



HISTORY BYTES

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

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September - October 2022

Rick Sedlisky, Editor

The 1902 Anthracite Strike



*Photo of Courtroom 3, Lackawanna County Courthouse
during the 1902 Anthracite Labor Strike
Photo courtesy of the Lackawanna Historical Society*

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

120 Years Ago...

The 1902 Anthracite Strike...

- Threatened a coal famine...
- Certainty of riots which might develop into social war...
 - Roosevelt had no legal right to intervene...
- A precedent-shattering meeting at the temporary White House marked the turn of the U.S. Government from strikebreaker to peacemaker in industrial disputes...

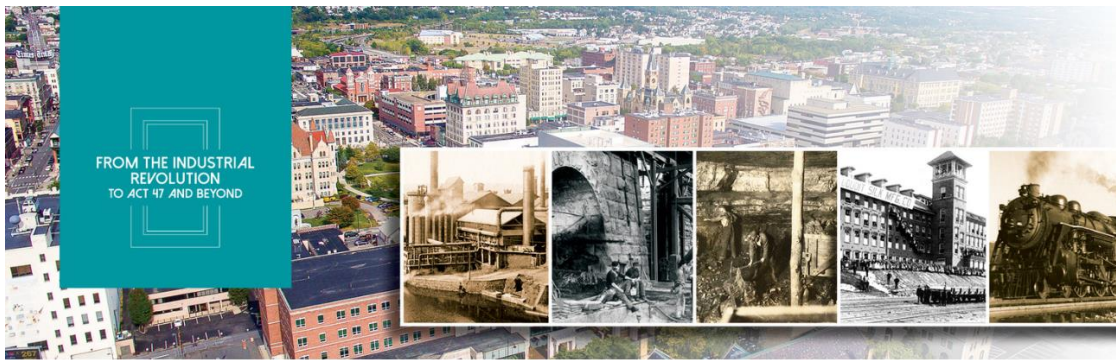


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President Theodore Roosevelt appealed to the patriotism of miners and mine owners:

*"With all the earnestness there is in me, I ask that there be an immediate resumption of operations in the coal mines in some such way as will . . . meet the crying needs of the people."

**Theodore Roosevelt, opening address to Oct. 3, 1902, Conference, Washington, DC, Theodore Roosevelt Papers, Library of Congress.*



THE 1902 ANTHRACITE STRIKE: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

A 120th Anniversary Evaluation

Humanities Keynote with Panel and Discussion

Thursday, September 8 at 5:30 p.m. | Lackawanna County Courthouse,
Courtroom 3, Scranton, PA



Robert Wolensky, Ph.D.
Author and Professor (Emeritus) Sociology,
University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point and
Adjunct Professor of History, King's College

An opening keynote by Dr. Robert Wolensky on the 1902 labor strike in Scranton, PA followed by remarks from respondent panelists and a moderated conversation with Q&A will provide insights into the history of labor and industry of the region by highlighting factors that led to the 1902 strike, resulting labor laws, and the experiences of marginalized groups within the labor movement. Respondents will discuss how the complexities surrounding the 1902 strike can provide insights into the present and future of labor and the economy for Scranton and the nation. Registration is required at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/1902Strike



Melissa R. Meade, Ph.D.
Visiting Assistant Professor of
Communication, Allegheny College



Paige Gebhardt Cognetti
Mayor of Scranton



This event is a part of the "Scranton's Story, Our Nation's Story" project's fourth theme, From the Industrial Revolution to Act 47 and Beyond .

For more information on all programs, please visit www.scranton.edu/scrantonstory
Questions? Email community@scranton.edu or call 570-941-4419.

This humanities lecture and discussion has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom.
Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this event do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



This event is a collaboration of The University of Scranton with the support of these and additional community partner organizations with special support from the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

The 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike: Causes and Consequences, A 120th Anniversary Evaluation is a must-not-miss event. Dr. Robert Wolensky, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Adjunct Professor of History at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, will open with a keynote on the 1902 labor strike.

Dr. Wolensky will be followed by remarks from fellow panelists, Melissa R. Meade, Ph.D., Visiting Assistant Professor of Communication, Allegheny College, and Paige Gebhardt Cognetti, Mayor of Scranton. The panel will continue a moderated conversation with Q&A and provide insights into the history of labor and industry of the region by highlighting factors that led to the 1902 strike, resulting labor laws, and the experiences of marginalized groups within the labor movement. The discussion will also include how the complexities surrounding the 1902 strike can provide insights into the present and future of labor, and the economy for Scranton and the nation.

Dr. Wolensky is the author of several books about the region's history. Titles include *Tragedy at Avondale* and *Anthracite Labor Wars: Tenancy, Italians, and Organized Crime in the Northern Coalfield or Northeastern Pennsylvania 1897-1959*. The latter was co-authored with the late William A. Hastie Sr.

Dr. Meade is the founder of "The Anthracite Coal Region of Northeastern Pennsylvania Digital Project," a public digital humanities forum that she continues to maintain.

Registration is required at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/1902Strike>

The 1902 Anthracite Coal Strike: Causes and Consequences, A 120th Anniversary Evaluation is the first in the theme "From the Industrial Revolution to Act 47 & Beyond." The event begins a fall slate in continuation of the "Scranton's Story, Our Nation's Story" project. Following is a list of scheduled events in the series:

September 21, 7 pm - 8:30 pm: Ritz Theater & Performing Arts Center, Wyoming Ave., Scranton: **"A Shop on Every Corner: Memories of the Garment Industry Film Screening & Discussion"** presented by historian Dr. Ken Wolensky and filmmaker Maureen McGuigan.

October 15, 1:30pm, Check-in and Event, 2 pm - 3 pm: "Weaving the Past into the Future: Scranton Lace Tour," Laceworks Village, 1315 Meylert Ave., Scranton. The event is in collaboration with the Center for the Living City.

September 2 – 30, a connected exhibition: "Time and Lace: A History of the Scranton Lace Company" at The Hope Horn Gallery, University of Scranton Campus. Opening takes place during First Friday Scranton, **September 2, 5 pm - 9 pm**.

Oct. 25, 2022, 6pm - 7:30 pm (doors open at 5:30pm): **"All the Places We Come From: Stories, Food, & Community,"** Shopland Hall, Scranton Cultural Center in collaboration with Narrative 4.

November 17, 7 pm, DeNaples Center Ballroom, University of Scranton, Keynote Lecture featuring Curtis Zunigha, enrolled member of the Delaware Tribe and co-founder/co-director of the Lenape Center.

December 5, 5 pm, Brennan Hall, University of Scranton Campus: “The Journey from ‘Immigrant’ to Citizen”, featuring local resource speakers from a range of backgrounds, in collaboration with the Schemel Forum.

For more information and registration, please visit scranton.edu/scrantonstory. For questions, contact community@scranton.edu or call 570-941-4419.

John Mitchell



John Mitchell circa. 1903
Image source: alamy

In addition to President Theodore Roosevelt and other notables present in Courtroom 3 that day was John Mitchell, President of the United Mine Workers of America.

Twenty-two years later May 30, 1924, thousands of union mine workers from across the anthracite region marched in a Downtown Scranton parade in tribute to John Mitchell, recalling his leading them to victory in the events of 1900 and 1902. Following the parade, a monument and statue of Mitchell made of granite and bronze was unveiled.



John Mitchell Monument/Statue, Courthouse Square, Scranton
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

The monument/statue stands on the grounds of the site of the 1902 Anthracite Strike negotiations that were conducted in Courtroom 3. The importance of the negotiations resulted in the monument/statue and Courthouse being added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

John Mitchell was born in 1870 in Braidwood, IL, a second-generation Irish immigrant. He was 47 years old when he died on September 9, 1919, from pneumonia in New York City. He was laid to rest in Cathedral Cemetery, Scranton.

The United Mine Workers of America honors him every October 29 with the celebration of "Mitchell Day."



Breaker Boys Waiting for Pay

Image Source: Lackawanna Historical Society

Labor Day *September 5, 2022*

Labor Day was created by the labor movement in the late 19th Century to pay tribute to the contributions made by workers. It is celebrated in both the United States and Canada on the first Monday in September.

As labor unions continued to become more prominent, strikes and rallies were organized to protest poor working conditions and to negotiate with corporations for better hours and salaries. Following the strike on May 11, 1894 by employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago who struck to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives, President Grover Cleveland signed legislation passed by Congress into law on June 28, 1894 making Labor Day a legal holiday.

Lackawanna Historical Society Wins National Award

In September, the Lackawanna Historical Society will receive the Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for *Beyond Our Doorstep: Bringing Local History into Your Home*. The Award of Excellence is part of the AASLH Leadership in History Awards, the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation of state and local history.

Beyond Our Doorstep began in the spring of 2020 when Catlin House, like so many others, closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The programs created during this period, *Lackawanna Past Times*, *#DailyDiversions*, *the Ghostly Gallery*, and *Every Picture Tells a Story*, were developed by our staff of three individuals working from home with a limited budget. The programs have reached more than 20,000 people and continue to receive positive feedback.

The Society is honored to receive national recognition for our work. We thank you for your support of these programs. Catlin House will be closed September 14 – 17 as the staff will be at the conference to accept the award.

Save the Date: October 13 at 6 pm *LHS Annual Dinner*

The Lackawanna Historical Society's 2022 Annual Dinner will mark the 115th Anniversary of the Ritz Theater building on Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, with a special program presenting a vaudeville-style show inspired by Scranton's theatrical history. Performances will be offered by Ballet Theater of Scranton, Diva Theater, Kenny McGraw, Scranton Shakespeare and CAAPA with emcee Connor McGuigan.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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 to renew your membership or give to a friend who is interested in joining. Please return it to: 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 for membership payment:

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

Lackawanna Past Times Returns!

Our monthly Zoom lecture series features famous local sons and early regional history. Email us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. Catch up on past episodes on our YouTube channel.

Friday, September 30, 2 pm: William W. Scranton and the United Nations 1976 – 77. Dr. Sean Brennan, Professor of History, University of Scranton, explores Bill Scranton's tenure as Ambassador to the United Nations.

Friday, October 28, 2 pm: Abington History: The Lackawanna Trail 100 Years Ago. Julie Manwarren discusses the planning, construction and opening of the Lackawanna Trail (today's US Rte. 11) connecting Scranton with rural Abington communities, and its importance to the region, then and now.

Friday, November 18, 2 pm: Spotlight on the Jenkins Archive. Rich Jenkins presents a sneak peek into a Colonial-era archive of more than 3,000 documents and maps in the Society's collection. Mr. Jenkins also explores the life of his ancestor, Col. John Jenkins, a Revolutionary War soldier.

Ghostly Gallery Link

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

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Dine Lackawanna

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

Wednesday, September 21: Cusumano, 432 S. Main St, Old Forge, 570-457-4166

Wednesday, October 19: Stirna's Restaurant, 120 W. Market St, Scranton, 570-343-5742

Wednesday, November 16: Cooper's Seafood Restaurant, 701 N Washington Ave, Scranton, 570-346-6883

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

Olyphant

OTown Bar & Grill

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

Cusumano Dooley's Pub & Eatery

Dunmore/North Pocono

Dunmore

3 Jacks Burgers
La Cucina

Moscow

Delish on Main

Springbrook Twp.

Olde Brook Inn

Genealogy Forum (in person)

Wednesday, September 14, 1 pm: Tracing English/Welsh Ancestors, Valley Community Library, 739 River St., Peckville.

Wednesday, October 12, 1 pm: German at North Pocono Public Library, 1315 Church St., Moscow.

Wednesday, November 9, 1 pm: Polish Ancestry: Abington Community Library, 1200 West Grove St., Clarks Summit.

Please call or email LHS to register for forum meetings as space is limited.

Genealogy Workshop

Saturdays, October 8, 15, 22, and 29, 9:30 am – Noon: In the Henkelman Room at the Albright Memorial Library

Fee: \$25 LHS Members/\$35 Non-Members. Registration required. Deadline is Friday, September 30. *Commitment to all four session dates is required.*

Scranton After Dark

Celebrate Halloween in Scranton with a bit of history! The Lackawanna Historical Society's "Scranton After Dark" haunted walking tours will return this Halloween season.

Join the Society for a guided tour around Downtown Scranton for tales of mayhem and mysterious happenings at some of your favorite places, as well as findings from past paranormal investigations.

Tours will take place on Friday evenings: **September 30, October 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 7 pm** and will meet at Catlin House, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton. Tours take about two hours and are limited to ten people. Learn more about Scranton's perfidious past!

Cost is \$15 per person; advanced tickets are required and can be purchased through Ticketleap starting on September 10th at <https://lackawanna-historical-society.ticketleap.com/haunted-tours/>

For an Extra Spooky Haunted Happening...

Wyoming Valley Ghost Tours will conduct a paranormal investigation at the Catlin House on October 22. For details, please visit the tour group's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WyomingValleyGhostTours/>

Architectural Walking Tours

Free guided walking tours offer a look at and a chance to learn about Downtown Scranton's building architecture, the Lackawanna Avenue Business District and the former *red-light district*. Tours meet on Saturday mornings at 11 am and are limited to ten people. Please call 570-344-3841 for reservations.

September 10: Courthouse Square, N. Washington Ave. & Linden St.

Watres Armory Tours

The Society is pleased to announce the return of Watres Armory Tours made possible through our partnership with Neo-Expressionist artist, Hunt Slonem, In the words of *Architectural Digest*, Mr. Slonem has created a "colorful castle," a personal museum of his paintings and collections of antique furniture and other goods, with bright colors and unique wall treatments.

Tours will be offered on **October 16 and November 20 at 2 pm**. Cost is \$20 per person. Proceeds benefit LHS. Space is limited, registration is required. To register, please call 570-344-3841.

NEPA Local History Fair Planned at Viewmont Mall

The Society is pleased to announce the first ever NEPA Local History Fair slated to take place October 1 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Viewmont Mall, Dickson City.

The fair is the result of the urging of LHS member, Joe Klapatch, who has participated in similar fairs in other parts of the commonwealth. He felt an event was needed in Northeast Pennsylvania that would showcase our many local history resources in one place and would be convenient to interested individuals, as well as for those who did not know that these hidden gems exist.

Our hope is that we can promote our fellow local history makers by inviting everyone to come together at the mall to provide information about their collections and activities, offer items for sale and recruit new members and volunteers. Participants include:

Archbald Historical Society
Austin Burke
Cannon Fire Productions
Carbondale Historical Society and Museum
Clifford Township Historical Society
Dickson City Historical Society
Forest City Area Historical Society
Greenfield Township Historical Society
Jermyn Historical Society

Historical Society of the Abingtons
Lackawanna County Library System
Lackawanna Historical Society
Stephanie Longo
North Pocono Historical Society
Waverly Community House
Wayne County Historical Society
West Pittston Historical Society

If you represent an organization that may be interested in participating, please visit <https://forms.gle/emTkj8Vid9EBrVs6>

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

LaFESTA

ITALIANA



Image source: visitnepa.org

Northeast Pennsylvania is home to numerous food festivals that highlight ethnicities from virtually every part of the world. One of the most popular and well-attended festivals is La Festa Italiana. During Labor Day Weekend the festival turns Downtown Scranton's Courthouse Square into a four-square block outdoor Italian restaurant.

"LaFesta" attracts more than 100,000 visitors annually from parts of the northeast United States. Visitors come mainly for the food, of which there is a wide variety of Italian items including pizza, homemade pasta dishes, including traditional spaghetti and meatballs, as well as delicious pastries and desserts. Cannoli is a crowd favorite.

The festival offers entertainment throughout the weekend. There will be several groups performing tributes to well-known artists, such as Billy Joel, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. Sunday's entertainment calendar will spotlight tenor T. J. Capobianco who joins the New York City Metropolitan Opera in the 2022-23 season as a full-time solo artist.

A fireworks display takes place on Sunday at 10pm. For additional information, please visit <https://lafestaitaliana.org/>

During festival days, there is limited on-street parking in Downtown Scranton. For a list of parking garages, visit <https://www.visitnepa.org/events/major-events-festivals/la-festa-italiana/> and click on the link to Central Parking Garages.

2022 Plymouth Alive Kielbasa Contest Winners

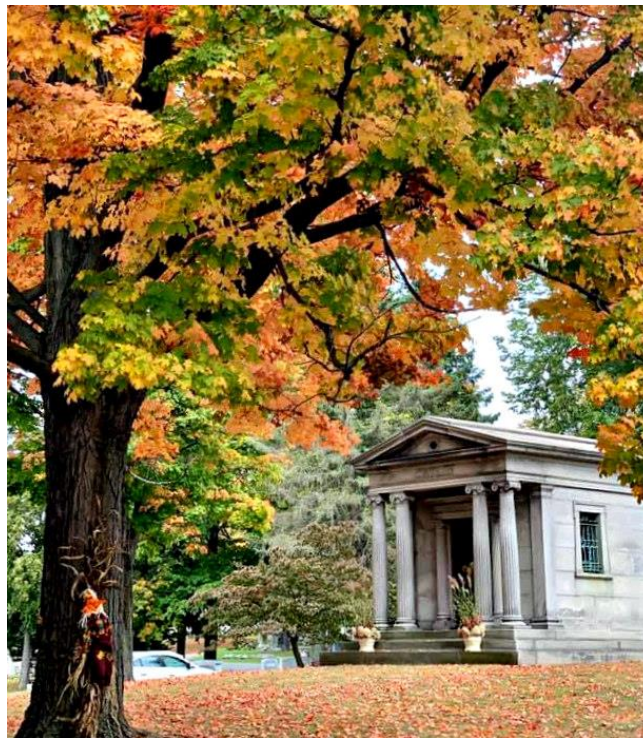
When the smoke (from the grills, that is) cleared and votes were tallied in the 2022 Plymouth Alive Kielbasa Festival, Tarnowski's of Nanticoke took first place for the second year in a row in both the fresh and smoked categories. Komensky's of Duryea finished in second place in both categories, while Glen Lyon Brothers of Glen Lyon placed third in both.

Bosak's of Olyphant remains overall first place winner with a total of 16 titles (10 fresh, 6 smoked). Komensky's of Duryea holds second place with 12 wins (6 fresh; 7 smoked). Tarnowski's, Nanticoke, remains in third with three in each category.



Image source: Discover NEPA

Dunmore Cemetery Tour The Walking Version Is Back



Catlin Mausoleum

Photo courtesy of Julie Esty

Following two years of drive-through tours, courtesy of COVID-19, the walking version of the Dunmore Cemetery Tour returns for performances on Sunday October 2 and Sunday, October 9 at 2 pm both days. Admission, as always, is free. Tour director and Dearly Departed Players member, Julie Esty, said that this year they're working with a smaller cast and plan to do a tour consisting of at least 10 stops.

This year's theme addresses what people have experienced over the last two years, germs, distancing, isolation, the pandemic experience in general. Julie was, however, quick to provide reassurance. She said, "In usual Dearly Departed fashion, it is not all doom and gloom. When things are bad, leave it to the Dearly Departed Players to come along and poke some fun. We have some very lighthearted moments addressing what we've been through. And from those topics, we bounce a bit down other avenues."

She mentioned that there is concern about what the COVID-19 status will be in October as it's currently an unknown scenario. But she said, "We have to try, we miss seeing our audience, we miss doing what we do."

The premier of the Dunmore Cemetery Tour documentary, created by Luz Cabrales and Scranton Films, will take place Friday, September 30, at St. Lucy's Parish Hall, 949 Scranton St., Scranton. Refreshments with a cast and film crew meet and greet will be from 6 pm to 7 pm. Screening begins at 7 pm. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

For additional information visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheDunmoreCemeteryTour/>

Valley Quest: Guys Gals and Graves

Our Valley Quest scavenger hunt is taking a cue from the spooky season! "Guys, Gals, and Graves" will focus on notable or unique burials in Lackawanna County cemeteries as an interactive way to learn who's who in local history.

The weekend-long hunt will open at 9 am on Saturday, October 22 and close at 1 pm on Sunday, October 23. Participants will explore ten local cemeteries looking for specific burials; all players or teams will be required to email selfie photos of each site to the Society to receive points toward prizes.

Join us after the hunt for a celebration on Sunday, October 23 at 2 pm at the Catlin House to enjoy festive refreshments. Prizes will be awarded to participants in various categories at the reception.

Registration for the hunt opens on September 15 and closes September 25. Cost is \$50 for a team of four players or \$15 for an individual. Contact us at 570-344-3841 for registration information.

Nicholson Heritage Association



Image source: Nicholson Heritage Association

NICHOLSON BRIDGE DAY

Sunday, September 11, 2022

9 AM – 4 PM Rain or Shine

Tom Bell Field, Route 92, Nicholson, PA



Live Performances
90+ Vendors
Mountain View High School Band
Entertainment by *Double Espresso*
Basket Raffle 70+ Prizes
Children's Games
Variety of Food
Including *Famous Chicken BBQ*

Sponsored by Nicholson Women's Club

Info: <https://sites.google.com/view/nicholsonwomensclub/home/>

Tel: 570-942-6747

Funded in part by Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau & Wyoming County Room Tax

Image source: Nicholson Heritage Association

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

An Industrial History Journey to Great Britain

By Bob Wolensky

After two years of delay because of COVID-19, twelve intrepid travelers from Northeastern PA, Maryland, and Virginia traveled to Scotland, England, and Wales to study Britain's industrial history. The tour took place from June 16 to and 27, 2022, under the sponsorship of *the Anthracite Heritage Museum*, Scranton. Bob Wolensky, Bode Morin, and Beth Landmesser served as the tour's leaders, and they were assisted by professional guides along the way.



The itinerary included sites in Edinburgh and Newtongrange, Scotland; Ashington, Newcastle, Durham, York, Wakefield, and Gloucester, England; and Newport, Merthyr Tydfil, Aberfan, and Cardiff, Wales.

The national coal mining museums of Scotland, England, and Wales were among the highlights (the latter two having deep mine tours). The historic collieries at these sites housed some of the oldest and most significant coal mining shafts, and they were still operating for visitors. The shaft the group entered at the National Mining Museum of England was originally sunk in 1708 and the Welsh mine site (called "The Big Pit") at Blaenavon is now part of a UNESCO world heritage industrial landscape. A memorable exchange took place 400 feet below ground at the National Mining Museum of England. Our tour guide arrived at the point of the tour when he made a joke about diamonds, asking the group what would happen if we took this bituminous coal and added much more heat, pressure, and time? He expected the tour-goers to say, however erroneously, that you get diamonds, but instead, four people in the group shouted nearly in unison, "You get Anthracite!"

In the midst of experiencing historically significant mining operations, the group also stopped at the sites of two horrific disasters, including the 1862 Hartley Colliery explosion in Northumberland, England, and the 1966 culm bank collapse at Aberfan, Wales, in the Rhondda Valley. The tragedies provided a somber reminder of the human costs associated with mining.

The National Railway Museum in York was another feature as was the National Canal Museum in Gloucester, which included a boat ride on the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. The group very much appreciated two venues related to community life during the Industrial Revolution—The Beamish Open Air Museum in Durham (with a slope mine tour), and St. Fagan's National Folk Museum near Cardiff.

Other cultural highlights included outings to the 900-year-old Edinburgh Castle, the 900-year-old Durham Cathedral both world heritage sites, and the 18th Century Harewood

House palace in Yorkshire. A final group dinner with entertainment took place at the former Coal Exchange building, now a hotel, in owntown Cardiff (once the world's leading coal export city).

One of the main purposes of the trip was to study and learn about Britain's many successful historical preservation projects and how they have been used to enhance heritage appreciation, domestic and international tourism, and community development. Through the many visits, members established several new relationships with British partners in promoting industrial heritage, some of whom have agreed to participate virtually in a program during Anthracite Mining Heritage Month in January 2023.

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 railroads.

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.

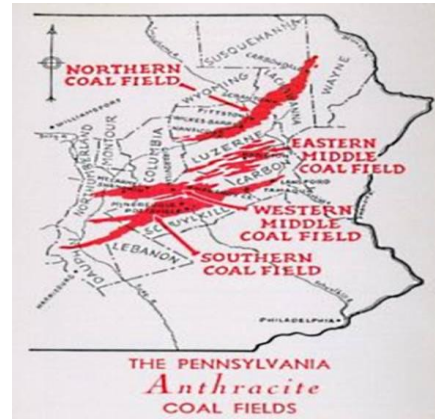
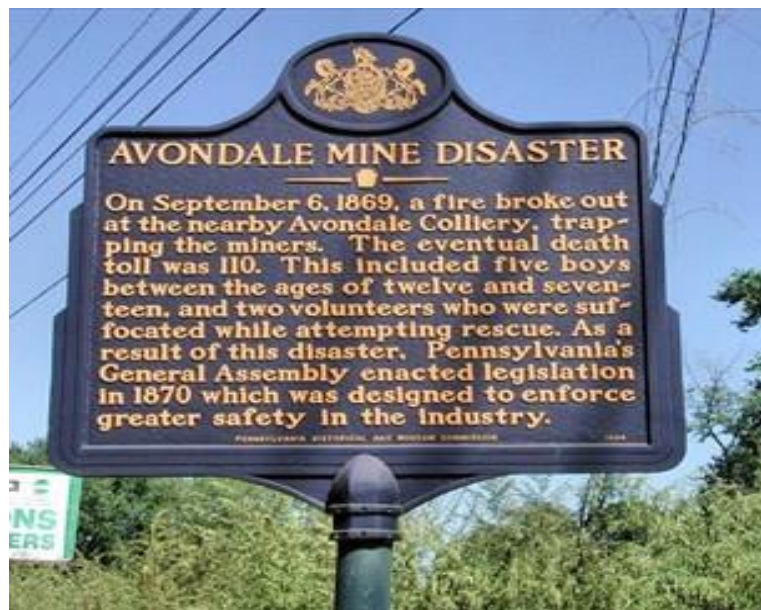


Image source: Pinterest

Remembering Avondale

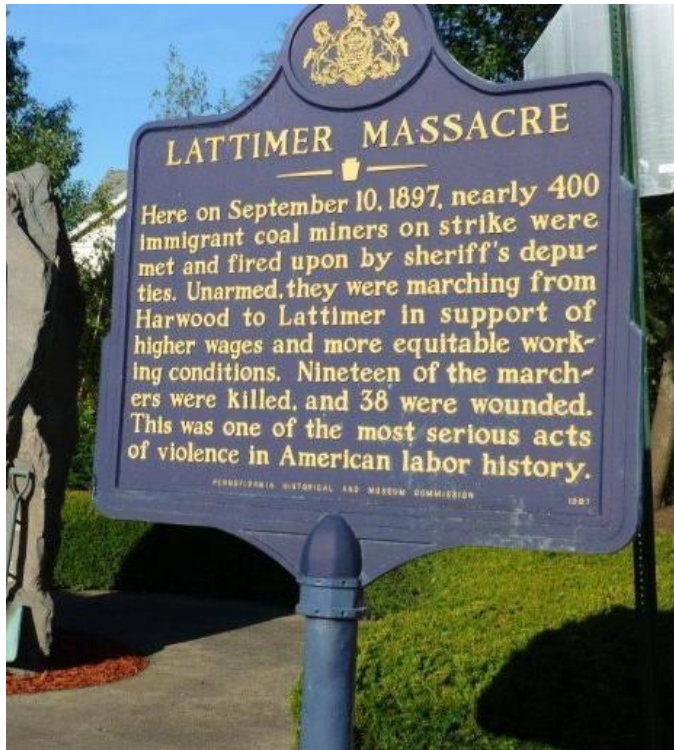


September 6, 1869

Image source: Waymarking

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Remembering Lattimer



September 10, 1897

Image source: Zinn Education Project



Image source: Wikipedia

Anthracite Reading

- **Remembering Lattimer: Labor, Migration, and Race in Pennsylvania Anthracite Country** – Paul A. Shackel
- **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.
- **Mining Disasters of the Wyoming Valley** – Bryan Glahn
- **The Kelayres Massacre: Politics & Murder in Pennsylvania's Anthracite Coal Country** – Stephanie Hoover
- **Death in the Mines: Disasters and Rescues in the Anthracite Coal Fields of Pennsylvania** – J. Stuart Richards
- **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

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.

Volpe Coal Co., No. 6 Colliery, No. 11 Shaft. Red Ash Vein. 1942

**** (Thomas: O.K. means everything in order, everybody all right.) ****

April 1. Damp. April Fool's Day. Was up the road. Home 10 pm. Colliery Idle.

April 2. Cloudy. 37 cars coal. Everybody working, done 12 am.

April 3. Colliery Idle till after Easter.

April 4. Cool. Was to the movies with Tom, western picture.

April 5. Cloudy. Easter Sunday. Stayed home.

April 6. Easter Monday. Stayed home. Colliery Idle.

April 7. Rain. 4 places, 26 coal. Received \$.25 stamp album. Trimmed Flowers for Nellie. Done 7:30.

April 8. 117 loaded 7 coal. Everybody O.K. done 7:45.

April 9. Rain. Unloaded 1 car rock for wall. Done 8 pm.

April 10. Sleet. Got a slip for oil. Red Ash Engine broke down. Full coal, done 7:30.

April 11. Cold. Carried 2 gallon motor oil. All my men working. Done 7:30.

April 12. Sunday. Stayed home. Nellie and Helen to the movies. I was in Edna's.

April 13. Cold. 118 was out in Big Johns place. 5 places, 37 coal. Mike building walls. Done 7:30.

April 14. Due bills. Gomer was measuring today. Done 12:30.

April 15. Pay Day. Motor balking. Was to N.E.C. Done 7:45 pm. Paid Joe \$2.25. 63 hrs, \$54.18.

April 16. Motor has field coil short. 105 timbering in Crisses. OK. Done 1 pm.

April 17. Cloudy. Was to the electrical shanty at 1:30. Changed 2 brake shoes. Done 1 pm.

April 18. 113, 3 handed. Jack Marley on day shift. Rode home with Knopp. Done 12:30. Was to Old Forge.

April 19. Sunday. Stayed home. Nellie and Helen to the movies, Jack Bennie.

April 20. 112, 2 men. 117, 3 men. Red Ash Engine broke down. Paid Tax in Old Forge. Done 8 pm.

April 21. 117, 3 men. Pulled 4 rails to Marcy. Was to Scranton bought Bonds, Saw Kohler. Done 8:30.

APR 22. 112, 3 men, 7 cars coal. Pulled 2 rails from Crissis. Done 9 pm.

April 23. Loaded 1 truck rock and unloaded at the No. 3 coffer. Pulled 2 rails. Headache all evening. Done 8:30 pm

April 24. Everybody working, full coal. 112, 2 handed. *** this may mean 2 men working*** Done 8:30.

April 25. Warm. Stayed home. Was to the movies, Dave, Tom, and Me.

April 26. Sunday, stayed at home.

April 27. Warm. Motor broke down. Bearings gone. Late start 10:30. Done 2:30.

April 28. 120 in new place. Brought oil in morning. Field coil changed in motor. Done 2 pm.

April 29. BIG Squeeze 125 – 120. 120 Timbering. 105 loaded 5 coal. Done 2 pm.

April 30. Pay Day. 122 started going back on Pillars in Back Branch. Done 1:30. Paid Joe W. \$3. Paid for 87 hrs., \$74.82

Volpe Coal Co., No. 6 Colliery, No. 11 Shaft. 1942

May 1. Warm. 105 Elmer not in, rode my own car. Was up the road. Done 1:30.

May 2. Everybody working, full coal. Done 1 pm.

May 3. Sunday, stayed at home.

May 4. Marley not in. 3 places, 105 C work. Register for Sugar at Sibley School. Done 9 pm.

May 5. Warm. Jack in. Cooper had 2 fingers hurt, Pump fixed. Done 9:30.

May 6. 120 in Back Branch. Was to town with Helen Puzino, blood test.

May 7. Cool. Everything OK. Pulled rail in Back Branch. Done 9:30.

May 8. Everybody OK. Dropped Engine down Red Ash. Done 8 pm.

May 9. Warm. Colliery Idle. Was to the movies with Tom. Jessy James.

May 10. Sunday stayed home. J. Hanna & Stanley were over to see me.

May 11. Angelo died. New wheels on motor 2 pair. Done 2:30.

May 12. Rain. 4 places in Back Branch. Pretty busy. Done 2:15.

May 13. Nice. 32 coal. Brought oil. Was to Helen's. Done 2 pm.

May 14. Hot. 32 coal. Everything ok. Done 2 pm.

May 15. Due bills. 105 moving shaker. Road broke at tunnel frog. Paid for 86 hrs., worked 84, \$ 73.96.

May 16. Pay Day. Came straight home. Helen to Prom. Was to the movies with Tom. Done 1:30.

May 17. Sunday stayed home. Nellie and Tom to Jackie's birthday party.

May 18. Taken Jack Marley home. Jack got 2 beers. Done 9 pm.

May 19. 120 worked in 122 place. Drove Jack Marley home. Was to Philly's. Done 8:15.

May 20. Drove Jack home. Had 2 beers in Philly's. 2 men shot in No. 6. Done 8:15.

May 21. 120 working in Swamp. Red Ash Slope waiting for L cars. Drove Jack Home. Helen was to town. Done. 9:30.

May 22. Heavy Rain. Detours, drove Jack home. Rivers swollen. Rain all day and night. Done 9:30.

May 23. Was to Town. Nell & Helen, Tom & I shopping.

May 24. Sunday, stayed at home.

May 25. 105 moved tools to Babylon. Motor reverse broke down. Stuck for gas along the road. Done 1:30.

May 26. Cool. Dan Connelly in Red Ash. Full coal. Done 12:30.

May 27. Cool. Loaded a rope spool for outside. Tom James was around. OK. Done 12:30.

May 28. 120 Co work. Gomer measuring. J. Gambol in Ransom. Was to Old Forge with Edna and Nell. Done 12:30.

May 29. Ran motor South Babylon. Done 1:30.

May 30. Memorial Day.

May 31. Sunday. Paid for 77 hrs. \$66.22.

Volpe Coal Co., No. 6 Colliery, No. 11 Shaft. 1942

June 1. Was to town with Carmily. Took Jack Marley home. Pulled coal from slope. Done 7:30.

June 2. 117 not in. 2 places, 8 cars coal. Jack Sjope Mine Foreman. Done 9 pm.

June 3. 117, 2 men. Worked 3 hrs. on Heading Road. Took Jack home. Done 8 pm.

June 4. Heavy rain. Was to see a soldier home 1 am. Was to Duryea with Jack. Done 8:30.

June 5. Met Dollyn, fingers burned. Was to Duryea with Jack. Done 8 pm.

June 6. "Straw Berry" Foreman Fired. Bob Mugire Boss Foreman. Was to town.

June 7. Warm. Sunday stayed home.

June 8. Warm. 4 places, 120 on rock. Empties slow. Done 12 pm.

June 9. Warm. Everybody on coal. Finished Helen's bench. Was to Dr Sol. With Dave & Edna. Done 1 pm.

June 10. Warm. Full Coal. Motor off road. Jumped on bottom rock. Done 2:30.

June 11. Rain. Plenty of cars. Lost 3 cars coal. Timber knocked down, rock fall. Done 2:30.

June 12. Rain. Frankus mother died. Tom Jones around. Dolly off. Ran motor behind engine. Done 2 pm.

June 13. Warm. Ran motor behind Engine. Pay Day. Was at N.W. Co.

June 14. Cool. Sunday, stayed home.

June 15. Warm. Ran motor in my own place. Done 8 pm. 3 hrs. pulling Red Ash coal \$0.87. 84 hrs. \$ 74.84.

June 16. Man Hurt No. 5, Dave Evans, drove him home. Ran motor behind Engine. Was to Old Forge. Done 8 pm.

June 17. Cool. Frankie working today. Done 8:30.

June 18. Was to see W. Kohler, paid \$15. New motor in S. Back. Done 8:30.

June 19. Rain. Was to pay Kohler. Done 8:30.

June 20. Rain. Day shift working only. Was to Old Forge with Edna and kids.

June 21. Cool. Sunday Stayed home.

June 22. Cool. Motor down in Norm. Reel broke. Done 1:30.

June 23. Cool. Everybody working. 3 places. General Blackout Lack. County. Done 1:30.

June 24. Cool. Helen's party. Edna Bull Day. Done 1:30.

June 25. Cool. Everybody OK. Full coal. New Job. Done 12:30.

June 26. Cool. 2 places. Everything OK. Collected Knee pads. Done 2 pm.

June 27. Warm. Pay Day. Vacation Token given.

June 28. Sunday stayed home.

June 29. Warm. Full coal. OK. Was to C. Orlwcks with Jack. Done 7:30.

June 30. Full coal. OK. Was to town for dog tags. 84 hrs. \$73.96.

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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 ©3 nonprofit organization, is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County and memberships.