
NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Volume 2 Issue 8

THIRD QUARTER 2015

Nanticoke Historical Society announces major acquisition.

“We are so lucky to have been able to preserve this collection,” Chet Zaremba, vice president of the Nanticoke Historical Society said when asked about the recent acquisition of artifacts belonging to Nanticoke native and former Governor of Pennsylvania, John S. Fine.

Earlier in the summer, Zaremba was contacted by Lillian Michak, who along with her daughter Donna owns Today's Treasures in Plymouth. Through a chain of events, Michak was alerted to the fact that Fine's grandson, John S. Fine III, was moving out of state and unloading a treasure trove of memorabilia belonging to his grandfather who served as Governor

The Society is asking for your help

Due to the efforts of the Nanticoke Historical Society, and with the help of society member Mike Cmiola, an historical marker containing the name and achievements of former Pennsylvania Governor John S. Fine will become a reality. After many years of pursuing this endeavor, the dream will be become a reality for society officers by the end of this year.

This is a great opportunity for the community to share in this effort. The society, in coming months, will be putting together a fundraising effort to achieve the \$2,000 needed to obtain the marker. Soon, letters will be mailed to society members, businesses and organizations in the city requesting donations. It is the society's hope that everyone will be as generous as possible.

The culmination of the these efforts will result in a celebration at the marker site, which will be on the Greater Nanticoke Area School District campus, and coincide with an open house at the Historical Society Offices in the Samantha Mill House, 495 E. Main Street. It is also the hope of the society to have a city-wide celebration to honor the event. Plans are still being formulated. To keep up on the society's progress.

Spring

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 SPRING CLEANING?
- 1 MCKARRACHAN, TEACHER & PATRIOT II
- 3 SPORTS TALK
- 4 CALLENDAR OF EVENTS

of Pennsylvania from 1951 to 1955. Zaremba and fellow society members, John Sherrick, Mike Passetti and Mike Chmiola acted immediately requesting Michak set up a meeting with Fine III to retrieve items he no longer could store.

Upon seeing the magnitude of items, Zaremba instructed his helpers to “Take everything and sort it out later,” which he says is the society’s motto. Along with over 260 law books, photos, certificates the acquisition includes two valuable Black’s Law Dictionaries, the former governor’s cane and one particularly prized letter dated Sept. 1, 1953 from Otto F. Messner, Secretary of revenue to the Honorable John S. Fine. Attached to the letter is a one dollar bill, the content stating, “This is no bunk, it is the real McCoy.” We’ll tell you more about this truly unique and amazing find in our next newsletter, along with his life in Nanticoke, his personal tragedies and how innovations of the time affected his term in office.

Acquisition leads to creation of new space

Now in the possession of over 260 books making up the personal law library of former Pennsylvania Governor John S. Fine, the society is taking the opportunity to not only honor one of Nanticoke’s most famous residents, but to offer a room in the Samantha Mill House for those interested in the law.

The John S. Fine Reading Room will have its official unveiling after books, photos, certificates and other memorabilia are placed. Prior to the recent acquisition of the memorabilia, previous research by the historical society had shown there wasn’t much out there in the way of letters and personal effects belonging to Fine. Thanks to the donation of items by John S. Fine III the society has the largest known collection of historical materials attributed to his grandfather.

Did you answer these questions posted in the last newsletter about the early history of Nanticoke?

1. In 1830, what forms of religion were the most prominent here?

Answer: Protestant, Congregationalists, Methodists, Lutherans and Protestant Reformists
According to u.s.history.com, a division among Christian beliefs resulted in more than 900 denominations of that faith currently existing in the United States, The U.S. was the first western nation to be founded predominately by Protestants.

2. What family dominated the industrialization of Nanticoke and Newport Township in the mid 1800’s.

Answer: The Lee Family

3. The discovery of what mineral created what industry and employment for several families in Nanticoke?

Answer: Iron ore—According to geology.com, Earth’s most important iron ore deposits are found in sedimentary rocks. They were formed from chemical reactions that combined iron and oxygen in marine and fresh waters. The two most important minerals in these deposits are hematite and magnetite. These iron ores have been mined to produce everything from paper clips to steel beams.

Those interested in obtaining information from the society archives are asked to submit an

HISTORICAL RESEARCH/PHOTO REQUEST FORM

The form can be found on our website listed above or can be obtained from our office by calling 570-258-1367.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VIRTUAL TOUR OF NANTICOKE – PHOTO PRESENTATION

Date – May 12

Time - 6:30 p.m.

Place – Guardian Elder Care – 147 Old Newport St. Nanticoke.
For the staff and patients and their families.

View the Nanticoke of long ago. Before the presentation, attendees can request a particular location of interest to view. Join the discussion of our history.

THE NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY-WIDE YARD SALE

Date - May 16

Place – Visit our table at the Mill Memorial Library parking lot

Nanticoke Historical Society will have items outside for sale and hotdogs and baked goods inside the Samantha Mill House – from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MIRACLE OF THE BELLS – BEHIND THE SCENES – STORY OF OLGA TRESKOFF,

Date – May 17 -

Time – 1 p.m.

Place – Cultural Centre of St. Faustina, 38 W. Church St.

Large screen Power Point presentation details the participation of the actors in the movie, the Hollywood lot and scenes filmed in Glen Lyon.

MEMBERS ONLY PICNIC

Date – July 11

Time – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place – Nanticoke Historical Society – next to the Mill Memorial Library

Members are asked to bring a covered dish or share a desert. Please let us know what you will be bringing. Hot dogs, hamburgers and refreshments will be supplied. Bring lawn chairs. In the event weather is too hot, event will be moved

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sharon Jarrow, Nazareth, Pa.

Surnames Edwin & Louisa Williams Wright of Glen Lyon, daughter Emily Wright, Thomas Wright (brother of Edwin)

Darlene Matzer, Nebo, NC Surnames

Turley, Stewart, Roberts, Kline, Womelsdorf

Michael Stachowiak, Nanticoke, Pa.

Surname Stachowiak

To Read More

**A History of Lodge No. 61, F. and A. M.,
Wilkesbarré, Pa. ...:**

A history of prominent members.

By Oscar Jewell Harvey

**Genealogical and Family History of the Wyoming
and Lackawanna ..., Volume 1** edited by Horace
Edwin Hayden, Alfred Hand, John Woolf Jordan

**Forgotten Patriots: The Untold Story of American
Prisoners During the American Revolution**

By Edwin G. Burrows

**The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and
Biography "Diary" Sullivan's Expedition to Staten
Island 1777**

published by: The Philadelphia Publication Fund
of Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1879.

**Notes and Queries: Historical, Biographical, and
Genealogical ..., Volume 2**

edited by William Henry Engle - Where he was a
spy - General Hazen

Historical Papers and Addresses, Volume 11

By Lancaster County Historical Society (Pa.)

Turncoats, Traitors, and Heroes

By John Bakeless

SOCIETY MEETING SCHEDULE

Dates –Thursday May 28, Time – 7 p.m.

No meetings for - June July and August

***Place - Samantha Mill House (Next to the Mill Memorial
Library) 495 East Main Street Nanticoke.***

Nanticoke – 1950

May (cont'd)

May

.

The Historical Society would like to thank the following people for their monetary or artifact donations:

Artifact from the early 1900's donated to the Historical Society

Can you answer these questions about the early history of Nanticoke?

In 1830, what forms of religion were the most prominent in Nanticoke?

What family dominated the industrialization of Nanticoke and Newport Township in the mid 1800's?

The discovery of what mineral created what industry and employment for several families in Nanticoke?

ANSWERS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE –Third Quarter 2015.

The Nanticoke Historical Society Welcomes:

CHECK OUT nanticokehistoryonline.org and our Facebook Page

Answers to questions about the early history of Nanticoke

**In our last newsletter we asked our readers
these questions:**

*Facts obtained from History of Nanticoke City and
Newport Township by C. Charles Ciesla and the
Nanticoke Historical Society.*

NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Web Site - www.nanticokehistoryonline.org

Email - nanticokehistorical@yahoo.com
history@nanticokehistoryonline.org

OFFICERS

President: Julianna Zarzycki

**Vice President/Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:
Chester Zaremba**

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Judith L. Minsavage

**Those interested in obtaining information from the
society archives are asked to submit an**

HISTORICAL RESEARCH/PHOTO REQUEST FORM

**The form can be found on our website listed above or
can be obtained from our office by calling 570-258-1367.**