



# Hellertown Historical Society

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

## In This Issue

Lost Tavern Brewery Opening – Page 1

President's Message – Page 2

Board Welcomes New Member – Page 2

Hellertown's First Jail : Update – Page 2

Tavern Room in Demand – Page 3

Shopping At The Mill – Page 3

2015 Speaker Series Recap - WWII – Page 4

HHS to Offer Free Yard Sale Spots – Page 4

## Upcoming 2016 Events

Annual History Day – April 23 9AM-3PM

Shopping at the Mill – May 1 Noon-4PM

Community-Wide Yard Sale – June 4  
8AM-2PM (See Page 4)

*The following are tentative...*

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

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

**Watch for Upcoming 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Events!**

## 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)



The RMI Building on Hellertown's 700 Block Main Street Undergoes Renovations for LTB Spring Opening (Courtesy LTB's Facebook)

## Lost Tavern Brewery Shows Progress, Opening Soon

*By Don Mills*

Hellertown will soon have a new craft brewery. Thanks to partners and good friends, Anthony Gangi and Robert Grim, who reached agreement with RMI Building owner, Ken Rampolla, to lease the first floor space for their beer brewing empire. Ken's son, Kenny Rampolla, has also joined the team of entrepreneurs.

According to partners, Robert Grim and Kenny Rampolla, most of the infrastructure work is completed and delivery of the brewing equipment is expected in March. Test operations begin after installation to 'dial-in' their unique recipes in the system.

The partners have developed a relationship with local area businesses and farmers to use locally obtained ingredients and to dispose of spent grain that will feed livestock. Solar panels were recently installed on the building's roof to help with power consumption. It's definitely clear these entrepreneurs are thinking 'green' with their business plans.

LTB is still working on naming the products they expect to brew soon, however many of them will be locally themed. This author questioned if they would consider a contest for the public to help name one or more of their products? This may be considered for future, limited products.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

### 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:

It's hard to believe, but three years have passed since I was elected president of the Hellertown Historical Society! Trust me...the excitement has not worn off. I love to rattle on and on to anyone who will listen about this fantastic organization, the wonderful and supportive board members, and the enthusiastic cadre of volunteers.

Each year is both a challenge and a joy! And 2016, the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hellertown Historical Society, will be no exception!

Members of our anniversary committee are meeting on a regular basis to establish both memorable events and memorabilia that will be cherished by generations to come.

Please visit our website often to learn more about the society's plans to celebrate 35 years of preserving Hellertown's heritage.

In addition to our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, we have established specific goals for 2016.

- To refurbish and restore the First Hellertown Jail.
- To acquire the special folders, containers, etc., that will be used to protect and preserve Hellertown artifacts, photographs, and articles for generations.
- Increase number of volunteers in all areas of the organization.

Please accept my invitation to help us, and all of Hellertown, celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hellertown Historical Society and to meet our 2016 goals!

Stacie Torkos, President

*PS: Have you renewed your membership for 2016? Are you considering joining the society as a new member? Please look for the 2016 membership form enclosed with this newsletter. Renew/join today!*

## Bill Frey, Jr. Welcomed to Board of Directors

*By Don Mills*

On January 7th, during the regular meeting of the Hellertown Historical Society Board of Directors, Bill Frey, Jr. was unanimously elected to be the newest Director for the Historical Society.

Bill has been a life-member of the Society for 35 years. He is an alumnus of both Hellertown High School and Moravian College, is married to Jane (Lipsky) Frey and has a son Robert Frey. Bill is a retiree from the US Postal Service after 38 years of service. He is currently employed by the Saucon Valley School District. He has been active and held Board positions on various Hellertown Civic Organizations including Boy Scouts, Jaycees, Hellertown Youth Sports and SV Booster Club. He was a coach and stats/scorekeeper for Hellertown American Legion baseball the last 13 years. For the last 10 years and currently, he is a coach and

stats/scorekeeper for SV High School baseball.

Join us as we welcome Bill and look for him when he recreates his 'Town Crier' character at more upcoming historical events.

## Restoration of Hellertown's First Jail : Update

*By Gil Stauffer*

As reported in the last issue of the HHS Newsletter (Nov 2015-Issue 3), the Society will be undertaking the task of restoring Hellertown's First Jail.

Recent initial investigation has shown the jail is in need of a new roof, new flooring and possibly structural repairs.

The time and money needed for such projects are going to force these repairs to happen only as resources become available. Currently, \$6,000.00 has been set aside to address some of these needs. The Society is seeking knowledgeable individuals who could assist with these repairs or offer

consultation. Of course, as more investigation continues, the needs may probably increase.

Certainly the Society welcomes donations of any kind, either funding, labor or materials, to help with this project. If you wish to offer such donations, please contact the Society via the general email address or phone the office and leave a message with contact information. One of our Officers will contact you.



Hellertown's First Jail  
(Courtesy Google Earth)

Please Visit Our Website  
[www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)  
Over 13,500 Visitors Can't Be Wrong!

## Lost Tavern Brewery...

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Initially the brewery expects to open in Spring only for extended weekends. The partners have also built relationships with area providers for varieties of food when the brewery operation is open.

For those unaware, the name "Lost Tavern Brewery" comes from the folklore of an 18<sup>th</sup> Century tavern once located at the Heller-Wagner Grist Mill and provided the inspiration for the name. Hellertown Historical Society has been cooperating with the LTB partners by providing history and prints of period items for their interior décor.

LTB partners were in attendance at the HHS Holiday Open House in December for free taste samples. Similar events are planned with LTB for the celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hellertown Historical Society, so be sure to watch for event updates.

The partners have established a Facebook page and encourage people to visit and "like" it. A brief survey is also found on their page where patrons may answer questions about themselves to provide LTB a bit of useful info. Some entrants will be selected to be V.I.P. guests at the planned "soft opening".

The LTB partners are excited about this opportunity to serve the Saucon Valley area. We wish them luck on reaching for and making their dream a reality. As they say "Cheers!"



LTB Partners (L-R) Rob, Tony and Kenny at HHS Holiday Open House (Photo Courtesy of LTB)

## Tavern Room Use Exceeds Expectations

*By Earl Hill*

The Society's Tavern Room, located in the lower level of the historic Heller-Wagner Grist Mill building, sees quite a lot of use. The room may be booked for events of all types, Birthdays, Weddings, Bridal and Baby Showers and more have been held at this rustic, period-decorated facility.

The Tavern Room itself can accommodate up to 60 guests comfortably. The adjoining room may be used to seat additional guests or set up a buffet, gift tables, or whatever the situation requires.

Recent bookings have shown this venue to be in high demand for a variety of events. It is becoming more than our few volunteers can handle.

We are seeking interested members of the Historical Society to help, one or two hours every other month or so, with this effort. There is little that needs to be done beyond simply opening and closing the facility for those who have booked the room and perhaps switching on/off lights and/or HVAC system as needed. You are not required to stay during the events. That is it! The requirements will be provided on checklists as to what must be done. Sorry, there is no pay for this work. It is strictly voluntary, but very, very much appreciated.

This venue generates a great deal of the Society's income which provides resources to furnish and repair the facility's buildings and grounds. So it is quite important to keep this facility open.

Interested individuals may contact the Tavern Room Coordinator via email at [tavern@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:tavern@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org) or call the Historical Society at 610-838-1770 and provide your contact information.

## Shopping At The Mill

*By Gloria Michael*



A Snow-Covered Sleigh Awaits Christmas Shoppers at "The Grist Mall"

### Christmas Shopping At the Mill

On Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, The Tavern Room at the Grist Mill was magically transformed into "The Grist Mall". Ten local vendors came to sell their wares including make-up, lighted candles, chocolates, jewelry and much more to last minute Christmas shoppers.

### Santa's Annual Visit

The annual visit from Santa Claus was exceptional! There were more than 75 children, many with their gift lists in hand, talking with Santa. There were more than 60 pictures taken with Santa. Some adults and pets enjoyed sitting with Santa, too.

The Mill provided cookies, hot chocolate and tangerines for the children.

Because of the success of this event, "The Grist Mall" will be open again next year on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for shopping, Santa's visit and photos.

### Shopping At the Mill Returns

There will also be the annual **Spring Shopping at the Mill** Sunday, May 1 from Noon-4PM. This is the Sunday before Mother's Day and gives the chance to pick up those last minute gifts for Mom.

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATES FOR BOTH EVENTS**

Need info about us?  
We have an email address for that...  
[info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@hellertownhistoricalsociety.org)

## World War II Speaker Series - Part 2

By Andrea Danner

Part I of our WW II Speaker Series was on History Day. After the positive reception, we decided to share more stories.



**Honorary Guests (L-R) Bill Frey Sr., Joseph Kugler, Mrs. Helen Kugler and William Diehl**

On Saturday, November 7, we invited local WW II vets, Kelly Gutshall, Leon Wohlbach and Dan Deysher to tell their stories in our second presentation. Before we got to their stories, Hellertown Historical Society's own Jeanette Boos shared information she researched on nurses serving on the war front during WW II. Much of the information was based upon Hellertown's own Sophie Pasternak, who served as close to the front lines as nurses were allowed to at that time. Thank you to Jeanette for your research and presentation about a local heroine.



**Guest Presenters (L-R) Dan Deysher, Leon Wohlbach, Kelly Gutshall, Neil Hever**

Our next presenter was Mr. Neil Hever. After the first speaker series, he was kind enough to share his WW II maps with those in attendance. After talking to him over

the summer, we realized that he not only had WW II maps, but uniforms from Germany, Japan and the USA and other documentation from his late uncle, Ed Bradshaw. Although Mr. Bradshaw wasn't a local man, his recording of events and photos were worth sharing on their own merit. Neil shared his uncle's riveting story and also brought many artifacts that he generously shared with the audience. Thank you Neil for sharing your uncle's story with us!



**World War II Artifacts Displayed**



**Neil Hever's World War II Display**

Many of you are familiar with Kelly Gutshall, owner of the former Gutshall Chevrolet. Mr. Gutshall shared not only his WW II experience with us, but a bit of history of his business experience in Hellertown. To say Mr. Gutshall enjoys golf would be an understatement. He did not disappoint in sharing a bit of his golf history and recent scores with us! Thank you, Mr. Gutshall, for sharing your stories with us.

After 70 years, the war still lies close to the surface for many veterans. I think everyone was touched when Mr. Leon Wohlbach choked up speaking about his twin brother Lester's death during the war. What you may not know is Leon

Wohlbach's own miraculous survival story due to a Bible. Stop down to HHS and we will be happy to share it with you! Dan Deysher prefers not to speak about his service at all. Instead, he spoke of playing Taps at over 3000 funerals as a last tribute to fellow veterans. Mr. Deysher concluded our program by playing Taps for the audience, which was a fitting ending. Many thanks to Mr. Wohlbach and Mr. Deysher for reminding us all of the great sacrifices our brave veterans made.



**Leon Wohlbach Speaks to the Group**

The WW II Speaker presentations could not have been possible without the help of our dedicated volunteer team. Thank you to all of you. Lenny Szy is due a thank you for his display of WW II material that provided a wonderful addition to our speakers' presentations. And lastly, a special thank you to Bill Frey Jr. who contacted and coordinated with many of our speakers and arranged for them to be able to share their stories with all of you.

## Community Yard Sale

By Dolores Di Paolo

HHS will participate in the Community-Wide Yard Sale June 4, 8AM-2PM. Members may bring their items for sale at the Grist Mill facility. Spots are free. Members must supply their own tables. See Community Yard Sale flyer for rules and info.