

# The Biery House Herald



www.hcpa.org

Volume 1, No. 2    Newsletter of Historic Catasauqua Preservation Association    Spring 2010

## Thoughts From the President

Greetings! This issue of the Biery House Herald features two articles of local interest: the Lynch brothers and George Deily. The articles were compiled by Janice Lathrop and Bob LeFevre. These are the types of vignettes of local history that we endeavor to feature in every issue. Suggestions are welcome, so contact us with ideas for research or with information to include @ www.hcpa.org.

In April, HCPA hosted our first Art Sale of paintings by artists. These artists have previously donated artworks to HCPA which feature historical aspects of Catasauqua. We hope you can support HCPA and these artists by purchasing works at the Gallery through May 1. Come visit our Art Gallery & Museum; we have so much to show you!

## HCPA 2010 House and Garden Tour

Sunday, June 13th 1:00~5:00 Pm

Spring is here and HCPA will be hosting a tour of select homes and gardens in our neighborhoods. Included will be a variety of historic buildings, homes and gardens featuring the borough's history, architectural detail, interesting décor or collections, or well tended gardens. We appreciate those who have volunteered to welcome us into their special places and hope you enjoy this year's event. To reserve a ticket for the event, simply call 610 266-0255. Advance orders are \$12. Tickets sold the day of the event are \$15.

We also hope to repeat "Quilts in the Breeze" on the porch of the Thomas Mansion, with displays of old and new handmade quilts and quilt related crafts. If you would like to exhibit, please contact Janice at the above number.



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**Yes! I Wish to Support  
HCPA**



Please accept my contribution

<input type="checkbox"/> Member	\$25
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HCPA is a not for profit 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) organization.

### Make check payable and send to:

HCPA  
8 Race Street  
Catasauqua Pa 18032

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## A Catasauqua WW II Hero Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Lynch

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Lynch was a true WW II hero to Catasauqua and the entire Lehigh Valley. Colonel Lynch joined many young men taking hastily organized aviation courses as the U.S. sought to prepare its military for the anticipated war. In 1941 he was assigned to the 31st fighter Group and the 39th fighter Squadron. Thirteen months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 39th left aboard the USS Ancon bound for Australia. In March 1942 he relocated to Port Moresby, New Guinea and from this base helped defend Australia from the anticipated Japanese invasion force.

Colonel Lynch flew the P-400 Air Cobra, with the name, "Cobra in the Clouds". This P-400 was a primitive aircraft, incapable of challenging the Japanese Zero. The Army replaced these planes late in 1942 with the P-38 Lightning. This Plane made Colonel Lynch's flying exploits possible.

Colonel Lynch flew combat missions for two years. He won the distinguished flying cross with three oak leaf clusters, the distinguished service cross, the Army's silver star and the purple heart. Colonel Lynch was shot down twice. On one occasion, June 15, 1942, he responded to a swarm of Japanese aircraft. A cannon burst blew a hole in his tail, a second in his wing. Deciding to try to jump into the shark-infested Pacific and swim to a nearby fishing boat, he pulled on the emergency door which burst open, the force breaking his arm.

Colonel Lynch's formula for victories over the Japanese was simple: "All you gotta do is see them first. If you see them first you can get in position. If you see them on your tail, it's too bad- you've seen them last."



Tom and Dan Lynch



In the fall of 1943, Colonel Lynch was given a 30 day leave and returned to Catasauqua where he was feted in the community, in the Lehigh Valley and in the nation as a hero. He subsequently traveled to Pittsburgh and married Rosemary Fellon.

He returned to combat, and press releases of Jan, 1944, reveal he was tied for third place in the list of leading war aces in the entire Southwest Pacific, with 16 downed enemy planes. He refused to retire, seeking that one last mission. As recounted by his surviving flying companion, Captain Richard Bong, he died a hero's death. They were flying in separate planes over New Guinea on routine patrol when they spotted 3 enemy barges apparently loaded with fuel. They dove down at 300mph and as they pulled up, Colonel Lynch's right propeller flew off, and his engine started smoking. At the exact moment Lynch bailed out, his plane exploded.

" And ,said Bong, that was the last I ever saw of him. " At the time of his death on March 8, 1944 at the age of 26, Colonel Lynch had shot down 20 Japanese planes.

*The  
History  
Corner*

By  
**Tony  
Imhof**

## COAL IN CATASAUQUA

In the 1920's there were several coal dealers in town. Along Lehigh Street below Race Street Dan Milson had his yard. Coal was delivered by canal boat or by coal cars on a siding serviced by Central Railroad of New Jersey. Above Pine Street Wint Company was also served by Central Railroad. At the foot of Wood Street, Catasauqua coal and ice was served by a spur from the Lehigh and New England Railroad.

Dan Milson told me he was the first oil dealer in Catasauqua. He had a small building along the L&N siding, south of Catasauqua creek, just east of Lehigh Street. The oil was delivered in barrels and was probably kerosene or coal oil as it was called in those days.

George Deily's coal yard at Union Street was filled by canal boats. He carried the largest supply of all sizes of anthracite coal. Each boat load carried 90 or 100 ton of coal. The boats usually arrived in the afternoon; each half of the canal boat was turned around facing north. The mules were fed and bedded down in Deily's barn.

The coal yard contained two high poles with arms set at 45 degrees, with pulley and ropes that carried a large bucket. The arms would be swung out over the canal boat, the bucket removed and a filled bucket attached, lifted clear and swung over the coal piles, a trip rope unlatched and dumped the bucket. The raising and swinging was performed by two horses that walked back and forth between the poles. Three workers were needed to unload. One walked the horses back and forth and two were in the hold of the canal boat filling and changing buckets.

This unloading started about 4 am along with a shouting in Pennsylvania Dutch. The workers consisted of George's regulars, Pres Searfass, Ed Hoch, Ed Campbell and George Oldt. They were hard working men who when they weren't unloading coal drove and delivered coal with horse and wagon. When they couldn't keep up with deliveries, Ed Oldt would send the Desmond brothers to help. Ed Oldt ran the local Livery Stable. In winter sleigh runners replaced the wheels on the wagons. The other dealers used motor trucks for delivery.



George Deily in his coal yard at Union Street. Note the swing arms used to unload the coal.



Ed Campbell and George Deily by one of their wagons. George Deily has his ever present cigar.

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
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Bob LeFevre	Art Director
Dave Bernini	Web Master

### Up-coming events

April 17 - May 1 .... Art Sale @ 8 Race St  
June 13 ..... House Tour {see page 1}  
June 18 - 20 .... Blues Fest @ St John St Park  
July 3 ..... 'J4' Open House @ 8 Race and the  
George Taylor House

HISTORICAL ITEMS HCPA is always looking for memorabilia, vintage photographs, historical items, etc. related to the history of Catasauqua to add to our Museum. Donating or sharing items is a great way to preserve them and the history of Catasauqua! Contact [ray@silverimages.us.com](mailto:ray@silverimages.us.com)

### 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, Corporate meetings, etc.  
\$125 Fee includes tables, chairs, basic linens, kitchenette