



NANTICOKE LEGACY

NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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

SOCIETY NEWS:

- **Book Signing Event a Success**
- **Society Hosts Anthracite Program**
- **Welcome New Members**
- **New Donations**
- **In Honor of Our Military**
- **New Mystery Question**
- **More Mystery Photographs**

FEATURE STORIES:

- **A BUILDING THAT CHANGED LIVES –Silk to Skates**
- **A NANTICOKE HERO - CAPTAIN DARYLE CARDONE**
- **AUTHOR JOSEPH KANON –NANTICOKE TO NEW YORK**
- **New - ON SALLY'S CORNER - MEMORIES OF ST. MARY'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL**

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 To collect artifacts, memorabilia and historical documents and fact Nanticoke, Pennsylvania and to store such items in a central location or specific area where these articles may be preserved, appreciated and used by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

MEETING SCHEDULE

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY 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.

We Encourage All to Attend

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

Newsletter email - nanticokehistory@aol.com

OFFICERS

President: Julianna Zarzycki

Vice-President/Treasurer: Chester Zaremba

Membership Coordinator – Charlotte Dudkowski

Information Officer – John Sherrick

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.

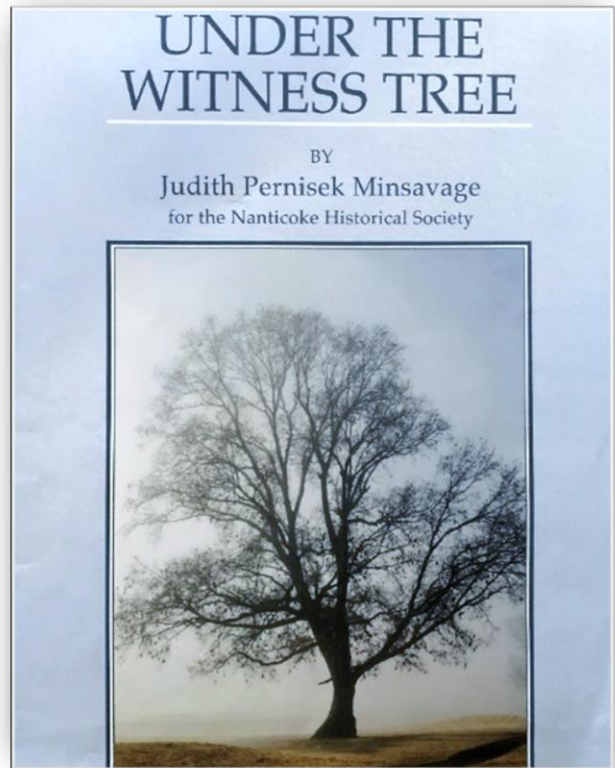
See our website for more information.

SOCIETY NEWS:

Book Signing Event Held in December

The Nanticoke Historical Society's Book Signing Event for its newest publication "Under the Witness Tree" was held on Saturday December 10. The book, written by Judith Pernisek Minsavage, the society's newsletter writer and editor, offers stories and photos of Nanticoke from the city's early beginnings through the 40s and 50s, 60s and beyond. "It's the personal stories of the people that made up the city's history that give the book a different take." Minsavage commented at the event.

An account written in 2019 by Minsavage, regarding the removal of an old maple tree on Main Street, prompted Society Vice President Chet Zaremba to request a compilation of the stories she had previously written for the society's newsletter. Using the theme of what the tree would have witnessed over the 250 years on Main Street, Minsavage set about tracing the city's timeline through interesting tales of people, places and things. "The book reflects a truly unique historical perspective" Zaremba recently said. "Through these unique stories, we witness the early settlement of Nanticoke, the changes and growth it experienced over the years and interesting tales of its



A STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS ARRIVED THROUGHOUT THE DAY



MANY PEOPLE HAD INTERESTING STORIES TO SHARE



JOHN SHERRICK, SOCIETY INFORMATION OFFICER TALKS WITH A VISITOR

residents during its growth. It also highlights the memorabilia, historical items and photos collected and maintained by the Nanticoke Historical Society.”

During the day, many of those who came to purchase the book were invited to inspect items representative of the stories in the book and meet Society President, Julianna Zarzycki; Vice President, Chet Zaremba; Information Officer, John Sherrick and Membership Coordinator, Charlotte Dudkowski. First time visitors as well as those familiar with the society offices, stopped to chat and ask questions regarding research topics or to share their own stories of Nanticoke. It was a remarkable day.

If you or a family member would like to obtain a copy of “Under the Witness Tree” The book is available through the society. Please call our office at 570-258-1367, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 📞



ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF " UNDER THE WITNESS TREE" BENEFIT THE NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THANK YOU

Welcome New Members

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Henry and Denise Grudkowski

Ann Arlene Rose and Jennifer Rose

Bruce Boncal

Barbara Legins

Ed Tomko

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Ron and Diane Breznay

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Kristine R. Miller

Bob Kellar

Tania Gronkowski

Thank you for your generous donations

Society Treasurer, Chet Zaremba, reports that there have been a number of monetary donations by both members and non-members of our organization since the last newsletter.

**Barbara Von Dran
The Van Slyke foundation in memory of Viola Van Slyke
Shelly Jones, and
Heidi and Paul Jarecki.**

Donation for Society Sign Project

Life Member John Tomko, Jr.

made a sizable donation toward the completion of our sign project. With his donation, and the initial donation from Mrs. Stephanie Shern, all funding for the project is now in place. There will be future updates regarding the installation of our new sign as work progresses.

Notice to our Members

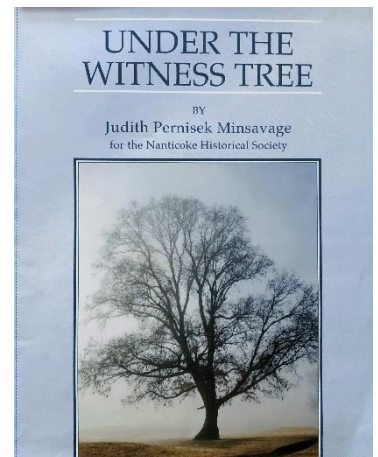
The Nanticoke Historical Society Membership Coordinator, Charlotte Dudkowski asks that if any member has had a change of address, phone number or email address to please contact the society office at 570-258-1367. You may also email those changes to history@nanticokehistoryonline.org

Thank you!

Be Sure to get your copy of “Under the Witness Tree” The City of Nanticoke in Stories and Photos

If you haven't already received your copy of The Nanticoke Historical Society's new book, “Under the Witness Tree” please contact our office at 570-258-1367. A great keepsake or gift for family and friends. All proceeds benefit the Nanticoke Historical Society.

Thank you for your support of our efforts to keep the memories and history of the city of Nanticoke alive.



The Society Hosts Anthracite Program

In Observance of Anthracite Mining Heritage Month, the Nanticoke Historical Society hosted a public event entitled “Mining Anthracite Coal: Reflections by Miners from Yesterday and Today” The program, held on January 19 at the Cultural Center of St. Faustina, featured former miners, Phil Voystock and Tom Supey along with present day miners, Banks Ries and Josh Shoeneberger. Nanticoke Historical Society Vice President, Chet Zarembo moderated the 2-hour program.

The audience was enthralled as Voystock and Supey shared stories regarding their experiences as young miners. Some tales brought chuckles from the crowd, but most detailed the danger that surrounded miners every day while working long hours in a harsh environment. Ries and Shoeneberger expressed their passion for the coal industry trading tales of mining coal today what has changed and what hasn't. They also expressed their desire to chronicle the stories of the miners for future generations. After the presentation, the audience participated in a question-and-answer segment.

All who attended learned a great deal about the true-life experiences of the men who mined Anthracite many years ago and those that are working in mines today. At the end of the program, Supey who not only worked in the mine but whose family owned an operation stated, “ I'm surprised that no one has asked, how much Anthracite is still left unmined.” The statement gripped the audience. Supey went on to state, “Sixty percent of the Anthracite is still underground, it can only be mined if the water that has flooded the mines can be removed.” At the end of the event the audience stood and applauded the men for sharing their informative and important stories. 📷



AT THE CULTURAL CENTRE OF ST. FAUSTINA, THE SOCIETY HOSTED THE MINING HERITAGE MONTH PROGRAM – “REFLECTIONS BY MINERS FROM YESTERDAY AND TODAY”



FROM LEFT PHIL VOYSTOCK, CHET ZAREMBA, SOCIETY VP; TOM SUPEY, BANKS RIES, JOSH SHOENEBERGER



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

Dr. Robert Lecher, 1st Lt. US Army dental reserve Corps
George Legatt
Edmund Lentz – Navy
William Lesh – Wounded in Action
Walter Levanda – KIA in France
Leo Levandowski – Pershing expeditionary force
Fred Lewis
Reese Lewis – Battery C, 3rd Field Artillery
George Lianna
John Linkoski – Wounded in Action
John Litchkofski – Wounded in Action
Alexander Litchkowski - Battery C, 3rd Field Artillery
Clyde Littleford - Battery C 3rd Field Artillery
Stanley Loch
William Lock
Charles H. Loewer
Edward Lovett – Army Signal Corps
Thomas Lovette – Wounded in Action
Adam Luckiewicz
Michael Lupcho
Chris Lutz – Wounded in Action
Sylvester Lynch
Thomas Lynn
Wayne Lyster – Marine Corp – Received Distinguished Service Metal
Edward McCloskey – U.S. Navy
Stanley McCloskey
B.D. MacDonald
Patrick McDonnell – U.S. Army
Edward Mace – U.S. Army
Edward Mack – Co. G Local Infantry
Robert Mackie- Battery C, 3rd Field Artillery
Stanley Mackiewicz - KIA
Valentine Mackiewicz – Naval Reserve
Arthur Mackle
John Maddy
Zigmund Maga
Peter Magagna – U.S. Army
Francis Magee – Wounded in Action
Anthony Makarczyak – Aviation Corps
John Makewicz -
Antonio Maksywick
Peter Margalski
John Markewicz – Army Signal Corps

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 II

William Shultz – Army Air Corps
Walter Sierzat or Sirezant – KIA
John Sikorski
John Simelabsti - Sergeant – Medical Surgical Tech 8th Div
John Sivulich - KIA
Millard Skalla
Anthony Skrinski - POW
John Skudla – Staff Sergeant- U.S. Army
Anthony Slapikas - POW
Edward Slapikas – Killed – USS Oklahoma Pearl Harbor
Joe Smereski
Leo Smereski
Kenneth Smith – U.S. Army Air Force
James Smith
Chester Smurol – KIA- Pacific
Frank Spock – Sgt. 78th AAF
Joseph Stachyra
John Stadt – U.S. Navy
William Stair – KIA
Alexander Staub – KIA - Germany
T.A. Stawicki – 4th Marine Regiment 6th Division
John Stewart – Pvt. 1st Class
Joseph Stigora - KIA
Leonard Stigora
William Stooks – Army Air Corps
Joseph Stralka – U.S. Army
John Stavitzski – U.S. Army
Chester Stazalka – KIA
John Sudick - MIA
Joseph Sulewski – U.S. Army
Joseph Sulick – U.S. Army Tank Battalion
Francis Sulvoeski POW
Henry Supchak – POW
William Sutton – KIA - Luxembourg
Andrew Svetz – U.S. Army
Terrance Sweeney – KIA - Italy
Alfred Swelgin – 407th Infantry – Received Bronze Star
Chester Swigonski – POW
Casimir Szychowski. – Pfc 169th Infantry- KIA - Luzon
Joseph Tarasewicz – KIA – flew fifty missions
Chester Tarnowski – Medical Tech – 48th Armored Medical Battalion
Ray Tarnowski – KIA – France
Robert Tennesen – MIA - France
Frank Thimm – U.S. Navy
Charles Toback – KIA - Bataan
Victor Tomko – POW
Joseph Tomielowicz – 7th Army Field Artillery
William Traher – KIA - France

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.

A Building That Changed Lives

By Judy Minsavage

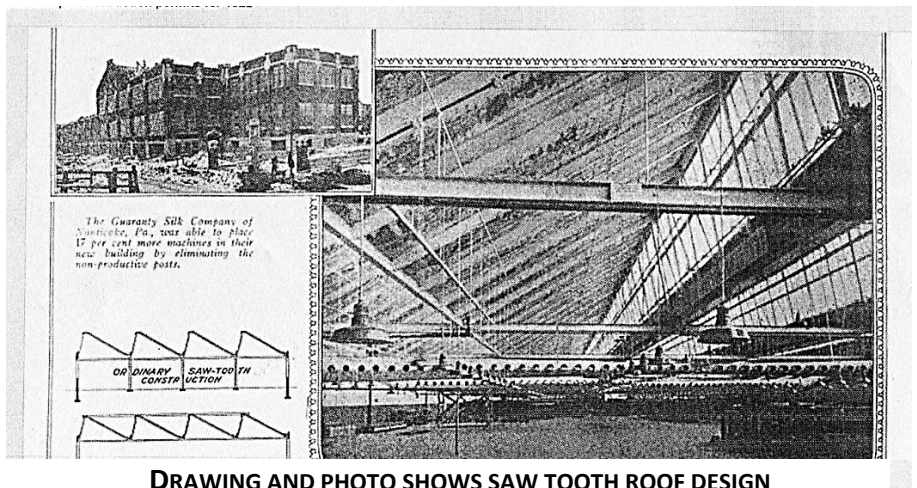


THE EARLY DAYS OF THE DUPLAN SILK MILL

The coal mines were the primary source of employment in Nanticoke during the 19th and early 20th centuries. With dangerous and unforgiving conditions, men and boys had little choice but to enter the mines daily and face the dangerous task of extracting Anthracite from deep within the earth and hauling it to the surface. In 1917, over 3,000 deaths were attributed to a perilous industry that also showed a peak production of one hundred million tons of coal. Following WWI, however, the Anthracite industry was in a downswing. Mine subsidence, explosions and accidents along with rising costs topped the list of reasons for the decline.

It was at that time, representatives of Guaranty Silk Mill visited Nanticoke searching for properties that would be suitable for building a silk throwing factory. The proposed plant would join two other Duplan Silk facilities located in Hazleton and Dorranceton. Residents of Nanticoke were excited about the prospect of having a less dangerous source for employment, and one in which women could participate easing the daily expenses of housing and feeding their families. Not only were the wages expected to be higher than the mines, but they would be working under very favorable working conditions.

The cost to construct the facility was expected to reach \$1,500,000. A figure, according to the US Inflation Calculator would equate to \$34,295,507.81 today. Not only would the block-long building proposed for Washington Avenue have state of the art machinery but would also have a large area devoted to employee recreation. These amenities included an auditorium and stage, a player piano, record player, reading areas, pocket and billiard tables, large cafeteria, locker rooms, first aid and rest rooms designated men and women. An ornamental fence, shrubbery and flower beds beautified the entrance of the building. Guaranty Silk Corporation also offered education classes, dances and lectures for employees.



DRAWING AND PHOTO SHOWS SAW TOOTH ROOF DESIGN

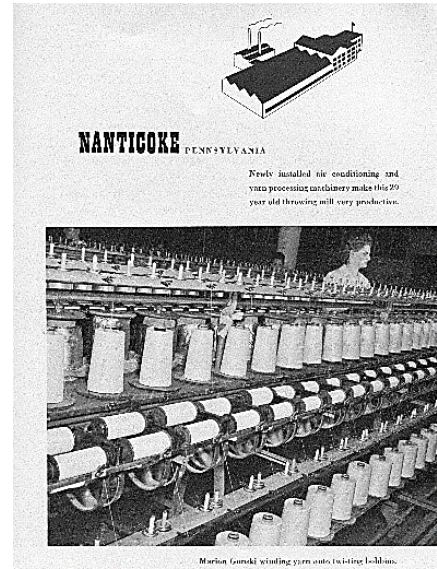
This was music to the ears of Nanticoke residents who had only known the conditions faced by the miners and their families each day. It must have sounded too good to be true.

By 1921, the mill was in operation, with all the promised attributes. The Ballinger Corporation, Architectural Engineers from New York and Philadelphia, used a newly patented saw-tooth roof construction to enable natural lighting.

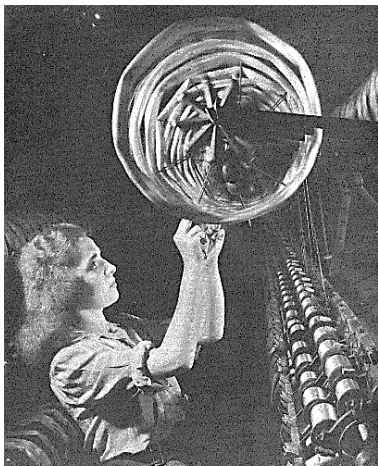
By 1924, a group of young men organized a baseball team, known as the Guaranty Ace Nine. The Guaranty Recreation Club was established, and dances and parties were routinely held in the auditorium. There were annual banquets, Halloween and Valentine's Day parties, hikes and card parties. Life was good for those working at the mill.

By 1934, an outside entity threatened the lifestyle of those employed by Duplan Silk Mill. The Mobile, Alabama Chamber of Commerce became aware of Duplan's thoughts of relocating their Nanticoke location. Duplan executives gave Mobile's favorable lease terms and tax-exempt status serious consideration, but fortunately did not act.

The residents of Nanticoke became increasingly dependent upon the factory's steady employment and favorable working conditions. Duplan was noted as one of two companies with the highest number of employees in the region, the General Cigar Factory being the other. This contributed to the local economy. However, by November of 1951, John K. Cochran, general manager of the Duplan Mills, announced the company would close its facility leaving those in community pondering their future during the Christmas holidays.



CONDITIONING AND YARN PROCESSING MACHINERY



MAGDALEN HUDAK ADJUSTS SKEIN OF YARN



LEN CIEPLIK EXAMINES THE COLOR OF YARN



1950 CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR DUPLAN EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE COMPANY AUDITORIUM

From Silk to Shirts

As part of their national expansion program McGregor Sportswear leased the former Duplan Building in April 1953, for \$188,574, which according to the CPI Inflation Calculator would equate to 2,104,067 today. With the possible hiring of an estimated five hundred people, the residents of Nanticoke



WOMEN HAVE BECOME THE FAMILY BREADWINNERS IN PENNSYLVANIA'S WYOMING VALLEY AS THE CLOSING OF COAL MINES COST MEN THEIR JOBS. MANY OF THE HOUSEWIVES LEAVING A KNIT-GOODS FACTORY AT NANTICOKE ARE WORKING AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR MARRIED LIVES. (FROM THE SUNDAY BULLETIN, PHILADELPHIA, 8/15/1954)

were happy they would not be excluded from the industrial growth occurring across the nation. Production Lines were expected to be up and running by the end of June.

The company was brought to the area by Wyoming Valley and Nanticoke Industrial Development Funds. It was expected that some 150 workers (85 percent women) would be hired to begin the manufacturing of shirts and work in the offices. There were positions for men in shipping, packing and warehouse.



EMPLOYEES HARD AT WORK AT THE MCGREGOR SPORTSWEAR FACTORY

On May 4, 1953, operations commenced, with the facility completing its first shipment in late June. The Nanticoke facility was highlighted in the corporate newsletter "The Thistle" which stated workers produced "A very acceptable quality garment." Noting that most operators having no previous shirt-making experience.

McGregor repaid a \$20,000 investment made by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund in 1953. Over the next 19 years the company thrived. However, by 1972, the company then known as McGregor-Doniger, Inc, announced it would be closing the plant and moving their operation to Berwick. The future of the building and approximately four hundred people and their families were once again in peril.

Shirts to Strikes and Skates

In 1974, new hope arose in the city as George Ellis, owner of Ellis' Market in the Buttonwood section of Hanover Twp. revealed his intent to purchase the building that formerly housed McGregor Sportswear. His plan included a skating rink on the eastern side of the building and a bowling alley on the west. For many years, the two facilities offered young and old many hours of family entertainment. The 160,000 square foot entertainment complex contained one of the largest roller-skating rinks in Northeastern Pennsylvania with 16 automatic bowling lanes, two pro shops, a snack bar and game room with more than 25 video games. It was a great place to enjoy time with friends and family or have a first date. Children celebrated birthdays and participated in skating contests. With many a championship trophy won; hundreds of league bowlers enjoyed the competitive sport.

On Sunday, October 14, 1991, memories of the good times were all that remained as most of the building was destroyed by fire. At the time, Fire Chief, Bill Ives, believed the blaze first started in the skating rink section of the building. Seven companies from Nanticoke responded to the fire at about 3:30 a.m. Minutes later a call for ladder trucks went out to Kingston and Edwardsville. Plymouth Township supplied a water pumping truck and Luzerne,



A ONCE PROUD BUILDING

Shickshinny and Larksville brought extra air supply equipment. Hanover Twp, Ashley and Newport Twp. sent firefighters. The fifteen companies were able to bring the fire under control at about 9:30 a.m. Damage to the building was estimated at 2.5 million dollars. While fighting the blaze firefighters Terry Ziolkowski and Scott Neff were injured.

After his death in 2000, Ellis' son, George Jr., operated the bowling alley until 2003. The building was never returned to its former glory. The site was acquired at a 2020 tax sale by the Nanticoke General Municipal Authority and demolished In December of 2022. There are no present plans for the property.



FOREVER GONE

FOCUS ON:

By Judy Minsavage

A Nanticoke Hero - Daryle Cardone, Commanding Officer – USS Ronald Reagan

Under Daryle Cardone's senior picture in the 1989 Greater Nanticoke Area Trognaire Yearbook, it states that he "Wants to become a rich and famous musician." We know he received a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education at Wilkes University, but his further achievements didn't take him to the entertainment stage but to the world stage. He went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, received a commission through Officer Candidate School in 1995. He then graduated the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) Air Intercept Controller course and Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School.

All of these achievements and his many assignments during his service in the U.S. Navy have led him to his present assignment as Commanding Officer of the USS Ronald Reagan a Nimitz-class nuclear powered supercarrier.

Cardone is the son of Maurice (Marty) Cardone longtime owner of Marty's Pizza on East Broad Street and Lucy Bonavita Cardone.



MARTY AND LUCY CARDONE



CAPTAIN DARYLE CARDONE, COMMANDING OFFICER USS RONALD REAGAN



A Man for all Seasons

According to the Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet website Cardone's Biography reads as follows:

"Operational assignments include two tours with VAW-125 where he deployed aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), USS George Washington (CVN 73) and USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67). As a department head, he served as Administrative Officer and



USS RONALD REAGAN NIMITZ CLASS NUCLEAR POWERED SUPERCARRIER

Maintenance Officer in VAW-121, aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73) and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). In September 2011, he reported for a second tour to VAW-121 as Executive Officer and in January 2013 assumed command. During his squadron command tour, VAW-121 deployed twice aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) and was awarded the Battle Efficiency award, the RADM Frank Akers Award for Airborne Early Warning Excellence, the Grampaw Pettibone Award, and was selected as the 2013 Secretary of Defense PHOENIX maintenance award nominee for Naval Air Force, Atlantic. Captain Cardone assumed command of USS Lewis B. Puller (ESB 3) in September 2020. Presently Commanding Officer of the USS Ronald Reagan.

Shore assignments include tours as an instructor with VAW-120 and as a plank owner of the Hawkeye Weapons and Tactics Unit, Atlantic. He has served on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as Special Assistant to the Director, Flag Officer Management and Distribution (N00F), in Washington, D.C., and as Executive Officer at VAW-120, the Hawkeye and Greyhound community Fleet Replacement Squadron. Captain Cardone also served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as the Navy Military Assistant the DoD Executive Secretary and as a Trip Coordinator for the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense. During his tour at OSD, he was selected for the Aviation Nuclear Officer program and served as the Executive Officer onboard USS George Washington (CVN-73).

Captain Cardone has flown over 2,800 flight hours and made over 700 carrier-arrested landings. He has flown more than 120 combat missions in support of Operations Deliberate Forge, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. He is authorized to wear the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Strike Flight Air Medal (Bronze Numeral Four), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), and various personal, unit, service and campaign decorations.”

The USS Ronald Reagan

The keel of The USS Ronald Reagan, of which Cardone is the Commanding Officer, was laid on February 12, 1998. The ship was christened by Nancy Reagan, the wife of the 40th president on March 4, 2001, and five years later commissioned on July 12, 2003. The ship, a Nimitz class nuclear powered aircraft carrier, is the ninth of the ten Nimitz Class ships. The carriers have an intended fifty-year service life.

The ship, the first US aircraft carrier named for a living person (Reagan died in 2004), made its maiden



ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHRISTENING OF THE USS RONALD REAGAN, COURTESY OF SOCIETY MEMBER RON BREZNAY

voyage in January 2006 in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Since that time, USS Ronald Reagan has been deployed for emergency assistance, humanitarian and training missions.

In September of 2022, the carrier was deployed to the port of Busan, South Korea to participate in joint military exercises. It was the first visit of a carrier to Busan since 2017. The ship returned to Yokosuka, Japan in December. 🇺🇸

FOCUS ON:

Joseph Kanon -- From Nanticoke to New York

Spies and International Intrigue are his specialties

Joseph Kanon resided with his parents Albert and Hildreth at 328 Kosciuszko Street. In 1961, the Nanticoke Junior High School 9th grader received the Lions Club Award for attaining the highest average in English. He was the editor of the school newspaper, president of his homeroom and a member of the high school band.



JOSEPH KANON - AUTHOR



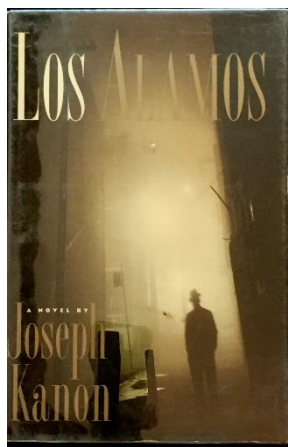
THE FORMER KANON RESIDENCE ON KOSCIUSZKO STREET

After graduating from Nanticoke High School, he attended Harvard University majoring in English graduating *magna cum laude*. Through a Rotary Club Foundation grant, he studied at Cambridge University in England. Kanon then became an editor in New York City. He went on to become CEO and editor in chief of E.P. Dutton and Houghton Mifflin, both major publishing houses.



1964 NHS
GRADUATION PHOTO

It was a vacation trip to New Mexico in the summer of 1995, and an impulsive decision that Kanon made on that trip that changed his life. On his way to Chaco Canyon, Kanon decided to visit Los Alamos the top-secret facility at which the atomic bomb was developed more famously known as the Manhattan Project.



While touring the site, Kanon concocted a plot that would focus on the area that during the time of the project did not officially exist. That brainstorm became Kanon's first novel, "*Los Alamos*," The tome quickly hit the New York Time's Best Seller List and won the Edgar Award for best first novel.

It wasn't long after Kanon's first success he was writing another thriller, "*The Prodigal Spy*" which published in 1998. Since that time, Kanon has added many books to his list including "*The Good German*" in 2001. Directed by Steven Soderbergh the story hit the big screen in 2006 and starred George Clooney, Cate Blanchett and Tobey Maguire.

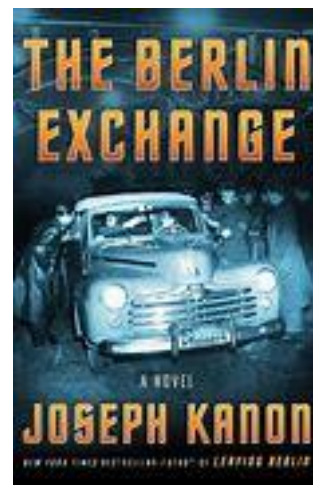


The complete list of Kanon's books to date:

- *Los Alamos* (1997)
- *The Prodigal Spy* (1998)
- *The Good German* (2001)
- *Alibi* (2005)
- *Stardust* (2009)
- *Istanbul Passage* (2012)
- *Leaving Berlin* (2014)
- *Defectors* (2017)
- *The Accomplice* (2019)
- *The Berlin Exchange* (2022)

The Prodigal Spy and *Alibi* earned Kanon the Hammett Award of the International Association of Crime Writers; He is also a recipient of The Anne Frank Human Writers Award for his writings on the aftermath of the Holocaust.

Most of his works focus on post-World War II and are praised for the accuracy of the era in which he sets his novels. He presently lives in New York and no doubt, working on his next novel. 📖



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. In this issue, Sally remembers her days as a student at St. Mary's Parochial School.

ON SALLY'S CORNER

by Sally Gorgas

Parochial Schools in Nanticoke were affiliated with the Catholic Churches. They were in neighborhoods throughout the city. These schools were St. Joseph's, St. Francis, St. Stanislaus, Holy Trinity and St. Mary's. St. Mary's School and the neighborhoods were one. They melded together to make a warm, solid community. Everyone took care of each other. Children benefitted from this into adulthood.

I attended St. Mary's from kindergarten to eighth grade (1955-1964). Bernadine nuns taught most of the classes while focusing on respect and discipline. Whatever the nuns wanted you to do, you did it.

In 1906, St. Mary's School started out with two rooms in the rear of the church. A fire in that year damaged the church and classrooms. Plans were made for building a four-room school and by 1908 there were 99 students enrolled. By 1951, a new eight room brick building housed the school. Parents were involved in many of the many activities.

When mentioning parochial school, many have "horror stories" about their teachers who were nuns. For some reason, I had to go to the school early and dry mop the eighth-grade classroom. I was embarrassed for other students to see me shake out the mop so, I went into the basement and shook it there. After a time, I guess I made a little mess!

Several times a year, Family members would come to watch the children put on plays. I remember the nuns were strict on order. The children weren't permitted to watch the other classes perform. One nun caught me doing just that and said that I would not be promoted. I remember going home and laying on the couch, crying. Fortunately, the threat was not carried out.

One major embarrassment for me was the time I had to play a baby in a carriage. I was about eleven years old and one of the boys pushed me around the stage while everyone sang "Jimmy dear you have to mind the baby, take your little sister for a walk." At the time, I didn't know how I would survive this indignity.

The individual schools closed, one after another. They consolidated into Pope John II School which closed in 2007. I don't think anyone foresaw the school closings. Six Nanticoke churches eventually closed and became St. Faustina Kowalska Parish in 2010.



SOCIETY MEMBER SALLY GORGAS AT THE FRONT OF THE FORMER ST. MARY'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Remembering my years at St. Mary's School, I didn't think about the major changes in the Catholic school system. Sadness over the school closings was overshadowed by the closing and demolition of St. Francis of Assisi Church, and St. Joseph's Slovak Church. St. Stanislaus Church has been changed into a church affiliated cultural center. The Holy Trinity Church is now the Main Site of St. Faustina Kowalska Parish. Sadly, St. Mary's Church stands abandoned and empty, its future uncertain. The St. Mary's School, next to the church is the home of Head Start, which is a successful pre-school program.

I think often and fondly of my days at St. Mary's School and have many good memories. I still live in the neighborhood where I grew up and see St. Mary's Church and School every day. 📷



St. Mary's Catholic School eighth grade graduating class of 1956. Only some of the students are identified see the names on our website in our photos section. If you can identify anyone, please email our newsletter at nanticokehistory@aol.com
Photo courtesy of Society Member Al Borowski

This Issue's Mystery Question

For approximately 66 years Woolworth's in Nanticoke was a popular place to shop for a variety of everyday items. In 1953, there were complaints that certain items were no longer seen displayed in the windows of the store. What were they?



**Our answer will soon be posted
on our Website** – www.nanticokehistoryonline.org



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

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.

