

### SPRING PROGRAMS AT THE CATLIN HOUSE

- March 9 -** SPECIAL 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - To commemorate the Centennial of the granting of the LHS charter, the Society will hold a "Birthday Party Open House" on Sunday afternoon, March 9, 1986, from 2:00 to 4:00. Historical tours of the Catlin House will be given, the History of Photography exhibit will be on display and light refreshments will be served in the formal dining room. Members of the Society as well as the public are invited to attend.
- March 19 -** Dr. Donald Miller, Professor of History at Lafayette College in Easton, and co-author with Richard E. Sharpless of the recently published book *The Kingdom of Coal*, will be guest speaker on the topic "The Anthracite Region's Industrial Revolution." Dr. Miller's talk will focus on life in the Anthracite Region during the days when "Coal was King." The program is scheduled for 8:00 PM in the main hall of the Catlin House. Members are encouraged to bring guests.
- April 16 -** The Folklore Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania will visit the Catlin House once again with a new program of historical music. Folklore president, David Martin, will return with his autoharp, along with several special performers with unique styles and instruments.
- May 7 -** ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - To compliment an evening of fine food and conversation, the LHS has invited Dr. Philip V. Nevin of the Penn State Worthington Scranton Campus to present a slide lecture entitled, "Castles of the Loire River Valley," an architectural study with which students of local Gothic Revival architecture can make many comparisons.

### MARCH 11, 1886 - EVENTS IN SCRANTON, THE U.S., AND THE WORLD

On the evening of March 11, 1886, the "Lackawanna Institute of Science and History" met in the Board of Trade Rooms to elect the officers of the organization, after having been granted a charter as a permanent organization. It might be of interest to compare a few of the events of that day which occurred elsewhere in the city, the nation, and the world:

#### Dateline: March 11, 1886, Scranton, Pennsylvania:

In a meeting of the Select Council, a resolution was carried to assess the cost of paving Washington Avenue from Lackawanna Avenue to Gibson Street.

Mayor-elect Ezra H. Ripple traveled to Harrisburg to attend a meeting concerning the operation of "Soldiers' Orphans Schools" which had been established to care for the children orphaned during the Civil War.

The Home for the Friendless (which later evolved to "Friendship House") appealed through the *Scranton Republican* newspaper for donations of cast-off clothing as well as for rags from which the residents of the Home would make carpets. The *Republican* noted that "There are also several children for adoption in the Home, who can be seen after school hours."

Louis C. Fuller, president of the Scranton Button Company, sold his interest in the manufacturing firm to William Connell who told the *Republican* that he planned to enlarge and modernize the facility.

The Hinsdell Brothers, along with their tailor, traveled to New York City to purchase goods for their new Hinsdell Clothing House which opened a week later at 416 Lackawanna Avenue.

Conrad Schroeder's construction firm entered into the final work phase on the "new" Y.M.C.A. Building, 220-226 Wyoming Avenue and submitted a bill for delinquent

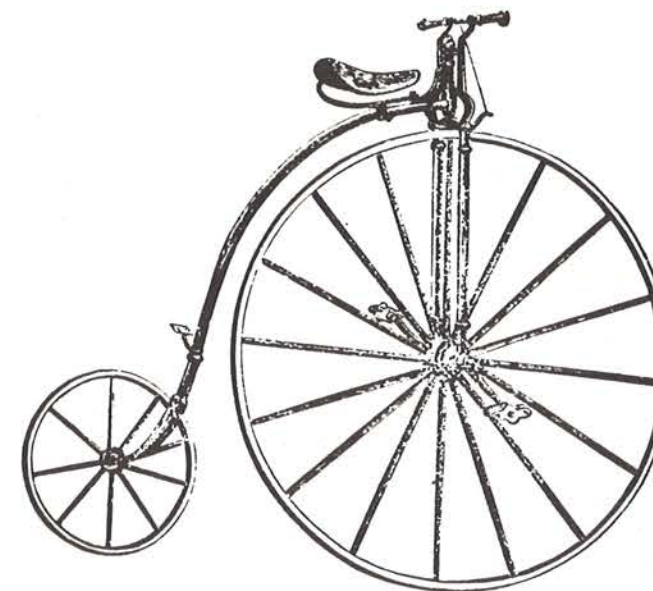
payments of \$7,843 to the "Y." The L.B. Powell Piano and Organ Store agreed to rent two stores in the new building, one as a piano and organ display room and the other as a sheet music store, to be occupied by April 1. (This Y.M.C.A. Building was destroyed by fire in 1897.)

Complaints about chicken thieves were reported from the Seventeenth Ward. Constable Davis reported that seven of his chickens were stolen, and several other residents registered similar complaints.

The "Mikado" performed by the Corinne opera company at the Academy of Music, 239 Wyoming Avenue, was attended by a crowded house, many of whom were unable to find seats. The *Scranton Times*, calling the opera "one of the most catching works of Gilbert's fruitful pen," reported that "James Sturges as 'Ko-Ko' gave a very fair interpretation of the role. His good singing is aided by his splendid presence, grotesque make up and fine acting. It must be said, however, that the majority of the audience would have enjoyed the performance more had Mr. Sturges adhered more closely to the lines."

The *Scranton Times* also reported, "Thomas Higgins says he is the best marksman in this place, but we have very grave doubts about that from the way he shot at a mad dog he was asked to kill last week. After firing seven shots at the canine (and that at short range, too) he had to finish the job with a club"; and also, "Jack Meagher says there is going to be a cock fight around here on Patrick's day, but he will not say just where."

From the "very refined" to the "salt of the earth," Scranton has always offered something for everyone.



"The roads out of the city Saturday morning were in excellent condition for 'cycling, and every once in a while a 'cyclist would spin by on his flashing wheel,"  
The *Scranton Republican*.

#### Dateline: March 11, 1886, U.S. News

**Utica, New York** - The *Utica Herald* reported that the strike among railroad workers throughout the "Gould system" extended through the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Texas, Louisiana, Nebraska, and the Indian Territory, involving from 10,000 to 13,000 workers.

**Jacksonville, Florida** - The *Jacksonville Florida Union* reported that railroad magnate Jay Gould and his family, on the yacht *Atlanta*, arrived at Key West to begin a spring vacation.

**Washington, D.C.** - The *Washington National Republican* published the notice that the postal clerks in the city of Washington denied earlier reports that they had been planning to strike.

The *Washington Evening Union* reported that a mass meeting of the Knights of Labor was held in Washington on the evening of March 11. The crowd was addressed by union leader John Jarrett of Pittsburgh who spoke about the benefits of a protective tariff.

The *Washington Globe* reported on the sessions of the Congress for the day March 11, 1886. On that day, the House of Representatives went into Committee on the Indian Appropriation Bill. Representative Cutcheon of Michigan advocated the civilization of the Indians by "teaching them the gospel of self-support." He noted that, in his opinion, the Indians "had made more advance in civilization in the last fifty years than the Anglo-Saxon race had made in 500." Representative Cannon of Illinois severely criticized the current administration's Indian policy. He said that he wished that the Indians were being civilized, but the fact was that they were being pauperized, "for under the present policy when the government took from the Indian his wild nature it took from him also what little manhood he had and made a pauper out of him."

**New Haven, Connecticut** - The *Bridgeport Evening Standard* reported that one hundred and twenty-five moulders and fifty laborers employed in the New Haven foundry of Sargent & Co. went on strike. It was stated that the workers had recently been granted increases in wages and that not more than a dozen workers were dissatisfied but were "compelled to quit by order of their labor organization."

**St. Paul, Minnesota** - The *St. Paul Dispatch* printed the notice that the Northern Pacific Railway had made a cut in the freight rates to Portland, Oregon. The cost of shipping 100 pounds of freight, regardless of classification, from Chicago to Portland was 65 cents.

**Easton, Pennsylvania** - The *Easton Express* reported that four sophomores were suspended from Lafayette College for participating in the hazing of a freshman. Nine others had recently been suspended for the same offense.

**New York City** - The *New York Times* reported that boxers Dempsey and Lablanche, who had planned a fight at Rye Beach (about three miles from Harrison, New York, in Westchester County), took the 8 pm train from Grand Central Station to Harrison. On the 9:35 train about twenty "sporting men" left for the same destination. At 8:15 Sheriff Duffy, of Westchester County, "having got wind of the affair, started from White Plains with a posse for Harrison."

**Austin, Texas** - In the *Austin Republican*, the Chicago (meat-packing) syndicate announced that they had enclosed 300,000 acres of Texas lands with wire fence and during the coming year planned to enclose three million acres more, with the intent of raising 100,000 head of cattle on the enclosed Texas lands by digging flowing wells six miles apart. The Chicago syndicate reported that they were spending \$40,000 per month to "improve the lands in Texas."



**Chicago, Illinois** - The *Chicago Times*, reporting on a long-standing disagreement about pricing and business practices between cattle men and the "dressed-beef shippers," stated that the cattle men had decided to take the issue to court for a just settlement. (The cattle men, who favored the "open range" with free grazing of cattle and great cattle drives to the Chicago cattle yards did not succeed in the courts to prevent control of the beef industry by the owners and operators of the meat-packing plants. "Don't fence me in" gave way to the beginnings of "agribusiness.")



**Dateline: March 11, 1886, World News**

**Vienna** - Count Bylandt-Rheydt, Imperial Minister of War, issued instructions to all the commanders of the Austrian-Hungarian army to order the study of German among all troops. The Count complained that the use of local dialects among the soldiers had greatly increased. However, the Czechoslovaks demanded that the words of command be given to the Czech troops in their own tongue.

**Paris** - Temperatures in France during the winter of 1886 remained far below the norm (with readings of 24 below) and blizzards raged well into March of that year. Newspapers reported that the hospitals were overflowing with persons who had been frostbitten in the streets and that the railroads throughout France, Bohemia, and Galicia had stopped operating.

**Amiens, France** - An attempt was made to assassinate writer Jules Verne. Two shots were fired at him from a revolver by a young student who turned out to be the author's own nephew who had come from Paris for the express purpose of killing his uncle.

**London** - The *London Times* reported that the British government had dispatched gunboats to the western coast of Ireland for the purpose of "relieving the distress among the inhabitants of the Island. Indescribable distress has been developed among the people inhabiting the Arran Isles, off Galway. Whole tribes, having hardly anything but moss and sea grass to eat, are without fire and often without clothing and shelter."

Prime Minister Gladstone is "all right and hard at work on his Irish scheme," reported the *Times*, and also, "The

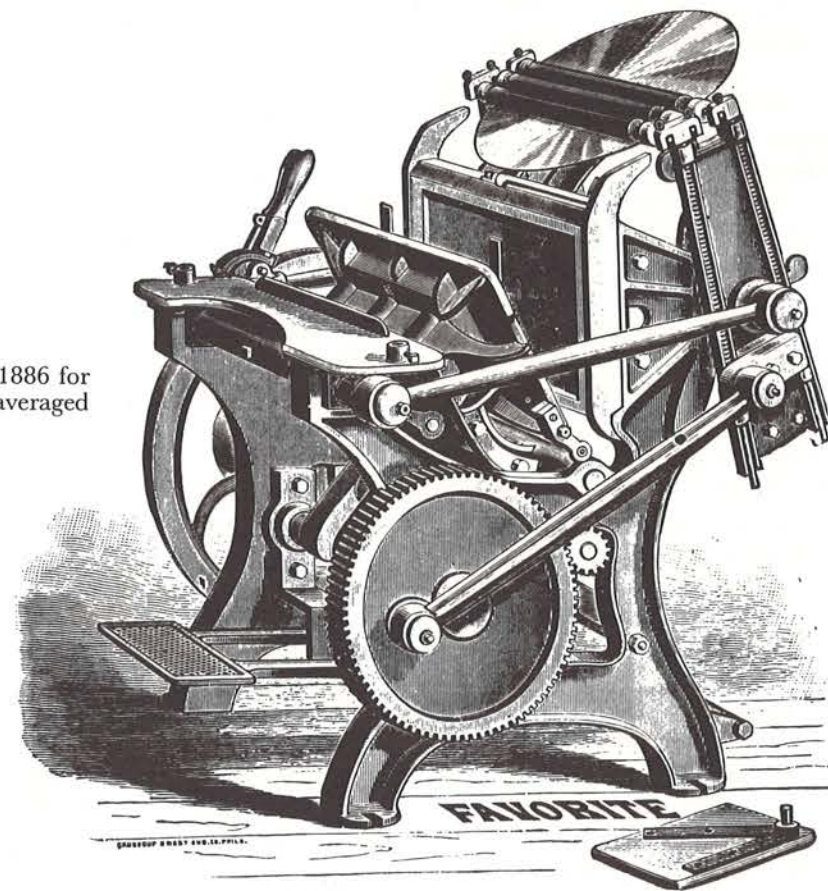
loyalists of Siglo County, at a monster mass meeting held at Siglo, adopted resolutions denouncing the granting of Home Rule to Ireland."

And in the United States, the *Scranton Times* published the notice, "All patriotic Irishmen and others of the Seventh Ward who sympathize with Ireland's cause can have an opportunity of manifesting their appreciation of Parnell's present course by attending a meeting in Curran's Hall this evening (March 11, 1886) at 7 o'clock."

**London** - A procession of British seamen marched from the docks to the city to demonstrate against the English government for "neglecting to take steps toward relieving trade of its depression." They carried banners, some of which read, "British labor is sacrificed in the interest of foreign labor!"

**London** - Wymann & Sons, printers, 74-76 Great Queen Street, London, issued a printed abstract of an address which had been delivered by Col. John A. Price before the Scranton Board of Trade in January of 1886 on the topic "Aluminum." A foot note at the bottom of the sheet read, "Scranton, Pennsylvania. The principle Iron District of America."

Many things have changed during the past one hundred years; some things appear to have not changed at all.



Rotary Power Printing Press of the type in use in 1886 for "job work." The price for a press of this type usually averaged about \$150.



Scranton." He died in 1935 and his wife in 1942. In 1943, the move of the Society's collections to the Catlin House was begun. By 1946, the house was open for tours, the library was made available for research, a series of cultural and historical programs were begun, and the first issue of the *Bulletin* was printed. In the Catlin House, The Lackawanna Historical Society has successfully grown and continued to function ever since, serving Scranton and Lackawanna County as a non-profit educational and cultural institution.

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The Lackawanna Historical Society Bulletin is published quarterly by the Society.  
Editor is Dorothy Allen, Society Director.

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### 1986 IS THE SOCIETY'S CENTENNIAL YEAR

The Lackawanna Historical Society was chartered a permanent organization on March 11, 1886, as "The Lackawanna Institute of History and Science," with Col. John A. Price serving as its first president. A total of 465 charter members were enrolled, dedicated to the charter purpose: "the promotion and diffusion of general historic and scientific knowledge among its members, and in the community at large, and the establishment and maintenance of a library, a museum and a historical record." For many years, the Society struggled to maintain an active membership and to house its growing collections. Life member George H. Catlin and his second wife, Helen Walsh Catlin, had no heirs. To insure that their 1912 English Tudor Revival home would be preserved and put to good use, Catlin bequeathed his estate to the LHS upon the demise of himself and his wife "for visit and enjoyment of the people of the City of

## LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CATLIN HOUSE  
232 MONROE AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510

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