

# Nicholson Heritage Association News

## WELCOME CORNER!

Dear Friends:

We have GREAT news! With your dedication, support, and votes, we were able to place 6th in the \$25k category of the *Pepsi Refresh Project* in August! Although it took four tries, we finally won and now can move forward with our initiative to renovate the historic 1849 railroad station on Route 11 into a community/visitors center and a gateway to the Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway. A sincere thanks to all of our supporters for sending us votes, caps, and even donations!

Don't forget to get your free 2011 Pennsylvania Vacation Guide, which provides the best of PA and has the Tunkhannock Viaduct, also known as the Nicholson Bridge, on the cover, at:



<http://www.visitpa.com/pa-vacation-guide>.

Have a wonderful Autumn!

- Marion Sweet, Chair



Station — Turn of the 20th Century



Station — Present Day

## WE WON PEPSI GRANT!

It's been a long, tough campaign to win a *Pepsi Refresh Project* grant, but we did it! Through dedication, perseverance, and your support, we've won \$25,000 for our initiative to purchase, renovate, and restore the historic 1849 railroad station in Nicholson into a community/visitors center and a gateway to the Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway. Pepsi will officially announce the Finalists in the afternoon of September 1, and then confirm the Winners on September 23.

There are a lot of supporters to thank and in the near future, we will list all individuals on our Website. In the meantime, we heart-fully thank **each and every one of you!** From dumpster/trash bin/recycling bin diving, asking complete strangers for their yellow caps, to placing collection cans around the towns, you've done it all to get those Power Votes to win this grant. In addition, from Facebook posts, e-mailing railfan groups, to Tweets, you helped us spread the word to as many people as possible.

We had help from organizations including the [Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains](#), [Endless Mountains Heritage Region](#), [Endless Mountains Visitor's Bureau](#), [Erie Lackawanna Historical Society](#), [Griffin Pond Animal Shelter](#), [Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority](#), Nicholson Business and Professional Association, and the list goes on. Some organizations including the [Clifford Township Historical Society](#), [Marley's Mission](#), and even the out of state [Maine's First Ship](#) were able to get us a significant amount of yellow caps for Power Votes. Finally, local businesses held Pepsi Power Pushes on numerous occasions, thank you [Airline Petroleum and Propane](#) and [Peoples Neighborhood Bank](#), in addition to Lochen's Market and TheOffice for donating food. Working together does pay off!

As a community/visitors center and a gateway to the Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway, the restored rail station will serve as a hub for residents, visitors, and tourists alike! The Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway is designated portions of State Route 92 in Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties highlighting the natural and man-made beauty, including the Tunkhannock Viaduct in Nicholson and the Starrucca Viaduct in Lanesboro, of the Endless Mountains. For more information, please visit: <http://bit.ly/viaductscenicbyway>.

Thank you to those who have already donated to our initiative. If you haven't already and would like to make a tax-deductible donation, our mailing address is P.O. Box 496, Nicholson, PA 18446. Alternatively, you can make a donation through PayPal, please visit the **Contact Us** page of our Website listed below.

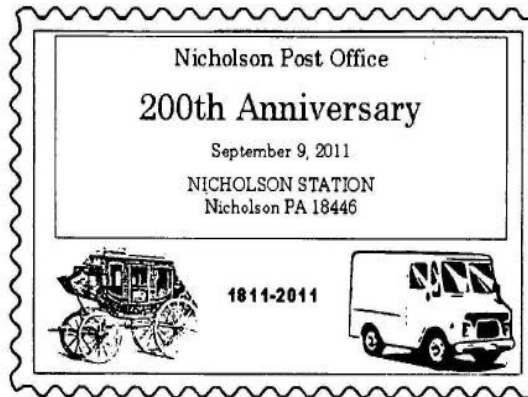
This is just the beginning and we look forward to working with all of our supporters to complete this project and save this historical building, promote commerce, and encourage tourism within our town and region.

Stay Up To Date By Visiting Our Website & Signing Up for Our E-News at: [www.nicholsonheritage.org](http://www.nicholsonheritage.org).

## NICHOLSON POST OFFICE CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

On September 9, 2011, the Nicholson Post Office will have a special First Day Cancellation to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Nicholson Post Office! Cards/letters mailed from the Nicholson Post Office on this day will be marked with the special cancellation. A huge thanks to Tim Hortman for his hard work coordinating the event and designing the cancellation mark.

In 1811, the first Post Office, called Thornbottom, Luzerne County, Nicholson Township, was established in the area about a mile south from the



NICHOLSON POSTAL SERVICE

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

1811-2011

west end of the borough in a store run by Postmaster Caleb Roberts. In 1825, the Post Office was moved to Bacon's Tavern, built by Nathan Bacon at the west end of Route 92. When Nathan Bacon became Postmaster, he changed the name of the settlement to Baconville (or Bacontown). In 1855, the Post Office was moved to the railroad station in town off Route 11 and the name was changed to Nicholson. The United States Postal Service maintains a list of Postmasters of Nicholson, available at: <http://bit.ly/18446list>.

## WILBUR FAMILY CELEBRATES 125TH ANNUAL REUNION



125th Wilbur Reunion – 2011

The 125th annual family reunion of the descendants of Samuel Rathbone and Mary "Polly" HALSTEAD WILBUR of Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) (primarily Wyoming, Susquehanna, Bradford, Luzerne, and Lackawanna

Counties) was held at the home of Samuel & Polly's great, great, great grand-daughter on August 27, 2011 in Nicholson, PA (the same date and location as the first reunion in 1886).

By the time the United States declared its independence on July 4, 1776, the Wilbur family had already been living here for 146 years, having sailed to this country from England with the Winthrop Fleet in 1630. For the next century and a half, they carved their way through the wilderness making valuable contributions in settling Connecticut, New York, and then NEPA.

Samuel Rathbone Wilbur was born December 20, 1782 in Plainfield, CT and came to Nicholson about 1805. Mary "Polly" Halstead Wilbur, daughter of Samuel & Hannah Harding Halstead

was born January 14, 1791 in a log cabin and was the first Caucasian baby born in Nicholson. Samuel & Polly's family contributed much to the early history of Nicholson including: daughter Elizabeth's father-in-law (John Steele) was the first settler in the Borough of Nicholson; Balser Steele (Grandson) kept the toll gate of the Abington & Waterford Turnpike (Quarry Road) on the line between Nicholson Township & Susquehanna County; Edward Thurston Wilbur (Great Grandson) was the first Rural Free Delivery carrier out of the Nicholson Post Office in 1904.

More info at: <http://bit.ly/wilburfamily>.

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[www.nicholsonheritage.org](http://www.nicholsonheritage.org)

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## NICHOLSON BRIDGE DAY

**Sunday, September 11, 2011**

**9am – 4pm**

**Main Street Nicholson, PA Rt. 11 & Rt. 92**

*Music all day by the Last Shot Band*

**9:00 National Anthem & Flag Salute**

**9:30 Motorcycle Safety by Kindred Lycans**

**9:30 Registration Pet Show**

**10:00 Pet Show**

**11:00 Chicken BBQ till sold out**

**12:30 Town History Walk**

**1:00 Wyoming County Players**

**2:00 T Town Twirlers**

**2:30 Motorcycle Safety by Kindred Lycans**

**3:30 Raffle Drawings**

**Train display by the Endless Mountain Collectors**

**Performances by The Nicholson Guitar Studio & Youth Bands**

**Vendors \* Basket Raffles \* Children's Games \* And More!**

This year's Nicholson Bridge Day, organized by the Nicholson Women's Club, will be held on September 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Main Street in Nicholson. Please call 570-942-4410 for more information.

Nicholson Bridge Day is an annual event since the Nicholson Bridge 75th anniversary celebration, which was organized by the Nicholson Heritage Association, in 1990.

Want to make a donation? We accept PayPal! More info at: <http://bit.ly/contactnicholsonheritage>.