Jessica, Lucas, and Lily  
Darryl Rarick by Ruth Rarick  
William John Barlieb by Mary Barlieb  
Darryl Seawood by The Grady Family  
Judy Seawood by The Grady Family  
Raymond Hartley by The Grady Family  
Michael Chismer by The Grady Family  
Mary Weber by The Grady Family  
Barbara Piraino by Francis Piraino  
Kathy Boyle by Phyllis Williams  
Suzanne Pope by Phyllis Williams  
Karen Pope by Phyllis Williams  
"Mr. Bill" Fields by Wilson Fischer Post 413  
Fred Cruetz by Wilson Fischer Post 413  
Lawrence "Tulip" Flowers by Wilson Fischer Post 413  
Bill "Boone" Dewitsky by Wilson Fischer Post 413  
The Flaherty Family by Pat Flaherty McQuade  
Will Barlieb by Major Anne M. Barlieb  
Peggy Boelke by The Hughes Clan  
Kathleen Scott by The Hughes Clan  
Merton T Quick Sr. by Merton & Pat Quick  
Helen Quick by Merton & Pat Quick  
Charles Knecht by Merton & Pat Quick  
Susan Knecht by Merton & Pat Quick

### **Ornaments In Honor of:**

June & Al by Cousin Jody  
Major Anne M. Barlieb by Mary Barlieb  
The Women of the U.S. Army by Mary Barlieb  
Mary Barlieb by Phyllis Williams  
Robert C. Pope by Phyllis Williams  
David S. Pope by Phyllis Williams  
Zayden Heller by Kay Kinsley  
Zachery Heller by Kay Kinsley  
Saylor Heller by Kay Kinsley  
Sydney Heller by Kay Kinsley  
Brayden Heller by Kay Kinsley  
Kinsleigh Church by Kay Kinsley



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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: \_\_\_\_\_