

Brief Early History of Nicholson, PA

Nicholson is a borough in Pennsylvania's rural Wyoming County named after John Nicholson, former comptroller general of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 1782 to 1794 who greatly influenced our early Nation.

Nicholson is located where three streams become one: Tunkhannock Creek, Marten Creek and Horton Brook. In addition, Nicholson was once the crossroads of two Indian trails.

In 1795, Nicholson Township was incorporated out of Tioga and Wyalusing townships. In 1842, Wyoming County was created from part of Luzerne County. On August 23, 1875, Nicholson was incorporated by a charter.



The Nicholson Heritage Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the historical preservation of Nicholson, Pennsylvania, a small rural town nestled in Wyoming County and the Endless Mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1989, the Nicholson Heritage Association was established in anticipation of the 75th anniversary of the completion of the Nicholson Bridge, also known as the Tunkhannock Viaduct. In 1990, the Association organized the highly successful 75th anniversary celebration.

The Nicholson Heritage Association has and continues to sell Nicholson Bridge photos and souvenirs at local Nicholson merchants. In addition, we ship certain items to you directly, please visit our website for more information.

Nicholson Heritage Association
P.O. Box 496
Nicholson, PA 18446
570-871-0510

www.nicholsonheritage.org



The Nicholson Heritage Association





A Scroll Down Memory Lane,
Nicholson High School

Nicholson Heritage Association Background

The Nicholson Heritage Association was established in 1989 as a non-profit organization in anticipation of the 75th anniversary of the construction completion of the Tunkhannock Viaduct, also popularly known as the Nicholson Bridge. The first meeting took place on June 28, 1989, in which a board of directors and a code of bylaws were established. At the second meeting on July 12, 1989, the vice chair was elected and the Nicholson Heritage Association was incorporated.

In the spring of 1990, the Association started a Pride in Nicholson (PIN) campaign. Several members cleaned along the railroad by the viaduct as [Steamtown](#) conducted excursions through Nicholson each weekend. Curb sites and the foot bridge in town were painted by members and donated flowers were planted underneath the Nicholson Bridge.

The Nicholson Heritage Association met monthly until the summer of 1990, thereafter, met weekly to plan the October 5, 6, 7 celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Nicholson Bridge which was a total success.

The Association continues to play an active role in our local Community through many initiatives. For example, we purchased and donated a U.S. flag to each business in town. We became a member of the Nicholson Business and Professional Association in 2010.

Also, we spearheaded an effort to request the United States Postal Service (USPS) to issue a commemorative stamp for the 100th anniversary of the Nicholson Bridge in 2015. Unfortunately, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, which advises the USPS on commemorative stamp subjects, determined that it is not eligible. While this is disappointing, we intend to resubmit the request in early 2011.

Finally, we support the Route 92 Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway which runs through the heart of Nicholson from Wyoming County into Susquehanna County. We will be looking for ways to promote this byway, which will ultimately benefit our town and region.

More information on the Nicholson Heritage Association is available on our website at: www.nicholsonheritage.org.

Brief History of the Nicholson Bridge



The Nicholson Bridge, also known as the Tunkhannock Viaduct, was built by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad in 1912 and was completed and ready for use on November 6, 1915.

This engineering marvel was designed by Abraham Burton Cohen with George G. Ray as the chief engineer of the project. Concrete was first poured in January 1913 with the entire project using 185,000 barrels, or 1,093 carloads, of cement producing 167,000 cubic yards of concrete. In addition, about 1,140 tons of steel were used to reinforce the concrete. Moreover, the bridge was built to endure 6,000 pounds per square foot, considering that some engines at that time would weigh 233 tons. At that time, the bridge itself cost \$1,735,000 to build.

The Nicholson Bridge is 2,375 feet long and 34 feet wide. It is 240 feet above stream level and 300 feet above bedrock. There are twelve arches with ten being 180 feet across and two being 100 foot arches, one at each end of the bridge that are totally buried in the land fill.