

NANTICOKE LEGACY

A PUBLICATION OF THE NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SAMANTHA MILL HOUSE – 495 EAST MAIN STREET, NANTICOKE, PA – 570-258-1367



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WWW.NANTICOKEHISTORYONLINE.ORG

FEBRUARY 2024



Honor,
Service,
Integrity,
Respect,
Trust,
Courage
and Duty

Nanticoke Historical Society dedicates plaque honoring Nanticoke Grads who have served and are presently serving as Pennsylvania State Troopers.

Plaque Designed by Mr. Walter Gushik
and Engraved by Mr. Paul Wenzel

NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Samantha Mill House
(Next to the Mill Memorial Library)
Off Kosciuszko Street
495 East Main Street Nanticoke, PA 18634
570-258-1367

MISSION STATEMENT

The object of this society is for educational, charitable, and literary purposes with a primary focus to research, preserve, develop and disseminate the history of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. To collect artifacts, memorabilia and historical documents and fact Nanticoke, Pennsylvania and to store such items in a central location or specific area where these articles may be preserved, appreciated and used by the citizens of Nanticoke to enhance their heritage.

OUR WEBSITE

www.nanticokehistoryonline.org

EMAIL

Office email – NHS63@comcast.net

OFFICERS and STAFF

President: Julianna Zarzycki
Vice-President/Treasurer: Chester Zaremba
Membership Coordinator – Charlotte Dudkowski
Archive Coordinator – Tania Gronkowski
Archivist – John Sherrick
Building and Grounds – Mike Passetti
Nanticoke Legacy Editor News and Stories - Judith L. Minsavage

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual \$35

Family \$40

RESEARCH

**See our website and click on our RESEARCH TAB –
nanticokehistoryonline.org.**

Welcome New Members

FRANK MIZDAIL
CHRISTINE LEANDRI
MARY LOUISE HILL & PHILIP NICOLAI

**Thank you to the following members of the Nanticoke
Historical Society for their generous donations .**

ANDY SHERBINE
NORMA USHINSKI
LORI SHEMANSKI
JOYCE HULSLANDER
SHELLY JONES AND FRIENDS
KRISTINE MILLER
HEIDI JARECKI
PHILLIP SHERN
JOYCE HULSLANDER
BARBARA VAN DRAN
CLEM BONCAL
MIKE HILL

Notice to our members!

The Nanticoke Historical Society Membership Coordinator, Charlotte Dudkowski asks that if any member has had a change of address, phone number or email address to please contact the society office at 570-258-1367. You may also email those changes to our [new email address](mailto:NHS63@comcast.net)
NHS63@comcast.net

Thank you

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY NANTICOKE LEGACY

We are committed to bringing you all the news of the society, its good works and its dedication to the stewardship of all historical data pertaining to the city. Please let us know that you are happy with our efforts by becoming a member or retaining your membership. This helps to defray the cost of printing and distribution and helps us to continue to serve the community. If you'd like to comment, please email us at NHS63@comcast.net

NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING RAFFLE

1ST Prize - \$125

2nd Prize - \$50

3rd Prize - \$25

Please return all tickets by March 15, 2024 – Drawing will be held April 12, 2024

Call 570-258-1367 - Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.

Society Funds Plaque at Greater Nanticoke High School

By Judy Minsavage



It was a story that needed to be told, and Chester Zaremba, former Nanticoke City Police Chief, retired; Pennsylvania State Police Sergeant and Vice President of the Nanticoke Historical Society, along with Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Stanley Jezewski, set about telling it. Through a post he had seen on the internet, Zaremba learned of a plaque, proposed by a teacher, honoring 55 graduates of Shenandoah, Shenandoah Valley and West Mahanoy Township High School who became Pennsylvania State Troopers. Upon reading the tribute, Zaremba knew with great certainty that he would find at least that number or more graduates from the Nanticoke School District who served as Pennsylvania State Troopers. Zaremba and Jezewski began their quest with a visit to the Shenandoah Valley High School to see the plaque and get more details.

Research Begins

Upon their return, Zaremba and Jezewski enlisted the help of Commanding Officer of Troop "P" Wilkes-Barre, Captain Patrick Dougherty to plan a similar plaque to honor graduates of Nanticoke High School, Harter High School, Newport High School and Greater Nanticoke Area High School. It was agreed that the Nanticoke Historical Society would fund the project. Thus began a two-year quest to gain the names and photos of each graduate that served as Pennsylvania State Troopers and document their service. The honorees are former students who



ALUMNI	CLASS OF	ALUMNI	CLASS OF
Walter Laskowski	1927	Ronald Stavetski	1965
Thomas Ford	1933	Vance Jenkins	1966
John Yaglenski	1933	Allen Waiter	1966
Henry J. Gorka	1934	Daniel M. Zubritski	1967
Robert Wilson	1938	Steve Krasucki	1974
Theodore Poltrock	1948	Thomas Wall	1977
Carl Ackiewicz	1949	Raymond Whittaker	1982
Eugene R. Kowaleski	1949	Gerald Williams	1982
Robert Domzalski	1952	John Cheponis	1984
Edmund Kowaleski	1953	Christopher Zavatski	1984
Stanley Jezewski	1955	Len Belles	1985
Robert Piavis	1953	Stanley Betoski	1985
John Madey	1957	Darrin Capece	1985
James Jeffries	1958	Joel Cikowski	1986
Robert Krasucki	1958	Tony Grobinski	1986
Vince Ruskin	1958	Mark Sadowski	1986
Gerald Grzynski	1959	Brian Murphey	1986
Benjamin Grevera	1960	Joseph Nalepa	1987
Elias Grevera	1960	Brian Stashak	1987
Dennis Burke	1961	Mike Minsavage	1988
Eugene Krasucki	1961	Patrick Dougherty	1991
Robert Brunozi	1961	Gene Ondeck	1992
Ron Fiorini	1962	William Brown	1993
Mark Golumb	1962	Mark Conrad	1997
Bernard Oraszewski	1962	Jeff Kowalski	1999
Chester Zaremba	1963	Mark Baron	2021
Chester Lampman	1964	Joseph Bednarski	2001
David Sherrick	1964	Michael J. Foux	2002
Richard Trudnak	1964	Sean Cooney	2003
Ralph Galicki	1965	George Jones	2006
John Piontkowski	1965	Brandon Jimmerson	2008
Julius Rasmus	1965	Mike Murtha	2011

completed rigorous training and assignments in various fields of law enforcement. They have served with integrity and dedication and have contributed to the safety and well-being of the Commonwealth. Greater Nanticoke Area School District Superintendent, Dr. Ronald Grevera and the school board, offered their support for the project. After numerous months of painstaking research, 65 names were set to be inscribed on an oak plaque designed by Walter Choplick of Shenandoah and crafted by Paul Wazenski of Hanover Township. Futuristic Innovative Graphics of Wilkes-Barre was involved in the engraving process with the additional assistance of Robert Yudinsky of Ringtown.



CHET ZAREMBA NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY VP - MAKES OPENING REMARKS

The Unveiling

On Tuesday, December 5, 2023, The Main Hall of the Greater Nanticoke Area High School was the venue for the unveiling of the long-awaited plaque. Over 100 people gathered for the dedication ceremony,



DR. RONALD GREVERA GNA SUPERINTENDENT- ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE

including dignitaries, city officials, active and retired Pennsylvania State Troopers, and members of the community. Zaremba, Grevera and Dougherty each spoke eloquently, giving tremendous tribute to the bravery, self-sacrifice and compassion needed to become a State Trooper. In his address, Zaremba emphasized. “It was said when you graduated from high school you either went to the coal mines or the state police. Today we honor these men who value human life so much they were prepared to give their life to protect it. They deserve this remembrance here in the hall of this school for as long as these halls shall stand.”

A Little History

In the early 1900s Pennsylvania found itself in the throes of disputes between labor and the management of coal mines, various mills and factories. With local law enforcement overwhelmed business owners employed guards made up of mercenaries with questionable backgrounds to keep laborers in line. With the inception of the Great Anthracite Strike in 1902, violence was so commonplace that President Theodore Roosevelt intervened and in the aftermath responsible law



CAPTAIN PATRICK DOUGHERTY COMMANDING OFFICER TROOP P - PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

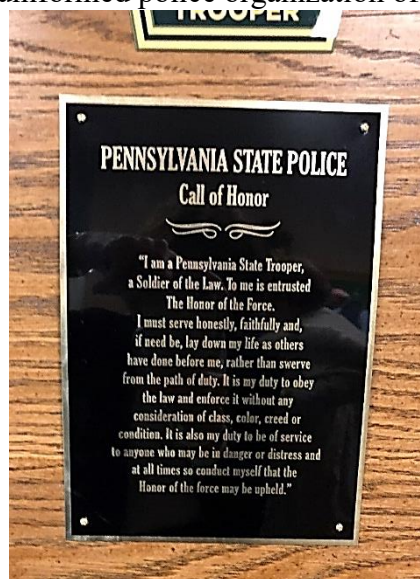
enforcement officers were employed. This led to the signing, by Pennsylvania Governor Samuel Pennypacker, of Senate Bill 278, creating the Pennsylvania State Police in 1905. According to the PSP HEMC Historical Educational and Memorial Center. “It created the first uniformed police organization of its kind in the United States and a model for other state police agencies throughout the nation.”

The first four Troops of the Pa State Police:

- Troop A, Greensburg
- Troop B, Wilkes-Barre (later moved to Wyoming)
- Troop C, Reading
- Troop D, Punxsutawney

By 1919, there was a demand for more police units. Each year thereafter more services, units and personnel were added to serve and protect Pennsylvania residents.

According to the website, psp.pa.gov, “Today, the authorized complement of the Pennsylvania State Police is 4,740 sworn members. More than 1,850 civilians serve in a variety of roles throughout the department.”



PA State Police Mission Statement

“The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) is dedicated to keeping our communities safe, inspiring public trust and confidence through effective 21st century policing strategies, which include recruiting, developing, training, and retaining a skilled workforce, relative to the Commonwealth’s rich diversity, that leverages technological innovation and effective community partnerships.

The core purpose of the PSP is to seek justice, preserve peace, and improve the quality of life for all. As such, the Department has established the core values of Honor, Service, Integrity, Respect, Trust, Courage and Duty, and is seeking applicants who possess these traits and conduct themselves accordingly.”

The Nanticoke Historical Society thanks everyone associated with this project and is honored to have funded this tribute to our graduates and the Pennsylvania State Police.


More Names to be added

In his address, Zaremba went on to say that he has since learned of at least 10 more names to be added some of which are listed below.

ALUMNI	CLASS OF
Richard Balderama	2015
Clem Sachney	1941
Roanld Domzalski	1966
Ray Mitarnowski	1952
Mike Figmik	1959
Ray Pawlowski	1948
William Dawson	1965
Edward Kroll	1960



The Search isn't Over

Zaremba urges anyone who has information about any individual who may have been missed to kindly reach out to the Nanticoke Historical Society at 570-258-1367. 

A LARGE CROWD AWAITS THE UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE



THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WAIT THEIR TURN TO SEE THE NAMES INSCRIBED ON THE PLAQUE AND TAKE PHOTOS



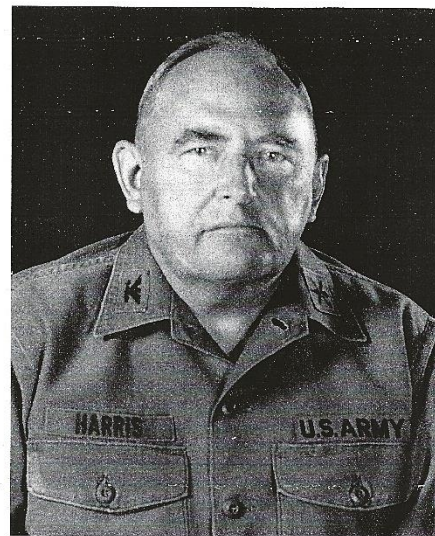
TO SEE THE ENTIRE DEDICATION PROGRAM

log on to our website www.nanticokehistoryonline.org and click on our PHOTOS/ VIDEO page.

WILLIAM T. HARRIS

BURIED WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Nanticoke Historical Society hosted a lecture on October 26, 2023, featuring Vice President Chet Zaremba speaking on the life and times of William T. Harris, a Nanticoke native who served in the U.S. Army and was buried with Full Military Honors at Arlington National Cemetery. A video of the military funeral was shown as Zaremba described the service, procession and graveside honors.



WILLIAM T. HARRIS



THE HARRIS HOME

William T. Harris was the son of William T. and Anna Turner

Harris, who were prominent members of the Nanticoke community and lived on State Street.

Harris had a distinguished career in the military and sports. He played for the Nanticoke High School Football team that won the championship in 1934. After graduation, he joined the army and fought in WWII under General Patton's command, and was involved in four major campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge. He also served in the Korean War. Harris continued his military service for over 30 years, holding various positions of leadership and responsibility

commanding the HAWK missile battalion in Germany, chief of staff, and later chief of the Army section of Military Assistance Advisory Group stationed in Brussels, Belgium. He also led the US Military Mission to the Congo from 1970 to 1973.

But in 1955 Harris took part in a history-making event that would advance the use of nuclear fission in weaponry. Harris witnessed the testing of nuclear weapons at the Nevada Test Site, as part of Operation Teapot. According to atomicarchive.com, during the operation "A series of fourteen low-to-moderate fission devices were assessed to create a new pattern of fission device that would dominate the design of all later weapons. The devices were evaluated for a variety of weapon applications for air defense, anti-submarine warfare and lighter compact thermonuclear weapons." According to radiochemistry.org some of these applications included, "New

Bill Harris
Nanticoke Rams Football
1934



compact, efficient, lightweight spherical implosion systems; beryllium tampers; hollow cores; deuterium-tritium boosting; and the use of neutron pulse tubes as initiators to create light, compact, efficient, and reliable fission explosive systems.” Approximately 8,000 Department of Defense personnel participated in the exercise.

Harris retired in 1974 and passed away on November 24, 2012. His beloved wife Jesse Cree Harris passed away on November 21, 2014. Both were then laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on September 18, 2015.

Harris and Zaremba had a bond of friendship that lasted until the end of Harris' life. They both grew up in Nanticoke and served in the military. Harris often told Zaremba stories about his high school football days from 1932 to 1934, when he played under coach Frank (Chickson) Chicknosky. He also reminisced about his old friends, their adventures, and places such as the Fairchild Pond, the State Theatre, Nanticoke High School and Lincoln Stadium, the latter a memory he truly treasured. He said that trading stories with Zaremba “helped him remember things he’d long forgotten.”

Zaremba was present at Harris' funeral at Arlington and received the video of the funeral from Harris' family as a token of gratitude.

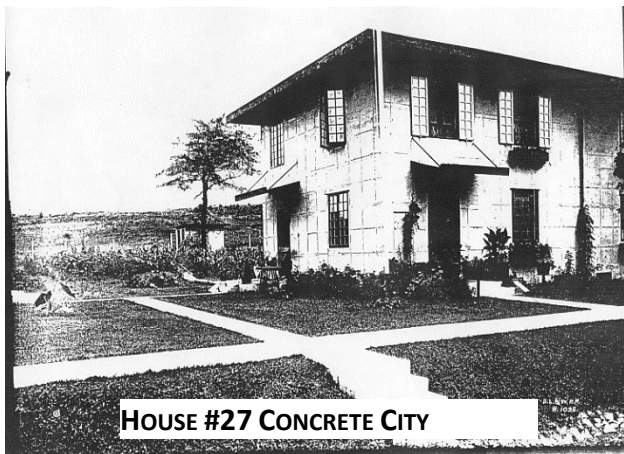
CONCRETE CITY

OBSERVING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING

This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the abandonment of Concrete City. The development, built by the Delaware Lackawanna and Western Railroad, and known as a model of industrial tract housing, opened in 1913 for mine supervisors and key employees at the Truesdale Colliery.



LADIES AT CONCRETE CITY 1918



HOUSE #27 CONCRETE CITY

As part of the Historical Society’s Lecture Series, Society Vice President Chet Zaremba presented details of the circumstances that led to the abandonment and attempted razing of the community that was once known as the Garden City of the Anthracite Region. Those attending shared stories and discussed the present condition of the location.

The deteriorated buildings are primarily in Hanover Township with 20% of the property in Nanticoke. “It’s a place that everybody wants, and nobody wants,” stated

Zaremba during the program, referring to the fascination of the once thriving village and the uncertainty of what to do with the site.

Each home had seven rooms and with amenities not seen in previous company housing. The units had a park, swimming pool, gardens, and tennis courts, were well maintained, and painted white with dark green trim. There were trees surrounding the area, and flower boxes beneath the front windows. Tenants competed for cash prizes for the best kept house, but there was one problem.

The summer would find the homes cool, but in the winter damp and cold. There was one odd feature to the home's second floor, a set of three steps that led nowhere. One former resident explained the area was used, "as an elevated closet, which helped to keep clothes from the dampness and freezing during the winter months"

CLEARING THE LAND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE CITY
By 1924, the development's owner, Glen Alden Coal Company, asked tenants to vacate stating it could not fulfill the demands of the State Health Department that sewers be installed at the cost of \$200,00.



Demolition began with removal of window frames, doors, bathtubs and accessories. The company used dynamite to raze the structures, but the large quantity required to destroy the buildings created a risk to the mines below.

In 2002, The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission declared Concrete City a historical site. It was agreed to leave the property a ruin because the cost to restore it was prohibitive.

In 1998, a historical marker was unveiled on Front Street, in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke designating Concrete City an Historical Site. Half the cost of the marker came from the state and the rest had been raised in a joint effort between the Wyoming Valley Geological Society and

the Nanticoke Historical Society.

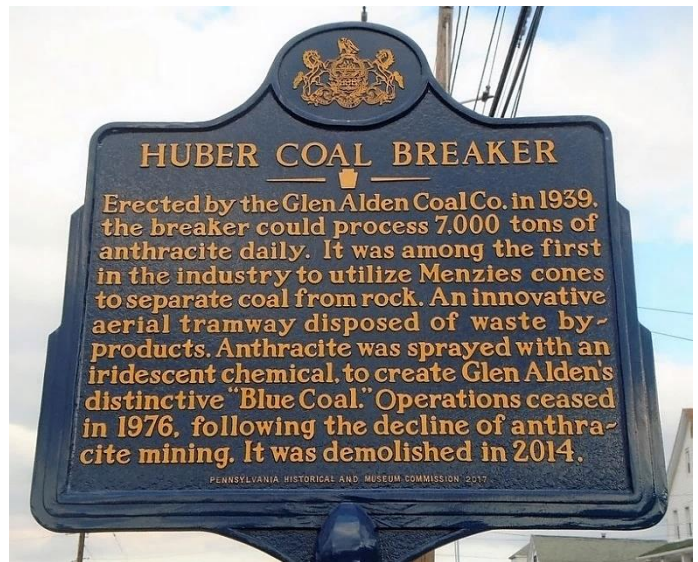
In 2007, it was announced that the Municipal Authority purchased Concrete City for \$10. Because the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission designated Concrete City a historic site, any developer using state or federal funding and state permits would come under the scrutiny of the Historical and Museum Commission.

Luzerne County Community College will host a community/student forum on Concrete City and Abandoned Pennsylvania on April 11, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the main campus's Educational Conference Center. The Nanticoke Historical Society will participate in an event introduced and moderated by students and will feature presentation and discussion with notable community members about the history, present, and future of Concrete City .

SOCIETY HOSTS ANTHRACITE EVENT

In observance of Anthracite Mining Heritage Month, the Nanticoke Historical Society hosted the showing of the documentary, “Beyond the Breaker,” at the Cultural Centre of St. Faustina on Friday, January 12 . The film tells the story of the Huber Breaker and the impact it had on the region and its people.

filmmakers John Welsh and Alana Mauger spoke of their commitment to telling the story of the breaker and its effect on the lives of those who worked there.



FILMMAKERS ALANA MAUGER AND JOHN WELSH

viewer a picture of what it was like to live, work and raise a family in the Anthracite coal region.

The Huber Breaker Preservation Society hoped to purchase the breaker to establish a historic site and museum, but they were outbid by a Philadelphia Salvage Company. The demolition of the site began on January 24, 2014. In 2016, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania awarded the Preservation Society a grant to establish a Miners’ Memorial Park. To read the complete history of the breaker, log on to the website huberbreaker.org.

The Huber Breaker in Ashley was built in 1939. At the time it was considered a state-of-the-art operation that implemented the use of Menzies cones to separate coal from waste.

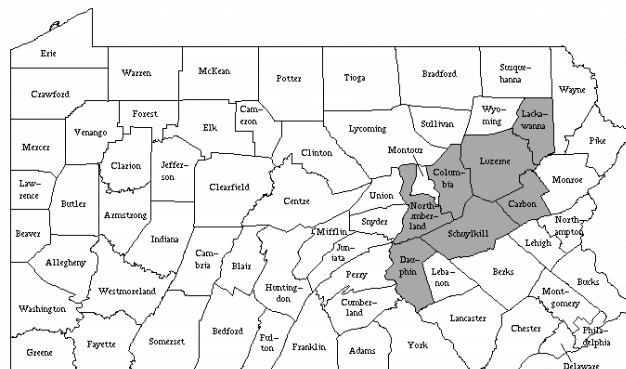
Welsh, a freelance photographer, became interested in the Huber while working on another project. Knowing very little about the region and the impact of the coal industry on its people, Welsh started his research and found Bill Best and Bob Wolensky of the Anthracite Heritage Foundation and numerous others who contributed. Mauger and Welsh, who are from the Philadelphia area, admitted the project was a long process that started in 2012, with various visits to Northeast PA. and beyond to find what part of the story they wanted to tell, With over 30 interview segments and plenty of emotion they give the



ANTHRACITE THE EARLY YEARS


by Judy Minsavage

It's difficult to separate the history of Northeast Pa. from the story of Anthracite. Of course, Nanticoke and the surrounding areas existed prior to the discovery and use of the natural mineral, but one cannot deny how its presence changed the lives of people not only in Nanticoke but across the globe. It brought young men and women from all parts of Eastern Europe to America hoping to find a better life. Many survived and struggled to build a future here, and some succeeded, but some did not.



Discovery of Anthracite occurred in 1762 but was first documented and mined in 1792 by the Lehigh Coal Company. The difficulty of igniting Anthracite gave the company a slow start. But in 1808 Judge Jesse Fell placed Anthracite atop his open grate invention in his Wilkes-Barre tavern, proving it could be used as a heat source. That led to great changes in the Wyoming Valley.

After that, Anthracite was commercially mined and shipped down the Susquehanna River. The carbon rich coal, lays in the vast area of Pennsylvania. At present, Northeast Pennsylvania is the only region of anthracite production in North America. Although Anthracite is found in Australia, Vietnam, North Korea, China, Ukraine and England, the highest quality is in North America. Today, Anthracite is not used for power generation or as a fuel source. According to the Atlantic Carbon Group, its more common uses are for iron and steel production, combined with met coke as an oxygen reducing agent in the steelmaking process, in electric arc furnaces as a reducing agent, large-scale water purification and in the manufacture of bricks, wire, silicon and glass.

Anthracite has been referred to as black coal, stone coal and black diamond, but Blue Coal is a more recognized name in the region. The name describes the blue tinted coal produced by Glen-Alden Coal Company establishing its trademarked brand. 



WALL OF FAME

FAME

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

A story published in the Nanticoke Historical Society newsletter in 2015 entitled “Worth More than its Weight in Gold” detailed how Roger Gilbert contacted the Nanticoke Historical Society through Facebook and said he was in possession of a gold medal once presented to David Price who, in 1926, was a member of the Nanticoke High School State Championship Basketball Team. Society Vice-President, Chet Zaremba was thrilled to receive the medal from Gilbert. Zaremba then in turn donated the medal to the GNA School Board Vice President Ken James on behalf of the Nanticoke Historical Society.

At that time Zaremba requested that the medal be matched up with the trophy the team received for the state championship. He found the trophy was not in any place of honor, but in a storage room covered in dust along with other school championship trophies and awards. Zaremba, and society members Mike Passetti and Gene Danowski, photographed the trophies for Society records. With urging from the men, the school officials agreed that trophies and memorabilia should be displayed in a prominent place in the high school for students and faculty to appreciate, thus the formation of the Greater Nanticoke Area Athletic Recognition Committee.



NEW PLAQUES UNVEILED ON GNA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS WALL OF FAME



Today, due to the efforts of the Greater Nanticoke Area Athletic Recognition Committee– the NHS 1960-61 Lynette Memorial Tournament trophy is housed in a beautiful case in the main hall of Greater Nanticoke Area High School.



From left, Martin Gronka, NHS Principal; Syl Bozinski, Coach; Ken Legins (left) and Bill James co-captains of the NHS basketball team and Joseph Siesko, NHS Superintendent. accepting the Lynett Memorial Tournament Trophy. The Lynett Tournament was held at the Scranton CYC each year and had the four best teams in Eastern PA invited to play. The Nans won the tournament in the 60-61 season. This was only a preview of what was to come with their win at the Pennsylvania State Championship in March of 1961.

The purpose of the group is to recognize past and present teams and athletes for their accomplishments. It's something that should invoke school spirit," Zaremba said recently. "These trophies and awards will focus on what can be accomplished and that these are a part of a valuable historical record."

In conjunction with the initiative, the group unveiled a wall of fame in the school's entrance hall on February 4, 2020. It features plaques from all the state basketball teams from 1923 to 1990 as well as plaques presented to athletes who achieved state recognition from 1857 to 1967.

Ken James, Chairman of the Greater Nanticoke Area Athletic Recognition Committee stated "There's 100 years' worth of history in the from more recent years will be added to our wall." Chet Zaremba, a member of the Committee and Nanticoke Historical Society VP added recently, "We have so much more to display. We owe it to our GNA students to show that the school has a rich history in athletics and that anything can be achieved and perhaps instill a sense of pride in their school and community."

The First Inductees - Wall of Fame 2020

- Michael Kwak
- Kenneth Legins
- William James
- Richard Kiewlak
- Joseph Shepela
- Robert Grabinski
- Joseph Grzyski

The Second Inductees - Wall of Fame 2021

- Steven Bilko Jr.
- Ally Byorick
- Ken Casey
- Gene Domzalski
- Frank Galicki
- Gregory Golanoski
- Harry Hamilton
- John Kashatus
- Jake Malishchak
- Carmine Paulino
- Gary Phillips
- Jim Rule
- Jerry Shekletski
- Dave Skopek



FIRST INDUCTEES 2020



SECOND INDUCTEES 2021

The Third Inductees –Wall of Fame January 20, 2024

1990 Girls' Basketball State Championship

Holly Kozlowski
Casey Comorowski
Ellen Bartuska
Holly Ryncavage
Lori Scally



Basketball

Gary Verazin
Paul Guffrovich
Ken Schinski

Basketball and Football

Jim McDermott
Mike Zubritski.

Coaches for girls' basketball and other sports Rose Volpicelli
Elaine DeLuca
Debra Krupinski

Syl "Stretch" Bozinski.....Legendary basketball Coach

Stanley "Bunny" Galazin.....Nanticoke Football Player, Teacher, and Coach

Jim Davis.....Basketball player, coach, and athletic director

Gary Williams.....Girl's softball coach, won TWO State Championship games.

Joseph Terashinski.....Newport Football

Frank "Chickson" Chicknosky.....Most successful Nanticoke Football Coach

Daniel Distasio..... Legendary Football Coach

The Nanticoke Historical Society is honored to participate in this project. We believe that the achievements of these outstanding individuals will motivate our young athletes and instill a sense of pride in their school as they walk through the corridors of the school for years to come. 📷

MORE ICE CREAM MEMORIES

Gayson's Restaurant

In our last issue of Legacy, we listed the many ice cream parlors and stores that sold the delicious creamy treat on hot summer days. It seems we missed Gayson's Restaurant on Main Street, and we apologize.

Joyce Gayeski Dlugatch, daughter of owner Ed Gayson recently shared her memories of the Restaurant:

"There was a complete back bar with many syrup pumps, containers for wet walnuts, strawberries, etc. (I know walnut sauce was a favorite) and a traditional seltzer dispenser. There were deep freezers that contained huge round containers of ice cream. People would come in for hand packed ice cream and as a teenager, I would dig deep into those containers. Originally, he sold Sealtest, then it was Hershey's ice cream.

I know a lot of folks will remember CMP sundaes. I know I do. Thanks for the memories."

Joyce Gayeski Dlugatch, Ed Gayson's daughter



GAYSON'S RESTAURANT ON MAIN STREET

GAYSON'S RESTAURANT
10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIALS
For Friday, Saturday & Sunday
2 For 1 Super Special
Buy One Ice Cream Soda And Get One FREE
Made From Delicious Sealtest Ice Cream
Extra Special Anniversary Prices On
DINNERS - PLATTERS & BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEES
GAYSON'S RESTAURANT
137 East Main Street
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gayeski, Proprietors invite you to
enjoy these specials on their ANNIVERSARY.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1957

Grand Opening Sale
GAYSON'S RESTAURANT
124 East Main Street, Nanticoke
TODAY—SATURDAY—SUNDAY
JUNE 22-23-24
2 for 1
BUY ONE ICE CREAM SODA
AND GET ONE FREE!!!
Also—Every 25th patron on Saturday and Sunday at the State Theatre receives free
ONE SEALTEST ICE CREAM BANANA BOAT SUNDAE!!!

Thank you Joyce, we really appreciate your sharing this with us.



In Honor of Our Military

The Nanticoke Historical Society is honored to hold a vast amount of military information in its archives. It is our pledge to focus on those hometown heroes who sacrificed so much for our country's freedom. A new partial list of the names of local veterans of all wars will be listed in our "In Honor of Our Military" Section of each Newsletter. The lists are long, so if a loved one's name has not appeared, please follow upcoming issues. Information obtained from the Nanticoke Historical Society archives.

WORLD WAR I

Joseph Packofski

Guisepe Palombo – U.S. Army

Michael Parilla – PVT - MIA

Herbert Parsons

Eugene Payne - PVT

Stephen Peckroski – U.S. Army

John Pelehach

James Perkins

Anthony Petcavage – Co. G. Local Infantry

Stanley Peters – Sgt. HQ Co. 71st Infantry.

Stanley Petro

David Phillips

Fred Piatt – U.S. Army Aviation Corps

George Pientka – U.S. Army

Boleslaw Pillecki –

Konstanty Pinarowicz – Wounded in Action

Stanley Pincowski – Battery C, 3 Field Artillery

Gwellym Powell – U.S. Army

Anthony Pretnicki – U.S. Field Artillery Battery 311 Argonne-Meuse

George Poltrock – U.S. Navy

Fred Potter – Battery A 3rd Field Artillery

Edith Prosser – U.S. Army Nurse Corps

Anthony Prushinski.

Leo Prushinski – Co.D 8th Machine gun Battalion KIA France

Michael Prushinski – Wounded in Action

Peter Przeworski – U.S. Army - France

Sommors Puckey – Battery C 3rd Field Artillery

Stanislaus Puzunka

Stanley Racis

Andrew Rakofski

Joseph Rakofski

Andrew Rakowski - 21st Division Infantry

Joseph Ramaika – U.S. Army - France

Williwam Rapotski – Battery C 109th Field Artillery

George Rasmus

John Rasmuc – Wounded in Action

Stanislaw Olshefski

Stanley Olshefski – US Army

Frank Olzewski

John Raspen

George Razmus

Sylvester Reams – 91st Medical Corps

Sidney Rhodda

Fred Rhode – U.S. Naval Reserves

Ernest Richards – Co. G Local Infantry

NOTE: The names are as listed in our Historical Society Records. If there are misspellings, we apologize. Please contact our office to correct any discrepancy. Thank you....



In Honor of Our Military



WORLD WAR I Con't

Jennie Richards – Nurse
Frank RIdizinski
Joseph Riefski or Riofski - – MIA
Stanley iIgwolski
Ignatz Robaczewski –U.S. Army
John Roberts – Signal Corps
Charles Robwicz
William Rogokinkas
Frank Rokosz – American contingent of the Polish Army
John Romanowski
Joseph Ropierski –
Leon Ropierski
Keith Rosser – U.S. Navy
Joseph Roslowski
Taliesin Rowe
Talmadge Rowe – U.S. Army Signal Corps
John Ruck
Charles Rudaitis
Myron Rushkowski
Franciszek Sacharewicz
Anthony Sadowski – American contingent of the Polish Army
Herbert Sadowski – Medical Corps
Joseph Sadowski
Michael Sadowski
Robert Sager – KIA France
Charles Sallagga
Adam Sarafinski
Anthony Sargle
Joseph Scasak – Wounded in Action
John Scheda – Battery C 3rd Field Artillery
George Schmidt
John Scholl
Michael Schappert – PVT
Joseph Schrama
Guy Schultz
Joseph Schwartz – POW
Leon B. Schwartz
Arthur Scureman – U.S. Army
Richard Scureman – U.S. Army
Stephen Seletski – Co G Local Infantry
Raymond Selner
George Semmers = Battery C 3rd Field Artillery
Stephen Sendwick – Hospital Corps
Stanley Sewiec – U.S. Army
Peter Sharkshinas
Thomas Shedlovsky – 27 Infantry Division France
John Shekut
Paul Shepanski – U.S. Army.

NOTE

In the August 2018 issue of Nanticoke Legacy, we started publishing the names of all of the Nanticoke veterans who served in various battles and wars. The first publication began with The Battle of Wyoming, Spanish American War, Vietnam War, World War I, Korean War and Iraq War. The listing of names of those who fought in World War II started in the November 2018 issue. The longest of all the lists are World War I and II. Now in 2023 we are publishing the last of the names under World War II. We salute all the brave men who served this country during the various conflicts and in peace time as well. We will continue to preserve their legacy by maintaining for future generations their names and any and all information collected regarding these brave men. Please continue to follow our listing of World War I veterans in upcoming issues.

FOCUS ON:

JOHN D. WISINSKI –

A Man and His Art

By Judy Minsavage


Most often, the subject of our focus story was born or at some time lived in the city of Nanticoke. But in this publication we set our sights on a man who was born in Glen Lyon, and at least as of a few years ago had family living in the area. John D. Wisinski was born in 1902 to Polish immigrants. Art was his passion in his early years, but at 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served on battleships and destroyers. In 1923, he left the Navy and joined the Coast Guard. It was at this point Wisinski incorporated his love of painting and created Naval recruitment posters and publicity material.



After being transferred to the Brooklyn Navy Yard during WWII, he was promoted to lieutenant (junior grade). He became the commanding officer of the Coast Guard Graphic Art Unit and oversaw the design and creation of posters and graphics. During the end of WWII, Wisinski requested active duty and served in the Pacific. In 1946, Wisinski retired and settled in New York City. He was employed as an instructor of occupational therapy at New York Hospital and as an art teacher. He studied at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Art Students League of New York, as well as in Madrid and Paris.



In 1973, Wisinski accepted the Meritorious Public Service Award from the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Chester R. Bender at Governor's Island, NY. His sisters Mrs. Frances Kobelski and Mrs. Alice Zawacki attended.

Wisinski passed away in 1986. He was buried with full military honors at Long Island National Cemetery, East Farmingdale, New York. 



WISINSKI ACCEPTING THE MERITORIOUS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD IN 1973

From the Editor:

Nanticoke Historical Society member and life-long resident, Sally Gorgas, will from time to time be sharing her memories of people, places and things that are unique to the city.

ON SALLY'S CORNER

by Sally Gorgas

Every neighborhood has groups of children. Nowadays, you don't see them because they rarely play outside. Video games and TV keep them inside.

Back in the 1950s and 1960s, playing outside was the highlight of our days. We'd come home from school, change our clothes and run outside to play tag, hide and go seek and many other games. The heck with homework. We can do that later!

During the summer, the days were longer thus more time playing outside. We'd go to a friend's house and yell "yoo hoo" and we'd all get together. Every day was a mystery. We would go home when the streetlight came on.

St. Mary's Church had a playground. It had a sliding board which we made more slippery by rubbing it with waxed paper. On the swings, we'd pump our legs to get higher. Sometimes, we'd go so high on the swings that we'd have "jounces" when the chains would bend and loop. That was a great feeling to go so high!

Teeter totters and monkey bars were also on the playground. The playground instructors, Jerry, Jane and others watched us play games and do crafts. Once I won the smallest stuffed animal and most unusual doll contest. What a neat feeling to win!

On rainy days, we'd play in our basement at R. 932 S. Hanover Street. It used to be a kitchen, so it was in pretty good shape. Poor Mom!! Listening to the chaos in the basement. It seems that our house was the best place to meet.



SALLY GORGAS



Two of my friends, Mary Ann and Lorraine lived next door to each other. I was jealous because I wasn't always included in playtime. Mary Ann and I recently reconnected and often talk on the phone.

When we moved to 926 S. Hanover Street, the yard had more room for a swimming pool. We all fit in this small one. My sisters Bonnie and Pattie, cousins Jan and Stevo, and neighbor Debbie, who later became a doctor. Not much swimming is going on!

Many of the best summers were when Panie Mech's relatives came for a few weeks. Theodore, Marsha and Rita came from Baltimore. We'd cry when it was time for them to go home. I later found out they cried on the way home.

As we got older, our interests changed. High school activities took up our time. Theodore, Marsha and Rita stopped coming to visit. Jan and Stevo moved to New Jersey and Debbie moved across town. The playground closed. Paradise was paved and a parking lot was put up.

At the time, the kids on the block didn't realize that as we grew older, our carefree days would end. But the memories will live on.



LOOKING FOR A YEARBOOK?

THE FOLLOWING YEARBOOKS ARE LOCATED AT OUR OFFICES:

Nanticoke High School

(John S. Fine or GNA (Greater Nanticoke Area High School), years 1942 to 2004.

Newport High School, Wanamie,
Newport Twp. years 1942 to 1970

GAR High School

Bloomsburg University

Wilkes University

Kings College

Duplicates from each high school are available for purchase.

For more information call our office at 570-258-1367.

COLONEL WASHINGTON LEE

A Man, A Home and History

By Judy Minsavage

One can only imagine the stories a young Washington Lee heard of the exploits of his father, Captain Andrew Lee. Captain Lee was a member of the infamous Paxtang Boys, a group of frontier settlers who fought against the Native Americans and the British. He planned a daring escape from an English prison ship in New York Harbor during the Revolutionary War, served as a spy for General George Washington, providing valuable information about the British movements and plans. If that wasn't enough adventure for one lifetime, he traveled into dangerous country and rescued relatives who had been taken by the Indians.

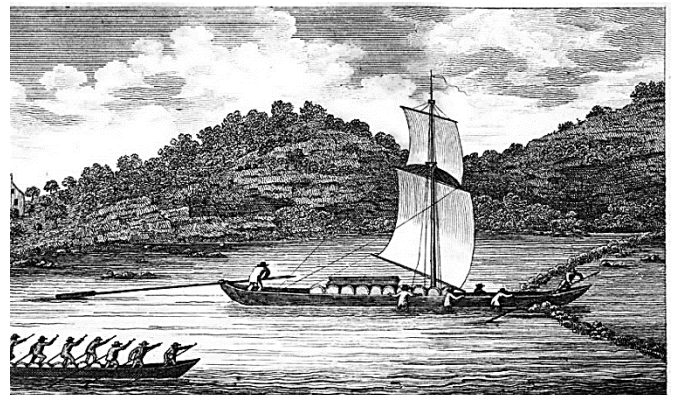


Born in Harrisburg in 1786, Washington (so named in honor of the first president) was an officer in the US Army serving in the War of 1812, after which he was promoted to captain in the 16th Regiment of infantry. In 1813, he was promoted to rank of Major and later appointed to Deputy Postmaster General of the US Forces. Although trained in the law, Washington Lee sought a military career and served with success and distinction. He married Elizabeth Campbell, the daughter of an Episcopal Minister in 1817 moved to Nanticoke and the home his father built in Honey Pot.

First Coal Mine in Nanticoke

In 1820, Washington Lee discovered coal on the Hanover Township property he had purchased and in 1825 established the Lee Mining Company, the first coal mine in Nanticoke. At that time, Hanover Township and Nanticoke were part of the same area. In the 19th Century, Nanticoke was carved out of Hanover and Newport Townships. The village was incorporated in 1830 and Nanticoke was chartered by the Pennsylvania Legislature as a borough on January 31, 1874.

Colonel Lee and George Cahoon leased the Stivers mine in Newport Township in 1823 and employed the ferry system of Durham Boats to transport coal down the Susquehanna River. In the next several years, Lee added to his holdings by operating a grist mill, sawmill, a forge shop, a store and distillery. Lee Purchased 1,000 acres of land and was a large-



DURHAM BOATS

scale farmer. By 1840, he was shipping 20,000 tons of coal a year, approximately 2% of all the Anthracite mined in Pennsylvania.

In 1852, he constructed the first coal breaker near his home. Within the next decade, three slopes, two tunnels and two shafts with numerous breakers were operating in the area. In 1864, Lee along with John Phelps, Elisha Phinney, Ziba Bennett and Andrew McClintock signed documents to incorporate the Nanticoke Coal and Iron Company.

The operation was eventually purchased by the Susquehanna Coal Company marking the beginning of the powerful enterprises that were to rule this area for the next century. The independent coal operators were soon forced out of business and the small farms that dotted the landscape began to disappear as the coal industry became the dominant business in the valley.

Elizabeth (Campbell) Lee died in 1867. Washington Lee died in 1871. They are buried in the Hanover Green Cemetery. 🇺🇸

HIDDEN HISTORY

The Lee Mansion - Celebrating 228 Years

The Lee Mansion built in 1796 is a hidden historical gem located in Honey Pot at the bottom of a narrow road that slopes toward the banks of the Susquehanna River. In its heyday it had 30 rooms, complete with a ballroom, library and open fireplaces. A pillared porch surrounded the home with a balcony jutting out above the front entrance. A spring house on the property kept butter, cheese and milk fresh. There were



THE LEE MANSION IN HONEY POT



The Pennsylvania Railroad razed 14 of the original 30 rooms of the Lee Mansion to establish a right of way for its trains.

parties with visitors from Philadelphia and New York and boats docked at a landing just steps from the foundation of the house. It must have been a grand site in its time.

In 1869 Colonel Lee sold his 1,000-acre holding to the Susquehanna Coal Company and moved from Nanticoke to Wilkes-Barre. The Lee House was converted to a company tenant house. James Reilly, a foreman with the Susquehanna Coal Company, occupied the place until his death in 1924. His wife continued to live in the house until her death in 1940. The home in various states of repair has been bought and sold many times over its 228 years. It's just one of the many locations in the city of Nanticoke that holds a hidden history. 🇺🇸

LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

In 1958, for what Nanticoke organization were these young ladies competing for the title of queen?

In 1958 the Athletic Club of Nanticoke (ACON) chose Antoinette Bushko, (seated) daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bushko, as ACON queen. The Four runners up left to right Mary Ellen Buczkowski, Rose Marie Leuter and Patricia Babetski. Six high school faculty members chose from a list of 25 girls from the Senior Class. They were rated on scholarship, maturity, poise, personality, courtesy, conduct, cooperative attitudes, neatness and sincerity.



Follow the Nanticoke Historical Society on Facebook and our website nanticokehistoryonline.org for coming events.

THIS ISSUE'S MYSTERY QUESTION

What Nanticoke Civic Club received the Fred Andrews Memorial Trophy for bringing cheer to Nanticoke residents in 1955, 1957, 1958 and 1959?



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