



HISTORY BYTES

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

Vol. 2 No. 6

November - December 2019

Rick Sedlisky, Editor

Merry Christmas!
Happy Holidays to All!

Thursday, December 12, 7pm - 9pm: LHS Members Only Holiday Open House at the Catlin House

Saturday, December 14, Noon - 3pm: Local History Holiday Emporium, at the Catlin House

**Don't miss the Lackawanna Historical Society's
Local History Holiday Emporium
at the Catlin House,
232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton
Saturday, December 14, noon- 3 p.m.**

Looking for Christmas gifts for proud Scrantonians, or nostalgic gifts for relatives who moved away from the Lackawanna Valley? The Lackawanna Historical Society will provide one-stop shopping at our Local History Holiday Emporium on Saturday, December 14, featuring local authors and vendors. The marketplace will be open from noon- 3 p.m. at the Society's headquarters, the Catlin House, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton. Stop by to start (or polish off) your holiday shopping, and enjoy cookies and traditional Wassail and a take-home craft.

For more information about this event, contact the Lackawanna Historical Society at 570-344-3841 or email lackawannahistory@gmail.com.

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Lackawanna Historical Society Membership A Unique Holiday Gift

LHS Membership Information

About Membership: Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notices, special discounts and invitations to all Society activities, members-only programs, *The Journal*, our quarterly print newsletter and *History Bytes*, our bi-monthly e-newsletter.

Below is a membership form that you can also use to either renew your membership or give to a friend who is interested in joining. Please return the form to:

The Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.

Lackawanna Historical Society Membership Form

// Student	\$10	Name _____
// Individual	\$35	
// Family	\$45	Address _____
// Contributing	\$75	_____
// Sustaining	\$150	
// Silver Corporate	\$250	Telephone _____
// Gold Corporate	\$500	Email _____

Following is a link to complete for membership payment if you chose to use it.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSep8tRxXJUut7McTh4g4StczVjC4HRJAXMDE-ztxEDCzLncvA/viewform>

Editor's Note

A Foreign Field Forever, by Prof. Bill Jones, appeared in the September – October 2019 issue of *History Bytes*. The article originally appeared in *The Searcher*, a quarterly print publication of the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The society ceased operations in November 2017.

Correction

In the November 2019 special edition of *History Bytes*, the “h” in Charles Lindbergh’s surname was omitted. We thank Connie Richards for her sharp eye.

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In The Mines

The Daily Diaries of Thomas J. Goblick

Anthracite Coal Mine Motorman

By Carl Orechovsky

Thomas J. Goblick worked in the mines as a motorman. A motorman operates an electric or battery-powered mine motorcar to haul trips (trains) of cars, loaded with timbers, rails, explosives and other supplies, into a mine.

Mr. Goblick lived in the Austin Heights section of Old Forge. A friend was removing items from Mr. Goblick's house and came upon his work diaries that cover six years, extending from 1938 to 1944. The owner of the house didn't want the diaries.

As one who documents Old Forge history, I accepted the diaries that are smaller sized, spiral bound notebooks. After enlarging the notebooks through scanning, they were re-typed. The correct spellings of names included in the entries can now be confirmed by descendants of the miners who live in Austin Heights.

The enlargements were assembled into standard sized notebooks. The originals and standard sized notebooks were subsequently donated to the Old Forge Historical Society. Most entries pertain to Old Forge and I have permission to share the contents.

Diaries will be presented in three-month segments beginning with January 1938 when Mr. Goblick worked at the The Pittston Coal Co, Baxters No 2 Shaft, followed by his time with The Volpe Coal Co, Sibley Colliery, beginning in March 1938.

Subsequent entries include the World War II period, happenings outside the mine and a case of coal robbing that went to the courts. Photographs and a listing of mine-related terms recorded by Mr. Goblick will be included. Mr. Goblick's entries offer insight as to what he experienced working underground.

January 1938

The Pittston Coal Co, Baxters No 2 Shaft, Old Forge, 1938:

Jan 1. New Year's Day, Colliery idle, no work.

Jan. 2. Sunday, off.

Jan 3. Worked seven hour shift; nothing to report.

Jan 4. Road broke on top, no timber. (Damaged? No cross ties to repair?)

Jan 5. Right branch very low. (Not much headroom on the gangway?)

Jan 6. Worked seven hour shift; nothing to report.

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Jan 7 - 8. Colliery idle.

Jan 9. Sunday, off

Jan. 10 - 11. Worked seven hour shift; nothing to report.

Jan. 12. Squeeze on hill, told the men to come out. (Cave-in possible)

Jan. 13. Worked seven hour shift; nothing to report.

Jan. 14 - 15. Colliery idle. Jan. 14: Pay Day.

Jan. 16. Sunday off.

Jan. 17. Tough hole to get in and out 286'. (Trackage from the gangway into a chamber?)

Jan 18. Big Bloke started mining on my road. (New miner)

Jan. 19. Big Squeeze in Law's, road broke on hill.

Jan. 20. Big Squeeze in Law's Shaft, colliery idle. (Worked stopped due to the squeeze, either the roof or the ribs)

Jan. 21 - 31. Colliery Idle, Squeeze.

February 1938

No Diary Entries. Operation possibly idle because of extremely cold weather.

March 1938

The Volpe Coal Co, Sibley Colliery, Old Forge, 1938:

March 1. Worked seven hour shift; nothing to report.

March. 2 Started working at the Sibley Colliery, March. 2, 1938.

March 3. Randy Yogoda is my Foreman for the Volpe Coal Co.

March 4. - 5. Worked seven hour shift; nothing to report.

March 6. Sunday, off.

March 7. Ran the Motorcar on the Mountain Road. (Gangway on the North side of Keyser Ave)

March 8. Ran the Motorcar in Barrier section. (Gangway near St. Johns Creek, and LVRR)

March 9. Worked seven hour shift; nothing to report.

March 10. Squeeze in the No 5. (Roof or Ribs pushing in)

March 11. Worked seven hour shift; nothing to report.
March 12. Cave in at the No 5 Barrier Pillars.
March 13. Sunday, off.
March 14. Motorcar Stud broke. (Mechanical breakdown)
March 15. Ran the Motorcar in the Barrier Section and Mountain Road.
March 16. Idle, No cars, No Rail Road B Hopper Cars for the breaker to load.
March 17. Ran the Motorcar on the Mountain Road and Barrier Section.
March 18. Ran the Motorcar on the Mountain Road.
March 19 – 31. Colliery Idle.

April 1938

The Volpe Coal Co, Sibley Colliery, Barrier Section, Old Forge, 1938:

April 1 - 2. Colliery Idle.
April 3. Sunday, off.
April 4 - 5 - 6. Worked seven hour shift, nothing to report.
April 7 - 8 - 9. Colliery Idle.
April 10. Sunday, off.
April 11. Worked seven hour shift; nothing to report.
April 12. Ordered coal for my house.
April 13. Worked seven hour shift; nothing to report.
April 14 - 15 - 16. Colliery Idle. April 15, Pay Day.
April 17. Easter Sunday.
April 18. Easter Monday, Colliery Idle.
April 19 - 22. Worked seven hour shift, nothing to report.
April 23. Bought Boots. Empty cars pulled out.
April 24. Sunday, off.
April 25. Miner Stiko not at work.
April 26. New cable and ring installed on the motor.
April 27. Peter not at work. Joker on the Motorcar.

April 28. Peter not at work. Mayes on the Motorcar.

April 29. Laborer #25 not at work. Peter not at work.

April 30. Pay Day. Peter off. Charlie on the Motorcar.

Mining and Other Terms

Cave-in- A cave-in is a collapse of a geologic formation, mine or structure which may occur during mining or tunneling.

Gangway- From the foot of the shaft a tunnel called a "gangway" is opened at the right and left in the coal bed along the bottom of the synclinal valley, and parallel with this and above it runs another tunnel called an "airway". These are connected by short tunnels called "cross-headings."

LVRR- Reporting letters for the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

Rib- The side of a pillar or the wall of an entry. The solid coal on the side of any underground passage. ... Roll - (1) A high place in the bottom or a low place in the top of a mine passage, (2) a local thickening of roof or floor strata, causing thinning of a coal seam.

Squeeze- A squeeze, weight or pinching was settling of the strata over a worked out area, resulting in lowering of the roof. A squeeze also pertains to the ribs (side walls) which can push out into the gangway or chamber with explosive force.



Sibley No. 2 Breaker 1886
Photo courtesy of Carl Orechovsky

This is the second Sibley breaker 1886. The original photo is owned by what was the Sibley McClure Hose Co, now the Eagle McClure Hose Co, and was given to the fire company many years ago. This photo is responsible for the start of my journey in researching coal mining history. My journey began when our oldest member at Sibley McClure asked me to find out about the picture, which is entrusted to my care and preservation - Carl Orechovsky

Carl Orechovsky, in addition to being treasurer of the Old Forge Historical Society, scans information for the Society's archives and conducted video interviews for the "Old Forge, Our Town Project".

During the winter season, Mr. Orechovsky works with the No. 9 Coal Mine Tour in Landsford, PA as a track man. Under the direction of Jack Petrosky, Carl and others replaced 30 lb. rail with 40 lb. rail and leveled cross ties, a project that hadn't been touched since 1938. He assists as motorman operating a battery-powered mine motorcar when the No. 9 Coal Mine Tour hosts special events.

Mr. Orechovsky is also the building and grounds manager for the Eagle McClure Hose Co., Old Forge, and is responsible for maintaining the Tri-Boro Soccer Association's playing field.

(Editor's Note: Reading Mr. Goblick's diary entries we find that there were a number of days when the colliery was idle. He was not paid for those days. That asks a question. How did he know whether or not he had work on a given day? In Michael A. Kashmer's article, *When Mines Closed, Women Became Family Breadwinners Part I*, we learn how Mr. Goblick knew whether or not to go to the mine.)

When Mines Closed, Women Became Family Breadwinners

Part I

A Story about Big Business and the People Who Became Collateral Damage

By Michael A. Kashmer

The coal mines of the Lackawanna Valley were not the economic powerhouse that they might have been. The owners, shareholders, banks and investors understood the ups and downs of the industry. They understood that the newly arriving immigrants, most of whom didn't speak English, were desperate to find work and were manipulated by coal mine management. Most of the immigrant workers came from countries in Europe that were governed by hereditary royal families or dictators. Their style of governing was absolute and they kept the working classes in line by fueling continuous ethnic strife.

Big business in the Valley understood this and continued this kind of harsh relationship with the workers. During those traditional times men went to work each day and women stayed at home with the children, cooking and doing housework. There might also be a vegetable garden and small orchard to care for too.

There was one AM radio station in Scranton that had a daily late afternoon program letting miners know if their mine or breaker was working the next day. It was a serious time of day. If the miner had work, the family could breathe easier until the next day when the ritual would repeat itself. Children had to be quiet and any household activity had to cease when the program began.

The station announcer, always a man, had a deep sorrowful voice and spoke in short, clear phrases. He would say a location first -- "Taylor Breaker" or "Eddy Creek Olyphant"-- and then say, for example, "Working". You could hear him shuffling the pages of his news copy, which was too near the microphone. His tone was as if he knew that the news he was about to deliver, day in and day out, was devastating for some listeners.

If their work place was not operating, the miner would not be paid and this could cause all sorts of financial and personal problems for the family. Waiting for the program the next day heightened the suspense and all you could do is wish for the best and to pray. One neighbor would say the Rosary while listening.

My family was able to stay away from the lure of the mines, but I remember very clearly how stressful it was for some of our neighbors. It was like waiting for your draft number to be called during the Vietnam era.

Valley mining people had no choice but to be obedient to their employer, who often treated them in a punitive way. The company provided rental housing, but governed how and when they spent their meager wages. The mining outfits, often subsidiaries of the railroad companies, kept their workers permanently indebted by having them purchase food and clothing from the company store at inflated prices. The owners paid salaries with printed script, which was redeemable only in their company's markets.

A final insult came with each pay stub. The miners also had to pay for the tools and supplies that they needed for their work! After rent, food, medical care and supplies were subtracted from the miner's wages, there might be nothing left and the family would see themselves deeper in debt.

You may come across descriptions of these anthracite mining families as being the backbone of the region, hardy, resourceful, strong and brave, pioneers who found the promise land leaving their European roots behind.

These are generous thoughts and indeed these people persevered despite living in difficult conditions. Women made the best of it, making a home in a drafty, dingy shack. The shacks were placed hodge-podge in grimy, bleak villages called "patches".

Young children weren't seen playing in the yards. They were hard at work in the breakers and collieries starting at about seven years of age, boys and girls alike. Six days a week they would labor in near darkness, sometimes below ground, in an environment of constant danger. A mule kick might mean permanent injury or death. An explosion in the boiler room might mean horrible scalding.

Part II of this article will take a look at the jobs that women filled starting in the 1950's and how the exodus of Valley residents continued well into the 2010's.

We will also look at some census data for that period, a comparison of our Valley with other non-mining PA counties and take a closer look where residents emigrated to.

Michael A. Kashmer is from Scranton and currently resides in Bergen County, NJ. He has worked in broadcast and cable TV for nearly thirty years in areas of distribution, finance and programming. His experience includes network start-ups and foreign language programs. A special interest is digital broadband and fiber. Mike can be reached at mikekashmer@aol.com

Person of Interest



Joan A. Dutka

A community activist is defined as a person who voluntarily works with others in the community to achieve common goals. It is someone who takes either individual or collective action in a planned way to bring about change that improves quality of life in ways of health, housing, education, employment and the environment.

A preservationist is defined as someone who advocates preservation of architecturally or historically significant buildings, structures or sites from demolition or degradation.

Joan A. Dutka was both a community activist and a preservationist. Her passion in life was public service. She may have inherited her desire to serve the public from her father, Michael Murphy, who was a Scranton police officer, and while she devoted much of her life to public service, she was also a registered nurse and had a career as a real estate agent. Ms. Dutka was elected to Olyphant Borough Council and served from 1980 to 1988.

Activism and volunteerism are often one and the same. Ms. Dutka's activism led her to volunteer for many charitable organizations, both local and national. She ran campaign funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN, the Lackawanna United Way, the American Heart Association, and was the founder of the first Junior Catholic Daughters chapter at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Olyphant.

On the literary front, Ms. Dutka served for nearly a quarter of a century as a founding member, trustee and treasurer of the Valley Community Library, Peckville. She played a major role in the 2003 construction of the new library that included fundraisers, such as the "On the Wall, Off the Wall" literary competition.

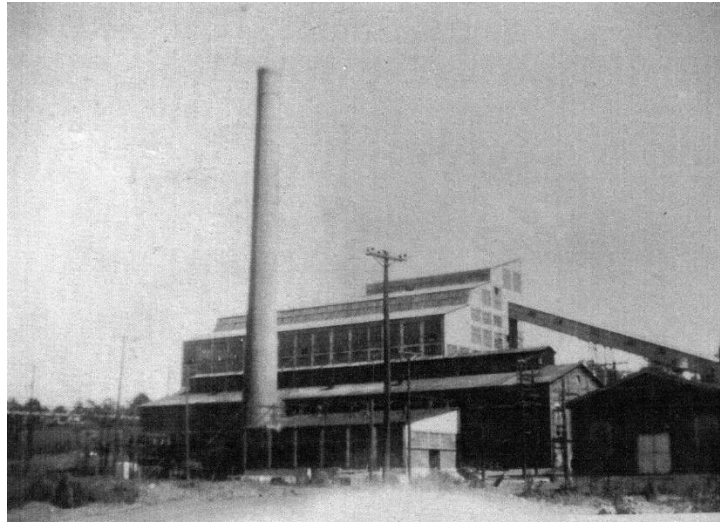
In 2009, as a result of her volunteer work, Ms. Dutka was commissioned into the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. Established in 1813, the Kentucky Colonels is a voluntary philanthropic organization that recognizes a person's accomplishments and service to community, state and nation. It is the highest title of honor given by a sitting governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Once commissioned, the recipient remains a Kentucky Colonel for life.

Ms. Dutka's husband, Joseph A. Dutka, was an attorney. A graduate of the University of Scranton and Georgetown University School of Law, Mr. Dutka was admitted to the Bar in 1952. His practice covered all forms of common law, but the majority of his clients were former anthracite miners or their widows who sought federal black lung benefits from the Social Security Administration. Mr. Dutka was one of the region's first black lung attorneys. One of Mr. Dutka's colleagues was Thomas J. Munley, who subsequently began his own practice. Hon. Munley currently serves as a judge with The Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County.

In keeping with community activism, Mr. and Ms. Dutka formed the Committee of Olyphant Residents and Taxpayers, a citizens' advocacy group. Ms. Dutka was also a founding member of the Lackawanna County Lawyer's Wives Association.

Flooding is no stranger to the Lackawanna and Wyoming valleys. In the 1990s, Ms. Dutka organized the campaign to dredge the Lackawanna River to ease seasonal flooding that affected many Mid Valley communities. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers started the project in 2002, she was the recipient of the "Golden Shovel" award for her efforts. The Army Corps of Engineers is a federal agency that mainly oversees dams, canals and flood protection in the United States.

As a preservationist, one of Ms. Dutka's most visible efforts was the attempt to preserve the smokestack that was the last remaining structure at the Underwood Mine complex. Located along the base of the Moosic Mountains in Olyphant and Throop, the 200-foot tall brick smokestack, yellow-white in color, was visible across the Mid Valley. It was the remaining symbol of the mine operation and Underwood Village, a nearby residential community. Both were considered by the anthracite industry to be progressive for their time. Underwood Village was demolished in 1936. The mine ceased operations in 1953.



Underwood Colliery and Smokestack

According to articles written by Scranton Times columnist, Joseph X. Flannery In late 1992 and early 1993, the owners of the Mid Valley Industrial Park planned to implode the stack to make room for expansion. The planned Route 6 (Casey Highway) would connect Dunmore with Carbondale and allow development to take place across the Moosic Mountains. The industrial park would be a direct beneficiary of the new road and in the eyes of the industrial park owners, the smokestack stood in the way.

Ms. Dutka was not opposed to the industrial park or its planned expansion. She envisioned the stack as a complement to the industrial park that would connect the past with the future and stand as a memorial to the anthracite miners of Northeast Pennsylvania, their families and the rich heritage they left behind.

She said, "I don't want a (smokestack) park that needs maintenance or anything like that." She added, "There could be a gravel path leading up to it and a bronze plaque on it to give a brief history of Underwood."

Ms. Dutka was successful when she convinced the Olyphant Borough Council to delay approval of implosion until independent studies showing the stack's condition could be obtained. The borough council retained an engineering firm whose preliminary finding showed that the top ten feet of the stack had mortar damage in need of repair. The borough council also questioned the smokestack's structural soundness, as well as potential maintenance costs.

Ms. Dutka felt that it would be best to have experts who specialize in such things examine the stack. She contacted representatives of the Gerard Chimney Co., St. Louis, MO, who flew to the site free of charge and conducted a thorough examination. The company had for many years been responsible for maintaining the chimneys at the Scranton Lace Co.

The Gerard findings were detailed and thorough. A letter dated December 8, 1992 from the company to The Committee to Save the Smokestack not only confirmed mortar damage, but also included other parts of the structure in need of repair, as well as detailed recommendations to rehabilitate the smokestack, which was found to be structurally sound. The total cost of the project was \$29,325.00. Ms. Dutka had a plan to cover the cost.

The Borough of Olyphant has its own electricity plant, which at the time, purchased electricity from the Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. (PP&L) to be sold to borough customers. In a 1992 dispute over prices, Olyphant residents were awarded a \$40,000 judgement against PP&L that resulted in a \$2.42 per month rebate to customers.

Ms. Dutka requested the borough's electricity committee to ask residents if they would agree to divert the rebate in their monthly bills beginning in January 1993 to the smokestack preservation project. She said, "I've already talked to a lot of people and have yet to get a negative answer."

The efforts of Ms. Dutka and others who saw new life for an historic smokestack came to naught. In April 1993, she and her fellow advocates had no forewarning that implosion was imminent. Advised of this, she arrived at the site just in time to witness the fall of the smokestack and the visible end of progressive Underwood.

In an April 18, 1993 Scranton Times article, Joseph X. Flannery wrote, "The only remaining question is why it could not have been allowed to remain in the industrial park. Indeed it could have given the park a bit of history."

Ms. Dutka's early 1990s efforts were frontrunners to those of the Huber Preservation Society. One of the society's goals was to preserve the Huber Breaker in Ashley, PA, which was the last remaining coal breaker in Northeast Pennsylvania, and the final major physical presence of the region's anthracite legacy. The Underwood and Huber efforts were well-intended and many still consider the reasons behind both implosions questionable at best.

Joan A. Dutka, activist and preservationist, passed away on June 25, 2010. She left her life experiences as examples of what can be attempted and many times accomplished if one has the desire and courage to ask, "Why not?"

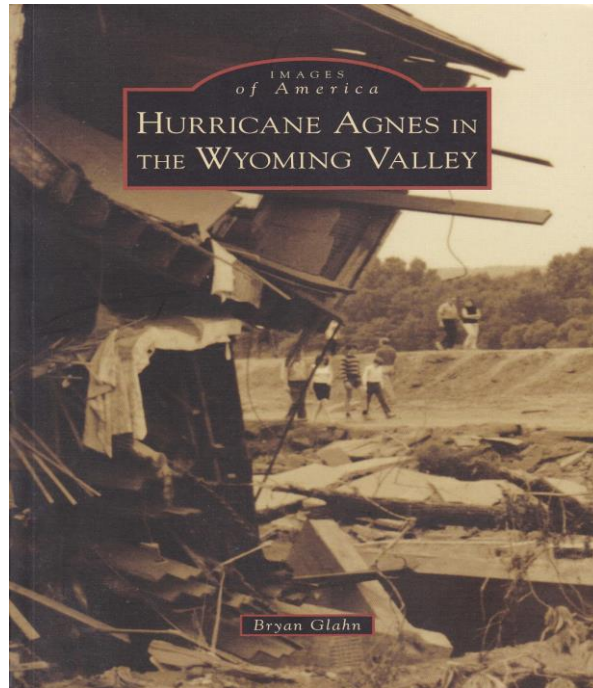
A sincere thanks to Joe and Lorri Dutka for their assistance. Their contributions of official documents and recollections of Joan A. Dutka's community activism and preservation efforts allowed Ms. Dutka's story to be told in a way that otherwise would not have been possible.

Editor's Book Review

By Rick Sedlisky

Hurricane Agnes in the Wyoming Valley

By Bryan Glahn, 127 pp.



Cover art courtesy of Bryan Glahn

Floods are not uncommon to Northeast Pennsylvania and in particular, to the city of Wilkes-Barre and its suburbs that line the Susquehanna River. A search of the National Weather Service archives offers more than enough proof of the destruction witnessed when the normally placid Susquehanna overflowed its banks.

In six chapters totaling 127 pages, *Hurricane Agnes In the Wyoming Valley*, by Bryan Glahn, takes the reader from Agnes' birth to residents returning to rebuild "A Valley with a Heart". The book offers testimony to what began in June 1972 as a tropical depression over Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. By June 15, the depression became a tropical storm. Eight days later on June 23, Hurricane Agnes arrived and as author Glahn states in Chapter One, "For residents of northeastern Pennsylvania, their lives were about to be forever changed".

The author sets the stage with the inclusion of satellite images of the storm's path from Yucatan to Pennsylvania via the Gulf of Mexico and the southeastern United States. The images are supplemented by maps and graphs, as well as headlines from the St. Petersburg Times and the Scranton Times. Following the visual journey, the reader arrives in the town of Forty Fort and visit to its historic cemetery.

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The Forty Fort Cemetery has been in existence since approximately 1806. Bordering the Susquehanna River, the cemetery was protected by a levee system that proved to be no match for what Agnes had in store.

The numerous photographs, combined with the author's narrative, are riveting. Mr. Glahn describes in detail how the resting places of many were undermined by soggy ground, the result of which was bodies floating along the Susquehanna, as well as bodies found in streets, homes, garages and on lawns.

The author states that although people were warned not to venture into the cemetery, many did and would later regret their visit. Photographs underscore their regret. Deputy Coroner Joseph Shaver's comments on Page 22, although brief, perhaps best sum it up when years later, he was asked to travel to the Midwest to offer his professional expertise in the aftermath of a similar weather event. Mr. Shaver's cemetery recollections continue on Page 44.

Residents of the Back Mountain communities were spared the devastation that affected their valley neighbors. With Back Mountain residents, a well-known college also played a major role in assisting the displaced that included a hospital.

College Misericordia (now Misericordia University) was established as an institution of higher learning in 1924. Misericordia, as the author states, means "heart of mercy". The institution proved that the meaning of its name was not just words.

The author tells how Alumnae Hall became the temporary home of Nesbitt Memorial Hospital. More than 50 babies were born at Alumnae. With photographs provided by Misericordia archives, the reader is also shown how campus grounds and facilities not only provided needed food and shelter for evacuees, but also served as a landing pad for military aircraft that brought necessary supplies to aid the effort.

Many books about natural disasters often focus mainly on the devastation and aftermath of such events. In his work, Mr. Glahn wisely adds a touch of happiness to what was a grim experience for thousands.

Charles Malpass and Mary (Molly) Hourigan were determined to tie the knot and just as others' lives were temporarily altered, the soon-to-be Mr. & Mrs. Malpass' wedding plans went forward, albeit in a makeshift manner.

Photographs provided by the couple and the author's narrative combine to tell an interesting and heartwarming story that took place amidst devastation. Where did the ceremony take place? Who stepped in as best man and why? When it was time for the reception, who came to the rescue and what about another important symbol of marriage, the wedding cake? A hint, Pepperidge Farm remembers.

For those who experienced Hurricane Agnes, the book will bring back recollections of personal experiences, both positive and negative. For those who either were not born at

the time or subsequently moved to the Wyoming Valley, Mr. Glahn's work, complete with photographs and locations, invites readers to take a different drive through the then affected valley to literally compare "then and now".

And, in a time where climate change and environmental protection are both national and international issues, *Hurricane Agnes in the Wyoming Valley* is a useful tool that shows what plans were in place to combat flooding and learning from those plans, perhaps what can be done to prepare for the next "Agnes".

Hurricane Agnes in the Wyoming Valley, by Bryan Glahn, is available for purchase both online and at regional booksellers.



Bryan Glahn, a grandson and great-grandson of coal miners, was born in Kingston, PA. He currently resides in Dallas, PA. He received a Bachelor's Degree in English from Wilkes University in 2000 and completed graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, King's College and Wilkes University.

He teaches middle and high school social studies at the Northwest Area School District. His first book, *Mining Disasters in the Wyoming Valley*, is also available for purchase. Mr. Glahn continues to conduct research on additional topics with a primary focus on the industrial history of Northeast Pennsylvania and the American Revolution.

End of the Line

December 3, 1954 was not just the end of the line for the Scranton Transit Company's trolley system, it was also the end of environmentally-friendly public transportation in the city and its suburbs. On that date, the company filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission to close its Green Ridge Suburban line, the system's last electric trolley route. The route would be replaced with buses as other system lines before it.



Scranton Transit Co. #505 on the Nay Aug Line
Photo courtesy of Electric City Trolley Museum, Scranton, PA

During 2020, issues of History Bytes will explore the various trolley and interurban systems that traversed the region. Systems such as the Wilkes-Barre & Hazleton Railway, Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway (Laurel Line), the Peoples Street Railway, Wilkes-Barre Transit Co., Scranton, Montrose & Binghamton Railway (Northern Electric) and Stroudsburg area systems will be discussed.

If anyone has information to contribute, please contact lackawannahistory@gmail.com and place Trolley in the subject matter. You will be credited in the articles.

NEPA Events

Anthracite Mining Heritage Month 2020

Planning for **Anthracite Mining Heritage Month, January 2020**, is underway. More than a dozen programs will be offered throughout the area. Full details will be published in the January – February 2020 issue of History Bytes. A few of the highlights include:

Jan. 4: Boy Scouts of America, Northeastern Pennsylvania Council, “Mining in Society Merit Badge,” Mulligan Physical Science Center, King’s College, 9 am to 1 pm.

Jan. 16: The Annual Msgr. John J. Curran Lecture, Robert P. Wolensky, “As Coal Mining Went Down, Garment Making Went Up: An Oral History of the Ladies’ Garment Industry, 1935-1995.” Burke Auditorium, McGowan School of Business, King’s College, 7 pm.

Jan. 18: The Annual Knox Mine Disaster Program, “After Knox: A Photographic Presentation on Anthracite’s Last Years,” Anthracite Heritage Museum, 2pm.

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Jan. 23: Panel Discussion: Lackawanna Historical Society, Catlin House; details TBA.

Jan. 24: Telling and Understanding Anthracite's Story, Presentations by Bode Morin, Anthracite Heritage Museum; Philip Mosley, Penn State University-Scranton; and Paul Schakel, University of Maryland, to be held at Penn State University-Scranton, 6:30 pm.

Additional information and a complete list of programs will appear in the January – February 2020 issue of *History Bytes*.

Save the Date: UK Industrial Tour

Bob Wolensky, Bode Morin, and Beth Landmesser cordially invite readers of *History Bytes* to join them for an 11-day, industrially-focused tour of historical places in Scotland, England and Wales next summer.

The trip will visit sites concerned with coal mining, railroading, iron making, canals, and "great houses" (i.e, palaces owned by aristocrats who made fortunes from the industrial facilities on their land). The tour is set for June 25 - July 6, 2020. Details will follow in the next issue of *History Bytes*. For immediate information contact Bode Morin at bmorin@pa.gov.

Lackawanna Winter Market at the Globe 2019



Former Globe Store
nepascene.com

From Friday, December 6 through Sunday, December 8 the 100 block of Wyoming Avenue in downtown Scranton will again come alive with the sights, sounds and aromas of the Christmas season. As in past years, the former Globe store façade will be decorated with lights.

More than 60 vendors will line the 100 block of Wyoming Avenue in heated tents offering a variety of items. Others will be located within the former Globe Store. To date,

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vendors include Fromdrabtofab!, Tasseys, Nelstra Gallery, Sugarloaf Herb Farm, Igor's Russian Art Gallery, Lola French Macaron and Ellen Jamiolkowski Handmade.

The Globe Store was downtown Scranton's premier department store. It operated for more than a century until its closing in 1994. After a number of reincarnations, the building is now the home to the Lackawanna County Government Center.

For updates on participating vendors, please visit Lackawanna Winter Market at the Globe 2019 on Facebook. For a list of upcoming events across Northeast Pennsylvania, please visit www.nepascene.com

Tunkhannock's Christmas in Our Hometown

On Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 7, visitors to the Endless Mountains community of Tunkhannock will experience the "home for the holidays" feeling at Tunkhannock's Christmas in Our Hometown. Street carolers, hot chocolate, ice sculptures, horse and buggy rides, open-air peanut roasting and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus are some of the attractions that await. The following weekend offers more.

Santa Train Rides in Tunkhannock

Ride the rails along the Susquehanna River on Saturday, December 14 and Sunday, December 15 on diesel-powered passenger trains provided by the Reading & Northern Railroad in conjunction with the Tunkhannock Business & Professional Association.

Travel time is approximately 80 minutes. Boarding is 30 minutes prior to departure. A free shuttle bus from downtown Tunkhannock to the train will be provided. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, 13 and above, \$9 for children ages 3 to 9, and free for kids under 2.

Advance ticket purchases are highly recommended and can be made at Greenwood's, Tunkhannock. Phone: 570-836-3188. For additional ticket information, call 570-665-2672 or visit <http://www.tunkhannockbusiness.com/>

Winter Ecology Hike

If shopping is not your ideal way to spend a December afternoon, consider the Winter Ecology Hike sponsored by the Pocono Environmental Education Center. Located at 538 Emery Rd., Dingman's Ferry, the PEEC hike takes place on Sunday, December 8, from 10am to 12pm.

On the hike, you'll learn how different plants and animals survive the winter. Cost is \$5 per person and all ages are welcome. For additional information, please contact Janine Morley at 570-828-2319.

Christmas Gift Bingo

Bingo still appeals to many people, regardless of age. On Saturday, December 7, the Carbondale YMCA hosts its Christmas Gift Bingo. Doors open at 11:30am. Games begin at noon. Donation is \$25 for tickets.

Prizes include gift cards, electronics and toys. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, as well as refreshments for sale. All proceeds will help to further the development of the Carbondale YMCA Community Park. For information about the event and the YMCA, please call 570-282-2210.

The Carbondale YMCA is a community-based non-profit organization that was established in 1844 to provide recreational programs and services to people of all ages.

Subscribe to History Bytes

A subscription to History Bytes is free. If you would like to receive future issues of our bi-monthly e-newsletter, please contact the Lackawanna Historical Society at lackawannahistory@gmail.com and place History Bytes in the subject matter.

Share Your NEPA Stories with History Bytes

If you have any Northeast Pennsylvania-related stories to include in History Bytes, please contact the Society at the above email address. Please include your name, email address and a brief description of your story.

Internet Links

Historical Attractions

- [Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority](#)
- [Steamtown National Historic Site](#)
- [Anthracite Museum and Iron Furnaces](#)
- [Electric City Trolley Museum](#)
- [Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour](#)
- G.A.R. Memorial Association Museum: Contact Joseph Long, Jr. 570-457-8438

Cultural Partners

- [Albright Memorial Library](#) and the Lackawanna County Library System
- [The Everhart Museum](#)
- [Scranton Cultural Center](#) at the Masonic Temple
- Scranton's Annual [Civil War Weekend](#) Events
- Scranton Times-Tribune's [Pages from the Past](#)
- [Pocono Arts: Where Culture Builds Community](#)

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Anthracite Research

- [Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field](http://www.northernfield.info/) <http://www.northernfield.info/>

Historical Societies

- [Carbondale Historical Society](#)
- [Dunmore Historical Society](#)
- [Luzerne County Historical Society](#)
- [Wayne County Historical Society](#)
- [Susquehanna County Historical Society](#)
- [Monroe County Historical Society](#)
- [Wyoming County Historical Society](#)
- Archbald Historical Society: Contact Ed Casey (570) 614-3628
- Scott Township Historical Society: Contact Robert Vail (570) 254-9536
- Taylor Historical Society: Contact Christine Schaefer (570) 562-1225

County and Educational Partners

- [Lackawanna County](#)
- [Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit](#)

Lineage Societies

Provided by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

If you can trace one of your ancestral lines far enough back in time, and if you have acceptable proof, you might be able to join a lineage society. Here are links to the most popular ones. (You can find links to others by doing internet searches for descriptive words.) Links below include those for the organization's national headquarters web page, their Pennsylvania page, pages for selected local components, locating individual chapters, information about joining, and contacting the organization.

- The General Society of Mayflower Descendants:
National <https://www.themayflowersociety.org/>
Pennsylvania valcullen@comcast.net
- The Daughters of the American Revolution:
National <http://www.dar.org/>
Joining <http://www.dar.org/national-society/become-member/how-join>
Locations <http://www.dar.org/national-society/become-member/chapter-locations>
- The Sons of the American Revolution:
National <https://www.sar.org/>
Pennsylvania <http://www.passar.org/> and ehtroutman13@gmail.com
- First Families of Pennsylvania:
Pennsylvania <https://genpa.org/first-families-of-pennsylvania/>

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

- The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution:
 Pennsylvania <http://amrev.org/>
 Lancaster <http://amrev.org/about-the-society/lancaster-chapter/>
 Joining <http://amrev.org/becoming-a-member/overview-instructions/>
- The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War:
 National <http://www.suvvw.org/>
 Pennsylvania <http://pasuvvw.org/>
- The Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Inc. (NEPGS):
 Local NEPA <http://www.nepgs.org/>

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2019

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The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization, which is dedicated to keeping vital the history of Lackawanna County. The society is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Catlin House Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County and membership dues.

If you have anything to share that will add to the documentation of Lackawanna and Northeast Pennsylvania, please contact lackawannahistory@gmail.com and place *History Bytes* in the subject matter.

