



HISTORY BYTES

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

Vol. 3 No. 1

January – February 2020

Rick Sedlisky, Editor

Lackawanna River Nominated 2020 Pennsylvania River of the Year

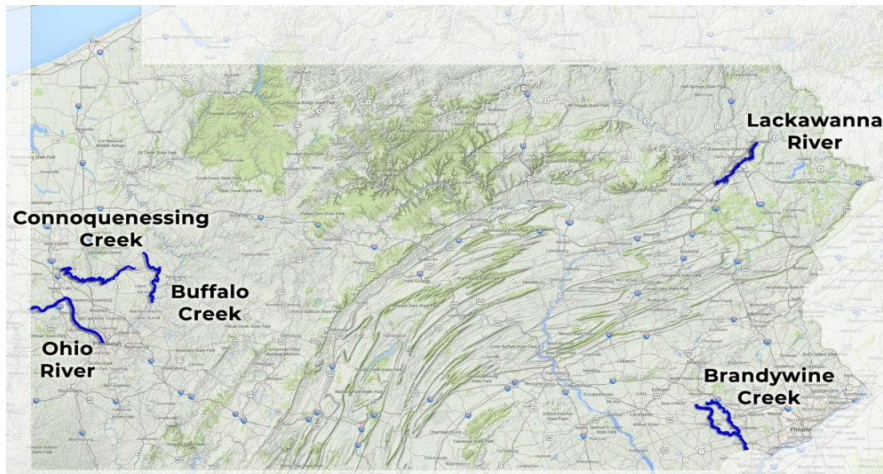
The Lackawanna River has been nominated as 2020 Pennsylvania River of the Year. It is the only waterway in Northeast Pennsylvania to be nominated for the 2020 award.



**Lackawanna River, Upstream View
Archbald, April 2019
Photo courtesy of Rick Sedlisky**

Each year, five waterways receive nominations that are based on conservation needs and successes, as well as celebration plans if the nominee becomes Pennsylvania River of the Year. The 2020 nominees are Brandywine Creek, Buffalo Creek, Connoquenessing Creek, Lackawanna River and Ohio River.

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<http://pariveroftheyear.org/2020-river-of-the-year-nominees/>

The Lackawanna River flows through Susquehanna, Wayne, Lackawanna and Luzerne counties and for approximately 200 years was negatively impacted by a combination of urban and industrial development, the anthracite coal industry and railroads. Following the demise of anthracite in the 1960s and the implementation of sanitary treatment facilities, the river staged a remarkable return to life. In its middle and upper reaches, the Lackawanna now sustains a vibrant cold water Class A fishery, and is part of a developing extensive river trail and greenway system.

If the Lackawanna River wins, the sponsoring organization, the Lackawanna River Conservation Association, will receive a grant to fund river activities throughout 2020. Events include a river sojourn, paddling trips, a speaker series, clean up days, photography contests and raising awareness of the Lackawanna's environmental, recreational, tourism and heritage values.



Lackawanna River
Sweeney's Beach, Scranton, September 2019
 Photo courtesy of Rick Sedlisky

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Public voting is overseen by the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR), an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Rivers, in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The POWR website reports that as of January 6, 2020, with 11,900 votes cast, the standings are:

- **Lackawanna River – 32%, down 3% from January 1**
- **Buffalo Creek – 32%, up 10%**
- **Brandywine Creek – 18%, down 4%**
- **Connoquenessing Creek – 13%, down 3%**
- **Ohio River – 4%, down 1%**

Voting ends January 17. To cast your vote for 2020 Pennsylvania River of the Year, please visit either the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers website at www.pariveroftheyear.org or the organization's Facebook page.

For additional information about the Lackawanna and efforts to enhance and maintain the river, please visit the Lackawanna River Conservation Association at www.lrca.org



Lackawanna River
Photo courtesy of



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Remembering Knox: 61 Years Later

Listed below are the names of the 12 men who gave their lives on January 22, 1959 when the Susquehanna River broke through the roof of the Knox Mine.

*Samuel Altieri Joseph Baloga Benjamin Boyar Francis Burns
Charles Featherman Joseph Gizenski Dominic Kaveliski Frank Orlowski
Eugene Ostrowski William Sinclair Daniel Stefanides Herman Zelonis*

Anthracite Mining Heritage Month 2020

The annual regional observance of Anthracite Mining Heritage Month takes place during January 2020. A wide variety of programs will be featured in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Pittston, Plymouth, Nanticoke, Dunmore, Bethlehem, and Port Griffith. Focus is on the history and culture of the anthracite region of Northeast Pennsylvania.

Event Sponsors

Anthracite Heritage Foundation
Anthracite Heritage Museum
Boy Scouts of America-Northeastern Pennsylvania Council
Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR)
Greater Pittston Historical Society
Huber Breaker Preservation Society
King's College
Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Committee
Lackawanna Historical Society
Luzerne County Historical Society
Misericordia University
Nanticoke Historical Society
National Museum of Industrial History
Penn State University-Scranton
Pittston Area Senior High School
Plymouth Historical Society
Wyoming Seminary Upper School
Susquehanna Brewing Company

The public is cordially invited to attend all events (except the Boy Scouts program). The programs are open, free of charge, with the exception of the two Knox Mine Disaster documentary screenings and the National Museum of Industrial History photography lecture.

Program List

Saturday Jan. 4: Boy Scouts of America, Northeastern Pennsylvania Council: Mining in Society Merit Badge
Venue: Mulligan Physical Science Center, King's College, 133 N. River St., Wilkes-Barre, PA
Time: 9 am – 1 pm (Open to Council Boy Scouts only)

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Thursday Jan. 9: Luzerne County Historical Society, Public Program: *Classic Anthracite Photography*

Speaker: **Mark Riccetti, Jr.** “A Treasure of Anthracite Mining Photographs”

Venue: LCHS Museum Bldg., 69 S. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, PA

Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm; refreshments

Tuesday Jan. 14: Huber Breaker Preservation Society and Nanticoke Historical Society, Public Program: *Huber Breaker Documentary*

Presenters: Filmmakers **John Welsh** of Philadelphia and **Alana Mauger** of Gilbertsville, PA, debut screening of “Beyond the Breaker,” their documentary about the Huber Breaker in Ashley, PA

Mike and Linda Mostardi, Media, PA, a mining memorabilia display

Moderator: **Chester Zaremba**, Nanticoke Historical Society

Venue: Nanticoke Historical Society’s Cultural Centre of St. Faustina, 38 W. Church Street, Nanticoke, PA

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm; refreshments

Wednesday Jan. 15: Greater Pittston Historical Society, Public Program: *Greater Pittston’s Public Monuments, Markers and Murals*

Speakers: **Maria Capalorella-Montante**, “The PHMC Historical Marker Dedicated to Greater Pittston’s Garment Workers” and “The Anthracite Coal Miner’s Statue”

Rose Randazzo-Pizzuto, “The Inspirational Mural on Main Street, Pittston”

Mayor Mike Lombardo, “The Knox Mine Disaster Mural” and “The Heritage Mural on Main Street, Pittston”

Moderator: **Ron Faraday**, Greater Pittston Historical Society

Venue: Pittston Public Library, Cosgrove Room, 47 Broad St., Pittston, PA

Time: 7 pm – 9 pm; refreshments

Thursday Jan. 16: King’s College and the Anthracite Heritage Foundation, Public Program: *The Annual Msgr. John J. Curran Lecture*

Speaker: **Robert P. Wolensky**, King’s College, “As Coal Mining Went Down, Garment Making Went Up: Min Matheson, Russell Bufalino, and Other Participants in the Wyoming Valley Apparel Industry, 1945-1995”

Moderator: Thomas Mackaman, King’s College

Venue: Burke Auditorium, McGowan School of Business, King’s College, 133 N. River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm; refreshments beginning at 6:30 pm

Friday Jan. 17: Plymouth Historical Society, Public Program: *A Dramatic Reading from Oliver Thomas’ Memoir, “I Drove Mules in the Nottingham Mines”, plus a presentation on the “The Nottingham Mine Disaster of 1947”*

Speakers: **Joe Slusser** and **Steve Kondrad**, Plymouth Historical Society

Venue: Plymouth Borough Municipal Building, 162 W. Shawnee Ave, Plymouth, PA

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm; refreshments

Saturday Jan. 18: Anthracite Heritage Museum, Public Program: *The Annual Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Tribute*

Presenters: **Scott Herring** (“The Last Anthracite Photographer”), “After Knox: A Photographic Exposition of the Anthracite Industry’s Final Years”

Don Shappelle and **Don Sennett**, Coal Mining Music **Mike and Linda Mostardi**, Media, PA, A mining memorabilia display **Moderator:** **Bode Morin**, Anthracite Heritage Museum

Venue: Anthracite Heritage Museum, 22 Bald Mountain Rd., Scranton, PA

Time: 2 pm – 3:30 pm; refreshments

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Sunday Jan. 19: Annual Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Mass

Venue: St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 35 Williams St., Pittston, PA

Time: 9 am

Sunday Jan. 19: Annual Knox Mine Disaster Public Commemoration, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Marker

Location: In front of Baloga Funeral Home, 1201 Main St., Pittston, PA

Time: 10:30 am; refreshments provided by Baloga Funeral Home

Sunday Jan. 19: Annual Walk to the Knox Mine Disaster Site

Location: Along the Susquehanna River, Port Griffith, PA

Time: 11 am, Baloga Funeral Home to caravan to the river (weather permitting)

Wednesday Jan. 22: On the 61st Anniversary of the Knox Mine Disaster: *"The Knox Mine Disaster Documentary"*, a screening of the final (revised) cut

Presenters: Filmmakers **David Brocca** and **Albert Brocca**. Q&A to follow

Music: **Lex Romane**

Venue: Pittston Area Senior High School, 5 Stout Street, Pittston, PA

Time: Doors open at 6:30 pm, film begins at 7 pm

Tickets: \$10. For advance purchase, please visit:

https://knox_documentary_pittston_area.eventbrite.com/ General admission only

Thursday Jan. 23: Lackawanna Historical Society, Public Program: *Historical Studies of the Anthracite Region*

Speakers: **Clem Valletta**, King's College, *"Attachment to Place: Ethnicity, Coal, Community, and Corporate Society"*

Michael Chimola, Wyoming Valley West High School, and **Robert Wolensky**, King's College, *"The United Anthracite Miners Union and the Good Friday Bombings of April 10, 1936"*

Robert Savakinus, PHMC, *"Documenting Amusement Parks in the Anthracite Region"*

Andrea Nerozzi, Wyoming Seminary Upper School and **Robert Hughes**, EPCAMR, *"STEM and Art: Changing Perspectives of Waterways"*

Moderator: **Mary Ann Savakinus**; Lackawanna Historical Society

Venue: Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA

Time: 7 pm – 9 pm; refreshments

Friday Jan. 24: Penn State University-Scranton, Public Program: *Telling and Understanding Anthracite's Unique Story*

Speakers: **Paul Shackel**, University of Maryland, *"Remembering Lattimer"*

Bode Morin, Anthracite Heritage Museum, *"Contextualizing the Past in Anthracite Heritage"*

Philip Mosley, Penn State University-Scranton, *"Historical Sites as Commemorative Mode: Three Coal Mine Tours"*

Moderator: **Michael Knies**, University of Scranton

Venue: Hawk Lecture Theater, Penn State University-Scranton, 201 Business Building, 120 Ridge View Dr., Dunmore, PA

Time: 6:30 pm – 8 pm; refreshments

Saturday Jan. 25: Susquehanna Brewing Company, Free Concert: *An Evening of Anthracite Region Music*

Performers: **Lex Romane**, folk singer; **Don Shappelle and the Pickups**, folk-style group; **Jay Smar**, folk singer; **Joe Husty** and **Bob Wolensky**, accordionists

MC: **Ed Philbin**, Pittston, PA

Venue: Susquehanna Brewing Company, 635 S. Main St., Pittston, PA

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Time: 7 pm– 9 pm. A free brewery tour begins at 6 pm. Food truck cuisine and beverages available for purchase during the concert

Sunday, Jan. 26: National Museum of Industrial History, Public Program: *Contemporary Anthracite Photography*

Speaker: Dane Rhys, International Center of Photography, New York, “*Anthracite Workers Today: A Lifetime Calling*”

Moderator: Mike Piersa, National Museum of Industrial History

Venue: National Museum of Industrial History, 602 E. 2nd St., Bethlehem, PA

Time: 2 pm – 3:30 pm; admission fee charged

Sunday Jan. 26: Anthracite Heritage Museum, Public Informational Program: *An Industrial History Tour of United Kingdom Sites, June 25 – July 7, 2020*; for persons interested in next summer’s industrial history tour of locations in Scotland, England and Wales, sponsored by the Anthracite Heritage Museum

Speakers: Beth Landmesser and Robert Wolensky, tour leaders

Commentary: Bode Morin, Anthracite Heritage Museum, will also join the tour

Venue: Anthracite Heritage Museum, 22 Bald Mountain Rd., Scranton, PA

Time: 2 pm – 3:30 pm; refreshments. For tour information, contact 570-963-4804

Friday Jan. 31: The 61st Anniversary of the Knox Mine Disaster: “*The Knox Mine Disaster Documentary*”, a screening of the final (revised) cut

Presenters: Filmmakers David Brocca and Albert Brocca. Q&A to follow

Music: Lex Romane

Venue: Lemmond Theater, Misericordia University, 301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA

Time: Doors open at 6:30 pm, film begins at 7 pm

Tickets: \$10, For advance purchase, please visit:

https://knox_documentary_misericordia_univ.eventbrite.com/ General admission only

Contact: Prof. Bob Wolensky, Anthracite Heritage Foundation and King’s College

Phone: 715-252-6742

Email: rwolensk@gmail.com

Wall of Honor

The Wall of Honor is located at the Anthracite Miners’ Memorial Garden, King’s on the Square, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, and can hold up to 6,000 miners’ names. For information, contact the Anthracite Heritage Foundation at either <http://ahfdn.org/> or at Anthracite Heritage Foundation, 69 Public Square - Ste. 709, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.



Photo courtesy of the Anthracite Heritage Foundation

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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.

In this issue, we continue with Mr. Goblick's May, June and July 1938 entries. At this point, he had been with the Volpe Coal Co. Sibley operation for four months.

May 1938

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

May 1. Sunday, John Ferlick Died.

May 2. Raised curve in 13 places. (Track work)

May 3. No entry.

May 4 – 7. Colliery idle.

May 8. Sunday.

May 9 - 11. No entry.

May 12. No. 8 laborer sick, Sitko gone home.

May 13. No. 8 laborer sick, Baloney and Sitko. (Working?)

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May 14. Colliery idle, pay day.

May 15. Sunday.

May 16. No. 18 laborer off, No. 5 Miner off.

May 17 – 18 – 19. Mayes Father Died. Double Shift. (Tom worked a double for Mayes)

May 20 – 21. No. 5 miner day shift.

May 22. Sunday.

May 23. 7 hour day, 3:30 to 10:30

May 24. No entry

May 25. Rain.

May 26. Rain, shaker in Panls.

May 27. No entry.

May 28. Pay day.

May 29. Sunday.

May 30. Decoration Day, Colliery Idle.

May 31. Day Shift.

Notes

May 17 – 18 – 19: *Mayes father died.* It was not uncommon for the deceased to be waked, or “laid out” as it was called, for three days.

May 30: *Decoration Day, Colliery Idle.* Decoration Day originally honored those who gave their lives in the Civil War. Following World War I, the observance was expanded to honor Americans who died in all wars. Memorial Day was declared a national holiday through an act of Congress in 1971 and is observed on the last Monday in May.

June 1938

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

June 1. Timbers and curve in No. 5 & 8. (Replaced timbers and repaired track on curves)

June 2. Baloney off.
June 3 & 4. Earnest with No. 5.
June 5. Sunday.
June 6. Pm. New rope in Slope, No. 8 night shift.
June 7. Rain, new wheels. (New wheels on motor car).
June 8. Lefty's arm broke working in No. 10.
June 9. Blower burned up.
June 10. No entry.
June 11. Sitko off. No. 8.
June 12. Sunday.
June 13 - 14 No entry.
June 15. Pay Day.
June 16. Mountaineers Dance, Faleon's Hall.
June 17. No. 11 on rock.
June 18. Baloney not in.
June 19. Sunday.
June 20. Squeeze in No. 8.
June 21. First Day of spring.
June 22. No entry.
June 23. Paul worked in No. 8.
June 24. No entry.
June 25. Heavy rains.
June 26. Sunday.
June 27. Day Shift.
June 28 - 29. No entry.
June 30. Pay Day.

Notes

June 9: *Blower burned up.* Per Mr. Goblic; he didn't specify as to whether the blower was in the mine or at his home.

June 16: *Mountaineers Dance, Faleon's Hall.* Faleon's Hall may have been the location of Saint Stanislaus Church Hall, Franklin St., Austin Heights.

June 17: *No. 11 on rock.* Mr. Goblick's entry is not specific. It could mean that either rock was being hauled from No. 11 or Miner No. 11 was removing rock.

June 21: *First Day of spring.* June 21 was the first day of summer. Entry is per Mr. Goblick and left as recorded.

July 1938

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

July 1. Hot Day.

July 2. Colliery Idle.

July 3. Sunday.

July 4 - 5. Colliery Idle. Trip to Buttermilk Falls.

July 6. Sitko off, pinion fell off motor. (Pinion gear)

July 7. Baloney off. Paid \$3.00 for Union Plorm (???) B. T.

July 8. New office built in the mines.

July 9. Rain.

July 10. Sunday.

July 11. Rain.

July 12. Warm.

July 13. Warm. Nellie went to the Movies.

July 14. Daleville to Charlies Wozniaks.

July 15. Pay Day.

July 16. Colliery Idle, Union Clam Bake.

July 17. Sunday.

July 18. Rain.

July 19. No entry.

July 20. Sitko off. Engine broke down.

July 21 – 22 – 23. No entry.

July 24. Sunday.

July 25. Ammie Romemchic visiting.

July 26 – 27 – 28 – 29. No entry.

July 30. Pay Day.

July 31. Sunday.

Notes

JULY 4 – 5: Colliery Idle. Trip to Buttermilk Falls. There are a number of locations in New York and New Jersey containing the name, Buttermilk Falls. Because Interstates did not exist in 1938 and travel was mostly via two-lane roads, it is likely that Mr. Goblick travelled to Buttermilk Falls, Layton, NJ, which is located in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

Mining and Other Terms

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."

Miners' Number Assignments- Each miner was assigned a number. The number appeared on his brass tags and was used to identify his cars that were sent to the surface. It was also placed on the mine's IN/OUT work board. In addition, the number appeared on the miner's safety lamp, battery cap lamp, tools and shifting shanty basket.

Number assignment information was provided by Tom Supey who worked as a foreman at the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour, Slope 190.

Mine Numerical Designations- Mine numerical designations such as #10, for example, were designations of the gangways, chambers or places assigned to a miner on a given workday. Progressing in from the main road, most were identified as #1, #2, #3, etc. or were given a name, such as Barrier Pillar Section.

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.

Shaker- A mechanized pan-type trough that moves coal in a "jerky" back and forth movement. It is used to load cars or move coal to the gangway.

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. 3 Colliery North Side, Keyser Ave.
Bunnell photos, Steamtown National Historic Site Archives Group 1
Courtesy of 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.

When Mines Closed, Women Became Family Breadwinners A Story about Big Business and the People Who Became Collateral Damage

Part II

By Michael A. Kashmer

Economic troubles in the Lackawanna Valley were rampant in the late 1940's, well into the 1950's and beyond. It was a time of a shift in the gender balance of the national labor force, perhaps the largest in memory. Locally, the share of women in the workforce increased in towns up and down "the line".

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The rash of mine closings, railroad layoffs and bankruptcies were even crueler than the ones that came before. From the barstools of the local VFW to the headquarters buildings of the coal companies that were letting people go, there was a lot of talk, but little debate. The coal business had always been boom or bust, but this time it was different. The feeling was that King Coal would not survive this latest downturn.

Virtually all of the jobs in the mines and railroads were held by men. Women were expected to take care of the children and maintain the home. Women who worked were often single and employed in the mills, garment factories or in the department stores downtown. Accessibility of public transit made this arrangement work.

In Part I of this article we saw how young boys, not yet teenagers, started out as “breaker boys” in the collieries. Working the breaker, spending dawn to dusk at least six days a week, blazing hot or freezing cold, picking out rock and other debris from the chutes bursting with coal and all to make anthracite as clean as possible.

There are some stories that dwell on the camaraderie among the boys and showed their spunk to learn the business and move up the ladder. For the most part these are but romanticized memories.

With some luck or better yet some connections or “pull” because of his father’s ethnicity and friends, the young boy could earn a promotion. At about 16 years of age, he might be moved up to become a “helper”.

Truth-be-told, this was a dangerous job and there was little in the way of joy to be had. Many boys with horribly scarred faces and broken bodies hung around the workplaces looking for some job they could physically handle. This was their bleak introduction to the business and they strived to serve it well.

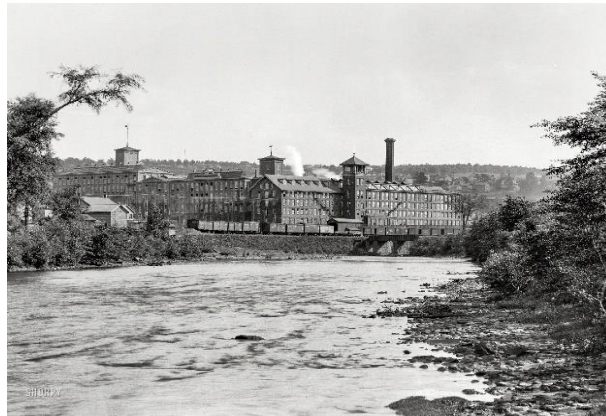
Strikes began to gain attention in the national press after World War I. Earlier strikes were considered to be local events. Mining and rail companies used a tactic of “divide and conquer” the twenty or so different ethnic groups in their work areas.

Newly arrived immigrants tended to live in ethnic neighborhoods, attended an ethnic church and socialized with people who spoke their language and could help the newcomers acclimate. This pattern is still true for immigrants today.

The conflicts between labor and capital were a key part of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The issues were about fair wages, underground safety and social justice for working families. Mining communities sought to organize and to cooperate in the event of a strike.

By the time of the Great Depression (1930’s) the power of coal was on the wane with newer, modern fuels like oil and natural gas gaining market share and popularity. Business and home owners that installed the new oil or gas furnaces were scoffed at or had their businesses boycotted.

Women with good sewing, knitting and cutting skills could find work with the small manufacturers of high quality products, such as men's and women's wool suits and coats (Linder Brothers) and a line of nylon apparel (Jaunty Mills). Many Valley women were born in Europe, which had a history of garment making, including work with different fabrics, fur and decoration.



Early photo of Saquoit Silk Mill, Scranton

In this country, men got most of the good paying jobs in the mills and factories. A cutter or pattern maker earned good pay, so women were excluded. But they could work sorting garments or on sewing machines earning a fraction of men's pay.

As mines shut down and railroads reduced the number of coal trains, residents had a harder time making expenses. I have strong memories of the migration of families from the Valley to places where they could find work. Sometimes the entire family would pack up and go, but sometimes just the father would go and come back on weekends if possible. There were no Interstate highways at that time, just two-lane state roads to travel on.

I recall some younger, unmarried men leaving as well. They left behind parents, siblings and other relatives. Some of these brave fellows already had a job in the Valley, but wanted a better life and a future. Some neighbors from the Plot Section of Scranton went to the Binghamton-Endicott-Johnson City area of the Southern Tier of New York State. There were outfits that were hiring in the shoe factories and on assembly lines that dotted the area.

One neighbor took a job up there, leaving his widowed mother at their Albright Ave. apartment above a Portuguese Social Club. He dutifully came home every Friday evening and drove back on Sunday morning. One weekend he came home in a shiny new Plymouth Coupe that he bought there. He also told of being offered another job in an electronics company that offered to pay for his schooling. "Amazing! Unheard of", people said. I remember Charles as a bright and resourceful guy.



1956 Plymouth Coupe

My family had relatives and friends who relocated to Buffalo NY, Bridgeport and Norwalk CT, Queens NY and Central NJ, among others. I recall going to visit our relatives in Connecticut and New Jersey and was amazed how prosperous the towns looked. There was construction everywhere. Highways, sometimes three lanes in each direction, showed the automobile generation where the future was. Smooth, landscaped turnpikes without advertisements guided you along the Connecticut coast and made it easy to stop at rocky beaches and smell the ocean.

Rick Sedlisky, Editor of History Bytes, told me a story that perfectly explained what the exodus looked like.

It was 1958 or 1959 and George Washington School on Green Ridge St. was the location. Rick was starting the 5th Grade and there weren't enough seats for the 53 pupils. Additional desks were brought in to use that year. During the summer between grades 5 and 6, there was some talk about people losing jobs and having to move away, but the kids didn't pay much attention.

When classes convened in September, the head count was only 29 and the classroom felt empty compared to last year. The teacher would admonish kids who misbehaved with, "Be thankful, at least your father has a job".

Any readers who have stories similar to those that appear above, please send an email to me at mikeshashmer@aol.com and I will compile them for a later issue. Your stories will make for interesting additions to local history.

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 mikeshashmer@aol.com

LHS 2020 Membership Information

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

Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend who is interested in joining. Please return it 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	\$250	Telephone _____
// Gold	\$500	_____
// Platinum	\$1000	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>

Correction

In the September – October 2019 issue of History Bytes, the title of the article, *A Foreign Field That Is Forever Wales*, written by Prof. Bill Jones, contains inaccuracies. The correct title is, *A Foreign Field, Forever Welsh*. In addition, the article did not originally appear in The Searcher. It originally appeared in The Western Mail, a Welsh newspaper published in Cardiff. It was reprinted in History Bytes with permission of The Western Mail. Our thanks to Torry Watkins for calling our attention to the matter.

LHS Events

Wednesday, January 15: Dine Lackawanna, Sidel's, Scranton

Friday, February 7, The 61st Anniversary of the Knox Mine Disaster: "The Knox Mine Disaster Documentary", Lackawanna College, Vine St., Scranton; a screening of the final (revised) cut by Filmmakers David Brocca and Albert Brocca. Q&A to follow. Doors open at 6:30 pm; film begins at 7 pm. Tickets: \$12. Please call LHS at 570-344-3841.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Friday, February 21, 6pm: From Suffragists to Senators: Reception & Exhibit Opening, RSVP by February 15 at LHS: 570-344-3841

NEPA Events

Tell 'Em From Slavery to Waverly

Featuring Clarence Spady

Based on a book by Sandra Burgette Miller

Friday, February 7, Saturday February 8: 7:30pm, Scranton Cultural Center
Tickets: \$20. Please visit SCCMT.org; call 570-344-1111; or in person at the Fidelity Bank Box Office.



UK Industrial Tour

We cordially invite you to join this once-in-a-lifetime experience that will take you across the length of Britain to explore, discuss, and learn about the land that spawned the Industrial Revolution.

TENTATIVE ITINERY

DAY 1

6/25/20

Fly to Edinburgh

DAY 2 Edinburgh, Scotland

6/26/20

Guided tour of Edinburgh Castle, free time, welcome dinner

DAY 3 Edinburgh, Scotland

6/27/20

Scottish National Mining Museum, Lady Victoria Colliery, free time

DAY 4

6/28/20

Woodhorn Museum Ashington, Northumberland, Seaham Colliery

DAY 5 Newcastle, England

6/29/20

Beamish open air museum including Mahogany drift mine, Victorian town, plus Durham Cathedral, group dinner

DAY 6 Bradford, England

6/30/20

National Coal Mining Museum for England in Wakefield, Meeting with miners, free time to explore Bradford

DAY 7 Bradford, England

7/1/20

National Railway Museum in York, free time to explore York, Harewood House

DAY 8 Cardiff, Wales

7/2/20

Quarry Mill at Wilmslow, National Waterway Museum at Gloucester for a canal boat ride on Queen Boadicea II, Group dinner in Cardiff

DAY 9 Cardiff, Wales

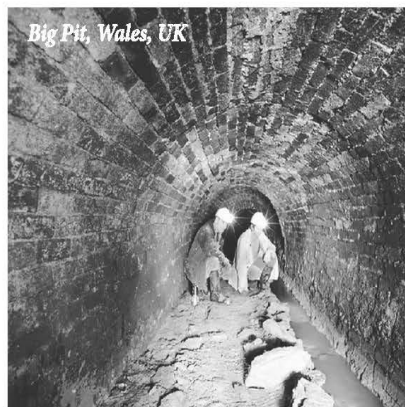
7/3/20

Rhondda Heritage Park, Lewis Merthyr Colliery, tour Rhondda Valley, tour and Medieval Banquet at Cardiff Castle.

DAY 10 Cardiff, Wales

7/4/20

Big Pit National Coal Museum, Guardina Mining Memorial including talk by locals, Risca Historical Museum, free evening to explore Cardiff.



DAY 11 Cardiff, Wales

7/5/20

St. Fagan's National Museum, Royal Mint, Final Group dinner

DAY 12

7/6/20

Return flight.

Cost of the trip:

\$4400 for double occupancy

\$316 single supplement

Included:

Bus from Scranton, PA to Newark airport

Airfare from Newark airport

Included in the tour: 10 nights' accommodations with breakfast

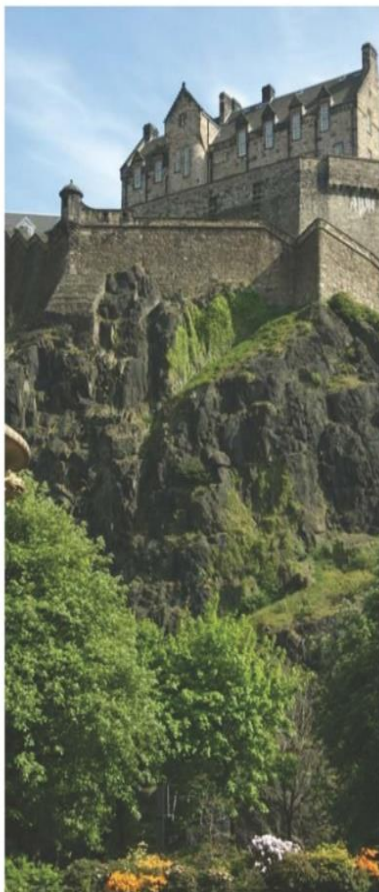
All ground transportation

All entrances

6 Dinners

Picnic lunch on Day 6

Local guide throughout



*Edinburgh Castle,
Scotland, UK*

The excursion's 11-day itinerary has been carefully selected by Prof. Bob Wolensky and Beth Landmesser, who will accompany the group. Both Beth and Bob have had extensive travel and educational experience in the UK. As an added bonus, the very strong value of the American dollar at this point in time makes the trip much more affordable than it otherwise would have been.

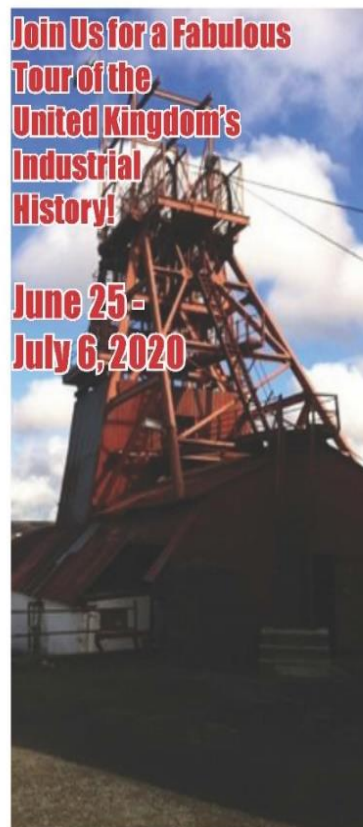
*Sponsored by: Anthracite Heritage Museum
and Iron Furnaces Associates*



For more information contact:
Beth Landmesser
P.O. Box 241
Bear Creek, PA 18602
570-814-7689

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

Jan. 25, 2020 - \$500 non-refundable deposit
Feb. 28, 2020 - \$1300
Mar. 31, 2020 - \$1300
May 20, 2020 - \$1300



Would you like to learn more about the industrial history of the United Kingdom, to include coal mining, canal building, cotton spinning, and more? Would you like to travel to Scotland, England, and Wales and visit some of the country's most historic industrial sites?

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.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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](#)

Anthracite Research

- [Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field 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](#)

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2020

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Business Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 5pm Saturday, 12pm – 3pm
Address: The Catlin House, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510
Phone: 570-344-3841 e-mail: lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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.