

THE FANLIGHT

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Monroe County Historical Association • www.monroehistorical.org

Fall 2022

Wine Pairing Dinner and Auction *Back live with record-breaking success*

By Amy Leiser
Executive Director

On September 8, the Monroe County Historical Association hosted its seventh “Raise Your Glass & Support the Past” wine pairing dinner and auction fundraiser at the picturesque and historic Skytop Lodge.

This was the first in-person event since 2019. Guests enjoyed good food, great friends, a beautiful venue, premier wines, and an exciting online and live auction!

This record-breaking and sold-out event raised over \$50,000 for the organization! Funds raised from “Raise Your Glass & Support the Past” directly support the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library and allow us to meet the needs of historic preservation and work with the public to instill an appreciation of the past.

The Erin McClelland Trio, featuring the talents of Erin McClelland on guitar and vocals, Chuck Cooper on drums, and Stephen Kurtz on bass, performed live music throughout the evening. Wine expert Melisa Mersini of Memento Restaurant shared her passion and knowledge about the wines complementing each course.



This year’s Premier Sponsor was Lehigh Valley Hospital — Pocono, and I was pleased to share the early medical history in Monroe County as part of the “History Moment.” (See story on Page 5). MCHA staff mounted a “pop-up” exhibit featuring medical artifacts and archives from the collections of both the historical association and the hospital.

The Board of Directors and I would like to thank the entire “Raise Your Glass & Support the Past” committee for their hard work, dedication, and devotion to this year’s event. From creating beautiful centerpieces and collecting auction items to securing sponsors and assisting during the evening, this event would not have been possible without the committee members’ commitment and enthusiasm.

Thank you to Chairperson Jennifer Harlacher Sibum; auction co-chairs Robert M. Moses and Meredith Rettaliata; dinner co-chairs Joann Farda and Theresa Yocum; Jerry Geiger; John LeFante; Nicole LeFante; Stephanie Lefferson; Ken Sandri; Russell D. Scott, III; and Carrie E. Wetherbee.

Mark your calendars! The 2023 “Raise Your Glass & Support the Past” wine pairing dinner and online auction will be held Thursday, September 7, 2023, at Skytop Lodge.





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2022 Meetings

The MCHA Board of Directors meets the fourth Tuesday of most months at 7 p.m.

Now meeting via Zoom

January 25

Sunday, February 27 – Annual Meeting

March 22

April 26

May 24

June 28

July – No meeting

August 23

September 27

October 25

November 22

December – No meeting

The Monroe County Historical Association is a cultural and learning center that assists our diverse community of residents and visitors in connecting the county's past with the present.



One of Jody Singer's artistic apparitions is haunting the garden at the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library.

It's beginning to look a lot like ... Halloween!

The Monroe County Historical Association is proud to partner with the Downtown Stroudsburg Business Association as it brings "Spooky Stroudsburg" to the Main Street area.

Special events, art displays, and spooky sights are happening throughout October, including a pumpkin-carving contest, competitions for the spookiest storefront, and a "Creatures of the Night" live wildlife talk. Of course, trick-or-treating for area youngsters will round out the Halloween season.

Jody Singer has created a ghostly art installation, the "Spectres of Stroudsburg," and located one of them in the 9th Street Garden at the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library. His ghosts also can be found at the Pocono Arts Council, the old Courthouse Square jail, and McMichaels Park on Ann Street. These life-sized spirits are made of plastered gauze with heavy coats of paint.

The business association offers seasonal activities, art walks, and other programs throughout the year. Crowds of residents and tourists enjoy unique shopping, dining, and entertainment while exploring our art galleries and historic sites. Events like Spooky Stroudsburg maintain the vibrancy of downtown Stroudsburg and help keeps the spirit of our community alive — no pun intended!



MCHA's holiday schedule

Happy Thanksgiving!

CLOSED: Wednesday, November 23 – Monday, November 28, 2022
MUSEUM AND LIBRARY REOPENING: Tuesday, November 29, 2022

NOTE: No Holiday Luncheons this year, due to COVID-19

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!

CLOSED: Saturday, December 24, 2022, through January 9, 2023
MUSEUM AND LIBRARY REOPENING: Tuesday, January 10, 2023



Collections Corner

Stroudsburg's brewery history

Editor's note: This column highlights some of the Historical Association's recent donations to the museum and library.

By Bret Fowler, Curator

*Prost!** It's not every day that somebody brings a case of beer into work, but when they do it makes us very happy ... even if the bottles are all empty.

In this case, or crate, to be more accurate, our benefactor was Holly M. Treible of Stroudsburg, and the brew, or lack thereof, was 23 empty bottles of the once locally crafted "Gesundheit!" beer, all neatly tucked in their original wooden shipping crate.

On December 5, 1933, the 21st Amendment was ratified, repealing Prohibition and putting an end to a 13-year dry spell. The whole country could finally sit back freely and enjoy an ice-cold beer again.

Earlier that year, Victor Neustadt, a New York brewer, had purchased the long vacant Stroudsburg Brewery and began to stockpile stores of malt and hops in anticipation of this event.

Located on the east side of First Street and on Brodhead Creek, the original brewery, built in 1899, was an imposing five-story brick structure that had stood mostly vacant in the two decades since bankruptcy had forced closure in 1913.

Neustadt staffed his new brewery with local workers and employed George Sipple of Chicago as head brewmaster. Sipple brought 30 years of experience to Stroudsburg, having had the distinction of being named the youngest brewmaster in America when he was just 21. Hoping to target the "Pennsylvania Dutch" market, Sipple



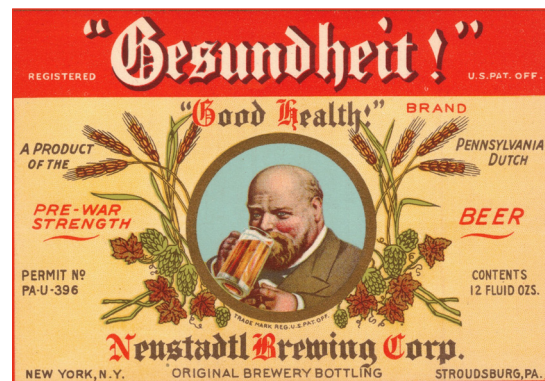
used German malt and Bohemian hops to craft a lager style beer that was touted as being "Pre-war Strength."

To further capture Pennsylvania's large German-American population, Neustadt registered this new lager under the brand name "Gesundheit!" meaning "Good Health!" to all those who were once again free to imbibe, and the beer began to flow freely from the reborn First Street brewery.

By all accounts the new brew was successful. Neustadt was happy, and Sipple was happy, and the townspeople were happy, and good health was enjoyed by all — at least for a couple of years.

By March 1935 financial issues plagued the Neustadt Brewing Corp. and both the brewery and Neustadt's personal property were sold at public auction for \$7,600.

One month later, on April 10, the brewery was emptied of all contents and the beer once again flowed freely, though sadly this time it was under



the supervision of federal inspectors, as 30,000 gallons of Gesundheit lager were poured down the banks of the nearby Brodhead Creek for disposal.

In this age of craft breweries, it is good to look back and see that locally made beer ran deep in our soil, and quite literally in our creeks as well.

For more information on the Stroudsburg Brewery visit our website at monroehistorical.org/articles_files/2014_0504_beer-in-creek-stroudsburg.html

* In German, "prost" means "cheers," as a salutation accompanied by beer. In a bar it is said commonly followed shortly by a toast.





Monroe County
Historical Association

Welcome, New Members

Constance and Frank Ace

Carlena and Greg Back

Jean Benfante

Judy Cannavo

Marilyn and Steve Detrick

Alan and Linda Eickhoff

Paulette Snyder Hansen
and Rick Hansen

Jean Miller

Eric and Deborah Peter

Gary and Donna Reish

Justin and Katie Roussos

Laurie Samet and Bill Goodwin

Nina Sheffy

Mark Skesavage

Cheryl and Marcus Statham

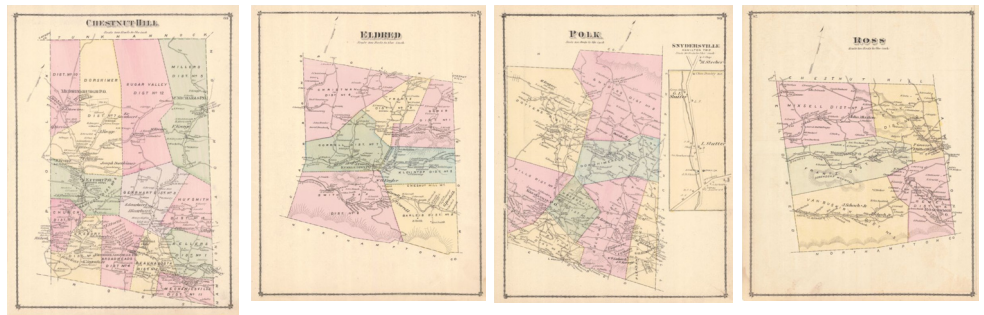
Sarah Toot

Tiffany Torres and Brian Foy

Mrs. Caroline Whitmore

Membership Benefits

- Pride in preserving local history
- Free admission to museum, library
- 10% discount in Gift Shop
- *The Fanlight*, our newsletter
- Volunteer opportunities
- Discount genealogy assistance
- Discount research assistance
- Advance notice of programs, events
- Discounts on MCHA events



Beers maps of Chestnuthill, Eldred, Polk and Ross townships from 1875.

OUT and ABOUT

Spreading the word at community events

The Historical Association recently traveled to both ends of the county to take part in community events.

The West End Fair in Gilbert commemorated its 100th anniversary in August and invited the MCHA to help celebrate by displaying photographs, artifacts, and ephemera related to the history of the fair and Monroe County. Guests enjoyed looking at the 1875 Beers' maps of the four townships that make up the West End: Chestnuthill, Eldred, Polk and Ross.

The Middle Smithfield Township Volunteer Fair was held in September at Echo Lake Park. Thanks to MCHA Administrative Assistant Julia Burns and volunteers Ruth Randone and John H. Abel for helping to promote the Stroud Mansion Museum and Library. John sold copies of his book, "The Murder of Theodore Brodhead," also available in the Stroud Mansion Gift Shop.



From left, John H. Abel, Ruth Randone and Julia Burns promote the Historical Association at the Middle Smithfield Township Volunteer Fair in September.



A brief history of Lehigh Valley Hospital - Pocono

Monroe County did not have a hospital until early in the 20th Century. If a citizen fell ill or had an accident, a doctor would care for them in their home.

By the early 1900s, the need to establish a hospital became a focus for Monroe County citizens. The newspaper published many articles and shared opinions supporting the need to create a hospital for the community.

What is now Lehigh Valley Hospital – Pocono began as The General Hospital of East Stroudsburg, which in April 1915 opened at the old Albertson home on South Courtland Street (site of the East Stroudsburg Methodist Church today.) It was a Victorian home that was made into a hospital with four private rooms, two semi-private rooms, a female ward with five beds, and a male ward with four beds. There were 10 doctors and three nurses.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the General Hospital was also formed in 1915, and the original ledger has an accounting of those who joined and contributed. Mrs. Jesse Ransberry was the treasurer and recorded the first entry on February 4, 1915, with 26 women paying their \$1 membership fee. Only four days later – on February 8 - 56 more ladies joined, each paying their \$1. By 1916, they had 240 members. The Ladies' Auxilliary furnished the operating room completely at the cost of \$400 and an X-ray machine costing \$1,250

The hospital prospered, and after six years, they knew they needed a larger building.

The Joseph C. Roop estate at 206 East Brown St., East Stroudsburg, was available. Mr. Roop had died in 1917 in his winter home in Philadelphia. According to his obituary, he was an analytical chemist and botanist of note and a well-known booster of East Stroudsburg and Monroe County.

On Mr. Roop's 150-acre estate were domestic and foreign trees which the botanist had collected and planted. He made frequent trips abroad in his quest for new shrubs and trees, and his property contained one of the most



The General Hospital, 93 North Courtland Street, East Stroudsburg, Pa.

diversified collections in the United States.

His obituary goes on to say that Mr. Roop was well-known for his generosity and gladly gave the use of his spacious lawn for charity affairs of the General Hospital.

And so it was a natural fit for his land to be used for the growing hospital to support the community's needs.

The hospital purchased the home and property for \$28,000 in 1921, which immediately increased its capacity to 34 beds.

In 1930, The General Hospital merged with the Monroe County Hospital (located at the corner of Sarah and 5th streets in Stroudsburg) to become the General Hospital of Monroe County. At the time, the hospital had to call in surgeons from the Lehigh Valley and Scranton until December 1933, when Dr. Claus Jordan joined the staff.

In the 1940s, the hospital began to grow in favor with the public, with more and more surgical cases scheduled there. The Roop house was razed to make way for a new four-floor building.

By 1964, demand had grown so much that the hospital board decided to build a six-story replacement for the north wing. In 1975, the General Hospital of Monroe County was renamed Pocono Hospital, and in 1987, it became Pocono Medical Center.

In 2017, Lehigh Valley Health Network merged with Pocono Health System and Pocono Medical Center to become Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono.

Thank you to Lehigh Valley Hospital – Pocono and the Foundation for sponsoring this year's "Raise Your Glass & Support the Past" fundraiser as our premier sponsor, and for ensuring quality medical care is offered in Monroe County.



Sponsors of the MCHA



2022 Premier Sponsor

\$5,000

Lehigh Valley Hospital -
Pocono

Past Premier Sponsors

2021 | Pocono Raceway
2019 | Buck Hill Falls
2018 | Bushkill Falls
2017 | Camelback Resort

History Maker | \$2,500

Preservation Advocate | \$2,000

Ann & Joseph Farda Foundation
Anonymous
ESSA Bank and Trust

Local History Enthusiast | \$1,500

Bushkill Falls
Pocono Manor Investors, LP

Curator's Friend | \$1,000

Gilroy Northeast, Inc.
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Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau
Riley and Company, Inc.
Saylorsburg Lumber Company
Smithfield Township Supervisors
Trout Lake Retreats

Library Supporter | \$500

BioSpectra
Drs. Mahesh and Bhavna Chhabria
Randy and Cheryl Hoffman
Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors
William and Jo Rinehart
RLB Accountants
Ronald and Jenette Sarajian
Robert and Susan Shebelsky

Archival Ally | \$250

Big Brown Fish Hatchery
Lori J. Cerato, Attorney at Law
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Dunbar Enterprises, Inc.
Gateway Abstract, Inc.
Mark and Wendy Lichty

Newman, Williams, P.C.
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Turrell Art Studios
Joan Vican
Vigon International
West End Fair Association
George W. Westervelt, Jr.
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Marie Conklin Young and Alan Price Young

Municipal | \$250

East Stroudsburg Borough
Hamilton Township
Stroud Township
Tobyhanna Township

Educational | \$250

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
Northampton Community College
Pocono Mountain School District

Small Business

Bentzoni Machine, LLC
Blue Ridge Communications TV-13
Brodheads ville Chiropractic
Deer Head Inn
FRM Group Insurance and Financial Services
Ken and Company Salon
P & S Automobile Repair Garage
The Penn Stroud
Pocono Magazines, LLC
RGB Custom Builders
Silver Foot, LP
Skytop Lodge Resort
William H. Kresge Funeral Home

Grants

ESSA Bank & Trust Foundation
Monroe County Commissioners
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Pennsylvania Library Association
R. Dale and Frances M. Hughes Foundation
Stroudsburgs Rotary Foundation
The Weiler Family Foundation



The Story of Jacob Stroud and General James Wolfe



Last night I was scampering around the Mansion's Stroud Room, admiring Daniel Stroud's portrait. Then I realized ... in all my scurrying across rooms and pawing through files and photos here, I had never seen an image of Jacob Stroud! Not a painting or sketch or even a silhouette!

I kept thinking ... what did he look like? He built the very home I live in and founded our town. I imagined him looking quite distinguished! I remembered reading once that he was of medium build and had light hair and "clear blue eyes." I wanted to dig deeper for clues.

I knew that young Jacob was a soldier who had served in the French and Indian War. I started my research there and quickly found a jackpot of interesting information.

On September 13, 1759, the French and Indian War ended with a British victory at the Battle of Quebec. I learned that this battle is notorious not only for its victory, but for its legendary hero, Gen. James Wolfe, who endured months of extreme illness while approaching Quebec, yet continued to lead his troops and devise a daring attack plan.

During the final hours of the conflict, Wolfe was shot twice, yet charged on before finally succumbing to a third shot. Wolfe is said to have held on to life until the moment his soldiers reported victory, and then passed away, valiantly and peacefully.

Wolfe biographers cited four men at the general's side when he died, including an unknown private soldier. According to Monroe County legend and Stroud family tradition, this "unknown private soldier" was Jacob Stroud.

Jacob enlisted in the British militia at age 21, during the height of the French and Indian War. In 1757, Stroud's military unit surrendered to the French Gen. Marquis de Montcalm and his army at Lake George, yet he and a few

comrades managed to escape. Jacob then became part of Gen. Wolfe's staff, fighting in the Battle of Quebec alongside his older brother, John. Jacob's descendant, Elizabeth Stroud-Colbert, writes in her Stroud family record that he was among those nearest to Gen. Wolfe when he fell and "carried him behind the rocks where he expired."

Here's where it really gets interesting — The event is famously depicted in the 1770 painting "The Death of General Wolfe" by American painter Benjamin West. Could this painting actually show Jacob?



I needed to learn more about West. I read that he was born in present-day Swarthmore, Pa., south of Philadelphia. He began his career as a portrait artist, aided by the provost of the College of Philadelphia, Dr. William Smith, who sent West to Europe to study the master. West settled in London, and became famous for his grand historical paintings. King George I appointed him the official history painter of the English court. West was co-founder and president of the Royal Academy of Arts in London, and three generations of American painters traveled to England to study under him.

Unfortunately, West began his "Death of General Wolfe" a decade after the event, and was not in a position to include the true likenesses of the soldiers. So he instead depicted Wolfe's most loyal British comrades at his side.

So, we may never know what Jacob Stroud looked like. However, this painting does represent his role in this famous battle, and his legend lives on!

And I scamper on to another day, proud to call the Stroud Mansion my home.

**MONROE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

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STROUD MANSION

900 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday

Tours daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Appointments recommended

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