



HISTORY BYTES

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Image source: Fuquay-Varina, NC Community Events eventbrite.com



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***Lackawanna Valley:
It's Always Good to Look Around***
By Joseph M. Klapatch

It's always good to look around. It has been about a year since the Carbondale Public Library and the Carbondale Historical Society had its microfilm holdings added to Newspapers.com. The collection dates to the 1820's, a time when Carbondale was much larger than Scranton or many other Pennsylvania communities. Those newspapers give us a unique peek into the past.

Recently, while doing some research for the Jermyon Historical Society, I happened upon "a goldmine of information", after looking around. I was searching for older articles on Jermyon and remembered that I needed to look under the borough's previous names of Gibsonburg and Baconville.

In doing that, I found the fourth of a five-part installment of a descriptive tour of the area around the Lackawanna River in 1839 and 1840. I searched out the other four parts in the issues of the Carbondale Journal and contacted Rick, advising that this would be interesting to share with the readers of this publication.

So, in this issue and continuing in the next two, join Rick and me as we turn back time, travel on a raft with the author, who was only known as "J", and continue our trip up the Lackawanna River from where it meets the Susquehanna to Ragged Island, or Carbondale and take a look around.

Ed. Note: The article has been transcribed to appear as it did in the Carbondale Journal approximately 180 years ago. The reader will notice spellings (a few may be typos), words not capitalized, sentence structure, and punctuation that look incorrect, but were acceptable when the article was written.

O R I G I N A L

For the Carbondale Journal

Lackawanna Valley—No. III.

In our present article we shall explore in a brief manner that section of the valley, extending from the mouth of 'Roaring brook to the Mount Vernon Mills, a distance of about eight miles; comprising the residue of Providence township, and taking in the lower part of Blakely. There are in this part of Providence township two small villages of some business, and which from their eligible locations, will some day or other, as we have reason to believe, become places of considerable importance—

The first, Hyde Park, is situated upon the state road leading from Wilkesbarre to Carbondale, nearly opposite the mouth of Roaring brook, on the West side of the Lackawanna river. It is eighteen miles from Wilkesbarre, eight from the mouth of the Lackawanna river, and fifteen miles below Carbondale. It numbers at present from one

hundred and fifty to two hundred inhabitants, has two public houses, two or three stores and a number of mechanic's shops. There is also a neat church, belonging to a denomination who call themselves Christians, we believe holding similar doctrine to those commonly called Unitarians; and an academy pleasantly situated, at present used only for a common district school.

The buildings in this village are all of wood, mostly painted white; some of them tastefully built, but generally more substantial than ornamental. The public houses are tolerably well kept but might be improved by totally prohibiting neighborhood customs. Strangers and travellers, for whose accommodations only, public houses are ever licensed, are sometimes greatly annoyed by neighbors, loafing about in a state bordering on intoxication.

The other village, Centerville, or as it is more commonly called Razorville—from a suspicion that one might get *shaved* there; is situated about two miles above Hyde Park, where the Philadelphia and Great Bend turnpike crosses the valley stage road. It has more inhabitants than Hyde Park and contains two spacious hotels, with three or four stores and several mechanic's shops. There is no church at this place although they erected the frame of one in 1834, which, with nearly the whole village was prostrated by a hurricane that passed over the place; the church has never been rebuilt but in a spirit of candour, we would advise the inhabitants to brush up their piety a little as a shield against another like disaster.

There is near the village a fine schoolhouse, which serves also as a place of worship. A few years, we have no doubt, will find this village a large and flourishing town. The great advantages of location which this enjoys, the rich farming country that surrounds it in all directions, its contiguity to Abington, one of the most thriving townships in Luzerne, the splendid water power afforded by the Lackawanna in its immediate vicinity; added to the rich coal fields that underly and surround it—all conspire to give it promise of future greatness. The whole section under consideration, abounds in lands that will not suffer in comparison with the Wyoming flats, either as to the quality of the soil, or its state of cultivation. The valley here expands, giving a greater width of tillable land than at any other point. But our peculiar treasure, Anthracite, which challenges the first attention of inquiries, is here found in great thickness, and when fully opened proves of excellent quality, and may be mined with the greatest ease.

From the rapid glance we have given of the resources of this section, it will at once be perceived that nothing is wanting. but such a market for the anthracite, which now lies dormant and profitless, as a Railroad along this valley uniting with the State improvements would furnish; to increase the population to almost an indefinite extent. If an outlet be furnished for the coal, no foreign market will be needed for that large surplus of grain which is raised in this neighborhood, and now carted to market elsewhere. The whole and more would be needed for the support of miners, manufacturers and mechanics, who would at once be drawn here.

About a mile above Centerville, there is a clothing mill and carding machine, doing a fair business, and half a mile further up is an excellent flouring mill belonging to Gardner

and Clark, of Carbondale, propelled by the waters of Leggett's creek at this place falling into the Lackawanna river. This mill does a large business for both customers and for the Carbondale and Honesdale markets. A mile and a half about this is the mill of James Mott—who also manufactures flour for the Carbondale and Honesdale markets.

There is still in this quarter a large quantity of valuable pine and other timber, although millions of feet have been manufactured and sent to market.—This business continues to occupy several enterprising gentlemen, who own mills along the Lackawanna at this place; but the most considerable lumbering establishment in this region, is that of Mr. Watres, called the "Mount Vernon Mills"—capable of manufacturing several millions of feet annually.

The Carbondale and Blakely, and the Wilkesbarre and Clifford Turnpikes have the commencements in the section, three miles above Centerville. The former, an excellent road, following the valley, terminates on the Milford and Owego turnpike at Carbondale, a distance of ten miles. The other, diverging a little to the left, passes through a fine farming and grazing country, in the township of Greenfield, and terminates at Dundaff, in Susquehanna county—also on the Milford and Owego turnpike, six miles north-west of Carbondale. Near the upper end of the section under examination, the high ground upon the west of the valley, approaches the river, over which the turnpike passes for about three miles, striking the river again at Baconville. The river at this place runs near the Moosic Mountain, on the east side of the valley, where there is a very good township Road, passing by the Mount Vernon Mills and joining the turnpike also at Baconville, in the upper part of Blakely.

The Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, own several tracts of valuable coal land in this neighborhood, on Grassy Island run, a short distance below Waggoner's gap. This coal is said to be equal to any in the valley, both in purity and thickness. We have seen some vegetable impressions collected from these mines, of surpassing beauty. They are now to be seen at the Company's cabinet in Carbondale and will well repay the curious the trouble of a visit. How these phenomena are to be accounted for, we leave to the geologist; to us it is a mystery past finding out—all the theories we have seen having failed to satisfy us of their origin.

Among them are the bulb, stalks, leaves and bark of huge plants, unknown to this soil or climate; together with what seem to be the bark of enormous trees, differing totally from any thing known in this country, as well in size and height as in the peculiar impression left in the stone—which are as distinct as the traces of an engraver's instrument. Whatever may be the opinion of geologists respecting the phenomena, it evidently proves this, that Lithography is no modern invention, and that nature is the greatest professor in the art.

The farms in the upper part of this section, though good for grass and grain, present a less fertile aspect, and in some places show signs of neglect—owing probably to an unfortunate dispute respecting their titles, which have been in litigation for some twenty years; we believe however, they are finally settled in favor of the settlers. Some of these people have no doubt spent more in defence of their titles, than their lands are worth, so

strong do attachments become to a piece of ground, occupied, and defended by the father, bequeathed to the son, on which that son has commenced his journey of life.

Iron ore has also been discovered in this section at different points, but the most valuable is that near the Mount Vernon Mills, said to exist in great abundance. Some of this ore has been thoroughly tested and is found to be of more than ordinary richness.

We cannot close this article, without expressing our gratitude and thanksgiving to that beneficent Providence, who, while we are dependent upon our exertions for a support, has placed within our reach, we may enrich ourselves and have it in our power to benefit mankind, by conferring upon them the blessings of which, in a great measure, they are deprived.

In our next, we shall explore that portion of the valley lying between the Mount Vernon Mills and the Ragged Island, three miles below Carbondale, a distance of four miles.

A Look Back

By Mary Ann Moran Savakinus

This month, as I mark my 30th year at the Lackawanna Historical Society, I wanted to take a moment to look back and offer some thoughts about my experiences. Three decades have passed since I began working at the LHS, and so much has changed. I first joined the staff in 1991 as the library/research assistant under Director Maryellen Calemme and President Joe Cimini. Joe continues to serve on our Board of Trustees and provides sage advice to all of us as one of our senior members. Jack Hiddlestone, an avid local postcard collector and Luna Park historian, and his wife Nancy, were the caretakers at this time. Jack and Maryellen published the "Wish You Were Here" picture postcard book, which was extremely well received and continued to be a bestseller for many years.

In the nineties, I spent most of my time learning about the collections in the Catlin House and worked with our director Maryellen and receptionist, Mary Ann Gavern, to develop programs like a traditional summer Ice Cream Social, the Dunmore Cemetery Tour and very popular Annual Places of Worship Tours. Mary Ann and I became quite close, and I considered her to be like a second mother to me. She and I worked hard during this time to establish the downtown walking tour program, continued today under the leadership of Leni Piasky, and develop the Docent Training Program.

The first Docent Training class included Rita and Maurice MacNamara. Maurice also signed on to research *Then and Now* articles for the Scranton Times, a partnership with the paper that continues today. As our volunteer pool grew, I was introduced to several individuals who are still active members and close friends, including former trustee Mark Cruciani, LHS Treasurer Doug Forrer, Collections Chair Ella Rayburn and our go-to fashion historians Bridget Conlogue and Arlene Devereaux O'Hara. We spent many Saturdays working together at the Catlin House and grabbing a pizza afterwards.

It was also during my first decade at the LHS that we started to digitize the photograph collection and build a relationship with the Albright Memorial Library through our volunteer, Donna Adler, to include our library catalogue in their database. These projects were vital to making our collections and research resources more accessible to the public. I fondly recall some of the first researchers I worked with including Jackie Bachar from California who was a descendent of early Abingtons founder, Deacon John Phillips - she always sent a box of chocolates with every research request; Richard Healey, Ph.D., from Great Britain, who continues to travel across the pond to use our impressive collection of DLW Coal Department records; and Dr. Willis Conover, now retired University of Scranton history professor, who spent more than 30 years researching Lackawanna County place names for a publication the LHS hopes to publish before the end of this year.

By the end of the nineties, Maryellen had left and I had become the Executive Director under our new President, Alan Sweeney. The Hiddlestones retired and were replaced by Mary Ann Gavern and her husband Jim, and one of our docents, Ann Marie O'Hara, joined the staff along with Marian Yevics, a retired buyer for the Globe Store, and Cheryl Kashuba. Cheryl helped to expand our outreach when she began writing a local history column for the Times.

It was also during this period that Bob Booth joined us as a research volunteer. The Gavern's, Ann Marie, Marian, Cheryl and Bob were not professional historians, but each had years of personal experiences and memories to share about our county history. Visiting researchers were often amazed when their questions were answered not through a published article from our files but by a simple recollection from one of our staff or volunteers. Alan Sweeney also amazed everyone who encountered him by simply being interested and knowledgeable in whatever topic they were researching. Alan and I developed an excellent working partnership and he used to joke that as a "committee of two" we could accomplish almost anything. Under his leadership, the Society thrived and expanded its partnerships and outreach throughout Lackawanna County.

Together we completed a survey of all outdoor sculpture in the county and marked the centennial of the Great Anthracite Strike of 1902 with an annual dinner program featuring Edmund Morris, author of the three-part biography of Teddy Roosevelt. A few years later we hosted another notable annual dinner with a tribute to Oscar awarding winning composer and Scranton native, Ned Washington, including a medley of his greatest hits performed by Alan Sweeney - still one of my all-time favorite memories.

I look back on this decade as one that was filled with fun and laughter. Our Saturday group continued to come together both to work and to socialize. Programs included Titanic-themed dinners, our first Hill House tours and the extremely successful Taste of History fundraisers. New and strengthened partnerships added to our success including the development of local history curriculum guides, traveling trunks, and the *Museums as a Classroom* in-service programs with the Northeast Intermediate Unit 19; "Under the Lackawanna Moon", a musical in Dunmore Cemetery by the Hasty sisters; Heritage Explorer Train excursions with Steamtown National Historical Site; and Ambassador's Tours with the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority.

It was also during this time that we successfully completed a capital campaign to raise more than \$300,000 to restore the Catlin House roof, and later raised an additional \$250,000 to complete the exterior restoration of our headquarters. A few other projects worth mentioning are our annual Civil War Ball which was conceived and planned by LHS members Jenn and John Ochman, and the Rocky Glen historical marker dedication, which led me to a very personal partnership with, and marriage to, Bob Savakinus.

2010 through 2020 brought more changes. By this time, Michael Gilmartin became the Society President, Olivia Bernardi joined us as our Creative Director and Sarah Piccini became our Assistant Director. Sarah and Olivia had each worked as volunteers for the LHS before joining the staff. Olivia first got involved through her husband's group of paranormal investigators and Sarah worked for LHS partner, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, and assisted us in documenting the church closures of the Scranton Diocese in her book "Framing Faith".

LHS docents Jim and Gay Clifford replaced the Gaverns as our caretakers, continuing a long tradition of TLC that continues to make our home look so good. Additional TLC was provided by Chris Ewasko who takes the lead in rallying our volunteers to spruce up the grounds when needed and Tom Cipriano, who assists with regular maintenance and unexpected repairs.

At our home, we continued to host Sunday afternoon lectures. Trustee Dalida O'Malley acts as Reception Chair providing scrumptious refreshments and fellowship. During this last decade, the Society often turned inward to review where we had been and determine where we should be going. In 2016, we premiered "Through the Looking Glass", a documentary about the LHS by Chris Balton with Mary Frances Jackson and Laura Santoski, in honor of our 130th anniversary. We also worked with local partners to mark Scranton's Sesquicentennial, commemorate the Avondale Mining Disaster 150th anniversary and celebrate 250 years of Anthracite Mining.

Sarah completed a local history curriculum, "The Story of Scranton", for the Scranton School District and Olivia worked with Chris Balton to design a new website. To further engage our community and younger residents, we developed the local history game show, "You Live Here; You Should Know This!" and worked with Mark Migliore at ECTV to air it for region-wide viewing. We also increased our outreach when LHS member Rock Sedlisky offered to start and continued to edit this online newsletter, *History Bytes*.

Our President, Michael Gilmartin continued to oversee plans for the Hill House Tour and developed a new Spring fundraiser, *Dinner by Design*, to showcase local event planners and florists. We developed *Dine Lackawanna* as an easy monthly fundraiser that supports local restaurants.

In addition to our dedication to present interesting, entertaining, and educational programming, our fundraising activities also allowed us to continue our goal to improve the Catlin House with the completion of a \$400,000 Electrical and HVAC upgrades project. The success of this campaign was due much in part to Trustee John Farkas, Ph.D., who shared his knowledge and experience to help guide us through the process.

John also stepped up in 2019 as the lead for a much-needed Strategic Planning review. The plan was completed in May 2020 with a lot of focus on our need to increase our online presence.

Of course, 2020 also saw the nationwide shut down due to COVID-19, which forced us to act quickly to provide our members, friends, and partners with Daily Diversion Facebook posts, a weekly Zoom program offering local history themed lectures, an online survey to document local experiences during the pandemic, and even a ghostly gallery with “talking portraits”.

As I reflect on these last thirty years, I am so proud of the many projects and programs we implemented and the improvements we made to our home, but what has impressed me the most are the many wonderful people I have come to know who have truly enriched my life. These include personal relationships, most obviously my husband, Bob, but also a very long list of individuals who have supported me and the LHS because we share the same vision.

Sharing is what makes the Society a great place to work. On any given day, I will reach out to someone who I know will help: Have a question about local breweries or baseball, call Nick Petula; need information on a person buried in Forest Hills Cemetery, call Norma Reese; looking for details about a local fire department, check in with Joe Klapatch, stuck on a genealogy trail, ask Cecile Champagne, Don McKeon, Barbara Shuta or Tom Price; need to identify a coal breaker, call Charlie Kumpas; want to find out something about the river, call Bernie McGurl; have a question about Moscow, Daleville or Covington Township, ask Ted Baird, can't find a date for a Clarks Summit event, ask Dennis Martin; interested in learning more about our Italian heritage, call Stephanie Longo; wondering about a portrait in the LHS collection, check with Ronnie Mead; have a question about local labor activities, call Bob Wolensky; need to translate something in Welsh or German, ask Torry Watkins, Mary Ann Krisa or Uta Dreher; have a question about an old Scranton building, call Richard Leonori; need to check a fact about a famous person who graced a Scranton stage, ask Nancy McDonald; want to learn more about John Williard Raught, call Richard Stanislaus.... and the list goes on.



I say it often, but it is worth repeating: Without these local history experts, there would be no Lackawanna Historical Society. Because of their willingness to share their time, knowledge, and research, we can all be inspired to explore Lackawanna County history. I know I am.

In 2014 we had the honor of hosting Valerie Bertinelli at the Catlin House for a taping of “Who Do You Think You Are?” tracing her Lackawanna County roots. Pictured are (l-r) Sarah Piccini, Mary Ann Savakinus, Valerie Bertinelli, Conor Malone and Bob Savakinus.

LHS 2022 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 Corporate	\$250	Telephone _____
// Gold Corporate	\$500	Email _____

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

<http://www.lackawannahistory.org/benefits.html>

LHS Zoom Meetings

Lackawanna Past Times, Fridays at 2 pm

To request invitation with program link please email lackawannahistory@gmail.com

September 24: Women's Institute of Domestic Arts and Sciences.by Sarah Piccini

October 29: Spooks in the Stacks.by Jessica Serrenti, Albright Memorial Library

November 19: Archives at Steamtown National Historic Site.by Pat McKnight

To view past programs, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/user/lackawannahistory/videos>

Ghostly Gallery Link:

<http://www.lackawannahistory.org/aghostlygallery.html>

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Dine Lackawanna

Numerous restaurants support LHS through participation in Dine Lackawanna. Have an evening away from the kitchen and help support these establishments and LHS.

October 20: Sidel's: 1202 North Main Ave., Scranton
November 17: Posh: 404 North Washington Ave., Scranton

Abingtons

Clarks Summit

Camelot
Formosa

The New Cafe
State Street Grill

Chinchilla

Armetta's

Upvalley

Carbondale

Kol at Hotel Anthracite
Pat's Pizza & Hoagies

Jermyn

JW's Pub

Eynon

Pasquale's
Tiffany's

Simpson

Frank's Place

Mid Valley

Dickson City

Texas Roundhouse
Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza

Jessup

Café Colarusso

Scranton

Ale Mary's
AV Scranton
Back Yard Ale House
Cafe Classico
Carmen's/Trax
Mansour's
Posh at the Scranton

Market Street Grill
Pizza by Pappas
Sidel's
Stirna's
La Cucina
Villa Maria Lola's Cabana

Downvalley

Old Forge

Dooley's

Dunmore/North Pocono

Dunmore

3 Jacks Burgers

Moscow

Van Brunt Grill

Springbrook Twp.

Olde Brook Inn

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

After Dark Haunted Downtown Walking Tours

Every Friday from September 17 through October 29 at 7 pm, LHS offers **Scranton After Dark** haunted downtown walking tours. The fee for these tours is \$15. Groups are limited to 10 people per tour. To register, please call 570-344-3841 or click on the link: <https://lackawanna-historical-society.ticketleap.com/scranton-haunted-walking-tours>

Genealogy Forum

The Lackawanna Historical Society's genealogy workshop originally scheduled for Wednesdays in September has been **RESCHEDULED** to make sessions more accessible to the public.

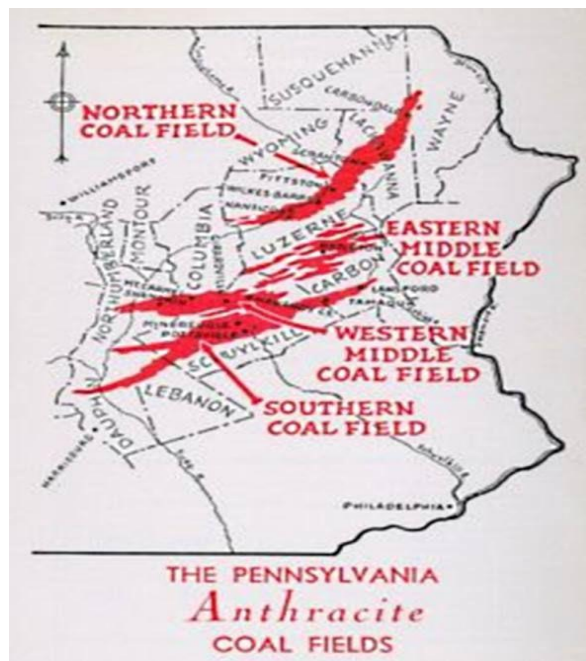
The workshop will now be held on Saturday, September 25, and October 2, 9, and 16 at the Albright Memorial Library. This **SOLD OUT** workshop will help genealogy beginners navigate the many resources available. We hope to offer it again next year and are still working on creating a virtual version.

Anthracite Ancestry

Anthracite Ancestry covers various aspects of Northeast Pennsylvania's coal legacy, including coal companies, coal barons, labor and labor unions, individuals, immigrant groups, disasters, subsidence, and coal haulers.

How does anthracite tie into your family history? Did one or more of your ancestors "work the mines" as they used to say? If your ancestors left behind anthracite stories of any kind, we want to hear from you. Please contact us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com and insert *Anthracite* in the subject matter.

As an author once said, "Don't let your story die with you."



Pinterest

In The Mines
The Daily Diaries of Thomas J. Goblick
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. The diaries are smaller sized, spiral bound notebooks. They were scanned and enlarged, and subsequently donated to the Old Forge Historical Society. Most entries pertain to Old Forge, and I have permission to share the contents.

Following are Mr. Goblick's entries for October, November, December 1940.

October 1940

Volpe Coal Co. No 6 Colliery, Duryea. Babylon Section. 1940

October 1. Done early.

October 2. Rain. 3 cars off the road. (derailed)

October 3, 4, 5. Colliery Idle.

October 6. Sunday.

October 7. Jack Marley on 11 o'clock shift. Done 4 am.

October 8. Done 4 am.

October 9. Smithy to ride with Longo.

October 10. Bull upset 3 cars in tunnel. Done 5 am.

October 11, 12. Colliery Idle.

October 13. Sunday.

October 14. Done early.

October 15. Worked a double shift, setting shaker. Worked 63 hrs, \$49.16

October 16. Colliery Idle. Conscription Day. 40-hr law to create more work!

October 17. Smithy paid me \$1.00. Done late.

October 18. Done early 4 cars off.

October 19. Colliery Idle.

October 20. Sunday.

October 21. Done 10 pm, cool evening.

October 22. Done early, 9:30. Big Joe inspected motor.

October 23. Done 10 pm, 93 cars.

October 24. Mr. Wytovitch died. 10 miners slow loading. 40-hr law.

October 25. Done 9:30. Gone to wake after work. Charlie was there.

October 26. E. Celmar & J. Wozniak married. Wytovitch funeral.

October 27. Sunday. Ride me and tom to Clarks Summit Airport Ransom.

October 28. 6 places, done 5am.

October 29. Colliery Idle. Mitchell Day. Me and Mell took black dirt to cemetery.

October 30. Rain. Done 4am. Easy shift.

October 31. 175 labor shot, not serious. Pay Day. Rider paid \$2.00. worked 70 hrs, \$54.62.

October 16: Conscription Day- On September 16, **1940**, the United States instituted the Selective Training and Service Act of **1940**, which required all men between the ages of 21 and 45 to register for the draft. This was the first peacetime draft in United States' history.

October 16: 40-hour law to create more work! 1938: Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act, which required employers to pay overtime to all employees who worked more than 44 hours a week. They amended the act two years later to reduce the work week to 40 hours. 1940: The 40-hour work week became U.S. law

October 30: Mitchell Day. "Mitchell Day," set apart as a day of celebration by the anthracite miners of Pennsylvania in honor of John Mitchell, President of the United Mine Workers of America, was generally observed throughout the hard coal region.
- **From the New York Times, October 30, 1904: OBSERVE JOHN MITCHELL DAY.; President Tells Miners to Prepare for New Demands in 1906.**

November 1940

Volpe Coal Co. No 6 Colliery, No 11 Shaft, Duryea. Babylon Section 1940

November 1. Colliery Idle. Cemetery with Helen P. First day Rabbit hunting season.

November 2. Stayed home. Ben Deeble in # 5.

November 3. Sunday. Ride to Ransom with Mill.

November 4. Done 2:30. 90 cars. Rev. Smelty dot \$2.00.

November 5. Election Day. Voted for Roosevelt. Warm day.

November 6. Charlie Mayes not working, sore throat. Rain, colder, done early.

November 7. Done 2:15, cool day, 90 cars coal.

November 8. Done 2:15. Snow, sleet. Took boiler ashes out.

November 9. Double shift. Billie not in. reel broke. Worked with Chas Gob.

November 10. Sunday. Was at hospital to see Beef.

November 11. Colliery Idle. Armistice Day. Rain. Was to town with Ednoi.

November 12. Tough night. 2 new wheels. Charlie working. 90 cars coal.

November 13. Motor off. Good night to work. Rain. Done 10 pm. 92 cars coal.

November 14. Easy night. Done 9:30. Rain all day. Car stalled at work.

November 15. Pay day. Paid Steve \$.20. done 9:30. Mayes paid \$2.50. Worked 77 hrs, \$60.86

November 16. Fair night. Done 9:45. Cold snowing. Gary Montana died.

November 17. Sunday. Cloudy. Stayed home.

November 18. Fair shift. Doc Smalty our boss. 4 places. Was to town.

November 19. Fair night. Motor off, lost no coal. Slope working. Was to town with Mayes.

November 20. Fair night. Nice day.

November 21. 1.5 hrs looking for reel. 118 smashed a B.B. door. Everybody ok.

November 22. Done 4am. 4 places. 21 cars coal, 5 rock. Easy shift. Warm day.

November 23. Colliery Idle. Stayed at home, cloudy.

November 24. Sunday. Sonny and I for a ride to No 6.

November 25. Waiting for cars, 1 axil broken. 77 cars. Cold.

November 26. Rope broke in No 11 shaft. Waiting for cars. 54 empties. Car stalled used Puzios.

November 27. Waiting for cars. State inspectors in Babylon.

November 28. Colliery Idle. Thanksgiving Day. Stayed home.

November 29. Waiting for cars. 70 cars.

November 30. Colliery Idle. Pay day. Mayes paid me \$1.00 for 6 rides. Bal. \$0.50. Worked 70 hrs. \$60.08.

December 1940

Volpe Coal Co. No 6 Colliery, No 11 shaft, Duryea. Babylon Section. 1940

December 1. Sunday. To the movies. Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Strike up the Band.

December 2. Slippery roads. Got a battery bag. Sonny ok. 71 cars. Mayes deer hunting.

December 3 Very cold. Zeek Marley not in. short of cars. Engine broke. Mayes not in. Shot a doe.

December 4. Shot a buck. Cold. Leo Tabone brakeman not in. 1 car broke, 70 cars coal, 4 rock.

December 5. Cold. Accident 118 Topper hit on cheek with chumps of coal. Marley working. Full coal.

December 6. Cold. Full coal. Pulled rails. Sand car. Everything ok. 76 cars. Worked 2 hrs extra.

December 7. Colliery Idle. Rain.

December 8. Sunday, cloudy, stayed home.

December 9. Cool. Placed coal cutter 119. 34 cars. Nellie to movies, Down Mexico Way.

December 10. Warm. Short of cars. Done 4:30. Another motor starting in Babylon.

December 11. Warm. Done 4:15. Used my old motor. Babylon motor broke down.

December 12. Rain. Plenty of cars. 40 cars. Tommy got shirt, pants from Helen.

December 13. Cool. Everything ok. Used my old motor.

December 14. Colliery Idle. Cool. No B cars. Pay day. Mayes paid me 8 rides \$2.50. Worked 70 hrs paid for 72. \$56.18

December 15. Sunday. Stayed home. Cloudy.

December 16. Rain. 52 cars. 2 motors in back branch's, 100% easier.

December 17. Cool. Colliery Idle. To Scranton to see Santa C. in Pittston for sled and pen.

December 18. Cool. Double shift. Ran in Criss Road.

December 19. Warm. Motor stud broke. Used Heding Road motor. Bad motor.

December 20. Warm. Called to office. Make a new coal report. Mic job.

December 21. Cloudy. Home early done 2 am. 80 cars. To Old Forge with Nell.

December 22. Cool. Sunday. Movies, Betty Davis, Chas Boyer.

December 23. Warm. Done 9 pm. 79 cars. Charley rode with Pat. Ran motor in Criss Road.

December 24. Cold. Colliery Idle. Christmas Day. Mayes paid \$2.00.

December 25. Warm. Colliery Idle. Merry Christmas.

December 26. Cloudy Colliery Idle. Stayed home.

December 27. Cloudy. Joe not in, Hank brakeman. Done 10pm. Smithy and Longo rode with me.

December 28. Cloudy. Easy shift. 75 cars. Done 9pm. Smithy and Longo rode with me. **(to and from work)

December 29. Rain. Sunday. Nellie, Helen & Hellen was to the movies.

December 30. Cloudy. done 4:30 am. 56 load, 6 places. Was to Taylor junk yard.

December 31. Warm. 3 o'clock and 11 o'clock shifts idle. Window put in car. Worked 70 hrs, \$54.62. (\$1,235 for 1940)

Reconstructing a Mine Car First Car Project 2010

By Carl Orechovsky

I got interested in rebuilding a mine car when we were trying to get the Borough of Old Forge to build a Coal Miners Heritage Park on the site of the PCC Sparrowville Mine site where the PCC No 2 Shaft and Clark Tunnel Slope were located. The car would have been set just inside the Clark Tunnel Slope. I think the frame came from Tom Supey, Forman at the Lackawanna County Coal Mine Tour. It was pushed off to the side and partly buried. This was the car used to re-construct the #190 Slope for the tours.

This was a Franklin Colliery (Wilkes-Barre) car, so I went there to see if any parts remained. I found a car buried under a pile of concrete pipes and contacted Pagnotti Co. for permission to remove it for parts. James sent a excavator over uncovering the car and flipping it over so I could remove the wheels and draw rods.



**Mine car remains at the Franklin Colliery, Wilkes-Barre
Photo courtesy of Carl Orechovsky**

I traileered all to my house and started de-construction and taking measurements for new lumber. Searching for a sawmill to cut the wood. I found Lake Carey Sawmill. I was shocked when I gave the owner a list of what I needed, and he said "Are you building a Franklin Car???" Turns out this guy used to supply lumber for the mines in the Wilkes-Barre Area.

Reconstruction started with the two axles and wheels on 4 X 4" planks used as rail. Journals and bearings were stripped, cleaned, greased and re-assembled. I mounted the side beams, drilling holes to bolt the journals to them and then mounted the end

steel beams and wood bumper blocks. After aligning and getting them in square, the five cross beams were drilled and mounted along with the inside corner angle plates. Spring assemblies and draw rods were cleaned and threads were repaired prior to installation. This is something few people ever see. All wood got two coats of wood sealer and all metal got coated in grease.



Two axles and wheels on 4' X 4' planks
Photo courtesy of Carl Orechovsky

Next came the metal/wood body frame. All the side wood planks were replaced and bent metal was repaired. The frame was jacked up on blocks, wood rail was placed under it. The re-constructed chassis was rolled under the body and bolted in place.



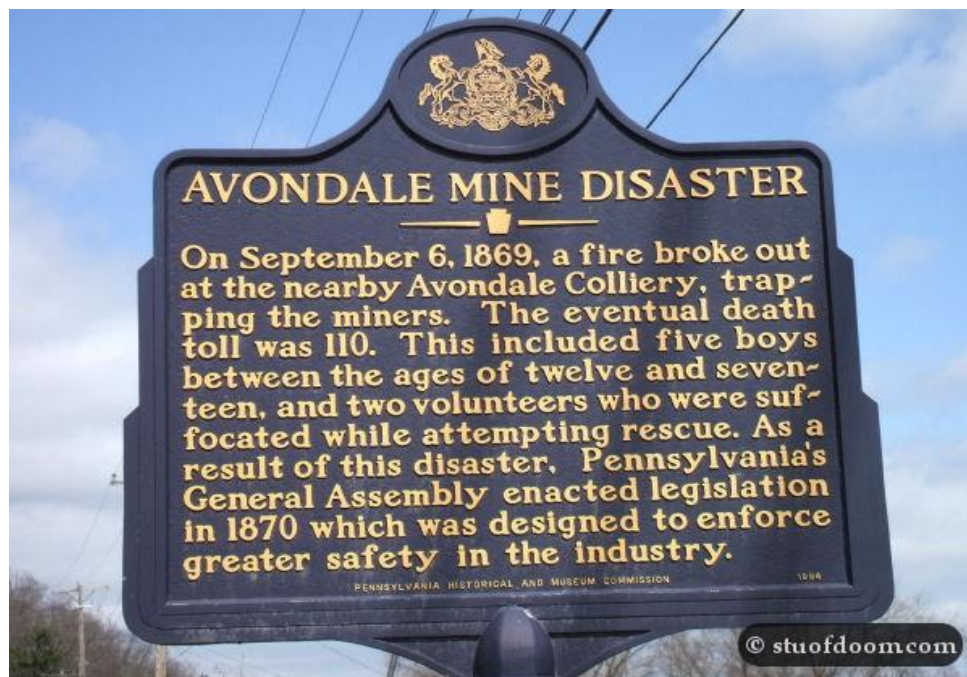
The completed car
Photo courtesy of Carl Orechovsky

The end hook and loop coupler plates were mounted to the draw rods and two coats of black sealer was applied to the car. A local garage, Old Forge Gulf Auto and Truck, moved the car to the McDade Park Mine tour on their roll back for me. With the help of Tom Supey, we placed it in front of the Ticket Building where it remains on display.



Ready for delivery to the mine
Photo courtesy of Carl Orechovsky

Remembering Avondale



Plymouth, September 6, 1869, 110 dead

Dunmore Cemetery Tour 2021 The Drive Through Edition Continues



Catlin Mausoleum
Photo courtesy of Julie Esty

The annual Dunmore Cemetery tour takes place on Sunday, October 3 and Sunday, October 10. Start time is 2pm. This year, in response to the number of pets acquired during the pandemic being returned to shelters, visitors are asked to donate pet supplies to help meet the needs of those pets. Representatives of Griffin Pond Animal Shelter will be at the cemetery entrance to accept donations.

Because of the uncertainty of COVID 19, rather than walk to the resting places of the departed, visitors will again be part of a drive through “funeral procession”. Upon arrival, visitors will receive a tour book that shows the expanded cemetery route. Following the tour, the book can also be used for either a second drive or a walk through.

The Dearly Departed Players will be in the cemetery to assist people along the tour route. Dressed in period costumes, troupe members will be at the resting places of the departed who return to tell their sides of their stories.

Generosity and recognition are two of the things that make the tour an annual success. This year the group received a COVID grant from Lackawanna County Arts & Culture for adapting their art form. In addition, they received a Municipal Arts grant from the Borough of Dunmore to assist in financing the tour.

Donations also come in many other forms. In keeping with the autumn harvest theme, receipt of 19 bins of ribbon will result in 20 wreaths adorning mausoleum doors. Thanks to a generous flower donation from Dollar Tree Stores, nearly 70 bouquets will be placed in the cemetery's Home of the Friendless section. Scarecrows, banners, corn stalks and even ghosts will be visible throughout the well-manicured grounds.

Other businesses and organizations assisting this year's tour include Space Time Meade & Cider Works, Carlucci-Golden-DeSantis Funeral Home, Lackawanna Historical Society, Dunmore Federation of Teachers and Pour Boys Pub. Gertrude Hawk Chocolates will provide coupons for discounts on their many delicacies.

Tour organizers are grateful to the Dunmore Cemetery staff and board of directors, the Borough of Dunmore Police Department and Dunmore Mayor's Office for their assistance.



**Resting place of
Dunmore music teacher/director
Martha Matthews Owens
Photo courtesy of Julie Esty**



**Dearly Departed Players Members
Julie Esty (l.) and Crista Gaskill (r.)
Photos courtesy of Julie Esty and Crista Gaskill, respectively**

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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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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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.