



## THE VOICE OF THE HISTORIC CARVERSVILLE SOCIETY

### *Letter from the President*

Greetings,

The seasons have changed seemingly so instantaneously! This fall, as in prior years, I write while gazing out my window at the many colors. I am truly glad to be home again. I love travel, visiting old friends, and annual summer traditions. Yet on reflection, it seemed I have been away from our village too much. I know many of you have been away too vacationing and getting kids off to camp and college.

We are fortunate to return to our village once again filled with a wonderful sense of positive energy. Carversville Day seems long ago now but what great memories we have of that community celebration. We brought back Films in the Field, with a strong turnout of all ages for Jaws on its 50th anniversary! That movie was released when I was in high school. Still scares me every time and is the reason I don't swim in the ocean. Sips in the Square was a very social evening for those local in August. We decided to add a pop up happy hour this month because it seems we all enjoy gathering so much! We are pleased to be coordinating with Tyme and Plate and the Carversville Inn to elevate our events now that the square is in full swing. My favorites so far at our local establishments: Grilled oysters, French 75, and BBLT.

With the harvest, HCS will turn out again for volunteer days at the Carversville Farm Foundation. They always need helping hands. Please sign up and join us for a few hours out on the farm with the reward of knowing all that food growing in our backyard goes to those in the region less fortunate. Otherwise, I'll be busy out working in my own yard in the cooler weather. And, looking forward to hosting our Annual Membership meeting on November 10th, with a special local guest speaker following our social hour. – Be well, Lori



## CARVERSVILLE DAY 2025

We were thrilled to celebrate another successful Carversville Day this past May! Despite some challenging weather in the hours leading up to the festivities, the day was filled with fun, laughter, and wonderful community spirit. Attendance was strong, with both locals and visitors from neighboring towns joining in the celebration.

Many favorite traditions returned this year, including the beloved Pet Parade, Watermelon Eating Contest, Cookie Contest, Raffle, and Live Auction. These long-standing activities continue to be highlights for attendees of all ages.

Six local vendors added to the charm of the day, creating a true community feel. We were grateful to welcome: Paunacussing Watershed, Bleuquet, John Cohl Woodworking, Bucks County Compost, Rope & Rye, and the Solebury Historic Society.

A brand-new event, **Country Line Dancing**, quickly became a crowd favorite. Hosted at the top of the General Store, two lively sessions were led by a Cornerstone instructor and her students, who helped bring the energy and encouraged everyone to join in.

Live music kept the day festive, thanks to **The Traveling Soleburys**, a talented local band that performed throughout the afternoon. Already popular in the area, their appearance drew many new faces to Carversville Day.

Food and drink also played a starring role. **Thyme and Plate Catering** marked its soft opening at the General Store, where Chef Dan Gallo served a variety of delicious menu offerings. Later in the day, the **Carversville Inn Bar** opened early, with many guests relaxing on the deck while enjoying a beverage. We sincerely thank owners Milan Lint and Mitch Berlin for their generosity.

A meaningful highlight of the day was the unveiling of the refurbished veteran's plaque on the side of the Carversville Inn. Beloved resident **Bob Kling** shared heartfelt remarks about its historical significance, making the ceremony especially memorable.



Finally, we extend our deepest gratitude to the residents, vendors, and volunteers who dedicated countless hours to make this year's event such a success. Carversville Day truly takes a village – and it's your energy, participation, and community spirit that keep this tradition alive.

# Journal of Mattie W. Croasdale

One treasure I discovered recently in our archives: a simple journal of beige cloth bound pages belonging to Mattie W. Croasdale. It seems Mattie W. Croasdale was at the Excelsior Normal School, also referenced as the “E.N. Institute”, in Carversville in the 1860s. The pages of her journal contain numerous notes collected from fellow students as well as local residents and classmates from as far away as New York and New Hampshire. Each seemingly an autograph written in beautiful script, signed and often dated.

Many spoke of faith and learning. One page I appreciated reading was penned by the original resident of my current home in the Carversville Historic District.

*Seek to elevate thy mind. –George Betts, MD, 1st July 1864*

Others took a political tone with references to being, “An advocate of true Democracy” and “ Respectfully ‘Republican’”. “The safety of our country rests upon Gen Grant, at present. Not upon Abe’s Election.”

Messages both somber and uplifting are found in this collection. Some fill the pages while others are a simple quip.

*Mattie, There are few things sadder than a life without purpose. –Your Friend, Horace Mitchner May every blessing be thy lot. I only ask Forget me not. –Attie Glosson, Feb 21st 1866, Carversville Mattie, Seek upward, God is there and when though ask’st will receive thee. Seek onward, for in thy future a wreath of laurel will be found to crown thee. –Thy true friend, Grace A. Cadwallader To friend Mattie, Life is but a transient dream. And full of trials doth seam. Whatever be our lot on earth, Let virtue be our aim. –Abraham Fretz, Newton, N.J., December 1868 Mattie, Mourn no more the loved and lost, Keep back the falling tears, For God has promised in his word The orphan’s cry to hear. –Kindly Yours, Emily E.H. Tomlinson (of Mitchell, Iowa) There is no happiness on earth, Like that of sunny youth; It’s joys seem of a Heavenly birth, A gem of love and truth. –Truly yours Alfred Frackenthall, Ottsville, Bucks Co., Pa, August 13th ‘64 As the ripple follows the bark, to Mattie may happiness follow thee. –Truly Thine, Lizzie L’Orin, Avondale, Chester Co, Pennsylvania, January 14, 1865*

The reader gets a sense of life here at that time for a young woman. Perhaps also that of her admirers.

*Dear Mattie, You ask of me a long piece, which I would willingly grant, if it were possible. Mattie remember the many pleasant times we have had at the Normal this summer. And when far away if thy thoughts should wander back to the time that you and I took a walk one evening, of the call that we made. And the introduction into ‘fashionable society’ where the ‘refreshments were splendid’ –Over Yours, H. A. Mathews, 8/8/64 Dear Mattie, Nothing will do you say but an original piece... Advice I will not give you for other friends have already given a sufficient amount to make you happy if guarded by it. When other friends and duties surround you, I would have you lend a few passing thoughts to a certain scene in which a particular person stood pleading as if his life depended on the answer, and I am sure you will remember me. –A Silent Observer, Brownsburg.*

These last ones offer intriguing references, “inside jokes” of today, reminiscent of my own high school year book from 1982, one hundred years later. Though my classmates were not nearly as eloquent nor was their handwriting so beautiful.

And lastly, *Remember youth well spent, makes old age pleasant. –Yours with respect, James R. Agnew, Erwinna, Penna*

If this piques your interest to learn more about the Excelsior Normal School or you wish to view the original journal, our archives are accessible to our members by appointment.

Lori White

## STAY CONNECTED WITH THE HISTORIC CARVERSVILLE SOCIETY

The Historic Carversville Society is excited to highlight our growing presence on social media! In March of 2024, we launched our Instagram account to keep the Carversville community informed about event updates, celebrations, and everything happening around the village. What started with just a handful of followers, mostly our dedicated board members, has quickly blossomed into a hub for organization news and engagement.

In just over a year, our outreach has expanded significantly. Today, we proudly celebrate more than 200 Instagram followers and a growing Facebook group. Our social media channels have become tools for celebrating local businesses, sharing stories, and building connections among residents.

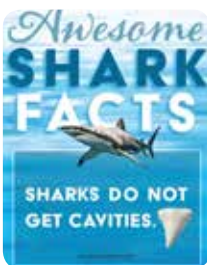
As we move into the fall season, we’re looking forward to announcing several exciting upcoming events and continuing to engage with our fellow members. If you haven’t yet joined our online community, now is the perfect time! Follow the Historic Carversville Society on Instagram and Facebook to stay in the loop, support local initiatives, and help foster community involvement.

Let’s keep Carversville connected, follow along and be part of the celebration!



Instagram @HCS\_CARVERSVILLE  
Facebook HISTORIC CARVERSVILLE SOCIETY









Quinn Kelley, Philpa Dovan, Emma Viehweger, Anna Leasure and Ryan Viehweger recently on a hike in CO where they all chose to go for college, after growing up together in the village.

THEN AND NOW



# Sips on the Square



# Films in the Field

## Celebrating Future Leaders: HCS Scholarship Winners for 2025



Left to Right: Maia DiZio, Dylan Meyers, Ben Stein, Ellen Stiefel

Each year, the Historic Carversville Society proudly honors graduating seniors from New Hope-Solebury High School whose achievements embody a strong commitment to civic engagement, historical awareness, and/or volunteerism within our local community.

This year, we are delighted to recognize three outstanding students for their meaningful contributions and dedication:

- Maia DiZio (attending University of Pittsburgh)
- Dylan Meyers (attending Colby College)
- Ben Stein (attending University of Virginia)

These impressive young individuals have excelled throughout their time in the New Hope-Solebury School District, and we are confident they will carry forward the values of service and community as they embark on their next chapter. Each student received a \$700 scholarship to support their educational journey.

The Historic Carversville Society is able to provide these awards thanks to the ongoing generosity of our members and the success of our annual fundraising efforts.

Please join us in celebrating Maia, Dylan, and Ben – and in wishing them continued success in all that lies ahead!



Pumpkin Carving along the  
Paunacussing on Sunday afternoon  
October 26

Volunteer Days at Carversville Farm  
Foundation on Wednesday  
and Saturday  
November 5 & November 8

Annual Membership Meeting  
with Social Hour  
for Members on Monday evening  
November 10

Caroling on the Square on Sunday at dusk  
December 21



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b><br>Lori White (2027)<br>PO Box 104, Carversville, PA 18913<br>lorilwhite1110@gmail.com<br>215-512-7707                     | Elizabeth Ruddle Gabrielson (2026)<br>41 Magnolia Court<br>Carversville, PA 18913<br>elizabethruddlegabrielson@gmail.com<br>917-744-0256 |
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FOR RESIDENT OF CARVERSVILLE  
CARVERSVILLE, PA 18913

Christine Huber along with her husband Steve Huber moved to Carversville in 2022. She brings a new perspective and energy to the board in support of HCS. Prior to moving to Carversville, Christine lived in Philadelphia for 23 years where she volunteered with many grassroots community initiatives. She has a background in real estate and counseling.

Christine absolutely loves walking and biking living in our little village and meeting with neighbors along the way.

Annual dues for 2026  
will be collected at our  
Annual Meeting.

Current members may  
renew by mail or on our  
website in advance.

We welcome new  
members to join too!



INSTAGRAM