

Coolbaugh Township Historical Association

2025 Programs and Events

TOBYHANNA MILLPOND #1 ICE HARVEST – Saturday, January 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Since 1994, the CTHA has been running a living history program in collaboration with the Leonard Family, harvesting ice using vintage tools and equipment to showcase the history of the local ice industry.

NESCOPECK STATE PARK WINTERFEST – Saturday Feb 1, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The CTHA participates in this annual event at Lake Frances with an ice harvesting display and program about the natural ice industry history.

ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION — Tentative dates/times

Delivery of work: Sunday, May 4, 1-4 p.m.

Artist Reception: Friday, May 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Awards presentation, 6 p.m.

Exhibition Hours

Saturday, May 10 — Noon-3 p.m.

Sunday, May 11 — Noon-3 p.m.

Monday, May 12 — 10 a.m.-Noon (Continental breakfast served)

Saturday, May 17 — Noon-3 p.m.

Sunday, May 18 — Noon-2 p.m.

Sunday, May 18 — 2-4 p.m. — Artists collect their works

SUMMER HISTORY PROGRAMS

- **“Seven Mysteries of Devils Hole” — Sunday June 1, 2 p.m.**

Pocono Mountain Library 5500 Municipal Blvd., Tobyhanna

The Devils Hole, partially located in Coolbaugh Township, is shrouded in mystery and mystique. There are several building ruins along Devils Hole Creek, exciting water falls, stories about an Elk Farm, peculiar artifacts, and a significant impact from the 1955 flood. The encore presentation by Bill Leonard is entitled “Seven Mysteries of Devils Hole: Folklore, Tales, and Legends.”

- **“Airport Inn & Mount Pocono Horse Show” — Sunday, July 27, 2 p.m.**

Wills Mansion Museum, 5590 Municipal Dr., Tobyhanna

Suzanne Fretz McCool will give a presentation about widely acclaimed Mount Pocono Horse Show which was held on the grounds of the Airport Inn (now Bailey’s), from 1946 through 1948.

- **Tobyhanna Military Reservation — Sunday, Sept. 14, 2 p.m.**

Wills Mansion Museum, 5590 Municipal Dr., Tobyhanna

The U.S. Army came to Tobyhanna in 1912, and they have been here ever since. This presentation by Bill Leonard will cover the multiple uses of the reservation, including artillery training, high explosives storage, prisoner-of-war camp, glider storage, state game lands and state parks, signal depot, and the Tobyhanna Army Depot of today.

- **Schools of Coolbaugh Township — Sunday, Oct. 26, 2 p.m.**

Wills Mansion Museum, 5590 Municipal Dr., Tobyhanna

Vern Cramer Saxe will give a presentation exploring the history and development of the township's educational institutions, highlighting their impact on the community.

- **The Women Veterans Museum** — *Date to be announced.*

Wills Mansion Museum, 5590 Municipal Drive Tobyhanna

The [Women Veterans Museum](#), located in Mount Pocono, was created to honor and celebrate women service members, veterans, and military family members for their past, present, and continuing service to the United States. The museum's 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.

HISTORY TRIPS

- **[Antique Ice Tool Museum](#), West Chester — Monday, April 21**
Visit a fascinating museum with an outstanding display of ice harvesting equipment and artifacts dedicated to preserving the natural ice trade. Car caravan departs Wills Manson at 7:45 a.m. Museum tour starts at 10 a.m. *NOTE: Reservations required by April 14.* Email bdleonard@verizon.net or call/text 570-977-0251.
- **Lackawanna Heritage Valley Ambassadors History Tour, Scranton — Thursday, June 5**
See historical sites around Scranton, such as Steamtown National Historic Site, Trolley Museum and Trolley Ride, Brooks Mine, Scranton Cultural Center, Scranton Iron Furnaces, and the Everhart Museum. Reservations required. \$50 fee.
- **Stoddartsville Preservation Society, Stoddartsville — Date to be announced**
Explore the village of Stoddartsville, near Blakeslee, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The village boasts a collection of artifacts, photographs, and documentation, including 288 burials in Stoddartsville Cemetery.

OTHER 2025 CTHA EVENTS

Coolbaugh Township National Night Out with America250 – Saturday, July 26, 5-9 p.m.

Coolbaugh Township Municipal Park, 1810 Church St., Tobyhanna

CTHA will have an informational booth with information about Coolbaugh Township history and will lead a nature/history walk at 6 p.m. The event is in conjunction with [America250](#), a multi-year celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States.

D&H Annual Canal Festival

Saturday, August 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Delaware & Hudson Canal Park at Lock 31, 179 Texas Palmyra Highway, Hawley

CTHA will have an informational booth at this annual festival, exhibiting the historic ice industry and information about Coolbaugh Township history.

Community Crafts and Yard Sale

Saturday, August 9, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Rain date August 10)

Wills Mansion Museum, 5590 Municipal Dr., Tobyhanna

Craft vendors and artisans will be selling their wares in front of the Wills Mansion, and the community is invited to take part in a community yard sale. VFW Post 509 will be serving lunch and refreshments.

Steamtown Excursion to Tobyhanna – Tentative date October 18

Explore the Tobyhanna train station, grab a bite to eat, tour the Tobyhanna Millpond #1 Icehouse and learn about the ice industry, take a walking tour of the Village of Tobyhanna visit the former Saint Ann's Church and crypt, learn about the huckleberry industry, and more.

Annual Dinner Program – Saturday, October 11, 3 p.m.

Pocono Farms Country Club, 182 Lake Rd., Tobyhanna

Program on the “History and Culture of the Lenape” presented by Shelley DePaul, language director for the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania and a teacher of music and history. The Lenape people are the indigenous people of this area of land referred to as the Lenapehokink — “Land of the Lenape.” For over 10,000 years they have been the caretakers of these lands and of The River of Human Beings, more commonly known as the Delaware River.

Wreaths for Veterans – Pearl Harbor Day, Sunday December 7, 2 p.m.

The CTHA board will join with members of VFW Post 509 to place wreaths at the three Coolbaugh Township cemeteries and at the Coolbaugh Township Veterans Memorial in memory of our fallen veterans

Annual Christmas Celebration – Saturday, December 13, Noon to 4 p.m.

The Wills Mansion Museum will be decorated for the holidays and there will be musical entertainment and refreshments. The celebration is open to all.

**For more information
visit the Coolbaugh Township Historical Association Facebook page
or call 570-894-4207.**