

A REMINDER:

For those of you who have yet to remit your dues payment, the Society's fiscal year will be ending soon. A large part of the Society's operations relies on you. Please send in your payment as soon as possible.

Thank you.



Renewed members will be receiving their membership cards shortly.

The LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
GEORGE H. CATLIN HOUSE
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510



FOCUS ON FASHION:

"We all wear clothes and inevitably make cultural and stylistic decisions about dress. Perhaps too readily, we also tend to judge others by dress. In their proximity, inevitability, and intimacy, clothes are a difficult cultural form to consider. Nonetheless, and in ways significant to all studies of history, costume is essential to an understanding of the past, of cultures, and even of ourselves."

- Richard Martin, Shirley Goodman Resource Center for the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York

For many years the Lackawanna Historical Society has committed itself to the caretaking of hundreds of articles of costume. This particular type of collection is undeniably one of the most difficult to care for. Some have often questioned "why bother?" We have only to look to professionals dedicated to the discipline itself for justification and we remain committed to their care and preservation.

The Fashions Committee continues the arduous task of cataloging the costume collection. Hundreds of items have already been cared for and placed in order.

If you are interested in fashions, knowledgeable of sewing/ dress-making and would like to donate some time to the preservation of this collection, please call the Society. We would like to hear from you. 344-3841

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Collection of The Lackawanna Historical Society

Post Cards, such as the one at right, depicted familiar scenes. They also featured local news events, from elections to disasters, as well as weddings, births and even funerals to send to those afar.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Preserving our Heritage:

Lackawanna County and
The National Register.....P. 3

At The Catlin House..P. 5

History Brewing:

Luzerne/Lackawanna Counties

Brewery Tour P. 6

Up Coming Events ...P. 6



OPENING A WINDOW TO THE PAST

Postcard Collecting of Yesterday and Today

■ Prior to World War I, picture postcard collecting was one of the largest, most wide spread collecting hobbies around the globe.

Originally meant to be strictly an inexpensive way of communication, the first postcard produced in Vienna, Austria in 1869 by school teacher Emanuel Herrman was a quick, easy means of saying "Wish you were here," "Grandfather is sick," or "See you at church this Sunday."

The postcard caught on almost immediately. By the turn of the century, when postal restrictions were lifted so that postcards could be mailed for one cent, Americans were purchasing some 700 million cards a year. At a time when the average person never traveled much more than twenty miles from the place of his birth, the postcard not only was a means to communicating but helped open a window to the world. A world without

television, radio, only primitive motion pictures, and a few automobiles.

International clubs were soon established and postcards were exchanged by collectors throughout the world. The cards were placed in albums and kept in the parlor as a source of entertainment.

The most advanced printing plants in the world were in Germany, turning out millions of picture postcards each day. The manufacturing, designing and distribution of postcards provided profitable employment for thousands of individuals. Artists turned their skills to designing cards and for a penny people could own a picture by famed artists such as Alphonse Mucha, the turn of the century Art Nouveau artist, or others such as Expressionists Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka, or Mela Kohler and Raphael Kirchner. In addition to the large printing plants, small town stores had photographic dark-

rooms where pictures were developed and printed as postcards with local news items. Fires and train wrecks would be photographed and produced into a postcard and offered for sale the very next day. Local news was sent in this way to distant relatives. Weddings, deaths and even births, were recorded and sent to persons who could not be present. The postcard evolved into an important means of documenting life. It became a means of effective advertising for all kinds of goods and services, and additionally, large city post offices, handling millions of postcards each day, reaped great profits.

Postcard collecting declined with the arrival of WWI when many of the large German plants were destroyed and young apprentices served in the army. Following the war, the postcard was replaced by interests in the automobile and radio. Also, local printers were often unable to produce cards rivaling the

quality of those produced in Germany before the war. Postcard albums eventually were removed from the parlor and stored in attics as America moved on to the age of jazz and the roaring twenties.

Americans in more recent years have recovered postcard albums from the attic, for today they are viewed as open windows to the past. To some they are a sentimental look at the world as seen by those before us; to others they are both historical document and social commentary. Once again, albums are placed in the parlor and postcard collecting has become one of the largest collectable hobbies, rivaling that of both stamps and coins.

- MC.

The LHIS will present its next program (see Up Coming Events P. 6), on the topic of Postcard Collecting. Local collections will be viewed with commentaries by our guest speakers.

Dear Members,

Sincere apologies for this delayed edition of the Lackawanna Historical Society Journal. For those of you who have been to the Catlin House within the past few months know the state in which we have been operating. The construction of a new handicapped ramp and restroom facility forced us to temporarily relocate all of our research library holdings, creating just a bit of chaos. However, this phase of the project will soon reach completion and will allow us to begin work on reorganizing the entire library collection and daily operations will resume to a state of normalcy. Thank you for bearing with us and as always thank your for your continued support.



Maryellen Calemno

Maryellen Calemno
Executive Director

Thanks

On December 2, 1990, we held our annual Christmas program. The Catlin House was decorated in traditional turn of the century fashion with a live tree adorned with antique ornaments from the Society's collection. Members, young and old, filled the main hall of the house celebrating the joyful holiday season and enjoying the extraordinary sounds of special guest performers from the Robert Dale Chorale, directed by Robert Herrema. To those who could not be with us for whatever reason, we are sorry we missed you. Refreshments were arranged by the Society's Reception/Refreshments Committee. A special thanks to Joe Cimini, Connie Sheils,

Marie Smith, Leola Collins, Jack & Nancy Hiddlestone, Mary McNulty, Mr. & Mrs. D. Spegar, and all those who helped make the day a success. In addition, a very special thanks to an anonymous donor for our Christmas tree this year. It would not have been as nice without this gift.



*Christmas at the Catlin House
1990*



The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal, is published four times a year for the benefit of the Members of the Lackawanna Historical Society. It is produced entirely in house by the staff. Additional materials supplied by Jack Hiddlestone. All photographic work donated by Ward V. Roe. Any inquiries should be addressed to the Director of the Society. MC.

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HISTORY BREWING

Luzerne/Lackawanna Brewery Tour

Since 1980, Rich Wagner, a high school science teacher, and Rich Dochter, a day care center director, both of Hatboro, Pa., have canvassed the Pennsylvania landscape searching for relics of a bygone era. The two have photographed over 200 breweries in the Commonwealth and have verified over 200 sites as having no standing brewery remaining.

They call their type of inventory industrial archeology, researching these sites first hand at the actual location and by visiting libraries and historical societies, and interviewing anyone who would talk to them about the history of the brewing industry in Pennsylvania. Their research goes beyond the surface of the buildings themselves and includes things such as economics, immigration and agriculture as it relates to the industry. They have assembled the most extensive research holdings pertaining to what was once a significant industry in Pennsylvania.

On Saturday, May 4, in conjunction with the Wyoming Historical & Geological Society, the Lackawanna Historical Society will sponsor a *Brewery Tour* of existing and once existing breweries of the region (Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties). Tour guides for the trip will be brewery historians Wagner and Dochter. This will be a day long bus tour. The cost of the tour, including lunch, has not been set at this time. Notices will be sent to members as soon final arrangements are made. Reservation will be required.

Tentative Itinerary

8:45 AM - meet in Scranton, board bus.

9:00 AM - Bus leaves for Wilkes Barre. 9:30-9:45AM- Arrive in Wilkes Barre. Short lecture.

9:45-10:30AM- travel to, and tour breweries: Reichare & Weaver; Malinowski Brewery; 10:30 AM- tour of operating brewery The Lion, Inc.

12:00PM- Lunch, at Paluka's Diner across from the Stegmaier Brewing Co.

1:30PM- leave the Wilkes Barre area and head north towards Lackawanna County.

1:30 PM- Hughes & Glennon, in Exeter

2-2:30 PM- the E. Robinson's Sons, in Scranton

3:15 PM - the Standard Brewing Company and Anthracite Brewing Company, both also in Scranton.

4:00PM The tour will conclude returning persons boarding in Scranton to that location.

4:30PM - Return people who boarded in Wilkes Barre.

UP COMING EVENTS AT THE CATLIN HOUSE

FEBRUARY 10, SUNDAY, 2PM:

Postcard Collecting in the Anthracite Region

Slide/lecture and exhibit by members of the *Anthracite Postcard Club*. Areas to be presented: The Electric Street Railway, coal mining, fire history, and building interiors.

MARCH 21, WEDNESDAY, 7:30PM

Folk Art of the Anthracite Region

Lecture and presentation by guest speaker Mr. Chester Kulesa, Curator of the Anthracite Museum, Scranton.

APRIL 17, WEDNESDAY 7:30PM

Pre-History of the Lackawanna Valley

Lecture and presentation by Archaeologist Dave Kohler, past president of the Archaeological Society of Pennsylvania.

MAY 4, SATURDAY, 9AM: Bus Tour

Luzerne/Lackawanna County Breweries

May 10, 1991, Wednesday evening 6PM

LHS Annual Dinner

8PM Guest Speaker to be announced.

At The Catlin House

During the months of May through October, 1990, the Lackawanna Historical Society has had the pleasure of welcoming over 525 visitors and researchers to the Catlin House, and has received over 75 inquiries in the mail concerning genealogy and local history. While L.H.S. collections focus primarily on the history of Lackawanna County, visitors to the Catlin House come from both local and distant areas. Along with the steady stream of Pennsylvanians from Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and the Poconos, have come interstate visitors from Maryland, Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Texas, Washington, Florida, California and Illinois, as well as guests from as far away as Canada, Great Britain, Italy and Japan. We have enjoyed meeting and working with these many people, and are pleased to find that the historical events and personal relationships they are able to trace through the L.H.S. exhibits and archives link Scranton to all areas and cultures of the world.

Most individuals visited the L.H.S. to research family genealogies. Brenda Birch, a native of Thornaby, England, came to the Catlin House seeking information about her great-grandmother, Martha Cason Johnson Thomas, a returning immigrant. According to family tradition, Mrs. Birch's great-grandfather, Thomas Johnson, emigrated to the United States from England in 1887, and worked as a miner in Dunmore, Pa. In September of 1887, Thomas sent for his wife Martha and their two small children, Esther and Thomas Jr.; by December, however, barely three months after the family's reunion, Thomas was killed in a mining accident. Widowed, Martha took work doing laundry and housecleaning. After saving enough money for travel fare, she and the children returned once again to England.



Returning immigrant, Martha Cason Johnson in her "widows weeds."

L.H.S. archives and the Birch's family collections revealed important details in the story of Martha and Thomas Johnson. An obituary found in L.H.S. newspapers testifies to the limits of medical science in 1887; tragically, Thomas Johnson died not from injuries sustained directly in the mine accident (a broken leg), but from an infection that set in three days later. A portrait of Mrs. Johnson, taken in Scranton at Owen Studios before her return to England, was copied and donated to the L.H.S. by Mrs. Birch. Its image, which shows a young woman dressed in "widow's weeds" (as referred to by Birch), and holding her two children, gives, over one hundred years later, faces and names to three early Scranton residents whose sorrows and strengths are part of the history of our community.

Various schools, churches and community groups have also used the Catlin House archives on a regular basis. Several groups from the

University of Scranton have toured the museum in conjunction with the Elder Hostel Program, Alumni Weekend and summer session art and history classes. Other groups which have visited the L.H.S. facilities include the Northeast Institute of Education, Saint Peter's Cathedral, the Scranton Girl Scouts, and an English as a Second Language Class from Marywood College consisting of several young Japanese students who were visiting America. This group toured the Catlin House in mid-July. Many artifacts and ideas presented seemed strange to the students; the social and domestic customs of the Victorian era are often difficult to understand, even for

those of us who are historically related to that culture. While the Japanese students were unfamiliar with the Victorians' tastes in dress and interior decoration, they easily recognized their love of music. During the tour demonstration of the Regina Music Box, a nineteenth century forerunner of the phonograph, which plays music on perforated steel disks, one young man spoke out. "La Traviata," he said. "That's Verdi."

In the past months, researchers from local organizations and businesses utilized the visual and reference resources in the L.H.S. library to develop many interesting and unusual projects. Media Productions, Gann-Dawson and Leung, Hemmler, Camayd have all referred to the L.H.S. collections for information on local history and to conduct photo research. Local newspapers like the Scranton Times/Tribune and the Sunday Sun gathered materials from the L.H.S. photo archives for features. Anthracite and ethnicity resources were used by the Anthracite Museum and Penn State University in preparation for exhibitions and upcoming documentary films. Artifacts in the collection relating to early Scranton were in special demand, this summer as everyone in the area, including WYOU, Steamtown, and the National Parks Service made ready for "September in Scranton," the sesquicentennial, and the torchlight parade. Finally, a permanent reminder of research done at the L.H.S. stands on the newly renovated Courthouse Square: in order to choose appropriate period street lamps for the square, designers from the Courthouse project consulted L.H.S. records to determine the exact style of the originals.

The Lackawanna Historical Society has enjoyed its busy months. As the winter continues and we begin a new year, it is our hope that the number of visitors to the Catlin House will continue to grow. We look forward to meeting future guests and researchers, and to being able to provide them with meaningful resources for local history. -DM

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

Lackawanna County and The National Register

The following appears in response to the numerous inquiries received by the Society regarding general preservation issues, mainly, "what is the National Register?"



The James L. Crawford Residence, built in 1902 (at left) was the home of wealthy coal operator James Crawford. He enjoyed this beautiful showplace for no more than three years due to his untimely death in 1905 at the early age of 54. His wife Huldah Wilcox Crawford, lived there until her death in 1918 and in 1922 the home was sold to the county for a juvenile detention center which it has remained as of 1991. In 1980 the home was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

■ The National Register is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Lists once consisted of properties with only national significance. Today, the National Register includes properties important in the history of communities and states as well as the nation. In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act created the National Register as a part of a larger federal program to coordinate and support efforts to identify and protect significant historic resources.

Properties that qualify for the National Register may be districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects; significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The qualities of significance that these properties must possess are identified by a Criteria for Evaluation (see box). They may form a link with past events or people, who represent artistic or techno-

logical achievements, or contain important information.

Properties are added to the National Register primarily through nominations from state and federal agencies. Each State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), appointed by that state's governor, is responsible for locating and documenting historic properties within the state (see below for address of SHPO).

Individuals may propose to the SHPO the nomination of property to the National Register. However, private property owners are encouraged to prepare nominations themselves by conducting documentary research. The State Historic Preservation Office provides information and assistance on preservation issues and preparing nominations. Once completed, the SHPO and the state review board examine proposals to ensure that the property meets the

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and if:

- A. they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or
- D. that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

According to the National Register of Historic Places 1966-1988, (American Association for State and Local History, 1989) over 55,000 properties were worthy of preservation when nominated and were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Of that 55,000 properties, the state of Pennsylvania boasts 2,356 properties on the Register, making it one of the nations leaders in historic preservation. Naturally, the birthplace of our nation, Philadelphia, comprises over 400 of those properties with Bucks and Chester Counties adding to the majority. Within Lackawanna County, (as of 1989), there were 20 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Four of these properties were primary residences and were listed because of their link with persons of local importance to the historical growth of Scranton and Lackawanna County. Silkman House, Tripp Family Homestead, *Terence V. Powderly House, and James L. Crawford House, all within the city of Scranton. (*no longer standing)

The James L. Crawford residence (known since 1922 as a juvenile detention center), located at 313 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 by Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer Ed Weintraub. Documentary research for the nomination was prepared by Architect David Leung, who at that time was the Historic Sites Chairman of the Architectural Heritage Association of North-

eastern Pennsylvania.

"An important coal entrepreneur, James L. Crawford, built his large pretentious home following his financial success in the coal mining industry of Lackawanna County. His large home reflects the wealthy lifestyle of the baron-type (coal, oil, steel) of the late nineteenth century."

James L. Crawford was born in 1851 in Noxen, Pennsylvania. As the president of the People's Coal Company from 1901 until his untimely death in 1905 at the age of 54, Crawford became one of the most widely known coal operators in this area and was regarded as ... "an American of the highest type, in thought, in word, deed, and ambition." His humble beginnings made him sympathetic to the common working man. His career began as a boy employed for several years by the Seneca mine in Pittston, Pa., as a door-tender, laborer, and miner. Working his way up, he became civil engineer to the Wyoming Valley Coal Company and contractor for the building of breakers in the anthracite region. From 1884 to 1899 as superintendent of the Simpson and Watkins company, Crawford was responsible for the development of the



William Shakespeare, one of the four stained glass windows portraying a literary figure.

Company. His rapid success and wealth were the result of his management of the Oxford Mine in West Scranton, when in 1902 he sustained victory over the Miners' Union during the great strike. For the six month strike period, the Oxford was the only mine to remain in operation maintaining that these miners were satisfied with their wages and conditions. "His determination to keep the colliery in operation was not due to a spirit of defiance.

As he stated at the time, he held the conviction that a man possessed the unrestricted right to work or not to work, at his own election, without any regard to the mandates of any organized body, especially when he was personally satisfied with his

Edgerton, Northwest, Grassy Island, Sterrick Creek, Lackawanna, Babylon, Mount Lookout, Forty Fort, and Harry E. collieries.

By 1901 James Crawford became the principle owner and president of the Peoples Coal

Advantages to Listing On National Register:

1. Recognition from the Secretary of the Interior that a property is significant and worthy of preservation.
2. Federal agencies must review any of their actions that may affect National Register properties, and allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, an independent federal agency, an opportunity to comment.
3. Federal agencies must consider National Register properties before issuing surface coal mining permits.
4. Owners of income producing National Register properties may apply for federal tax credits for the rehabilitation of these properties.
5. Owners of National Register properties may be eligible for income and estate tax deductions for charitable contributions of partial interests in historic property (easements).
6. Owners of National Register properties may receive federal preservation grants when they are available.
7. Many states use National Register listing as a requirement for state historic preservation benefits.

*Listing on the National Register does *not* give the federal government control over property that is privately owned.

wages and condition. (One miner earning as much as \$2,800. a year). Determined to continue work with the miners support, the company provided comfort and safety by erecting sleeping and eating quarters as well as an armed force to patrol the premises from would be attackers. While other mines were forced to shut down and succumb to the demands of the Union, the Oxford mine made a large fortune for the Company and the faithful employees were rewarded with generous bonuses. In addition to his success through these efforts, the Oxford mine was the only mine in the anthracite region at that time not to have a branch of the United Mine Workers' Union.

As a result of this fortune, Crawford erected the home on Monroe Avenue in 1902, replacing the home he had purchased from Arthur Frothingham in 1893.

The large structure is two and a half stories, with brick wall and stone water table cornices and lintels for the first two sto-

ries. The attic floor has stucco and timble wall featuring a modified English Tudor style. The roof is of black slate with copper trims and a copper pinnacle on the top of the pyramidal roof of the corner tower.

The house is enveloped by a deep porch and portecochere with stone cornices and carved gargoyles at the corners. The porch floor is completely inlaid mosaic tile featuring a large peacock and floral design.

The interior of the home embellished with richly carved oak woodwork, large fireplaces and mosaic tile throughout. The most noteworthy feature in the house is the stained glass which is everywhere. The original library of the house features four stained glass panels which depict the literary figures Shakespeare, Longfellow, Whittier, and Irving.

Also one of a kind is the stained glass within the bathrooms, featuring real sea shells affixed to the glass surface. The interior of each of the three bathrooms on the second floor have

mosaic tile and fixtures with painted floral design.

Today, these features only hint at the luxury and extraordinary beauty the house once possessed in its day. Through the years, as a detention center and juvenile courtroom for Lackawanna County, the home has suffered the usual deterioration that any building experiences over time no less without the attention of a "homeowner." It is often the case with residences which are utilized for operations other than their original intention, such as living.

It is also unfortunate that one of Lackawanna County's few



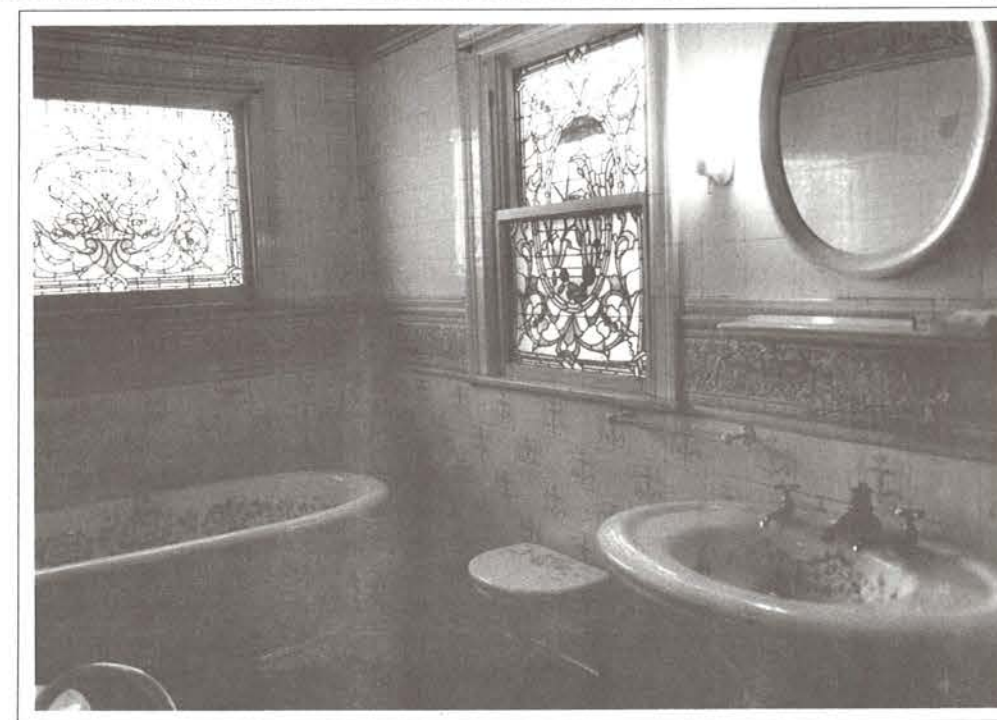
Stained glass windows throughout. This window is from one of the spacious bathrooms on the second floor.

National Historic Landmarks, can be cared for in this way. - MC

Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Brent D. Glass
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historic & Museum Commission
Post Office Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026

Sources:

National Register of Historic Places, 1966-1988; 1988; American Association for State and Local History; ; Nashville, TN. Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys; Vol.2 1906; Haydon Hand & Jordan; Scranton, PA. History of Scranton and Its People; 1914; Lewis Historical Publishing Co.; NY. National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form 32; 1979.



One of the master bathrooms. Note the stained glass and painted plumbing fixtures.