



HISTORY BYTES

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

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January – February 2022

Rick Sedlisky, Editor



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January 7 on the Gregorian calendar coincides with December 25 on the Julian calendar. Some Christians of the Russian Orthodox faith who follow the Julian calendar celebrate Christmas on January 7. The date is also the 29th day of Koiak in the year 1733 according to the Coptic or Alexandrian calendar. This is Christmas for Coptic Christians, as well as Rastafarians. New Year is celebrated on January 14.

Our thanks to Joseph Peter Klapatch for sharing this bit of Christmas tradition.

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Anglo-Slavonic Phrases Used by My Relatives

By Joseph Peter Klapatch

All four of my grandparents were born in the United States. All eight of my great-grandparents were Eastern European immigrants who came through Ellis Island from about 1890 through about 1905. Some of the words and phrases that they used were adapted into the vernacular of their children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and even some of their great-grandchildren.

Over the years, we've butchered the pronunciation of the words, and applied English grammar and conjugation rules. This may make the words and phrases unrecognizable to people who are fluent in Polish, Ukrainian or other languages and dialects of the region. I refer to these words and phrases used among my relatives and friends of Eastern European heritage as Anglo-Slavonic phrases. Below is a glossary of such words and phrases along with a sentence for each. Please pardon the spelling.

baba – Old grandmother; or great grandmother; variation bobchie
When I visited Bobchie, she gave me a two-dollar bill.

boodah – An old junkie house
The police discovered a meth lab in a boodah.

boothka – A closed in porch; an enclosure that one passes through before entering a house
Take off your boots in the boothka so you don't track snow all over my clean floor.

Bozhe zapwath – Thank you. Literally translated as "God will pay you." My father uses this phrase when talking about performing a task for which there is no compensation or doing a thankless favor.
I'm a salaried employee, so when I work on Saturday, it's for Bozhe zapwath.

caca baah – Poison.
Don't put that in your mouth. That's caca baah!

check-eye – Wait; be patient
When I went to pick up my new glasses, the optometrist said, "Check-eye, I'm with another patient right now."

cheeho – Be quiet; keep still
The teacher walked into the noisy classroom and told the class, "Cheeho! Cheeho!"

chochi – Aunt; variation chutka
Chochi Debbie took me to the bowling alley.

dupa – Buttocks
On the Internet, there are a lot of websites with pictures of ladies with bare dupas.

Figa – Nothing or zero; variation figaz makiem
If you kids don't behave, you'll get figaz makiem for Christmas.

gotchie – Underwear

Make sure you are wearing clean gotchies in case you are in an accident.

mombrathy – To repeat oneself repeatedly, usually complaining. Excessive mombrathing is referred to as mombrathing and fafrathing. One can either mombrathy, or mombrathy and fafrathy. But one cannot just fafrathy.

Mary was mombrathing and fafrathing about Lovey getting the house after their mother died.

pahpoo – To eat

Don't spit out your food, pahpoo nice.

pawnie zawsdrany – A lazy woman; a prima donna.

She sat there like a pawnie zawsdrany, and didn't lift a finger to help us.

peachka - Vagina

Stella has a website on the Internet where she shows everyone her peachka.

pytashka – A small piece of luggage; a duffle bag

Make sure that you have clean gotchies to pack in your pytashka for your trip to Old Country.

Note: My grandfather and his brother, Uncle John, used to refer to my great-grandmother's place of origin as Old Country. That is what I called it as well, until my grandmother corrected me and said that it sounds uneducated.

rokies – The overlooks; a headache and possibly cold sweats caused by an evil eye.

When you wear that splashy suit, you better wear your gotchies inside-out so you don't get the rokies.

spudadnovatch – To snoop; go through someone else's personal belongings, often done by a curious small child.

Statia spudadnovatches in her neighbors' bathroom medicine cabinets to see what kind of pills they take.

stada baba – Old lady

On the way to work, I was stuck behind some stada baba who was driving about 10 miles an hour.

tetha – Aunt

My mother used to walk up Shannon Hill (in Simpson, PA) to her tetha's house to watch Kukla, Fran and Ollie on her black and white television set. Tetha was the only one in the neighborhood with a TV.

Note: At the time, there were no licensed UHF channels. They only received one channel, WNBF Channel 12 from Binghamton, NY.

yanko – An uneducated person; someone having the appearance of a newly arrived immigrant
The father told his young son, "Comb your hair and button your shirt the right way, you look like a yanko."

zhedowzo – A sloppy person

Lucy's date had ripped jeans and rotten teeth. He looked like a zhedowzo.

zheedo – Grandfather, or great grandfather
Zheedo worked in the mines.

zoga – A troublemaker, or instigator; verb form: zogatch to instigate, to egg on; zogatcher an instigator.
Stanley always gets into trouble when Chester is around because Chester is a zogatcher.

Miscellaneous

My grandmother used to say that I was a “little *fedsick*”. She used to call my niece a *spudadnitsa* when she was *spudadnovatching*, and other times she called her a *slydoolia*.

Incidentally, this is an updated version of a page that I had posted more than 20 years ago on the now defunct free web hosting sites, Xoom and Geocities.

My beer website lager57.weebly.com/
Follow me on Facebook www.facebook.com/strippens
The Old School thebp.site/57084

Joseph Peter Klapatch is originally from Olyphant.
He currently resides in the urban forests of Galloway, NJ with his wife, Margi and their five children.

Mr. Klapatch holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Wilkes University. He is currently employed as an Electronics Engineer.

His latest book project, which is currently in the works, is a compilation of the histories of individual American craft beer companies.



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

January 28: Scranton Lace Company:

Our monthly Zoom lecture series returns with our friends at the University of Scranton's Hope Horn Gallery where Darlene Miller-Lanning and Roman Golebiowski will talk about the Scranton Lace Company and offer a sneak peek at the gallery's Scranton Lace exhibit, as well as a deeper dive into the company and their incredible legacy. The Zoom link will be sent on January 24.

February 25: Presidential Campaigns in Scranton presented by Nick Petula.

March 25: From Parlors to Protests: How Music Impacted the Women's Suffrage Movement in America presented by CeCe Otto.

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

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

Ghostly Gallery Link:

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

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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.

February 16: Cafe Classico, 1416 Mulberry St, Scranton 570-346-9306

Abingtons

Clarks Summit

Camelot
Formosa

The New Cafe
State Street Grill

Chinchilla

Armetta's Restaurant & Pizza

Upvalley

Carbondale

KOL Steakhouse
Pat's Pizza & Hoagies

Jermyn

JW's Bar & Grill

Eynon

Pasquale's Pizzeria and Family Restaurant
Tiffany's Tap & Grill

Simpson

Frank's Place

Mid Valley

Dickson City

Texas Roundhouse
Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza

Jessup

Café Colarusso

Scranton

Ale Mary's at the Bittenbender
AV Scranton
Back Yard Ale House
Cafe Classico
Carmen's 2.0 Restaurant
Mansour's Market Café & Eatery
POSH at the Scranton Club

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

Downvalley

Old Forge

Dooley's Pub & Eatery

Dunmore/North Pocono

Dunmore

3 Jacks Burgers

Springbrook Twp.

Olde Brook Inn

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Genealogy Forum

LHS Genealogy Forum

The Lackawanna Historical Society is sponsoring a monthly Genealogy Forum in 2022, in both virtual and in-person formats. This is an opportunity to learn more about specific topics in family history research and discuss particular research tactics to uncover your family story.

To assist with individual queries, the Forum plans to schedule an intensive hands-on workshop in June-July 2022. Details will be announced.

To register for the Genealogy Forum sessions or receive access to recorded Zoom sessions, email the Society at lackawannahistory@gmail.com or call 570-3443-841

2022 Calendar

Virtual sessions via Zoom

January 12, 1 pm: General Q&A session to determine areas of interest or need

February 9, 1 pm: Military Records and Cemeteries

March 9, 1 pm: National Archives

In-person sessions at the Catlin House, 232 Monroe Ave. Sessions will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

April 27, 1 pm: Tracing records for Irish ancestry

May 18, 1 pm: Tracing records for Italian ancestry

September 14, 1 pm: Tracing records for English/Welsh ancestry.

October 12, 1 pm: Tracing records for German ancestry.

November 9, 1 pm: Tracing records for Eastern European ancestry.

Local genealogists are invited to share ideas, research tips, and local resources. To register, please email lackawannahistory@gmail.com or call 570-344-3841.

In-person Programs

Sunday, April 10, 2pm: Organized Crime in NEPA with James Kanavy

Sunday, May 15, 2pm: Early Wyoming Valley with Nancy and Mark Walker

Additional Events

Sunday, January 30, 2pm: Anthracite Mining Heritage Month: See p. 26 for details

Saturday, March 5, 6:30pm: Paranormal Investigation. Register at

www.Wyomingvalleyghosttours.com

Saturday, March 19, TBA: A Revamped Dinner by Design Event

Coming This Summer: Return of the Hill House and Garden Tour

Scranton's Story, Our Nation's Story

“Scranton’s Story, Our Nation’s Story” is a National Endowment for the Humanities grant funded project presented by the University of Scranton as part of the NEH “A More Perfect Union” theme in the run-up to the 250th anniversary of the United States. Through a two-year series of humanities-based lectures, dialogues, story exchanges, community tours, youth writing workshops and oral history collection, we will explore the aspirational journey to fulfill our national ideals through the lens of Scranton – including industrial era growth and decline, waves of immigration past and present, religious tapestry, and Black and Indigenous experiences – with a focus on civic engagement,

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considering how the Scranton, and American, story may be understood anew 250 years later and the roles and responsibilities we have as citizens. For more information visit www.scranton.edu/scrantonstory.

As part of the Scranton Story project theme 2, “The U.S. Citizen and the American Founding” you are invited to participate in a [book discussion on “Freedom: An Unruly History”](#) on **Thursday, February 3 from 5-6:15 p.m.** The event is co-hosted with the Scranton Public Library as a hybrid event, to be attended in person or via Zoom. This event will involve excerpted readings of the book, “Freedom: An Unruly History,” by scholar Annelien de Dijn. Led by Dr. Matt Meyer, a faculty member in the University of Scranton’s philosophy department, the event will explore the American founding’s ideas of freedom and how freedom intersects with issues of equality, liberty and citizenship in ways that are relevant for us today – from matters of race relations, immigration, and women’s rights to health care, COVID-19, and more. You can obtain the book at the Scranton Public Library or at the University’s library. You can also find key book excerpts at this [link](#). You may choose to read just the prologue and epilogue or the two additional chapters depending on your time constraints. ***If you would like to attend the discussion, please [RSVP here](#).*** We aim to have a broad and diverse discussion so please share with interested friends, colleagues, and neighbors!

Julie Schumacher Cohen, MPA
Assistant Vice President, Community Engagement & Govt Affairs
Chair, Community-Based Learning Board
The University of Scranton
570-941-5529

***An Appreciation:
Jane Jacobs’s First City:
Learning from Scranton, Pennsylvania
by Glenna Lang, 2021***

By Richard J. Weintraub

As a Scranton native, I felt compelled to write this piece after having read Glenna Lang’s compelling book that was published in 2021. Scranton native Jane Jacobs, an urban theorist of iconic proportions within the realm of urban activists, city planners and ordinary citizens who share concerns about the viability of our urban environments, has been the subject of multiple works about her revolutionary ideas which were put forth in a series of books beginning in 1961. In her time, she was viewed as an iconoclast who was ahead of her time, a view that is held by many today. Glenna Lang’s book traces the trajectory of Jacobs’ life in Scranton and Dunmore – she was born in 1916 and died in 2006 – in parallel with Scranton’s history, and in so doing, causes the city and Jacobs to achieve a vitality that I’d not previously experienced.

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In writing this, I make no claim that I am, or have ever been, a student of Jacobs' ideas about urban environments, and cannot even make claim to having read any of her ten books, the most famous of which is Death and Life of Great American Cities (1961); having issued that disclaimer (I *do* plan to read Death and Life in the immediate future), I can furthermore say that this is not a critical review of theoretical concepts that prevail among modern-day urbanists. What I *can* claim, however, is a true affection for my sometimes ambivalently held city of birth and upbringing, enhanced by the genuine admiration and caring that the author Lang clearly holds for both the city and Jane Jacobs, and which clearly and palpably comes forth in this detailed, well-written book.

In a personal communication with Ms. Lang, she noted that what originally started out as a plan for an article about Jacobs and Scranton ended up being an over-400-page book, in some sense a kind of love story. Rather, this is intended to be an appreciation -- newly activated in me -- of my home city of Scranton, via Lang's excellent book that describes Scranton's "grandeur" dating mainly from the time of its heyday from the latter portion of the nineteenth century into the 1930s, through to its subsequent economic decline. That decline was, I believe, the narrative that I was essentially born into. With no experience and little knowledge of the history of Scranton's economic prowess and the decline that predated my birth in the mid-1940s, I was exposed in my growing up to frequent negative comments about the lack of economic opportunity, which was juxtaposed, at other times, with what a great place Scranton had been to grow up in. Many people in my parents' generation, my own family among them, had been directly affected by the economic and psychological consequences of the city's slide from national and regional prominence to the sad reality of a city in a state of chronic deterioration, creating in the populace an underdog mentality, a mind-set of being perpetually "on the ropes".

The introductory chapter "My Own City" is remarkable in that it captures, in just thirteen pages, Scranton's past glory, in balance with its decline over the later course of its life. This beautifully written chapter synthesizes Scranton's good, even great, times with the darker times to form a cohesive narrative, and with an emphasis that gives appropriate airing to the golden era that was characterized by achievement and opportunity in multiple areas of civic activity, including economic, educational and charitable. Beyond the introductory chapter, the interspersing of Jane Jacobs' life with Scranton's history makes the city and Jane come alive.

While I didn't grow up in Jacobs's neighborhood (her family lived on both Electric Street in Scranton and Monroe Avenue in Dunmore), much of what she writes is familiar: I grew up in the 40s to 60s in the Hill Section on Quincy Ave., one-and-a-half blocks from the Dunmore line, but while no part of the city proper was more than 20 minutes away by car, it would be an understatement to say that back in those days, we didn't get out much. My immigrant (from Poland) grandparents lived briefly in Green Ridge, and then in the "Flats" section of South Side before settling down on Madison Avenue in the lower Hill Section. (Although Lang makes reference to the "fancy" Hill Section, I can

definitively say that it was as diverse in its variety of wealth and housing as was Jacobs' Green Ridge and later her Dunmore's "Hollywood" section.) There were blocks that were elegant, while one block away -- or even on the same block -- there were striking contrasts. This was the same diversity that Jacobs was imbued with in her upbringing. In that regard, my blacksmith-turned-carpenter grandfather lived in a modest triple-decker directly across the street from the elegant home of a fellow Jewish immigrant who founded a local chain of supermarkets.

Lang writes that while Jacobs "never specifically cited Scranton in Death and Life, ...the seeds of her ideas about cities originated in her years during the 1920s and 1930s in her home city.... Here she witnessed and experienced the cohesion of the many types of diversity and the messy complexity of her city, and she learned the function and necessity of close-knit neighborhoods. In an era now vanishing from memory, in this medium-size city, citizens regularly participated in neighborhood as well as citywide activities, fostering a strong sense of community, social responsibility, and civic pride (pp. 2-3)."

Continuing, Lang writes that "a far cry from the past-its-prime backwater depicted in the hit television show *The Office*, Scranton -- when Jane was growing up there -- was prosperous, attractive, and the third most populous city in Pennsylvania, trailing only Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. An early adopter of technology, Scranton took the nickname "the Electric City" because it boasted the nation's first successful electric streetcar system. Its downtown streets were lined with impressive architecture and jammed with people and vehicles. Fine stores drew crowds from the city and its region, as did institutions such as theaters, clubs, a museum, a central public reference library, schools, and colleges. By the late nineteenth century, Scranton thrived as an iron-and-steel-manufacturing center supported by a network of railroads. Fueling the iron and steel furnaces -- and a wealth of other industries, including the textile factories, where women worked -- the hard anthracite coal that burned hot and clean constituted the basis of the city's robust economy. At the turn of the nineteenth century, when the largest steel producer left town unexpectedly, the city relied ever more heavily on its single most plentiful natural resource.... In 1909, when Jane's parents settled together in the city, Scranton reigned as the premier city of the anthracite-mining region." (p. 2).

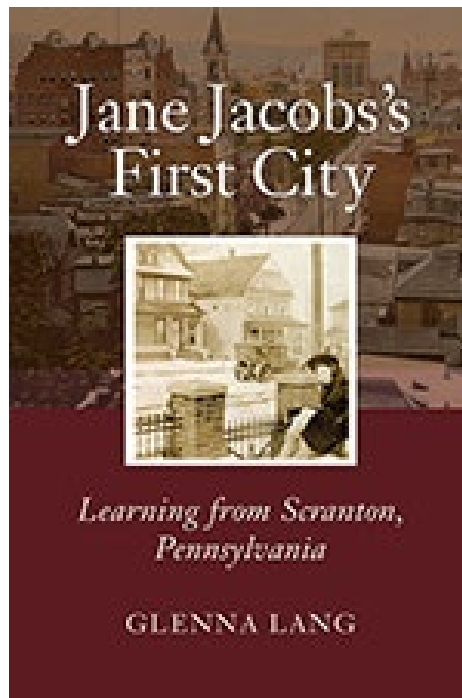
The narrative of Jacobs's Scranton/Dunmore life is assiduously researched: the author drew from personal interviews with Jacobs's family members, friends, classmates and current-day figures in the Scranton community. For me, as a native son, almost every paragraph triggered a memory. What I hadn't anticipated as I read through the book were the nostalgic -- even teary -- feelings that frequently rose to the surface, catching me by surprise in the moment. For example, in reading about the Wickham's potato chip factory in Green Ridge (pp. 146-7), my mind jumped to the 5-cent bags emblazoned with an Indian chief and the occasional debates with my brother over whether Wise or Wickham made the superior chip. Lang's references to the mobile purveyors of produce, milk, meats and baked goods (p. 149) flooded me with memories of my own neighborhood's "huckleberry ladies", umbrella repair man, ragman and

hucksters, one of whom had a horse-drawn wagon that was pulled up the steep hills by Charlie, the prototype horse of my childhood. I can still visualize Charlie sweating profusely and fighting off flies as he grunted and struggled to pull his cargo up the Hill Section's steep Gibson Street in the summer.

Glenna Lang has synthesized Scranton's past glory with its less-than-glorious aftermath, placing these divergent histories into a cohesive narrative, and the final chapter, "Learning from Scranton", is a wonderful summation – a cautiously hopeful one at that – that eloquently summarizes the influences on Jane Jacobs's urbanism concepts in the context of her growing up in Scranton. "[Jane Jacobs's...ideas...germinated in the dynamic and livable Scranton of her youth, in the 1920s and 1930s, as the city reached its economic and demographic zenith before embarking on a steady descent. This once-thriving, then tottering medium-size city served as Jane Jacobs's initial observational laboratory (p. 387).

In 2007, the year following Jane's death...a solid arc of granite blocks was unveiled to pay tribute to eight Scrantonians in diverse artistic arenas. There, citizens of Jane's first city proclaimed, as the inscription reads, that she had 'inspired generations of city planners and preservationists and transformed public policy regarding cities.' The plaque furthermore noted that, in her book, Economy of Cities, she had cited Scranton as "vibrant and livable" (pp 384-5). Ending on a note of hope and against the backdrop of Scranton's glory days, author Lang concludes that while "its destiny is uncertain, ... Scranton – like lively, diverse, intense cities everywhere – contains the seeds of its own regeneration" (p. 403). What she has effectively done, among other things, is to re-frame the region's negative, victim perspective and by so doing greatly enhances our appreciation of where we came from, and all of it done through weaving Jane Jacobs's early life journey – her formative years – into a fabric that allows us to better appreciate our own Scranton origins. Jane Jacobs's First City should be required reading for all Scrantonians.

Richard J. Weintraub was born in Scranton and lived there from ages 4-25, the years 0-4 having been spent in Jessup, PA where his father's immigrant parents had settled. He is a graduate of Scranton Central High School, the University of Scranton and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He received psychiatric specialty training at the Cambridge (MA) Hospital/Harvard Medical School and spent most of his career as Director of Psychiatry at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston and in the private practice of psychopharmacology in Newton and Wellesley, MA. He has been retired since 2020.



Jane Jacob's First City
by Glenna Lang
www.JaneJacobsFirstCity.com
www.glennalang.com

***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 microfilm holdings added to Newspapers.com. The collection dates to the 1820s, a time when Carbondale was much larger than Scranton and many other Pennsylvania communities. Those newspapers give us a unique peek into the past.

While doing some research for the Jermyn Historical Society, I happened upon "a goldmine of information", after looking around. I was searching for older articles on Jermyn 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.

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Join Rick and me as we turn back time, travel on a raft with the author, who was only known as "J", and continue up the Lackawanna River from where it meets the Susquehanna to our final destination, the Ragged Islands, 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 apparently were acceptable when the article was written.

For the Carbondale Journal

Lackawanna Valley—No. V.

In our present number, we propose the examination of a section of about three miles, lying between the Ragged Islands and the turnpike bridge a mile below the village of Carbondale; which, owing to its proximity to the only coal operations of any importance in the valley, we shall explore more minutely than we have any other portion. —

The valley at the lower end of this section is rather narrower than in many places, yet at this point there are several valuable farms lying along the river. The valley, however, expands towards the upper part of the section, giving in the vicinity of Meredith Cottage, a width of two or three miles of tillable land, with the beautiful flats along the river, equal to the best of the best of the famed Wyoming flats. There are here upon the river, two sawmills belonging to Mr. Meredith, one near the Ragged Islands, the other at his residence, to supply which, the water is taken from the Lackawanna about a mile above and conducted by means of a canal into a beautiful basin, covering several acres, enclosed by an artificial embankment.

This mill has not of late been much used, although capable of doing an extensive business. If, however, we were the proprietor of Mr. Meredith's superb farm and charming cottage, we should regard the mill as of little comparative value, and might be tempted to demolish it, in order that the fairy lake, now but a plain mill-pond, might be disencumbered of its ragged appendage. The lake, with its grassy embankments, its placid surface, and its symmetrical form, with slight attention, would prove no small ornament to the place, which also possess many attractions.

There is still in this neighborhood a large quantity of valuable timber of various kinds, though the best of the white pine has been manufactured and sent to market; there is still remaining, an abundance for all domestic purposes, and a large quantity of ash, poplar and hemlock for export.

About three quarters of a mile above Meredith's cottage, and one mile and a quarter below Carbondale, there is a very good township road leading from the Carbondale and Blakely turnpike to the Clifford and Wilkesbarre turnpike, in Greenfield, a distance of about four miles, terminating at the public house of James H. Phinny. This road, with the exception of the first mile, passes through an excellent grazing country, settled by an

industrious and thriving population, who, at no very distant period, will rank among the most independent farmers of the land.

Among the various curiosities of this region are the remains of an ancient petrified cane break found in the river a short distance below the Cottage. They stand in the solid rock in the middle of the river, from three to six inches or more in diameter, and have the appearance of the cane. They are now chiefly broken off even with the surface of the rock, though pieces are frequently found of six or eight inches in length. But as this is a mere curiosity, which so far as we know, is not likely to be applied to any practical use; we leave the fact of its existence to the curious, and hasten to think of that valuable mineral, Anthracite, which in this section is equal, if not superior to that of any other portion of the valley.

It has been ascertained by thorough examination and experiment, made by gentlemen of science and practical skill upon this subject, that there are nine different coal strata in the Lackawanna Valley, forming together, a body of coal from fifty to fifty-four feet thick. There are few places however, where the whole nine strata exist together. In some places one or more of them have been denuded and swept away, leaving still three or four veins of workable coal provided the roof is sound. In some cases, only the lower stratum of twenty-two feet is left, and in other places a vein of twelve feet shows itself, composed of two or more thinner strata compressed into one.— The whole nine strata as far as we can ascertain, are found together only at Grassy Island run, mentioned in our third article and at the Cottage mines under consideration.

The coal strata throughout the valley, as well as the intervening shale and sand-stone, differ materially in thickness. Nothing is more common than to find the strata of coal varying from five to ten, twelve, fourteen feet. This, according to Professor Rogers, is occasioned by the compression of one or two veins into one, the intervening shale giving way. The large vein of twenty-two feet seems to be less disturbed than any other and is found with few if any exceptions throughout the valley.

The section under consideration, from its juxtaposition to the workings of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company, (provided they should adopt the liberal policy pursued by all other Companies in Pennsylvania) the superior quality of the coal, the facility with which is it mined and drained, and its superabundant quantity is beyond all question, one of the most desirable coal fields in the Lackawanna Valley.

The Cottage coal tract alone presents a breast of four hundred rods along the river, affording unusual facilities for opening and working the coal for that whole distance; so that any number of miners can be employed, without in the least interfering with each other. The strata gradually rise to the north about forty-eight feet to a mile, and have every appearance of being undisturbed by faults and dislocations; thus giving assurance of a uniform and continuous coal field easily worked by any number of drifts that may be required above the water level.

The position of the coal in this district, is a matter of great moment to those engaged in the coal business. It dispenses with the use of costly machinery, for draining the mines and all the expense of keeping them in repair and operation. The twelve foot vein,

which, in this part of the valley, is composed of two or more smaller veins found distinct elsewhere; has apparently at the upper end of this section been carried away as appears to be the case also at Carbondale; in either place however there is an abundance of coal eligibly situated.

When we speak of any particular place containing any more coal than another it is farthest from our intention to disparage or undervalue any other place by comparison; for a coal field containing only the twenty-two foot vein, may for all present purposes, be as valuable as one containing the whole nine strata any where in the valley; and before such a vein would be exhausted, several generations might pass away. Moreover, any one of the workable veins, upon any considerable extend of territory, would yield as much coal as any individual or company could find the means of getting to market, within any reasonable period.

To give some idea as to the quantity of coal in the Lackawanna valley generally, but more particularly in the section under examination we propose to go into an estimate of such data as will enable anyone to form his own estimate of the quantity upon a given tract, after he has ascertained with reasonable exactness the number and thickness of the veins.

It is said in Silliman's Journal, Vol. 34 No. 2 pages 348-9, that every mile containing six feet of workable coal, will yield about six million of tons. At that rate, a vein of twelve feet thick under a surface of six hundred and forty acres (a square mile,) would yield twelve millions of tons; and it will be recollected, there are few places in the valley that there are not found at least, that thickness of workable coal. By no means, a small portion of the valley contains thirty-two feet of workable coal, which by the rule above given, would be thirty-two millions of tons to the square mile; or fifty thousand tons to the acre.

The calculation is said to cover all losses. Now if we take a square yard to a ton, which is the usual estimate, one acre of coal land with a workable vein of only six feet, will yield nine thousand six hundred and eighty two tons; and a vein or veins thirty-two feet thick, would yield fifty-one thousand six hundred and twenty-six tons per acre; or thirty-three million forty-one thousand sixty-seven tons, within a distance of one to four miles of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad.

But suppose it to contain the whole fifty-four feet, which is thought quite probable—one square mile would yield fifty-five million seven hundred and fifty-six thousand eight hundred tons. That quantity of coal at twenty-five cents per ton, its estimated value in the mines would be worth \$13,939,200; at eighteen and three quarters cents, it would be worth \$10,454,400; and at six and a quarter cents, \$3,484,800; either of which sums would be a respectable fortune to the possessor.

But these estimates are made only with a view to show, that the Lackawanna Valley has the material for permanent business and almost untold wealth. Materials which cannot be exhausted for many generations, and which would abundantly warrant any expenditure the State or individual might make for improvements in the valley with a view to develop her immense resources. And when we take into consideration the great and growing demand for coal in all directions, and in particular those rich and

prosperous counties in Western New York that must in a great measure be supplied by the Lackawanna Valley; we are encouraged to believe, that the mineral treasures of our valley, late a howling wilderness—will yield magnificent fortunes to those possessed of her soil, and distinguished prosperity to her inhabitants generally.

To give the reader a better understanding of the estimated 1840 coal values mentioned above, using the CPI Inflation Calculator, we arrived at the following amounts:

1840	2022
\$13,939,200	\$446,698,487
\$10,454,400	\$335,023,865
\$3,484,800	\$111,674,622

Mid Valley Fire Companies' Information Request

Joseph M. Klapatch is currently working on his fourth book in a series that detail the histories of Lackawanna County fire companies. The next book will include the six companies that served Dickson City and Priceburg, the three companies that served Throop and the eleven companies that served Olyphant.

Joe is looking for anyone who may have information, photos, minute books or memorabilia on these companies. Currently, Dickson City is written, and Olyphant is almost complete. He is also looking for anyone who may have copies of the Olyphant Gazette or Record or any Mid Valley editions of Scranton newspapers, especially from 1926 and earlier. All materials will be copied, and originals returned as soon as possible. Information contributors will be acknowledged in the book.

Current books in the series include *The History of the Carbondale, PA Fire Department 1843-2015* (24 companies), *The Scranton Fire Department 1854-Present Including Minooka Hose Company* (67 companies + Minooka) and *The Boys from Bucktown, The History of the Dunmore Fire Department* (13 companies).

The target date for the book to be published is early 2023. Joe can be contacted via email at sendem39@aol.com.

A Look at Throop in 1910 ***By Joe Rudzinski***

The article that follows appeared in The Scranton Times of 9 April 1910; two days short of one year before the Pancoast Mine fire. The optimistic picture for the future of Throop portrayed would never come to pass; nonetheless, it is an interesting read. We are given a glimpse of political development of the borough, extensive information on the school system, transportation, and daily life in Throop.

THROOP, A GROWING TOWN OF TWO DECADES

Her School Growth One of the Real Things That Indicates the Borough's Development—Pancoast Coal Co. and Its Part In the Making of the Place—Council and School Board Progressive Bodies.

By M. E. Sanders

Throop as a Borough has been in existence a little more than 18 years yet in that a time it has made marked strides as a municipality that augurs well for its future as a town. When it broke away from the municipal confines of Dickson City borough, of which it was a corporate part of for some years there were many misgivings that it would never amount to much as a borough. Throop as a town has two things that we are well to her credit. One of these is her main industrial development of the Pancoast Coal company which has been mining coal here some years before the town came into existence as a separate municipality and which has since grown and prosper amazingly so that the town has taken annual strides as a borough and promises to eclipse even Dickson city in population with the census that is about to be taken.

Had Village Start Thirty Years Ago

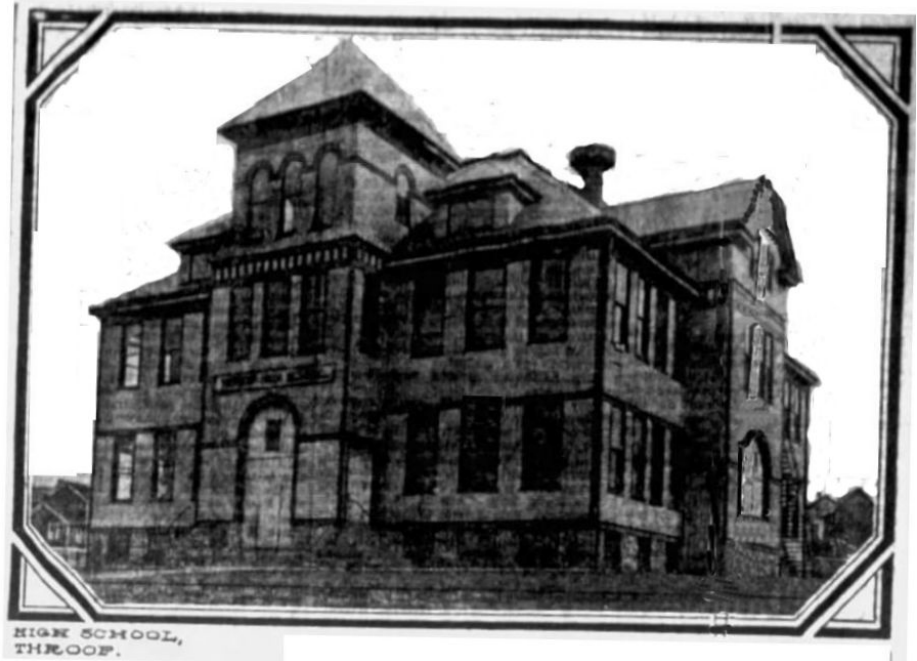
Throop began as a village upwards of 30 years ago it's real beginning, however, was with the starting of mining operations by the Pancoast Coal Company interested in which were C. M. Sanderson, H. W. Bellman and others. Its real progress began less than a decade ago when after the burning of the breaker of the company it was decided to at once erect a steel breaker and to largely increase the mining operations of the company. This decision gave the people of the town confidence in its future and they began to enlarge their property holdings, with the result that there had been more than double the former number of homes and business places erected in the town, two or three churches have been built, and other and the town given an impetus for substantiality that is now plainly apparent as one passes through its Streets. The mining operations which less than eight years ago gave employment to perhaps 600 persons, now has a upon its payrolls no less than 1400 men and boys -- and the best of it all is, they are at work nearly every day of the year.

Her Splendid School System

The other thing that stands boldly in the front in the credit of Throop is her public school system — a feature that shows more than any other thing that she is in the

upward stride as a municipality. The principal of her schools is Professor John J. O'Hara, and he has been such for the past 14 years. He was brought up in the schools of the town, and it is not to be wondered that he is strongly attached to them and especially so, as it has been under his administration that they have progressed and prospered so that today there are no less than 1036 scholars enrolled and 21 teachers employed. Three spacious buildings are used for school purposes – No. 1 of six rooms in the section known as "Smoketown"; -- No. 2 on the Olyphant Boulevard, this of eight rooms and the high school building, a splendid structure with every modern convenience and containing eight spacious rooms, together with recitation rooms, laboratory, director's room, and other conveniences, all lighted by electricity, located just a short distance from the borough hall and practically in the very center of the town as it is built up.

The board of school directors is composed of John F. O'Hara, president; John McNelis, secretary; Edward J. Murphy treasure, and Messers William Sonn, Henry



Armstrong and James Bagley. The assistant principal of the school is Miss Butler, and I found evidence upon the black boards in the several rooms of the high school that there is a thoroughness of study detail that promises well for the future of the young people of Throop. And why should not the future be promising? Here the directors have some appreciation of the worth of the schoolteacher, and instead of pairing down the wages paid for capable instructors they have reached to the highest level the finances of the district will allow, so that the very lowest salary paid is \$50 per month, and this is so graded that with the passing years the teacher salary will appreciably increase. This system, it seems must mean well for the developing ability of the teacher and for the longevity of service. The school buildings are modern in their equipment, the seating arrangements being such that the light falls over the left shoulders of the children, and the sanitary conveniences

indicate plainly the common sense of the school construction as well as the good judgment of the directors in those equipping them. If Throop is one of the infant Burroughs of Lackawanna County, I am assured her people can take pardonable pride in her splendid school establishment the bonded debt of which is something like \$15,000 -- And she has at least \$60,000 of school property to show for it.

The Borough Government

The borough government of Throop is in the hands of some of her best known men, most of whom have lived in the town ever since it was created as a borough. The Burgess is Oliver Simpson, and the members of the town Council are William Abbot, President, James L. Barr, George V. McDonald, Henry Whetherill, John Guhasz, Joseph Hadfield and Edward Callahan.

The secretary of the council is Frank McDonald, the treasurer John White, John Sykes is the street commissioner, and Daniel Corrigan is the chief of police, with two officers under him. The police are paid regular monthly salaries and have no other occupation. Their entire time being given for the preservation of peace and order within the borough. Charles Krotzer is the chief of the fire department, which comprises Throop Hose Co. No. 1 housed in the borough building, and Boulevard Hose Co. number 2 which is quartered in the Boulevard section of the town. Fire hydrants are conveniently located in all the built-up portions of the borough, the water supply being furnished by the Scranton Gas and Water company

With many things favorable to the future of the town, the Council proposes within the present year to develop largely the sidewalk habit and expects people to fall hardly into the plan proposed, the purpose being the improvement of the town in a manner that will commend it to all strangers



who happen to come there on a visit, as well as materially adding to the comfort of the people in traversing the different parts of the town. It is also planned to enter upon a public sewer development within the present year, this step being regarded as necessary to the maintenance of the splendid health of the town, a matter that can be appreciated when it is known that the 5,000 or more people now living within the borders of the borough have all their general medical requirements looked after by two physicians Dr. J. A. Jacob, who had the whole field practically alone a dozen years and Dr. Newberry. The Board of Health comprises John Sykes, President Martin McGowan, secretary Dr. J. A. Jacob, health officer and M. J. Gallagher, sanitary officer.

Churches Within the Town

There are five church organizations within the town -- Methodist who have a mission church that is supplied by Reverend F. P. Doty, the Baptist, who are preached to in a mission chapel by Reverend W. T. Galloway, of Peckville, the Slavish Catholic, the Hungarian Catholic and the Polish Catholic. The later congregation will shortly begin the erection of a fine church structure that will cost upwards of \$20,000 and the Baptist will also during the present summer build a new church that will have a seating capacity of 350 and will cost not less than \$5,000

During the past few months, a Silk mill, two stories high and basement has been completed by A. F. Kaiser and company, it was put into operation within the past month and is calculated when in full operation to give employment to not less than 100 girls and young women, with every chance of developing into a larger employer of labor. The business interest of the town are largely in the hands of foreigners, many of whom have been here for 15 years or more, though there is a very considerable interest handled by Americans. The town is lighted with electric lights and so many of the homes and business places. And by the way it was in the Pancoast mine where the electric lights for lighting purposes were first employed in the mines of the anthracite regions, and 20 years or more ago I went through the workings here in company with Mr. C. M. Sanderson his son Charles D. Sanderson and other of the officials to write up the innovation for another paper I was then associated with.

The Railroad Conveniences

Throop covers a large amount of territory and has room for much material growth even though off the principal lines of the travel through the valley. The Lackawanna and Ontario and Western and the Delaware and Hudson railroad have

branch tracks into the Pancoast colliery and the O W company has a station in the western edge of the town. The Scranton Railway Co. traverses the town with the line from Dunmore to Olyphant, this is the main convenience for her people getting to either Scranton or the towns of the valley

Throop's future promise is most assuring and with new municipal development will certainly become more attractive to her own people and to the visitor who drops in for a day or two.

Joe's Comments

One thing that struck me when reading the article is that intolerance for anyone different is deeply rooted in American society. The media of the time was very critical of and bigoted towards "foreigners" even if the printed bigotry (as this article shows) was subtle. The following two portions clearly show that.

When talking about the growth that was occurring, the author wrote: ***"The business interests of the town are largely in the hands of foreigners, many of whom have been here for 15 years or more, though there is a very considerable interest handled by Americans."***

These "foreigners" were largely immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe and considered by the "established" Americans to be uneducated and not very hygienic. I am sure that many of these "foreigners" were already citizens, however, they were not English, Scotch, Welsh or Irish.

Prior to this, when talking about the churches the author wrote ***"There are five church organizations within the town -- Methodist who have a mission church that is supplied by Reverend F. P. Doty, the Baptist, who are preached to in a mission chapel by Reverend W. T. Galloway, of Peckville, the Slavish Catholic, the Hungarian Catholic and the Polish Catholic."***

The author obviously did not take the trouble to identify the pastors of the "foreigner churches". Slavs, Hungarians and Poles had the double whammy, their ethnicity and being Catholic.

A primary focus of the article was Throop schools, and it does help portray a picture of the development of the school system. The author did visit at least one school, so it is odd that the information regarding the actual buildings is not correct. When referring to the schools of 1910 he writes:

“Three spacious buildings are used for school purposes – No. 1 of six rooms in the section known as “Smoketown”: -- No. 2 on the Olyphant Boulevard, this of eight rooms and the high school building, a splendid structure with every modern convenience.”

Based on information in the Throop Centennial Memorial edition and Sanborn Insurance maps of 1912, the schools that existed in 1910 were: School No. 1, should be the Columbus School. School No. 2 is probably the Washington School** located on Bellman Street. School No. 3 the Throop High school is vice mis.

** Washington School was in the Boulevard section of Throop which could explain the reference in the article.

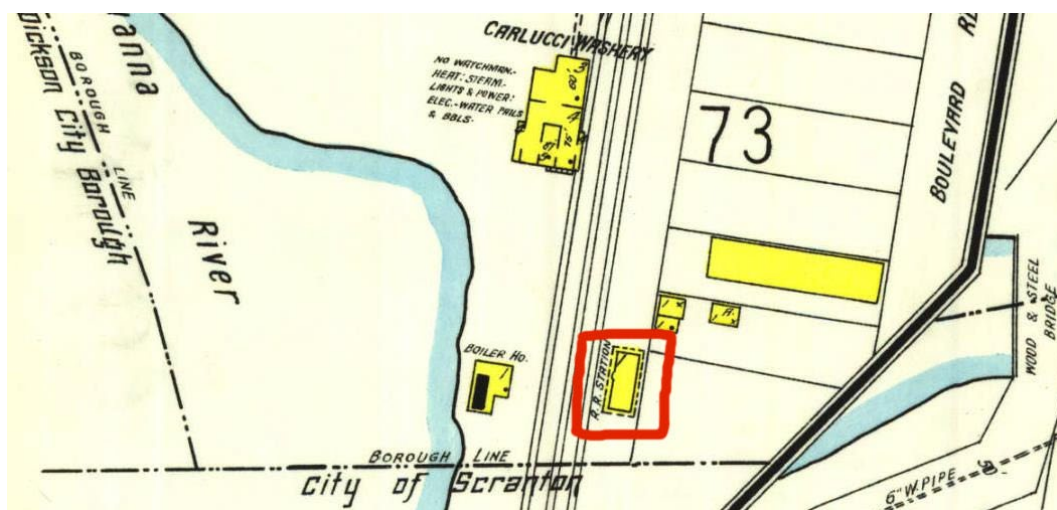
It was a surprise to see mention of the railroad depot/station in Throop. I grew up in Throop in the 1940-50's and do not recall ever hearing of the station. As mentioned in the final paragraph of the article, the New York, Ontario & Western Railway's depot was located on the town's western end.

Following creation of Throop's first school on the corner of Dunmore at Murray streets, Throop's second second was constructed, the Columbus School, which stood at the corner of Dunmore Street at S. Valley Avenue. Today, the bell of the old Columbus School is preserved as part of the memorial located in front of the Throop municipal building.

Afterward, the Washington School was constructed on Boulevard Avenue. And next on the scene was the Jefferson School, Throop's first high school, which stood on the present site of St. Bridget's Church rectory. Its first principal was John Peel, and its first class of three members graduated in 1911. One of those classmates, Clarence

Throop Centennial memorial Edition Page 10

Using the Sanborn Insurance Map, “- Scranton Suburbs-1925 The Insurance maps of Scranton suburban towns, Pennsylvania: boroughs of Archbald, Winton, Blakely, Olyphant, Throop and Dickson City”, the location of the station was confirmed. The map and the associated index entry confirm the location. Additionally, thanks to Rick Sedlisky we were able to find a picture, albeit poor quality, of the Throop station and one of the similiary designed Dickson City station in the publication: *New York, Ontario & Western Railway: Scranton Division* by Joe Bu and Ed Crist.



Inset from Sanborn Insurance Map
Of Throop 1925 page 73



	Lincoln School,	74	T
1	N		T
	N. Y. O. & W. R. R. Depot,	73	
5	" S. & W. R. R. Depot,	73	
8			U



Index Sanborn Insurance Map of 1925



Throop station can be seen dimly in the distance, a structure similar to Dickson and Winton. The high switch stand marks the long siding that led down to Throop station and continued up the mountain to reach the Pancoast Breaker

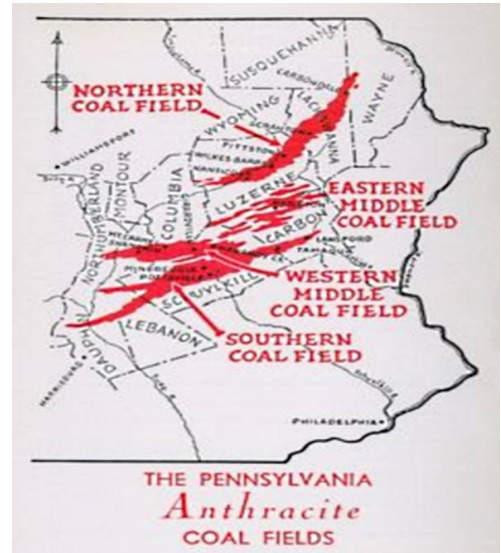


Dickson station in November of 1908, the somewhat unusual watchman's tower at the right actuated hand-operated crossing gates. We're looking north and approximately 200 feet north of the station the Susquehanna's Winton Branch ended and the Lackawanna's Storrs Branch began. The lead track to Dickson yard passes in front of the station; the seven-track yard extended south to Capouse Junction

Anthracite Ancestry

Anthracite Ancestry covers various aspects of Northeast Pennsylvania's coal legacy, including coal companies, coal barons, labor and labor unions, individuals, families, 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, please contact us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com and insert *Anthracite* in the subject matter.



Remembering Knox January 22, 1959

Pinterest

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

Listed above 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.

Anthracite Mining Heritage Month – January 2022 Schedule of Events

Contact: Prof. Bob Wolensky, Anthracite Heritage Foundation & King's College
Contact Phone: 715-252-6742; email: rwolensk@gmail.com

A regional observance of **Anthracite Mining Heritage Month** will take place during January 2022. A variety of programs will be featured in various cities: Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Hazleton, Plymouth, Nanticoke, Pittston, Lansford, and Port Griffith. The annual event focuses on the history and culture of the anthracite region of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The events are sponsored by the Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Anthracite Heritage Foundation, King's College, the Lackawanna Historical Society, the Luzerne County Historical Society, the Plymouth Historical Society, the Nanticoke Historical Society, Anthracite Chapter-Society of Mining Engineers, WVIA-Public Broadcasting, the Susquehanna Brewing Company, the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, the No. 9 Mine and Museum, Baloga Funeral Home, the National Museum of Industrial History, and the Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Committee.

The public is cordially invited to attend all events, which are open free of charge except for the Knox Mine Disaster documentary on January 21st and the Msgr. John J. Curran play on January 30th, which require advance purchase tickets.

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Throughout January 2022, WVIA—Public Radio & Television in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania—will offer a series of programs:

- **Chris Zellers** of WVIA has initiated a special website link (www.wvia.org/mining) containing information about the WVIA's mining-related programming
- **WVIA's historical video documentary**, *The Knox Mine Disaster*, written and narrated by **Erika Funke** in 1984, will be available for viewing at www.wvia.org/mining
- **WVIA's historical audio documentary**, *The Lattimer Massacre of 1897*, written and narrated by **Erika Funke**, will be available at www.wvia.org/mining
- **Erika Funke** will post information about anthracite-related interviews and other features on [ArtScene](#) and [Keystone Edition](#) at WVIA FM (89.9)

Thursday, Jan. 13 **THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN CANCELED.** **Nanticoke Historical Society, Public Program:** *Mining Anthracite—Memories and Commentaries from Those Who Did, and Those Who Are Doing*; **Speakers:** **Phil Voystock**, Freeland; **Tom Supey**, West Pittston; **Chester Zaremba**, Nanticoke; **Chris Murley**, Scranton; **Banks Ries**, Tunkhannock; **Venue:** St. Faustina Cultural Center (38 W. Church St., Nanticoke, PA 18634); **Time:** 6:30 – 8 pm; **Moderator:** **Chester Zaremba**, NHS; **Plus:** A mining memorabilia display by **Mike and Linda Mostardi**, Media, PA; Refreshments

Friday, Jan. 14 **THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL A FUTURE DATE (see the WBPS's Facebook page for more information)** **Wilkes-Barre Preservation Society, Public Event:** *A Guided Tour of the Luzerne County Court House*; **Tour Leader:** **Tony Brooks**, Director, WBPS; **Venue:** The Luzerne County Court House; **Time:** 1 – 2 pm; **Please register** at 570-793-3631 or at tony@wbpreservation.org; **Meet:** Inside the Court House

Saturday, Jan. 15 **No. 9 Coal Mine and Museum, Public Event:** *A Guided Tour of the Historic No. 9 Coal Mine*; **Tour Leader:** **Zach Petroski**, President of the No. 9; **Venue:** The Mine and Museum (9 Dock St., Lansford, PA 18232); **Time:** 2 – 3:30 pm; Refreshments

Saturday Jan. 15 **THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE FIRST WELSH BAPTIST CHURCH** (168 Girard Ave, Plymouth, PA 18651, across the parking lot from the Plymouth Borough Municipal Building); **Plymouth Historical Society, Public Program:** *The Avondale Disaster of 1869*; **Speaker:** **Eric Bella**, mining engineer for Lehigh Engineering, Reading Anthracite Co.; **Topic:** *The Avondale Mine Disaster from a Mining Engineer's Perspective: It Was an Accident!*; **Time:** 7 – 8:30 pm; **Moderator:** **Steve Kondrad**, President, PHS; Refreshments

Thursday, Jan. 20 **THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN MOVED TO ZOOM.** **The McGowan Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility, King's College, (Bernard Prusak, Director), and the Anthracite Heritage Foundation, Public Program:** *The Annual Msgr. John J. Curran Lecture*; **Speaker:** **Dr. Philip Jenkins**, Department of History, Baylor University; **Topic:** *A Heritage of Hatred: The Ku Klux Klan and the Far Right in the Anthracite Region, 1920-1945*; **Time:** 7 – 8: 30 pm; **Welcome:** **Fr. Thomas P. Looney**, C.S.C, President, King's College; **Registration:** **please register** for the Zoom link at www.kings.edu/ethicscenter; **NOTE:** Please see the Lackawanna Historical Society's theatrical performance about Msgr. Curran set for Jan. 30th (below)

Friday, Jan. 21 **THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN CANCELED.** **A Screening of "The Knox Mine Disaster: A Documentary Film,"** by **David Brocca and Al Brocca**; **Venue:** Burke Auditorium, McGowan Business School, King's College (133 N. River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711); **Time:** Doors open at 6:30 pm, film begins at 7 pm; **Q&A:** A 20-minute Q&A with film director **David Brocca** and Knox Disaster author **Robert Wolensky** will follow. **Tickets:** Are required and available at www.knoxminedisaster.com

Saturday Jan. 22 Anthracite Heritage Museum, Public Program: *The Annual Knox Mine Disaster Commemoration*; Speaker No. 1: **Sue Hand**, Anthracite region artist, Topic: *Lackawanna Coal Breaker Communities: Faded Memories*; Speaker No. 2: **Teresa Bergman**, Chair, Communication Department, University of the Pacific, Topic: *New Directions in Commemoration*; Comment: **Jennifer Black**, Misericordia University; Music by **Don Shappelle and the Pickups**; Venue: Anthracite Heritage Museum (22 Bald Mountain Rd., Scranton, PA 18504); Time: 2 - 3:30 pm; Moderator: **Bode Morin**, AHM; NOTE: **Sue Hand's Latest Art Exhibit**, *Regional Coal Breaker Communities: Faded Memories*, will debut at the Museum at 1 pm; ALSO NOTE: The program will be live streamed on the Anthracite Heritage Museum Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/anthraciteheritagemuseum>; Refreshments

Saturday Jan. 22 Susquehanna Brewing Company, Free Concert: *An Evening of Anthracite Region Music*; Performers: **Lex Romaine**, folk singer; **Don Shappelle and the Pickups**, folk group; **Jimmy Watlich**, accordionist, and **Doug Smith**, bass, musical variety; Venue: SBC (635 S. Main St., Pittston, PA 18640); Time: 7 - 9 pm; MC: **Ed Philbin**, railroader; NOTE: SBC beverages and food truck cuisine available for purchase

Sunday Jan. 23 Annual Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Mass, Venue: St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church (35 Williams St., Pittston, PA 18640); Time: 9 am

Sunday Jan. 23 Annual Knox Mine Disaster Public Commemoration: Venue: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Knox Marker in front of Baloga Funeral Home (1201 Main St., Pittston, PA 18640); Time: 10:30 am; Refreshments: provided by Baloga Funeral Home

Sunday Jan. 23 Annual Walk to the Knox Mine Disaster Site, Venue: **Along the Susquehanna River in Port Griffith**; Venue: Meet at the Baloga Funeral Home for a caravan to the parking lot one mile away; Time: 11:00 am; NOTE: Weather permitting

Sunday Jan 23 Anthracite Heritage Museum, UK Tour Informational Meeting: *An Industrial History Tour of the United Kingdom*, June 16 to June 27, 2022, sponsored by the Anthracite Heritage Museum; Tour Leaders: **Bode Morin**, **Beth Landmesser**, and **Robert Wolensky**; Travel Agent: **Janet Redler Travel and Tourism**, Shropshire, England, who will participate in the meeting; Time: 3 - 4 pm; Slots still available; Venue: Zoom, To Join the Meeting-- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81784489628?pwd=TktXSWw0L3ZYUGRWVVUvM3JoWk5lZz09>

Tuesday, Jan 25 Luzerne County Historical Society, Public Program: *Doing Anthracite Region Research: Some Available Resources*; Speakers: **John Fielding**, Curator, Anthracite Heritage Museum; **David Schappert**, Director, Corgan Library, King's College; **Nicholas Zmijewski**, Archivist, Industrial Archives & Library, Bethlehem, PA; **Mark Riccetti**, Director of Operations and Museum Curator, LCHS; Venue: Zoom, To Join the Meeting-- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89366293824>; Time: 7 - 8:30 pm; Moderator: **Mark Riccetti**, LCHS

Thursday Jan. 27 THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL A FUTURE DATE. Penn Anthracite Chapter-Society of Mining Engineers, and the Hazleton Historical Society and Museum, Public Program: *The Lattimer Massacre of 1897—A 125th Anniversary Commemoration*; Speakers: **Mike Korb**, Penn Anthracite-SME (*The Historical Monument*), **Robert Wolensky**, King's College (*The Ethnic Component of Lattimer*), **Paul Shackel**, University of Maryland (*Remembering Lattimer*); **Lew Dryfoos III**, One Group Risk Management (*The Dryfoos Photos from Lattimer*); **Chuck Knisell**, United Mine Workers of America (*Comment on Lattimer*); Venue: Hazle Twp. Municipal Building (101 W. 27th Street, Hazle Twp. PA, 18202); Time: 6:30 - 8 pm; Moderator: **Charles McElwee**, Greater Hazleton Historical Society and Museum; Refreshments

Sunday Jan. 30 Lackawanna Historical Society: *For the Least of Them*, a play about the life of Msgr. John J. Curran ("The Mineworkers' Priest"); Playwright: **K.K. Gordon**; Actor: **Scott Rave**; Director: **Art Walsh**; Time: 2 - 3:30 pm. Due to ongoing COVID concerns, there will not be a

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live performance. The one-act play will be live streamed through Electric City Television's YouTube channel at 2 pm. Go to YouTube, search for Electric City Television, and look for the livestream button. Sarah Piccini, LHS Associate Director, will offer comments following the performance.

Anthracite Reading

Following is a sampling of the many available books related to various facets of the anthracite industry and its effects.

Mining Disasters of the Wyoming Valley – Bryan Glahn

Tragedy at Avondale: The Causes, Consequences and Legacy: Joseph M. Keating and Robert P. Wolensky

Anthracite Labor Wars: Tenancy, Italians and Organized Crime in the Northern Coal Field of Pennsylvania – 1895 – 1959 – Robert P. Wolensky and William A. Hastie, Sr.

The Kelayres: Massacre: Politics & Murder in Pennsylvania's Anthracite Coal Country – Stephanie Hoover

The Anthracite Region's Slavic Community (Images of America) – Brian Ardan

Anthracite Aristocracy: Leadership and Social Change in the Hard Coal Regions of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1800–1930 – Edward J. Davies II

Death in the Mines: Disasters and Rescues in the Anthracite Coal Fields of Pennsylvania – J. Stuart Richards

Remembering Lattimer: Labor, Migration, and Race in Pennsylvania Anthracite Country – Paul A. Shackel

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, which 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.

May 1941

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

May 1. Warm. Full coal. Done 9:30. S=B=C=.

May 2. Warm. Brakeman Sam finger busted on car engine. S=C=.

May 3. Cool. Was to Old Forge and Milwaukee with Edna and Nellie. Colliery Idle.

May 4. Sunday. Stayed home.

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May 5. Cool. Full Coal 1/5. Simon is my brakeman. B=C=.

May 6. Warm. Motor broke, loose oil box. Road broke. 5 places, 45 coal. B=C=.

May 7. Windy. Was to town with Nellie, Helen, Tommy. B=C=.

May 8. Nice. Slave and pills. Done 4:30. B=C=.

May 9. Rain. Rain all day. Cold and chilly. B=C=.

May 10. Windy. Chilly morning. Shopping in Old Forge with Edna. Colliery Idle.

May 11. Chilly. Sunday. In Andie's. 3 beers.

May 12. Chilly. Eddie new brakeman. Full coal. Done 2:30. Outer man dropped dead. S=.

May 13. Frosty. Damaged B branch door. Easy day. Done 2:30. S=B=C.

May 14. Frost. Bad road at B Branch frog, cars off all day. Due bills. Done late 2:40. S=C=.

May 15. Cool. Inspector in Babylon. 124 miner 111 stopped. Riders paid. S=B=C. 78 hrs, \$60.86.

May 16. Warm. Cleaned the cellar. Cut the lawn. Colliery Idle.

May 17. Cool. Was to Scranton with Nellie and Edna, got Tommy a glove and ball. Colliery Idle.

May 18. Sunday. Suspension. UMW of A STRIKE declared.

May 19. Did the garden. Suspension Ended. 10% increase and Vacations. Colliery Idle.

May 20. Warm. 111 and 124 stopped. Full coal. Done 9:30. 1 Place behind engine. S=B=C=.

May 21. Very nice. Dandy easy shift. 28 cars. Done 9:15. New hat. S=B=C=.

May 22 Rain. Easy shift. Mech. Loader men at work. Charlie S. rode with us. C-S=B=C=.

May 23. Rain. Put on brake shoes. Dandy night. Done 8:30 pm. S=B=C.

May 24. Warm. Bad road behind E. 112, 108 not in. Easy shift. Done 8pm. S=B=C=.

May 25. Sunday. Was to carnival with Nellie and Tom.

May 26. Warm. S=C=.

May 27. Rain. S-C=.

May 28. Rain. Due bills. Done Late. Waited for 114. S=C=.

May 29. Cool. Pay Day. 11 o'clock not working.

May 30. Warm. Memorial Day. Stayed home. Colliery Idle.

May 31. Rain. Stayed home. Colliery Idle. Riders Paid. 65 hrs, \$54.60

June 1941

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

June 1. Cool. Sunday. Stayed at home.

June 2. Cool. Back Branch. Motor broke down, used a small motor. Tough. S=C= Peters. 20.
June 3 Cool. Full coal. New harp on motor. Mayes worked. S=C-.
June 4. Rain. Full coal. Off the road on frog. Unloaded boards. S=C-.
June 5. Rain. 35-4. Full coal done 1:30. Empties were slow. S=C=E. 20.
June 6. Warm. Double shift. Full Coal. Billy drove. S=C-.
June 7. Warm. 40 hr. week up. Stayed at home.
June 8. Cool. Sunday. For a ride up Morgan Hwy. tom and me.
June 9. Warm. Charlie day shift. Car in hole behind the engine. Done 9:45. Marley not in. S=W-.
June 10. Windy. 7 places. Done 9:30. Waiting for empties. S=W=.
June 11. Windy. Waiting for cars. Done 3:30. Early shift. S=W=.
June 12. Cold. Done 9:30. Jack at Marley work. Due bills. S=W=.
June 13. Rain. Done 10:30. Tough Luck. Plugged cars around. S=W=.
June 14. Rain. Pay day. Helen at Tobyhanna.
June 15. Cloudy. Sunday. Riders paid up. Paid for only 80 hrs. 5 hrs short. \$67.20
June 16. Warm. New Fire Boss, "Kelly" from Butler. *** Driver codes no longer listed*****
June 17. Warm. New motorman, Joe Weise.
June 18. Rain. John "Bull, Co worn.
June 19. Warm. Was to Old Forge, Edna Sick.
June 20. Warm. Easy shift.
June 21. Warm. 1 place 123. 7 cars coal.
June 22. Warm. Sunday. Was to Tobyhanna.
June 23. Cool. Tough day.
June 24. Warm. Easy Day. 116 stayed behind the engine.
June 25. Warm. Motor broke, Work gears gone. Full coal. Late start.
June 26. Hot. All sections to myself. Motor gone behind the engine.
June 27. Warm. Full coal. Nice day at work.
June 28. Hot. Stayed home. To Old Forge shopping.
June 29. Hot. Sunday.
June 30 Worked 70 hrs. paid for 75. \$63.00.

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

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Founded in 1886 as the Lackawanna Institute of History and Science, the Lackawanna Historical Society provides the community with a record of local history through its museum and library collections, exhibits and programs. In 1942, from the bequest of George H. Catlin, the Society established its permanent home at Catlin's 1912 residence, located at 232 Monroe Avenue in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1965, it was designated as the official county historical society by Lackawanna County and continues to serve the county as a center for local history resources. The Society, a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization, is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, and memberships.