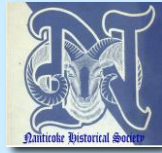


NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Samantha Mill House, 495 E. Main Street, Nanticoke, PA – 570-258-1367



SOCIETY NEWS:

- New Office Equipment
- High School Display Planned
- Nebo Baptist Church Items Donated
- Welcome New Membership Coordinator
- Congratulations
- Hospital Auxiliary Makes Generous Donation
- Spring Raffle Winners

Features:

- WOMEN'S OUTREACH IN NANTICOKE
- HOMETOWN HERO – Laurence Stadulis
- A NANTICOKE MUSIC MAN – Phil Cusick
- IN HONOR OF OUR MILITARY
- BEER HISTORY MADE IN NANTICOKE
- PHOTOS - FIFTY YEARS AGO
- MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPHS

NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 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 To collect artifacts, memorabilia and historical documents and facts of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania and to store such items in a central location or specific area where these articles may be preserved, appreciated and used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.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings take place at 7 p.m. the last Thursday of the month at the Samantha Mill House located next to the Mill Memorial Library.

Enter the parking lot off Kosciuszko Street.

To get directions call the society office at 570-258-1367.

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

Our Web Site

www.nanticokehistoryonline.org

Email

[Office email - history@nanticokehistoryonline.org](mailto:history@nanticokehistoryonline.org)

[Newsletter email - nanticokehistory@aol.com](mailto:nanticokehistory@aol.com)

OFFICERS

President: Julianna Zarzycki

Vice-President/Treasurer: Chester Zaremba

NEWSLETTER EDITOR, NEWS AND STORIES

Judith L. Minsavage

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual \$20

Family \$30

Lifetime \$100.00 Individual

Please inform us of any changes in email or home mailing address

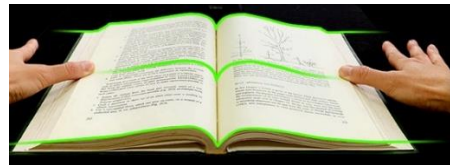
RESEARCH

**Non-member – research fee \$25 for the first hour – By Appointment.
See our website for more information**

Society News

New Office Equipment

With the number of oversized documents, drawings, maps, photographs and booklets, and more in our files, the Nanticoke Historical Society recently purchased a Viisan S21 Intelligent Scanner. This scanner is state of the art and known for its quickness, clarity and ability to scan large documents. It will even scan objects. The scanner will help to preserve items, that even though carefully stored by the Society, will be able to be digitally saved. This process will help in the quick search for those items.



This is just one way membership and donations help to increase the efficiency of our research service to our community.



High School Display Planned

The Nanticoke Historical Society continues to work with the Greater Nanticoke Area School District to keep our community engaged in learning local history. At present, a new display of Nanticoke City's historical memorabilia and documents is being planned for the 2022-23 school year. The items will be placed in the display cases in the main hallway for the enjoyment of the faculty and students.



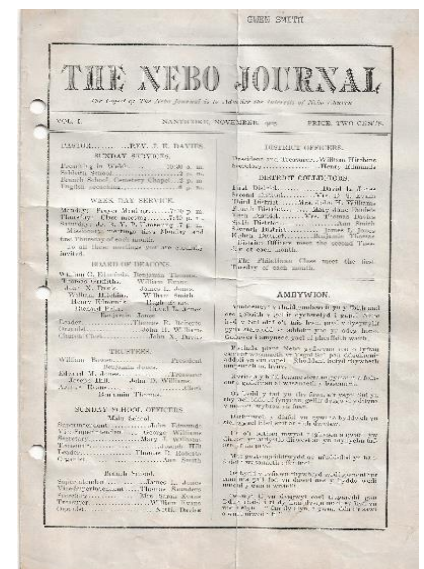
New Bookcases

Five new bookcases have been ordered to accommodate the many books, binders and manuals in the extensive society library. Delivery is expected in a few weeks.

Church Memorabilia Donated

The Nanticoke Historical Society recently received a donation of memorabilia from the Nebo Baptist Church including a notebook containing issues of "The Nebo Journal" published from 1905 to 1909. At the time the issues were sold for 3 cents a copy. The Journal listed service times, Deacons, officers and trustees and contained detailed obituaries. In later issues, local businesses advertised their wares and services.

According to early church history compiled in 1907, organization of the Welsh Baptist Church in Nanticoke began in 1870. On May 4, 1906, a \$500 Estey Pump Organ was installed, "half of which was paid for by Andrew Carnegie." NOTE: It is well-documented that Carnegie, was passionate about music in churches and donated thousands of new organs to community churches between 1901 and 1920.



Nov. 1935 THE NEBO JOURNAL 3



at the funeral... Mr. Todd's quiet and dignified... in a well-attended congregation...
 THOMAS, GEORGE REGAN, son of Thomas and Ann Regan, died at the home of his parents, Mrs. George Regan, 100 North Main St., Nanticoke, Pa., on Monday, Nov. 11, 1935, at the age of 25 years. He was a member of the Nanticoke Baptist Church. He was a very kind and generous person. He was a member of the Nanticoke Baptist Church. He was a very kind and generous person. He was a member of the Nanticoke Baptist Church. He was a very kind and generous person.

DEATHS.
 BROWN. We regret to announce the death of Miss Thelma Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Brown, who died at her home, 100 North Main St., Nanticoke, Pa., on Monday, Nov. 11, 1935, at the age of 25 years. She was a member of the Nanticoke Baptist Church. She was a very kind and generous person. She was a member of the Nanticoke Baptist Church. She was a very kind and generous person.

Obituaries published in the Nebo Journal were often very detailed.

Dr. W. J. Garrison's Dental Parlors
 NO. 15 E. BROAD ST.
 GOOD SET OF TEETH FROM \$5.00 TO \$10.00.
 FILING, of Silver or Enamel, 50 cents. ADG., 75 cents. White Alloy in Gold, \$1.00 and up. Advice free.

The Ideal Cleaning and Pressing Co.
 Ladies' and Gents' Clothing
 DRY CLEANING, PRESSING AND REFINISHING
 As a gentleman's Tailor, I can give you a wardrobe that will give you a new look. Give me a trial and you will be convinced. My prices are low and my service is prompt.
 100 E. BROAD ST., NANTICOKE, PA.

Nanticoke Seed and Flower House
 FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS.
 210 E. MAIN ST.

Richard Samuels
 O. P. O. STORE
 Dry Goods, Millinery, Furniture and Carpets.
 No. 5 East Main St., Nanticoke, Pa.

JONES' BOSTON STORE,
 Dry Goods, Notions, Etc.
 No. 11 East Main Street, Nanticoke, Pa.

Globe Store.
 William Challenger
 Will have at your home
 Royal or Queen's WASHING MACHINES
 FOR—
 30 DAYS' TRIAL
 STANDARD ROYAL SEWING MACHINES
 Try the same approved. Your Credit is Good at this Store.

Go To JOHN KARBONSKI For Shoes and Gent's Clothing, Etc., Etc.

In 1928 the organ was sold to Moriah Congregational Church on State Street. It is also stated in the history that "It is unknown when the First Welsh Baptist Church of Nanticoke shifted its name to Nebo Baptist Church."

Items including the journals will be catalogued and made available for research.

In later issues Nanticoke businesses advertised in the Nebo Journal

Membership Coordinator Named

We are pleased to announce Charlotte Dudkowski has been named Nanticoke Historical Society Membership Coordinator. Charlotte will be handling all new and renewed memberships and sending out Welcome Packages to all new members. She has also been busy revamping our membership form which can be found on our website nanticokehistorical.org. The new form can also be acquired by calling our office 570-258-1367. Membership has its benefits. Join today!

Congratulations to Matt Stegura

We would like to take this time to congratulate society intern, Matt Stegura on his recent graduation from King's College. We wish him the best of luck in his future plans.

Hospital Auxiliary Makes Generous Donation

In its many years of existence, the bylaws of the Nanticoke State General Hospital Women's Auxiliary stated their goal was to "Bring together women who are interested in promoting the ability of the hospital to administer to the general welfare of the patient."

The women met this initiative by participating in a variety of efforts to purchase equipment for the hospital and help with remodeling projects through various activities such as the operation of the hospitality shop, luncheonette and parking lot. They also sponsored card parties and charity balls.

The Auxiliary, which recently dissolved, was a presence in Nanticoke assisting in those projects since 1940. The women representing the Mercy Special Care Hospital Auxiliary, a/k/a/ the Nanticoke Hospital Auxiliary recently made a generous donation to the Nanticoke Historical Society. Historical Society Vice-President, Chet Zaremba, sent a letter thanking the representatives of the Auxiliary.



Undated Photo: Officers of Nanticoke State General Hospital Women's Auxiliary
 Seated from left, Florence Sowa, treasurer, Wanda Croop, president. Standing: Lea Fink, corresponding secretary; Frances Micocci, first vice-president; Gloria Latzee, recording secretary; Gloria Suda, president elect and Elsie Duncan, installing officer.

In 1983, A report submitted by Wanda Croop, president of the Auxiliary, stated the following, *“During National Hospital Week, our members served cookies and punch to patients and visitors, as well as assisting with free blood pressure clinic. On Halloween night members assisted the Radiology Department x-raying children’s candy.”* She went on to state, *“Our membership is not large, but it is certainly evident that each and every member generously contributes her abilities and skills to benefit the hospital.”*

Also in that year, the Auxiliary aided in the purchase of a vertical flow hood for preparing medications used in Chemotherapy. They were applying their efforts to purchase two T.E.N.S. units for the Physical Therapy Department and an electronic patient bed scale. They were also involved in funding the remodeling of the main lobby, reception area, two solariums and patient rooms.

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary listed in the Mercy Special Care Hospital “Celebrating 100 Years of Service Centennial Anniversary Commemorative Program”

- President – Dorothy Hudak
- President Elect – Dorothy Ashford
- Vice-President – Sylvia Mizdail
- Secretary – Claire Cohen
- Treasurer – Dolores Floryshak
- Corresponding Secretary – Bernadine Aciukewicz
- Margaret Aciukewicz
- Anna Armstrong
- Margaret Armstrong
- Irene Augustine
- Kay Babski
- Carol Baran
- Mary Alice Brokenshire
- Geri Check
- Joann Dekutoski
- Terry DeLuca
- Josephine DeGuiseppe
- Mabel T. James
- Regina Kush
- Stanley Olszewski Jr.
- Mary Padden
- Nancy Restaino
- Dorothy Skalla
- Mary Ann Smith
- Alexandra Soletski
- Florence Sowa
- Heidimarie Verazin
- Irene Warkomski

Welcome new members

As always, the Nanticoke Historical Society is pleased to welcome new members. The following are those who have joined our existing membership in the new year. Thank you for becoming a part of our efforts to maintain Nanticoke's history and enable us to continue to offer our genealogical research services.

Jeff Pack – Individual
Monica Heppel - Individual
Chris Thomas - Lifetime

Thank you for your donations

The following members have recently made a generous donation to the Nanticoke Historical Society. Thank you for your support of the society's efforts in gathering and maintaining the history of Nanticoke through research, cataloging and maintenance of treasured memorabilia.

Norma Ushinski
Susan Rydzewski
Barbara Von Dran

Amazon Smile Donations

We would like to thank Amazon shoppers who have designated the Nanticoke Historical Society as the organization to receive a donation with their every purchase. These funds help the society in countless ways. Shoppers can keep track of the amounts that are contributed from Amazon by accessing their account. A record of the contributions is also kept at the society. This is not a charge to you, only a donation made by Amazon for your business.

Here is how to sign up..... Log on to **smile.amazon.com**, you will be prompted to list your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. List the Nanticoke Historical Society. Amazon will remember your choice. From then on, log on at **smile.amazon.com** to make future purchases from Amazon - Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the Nanticoke Historical Society. This is not a charge to you, only a donation made by Amazon for your business. Thank you again



Follow the Nanticoke Historical Society on Facebook

WINNERS OF OUR SPRING RAFFLE:

1st PLACE - NANTICOKE MAYOR, KEVIN COUGHLIN. WE'D LIKE TO THANK THE MAYOR FOR DONATING THE \$125 CASH PRIZE BACK TO THE SOCIETY.

2nd PLACE - DEVON BUCKLEY \$50.00

3rd PLACE JESS MCDERMOTT \$25.00

Editor's Note:

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Nanticoke Historical Society's newsletter, 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 you are happy with our efforts by becoming a member or retaining your membership this helps to defray the cost of printing and distribution of this newsletter as well as our day-to-day operations. We want you to hear the stories and we want to tell your stories. If you'd like to comment, or you have a Nanticoke story we can research for our feature and focus stories, please email us at our newsletter email.... nanticokehistory@aol.com. Or online at www.nanticokehistoryonline.org. We at the Nanticoke Historical Society thank you for your support.

Judy Minsavage

Legacy Editor/ Stories and News

**LOOKING FOR A YEARBOOK -
HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE YEARBOOKS ARE LOCATED AT OUR
OFFICES:**

**Check our website www.nanticokehistoryonline.org for availability
or call 570-258-1367**

Women's Outreach in Nanticoke

by Judy Minsavage

Making a Difference

The history of women's clubs in America is deeply rooted in the desire for women to develop their individual talents, shape communities and contribute to charitable organizations. Regular meetings provided a network for women to learn from one another, talk about social issues, identify civic problems and volunteer for the good of their communities. From 1920 to the 1970s Nanticoke women enjoyed the camaraderie of membership either in community-based clubs or church groups. In the earliest years, women found companionship, while contributing to various community initiatives outside of the home. As years passed, women lent their collective voice to business and community activism, education, environment, health and legal reform as well.



Women Leaders of Nanticoke

In January of 1922, the Women's Progressive Club met at the Pulaski School. The officers elected were Josephine Kutzki, president; Anna Burnett, vice president; Rachael Pratt, recording secretary; Mary Gething, treasurer; Edith Williams, auditor; Edith Goodman, Lillian Kivler and Mary Morgan, board members.

Formed at the same time, The Nanticoke Women's Club held card parties and social events, but in 1939, the club stood behind a community effort to join a state-wide job mobilization campaign petitioning the Nanticoke school board to instate kindergarten classes in the city.

In, 1950, interest in politics was evident as the ladies invited Douglas Falconer, former deputy director of the United Nations Relief Rehabilitation Administration to address the group on the topic of Communist China. Throughout the 1950s, topics consisted of legal matters, education, politics, charities and medical issues. Mrs. Peter Bartuska held the position as president for many years. Members were dedicating their time to Red Cross Blood Drives, community welfare projects and the Girl Scouts. By 1951 the National General Federation of Women's Clubs had over four million members.

In 1958, Members of the Nanticoke Women's Club elected Mrs. Peter Kanjorski, president; Mrs. Claude Butler, first vice president; Mrs. Walter Paull, second vice president; Mrs. William Christian, corresponding secretary; Mrs. John Gale, recording secretary; Mrs. Drew Draper, treasurer.

1958

The Nanticoke Business and Professional Women's Club organized. The group elected Helen Butchko president, Ann Bartuska, first vice president, Victoria Baker, second vice president; Stephanie Dudrick, recording secretary; Mildred Weiss, corresponding secretary; Laura Flowers, treasurer. The group held meetings every second Tuesday of the month.



Seated left to right are Anna Bartuska, first vice president; Helen Butchko, president; Stephanie Dudrick, recording secretary. Standing, Victoria Baker, second vice president, Mildred Weiss, corresponding secretary, Laura Flowers, treasurer

1960

Fine Arts was the topic of a Nanticoke Women's Club program held at the Mill Memorial Library. Mrs. Henry Busch and Carrie Vivian were co-chairwomen. Soloists, Clara Nadolney, Mrs. Frank Thimm and Etta Davis providing accompaniment for a presentation featuring the music of Stephen Foster. During the event Mrs. Busch wore a dress in fashion during Foster's time which was said to have belonged to Mrs. Andrew Carnegie.

The Nanticoke Business and Professional Women's Club elected Helen Butchko, president, Clair Nadolney, first vice president, Mary Kloss, second vice president; Victoria Baker, recording secretary; Nell Schreiner, treasurer, and Helen Sweitzer, corresponding secretary.

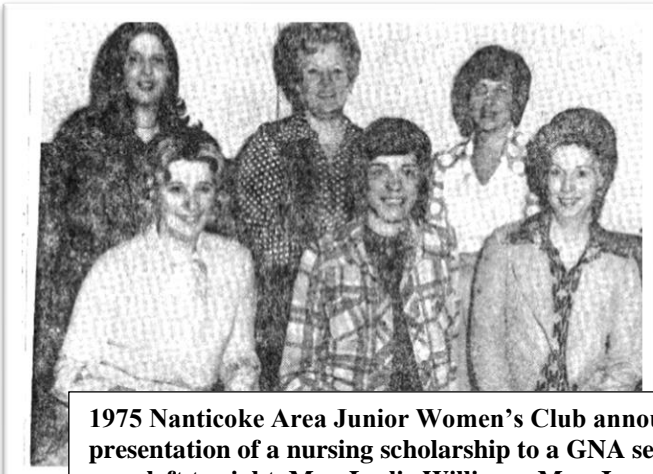
Woman's Club To Hear Mrs. R. Slaff

Nanticoke Woman's Club will meet Tuesday night at 7:30 at Mill Memorial Library. A program on "Legislation" will be presented. Mrs. Robert Slaff, Wilkes-Barre, a member of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters, will be the speaker. Mrs. Edward Nork is chairman. Edwin S. Iracki, an 8th grade student at Holy Trinity Parochial School, will entertain with trumpet selections. Mrs. Peter Kanjorski will preside. A social hour will follow.

News Release announcing Nanticoke Women's Club hosts program on "Legislation" presented by the League of Women Voters.

1975

Formed in 1975, the following members of The Nanticoke Area Junior Women's Club gave one hundred or more hours of service to the community, Mrs. Robert Golobek, Mrs. Albert Ottensmann, Mrs. Raymond Cursy, Mrs. Joseph Chepolis, Mrs. Leonard Butcynski, Mrs. William Ditzler, Mrs. Allan Pollock.



1975 Nanticoke Area Junior Women's Club announcing the future presentation of a nursing scholarship to a GNA senior. Pictured first row, left to right, Mrs. Leslie Williams, Mrs. Joseph Chepolis, chairperson; Mary Kuniega. Second row, Mrs. Paul Usinski, Mrs. Robert Golobek and Mrs. Cyril Bevan, president.

1976

The Nanticoke Area Junior Women's Club donated to the Volunteer Nanticoke Community Ambulance and Mill Memorial Library. Pictured left to right, kneeling, Mark Yeager, John Bohan. Standing, Arthur

Patterson, Nancy Ushinski, secretary; Theresa Sowa, treasurer; Colleen Bevan, president; Captain Frank Pohepic, Karen Chepolis, education department; Betty Swithers, art department; Carol Williams, membership; Michael Wisniewski, Leonard Golab.



Nancy Hall, received a nursing scholarship from the Nanticoke Area Junior Women's Club. Pictured from left seated, Coleen Bevan, president, Shirley Catnes, vice-president. Standing Mrs. Winston Hall, Nancy Hall, Karen Chepolis, education department chairman; Nancy Ushinski, recording secretary; Theresa Sowa, treasurer.



1977

The Nanticoke Women's Club donated a resusci-baby to the American Heart Association.

Pictured from left to right, Sue Nork, Karen Chepolis, Jean Ditzler, Nancy Ushinski, Mary

Kuniega, Ronald Leonard, CPR instructor; Pricilla Williams, chapter executive director American Heart Association; James Pfuntner, CPR instructor; Carol Dalmas, Judy Kamowski, Jean Kotsko,, Lucille Butczynski.



1978

The Nanticoke Junior Women's Club held a Mother's Day dinner and installation of new officers. Left to right, incoming officers, Monica Wanchisen, corresponding secretary; Theresa Hudak, treasurer; Lynn Newell, secretary; Carol Dalmas, vice-president; Ellen Waiter, president; Jackie Robbins, installing officer; outgoing officers were Jean Ditzler, Lucille Butczynski, Karen Chepolis, Nancy Ushinski, Susan Nork.

1979

Greater Nanticoke Area High School senior Linda Bolka received a scholarship from the Nanticoke Junior Women's Club. From left, Karen Chepolis, president-elect; Linda Czapl, Susan Nork, chairpersons of education department; Miss Bolka, Mrs. Eugene Bolka, Ellen Waiter, president. Hostesses for the event were Nancy Groblewski and Judy Kamowski.



1980

The Nanticoke Area Junior Women's Club launched an initiative to beautify the City of Nanticoke.

Members of the group instructed fifth grade pupils in the Kosciuszko School on various flowers students would later plant in Patriot Square. Left to right Nancy Ushinski, Karen Chepolis, Bernadette Jablonski, students Stephen Distasio, Ralph Ferraro, Brian Metric, John Kozloski, Mike Weiss, Scott Nowakowski, James Roman.



A Little History: Women's Clubs in America

In 1868, journalist Jane Cunningham Croly, outraged over men banning her from news events because she was a woman, formed Sorosis, derived from the Latin *et sorores* or sisterhood. The first women's club in the United States, the group soon gained notoriety and fellow writers and journalists joined in droves. The main rule, no man could participate in any of the club's events. Soon the club welcomed, homemakers, mothers, and women of various means. This emboldened women across the country to start clubs which became a significant boost to the women's suffrage movement. Women in large cities and small towns began meeting to discuss the problems of working women and addressing and creating solutions to

issues in their communities. Established In 1890, the National General Federation of Women’s Clubs had over four million members by 1951 and is currently based in Washington, DC.



Members of the National General Federation of Women’s Clubs circa 1920s

Members of National Federation of Businesswomen circa 1920s



Nanticoke Women’s Clubs - Over the Years

Over the years members of Nanticoke’s various Women’s clubs worked to establish charitable relief efforts and revitalize communities, but these clubs began to dwindle in membership during the 80s and many ceased operations. The listings above are only a sampling of the good work done by the many women who participated in the various Women’s organizations in Nanticoke. Certainly, all of their efforts to make the City of Nanticoke vibrant, welcoming and productive are appreciated by everyone who benefitted then and are still benefitting from the time invested and the mark each woman made on our community. 📷

You may have memorabilia or photos that could have some historical significance to the city of Nanticoke. You may not realize it, but an old family photo may contain some long-forgotten location in the city, or perhaps one of the many businesses that flourished here at one time. We’re adding to our archives daily. Before you throw away those long-forgotten items, let the Historical Society check them for any historical value. Thank you for your consideration.

Hometown Hero Laurence Stadulis



Laurence Stadulis, graduated from Nanticoke High School in 1954, entered the Army in 1960 then went on to Helicopter Flight Schools at Fort Walters, Texas, and Fort Rucker Alabama. After serving in Korea and Stadulis was discharged in 1966. But it was his various exploits from 1966 to 1975 that he found himself in some incredibly unique and dangerous situations while flying his Air America helicopter in and out of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

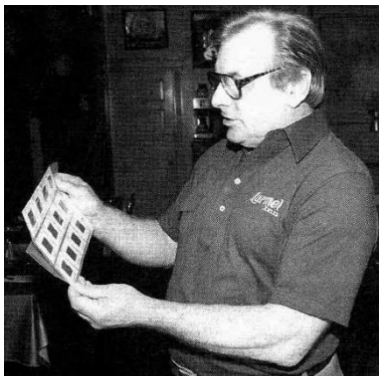
Piloting a helicopter for Air America, Laurence Stadulis was one of the many men that risked their lives to shuttle refugees out of Vietnam, the day the United States ended its involvement in Vietnam and with fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. On that fateful day, he, and fellow pilot Dave Kendall, flew several missions in and out of Vietnam. Kendall nearly lost his life earlier in the day when he had to down his copter in the ocean just off the bough of USS Blue Ridge.

Stadulis readied to make more flights, so he and Kendall partnered up. On their final flight out of Vietnam returning to the aircraft carrier, Blue Ridge, Stadulis and Kendall were dangerously close to not making it due to heavy rain and extremely low fuel. Offshore, the Navy ordered their ships to remain in a blackout. Stadulis and Kendall knew their only option was to ditch the helicopter and take their chances in the sea, but Stadulis kept searching the darkness for the ship, and with only minutes to spare asked that the ship's captain to turn on its lights for a few minutes so they could land. The captain responded and according to air-america.org/history, Stadulis landed his craft safely on board the Blue Ridge.



U.S. Senator and Mrs. Charles

Stadulis is also credited with flying U.S. Senator Charles Percy of Illinois and his wife to safety in the midst of an attack while they and a group of dignitaries toured Dak Son, Vietnam, a village previously burned out by the Viet Cong. Mortar rounds began to explode and Stadulis acted quickly lifting off first with Percy's wife, dropping her off at a nearby airstrip and returning under heavy fire to pick up the Senator and his party.



Laurence Stadulis

In 2000, Stadulis, owner of the Larmel Inn on Middle Road appeared in a documentary "Air America: The CIA's Secret Airline." The documentary produced and directed by Monte Markham. aired on the History Channel.

A Little History:

Air America

According to air-america.org, “Civil Air Patrol (CAT) renamed Air America in 1959, was owned by the United States Government, administered through its Central Intelligence Agency. It offered the US Government a means of conducting vital activities, “That due to political or other restraints, could not employ military forces in the usual manner.”



Air America Helicopter loading Vietnamese refugees from a rooftop on the final day of U.S. presence April 30, 1975.

Air America’s earliest history of covert missions date back to 1950. General Claire Chennault and Whiting Willauer used their company, Civil Air Patrol, to haul supplies into China. The documentary “Air America: The CIA’s Secret Airline.” highlights the company’s presence in Laos, and Vietnam. When civil war broke out between Chinese Nationalists and the Chinese Communist Party, the US Government became involved with the operations of the company. The company also performed operations during the Korean War and shortly thereafter with the conflict in Vietnam.

Missions continued during fighting in Laos in the early sixties and during the Vietnam War, Air America pilots participated in many search missions under fire in order to rescue pilots and crew of aircraft shot down over the war-torn regions. The war in Laos ended in 1974, By 1975, it was evident South Vietnam would fall and thus Air American pilots air lifted evacuees from Saigon.

In an article appearing in the April 16, 2000, issue of the Citizens’ Voice, Stadulis is quoted as saying, “The famous photo of a helicopter hovering over the US Embassy as throngs of evacuees try to board is not the embassy but was the Pittman Apartments. The helicopter did belong to Air America.”

The US Government dissolved Air America in 1976. 🇺🇸

According to Vietnam Veterans of America:

Approximately 2,594,000 US Servicemen served in country during the Vietnam War.

1,736,000 were US Army

391,000 were US Marines

293,000 were US Airmen

174,000 were US Sailors (this figure includes the US

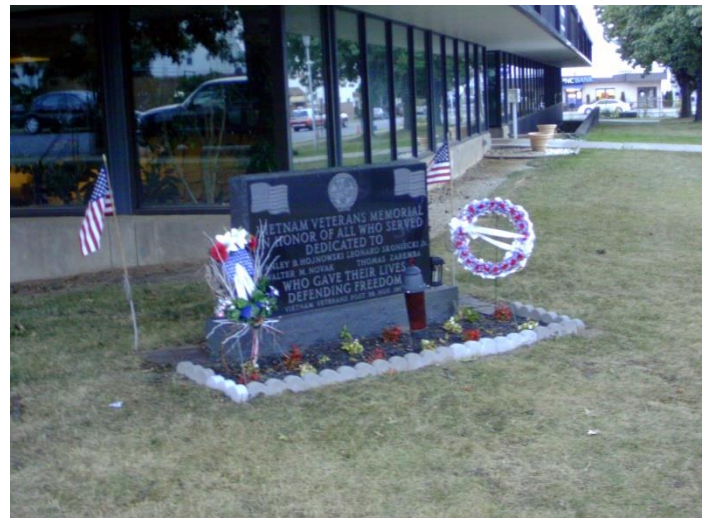
Coast Guard)

Casualties:

Hostile deaths: 47,359

Non-hostile deaths: 10,797

Total: 58,156 (including men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties).

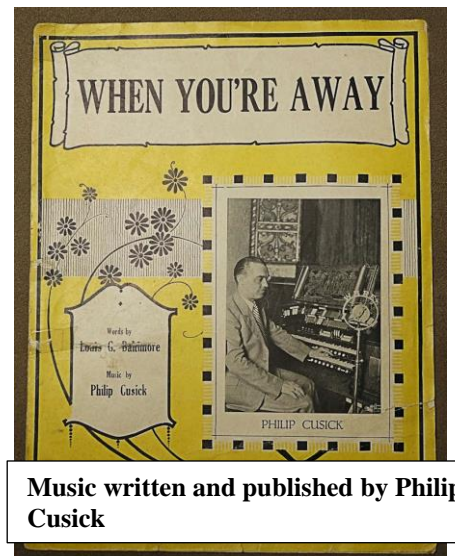


Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Nanticoke City Building

A Nanticoke Music Man

Phil Cusick, retired in 1974 as organist and musical director of St. Mary's Church in Nanticoke, leaving behind a legacy of music and inspiration. Starting at the age of eight, Cusick was one of the best-known musicians in the area and played for various churches and theatres in the Valley.

Born in 1895, Cusick started his musical education in Scranton at the Conservatory of Music, and then in New York with composer Emil Volazco whose musical scores appeared in movies of the late 40s early 50s. Still in his teens, Cusick started playing organ, and became music director for two Irish churches, six Polish churches and one German in the Wilkes-Barre area. His career started at the old Sun Theater on East Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, where he accompanied silent films.



Music written and published by Philip Cusick



Type of Kimball organ in Roxy Theater



The Roxy Theater in New York, circa 1940s

Cusick played organ at New York's Roxy Theater, a beautiful multitiered venue known as The Cathedral of the Motion Picture. The 6,124-seat theater had three Kimball organs and 110-piece Symphony Orchestra conducted by Erno Rapee. It was the home to many stage shows and movie premieres. Cusick returned to the Wyoming Valley and launched a career playing at various area churches, and theaters such as the Comerford, Strand, Orpheum, Savoy and Penn Theaters. He was the first organist in Pennsylvania featured on radio, debuting on WBAX in its early years of broadcast.

Artillery 79th Division in France in 1913. After resuming his career, Cusick played at the Gus Genetti Motel in Hazleton for ten years.



1035 Hanover Street, Today

Cusick's put his career on hold while he served with the 311th Field

Cusick married Theodora Kozik, in 1931. She performed as a vocalist for Cusick's band, Phil Cusick and his Dancing Music. They resided at 1035 Hanover Street from 1973 to 1982 Cusick passed away in 1988, Theodora passed away in 1982.



The Comerford Theater in Wilkes-Barre, now the Kirby Center. Alexander's Ragtime Band premiered in 1938.



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

Isaac Humphreys

James Hung – Served in France

Harold Hutchins – Army Ambulance Corps

Thomas Jacobs – 20th Engineering Corps

John James – 109th Field Artillery

Russell James – Co. G Local Infantry PA Reserve

William S. James – KIA - France

William H. James – Battery C 3rd Field Artillery – Wounded in France

Andrew Janoski – 20th Infantry

Stanley Janoski – Battery C 3rd Field Artillery

Bernard Janoski – Army Medical Corps

Paul Jarmolowicz

Charles Jarmushek

John Jenkins

James Job – Co. G Local Infantry

Gomer Jones – Co G. Local Infantry

John Jones

John F. Jones

Lawrence Jones – 57th Engineer Corps

Stanley Jones

Thomas Jones

Thomas M. Jones – US Navy

Stanislaus Juniak –served in France and Poland

John Jurkanis

Alex Kaczmarczyk

Andrew Kaminski

Stanley Kaminski

Stanley Kamowski – 109th Infantry

Thomas Kane – Wounded in action

Anthony Karczewski – US Army

Stanley Kasan

Clemens Karalus

Stephen Karboski

Joseph Krashinski

Bronislaw Kazlewski

Walter Kazmarek – Battery C 3rd Field Artillery

Ramey Kearns

Freas Keene - Served in France

Leonard Kellner

Ray Kemp – Army Signal Corps

Joseph Kempinski

John Kemrite – KIA in France

Arthur Kingsbury – Aviation Corps

NOTE: These 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....

CORRECTION:

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER "IN HONOR OF OUR MILITARY"- WW I

WAS LISTED AS:
JOSEPH GUZENSKI

CORRECT SPELLING:
JOSEPH GIZINSKI

Thank you



In Honor of Our Military



WORLD WAR II

—
Stanley Mieczkowski, - MIA
Theodore Mikolaicik
Joseph Minsavage. – US Navy, MIA- Indian Ocean
William Mont
Paul Moretti , US Navy
Jack Morgan – US Army
Robert Morgan – US Navy
Michael Morris – KIA Germany
Walter Moses – US Marine Corp
Francis Murtha – US Army
Edward Musial – KIA – Battle of the Bulge
Anthony Mutrynowski – US Navy
Edward Myers – POW
Frank Nagorski - KIA
Leo Neddoff – KIA – Belgium
Edward Nork – POW
Vincent Nork –US Navy
Edward Novak – Burma Campaign
John Novak – Killed in plane crash in Saipan
Leonard Novak – US Army
Henry Novakowski – US Army
Louis Novashinski – POW
James Obes
Ernest Ogin
Cyril Onderko - KIA France
Joseph Onderko – US Army
Henry Olinginski – Bronze Star – Battle of the Bulge
Joseph Orłowski – KIA South Pacific
Thomas Owazany – KIA - France
James Owens – KIA – Italy
Leonard Paczkowski – Sergeant US Marine Corps
Anthony Palombo – MIA Germany
George Paluch – KIA South Pacific
Hugh Patterson – Died of wounds - France
Irvin Patterson – US Army
Edmund Pawloski – POW
John Petro – KIA- Belgium
Leonard Pietruzkiwicz – KIA
Felix Polnasek – US Navy
George Poluch – KIA – Tarawa Atoll
Stanley Price Jr. – KIA- France
Samuel Pauletti –US Navy
Clement Piontkowski
Frank Pyskoty – 156th Infantry
Charles Quoos – KIA – Leyte
Frank Raduta – KIA Belgium
Peter Radziak – POW – Died in camp

NOTE: These 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....

SEE WHAT'S IN OUR ARCHIVES

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL THE RECORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS THAT ARE IN THE NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ARCHIVES, GO TO OUR WEBSITE

www.nanticokehistoryonline.org

you will find a full listing on our Research Page.

Nanticoke: Yesterday and Today

Beer History Made in Nanticoke

By: Judy Minsavage



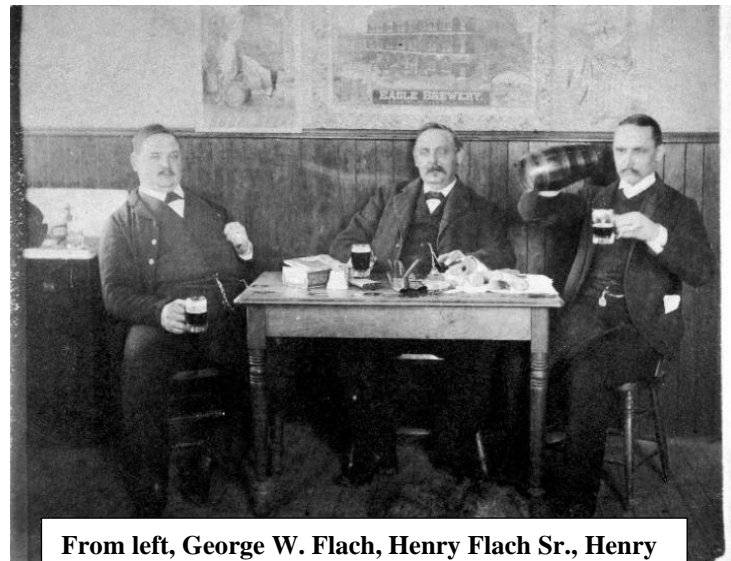
Susquehanna Brewing Company Plant pre-1920 producer of the Stegmaier brand at Alden and Main Streets

What's in a name- Flack, Flock or Flach?

In researching the history of anyone or anything, one must be prepared to go down many paths to find the truth and at the Nanticoke Historical Society we are in the business of finding that truth. This story began with the “Flack” Brewing Company and owner George W. “Flack” and ended with a question as to just which man, George W. Flack, Flock or Flach, started the business.

In the initial investigation of society records, an article published in the Wilkes-Barre Record, dated August 22, 1892, stated, “capitalists” Carl Eckert of New York and another unnamed gentleman scoured the city of Nanticoke to find a suitable place to erect a new brewery.

local newspaper articles of the time, named George W. “Flack” as the person leading the initiative to open a new brewery in Nanticoke in the late 1800s. Although I found nothing connecting that surname and the business of Brewing Beer. In some online brewery-related publications I found the names George W. Flock, and George W. Flach. Both had connections to brewing beer and similar personal information made them appear to be the same man which meant one of the names had to be a misspelling. The November 8, 1894 issue of the Wilkes-Barre Record read, “A group of investors including George W. “Flack”, arrived from Philadelphia purchased land on Alden Road, and planned a building (the brewery) at the estimated cost of \$150,000. Another Wilkes Barre Record article dated November 14, 1896, states “Brewer G.W. “Flack” received a telegram yesterday apprising him of the death of his father, Henry Flack of Philadelphia.” That was the connection I was looking for, I started to investigate breweries in Philadelphia.



From left, George W. Flach, Henry Flach Sr., Henry Flach Jr.

With that information in tow, I found George's father, Henry, and his family on genealogy.com. They originally lived in Philadelphia, but Flach is the correct spelling of the name. The information stated Henry had two sons Henry Jr. and George W. and were owners of a brewery. Further investigation into marriage and death records confirm that George W. Flach is the gentleman that ran the Brewery on Alden Road. For all intent and purposes, I will use Flach as the correct spelling as dates, timelines, history and genealogy confirm that.

Beer Here!

In March of 1895, George Flach, moved his family from Philadelphia to a home at 75 Alden Road next to the site of the proposed brewery. By December of 1895, a formal grand opening revealed an elaborately decorated plant which consisted of a five-story main brewery and an office building. The brewery would go on to produce two hundred barrels of beer a day and had eleven employees. In 1896 Flach rented the Smoulter Building on Main Street and went about setting up a "first-class" restaurant. A larger area accommodated guests for dances and parties, but there would be no alcoholic beverages served there.

Charles Stegmaier took over the Flach Brewery in 1896 forty years after starting the Stegmaier Brewery. George Flach moved his family to Dover Delaware, where he bought a large farm.



75 Alden Road residence of George W. Flach

Stegmaier Takes Over

The Stegmaier Brand became a major presence in Nanticoke and continued to sell at 6 dollars a barrel. Ale and Porter, a dark brew, were also produced. Construction began on a new building on Market and Spring Streets, and a storage plant at Arch and Railroad Streets. Through the end of the 1800s Charles and his sons continued to operate as Stegmaier Brewery but in 1898 according to sources, the company's name was changed to Susquehanna Brewing Company. Up until 1919, the Stegmaier brand and Susquehanna Brewing grew to be one of the largest breweries in North America producing many award-winning beers. It is unclear why some buildings in Nanticoke still retained the Stegmaier Brewing Company name and the plant at Alden was listed as Susquehanna. In 1920 It all came to an end in Nanticoke due to prohibition, Susquehanna quickly rid itself of the Arch Street Buildings selling them to Woodlawn Dairy Company.



Two of the many Stegmaier Buildings Lower Broadway, Nanticoke.



This 1917 photo shows crowds awaiting Battery "C". It also shows the cluster of Stegmaier Brewing Company Buildings at Lower Broadway.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt repealed the 18th Amendment in 1933 because it failed to enforce sobriety and wound-up costing billions of dollars to enforce. But it was too late to re-start the facility in Nanticoke.

It was the hope of many that once again Nanticoke would have its own brewery. But sadly, machinery owned by the Susquehanna Brewing, Company, then run by Charles' son, Fred Stegmaier, was shipped to a plant in West Virginia manufacturing near beer. (The legal ½ of one percent). A movement was underway to find investors willing to put up the \$150,000 to restore the Alden Road facility, but unfortunately, that initiative did not garner much steam.

By 1937, the former Susquehanna Brewing Company building was operating as the Susquehanna Paper Company. Owned by John Scott of Newport Township, the company offered to buy scrap paper, boxes, newspaper and magazines to be "carted away" free of charge. The service was available by phoning 1336.



This undated photo shows the former brewery building operating as the Susquehanna Paper Company

The Susquehanna Brewing Company plant was eventually razed but as of this writing no date was found

In 1946, the one building standing at the corner of Alden and Main Streets sold to a company that intended to manufacture bricks.

In 2022, one building remains on Alden Road proving that award winning beer was in fact brewed in Nanticoke.

In 1974, the Stegmaier family sold their brand to Lion Brewery. In 2021, Edward Maier, the founder's great-great grandson and his partners in the new generation of Susquehanna Brewing Company purchased the Stegmaier label back from Lion.



The building at the corner of Alden and Main Streets, holds the sign of the Susquehanna Brewing Company Bottling House.



A hand-painted tray advertises the Susquehanna Brewing Company, Nanticoke, PA. Today trays such as these are quite collectible.



Bottle which once held "award winning" beer produced by the Susquehanna brewery in Nanticoke

Fifty Years Ago

Here are just a few photos of how Nanticoke's Lower Broadway looked during the flood of June 23, 1972. Here's how the National Weather Service described Hurricane Agnes, "The storm crossed the Florida Panhandle coastline on June 19, 1972 and followed an unusually extended overland trajectory combining with an extratropical system to bring very heavy rain from the Carolinas northward to New York." Wilkes-Barre and surrounding cities were just some of the areas that lay in its path, Here's a few photos of what Nanticoke looked like the day the rain stopped.....



Visit our website to see more photos - on our photos page
www.nanticokehistoryonline.org

MORE MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPHS



Over the years the Nanticoke Historical Society has obtained photos contained in collections from various families and events, but unfortunately do not know who are in the photos. We will be placing these photos in this and future newsletters. If any match the ones in your collection, or perhaps you recognize a family member, please let us know by calling our office at 570-258-1367 or emailing

history@nanticokehistoryonline.org . Just give us the number on the photo and the name or any information you may have, so we can add them to our records. **See more of these photos on our website at www.nanticokehistoryonline.org click on our PHOTOS page.**

