

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 32nd 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 - \$ ____ This candle or ornament (circle one) is lit in memory or in honor (circle one) of (person's name) by This candle or ornament (circle one) is lit in memory or in honor (circle one) of _____ (person's name) by 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

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

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

Sculpture

First Mike Casey Eruption



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.

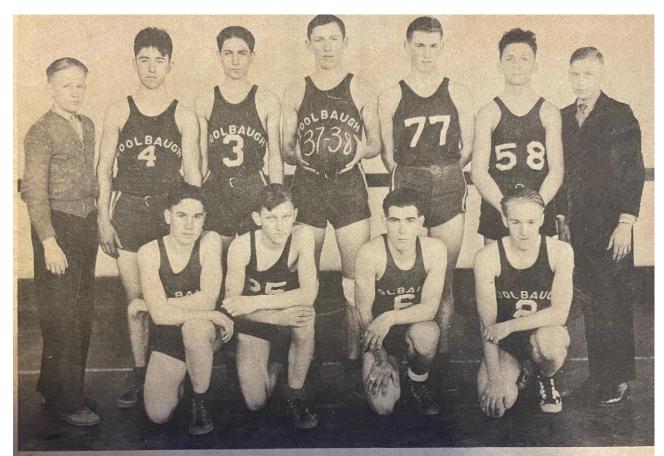


Mr. L. T. Smith, an enterprising merchant, at Forks Station, in this county, has taken in and sold seven hundred and thirteen bushels of "Huckleberries" this season. The berries are unusually fine. Mr. Smith found his principal market in New York.



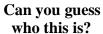
Tons of Huckleberries.

The huckleberry season on Pocono mountain is now at its best, and ions 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.





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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL Select a membership level:

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
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