

The Biery House Herald



www.hcpa.org

Volume 1, No.3 Newsletter of the Historic Catasauqua Preservation Association Fall 2010

2010 Fest-O'-Fall

HCPA's FEST O' FALL celebration will be **Sunday, October 3, 2010** from 12 to 5 p.m., rain or shine, at the Biery House, 8 Race Street, Catasauqua. Mark your calendar for an afternoon of fun, food, and history. The Borough Business Revitalization Program, Catasauqua Parks and Recreation's George Taylor House and Fire Department, and the CSD HS Generation Hope organization will also be participating in the day's events.

At the Biery House, visit the scary haunted house, the Summer Kitchen Witch is waiting for your visit, dress up your pet for the Pet Parade @ 2 pm (registration starts at 1), test your skills at the 'balloon' launch, & pumpkin chucking, and have fun at the kids games, races, crafts and a scavenger hunt. Check out the Scarecrows: let us know if you'd like to bring one of your own creations for display. Kids can make a Scarecrow to take home—all the fixins provided. Enjoy music and lunch at the Biery House Outdoor Kitchen. And take home some desserts from the bake sale table (bake sale donations appreciated ; drop off Sunday 10 to 12 at 8 Race).

Also tour the Biery House Art Gallery and Museum. On display will be original art work, "Capturing the History of Catasauqua Through Art" with prints available for purchase. See new displays in the Museum: we've received a number of donations that have been added to the collection.

Visit the George Taylor House @ Lehigh and Poplar Streets for a tour of the home of Catasauqua's signer of the Declaration of Independence. It's just a short walk from the Biery House. There will be activities there, including tours of fire and emergency vehicles.

Jump on the hay ride and take a ride up to the business district for more fun, games and food at participating businesses. Stop by Branded's and make a toddler-size scarecrow for decorating your home.

Contact Deb Mellish @ 610 231-0603 with questions or to volunteer!

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Yes! I Wish to Support
HCPA



Please accept my contribution

<input type="checkbox"/> Member	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Business	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$ _____

Make check payable and send to:

HCPA
8 Race Street
Catasauqua Pa 18032

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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HCPA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

History of The Public House 607 Front Street, Catasauqua



Undated photos showing the social life at 607 Front Street

During the year 1859, George Kopp, a member of Captain Henry S. Harte's Catasauqua Rifles, established a public house at 607 Front Street, Catasauqua. He styled the enterprise as the **St. George Hotel**. Upon his death, January 19 1872, The Honorable Ernest Nagle took over the operations of the establishment. Mr. Nagle, a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (1877-1881), married Mary Josephine (Schneider) Kopp, the widow of George Kopp, and he managed the affairs of the business until his own death on August 1, 1893.

Leopold Ehle married Frances Kopp, fourth daughter of George and Mary Josephine Kopp, in 1887, and after the death of Mr. Nagle, he became proprietor of the hotel, styling it as **Ehle's Café**. Over the next 23 years Mr. Ehle ran the operations of the business until his death on September 2, 1916.

Joseph Waddick, a bar clerk for Mr. Ehle, purchased the business and changed the name to **Waddick's Café**. Upon his death, his daughters Gertrude and Helen operated the establishment until their partnership was dissolved in 1947. Carl Nicklas married Helen Waddick and the bar was operated as **Nicklas' Bar**.

In July, 1955 Joseph and Doris Zemba took over the reins of the public house and changed the name to the **Sportsman's Bar**. Joseph Zemba passed away on March 13, 1998 and his widow Doris Zemba continued to operate the establishment until May 17, 2001, at which point she sold both the business and the building to Antonio Castaneda. After extensive renovations, the establishment was re-opened on November 3, 2001 as **Tony's Top Cat Bar & Grill**.

By Dale Wint, HCPA archives

The Other THOMAS Family in Catasauqua's History

This year's house tour included 516 Walnut St, current residence of the Butlers and original residence of Mrs. MaryAnn Thomas. The home, built in 1910 for Mrs. Thomas after the death of her husband James, features an original stained glass window depicting the Thomas family coat-of-arms. According to the 1914 history of Catasauqua, this Thomas family also came from South Wales but was not related to David Thomas. Mrs. MaryAnn Thomas, originally a Davies, married James Thomas, one of two sons of Hopkin and Catherine Thomas of South Wales. Hopkin and Catherine came to Philadelphia sometime between the birth of William in 1829 (in Wales) and of James in 1836 (in Philadelphia). Hopkin and Catherine Thomas moved to Catasauqua in 1853.

MaryAnn Davies and her brother George were the children of Daniel & Mary Davies, also of Wales who came to Catty in 1850. George Davies and James Thomas were close friends from childhood, and James married George's sister MaryAnn in 1861. George and James were business partners in the Davies and Thomas Company, Davies & Thomas Iron, Wahnetah Silk (James was president), Bethlehem Light & Power (1882), Catasauqua Electric Light and Power (1890), and in real estate in west Bethlehem. Their friendship with Thomas Edison is evidenced by later visit(s) by Mr. Edison to the home of Mrs. MaryAnn Thomas in Catasauqua (ie Thomas Edison Slept Here). James and MaryAnn Thomas had 7 children: Blanche T who married Charles Horn, Mary C, Rowland D, Ruth (McKee), Helen T (married Dr. James L. Hornbeck), Catherine R and Hopkin. MaryAnn's brother George married Mary A. Evans in 1864. They had 4 children.

James married MaryAnn while superintendent of Carbon Iron Works in Parrysville then moved the family to Alabama, where he made the first coke iron in AL while at the Irondale and Eureka Iron Companies. After returning to Catasauqua in 1879, James and George reformed the Davies and Thomas Company, a foundry and machine shop built by George's father Daniel in 1876. The partnership lasted until George's death in 1894. James son Rowland D. succeeded his father James as president in 1906, followed by Leonard Pickett in 1911. It was this company that furnished 80% of the cast iron material used in the construction of the 8 NYC harbor tunnels. James was also a director of the Catasauqua National Bank.

Reference: A History of Catasauqua, PA (1914). The 1914 history publication grew out of the Historical Committee of the Old Home Week Association.

By Deb Mellish

HCPA acknowledges the following recent donations

Wachovia Bank/Wells Fargo - The Catasauqua branch of Wachovia Bank closed on August 10, 2010. A number of items highlighting the bank's history were donated to HCPA for display.

Lehigh Valley Christian Academy found three photographs of graduating classes from 1917, 1922 and 1926 in the basement of Lincoln School. The three framed photographs were donated to HCPA for display at the Biery House Museum with our other Catasauqua school items.

We thank those of you who donated Catasauqua memorabilia to HCPA for display. HCPA's goal is to preserve Catasauqua's history and items pertaining to it. If you have something you would like to donate, please call Janice at 610 266-0255.

Capturing the History of Catasauqua through the People

HCPA is gathering the personal memories of those born and/or raised in Catasauqua. If you would like to contribute your written or oral memories of life in Catasauqua from the 1920's to the present, please contact Karen Siegfried at 610 443 3277.

Historic Catasauqua Preservation Association
8 Race Street
Catasauqua, PA 18032



OUR MISSION

The Biery House c. 1826

To encourage an appreciation of the historical and the architectural heritage of the borough; to encourage the preservation of the architecture in our historic districts and the borough at large, as the houses and buildings are the tangible evidence of the events that made Catasauqua important as a contributor to the growth and development, not only of Pennsylvania, but also of the United States; to encourage the preservation of the architectural integrity of our neighborhoods, and to foster pride of ownership in the houses and buildings in our historic districts.

Our Board Members

Ray Smicker	President
Debra Mellish	Vice President
Janice Lathrop	Treasurer
Brian Zettlemoyer	Director
Betsy Hillenbrand	Director
Larry Mouer	Director
John Ponstingl	Museum Curator
Bob LeFevre	Art Director
Dave Bernini	Web Master

Up-coming events

Sunday, Oct 3rd, 12-5 pm, Fest O' Fall

Tuesday, Nov 16, 7-8 pm, Photos of Catasauqua,
Then & Now

Tuesday, Dec 7, 7-10pm, HCPA Member Holiday
Open House

All above events at the Biery House, 8 Race St

Holiday gift idea: stop by the Biery House, visit www.HCPA.org, or call Bob LeFevre at 610 687-0166 to purchase prints from our "Capturing the History of Catasauqua Through Art" collection. 8.5 x 11 inch prints for \$15; 13 x 19 inch prints for \$25.

Biery House Rental

Affordable elegance for any special occasion! Seating for up to 50 guests.

Birthdays, Children's Parties, Showers,

Christenings, Anniversaries, Small weddings, Rehearsal Dinners, Corp Meetings, etc.

\$125 Fee includes tables, chairs, basic linens, kitchenette

Call 610-264-9716 or 610-266-0255 or e-mail [bhillerbrand@hcpa.org](mailto:bhillenbrand@hcpa.org)