



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

Spring 2026



Play K

Exhilarating Ice Harvest Thrills Visitors at Mill Pond

TOBYHANNA MILLPOND #1 ICE HARVEST - WRAP UP Saturday, January 31, 2026, 2071 Lakeside Drive, Tobyhanna

The 2026 Millpond #1 Ice Harvest is now part of our history, and what a memorable chapter it was! What began as a one-time celebration for the Coolbaugh Township Bicentennial in 1994 has grown into a tradition that has brought friends, families, and neighbors together for more than a third of a century. Early the week before brought its share of challenges, with a foot and a half of snow on the lake, but thanks to the support of good friends, everything came together. The weather was cold (4 degrees at 6 AM, rising only to 16 degrees by 3 PM) but by day's end, we stored 35 tons of clear, 15-inch-thick Millpond ice. Our fully restored Gifford-Wood ice saw was a true highlight. It ran as if it had just rolled off the factory floor in 1918. As for attendance, it's impossible to know the exact number, but estimates ranged from 600 to 700 visitors. One thing was certain: everyone left with a smile. A new friend and videographer joined us this year and created this extraordinary video. Enjoy: <https://youtu.be/-sBMwJ8S8S8> God willind. we'll see you next year. Saturday. January 30. 2027.

Coolbaugh Township Historical Association Board of Directors

Kathleen Grady Slagle – President, Vern Cramer Saxe - Vice President, Mary Ellen Wood – Treasurer,
Mary Barlieb, Brian Heverin, Donna Kay Kinsley, J. Kolodzey, Bill Leonard, Ruth Rarick, Kathy Winowich, Mary Ellen Wood, Phyllis Williams

Since its founding in 1993, the CTHA has pledged itself to preserving, interpreting and encouraging community interest in the unique history of the Coolbaugh Township area to ensure that present and future generations can share in and understand their rich heritage.



Observers admiring the restored antique Ice Saw on Mill Pond #1

A Letter from Vice-Prez Vern Cramer Saxe

Dear CTHA Members and Friends,

The Coolbaugh Township Historical Association has been busy planning another year full of programs and events. We closed 2025 with our annual Christmas Celebration at the Wills Mansion decked out in holiday splendor, enjoyed refreshments and snacks with duo Bob Riday and Diane Taitt treating us to a fantastic musical and song performance. After a brief break to enjoy the time of the Season, the annual Ice Harvest became another wondrous event attended by many who enjoyed the beautiful day watching, helping and being a part of the demonstration.

Inevitable change occurs in good ways with new leadership. I am happy and proud to support the new CTHA President Kathleen Grady Slagle in shaping the future of the organization. See more details in this newsletter and a listing of our 2026 programs and events, scheduled or otherwise.

Coolbaugh Township Historical Association Annual Art Celebration

May 9 to May 17, 2026

The Coolbaugh Township Historical Association invites artists, students, and community members to participate in our Annual Art Celebration, held at the Historic Wills Mansion, 5590 Municipal Drive, Tobyhanna.

2026 Art Categories

- America 250*
- Photography
- Digital Art
- Painting
- Drawing
- Sculpture
- Crafts
- Student Art (Grades K–6)
- Student Art (Grades 7–12)

*This year we have added a category called **America 250** to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Honor our history and heritage with your art.

First, second, and third place ribbons will be awarded in each category. For those submitting works depicting Coolbaugh Township, there will be a Supervisor's Award from the Coolbaugh Township Supervisors.

- **Drop off of Works:** Sun May 3 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
- **Artist Reception:** Friday, May 8 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Awards at 6:00 pm
- **Exhibition Hours:**
 - Sat May 9: 12:00 to 3:00 pm
 - Sun May 10: 12:00 to 3:00 pm
 - Mon May 11: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
 - Sat May 16: 12:00 to 3:00 pm
 - Sun May 17: 12:00 to 2:00 pm
- **Pick up of Works:** Sun May 17 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

The Annual Art Celebration is a wonderful opportunity to support the arts, and highlight the creativity of artists from across our region.

*Follow Coolbaugh Township Historical Association on Facebook for more details.
We are located in Tobyhanna, PA. E-mail ctha@ptd.net with any questions.*



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CTHA 2026 Programs

Summer History Programs

Sunday afternoons at 2:00PM at the Wills Mansion Museum

The Past and Present of the Lenape in Pennsylvania - Shelley DePaul –June 28 2:00 PM

Shelley DePaul, Clan Mother for the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, will discuss the past and present of the Lenape people in Pennsylvania. This will include pre-colonial life and cultural practices, relationships with William Penn, the era of Penn's Sons and the Walking Purchase, the Lenape diaspora and where they are today, the Lenape who remained in their homeland and how they remained, and what the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania is doing today to revitalize Lenape culture and continue their role as caretakers of the environment.

The Murder of Theodore Brodhead – John Abel - August 16 2:00 PM

The two men who murdered Theodore Brodhead were quickly apprehended and although one was executed, and one escaped, they each left a lasting impact on the Poconos.

Original Land Warrants - Kathy Winowich and Vern Saxe - September 27 2:00 PM

Join us to explore the original land warrants of Coolbaugh Township and how Pennsylvania's earliest land claims were created, recorded, and transferred. These warrants, government-issued certificates authorizing the claim and survey of public land, shaped early settlement and were often granted for military service or public improvements.

Local Taxes: How They Changed as Coolbaugh Township Has Changed

Gratz Washenik- October 25 2:00 PM

Funding local government has always, and will always, have a direct impact on residents' lives. We'll discuss how periods of growth and change have affected our local revenue.

History & Nature Hike

Tobyhanna No. 2 and No. 3 Icehouses – Tobyhanna State Park - Sunday April 12, 2:00 PM

The Coolbaugh Township Historical Association and Tobyhanna State Park will host a guided walk to the remains of Icehouses No. 2 and No. 3, led by Bill Leonard (CTHA) and Stephanie Sherman (Tobyhanna State Park). Participants will explore surviving foundations, the former rail spur, and the area's history, from lumbering and the ice industry to the Tobyhanna Military Reservation and the park's natural heritage. The easy 2-mile walk begins at the Tobyhanna State Park boat launch parking lot.

Steamtown Excursions to Tobyhanna

July 18 & October 3

Tobyhanna welcomes Steamtown visitors with an America 250 spirit, offering a walk through local history at the train station, Millpond icehouse, and former Saint Ann's Church and crypt, along with food, music, vintage vehicles, insights into the huckleberry industry, unique local experiences, and the backdrop of brilliant fall foliage that celebrates both community heritage and the nation's 250th anniversary.
century.

Dinner Program

October 17, 2026 - 4:00 PM Pocono Farms Country Club

The program by Mike Gadomski titled *Wild Pennsylvania* is a 50-minute multimedia presentation that takes viewers on a visual and sensory tour of the state's wild and natural areas. It blends striking photography of Pennsylvania's magnificent scenery with narration and subtle background music. Presented in the Ken Burns style of filmmaking, the imagery pans, fades, and zooms to highlight the beauty and harmony of the Commonwealth's wild landscapes.

Possible 2026 Heritage Tours - Dates to be determined

Antique Ice Tool Museum – West Chester PA Tentatively June 2026

A private tour of the Antique Ice Tool Museum in West Chester, PA offers an exceptional look into the natural ice trade. Founded by the Stack Family in 2009, this one-of-a-kind museum is dedicated to preserving the history of America's once-vital ice industry. It houses the largest private collection of antique ice tools and memorabilia in the United States. The collection also includes various machinery and tools from the ice industry, plus photographs, magazine articles, and interpretive materials thoughtfully integrated into the exhibits, helping visitors explore the rich and fascinating history behind the natural ice industry and its importance to communities across the country.

Stoddartsville Preservation Society – Stoddartsville PA

The historic village of Stoddartsville was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. John Stoddart, a wealthy Pennsylvania merchant, built the town in 1816 as a terminus for the newly planned Lehigh Canal. Stoddartsville included grist and sawmills, a hotel and stagecoach stop serving as toll house for the new Easton and Wilkes-Barre Turnpike (now Route 115), general stores, post office, craft shops and homes. The Stoddartsville Historic Center offers an extensive collection of historical pictures, documents and artifacts related to the history of Stoddartsville and surrounding area.

Joel Hill Sawmill – Equinunk PA

The sawmill is a fully restored 19th-century, water-powered sawmill that still operates much as it did after the Civil War. The sawmill is operated by volunteer members of the Equinunk Historical Society. On the same grounds is the Thomas Cleveland Museum of the Vintage Machinery, which houses many pieces of wood and metalworking machinery from late nineteenth century.

Culinary Institute of America Experience Tour – Hyde Park NY

A tour offering an engaging behind-the-scenes look at one of the world's premier culinary schools. Visitors walk the historic Hudson River campus with a student guide, explore teaching kitchens where renowned chefs have trained, and experience the energy of a working culinary academy. Many tours include a sensory tasting exercise in the Wine Spectator Classroom, adding an interactive element to the visit. The campus also features award-winning, student-run restaurants and striking views, making the experience both educational and memorable.

.....Check CTHA Facebook for details

Fork Street Bistro & Bakery

A local, family-owned restaurant featuring fresh food and friendly faces!
Offering breakfast & lunch



16 Fork Street, Mount Pocono,
PA, United States, 18344



WFMZ 69 TV Reporter Sydney Kay interviews some key Ice Harvest players with another antique ice saw.

Seeking an Original Postcard...

We are asking members and friends if you have an original postcard of *Ice House No. 1, Tobyhanna, PA*. A copy is shown below. We would like to borrow an original, in good condition, so it can be professionally scanned and enlarged for a display print.

If you have one, please contact Bill Leonard at bdleonard@verizon.net.



A special thank you to an essential part of any Ice Harvest operation, The Horse Team and Crew. Horses are used to drag blocks of ice up the ramp to be loaded into the icehouse. Their handling and management team are particularly adept to this kind of work.

2025 Christmas Memorials

Ornaments in Honor of :

Zachery Heller From Kay Kinsley
Zayden Heller From Kay Kinsley
Kinsleigh Church From Kay Kinsley
Saylor Heller From Kay Kinsley
Brayden Heller from Kay Kinsley
Sydney Heller from Kay Kinsley
Sebastian Mahi from Kay Kinsley
Major Anne M. Barlieb From Mary Barlieb
The Women of the United States Army From Mary Barlieb
Joe Battisto from Virginia Mayer Battisto
Jim Battisto from Virginia Mayer Battisto
Pam Watkins from Virginia Mayer Battisto
David S. Pope from Phyllis Williams
Robert C. Pope from Phyllis Williams

Ornaments in Memory of:

Ann & Francis Regan Sr. From Phil & Kathy
Fran Regan, John Regan, Ellen Regan From Phil & Kathy
William L. Leonard, Sr. From Marilou and Bill
Thelma Leonard From Marilou and Bill
Nelson Saxe From the Ice Harvesters
Joe Leonard From Marilou and Bill
Michelle Hitt From Brian Hitt
Deceased Members of TCA From Tobyhanna Conservation Association.
Karen Pope From Marshall & Tracey Pope
Emily Pope From Marshall & Tracey Pope
Suzanne Pope From Marshall & Tracey Pope
Francis Hockrine From Marshall & Tracey Pope
Thom from Patt
Grandpa Darryl from Jessica, Lucas and Lily
Darryl Rarick from Ruth Rarick
Peggy Boelke from the Hughes Clan
Kathleen Scott from the Hughes Clan
Jack Wood from the Wood Family
Lorraine Levine from the Wood Family
Margverite E. Bachman from B J Bachman
Florence Dyson Rinker from B J Bachman
Russell L. Rinker from B J Bachman
Alberta Bachman from B J Bachman
Darryl Seawood from the Grady Family
Ray Hartley from the Grady Family
Richard and Judy Seawood from the Grady Family
Mary Ward from the Grady Family
William & Mary Weber from the Grady Family
John & Julia Grady from the Grady Family
William and John Grady from the Grady Family
Karen Pope from Phyllis Williams
Suzanne Pope from Phyllis Williams
Will Barlieb By Major Anne M. Barlieb

CANDLES

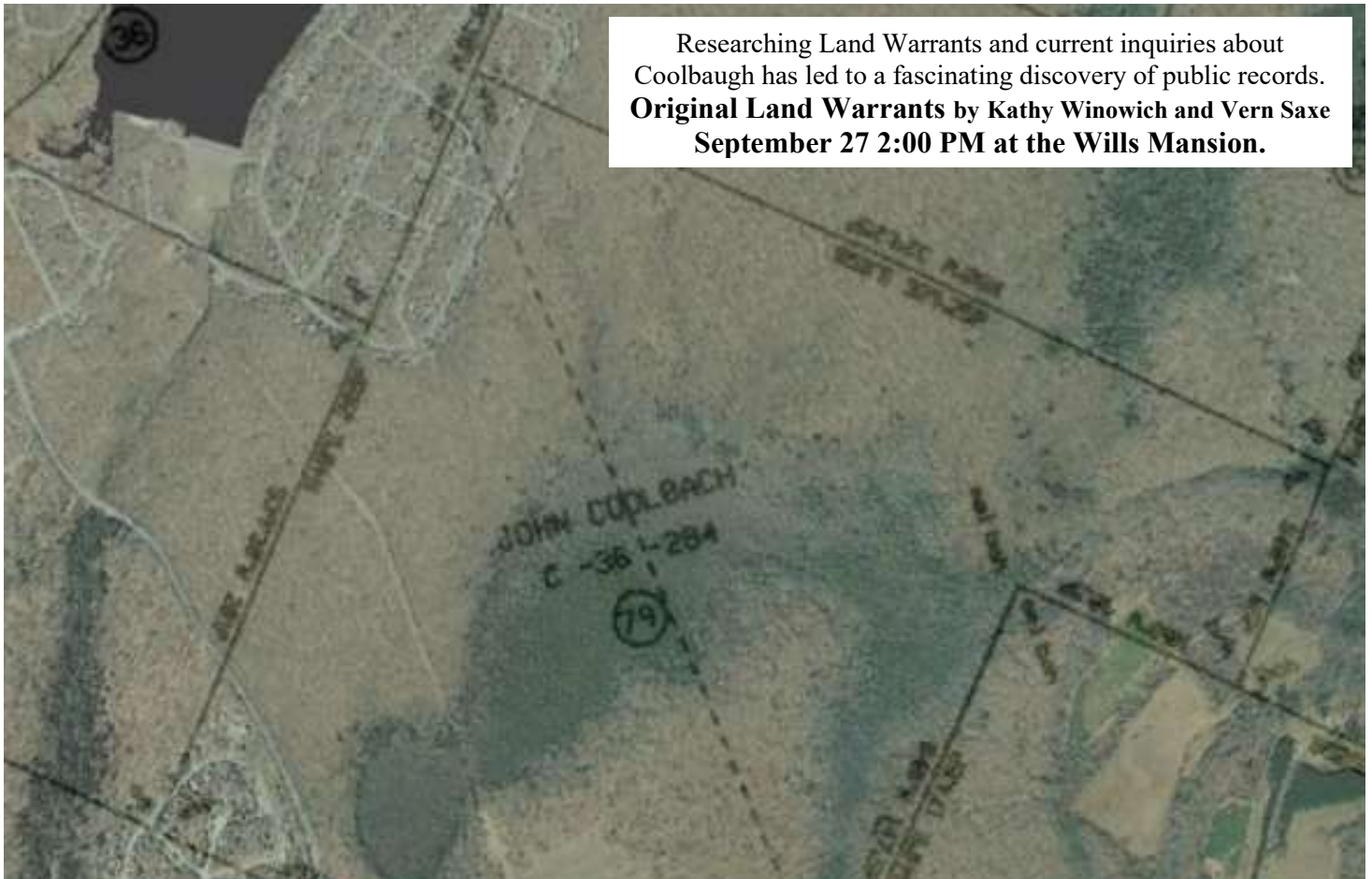
Candle lit in memory of:

Annie Wills By the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association
Thom Fitzhugh By the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association
Francis Regan Sr. From Phil & Kathy
Ann Regan From Phil & Kathy
Fran Regan From Phil & Kathy
John Regan From Phil & Kathy
Ellen Regan From Phil & Kathy
Joe Telford By Major Anne M. Barlieb
Brenda Telford By Major Anne M. Barlieb
St Thomas Acquines By Major Anne M. Barlieb
John Barlieb By Major Anne M. Barlieb
Bob Rossick By Major Anne M. Barlieb
Mr. Ed McCarthy By Major Anne M. Barlieb
Father Curky By Major Anne M. Barlieb
Thom From Patt
Stephen J. Prevoznik, MD from John & Michelle Prevoznik
Rita K. Prevoznik from John & Michelle Prevoznik
Frank W. McKinney from John & Michelle Prevoznik
Catherine A. McKinney-Cunningham from John & Michelle Prevoznik
Jesse Mills from Lenore Mills
Barbara Sabo from Lenore Mills
Leonard Fiore from Lenore Mills
Angela Fiore from Lenore Mills
For the People of the Ukraine from Michael & Smitty Gadomsky
John Barlieb from Mary Mallard Barlieb
William T. Barlieb from Mary Mallard Barlieb
Joe Battisto from Virginia Battisto
Certelli Families from Tresse C. Delli Santi
Jonas Families from Tresse C. Delli Santi
Delli Santi Families from Tresse C. Delli Santi
Fox Families from Tresse C. Delli Santi
Mark W. and Beverly H. Hay by the Rarick Family
Audrey Grabowsky by Suzie Fretz McCool
John and Viola Fretz by Suzie Fretz McCool



Ice House #3, Tobyhanna.

Join us for a walking tour of this site and more. **Sunday April 12, 2:00 PM. at the Tobyhanna State Park**
History & Nature Hike Tobyhanna No. 2 and No. 3 Icehouses



Researching Land Warrants and current inquiries about Coolbaugh has led to a fascinating discovery of public records.
Original Land Warrants by Kathy Winowich and Vern Saxe
September 27 2:00 PM at the Wills Mansion.

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 HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 P.O. Box 244
 5590 Municipal Drive
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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: _____