



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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Lincoln School Set for Demolition

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Catch us on PA Live on WBRE TV May 19!

Catch us on WBRE's PA Live with hosts Chris Bohinski and Rachel Malak on Monday, May 19 at 3 p.m. Events Coordinator Tania Gronkowski and I will be discussing the Nanticoke Historical Society's 30th anniversary and the exciting events that you will see listed in this issue of Legacy.



The Nanticoke Historical Society is extremely proud of all that has been accomplished in its 30 years of existence. Initially aimed at documenting the city's historic buildings, it now includes a wealth of valuable information on early Native American tribes, European immigrants, and the industries organizations and businesses that created a vibrant community. We are dedicated to preserving and cataloguing genealogical information for individuals searching for family connections. Our collection includes family and real estate histories, artifacts reflecting generational lifestyles, as well as photographs and records that capture memories ranging from fleeting moments to lifelong stories. It has been deeply rewarding to assist people from across the globe in tracing their roots back to our city.

As we begin the journey to our 50th anniversary, we remain committed to documenting the rich history of Nanticoke and its people. We invite you to join us in this endeavor by participating in our upcoming events, donating to support our mission, volunteering to assist or sponsoring our ongoing projects. Currently, we are focused on various maintenance projects at the Samantha Mill House, indexing our library filled with invaluable records and cataloguing donated artifacts.

We are appreciative of those who support us through membership, donations and sponsorship of projects. We are dedicated to making each and every one of you proud to be an integral part of The Nanticoke Historical Society family.

Judy Minsavage, Editor

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

In Honor and Memory- A Continuing Series: by John Tomko - focusing on profiling the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who lived in or around Nanticoke and served during World War I and World War II,



Greetings from Nanticoke: The last of a four-part series — Collecting Post Cards - by Ron Breznay

The New Spotlight Series: Enjoy our new series listing your favorite stores and businesses that once lined the streets of Nanticoke along with some other surprises.

Nanticoke Historical Society Scholarship Program - The GNA Senior recipient, story and photos.

Focus and Feature Stories - Of course we'll always have great stories on the people and places that make Nanticoke special to us as well as more news on our planned events for 2025. On Sally's Corner, Our Mystery Question - **AND SO MUCH MORE!**

After years of service and dedication, Society President Julianna Zarzycki announces retirement

By: Judy Minsavage

When Genealogy buff Julianna Zarzycki first saw a newspaper article announcing the formation of an organization dedicated to chronicling the History of Nanticoke she decided to find out more. The first meeting of those interested, occurred in the office of the Nanticoke City Chief of Police, Chet Zaremba.



Original members of the NHS planning committee, standing from left Celia Zeedock, Helen Buczkowski, Lynn Maulbeck, Mark Ragulski, Julianna Zarzycki, Martha Price. Seated Chet Zaremba

After high school she became a hairdresser in Glen Lyon where she met her future husband Richard. They married in 1965 and after a time, moved to Nanticoke eventually building a home in the Hanover Section of Nanticoke.



NHS President, Julianna Zarzycki, at the 2019 WVIA Our Town Nanticoke premier.

After the Society formed, Mark Ragulski, held the position of president for two years, after which Zarzycki assumed the office. "The most important thing is that our office at the Samantha Mill House is open five days a week," Zarzycki said recently. "Our archivist, John Sherrick, is so dedicated, he helps everyone wanting

to do research." She also stated, "I am most proud of the Society's commitment to preserving Nanticoke's history."



Nanticoke Historical Society President, Julianna Zarzycki attending an art exhibit at the Schulman Gallery at Luzerne County Community College

Zaremba began developing the concept of what is now the Nanticoke Historical Society in 1995.

With her genealogy background she knew the importance of helping people find information on their families. At the age of 15, Zarzycki started keeping records on each of her family members. Born in Hobby her family moved to Pond Hill where she remembered attending a one room schoolhouse. Her father was a coal miner and also worked their family farm.



Organizers of the Nanticoke Fair Days 1987. First row from left, George Elles, Julianna Zarzycki, John Grontkowski, Miriam Diacheysn. Second row, Geri Delaney Vincent Minsavage, Vicky Frace. Third row, Joseph Zakrzewski, Ron Kamowski, Cindy Donlin, Paul Shipkowski

Over the years, she has maintained contact with other local historical societies, sharing information with them when it is pertinent to their area. Regarding her hopes for the future, Zarzycki sites, “The need for more young people to get involved in the society and for current members to volunteer more for events and work sessions.”

“I am grateful for the help of Charlotte Dudkowski, who is the Membership Coordinator, and Tania Gronkowski, Archive and Event Coordinator for all they do.” Zarzycki said, adding “And I especially thank Chet Zaremba for all that he is doing and all that he has done for the Society over the years.”

The Society has prospered under Zarzycki’s presidency with the help of Zaremba who has filled the role of vice-president and who has now assumed the role of President. Through their collaboration, they have established the foundation for a cohesive society. “Our members help to make this a strong organization.” Zarzycki stated.



Julianna Zarzycki, and Society member Sally Gorgas greet attendees at the Society sponsored Anthracite Heritage Month program.



Ron Breznay, president of the Wyoming Valley Stamp Club presents a Certificate of Award to then President, Julianna Zarzycki, and Vice President, Chet Zaremba



Luzerne County Community College Displays Historical Society Memorabilia - from Left Christine Ferrato, M.Ed. First Year Experience Coordinator and Associate Professor of Reading Luzerne County Community College, Julianna Zarzycki, and Sally Gorgas.

Zarzycki’s wish is that younger generations would see the value in collecting and documenting the history of not only the families that built the city of Nanticoke, but of the buildings, churches, organizations, and schools, so that they too can benefit from and learn from past generations. The history of Nanticoke is rich in stories of Native Americans who settled on the banks of the Susquehanna River facing many unknown challenges witnessing the beauty of the Susquehanna River and for those who immigrated to our country, from the 1700s to today. People who worked hard to make a better life. With its dedicated leaders, The Nanticoke Historical Society stands ready to remain the stewards of the city’s storied past well into the future. 🇺🇸



Julianna Zarzycki and Judy Minsavage at the 2022 book release of "Under the Witness Tree"

A letter to our members and friends

Chet Zaremba, President, Nanticoke Historical Society

In July of 1995, I was serving as the Chief of Police for the City of Nanticoke. One of the many wall hangings in my office was a framed collection of old Nanticoke postcards.

Mark Regulski, the son of my predecessor, Nanticoke Police Chief Frank Regulski was visiting my office one day and a conversation regarding the postcards took place. At some point it was agreed upon that Nanticoke needed a historical society to preserve the history and memory of things such as those pictured in the post cards. I told Mark that we should try to start one and we placed an announcement in the newspaper indicating that such an initial meeting would be held in my office for those interested.



Chet Zaremba, President of the Nanticoke Historical Society

Around ten people attended the meeting, and all agreed to establish a Nanticoke Historical Society. At that time I made two statements. The first, “I will help you all get started with this, but I do not have the time to become involved.” Note that statement was made thirty years ago. The second statement was, “If we’re going to do this and I am involved, then we are going to do it right.” So began my “involvement.” I secured the legal services of then city solicitor Attorney Bernard Kotulak who did extensive legal work for us without charging a penny. There were Articles of Incorporation, Non-Profit Organization Registration, Tax-Exempt Status, publication and registration of all legal documents and finally 501-C-3 status. As meetings continued, I wanted no leadership role but only a “guardian” position. Thus Mark Regulski was elected as the first president, Julianna Zarzycki became vice-president, Janine Whittaker was secretary, and I took the position of treasurer. It should be noted here that in one of the first two or three meetings a man made the comment “This will last about six months.” That man was John Sherrick. John has been with us all of these 30 years serving as our primary archivist.

In a short period of time pressing commitments required Mark to step down and Julianna Zarzycki became president. I moved into the vice-president position but kept the treasurer’s position also. So it was for the next 29 years that we moved the Society through a number of locations and the organization grew through the efforts of many wonderful people who put forth a lot of time and effort to make it do so.

Starting with two filing cabinet drawers in my office at the beginning, to presently occupying a whole building we could say that we’ve come a long way. In late 2024, Julianna was beginning to indicate, after so many years as president, that she was prepared to retire. At the board of directors meeting in January she did exactly that which placed me as president, Judy Minsavage moved into my vacated vice-presidential position.

As the President of the Nanticoke Historical Society I have three main intentions. First, to continue my “guardianship” of the organization making sure that everything is done legally, in a morally correct manner and benefits the society. Second, to continue moving forward in all aspects of the preservation of the history and culture of the City of Nanticoke and its residents, past and present. Finally, to prepare our younger members to move into positions of leadership to take the Nanticoke Historical Society well into the future.

So far it's been a great ride, and I am going to stay on "the bus" for a little while longer because I'm having a wonderful time doing it. But I cannot do it alone and I encourage those who have been so much help to me in the past, to continue to do so. It is because of people like you, (and you know who you are) that WE have sustained the Nanticoke Historical Society for thirty years.

One more person has to be recognized here because without her cooperation I really don't think that I or we could have done it. And that person is my wife, known to most of you as "Cookie." Her continued behind the scenes support and her willingness to help me get to meetings and complete projects on time have been invaluable both to me and this organization. We've been married for a little over 57 years and the NHS is now 30 so you see, she's been putting up with all of us for over half of our married life.

So the next time you stop by the office, read "Legacy" visit our website, follow us on Facebook, or read about our doings in the newspaper and like what you see, remember it really does "take a village." 🏡

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www.nanticokehistoryonline.org

EMAIL

Office email – nhs63@comcast.net

OFFICERS and STAFF

President/Treasurer: Chester Zaremba

Vice-President: Judith L. Minsavage

Secretary/Membership Coordinator: Charlotte Dudkowski

Event and Archive Coordinator: Tania Gronkowski

Archivist: John Sherrick

Director of Operations : John Telencho

Nanticoke Legacy Editor News and Stories. Website : Judith L. Minsavage

Building and Grounds: Mike Passetti

President Emerita – Julianna Zarzycki

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deductible.**

PLATINUM

John Tomko

John Gregorowicz

Mike Hill

Shelly Jones

Andrew Sherbine

OUR UPCOMING 30TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Nanticoke Historical Society Month Proclamation Event



Join the Society for a day of celebration and history at the Cultural Centre of St. Faustina on Saturday,
May 31, 2025. Located at 38 West Church Street, Nanticoke, PA.

Event Highlights:

- **Proclamation Presentation:** By the Honorable Mayor of Nanticoke, Kevin Coughlin
- **Exhibition:** Explore numerous exhibits, photos, and documents, some dating back to the 1800s.
- **Virtual Tour:** Take a virtual tour of old Nanticoke, featuring photos of schools, churches, businesses, homes, streets, stores, and more. Name the location you'd most like to see!
- **Basket Raffle:** Purchase raffle tickets - 10 for \$10 and 25 for \$20.
- **Bake Sale:** Enjoy delicious bake sale items and coffee.

Times to be Announced - We look forward to seeing you there!



LCCC Craft and Flea Market

Date: Saturday, June 14

Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Visit our table, pick up some of our books, and look through old yearbooks, talk about your memories of Nanticoke, the stores, the schools, whatever you'd like!.....look through some of our many photos and items dating back to the 1800s.

Potluck Picnic at The Mill House

Enjoy the day and relax

Date: Saturday, June 21

Time: 1 p. m.



Members are asked to bring a covered dish. Membership Coordinator, Charlotte Dudkowski, will portray benefactress, Samantha Mill, talk of her life and end with a reading of her poetry.



Artist's Depiction of Nanticoke Locations

Date: July 26-27

Time: TBA.

Details: Artists will be asked to artistically depict a Nanticoke location of their choice, such as a park, street corner, home, or historic building such as the Samantha Mill House, created in their chosen medium to be presented at an artist's reception. Craft Vendors are invited to participate. More details to come.

Time Capsule Ceremony - At the Samantha Mill House

Proposed Date: Early September

Items will be gathered to place in a time capsule and buried on the Samantha Mill House grounds.



Over the next few months, we will be announcing more details about each one of these events. Please follow us on Facebook and for more detailed information log on to our website www.nanticokehistoryonline.org

YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS OUR EFFORTS

Dear Members,

If you haven't yet done so, it's not too late to renew your 2025 membership.

**Thank you,
Nanticoke Historical Society Membership Team.**





Nanticoke Historical Society Member

Jason Jarrett



May He Rest in Peace

Society acquisition turned into a mystery:

Several months ago, A gentleman stopped into the Society's offices and brought a unique model of a coal mine scene, with coal cars and two miners hard at work. Constructed out of wood and modeling materials, it received quite a bit of attention. The lack of donor and creator names hindered cataloging and credit assignment for the donation.



Model of Susquehanna Coal Co. mine donated to the Society in 2024

Archivist, John Sherrick recounted the story of a man who came into the office several months before carrying the piece. "I instructed him to place it in the conference room for cataloging. When he came out we struck up an in-depth conversation, after which, the man left without leaving any information on himself or the artisan."



Andrea Josefowicz explains to Juliana Zarzycki and John Sherrick the methods her father used in his creations.

Recently, while positioning the object to utilize the small light above the scene, questions about its origins resurfaced, reigniting the mystery.



Ambrose Tkatch (Kotch)


A Facebook post requesting information on the piece netted a call from the donor's sister Nanticoke native, Andrea Josefowicz. She related that Her brother Thomas Kotch, generously donated the coal mine model fashioned by their father Ambrose Tkatch



A depiction of a miner loading a coal car with tools and toolbox all created meticulously by Ambrose Tkatch

or cranes. Two brothers, George and Joseph Tkatch (Kotch) were killed in the war in 1942 and 1944 respectively.

Ambrose Tkatch documented the brutal attacks by Japanese ships and Kamikaze aircraft in his handwritten diary. The diary is a family heirloom that documents the daily experiences and risks faced by men who served in the armed forces. Josefowicz believes the hobby helped him to resume a somewhat normal life after the war. He enjoyed the quiet solitude of his workshop.

We at the Nanticoke Historical Society truly appreciate donations such as these. Not only do they represent a time long gone, but they also stand for the strength and fortitude of those who mustered through difficult times and in this instance leading to the creation of artifacts we all can enjoy and ponder. 

(Kotch). She acknowledged the donation to the Society and expressed her desire to donate another piece created by her father. Josefowicz described how Ambrose spent long hours building the model of a Susquehanna Coal Company mine using various materials, meticulously sanding spoons to resemble shovels and plastic soldiers to resemble miners.

Tkatch served in the Pacific on LST 699, a WWII-era landing ship designed with bow doors and ramps for easy disembarkation without docks



The mine model is of substantial weight and size

Nanticoke Historical Society Scholarship Program

In February we introduced a unique and impactful initiative at the Nanticoke Historical Society: our Scholarship Program. This program, unlike any other, is a testament to our unwavering commitment to education and community empowerment. It not only supports local talent but also paves the way for a brighter future for all, instilling a sense of pride and involvement in our community.





GNA Senior, Makenzie Hall, receives the 2024 Nanticoke Historical Society Scholarship from Vice-President, Chet Zaremba.

The Nanticoke Historical Society Scholarship Program is distinctive in its focus on youth empowerment and community cohesion.

This scholarship empowers graduating seniors from Greater Nanticoke Area High School to pursue higher education. We aim to offer financial support to deserving students who exhibit academic promise, community involvement, and leadership qualities. By alleviating the financial burden of college, we strive to inspire these young minds to achieve their full potential while reinforcing community pride and engagement.

In 2024, Mackenzie Hall was the first recipient of a \$500 scholarship, an initiative in honor of John Stephen Tomko made possible through a scholarship provided by his son, Society member, John Tomko. Ms. Hall has been accepted into Columbia University.

In 2025 the Scholarship amount is \$1,000.00 which again has been provided by Society member John Tomko. This year's winner of the scholarship will be announced at a senior awards ceremony at the end of May or beginning of June.

Your support is vital in championing the educational aspirations of our youth and fostering community pride through the Nanticoke Historical Society Scholarship Program. Investing in tomorrow's leaders can profoundly impact the Greater Nanticoke Area community. Your involvement makes our mission possible. Your contribution of **\$20.00 or more** will enable us to achieve our goals and empower deserving students to reach for the stars.

To learn more about how you can support the Nanticoke Historical Society, please visit www.nanticokehistoryonline.org. Contact us directly at 570-258-1367 or 'nhs63@comcast.net'. Together, we can make a lasting difference in our community's future.

We encourage you to consider donating, volunteering your time, and spreading the word about the Nanticoke Historical Society to help us achieve our goals. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our cause. We look forward to partnering with you on this transformative journey.

Please make your check of **\$20.00 or more** payable to the **NHS Scholarship Fund**. The NHS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Our address is: Nanticoke Historical Society, 495 E. Main Street, Nanticoke, PA 18634. You can also donate to our Scholarship Fund through our website www.nanticokehistoryonline.org.

Thank you for your support! 🇺🇸



DID YOU KNOW

Pete Gray, the famous one-armed major league baseball player who was born in Hanover Section of Nanticoke passed away on Sunday, June 30, 2002, at the Mercy Health Care Center in Sheatown.



In Honor and Memory Part 2

By John S. Tomko, Jr.

***IN HONOR AND MEMORY** is a feature profiling the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who lived in or around Nanticoke and served during World War I and World War II, as recorded by the Nanticoke Historical Society.*

Leonard B. Gronkowski (1924–2010)

Part 2

Among all of Leonard's recorded missions, two stand out. The first is on December 26, 1943, on a mission to Cape Gloucester, New Britain. American forces invaded the island on the cape, and Gronkowski's flight provides bombing support for the invasion. The target time is 0730 hours, and the target is Japanese positions on a ridge. The air attack is successful, enabling the "Yanks" to "push ahead to victory." The Japanese flying "Zekes," Mitsubishi A6M Navy-type 0 carrier fighter, also known as a "Zero," make a suicidal resistance such that the flight has to withdraw. The mission duration is four hours and twenty minutes. Gronkowski's use of the word "Yanks" is probably influenced by the fact that the American air units of the 5th Air

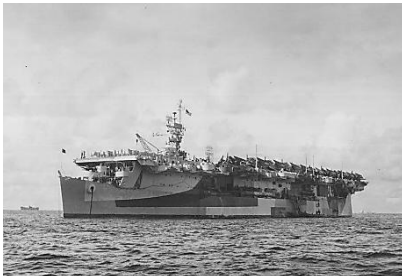


Force are under the command of the Australian Air Force. The second mission, recorded on January 12, 1944, was a huge success for the 380th. The mission was to bomb the major oil refinery and Balikpapan Harbor, a major Japanese shipping area, at Balikpapan, Borneo. The flight duration is seventeen hours and thirty-five minutes. One can only imagine what the flight was like; the Japanese resistance must have been horrendous. Staff Sergeant Gronkowski was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained operational aerial flights in the Southwest Pacific from November 17 to December 26, 1943, during which hostile contact was probable and expected. The flights included long-range bombing missions against enemy installations and shipping and supply bases. He was nominated for the Distinguished Flying Cross; however, there is no evidence that the award has been approved.

According to his son, Gary, Leonard talks about the nomination, makes inquiries, and finds that the "paperwork" is screwed up in the system. On the flight in question, while on a bombing mission, a live 500-pound bomb is discovered hanging at an angle from one shackle in the bomb bay. Occasionally, a bomb does not properly release from both ends of its shackle and is "hung up." With the bomb bay doors open, the plane's commander taps nineteen-year-old Leonard to walk the 10-inch-wide catwalk without a parachute to try to pry the bomb loose from the shackle with a screwdriver. After much prying, in the frigid wind blast, he finally manages to get the bomb to fall away. With flak or fighter attacks, this is an act of selfless loyalty and courage in the face of the enemy. These incidents happened occasionally and did not always end so well. Sometimes a crewman falls to his death while trying to release a hung-up bomb. His body never recovered.

The flying conditions encountered over forty-five missions took a toll on young Leonard. He was furloughed three times to the Australian countryside for rest and recovery. He spoke fondly of the Australians he encountered and praised their hospitality and caring. On July 29, 1944, a Flight Surgeon with the 530th Bombardment Group diagnosed the twenty-year-old Leonard with "combat fatigue," stating that "There is a marked amount of war weariness which is a manifestation of the change in his personality," which is to say that he was irritable, depressed, anorexic, and fatigued. The Flight Surgeon recommended his rehabilitation in the United States. On September 13, 1944, he was ordered to return to the United States.

On October 24, he boarded the USS *Monterey* (CVL-26) for the trip home. The *Monterey* was an Independence Class light aircraft carrier. In 1944, she participated in numerous operations in the South Pacific,



USS Monterey - anchored in the Pacific 1944

including supporting the Leyte and Mindoro landings. In December of that year, her path crossed with Typhoon Cobra with winds exceeding 100 knots, resulting in damage from fires on the hanger deck. Future US President Gerald R. Ford, serving as the General Quarters Officer of the Deck, ordered to go below to assess the damage was almost swept overboard.

Fourteen days after departure, on November 6 at 0630, Leonard sighted the Golden Gate Bridge in the distance. For three hours, he "hung on to the railing," watching with the other returnees and, with them, roaring until the last man passed under the bridge. In the San Francisco Bay, he transferred to a boat for a short trip to Angel Island. On the boat, the returnees were greeted by a band and Red Cross workers distributing items. The first thing that Leonard did was run up to a vendor selling ice cream, buy a pint, and "couldn't get it down fast enough." Not satisfied, he bought another and savored every last bit.

With orders to Fort Dix, NJ, Leonard and others roamed San Francisco then boarded the ferry to Oakland to catch a train to the East Coast. Five days later, on November 13, he arrived at Fort Dix, receiving orders for the 1078th Convalescent Hospital at Richmond Army Air Base with a twenty-one-day delay enroute. He wired his mom and boarded a bus home. Arriving in Wilke-Barre, he was aware of a change. Old men and bobbysoxers. In his own words,

I turned and went inside the station and seen Mom coming the other way. She looked right at me and smiled and then walked into the lady's room. My heart really sank then, because I thought I had changed, but not that much that my mother wouldn't recognize me at a look like that. She came out and I was getting my gloves out of my bag when she recognized me. Mom ran to me then.

We then went home. It was sure good to walk into your mom's place and relax. I couldn't wait until I had some of Mom's cooking. We went out that night and I really danced with Mom. To tell you the truth it was the first time that I had danced with Mom. We both couldn't say anything much because we were too excited. I went to bed with a hangover that night, or rather the next morning.

I couldn't sleep much that night because I wasn't used to sleeping in such a soft bed. I got out of bed at 09:00 and ate and then went down to the ration board to see if I could get tires. No soap, so I went out to see some people I knew there and got some tires so I could leave that same day to see my girl, who lived in Penn Ya, NY. I didn't even know where the place was but I was determined to get there that day.

The "girl" Leonard was referring to was Jean (Genevieve) Ulawski (1925–2006). They would marry on April 25, 1945. They would be married for sixty-one years and raise five children: Richard (1947), David (1951), Betty Jean (1957), Mark (1963), and Gary (1965), and dote over ten grandchildren. Leonard and Jean lived at 34-36 N. Market Street and 189 W. Broad Street. They purchased a home at 364 E. Grand Street in Nanticoke, where Leonard lived until he died in 2010.

Like men of the era, Leonard enjoyed hunting, fishing, bowling, and golf. But most of all, he enjoyed his family. The high point in his life was his children. Rick and David served in the US Air Force. Rick, the careerist, served twenty-two years, and David served eight. Two grandchildren also served. Gary received an Electrical Engineering Technology degree from Penn State and the 2024 Person of the Year award from the Nanticoke Conservation Club.

After the war, Leonard remained in the military, serving thirty-three years in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard with the 1st Battalion 109th Field Artillery Regiment, specifically, Battery B in Nanticoke. On the civilian side, he worked for the Veterans Administration at its Wilkes-Barre Medical Center for forty years. 🇺🇸

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COLLECTING POST CARDS – THE THIRD OF A FOUR-PART SERIES

Greetings from Nanticoke – Wish You Were Here, Part 3

By Ron Breznay

The Undivided Back Era, also known as the Post Card Era, ran from 1901 to 1907. The prior two eras also had undivided backs, where only the recipient's address and not a message could be written on the back. However, in 1901, the Postmaster General issued Post Office Order No. 1447, which allowed the words "Post Card" (as two words, which gives one name to this era) instead of the longer "Private Mailing Card" and did not require the line citing the 1898 Act. However, messages were still not allowed on the address side of postcards. The message was written on the picture side.

The postcard in Figure 1 is a view of Main Street in Nanticoke. The message was written on the picture side, which is a hallmark of the Undivided Back Era. The address side, shown in Figure 2, shows the card was mailed from Nanticoke on August 1, 1906. It has an undivided back and the words "Post Card," printed as two words.

Also beginning around 1901 and continuing to the present is the Real Photo Post Card Era. By definition, a real photo postcard is an image printed photographically on photographic stock instead of by the lithographic or offset printing processes employed in the manufacture of most postcards.



FIGURE 3

The Real Photo Postcard shown in Figure 3 has a picture of John S. Fine. On the address side shown in Figure 4, the postmark year is hard to read because it blurred, probably because of the glossy photo paper. Perhaps clues in the campaign message will lead to the year.

Next is the Divided Back Era, which ran from 1907 to 1915. Congress passed an act in 1907 allowing privately produced postcards to bear messages on the left half of the card's back. This change ushered in the Divided Back Era. The divider is usually a credit line showing the photographer or publisher of

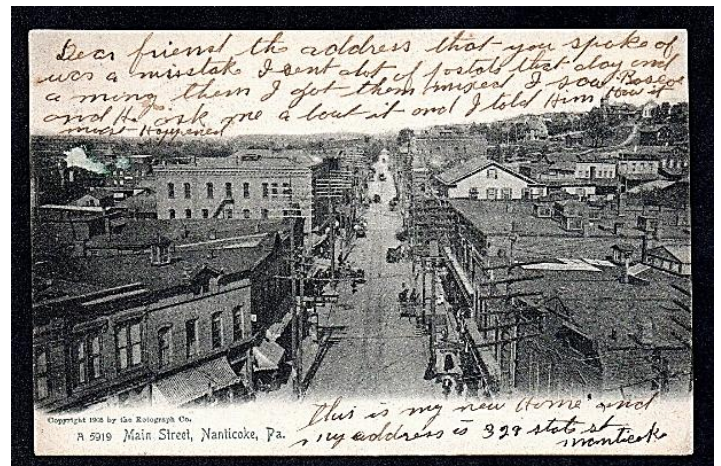


FIGURE 1

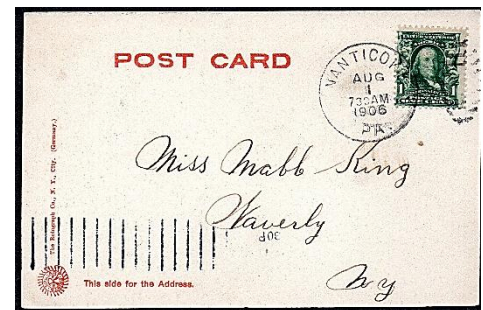


FIGURE 2

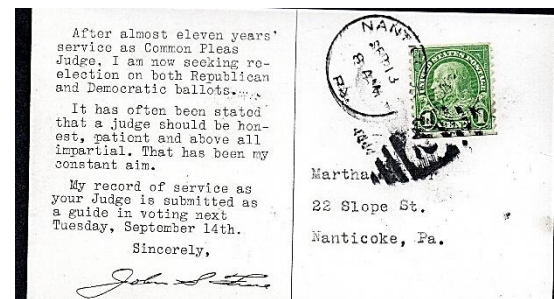


FIGURE 4

the postcard, or sometimes it's just a plain dividing line. This period is also known as the "Golden Age of Postcards" due to the vast popularity of postcards during this time period.

The postcard in Figure 5 shows a view of Nanticoke High School. There is no message on the picture side. Instead, the message was on the back, shown in Figure 6, on the left side of the divider. This was mailed from Nanticoke on August 24, 1910. Of note is that this postcard was printed in Germany.

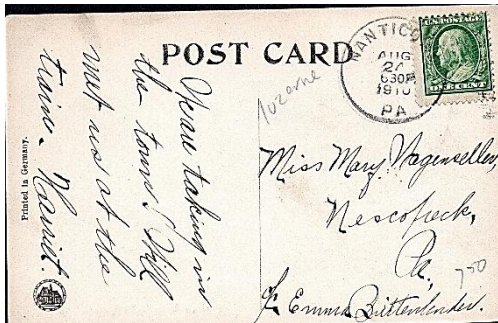



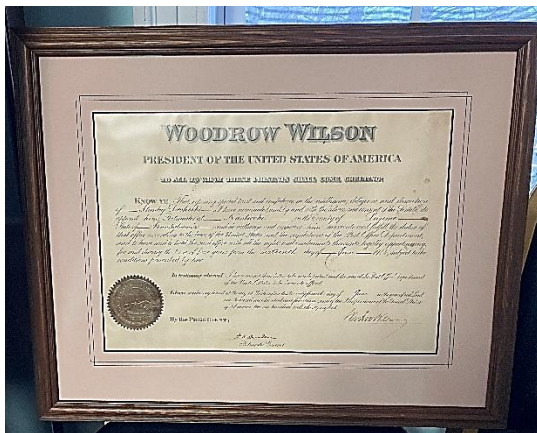
FIGURE 5

Throughout early postcard history, German printers dominated the market in postcard printing. However, with the beginning of World War I, German postcards became unavailable and American printers supplied most of the postcards in the United States. American printers did not have the same technology as German printers, so the quality of available postcards fell, and people lost interest in collecting them, effectively ending the "Golden Age" of postcards and ushering in what is called the White Border Era (1915 to 1930), which will be discussed in Part 4. 


Part 4 - The White Border Era

SOCIETY PROJECTS RECENTLY COMPLETED

This restoration project was generously sponsored by Mark Wolfe, owner of Wolfe Frames in Nanticoke. This document signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1914 appointed Stanley Dropeski the Postmaster of Nanticoke.



Dropeski, a lifelong resident of Nanticoke, was elected borough treasurer in 1909, earning a salary of \$300 per year by 1912. He later served as postmaster and became a contractor and builder. At the time of his election as one of the city's first councilmen, he was appointed head of the Department of Streets and Public Improvements. Wolfe carefully matted and framed the document to ensure its preservation and to enhance the experience of those visiting the Samantha Mill House.

We thank Society member Jack Minsavage for installation of lighting in a display cabinet in the Samantha Mill House. This enables visitors to enjoy browsing our collections. 



the

The Lincoln School

More than a building

By Judy Minsavage

Since 1911, the Lincoln School has stood proudly on Kosciuszko Street. It is remembered as a cherished institution for those who administered and taught within its walls, as well as for the young minds it nurtured and influenced. The emotional and social impact is significant, evoking a profound sense of loss with the news that the school will be demolished. Memories of walking through the halls with a friend, a special teacher, participating in a program or school activity, albeit many years ago, still remain fresh as if it were yesterday. To the community, a building such as Lincoln School has historical value, but it is evident the major cost of repair and renovation is significant, and it is with that reality the Greater Nanticoke Area School District has decided to raze the school.



The Early Years

In 1910, the Nanticoke School Board approved the construction of a new 16-room school. Residents weren't quite sure they were happy with the decision as some felt the land too costly at \$1,500 an acre. According to the US Inflation Calculator that amounts to more the \$48,000 per acre today. Architects, Reilly and Schroder of Nanticoke designed the building with the contract to construct the school awarded to S.B. Price and Company for a bid of \$55,721 with the final cost at \$60,000 which today would total more than two million dollars. Although eight rooms on the second floor were unfinished, the dedication of the school was scheduled for September 4, 1911.

According to newspaper accounts, thousands of men, women, and children witnessed a large complement of participants, including the Stickney band, parade through the streets, culminating in a flag presentation by the junior members of the Order of United American Mechanics, under the direction of Warren Bunn. Cars and floats carrying city officials, school board members, and businessmen, as well as members of the police and fire departments, attended the event, along with many civic societies such as the Patriotic Sons of America and



The Stickney Band circa early 1900s

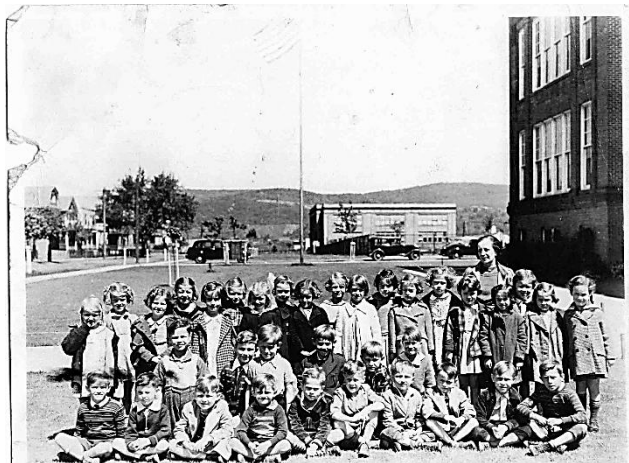


On the left, the Lincoln School 1930s

members of the Purity Council #6.

The final eight rooms were completed in 1913, and by 1923, the creation of a library had become the focal point for both students and faculty. To raise funds, the seventh-grade class performed the play "How Many Mary's Have We?" a now historic publication written in 1922 by Lindsey Barbee.

The school was the official city polling place for the Ninth Ward, First District. In 1934, a ten-year-old Lincoln student reportedly contracted Diphtheria. That year, the disease caused 4,159 deaths in the US. In 1937, Ukrainian children had the opportunity learn the language of their forefathers. Lincoln school was one of the first in the area to offer kindergarten classes.



1937 First grade Lincoln School, Teacher Nellie O'Brian

1953

After bricks fell from the building's cornice, classes were canceled, and Lincoln School was closed. It was determined that repairs wouldn't ensure safety, so the decorative



A classroom before the Lincoln School modernization project



The classroom after the 1965 modernization

material at the top of the building was removed. In 1955 the Lincoln School PTA was established with first officers Willaim G. Turner, president; Bernadine Piniazek, vice-president; Lewis Coopey, treasurer; Irene Switalski, secretary; Mary Gale, historian and Lillian Davenport, publicity secretary.

A modernization project reported as "one of the most extensive" began in 1965 consisting of new fluorescent lighting, radiators, new tile floors, suspended ceiling, painting and new aluminum storm windows. A dental clinic equipped with the latest equipment for students was included in the improvements.

In 1966, the basement of the school was filled with men and women attending sewing classes. Joseph Kutz, vocational training director, and Anna Brown, instructor, prepared students for jobs in the garment industry. Approximately 1200 people graduated from the course.

At 85 the grand lady was found structurally sound but repairs large and small were becoming necessary. School Superintendent, Tony Perrone, initially hoped to keep Lincoln and connect it to the elementary school to enable the sharing of facilities. But after consideration he voiced his concern that in the long-term Lincoln School would not hold up. The structure held on throughout the 90s, however in 2000, with problems such as fungus, sewer backups, and major repairs necessary to bolster the wooden floors, Perrone let it be known that the best step forward was to build a new structure stating, "The difference between renovating and rebuilding is one mill of tax"



Mr. Blysak - 5th grade class 1966-67

In 2003 a class project “Evening of the Arts” headed by teacher, Theresa Jacopetti, has now become a part of history as it documented the memories of the Lincoln School from its early beginnings. The K-L Flier Reporters, Marisa Kovaly, Miranda Eppley, Samantha Littleford, Angela Stavitzski, Rebecca Dinelli, Jason Jokuta, Rianah Anderson, Amanda Atkinson, Sara Amos, Julia Saunders, Katie Middaugh and Katrina Toporcer interviewed former students and teachers asking them to recount their memories of the school follows:

Mike Sinco, aged 93, attended the 7th grade in 1924. He recounted, "There were 20 students in the classroom. Everyone walked to school, there was no cafeteria, and grades were represented by numbers rather than letters."

Ted Dargiewicz, 72, who attended Lincoln in 1937 stated, "Classes were from first to fourth grades and there were about 30 students in a classroom. Boys wore knickers and girls wore dresses. There were no field trips, summer school or spelling bees. The desks were wooden and attached to the floor. School supplies were just a pencil and an eraser." He remembered cleaning chalkboard erasers on the school's brick walls outside.

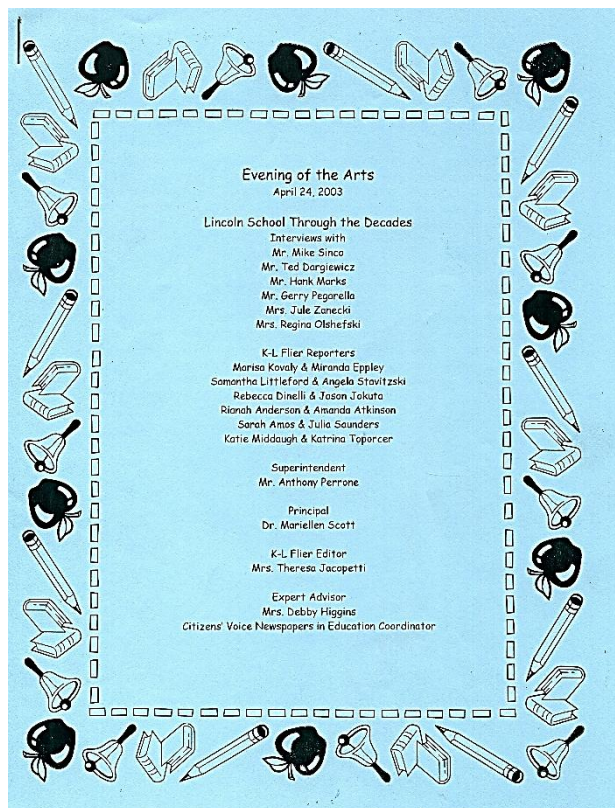
Hank Marks, 71, attended first through third grade. "There were about 40 students in a classroom. You can get milk for \$1 with a monthly order. Gym class took place on the football field, and calculations were done using a slide rule. AAA safety patrols, wore badges, and belts." He remembered attending school picnics at San Souci Park and at Teen House he danced, played ping-pong and had refreshments two times per week.

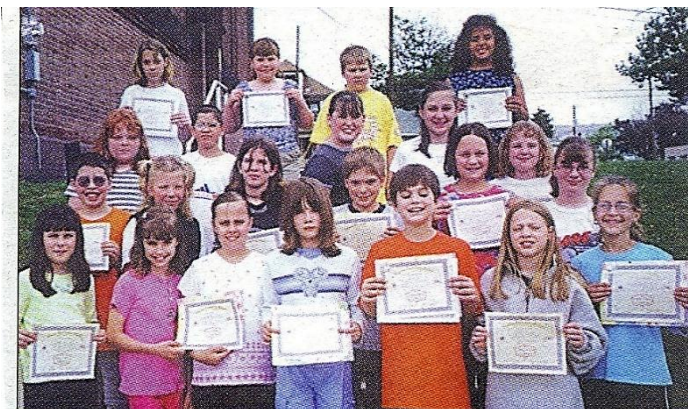
Gerry Pegarella, 59 attended Lincoln School from Kindergarten through 6th grade 1949-1955. He remembered teachers used a ditto master machine to make copies. "Students were not allowed to take books home, so there was no homework. In first grade, students were permitted to go home for lunch, but some did not come back. By second grade all students had to bring lunch. The desks were made of iron and wood, seats were on hinges with an inkwell on the desktop. Music was taught monthly".

"Mrs. Jule Znanecki, 95, taught 6th grade from 1968 to 1970. She began her teaching career earning a salary of \$1,000 per year. However, upon marrying, she was forced to resign due to a state law requiring married women to leave their teaching positions. Despite this limitation, her impact as an educator left an indelible mark on her students and community.

A history teacher by profession, she often managed classrooms with up to 54 students. Among her most notable pupils was Pete Gray, the famous Major League Baseball player who lost his right arm in an accident as a child. She taught him to write with his left hand, demonstrating her adaptability and dedication to her students' growth.

Beyond the classroom, she introduced her students to the world around them through walking tours. She shared insights about the local geography, pointing out mountains, rivers, lakes, streets, and directions, fostering a sense of curiosity and connection to their environment. Her contributions extended beyond her own classroom. In 1937, the first Nanticoke teachers' union was established—a milestone in advocating for educators' rights, though her role within this movement isn't detailed reflecting on her career, she regarded her greatest achievement in the countless former students who returned to thank her, sharing how her teachings had profoundly influenced their lives. It was in these heartfelt acknowledgments that her legacy as an extraordinary teacher truly shone."



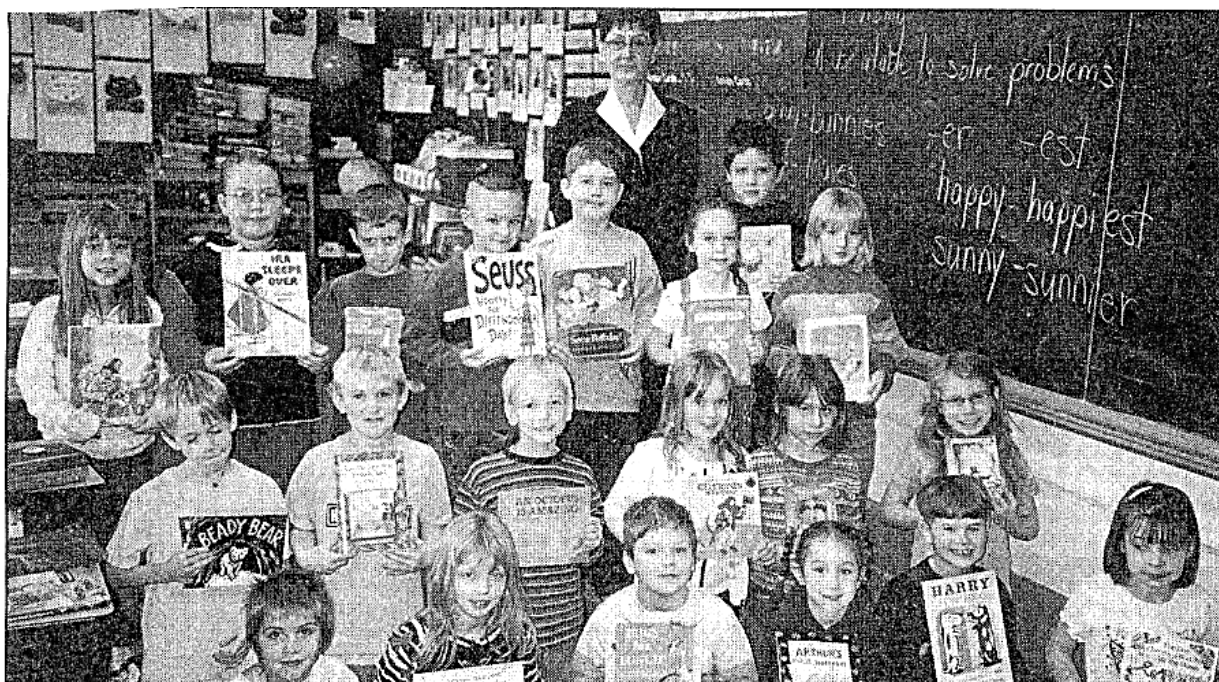


2001 Lincoln Safety Patrol from left first row, Teila McNulty, Jillian Grimm, Samantha Belawicz, Tara Snarski, John Albanese, Nicole Phillips, Keira Lohman, Second row, Russell Shales, Catherine Cooney, Stephanie Hulse, Vincent Loanna Angelique Stone, Marley Bross; Third row, Brittany Campbell, David Warren Holley Gaydosh, Keri Halli, Brittney Graham; Fourth row, Kristine Zielinski, Kristy Austin, Mackenzie Wydowski, Kyra Phair

In 2015 the school closed and along with it, many memories were lost behind locked doors. Such moments can be very sentimental and impactful. Schools often occupy a significant place in our lives, serving not merely as buildings but as environments rich with memories, friendships, and important milestones. It might also prompt reflections on the changes and progress that have occurred since those school days.

In January of 2025 it was announced the Lincoln school would be demolished. 🏠

Do you have a memory of Lincoln School you would like to share, please email us at nhs63@comcast.net or send your memory to our offices at 495 East Main Street, Nanticoke, PA 18634.



The second-grade class of Mrs. Jachimczak topped its goal by reading 102 books in 2003 Reading Program.. First row from left, Melody Noss, Kasandra McNeill, Adam Lutz, Alexandra Krysiuk Andrew DiRocco, Beta Robison; Second row, Tyler Robaczewski, Brett Strait, William Yevich, Marissa Siepietowski, Stevie Potoski, Tiffanni Peters, Third row, Samantha Nice, Payden Kehoe, Michael Figlerski, Paul Formosa, Nicholas Searles, Cassandra Perry, Jeremy Tencza, Melanie Price; Fourth row, Mrs. Charlotte Jachimczak.



In Honor of Our Military



WORLD WAR I Cont.

John Wylondak – U.S. Air Force Pacific Theater

Charles Wysocki – Battery C, 3rd Field Artillery

Clem Yachimowicz

Julius Yankowski – U.S. Army

Marion Yanuszcwski – Polish Army - France

Joseph Yefko

Samuel Young

Roman Yurek

Joseph Yurkewicz

Anthony Yushinski

Anthony Zabiegalski

Frank Zakiwski – Wounded in Action

Nellie Zalneraitis – Red Cross Nurse

Martin Zanetski

Stanley Zanovitz – 30th Inf. Co B 3rd Div – France – Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for Valor

Stanley Zaremba

Michael Zaucha

Stanley Zaucha

Stanislaus Zawatski

Edward Zborowski – Aviation Corps

William Zimmerman

John Ziolkowski – U.S. Navy

John Zlotowski – Wounded in Action

John Zmdydznis

Michael Zurawicki

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....

This final listing brings us to the close of the “In Honor of Our Military” series that has been ongoing since August of 2018. In this series we listed the names of all the Nanticoke Veterans in our archives from the time of the Battle of Wyoming to the War in Iraq. If you have a loved one, that you would like to add to our archives please email us at nhs63@comcast.net and list the veterans name, time of service, name of conflict, branch of service and status. Our Library contains the issues of Nanticoke Legacy from as far back as 2013 to today.



ON SALLY'S CORNER

by Sally Gorgas

Do you remember “Momisms”

My mom, Isabelle Haydock was the master of momisms. This one I listened to for many years, "You'll catch a cold if you go outside with a wet head," or if you made faces at your siblings or friends, "Your face will freeze like that," and in 1960s, "Your skirt's too short!"



I still remember and abide by some of them. Did your mom advise you on a few “don’ts?”

"Don't swallow your gum because it will stick to your ribs." I never found out if that one was true. If I disobeyed this one, "Don't drink something cold after you eat something hot," I was afraid I would get deathly sick and "Don't leave your purse or drink unattended when you go out." There certainly were a lot of don'ts to remember.



Sally with her mom, Isabelle Haydock

We played outside most of the day as kids, only taking a break for supper. One momism "Come in when the streetlights come on," was always obeyed, we definitely ran home as fast as we could!

When we got older and travelled out of town, mom would say "Call me when you get there." That meant ringing her phone three times, and hang up, our signal that we arrived safely. My sister told me mom advised her to pat her face when she dried it, don't rub it.

One momism to this day I still find hard to follow is “have patience.” Her best advice thought, don't talk to strangers.

We can laugh at these sayings and I'm sure we obeyed some of them. I used many of these momisms on my daughter too! Our moms cared for us and wanted the best for us. One momism she stressed most of all was "don't hate."

My mom was the best caretaker. She is gone now, and I miss her every day. I still laugh at some of her "momisms" and still obey them too! 📺

ITS NOT TOO LATE!

WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING BASKETS, ITEMS AND LOTTERY TICKETS FOR OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY BASKET RAFFLE FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD ON MAY 31 AT THE CULTURAL CENTRE OF ST. FAUSTINA. If you live locally Please bring to our office a gift basket filled with new items, unopened bottles for the basket of cheer, gift items, lottery tickets, gift cards, etc. Did you receive a gift for the holidays that you would like to regift? We will happily take a donation for the raffle. If you are out of town, a check made out to the Nanticoke Historical Society would also be appreciated to purchase items for the raffle. Thank you for your help and keep watching for updates in celebration of Nanticoke Historical Society's 30 years.

LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY QUESTION

What did Joseph Stickney and William Lord Conyngham partner to create that is still in operation?

In 1885, Joseph Stickney, chief executive of the Susquehanna Coal Company, organized the first fire company in the city of Nanticoke which was named in his honor. However

between 1900 and 1902 He along with his partner William Conyngham built the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. It is one of the last grand hotels surviving. It has been declared a National Historic Landmark.



NEW MYSTERY QUESTION:

In 1968, What event brought attention to Nanticoke that involved a small rodent called Astro?



We hope you enjoyed this issue of the Nanticoke Historical Society's publication of Nanticoke Legacy. Please help us to continue to bring you the Society news and stories that reflect our proud history.

Please let us know your thoughts, email our office nhs63@comcast.net or contact us through our website chat button

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