



# Hellertown Historical Society

Dedicated to Preserving the History and Heritage of Hellertown and its People

## In This Issue

Hellertown Cemetery Tours – Page 1

President's Message – Page 2

Did You Know? - Allen Woodring – Page 2

You Can Make A QCD – Page 3

Those Were The Days : Part 1 – Page 3

Revisited : Shopping at The Mill – Page 3

Hellertown Historical Society Celebrates –  
Page 4

Enclosure – Appraisal Form for Harry Rinker  
Visit on October 15

## Upcoming 2016 Events

Harry Rinker Collectible Appraisals  
October 15 - 12 Noon-4PM

Holiday Open House – December 2  
Doors Open 6:30PM

Annual Toy Train Display – Sundays  
December 4-18

Santa's Visit/Holiday Shopping at the Mill –  
December 11 Noon-4PM

*Feedback is essential for any publication to improve and grow. We welcome readers to provide their opinions, suggestions and comments about the content featured in our newsletter. Please send your feedback to the Editor at the email address below.*

## Newsletter Email Contacts

Managing Editor – Donald Mills

[editor@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:editor@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)

General Information

[info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)

Hellertown Historical Society  
150 W.Walnut Street  
Hellertown PA 18055  
610.838.1770

[www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)



## History Lives At Union Cemetery

By Don Mills

This year marked the 12<sup>th</sup> Year the Hellertown Lives Committee offered Cemetery Tours of notable Hellertown citizens at The Union Cemetery of Hellertown. On this particular tour, the graves of four notable persons were visited along with a brief grave-side synopsis of their lives. The Tour Committee material states this is "a part of history and celebrating some of the lives that made a difference to the Saucon Valley Area. The tours are made possible with the simple belief that through knowing our forefathers and the contributions they made with their community endeavors, we will be motivated to preserve that heritage for future generations." This event helps to highlight the Hellertown Historical Society's mission, "Dedicated to Preserving the History and Heritage of Hellertown and its People."

Therefore it made sense to offer to do a feature article on their efforts to preserve Hellertown History. This article features excerpts from the most recent tour held July 21-22. The notable Hellertonians featured were:

- Jessie "Nana" Peffer narrated by Dr. Susan Ackerman
- William "Bill" Carson narrated by David Pearson
- Michael Campanella narrated by Terry Boos
- John Pfeiffer narrated by Bill Frey

Each narrator describes the person who they portray in first person, as if the actual person was speaking. Here are the featured Hellertonians...

**Jessie "Nana" Peffer** was born May 11, 1913 in Fountain Hill, the daughter of Charles/Hattie Bitting. She went to school in Bethlehem until her senior year, later working in the Mail Department at Bethlehem Steel. She met Maynard who grew up at Kunsman's Crossing in Lower Saucon. His father had the blacksmith shop located in the area of the fountain in town, later becoming Weisel's. Maynard grew up working on the farm where they lived, then also got a job at Bethlehem Steel. They married in October 1932. Over time, they had a son and three daughters. The children attended Wolf School a couple blocks away, walking to and from school with their friends. Due to the many friends stopping at their house, Jessie told them to call her "Nana". Maynard also tended bar at the Legion and Jessie was on the shuffleboard team. They would take the family to attend the Annual Hellertown Church picnics held at Dorney Park. To get there, they rode the trolley to and from the park. In 1957 they bought a home on Constitution Avenue, just around the corner from son's family and enlarged it in 1964-65. Hellertown Lower Saucon School District, now Saucon Valley School District, built a new school one block from the house. In time, they all graduated, worked, married and had their own families. Eventually, Maynard and Jessie had 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Maynard died February 25, 1978. Jessie turned 80 with a family party. They all still called her "Nana" just as she always wanted. Jessie had reservations about moving to Hellertown, but was proven wrong. This great town became a good part of her life. Jessie passed away December 1, 2009 at the age of 96.

**William "Bill" Carson** was born in Schuylkill Haven in 1923 to parents William and Rhoda Carson. He was an only child. Bill met his future wife, Blanche (Betty) Genth at Lansdale H.S. Upon high school graduation, Bill enlisted in the Army Air Corps, became a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and a pilot during WWII. Before being sent overseas in 1944, Bill and Betty married in June. Bill was stationed in Italy until the War ended. He served 4-5 years in the reserves until his discharge. Bill began his career with Miller Brothers Hardware Store based in Easton. The old

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Submit Articles or Stories

Hellertown Historical Society  
Newsletter seeks any stories or news  
articles pertaining to Hellertown's History  
and its people. Anyone is encouraged to  
submit articles, stories or news to the

newsletter Managing Editor for  
consideration in upcoming editions.  
Submissions may be edited for content  
and/or space requirements. Please use  
the contact information on this page to  
submit your entry.



## President’s Message:

We look forward to the Hellertown-Lower Saucon Community Day every year. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, we once again had the pleasure of spending the day with the people and partners in the community who support our organization and its mission. One of the reasons that I enjoy working for HHS is the genuine support and appreciation that is abundant in our local community.

The popularity of the Tavern Room as a site rental for special events has directly strengthened the health of our society and is allowing us to continue to preserve and share Hellertown’s heritage on new and exciting levels. Word of mouth has spread that we have a charming historic venue! We also have some pretty fantastic dedicated volunteers who help coordinate and setup the Tavern Room in addition to their other contributions to HHS. On top of all that, we also have community partners who recommend the use of the Tavern Room for social gatherings to their customers. THANK YOU!

Community Day is the perfect opportunity to stroll around Dimmick Park and support our local community. However, don’t forget that HHS (and our community partners) has other outreach and fundraising events throughout the year. Make sure you like us on Facebook or get on our email or mailing list to stay connected. Stop by, say hello, enter raffles, make a donation or purchase, or find out about upcoming events. And, last but certainly NOT least.....grab one of our famous hot dogs!

Stacie Torkos, President  
Hellertown Historical Society

## Did You Know?

By Bill Frey, Jr.

Allen Woodring was born February 15, 1898 in the Borough of Hellertown, to parents James Theodore and Agnes Woodring.

Allen went on to become a track star not only in high school, but also at Syracuse University.

He entered the U.S. Trials for the Olympic Team but did not qualify after a fifth-place finish. However, track coaches had a gut feeling about Woodring and placed him on the team nonetheless. This move truly paid off for the United States during the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium.

Allen Woodring went on to win the 1920 Olympic Gold Medal in the 200M dash wearing, as the story goes, a pair of borrowed shoes. The United States had its best overall team performance at the 1920 Olympics, winning 41 Gold Medals.



Allen Woodring at 1920 Olympics  
(Photo Courtesy Wikipedia.org)

### Allen Woodring - Personal Information

<b>Born</b>	Feb. 15, 1898 Hellertown, PA, USA
<b>Died</b>	Nov. 15, 1982 (Age 84) Clearwater, FL, USA
<b>Alma Mater</b>	Syracuse University
<b>Height</b>	1.80m (5ft. 11in.)
<b>Weight</b>	73kg (161lb.)

## Hellertown Lives At Union Cemetery

(Continued from Page 1)

Howard Hess Store on Main Street was then bought by Millers and Bill was hired to manage it. Two daughters and a son later, Bill bought the hardware store from the Millers in the late 1950’s. However, Howard Hess continued to own the building. The building was actually several buildings combined, therefore the sloping floors. The Silver Creek ran under the part nearest the alley; at one time it was a carriage shop. Bill finally bought the building in 1963 and with that, moved the family into the floors above the store, now named Carson’s Hardware. When Bill had the need to store seasonal items, he leased the old train depot on Front Street where the train conveniently dropped off the shipments. He tried to buy that building, but the Railroad refused to sell it. They later tore it down much to everyone’s dismay. Bill remained active with the business, local civic organizations and his love of airplanes. Bill served proudly with the Hellertown Lions for over 50 years. He also served with the Hellertown Union Cemetery Board, was active with the First UCC, a volunteer for the Hellertown Historical Society and once was President of the Friends of the Library. Bill retired from the hardware business in 1993 and son Mark took over. Bill and Betty used their new found time to go on trips and spend more time together. It was while on a trip to Florida that Bill unexpectedly passed away March 3, 1998 after 54 years of marriage.

**Michael Campanella** was born April 4, 1939 to parents Michael and Mary Campanella. Michael grew up in Bethlehem. Never finishing high school, Michael signed up with the US Marine Corps, finished basic at Parris Island, SC, then off to Camp Lejeune in NC where he trained in food preparation. When attending the wedding of one of his Marine brothers, he met Helen McQuire and decided she was the one he wanted. They married April 23, 1960 in Bethlehem. Mike’s brother Tom talked him into going to work for Sarco Mfg. in Allentown. After a son and daughter were born, a new home was purchased on Cedar Road in Hellertown. It was there another daughter was born. Money being tight, Mike took a part time position at Crossroads Hotel tending bar. Enjoying the experience of interacting with people, serving food and drinks, it was a natural selection for the Mateys to offer Mike to purchase the Midway Tavern they owned, formerly Ortwein’s, on Main Street. Under Mike, the Midway became a very popular stop, especially for great sandwiches. Business was constant but was taking a toll. The decision was made to sell the Midway and Mike found a machinists position at Ingersoll Rand in Phillipsburg, NJ. On the word of a realtor friend,

(Continued on Page 4)

## You Can Make A QCD

By Gil Stauffer

Wow, that's exciting! I can now make a QCD! But, what the heck is a QCD?

In year-end legislation, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 finally made permanent qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from individual retirement accounts. A QCD permits annual direct transfers to a qualified charity (such as the Hellertown Historical Society) totaling up to \$100,000 of tax deferred IRA savings...tax free.

If you are over the age of 70 ½, depending on your personal tax situation, donating from your IRA to the Hellertown Historical Society could have more tax advantages for you than a direct personal donation.

While legislation repeatedly uses the maximum amount of \$100,000 in its language, any contribution amount that is right for your financial situation will be greatly appreciated.

Setting up the contribution is not complicated. Contact the custodian who manages your IRA account (for example your financial institution, insurance company, etc.). Then, give the custodian written instructions to make a donation directly from your IRA to the Hellertown Historical Society.

To reap the tax advantages of a QCD, it is important the check be made payable to the Hellertown Historical Society.

Should you decide to make a donation to the Hellertown Historical Society from your IRA, please call us at 610-838-1770 (ask for Stacie Torkos, president or Gil Stauffer, treasurer) to inform us of your plans. We will be happy to interact with your custodian concerning mailing instructions, etc. We will also provide you with a letter for your records acknowledging your QCD donation.

**We strongly suggest you contact your attorney, tax advisor, financial advisor, or tax accountant to determine the financial impact of your QCD donation and discuss if a QCD is right for you. Hellertown Historical Society is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.**

## Those Were The Days : Part 1

By Dolores Di Paolo

I grew up in the 1950s in a part of Hellertown called Mountainview. It was a wonderful childhood with so many fun things to do.

Down the street and around the corner was a creek to catch minnows and crayfish and to get soaking wet feet and a scolding from our mothers. At one end of the creek the bigger boys dammed up the creek for swimming. The first big rainfall that came caused the creek to overflow at the dam site and flooded a neighbor's cellar. No one knew who did it, but I did, and I'm not talking. Maybe some of you guys reading this are remembering the day you built the dam.

There was a meadow for picking wild flowers and getting poison ivy, a farm across the street from the meadow with cows and a bull. We were a bunch of wise kids; we knew not to wear red when going to the farm. The bull might gore you with his horns. You know, bulls hate red!

There was a large boulder at the edge of the woods in the shape of a frog, hence the name "Frog Rock." We all spent time climbing the frog and just sitting at the edge of the woods and watching what we called, "The haunted house." We never got very close to the haunted house, which was actually an abandoned cabin. My friend and I were just too scared. I guess it's a girl thing.

Due to the lack of cars, we could sleigh ride in the street, play stick ball in the street and even badminton without a net.

We can never take our grandchildren to the places we spent our summer days. The Creek is now fenced in. The meadow was transformed into the second half of the golf course. Frog rock is now overgrown with trees and bushes. It was a very sad night when the haunted house burned to the ground.

Those were the days that are now, just a memory.

**Please Visit Our Website**  
[www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)  
**Over 16,700 Visitors Can't Be Wrong!**

## Revisited : Shopping At The Mill and Bake Sale

By Gloria Michael

"Hurray! Hurray!  
 The First of May!  
 Shopping at The Mill  
 Is Here to Stay!"

Despite the dreary weather Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, ten local vendors displayed their wares at "The Grist Mall" that made for a very successful day.



The vendors sold jewelry, chocolates, makeup, specialty foods, body oils and handmade accessories. We also had a very lucrative bake sale that day selling all homemade goodies.

Please **Save The Date** for our Christmas Shopping at The Mill, along with the annual visit from Santa on Sunday, December 11, Noon-4PM.

### HHS Recipe Locker - Seafood Tarts

If you have had the chance to attend an event at the Hellertown Historical Society's Tavern Room, you might have had the pleasure of savoring one exquisite food item usually offered. **HHS Member Dolores Di Paolo** creates a seafood tart that seems to be the envy of many and yet the sinfully desirable of all. Up until now she has never shared the recipe. Feel privileged that it is offered here first. Enjoy!!

#### Ingredients -

8oz. Pkg. Imitation Crab  
 1 Hard Boiled Egg  
 Equal Parts Mayonnaise & Sour Cream  
 (As Much Moisture As Desired)  
 Pinch of Old Bay Seasoning  
 ½ Tsp. Dried Parsely, Give or Take  
 Very Tiny Dab of Mustard  
 Seasoned Salt to Taste  
 Paprika

2 Pkg. Filo Cups (With Frozen Desserts)

#### Directions -

Using a mini processor or blender, mix all ingredients except paprika and Filo cups. Fill the Filo cups with mixture; sprinkle tops with the paprika. Serve.

*For other options you can top with green or black olives, bell pepper, etc.*

## Hellertown Historical Society Honors...

Hellertown Historical Society wishes to celebrate the lives of three of our dedicated volunteers who generously gave so much of their time and talent to our Organization over many years.

(Photos Courtesy Morning Call Newspaper – Legacy.com)



**Joseph J. Kach, Sr.** was the husband of Rosemarie Kach. Mr. Kach faithfully served his Country during WW2 in the Navy. He worked for Bethlehem Steel, Bethlehem Vo-Tech, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology and Lehigh County Technical Institute. He was a member of St. Theresa Church in Hellertown. During his service to Hellertown Historical Society, Mr. Kach was instrumental in the refurbishing of the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill and Walnut Street Pony Bridge.



**Carolyn L. Anders** was a Social Worker for Carbon Lehigh Intermediate 21-Schnecksville until retiring. Ms. Anders was a member of Mountainview Moravian Church, Hellertown, sang in the Choir and was an Elder. As well as her service to Hellertown Historical Society, she was also an active volunteer for many other civic groups including Trinity Soup Kitchen, Bethlehem, Miller Blood Center, Northampton County, Westminster Village Nursing Home, Gracedale and Allentown State Hospital, Meals on Wheels Northampton County and Hellertown Lions Club.



**William (Bill) E. Frey** was the husband of Nancy W. Frey. Bill proudly served our Country during WW2 in the Army. During his military service, he received numerous awards including a Good Conduct Medal, three Bronze Stars and the WW2 Victory Medal. He worked for the PB&NE Railroad at the Bethlehem Steel before retiring. Bill was a member of St. George's Episcopal Church, Hellertown. With his dedicated service to Hellertown Historical Society, Bill also served, along with his wife Irene, as the Organization's Treasurer for 16 years. He was also a member of the Edward H. Ackerman Post 397 American Legion and a Life Member of VFW Post 3094.

**Need info about us?**

**We have an email address for that...**

[info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)

## Hellertown Lives At Union Cemetery

*(Continued from Page 2)*

Mike sold his home on Cedar Road and moved into a new home on Elm Road in town. Although life's material enjoyment seemed to finally come to his family, the relationship between Mike and Helen was dwindling. They divorced in 1973. A friend approached Mike about a partnership for a new bar at Spring Hill Shopping Center in Hellertown. As Mike was a natural, he accepted and the Spring House Tavern was born. Things were booming with live music and plenty of activity. Soon the business got too wild for Hellertown and it became time to sell. Mike kept working at Ingersoll but was missing the food service and talking with people. Then the Hot Dog Shop on Main Street in town came along. It was instantly a popular place with many regulars. Still working for Ingersoll, his daughter, son and friend Gordy handled the business. It brought good conversation and small town feel. Mike's urge to return to the food service was satisfied. Ingersoll Rand closed with buyouts, the Hot Dog Shop was flourishing, so Mike began living life to the fullest. Partying, socializing, cruising to other countries, even buying a Corvette – Mike did what he always wanted to do. The life style took its toll quickly. Mike's health declined. Despite the warnings, enjoying life was more important to Mike. He passed away April 29, 2002.

**John Pfeiffer, Jr.** was born in 1913, son of John, Sr. and Theresa (Roth) Pfeiffer. John had one brother and five sisters and lived on a farm in Lower Saucon. John attended the one-room school on Easton Road across from Lutheran Church of Lower Saucon until the sixth grade and worked on the farm. When the family moved to a home on Northampton Street, he met Orpha Diehl. They married in 1934. Due to the depression, John's parents lost their home and Orpha's parents invited them to live with them. The following year a son was born and a year after daughter arrived. The family then moved to a home on Main Street. John found a job with Bethlehem Steel in the Electric Furnace Melting Department at #1 Open Hearth. John served as an Air Raid Warden during WWII, checking homes for compliance to blackout regulations. German POW's were brought to our area by guards to work at local farms to supply the war effort. Many people in town spoke PA Dutch so they would speak with the Germans. John became involved with Dewey Fire Company and soon became the Assistant Fire Chief under Chief Zimpfer. John became Fire Chief when the Chief retired. During his time, John organized the Halloween Parade, marching down High Street to Main Street and finishing at the Fire Station where participants enjoyed hot dogs, potato chips and birch beer. John was also instrumental starting the Dewey Fire First Aid Team in 1947. They purchased a Chevrolet Panel Truck and used it as an ambulance. It was nicknamed "The Agony Wagon". Soon the children married and went their way. Orpha retired after working at the Holiday Inn East for 12 years, John retired from the Steel Company after 40 years. John worked part time for Bob Bauder's Car Wash and as a janitor for son Gordy who owned the Park Hotel. Time caught up with John with a heart attack, stroke and eventually he passed away on October 4, 1991.