

NANTICOKE LEGACY

NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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A Nanticoke Winter in 1961 – a snow covered scene of what was then called Central Park, now Patriot Park. In the top photo in the center of the photo, Pawlowski's Photography Studio can be seen. In the bottom photo the Acme Market that once stood in the center of the block of East Green Street just down from the Pawlowski's Studio.

Volume 2, Issue 26

FEBRUARY 2021

NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT:

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 To collect artifacts, memorabilia and historical documents and facts of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania and to store such items in a central location or specific area where these articles may be preserved, appreciated and used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

**Upcoming meeting
schedule**

**Due to the Coronavirus
Pandemic meetings are
cancelled until further
notice**

**When meetings resume,
they will take place at 7
p.m. the last Thursday of
the month at the Samantha
Mill House located next to
the Mill Memorial Library.**

**Enter the parking lot off
Kosciuszko Street.**

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

**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

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

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OFFICERS

President: Julianna Zarzycki

Vice-President/Treasurer: Chester Zaremba

NEWSLETTER EDITOR, STORIES AND NEWS

Judith L. Minsavage

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual \$20

Family \$30

Lifetime \$100.00 Individual

Please advise 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.**

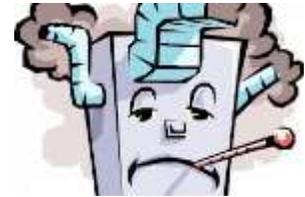
NEWS:

We are back in business

By Judy Minsavage

Things like a broken furnace never happen at a good time, but during a pandemic it is particularly challenging. The Nanticoke Historical Society offices at 495 East Main Street have been closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic but during that time, John Sherrick, our dedicated information officer, continued entering records at the office. For that, we give him a huge thank you because one such morning, John discovered the furnace was making an ominous sound, a banging of sorts.

Upon inspection by a professional, we were told the furnace was on its “last legs” The furnace had to be shut down which made it necessary to shut off the water and bleed the pipes to prevent freezing. In our last newsletter, we notified our membership of the issue and did they come through for us. Through numerous donations we were able to continue the process of having a new furnace installed. The names of

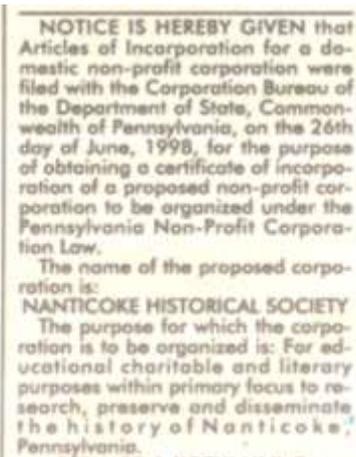


those donors are listed below. As you will see, however, further developments early this month caused us to be even more appreciative of our members generosity. We are glad to say we are back in the business of continuing to catalogue the history of Nanticoke.



More Good News!

Late in 2020, we were made aware of federal grant money that would be available to 501 C3 Organizations such as ours to help with continuing overhead costs and any funds needed for Covid-19 related expenses. We applied to the Luzerne County Covid-19 Grant Program for these funds but were unsure that our society would receive any of the benefits. As you can imagine there was considerable paperwork and requirements to be eligible for the funds. Fortunately when the society was established in



1996, our President, Julianna Zarzycki and Vice-President, Chet Zaremba initiated the paperwork to set up the organizational documentation that was necessary to apply for the grant in 2020.

Early in January, after our new furnace was installed, we were notified that we would receive a portion of the money allotted to Luzerne County for the benefit of non-profit organizations. These funds will be put to good use, as while our furnace was not working, mold appeared in the carpeting and on some of the walls in our offices. With these funds available we will be able to correct these problems, and be ready to receive visitors once our offices can again be opened to the public.

This is why we’re doubly appreciative of our donors. Upon receiving the Grant funds, we, in good conscience, felt we should offer to return the donations we received toward the furnace. All of our donors told us to keep the funds and put them toward future overhead expenditures,

which we will do as grant money can only go toward Covid-19 expenditures. We feel truly fortunate to have been able to get through a difficult time with the help of our members and the Luzerne County Grant Program.

We look forward to the day we will again serve those who are in search of the history of their families and who enjoy research. Our library is rife with books, journals, historic accounts, paper records, photos, DVD's, and video tapes. We offer this to those who are doing research or simply like reading about the history of Nanticoke and the surrounding areas. When the mandatory shutdown ends, we will again open our doors and invite you to take a look at our wide range of materials and memorabilia. Step back with us to experience what life was like in Nanticoke in times past.

We appreciate and would again like to thank the following members who enabled us to get through this difficult time. We look forward to serving our membership by continuing to maintain and document the history of the City of Nanticoke and its people for future generations.

Bill and Kathy Sweeney	Karen Acosta	Rosemary Caputo
Robert Ottensman	Deborah Hoton	Michelle Jones
George Manos	Michael Stachowiak	Cynthia Guffey
Charlotte Peplinski	Linda Grevera	Julie Ann Ross
Mary Hill	Kevin Grevera	Barbara Von Dran
Eugene Danowski	Phillip Shern	Graham Van Slyke
Mark Kellar	George Shern	Martha Price
John Tomko	Michael Hill	
Knights of Columbus	Lori Shemanski	

Mill Memorial Library posts new signs...

The Nanticoke Historical Society would like to thank the Mill Memorial Library board of directors for adding the Nanticoke Historical Society's name to the new library signs on Kosciuszko and East Main Streets. Both the library and the historical society have been tremendous assets to the city for many years. The society has been an active organization in Nanticoke since 1996. The Library, located at its current site at 495 East Main Street, was the vision of Samantha Mill. In her will, she bequeathed her home and land bordered by Kosciuszko, East Main, College and East Green Streets to the people of Nanticoke, for the establishment of a library and park.

The Library was first established in 1942 when the Welsh Ebenezer Presbyterian Church at 112 Prospect Street merged with the First Presbyterian Church. The old church was sold to the Mill Estate Trustees for the purpose of establishing the library. Several years later, the philanthropist's vision was realized as the city and the Mill estate's board of trustees agreed to start construction at its current location on East Main Street. The library was completed in 1958.

Over the years, the Nanticoke Historical Society has had other locations as well but is now fortunate to be located in the historic Samantha Mill House next to the Library. “We are proud of our close association with the Mill Memorial Library, said Chet Zaremba, Vice-President of the Historical Society, “We are extremely appreciative of the library’s support in adding our name to the signs .”

HERE’S HOW YOU CAN HELP THE NANTICOKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WHILE SHOPPING AMAZON

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

How do I support the Nanticoke Historical Society when shopping on AmazonSmile?

Log on to smile.amazon.com, you will be prompted to list your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. List the Nanticoke Historical Society. Amazon will remember your selection. From then on log onto at smile.amazon.com to purchase from Amazon - every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation.

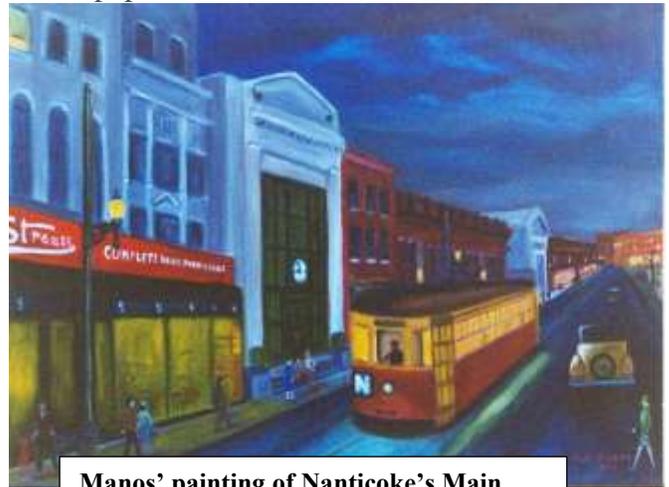
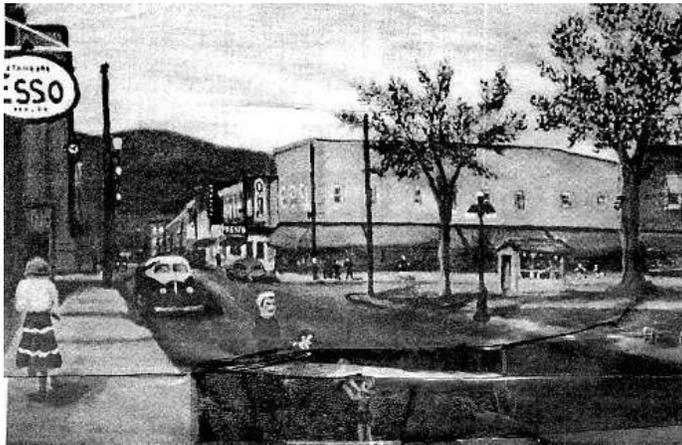


Follow the Nanticoke Historical Society on Facebook

To obtain a research request form go to www.nanticokehistoryonline.org and find our quick links at the top of our home page.



Long time Nanticoke Historical Society member and artist, George Charles Manos passed away on January 1, 2021 In Brooklyn NY. Manos kept in contact with the society over the years sending thoughts and memories as well as a photo of his 1944 painting of Main Street Nanticoke in the 1930's. His father Charles co- owned the Presto Restaurant on Market Street from approximately 1914 to 1937. Charles and wife Pauline were then the sole proprietors until 1944. Manos, in all of his writings, expressed the love and wonderful memories he had of Nanticoke, his hometown. At left, a painting by Manos of Market and Broad Streets appeared in an unknown newspaper in 1997.



Manos' painting of Nanticoke's Main Street in the 1930s

In 1997, Manos sent this photo of his painting to the Nanticoke Historical Society showing the intersection of Market and Broad Streets in the mid-forties stating, "Nanticoke became the hub for the smaller towns that surrounded her, proved by Friday and Saturday nights as hundreds of folks crowded Main and Market Streets."

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual \$20

Family \$30

Lifetime \$100.00 Individual

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

RESEARCH

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See our website for more information.**



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 many 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.

CIVIL WAR

Cornelius Rinehimer

Almon Rood – Sharpshooters of Co. F 143rd PA Volunteers

John Rowe – Battery I and Co. E 188th PA Infantry

William Schultz

Tillman Sieple

Jack Schappert

Elijah Skipper

WORLD WAR I

Thomas Demsky – Wounded in Action

Edward Dilling

Frederick Doberstein – Wounded in Action

Joseph Dobrowalski

John Dobrowalski

Louis Dobrowalski – Killed in action

Walter Dobrowalski

Joseph Dobzinski – wounded in action

Thomas Dolenski – wounded in action

Clem Dombroski

Leo Dombrowski – US Army

Leon Dombrowski - US Army

Zigmund Dombrowski

Charles Domolewicz

Michael Donahue – Naval Reserve Corps

Katherine Donsavage – Army Nurse Corps

John Dorak

Michael Dorak

Stanley Downing – Aviation Corps

William Dradlikas

WORLD WAR II

Anthony Gorezewski – KIA North Africa

Edmund Gorka

Theodore Grabowski, Killed in France

Charles Granity

Sheldon Greenbaum – US Army

Kazmer Gregorowicz – Served Pacific with 46th Army Engineers

John Greytek – Commanded Destroyers Kane & McKeey

Leon Gribb - Army Air Corp

Alice Gritsavaage – Nurse Corps

Leonard Groblewski

Harold Gross

Frank Grozio

Armand Guerra - POW

Leon Gonshor – MIA Pacific Theatre

Harold Hardiman –MIA

John Harding – Died in France

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

SEE WHAT'S IN OUR ARCHIVES

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

www.nanticokehistoryonline.org

On our Home Page:

CLICK ON THE "WHAT'S IN OUR ARCHIVES LINK."

Finding Victoria

By Judy Minsavage



The building at the corner of Green and Prospect Street has stood since 1930. It's unique in the engraved terra cotta tiles and trim that outline the colorful yellow brick edifice. It is specifically noted for the large, engraved panels facing both streets containing the name "Victoria." A beautiful yet mysterious moniker as society records did not show a close family relative with the name Victoria. Malinowski's Polish heritage would surely not honor the queen of England in such a manner, so it begs the question, who was Victoria?

A little History:

Emil Malinowski would be considered a man who achieved the American Dream. A native of Poland, Malinowski came to America in 1883. For a time, he worked for the Susquehanna Coal Company, but wanted to put the machinist training he received in his native country to work. Unable to get credit, it was told by those who knew him, Malinowski walked to Kingston, to buy an anvil he had heard he could purchase on credit. He carried it on his shoulder all the way back to Nanticoke and set up his machine shop and wagon building company at 60 W. Main Street. It was in operation from 1888 to 1902. His interest in brewing was stoked while working for the Hanover Brewery in Danville. In 1911, he founded the Franklin Brewing Company across from his residence in Hanover Twp., a place still remembered as Malinowski Hill. His brewing company closed in 1920 due to prohibition.



Emil Malinowski



Graduation photo of Lucy Malinowski in 1909

Because of the opportunities and his subsequent success, Malinowski wanted to extend his good fortune to the people of Nanticoke. In 1919 he organized the Miners Trust Company and was named President. Malinowski grew to prominence in the city, but regardless of all his success, his life was not without tragedy. In 1921 he and his wife Sophia, lost their daughter Lucy at the age of 31 to what was called "dilatation of the heart." Lucy who graduated from Nanticoke High School in 1909 was a teacher. Unfortunately, this would not be the family's last brush with tragedy.



In happier times at the Franklin Brewery, 1910, Left to right wife, Sophia Malinowski; Emil Malinowski, daughter, Helen, friend, Sophie Twardowski, friend Gertrude Knoll, daughter, Lucy; son John, unknown, Seated friend, Mamie.

Malinowski went on to garner more honors and complete projects in the city of Nanticoke. In 1923, he oversaw the construction of the Miners Trust Company Bank Building on the site of the landmark, Hill Drug Store on the corner of Market and Broad Streets (currently FNCB). Formally

opened on John Mitchell Day October 29, the new building cost approximately \$225,000. It was described as such “The exterior was of Indiana limestone, the main entrance was of bronze kalamein, and the floors were Tennessee Marble. The Wainscot was white Italian-English vein marble, with base of Verdi antique. Trim was natural African mahogany. Vault doors: 3 feet thick. 135 tons of steel used in construction of vault. Interior decorating color scheme of the edifice was ivory and orange tan in Italian renaissance. Deposits totaling \$360,000 were recorded during opening day.”

After World War I, Malinowski was decorated by the Polish Government with “The Order of Polonia Restituta Medallion for his aid to various charitable agencies under the control of the Polish Government during the country’s reconstruction. The honor was bestowed in New York City. The Medallion is comparable to the Congressional Medal of Honor in the US. In 1927, Malinowski was elected president of the Polish Union of America leading a membership of more than 40,000. In 1930, Malinowski proposed the “Victoria” Building to be built on the site of the Peter Conroy Hotel, at the corner of Prospect and Greens Streets. Two other buildings 310, 312, 314 Prospect Street and 31, 33, 37 Green Street were constructed as well.



This 1930s photo shows the Miner’s Trust Building (currently FNCB) in the background and the ornate clock that once hung over Broad Street

Tragedy strikes again

In the early morning hours of November 12, 1932, Emil Malinowski, his wife, son John and daughter Mary were asleep in their beds in their home located on a section of St. Mary’s Road (Malinowski’s Hill), off of the Sans Souci Parkway in Hanover Township.

Two men entered the residence through a basement window and went to the second floor and entered the bedroom where Mary Malinowski was sleeping, she awakened and the two men, Anthony Tetrosky and Frank Stabinski of Ashley, told Mary to remain silent but as the men moved to enter the bedroom of her brother John, she screamed. The men bound and gagged Mary and beat her into unconsciousness with a

blackjack. The two men entered John's bedroom tied him up and demanded money and items of value. The Times Leader Evening News reported that "Mary Malinowski, 45, died at Nanticoke State Hospital on Nov. 27, 1932." She is buried in the family plot at St. Mary's Cemetery in Hanover Township.

Malinowski, never recovered from the shock of losing his daughter Mary in such a manner. In February 1933, Malinowski died of what was considered a heart ailment, but family, friends and close associates felt it was due to the second tragic loss a daughter. At his bedside were his wife, Sophia, sons, John and Frank; daughter Blanche Krzywicki, George Klinges, and Rev. D.W. McCarthy pastor of St. Aloysius Church.

Tetrosky was captured in Allentown and Stabinski was arrested by Wilkes-Barre police as he walked on South Washington Street near Ross Street in Wilkes-Barre. Both men were responsible for a local crime spree which started with the killing of a Wilkes-Barre business owner Peter Cutler and ended in the beating death of Mary Malinowski. Both men were found guilty and were sentenced to death, Stabinski's trial judge was Nanticoke native, and future governor of Pennsylvania John S. Fine. Tetrosky and Stabinski were executed on Jan. 8, 1934.

Mystery solved

In 1930, The Wilkes Barre Times Leader reported "A two-story building will be erected within a short time at Green and Prospect Streets, the site of the old Peter Conroy Hotel, by Emil Malinowski, local banker. It will be constructed of brick and terra cotta and will be 63 x 110 feet with four storerooms to occupy the first floor and two apartments and four offices on the second." By July 1930, the building was nearly completed, and the "Victoria" panels set. But who was Victoria? Records show Emil Malinowski's mother's name as Catherine, his wife, Sophia, and daughters, Mary, Blanche, Helen, Sophia and Lucy.

A thorough search of historical society records and yearbooks by Nanticoke Historical Society Vice-

President, Chet Zaremba, revealed a clue. An early Nanticoke High School Yearbook showed a hint that Lucy's first name might have been Victoria, although her graduation photo in 1909 names her as Lucy.



Victoria can be seen inscribed ever so faintly on the stone tablet on Lucy Malinowski's crypt.

A further search shows the proof as Victoria can barely be seen inscribed before the name Lucy in the Malinowski family mausoleum. We can only surmise that perhaps, as a young girl Lucy disliked her formal given name, A quick search finds that Lucille was the 36th most popular name in 1909.

Emil Malinowski was in large part responsible for the construction of the Miners Bank Building, now the FNCB, the architecturally pleasing buildings at Prospect and Green Streets and the Victoria Building, which forever will immortalize the name of one of his beloved daughters the first of whom was gone far too soon. He was a man of humble beginnings who loved and served his Polish homeland, took advantage of what America had to offer, and shaped the city of Nanticoke, affecting its early growth while experiencing tragedy and heartache. He left this earth a better place. Truly an American story played out in the City of Nanticoke. 🇺🇸

Early Polish Immigration to Nanticoke

By Andrea M. Nerozzi



Polish Immigrants arriving at Ellis Island

My first visit to the Nanticoke Historical Society (NHS) in June 2019 was mainly to see what resources I could find that would shed light on my Polish ancestor's immigration to the area in the late 19th century. Upon embarking on this journey, I had no idea that it would spark the heartfelt desire to learn so much more about Nanticoke and the lives of the people who are part of this community.

Like many people exploring their family history, possibly even yourself, I started out with a few basic facts - that my 2nd-great-grandparents arrived in Nanticoke in the early 1870s – at the start of the first wave of intense Polish immigration to the United States, and just as Nanticoke was beginning to grow as a result of the coal industry. My desire to learn more about what my 2nd-great-grandparents experienced led to an exploration of the history of Nanticoke and an investigation of immigration patterns in our region, with a special focus on those with Polish heritage.



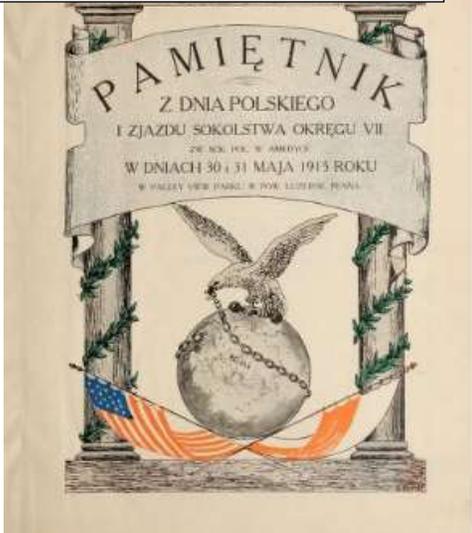
Map of Eastern Europe in 1870's

In order to find out how many Poles were in the region; I first consulted the 1870 Federal Census. However, at that time, Poland did not exist as an independent nation. Therefore, immigrants from this region might list Poland, Germany, Russia or Austria-Hungary as their birthplace, depending upon their preference. Alternatively, some combination might be used, such as Russ-Poland. Interestingly, none of the residents of Nanticoke, and only twenty-seven residents of the surrounding townships (Newport, Hanover, Wilkes-Barre, Plains, Sugar Notch, Sugar Loaf, Plymouth, Hazleton and Nescopeck) cited Poland as their birthplace. My 2nd-great-grandparents are not among them, as they emigrated after 1870.

Next, I turned to Polish American journals and newspapers written at the turn of the 20th century, as these sources contain much detail about the American "Polonia". However, they required translation, which was accomplished by copying the Polish text into Google translate, a tedious, but ultimately rewarding task.

Andrzej Kolinski (1904) writes in the *Ameryka Echo* that the first Poles arrived in Nanticoke in 1871: Teofil Grunczewski, Jozef Bandowski, Dominik Wnokowski and Szymon Jacewicz, and with them, a Lithuanian, Stanislaw Macium. He adds that several Poles joined nearby communities in the same year: Szymon Klidzio (the brother of my 2nd-great-grandfather) and Chrapowicki in Miners Mills, Jan Wojtulewicz in Mill Creek, Ludwik Gabryliewicz and Franciszek Pietkiewicz in Scranton and Franciszek Kozlowski in Hazleton.

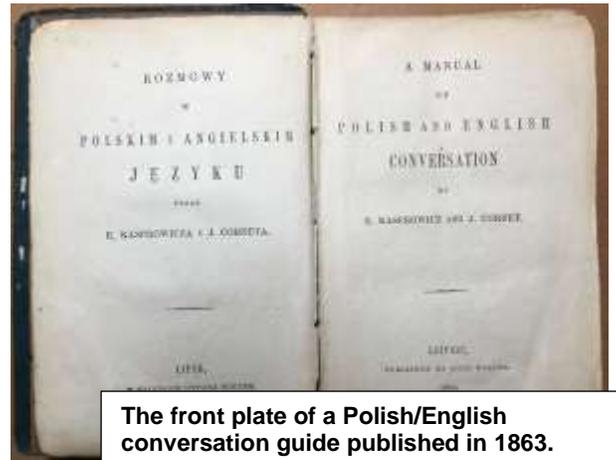
The cover of the 1915 publication of the Polish Falcons in which the article written by Ignacy Haduch appeared.



In 1915, Ignacy Haduch writes in a publication of the Polish Falcons that the first Polish immigrant in Lackawanna county was Wladyslaw Czechowicz who arrived in 1863, settling in Scranton. He was followed in 1869/70 by Szymon Klidzio, Antoni Chrapikonski, Wladyslaw Hajdukiewicz, Jan Sosnowski, and Zygmunt Twarowski, all settling in Parsons. He reports that the following individuals settled soon after in Nanticoke: Teofil Grunczewski, Antoni Klidzio (my great-great-Grandfather), Wiktor Wnukowski, Jozef Dreier, Wincent Wierzbolowicz and Piotr Sztukowski.

The lists of Kolinski and Haduch share only two individuals: Teofil Grunczewski and Szymon Klidzio. Furthermore, the 1870 Federal Census does not include any of the names from either article. The most likely explanation is that the individuals had not yet arrived. However, they may have been missed in the Census or their names misspelled. Furthermore, the Census is the only source that includes the names of females and children.

In "Polish Miners in Luzerne County Pennsylvania", Sister Accursia (1946) adds an additional twenty early Polish immigrants of Nanticoke, all reportedly arriving before 1873. She states that "nearly all old Polish settlers agree that Louis Hajdukiewicz was the first permanent Polish resident of this area", perhaps pre-dated by John Szumowski and Joseph Stachowiak, who both served in the Civil War, and have been included in articles of previous issues of this Newsletter. After consulting records of the Susquehanna Coal Company (SCC), she identifies other early Polish immigrants as Daniel Boniewicz, Joseph Krutski, John Retalik and Joseph and Edward Ronsa (Rzasa).



The front plate of a Polish/English conversation guide published in 1863.



The Polish Falcone is said to be a symbol of the rebellions that were occurring throughout the 19th Century

A current Polish scholar, Adam Walaszek, in his book, *Life on the Border and "Life In-Between": Poles in the Anthracite Basin of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, With Other Groups in the Background (1753-1902)* (2011), writes that "in the biographical notes of the first newcomers from Poland there

were very frequent references to their participation in Polish uprising and conspiracies." However, this topic was not the



Wooden plate with inscription in Polish "Guest in the House, God in the House"

focus of his book, and the author did not elaborate. Indeed, this is the story of my great-great-grandfather and his brother, whose family faced harsh reprisals, including exile to Siberia and the confiscation of property, for participation in the January Uprising (1863-4), a failed attempt to oust the Russian Empire. I am wondering if other early Polish immigrants to this region share these experiences.

Undoubtedly, the initial Polish immigrants in Nanticoke and the nearby areas were a tight-knit community, relying upon each other to navigate in this foreign land, where they struggled to learn the language and culture, while finding employment and establishing a new life. If you would like to share your family's story, please reach out to the Nanticoke Historical Society. 📧

NANTICOKE FAIR DAYS 1987 TO 2001

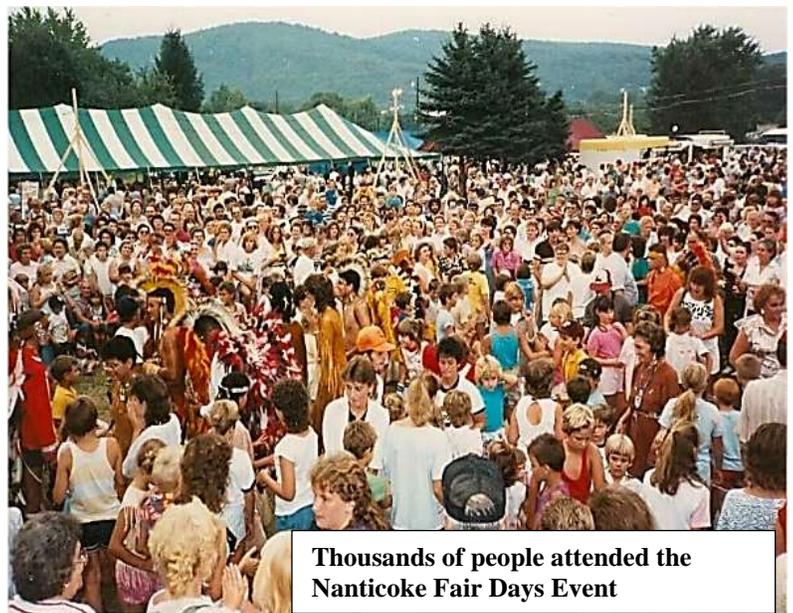
By Judy Minsavage



The Nanticoke's are welcomed by Nanticoke City Mayor John Haydock

In 1987, the first Nanticoke Fair Days sponsored by the Nanticoke Revitalization Committee and held at the Lower Broadway Fairgrounds, would see members of the Nanticoke Native American Tribe return to the place where some of their forefathers settled in 1753. Nanticoke City Mayor, John Haydock, arranged to welcome the Nanticoke Tribal Council and to mark the event with the signing of a peace treaty between the tribe and Nanticoke City Council. It was an event to behold as large gatherings of city residents and visitors from

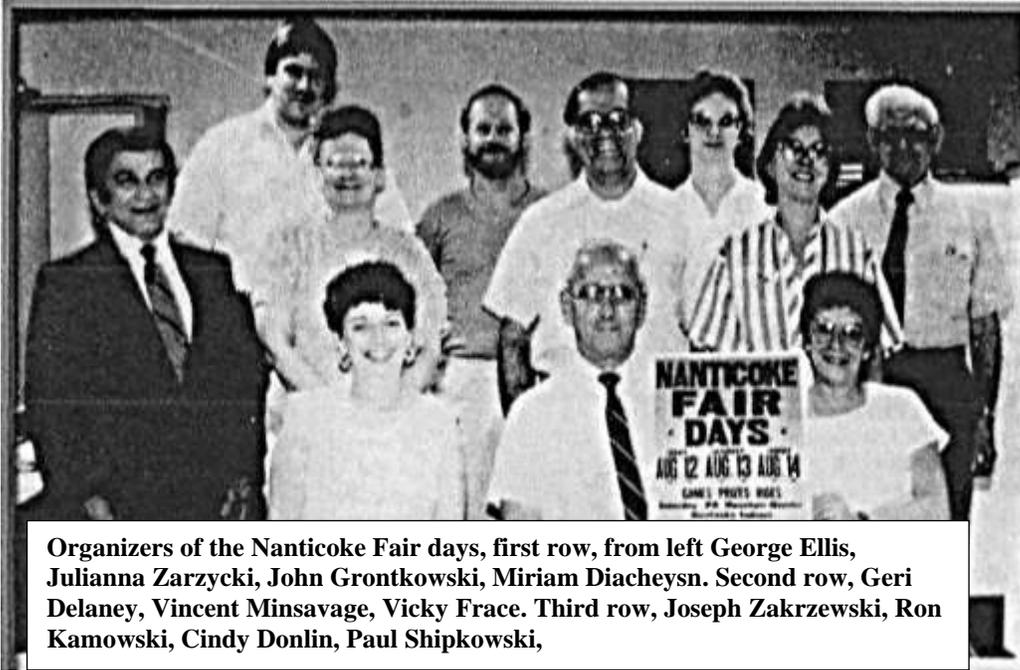
all over the valley came, not only to meet with the tribal members who traveled from Millsboro, DE, but also to see a sampling of the Nanticoke beadwork, weaving and feather work. Those attending



Thousands of people attended the Nanticoke Fair Days Event



Former mayor John Haydock and Odette Wright unveil Lower Broadway monument in 1988



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

were treated to the beautiful ritual tribal dances performed during the Nanticoke’s two-day appearance at the event.

The Nanticoke tribal members returned in 1988, and the now incorporated Nanticoke Area Development Corporation continued to sponsor the Fair Days. Former city mayor, John Haydock and Odette Wright, the curator of the Nanticoke Indian Museum at Millsboro, DE unveiled a monument that still stands at the lower Broadway section of the city.

It states: “This monument commemorates the signing of the peace treaty between the citizens of Nanticoke and the Nanticoke Indians this day August 8, 1987.” It stands as a constant reminder that our city has a long and storied past, one that we can be proud of.

In 1989, The highlight of the four-day Fair was a Volunteer Fire Company parade. Twenty trophies and cash prizes were awarded to the fire companies in various categories. It was estimated over 15,000 people attended the fair, even though at the start, promoters were afraid the rainy weather would keep crowds away. “The \$8,500 collected from the fair was used to make repairs to the J.S. Raub building on Main Street.” said John Grontkowski, event chairman. The fair continued through 1990, but by 1991, organizers were hoping for a better turn out. The fair garnered \$3,000 to \$5,000, considerably less than the first year, but a string of warm nights helped bring an estimated 30,000 to the Lower Broadway Fairgrounds. That was good news as 1991 was a turning point year. The Nanticoke Area Development Corporation (NADC) would decide whether to continue holding the event based on the 1991 outcome. Nanticoke Mayor Walter Sokolowski and Joe Zak, director of community development grilled spareribs and chicken for 600 dinners and Greater Nanticoke Area School Board members Bob Bertoni and Dennis Makarszyk braved the dunking booth. All was in good fun, and the fair survived for another year.

In 1993, committee members John Grontkowski, president; Ron Kamowski, vice-president; Geraldine Delaney, secretary; Vincent Minsavage, treasurer; and directors Cindy Donlin, Marian Diacheysn, Vicky Frace, Paul Shipkowski, George Ellis, Leonard Olzinski, Julianna Zarzycki and Atty. Susan Maza announced that there would be a death-defying act added to the fair line-up. Carla Wallenda of the Great Wallenda’s Aerial Act was scheduled to thrill spectators 100 feet above the ground atop a sway pole. She would balance on her head on the pole and then slide suspended from a wire on one ankle to the ground. It was a thrilling experience for all.



This photo of Carla Wallenda appeared in an edition of the Times Leader in August 1993

In 1995, A Classic Car Jamboree was added to the festivities of the Fair Days at Patriot Square topped with music provided by the Nanticoke Area High School Band.

By 1996, popular bands were scheduled for each night. Food, games and rides provided fun for the whole family. Clubs such as the Kiwanis, Rotary and Chamber of Commerce helped out during the event.

By 2000, the NADC noticed a decline in attendance over the last four years and decided to offer some of the area's most popular bands to increase attendance. 40 LB. Head, Bad Hair Day, and Side Show, Hickory Rose, Stanky and the Coalminers and The Magics were on board and of course the food vendors, rides and games that were so familiar to those in attendance.

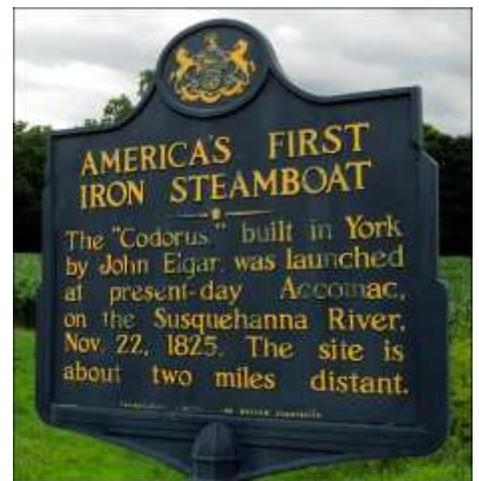
The NADC held on for another year, but by 2002 the Corporation could no longer sponsor the Fair Days event. "We would like to thank the community for the support that made this possible over the last 15 years." Event Chairman and NADC president John Grontkowski stated in an announcement published in the Mar 20, 2002 Citizen's Voice. 🗿

Challenge at Nanticoke Falls

By: Judy Minsavage

In 1824, John Elgar was a 35-year-old machinist working for a company in York Haven, PA when he saw an advertisement in the newspaper paid for by a group of Baltimore businessmen who wanted to have a steamboat built capable of navigating the Susquehanna River. The businessmen were eager to start planning to use the Susquehanna River for commercial shipping. Elgar, an avid reader and expert iron worker, knew iron ships were good for sea travel, and he was sure the iron-hulled steamboat he planned to propose would be able to withstand the shallow rocky and rough nature of the Susquehanna better than wooden steamboat counterparts. Elgar enlisted the help of Phineas Davis who had experience with steam propulsion to assist with his proposal. Elgar drew up the plans and set about building the first iron vessel for river commerce. He knew that the ship had to be kept shallow and able to withstand river rapids and the rocky nature of the Susquehanna, but he knew his route north to New York would be dangerous but most especially so at Nanticoke Falls.

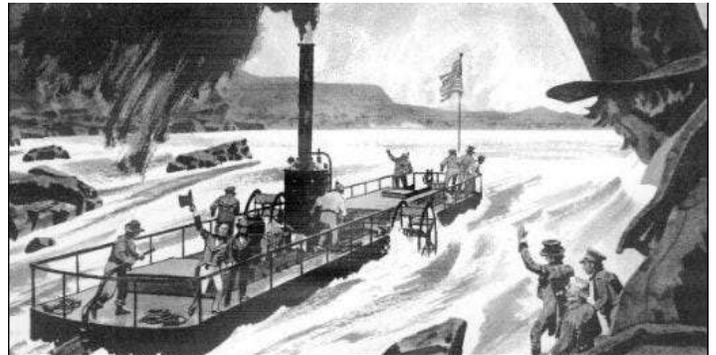
On November 22, 1825, Elgar's iron steamboat, the first of its kind, was launched in the Susquehanna River at Accomac, Hellam Township, PA. Elgar named his boat Codorus, after a fishing creek near his home in York County, PA. By April of 1826, the ice had cleared from the river and Elgar prepared to make his journey. He knew his voyage would be arduous as he captained the vessel on the 300-mile voyage to New York State, but he felt sure that if he conquered the freezing cascading water of Nanticoke Falls, he would surely prove that metal hulled boats would be a viable form of commercial river transportation in America.



Elgar navigated easily through the Conewago Falls at York Haven as a canal and locks were in place, but as he approached Nanticoke, he and his crew steeled themselves against the freezing winds and, prepared to dive into the rushing water if the Falls proved too hazardous for his steamer.

In an article published in the October 1966 issue of Steelways Magazine written by Commander Alexander C. Brown, U.S. Naval Reserve, a letter written by Elgar, was referenced that described the challenge he faced at Nanticoke Falls.

“At Nanticoke Falls, (where more boatmen have been lost than at any other place on the river) we had to throw out the tow line to a number of men on shore who had come down from Wilkes-Barre to see us ascent the falls. Five of us remained on the boat, four good polemen to brace her off the rocks along shore that the steam power might be used without endangering the wheels, myself to tend the engine and, tho’ a cold morning, icicles hanging to houses 2-ft. long, I took off my coat, preparing to swim out in case of accident, resolved that the boat should go up or sink.”



This drawing which appeared in the October 1966 issue of Steelways Magazine depicted John Elgar’s, steamship, the Codorus as it conquered Nanticoke Falls in 1826

When all was ready the boat was pushed out of an eddy into the main current and all the steam power put on, which was at least 25 horses, but to little effect. The violence of the water being so great, it seemed to increase the motion of wheels. The boat remained stationery for several minutes; at length, the greater exertion at the rope drew her bow so low that the rush of water dashed over the deck. I saw the boat was in great danger of being drawn under.

I ran forward with my knife opened to cut the rope, which is considered, when necessary, a very dangerous resort on account of the boat swinging round in the current & over-setting. But to my joy she bounced up like an egg & began to move ahead. This was a greater voluntary hazard than I would like to run again.

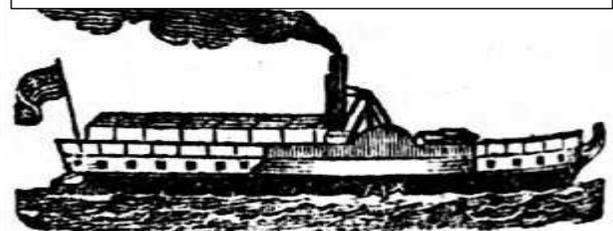
A few days later, a steam pipe burst when The Codorus was thirty-seven miles upriver from Wilkes-Barre; luckily, no one was injured.”

Although the voyage of the Codorus and Elgar’s iron ship proved successful, the Susquehanna and the dangerous nature of Nanticoke Falls was not conducive to commercial steamboat operations, Therefore the initiative of the businessmen who hoped to use the Susquehanna for commerce proved unsuccessful. Elgar remained largely unknown for his achievement of inventing the iron-hulled Steamboat until Commander Brown brought his achievement in various articles written between 1950 and 1966.

What happened to the Codorus?

The Codorus remained on the Susquehanna, at York for two years, but was towed to Baltimore and then on to North Carolina to be used to connect New Bern and Beaufort. New decking was added and On

This drawing shows the new decking added to the Codorus in 1829.



FOR THE STEAM-BOAT CODORUS,
Captain T. CHADWICK.

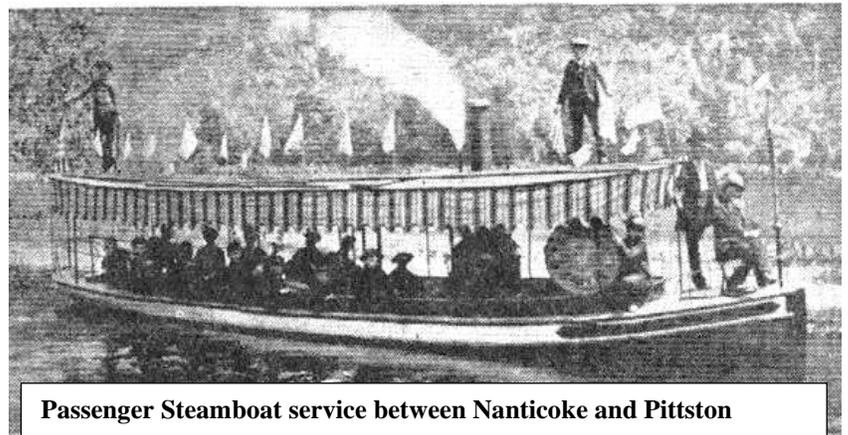
February 7, 1829, the vessel was ready to shuttle passengers at a cost of \$1.50. It has been reported that the ship's time as a passenger boat was short-lived. At present there are no details as to what happened to the ship, was she skuttled, dismantled, it's unknown. Likewise, the fate of Elgar. With the success of changing maritime history, Elgar may have just returned home to York Haven satisfied with the fact that his idea, and design conquered Nanticoke Falls.

Due to erosion caused by the ever-flowing river Nanticoke Falls is not as dangerous as it once was but is still a formidable force. More than a century ago only the most skilled boatman could manage to conquer their force. Many craft were dashed against rocks and lives were lost. It has been said that boatmen abandoned the river and stayed in the area rather than continue traveling down the waterway after learning of the fury of the Nanticoke Falls.

Steamboats on the Susquehanna

by 1836, a dam and canal were in place providing easier navigation through the Nanticoke Gap and making steamboat service in the Wyoming Valley possible. The dam created sufficient depths for larger boats to navigate the river system. From 1831 to 1903 Steamboats did cruise the Susquehanna but did not attempt the run of Elgar and his Codorus. It is not known

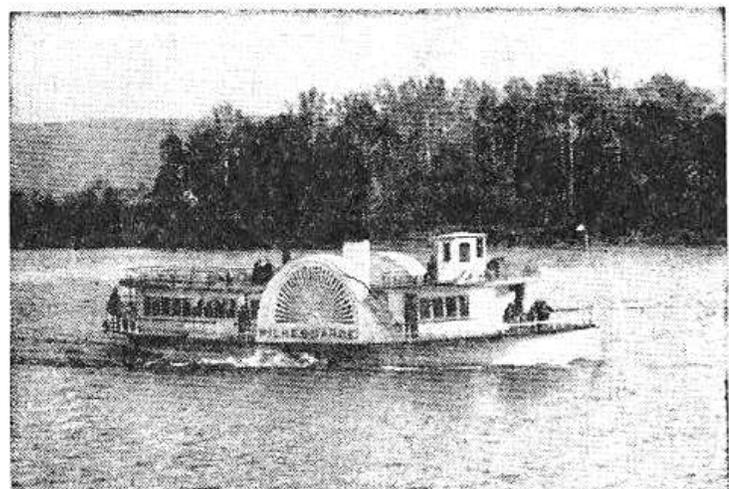
whether these steamboats were iron-hulled or wood, but they were mostly used for transportation and light commerce between Nanticoke, Plymouth, Wilkes-Barre and Pittston. Damage was incurred on some of the vessels, leaving passengers to walk to their destination. Some boats were so incapacitated they were left to deteriorate where they broke down or had become stuck in the muddy banks of the river.



Passenger Steamboat service between Nanticoke and Pittston

The passing of the Steamboat era

In 1880, Congressman Hendrick Wright, representing the 12th District, lobbied to have the Susquehanna dredged from Buttonwood to Wilkes-Barre in hopes of creating steamboat transportation from Plymouth to Wilkes-Barre. A channel was built by the Federal Government between the shallow and rocky areas on the east side of the river and an island that was situated mid-stream. Soon after, Wright's steamboat, the 108 ft. Hendrick B. Wright, named after his father, was providing passenger service between Nanticoke, Plymouth and Wilkes-Barre and on occasion the vessels would travel to Pittston. In 1881 the boat was crushed by ice as it sat docked in Pittston. ❏



The Wilkes-Barre was one of the last steamboats providing passenger service on the Susquehanna River

Last Issue's Mystery Question

What four former football players from Nanticoke were drafted into the National Football league?



Stan "Bunny" Galazin
New York Giants, 1937-39



Doug Turley
Wash. Redskins, 1944-48



Edmund Shedlosky
New York Giants, 1945



Harry Hamilton, GNA
Jets & Tampa Bay, 1984-91

ANSWER:

STAN "BUNNY" GALAZIN was born on August 8, 1915, he graduated Villanova University and played the center position for three seasons with the New York Giants in the National Football League. He was to play his first game on November 21, 1937 against the Green Bay Packers. But tragedy struck as he was notified that, while on their way to the game, his Father Stanley and two brothers were involved in an accident on a mountain road in Monroe County. Sadly, Galazin's father was killed, and his two brothers were seriously injured. In May of 1942, Galazin was elected teacher and football coach by the school board of Nanticoke High School succeeding Frank J. Chickosky. Galazin passed on in 1989.

DOUGLAS PERSHING TURLEY was born on November 25, 1918, He played the end position for Washington, in the National Football League from 1944 to 1948. In 1986 Turley was inducted into the Delaware Sports Museum and Hall of Fame. He passed on in 1992.

EDMUND SHEDLOSKY was born on August 2, 1920. Shedlosky played during the 1945 season for the New York Giants. After leaving the National Football League, Shedlosky practiced dentistry in Camp Hill, PA. Shedlosky passed on in 2013.

HARRY EDWIN HAMILTON was born on November 29, 1962. Hamilton was recruited by Penn State for his academics and athletics and earned the title of Academic All-American safety following the 1982 and 1983 seasons. Hamilton played eight seasons as a safety with the New York jets and Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Hamilton retired at the age of 29 and studied law.

LOOKING FOR A YEARBOOK?

THE FOLLOWING YEARBOOKS ARE LOCATED AT OUR OFFICES:

Check our website for availability – UPDATED JANUARY 2019

Nanticoke High School

John S. Fine or GNA (Greater Nanticoke Area High School)

Newport High School, Wanamie,

Newport Twp.

GAR High School

Bloomsburg University

Wilkes University

Kings College

Duplicates from each high school are available for purchase.

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

Visit our website – www.nanticokehistoryonline.org