

UPCOMING AT THE LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

MARCH

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: HISTORICAL READING BY JAQUELINE MILLER BACHAR, DATE, LOCATION AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED.

APRIL 2-4

ANNUAL MEETING: THE PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF MUSEUMS & HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION, IN SCRANTON, PA.

MAY

HISTORIC PLACES OF WORSHIP TOUR
SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

THE LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
at THE GEORGE H. CATLIN HOUSE
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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The LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

Founded 1886

Volume 25, No. 1

ISSN 0895-1802

WINTER 1995



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BELINDA MULROONEY

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A Letter from the Director

Dear Members:

Looking back at the past year's accomplishments and activities, so much has come and gone before us. It's sometimes difficult to appreciate how far we have come while we set our sights on the future.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who, throughout the past year, have contributed their time and energy to the Lackawanna Historical Society. Among these are our Board of Trustees, our wonderful staff who give above and beyond the call of duty, and our dedicated volunteers who give more than we could ever repay them for. Thanks also to our guest lecturers who have provided programming for our members, and educational experiences for our staff and volunteers through our docent training program. This organization exists as it does today because of this kind of support.

We also exist because of your continued support. With the advent of a new year we acknowledge that we rely greatly on your membership

dues which help us to continue hosting quality programs, maintaining irreplaceable collections, and fostering the preservation of our local history.

Also, we now need to turn to you for your gifts to our annual campaign. For the past three years, many of the funding sources which supported historical societies and museums across the state- and the country- have been cut, and the future for these kinds of funding sources does not look bright. Many of you have contributed to this campaign and we truly appreciate your generosity. However, for those of you who have yet to give, we still need your assistance. If you have not given to the annual campaign, please consider it. (Read about the exciting developments of our campaign on page 9.) We believe that the Lackawanna Historical Society is a valuable resource - we hope you do too.

Thank you and best wishes for the new year!

Maryellen Calemno
Executive Director

Frances Atherton Birmingham 1916-1994

The Lackawanna Historical Society has recently lost a long time supporter and friend, Fran Birmingham. A native of Scranton, she was the widow of the late Fred A. Birmingham, and the daughter of the late Fred B. and Ruth Lansing Atherton. Fran was an author, editor and served as the women's program director of the former Scranton television station WTVU, where she wrote, directed and presented programs on fashion, dancing, news and special features. In addition, she collaborated on a number of books with her husband Fred, who was well known in the publishing industry, most notably as the editor of *Gentlemen's Quarterly*, *Esquire Magazine*, and director of the revival of the *Saturday Evening Post*. The couple were best known locally, perhaps, for "The Wedding Book," a complete wedding guide which they co-authored.

Fran actively served on the Board of Trustees of the Lackawanna Historical Society. Until her death, she was also active in serving as a member of the Society's Fashions & Textile Committee. She knew so much about fashion history that we always consulted her when attempting to identify the dates of specific styles and fabrics.

Along with her wealth of knowledge, she was a dedicated woman who believed in the Historical Society. We will greatly miss her.

On the Cover: The Hershfield Family of Scranton from a real-photo postcard. Collection: Lackawanna Historical Society.

CORRECTION: The issue number for the Fall, 1994 Newsletter should have been Volume 24, Number 4.

The Lackawanna Historical Society 1994-95

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The Lackawanna Historical Society is a non-profit organization which is dedicated to keeping vital the history of Lackawanna County.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is published by The Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18510
Tel. (717) 344-3841.

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$22 and up for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$125 for organizations.

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FUND RAISING UPDATE:

As you know, the Lackawanna Historical Society has launched its first capital campaign since 1988. The purpose of the campaign is to underwrite the Society's activities and programs. One of the more important examples of our activities is the Archives Preservation Project, through which we continue preserving some of the County's most important documents for research and study.

Our goal to be reached by the end of our fiscal year on April 30, is \$25,000.

There are often misconceptions regarding the financial situation of the Lackawanna Historical Society. In an effort to allow our supporters to understand our financial situation better, let us clarify some of the most common misconceptions for you here.

As the officially designated historical society in Lackawanna County, the Lackawanna Historical Society is fully subsidized by the County.

This is about 10% accurate. Since 1965, Lackawanna County has designated the Society as the official historical society representing Lackawanna County. Since that time, we have received a quarterly appropriation dependent upon the availability of funds on an annual basis. The current appropriation is \$7,187, which is less than 10% of the Society current operating budget of \$84,000.

The Society is supported by a Trust Fund. Yes, the Society is supported in part by the George Catlin Memorial Fund. The fund was established by George H.

Catlin, prior to his death in 1935. It was created to assist in the maintenance and operations of the Catlin House which was his residence. Following the death of Mr. & Mrs. Catlin, the Catlin House became the permanent headquarters of the Society. Over the years the Society's operations have greatly grown and the income from the trust no longer covers all expenses. Income derived from the George Catlin Memorial Trust in 1994 was \$27,000. This no longer completely covers the cost of maintaining and operating the Catlin House.

Membership Dues support all the programming for the Society.

With less than 500 paying members in 1994, income derived from membership amounted to \$10,000. Funds were allocated for printing and mailing costs of newsletters and invitations relating to programs and special events. Funds also underwrote the rental of audio equipment needed by guest speakers as the system owned by the Society no longer functions.

Generally, speakers to the Society donate their time and energy for the benefit of the organization and to foster interest in local history. Additional costs associated with programming include: the use of our computer and copier machine; and the staff time spent developing newsletters, press releases, program invitations, etc.

In addition to these funding sources, the Society received a grant in this fiscal year for \$4000 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. This funding is dispersed for general operations of the Society excluding salary for professional employees.

As you can see, the revenue generated no longer supports the growth and activity of the Society's operations.

To those of you who have contributed to our annual campaign, we sincerely thank you. However, we still need to reach our goal by April 30. If you have not contributed, you can

tear out the campaign card below and mail to us at the Catlin House.

At this time, I am pleased to report that we have raised \$12,770, a little over 50% of our \$25,000 goal. Of the \$12,770, we have had over 90% participation by our Board of Trustees who contributed \$5,450. We have also raised \$3,750, from individual and corporate gifts and \$3,570, from our general membership.

Should you have further questions or comments regarding the Annual Campaign, please call the Society at (717) 344-3841.

*Following the close of our current fiscal year, April 30, 1995, the Society will publish for the first time a *year's end financial report*, for the benefit of our membership and future supporters.

The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent that the law provides.

1994-95 Annual Fund Raising Campaign

Yes, I am still interested in supporting the Lackawanna Historical Society's Annual Campaign.

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of: \$ _____

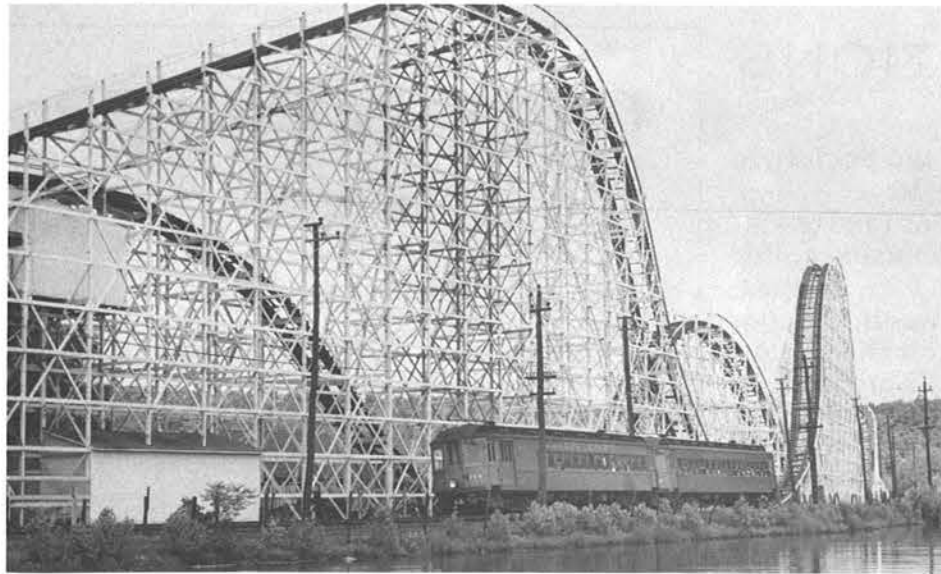
Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Date: _____

Mail to: The Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Ave. Scranton PA 18510



**Rail Fans DON'T MISS:
"Ed Miller's Anthracite Traction"**

Trustee and long time member of the Lackawanna Historical Society Ed Miller, has often been the source for hard to locate information on the area's transportation history. Just recently he collaborated with the production company *Transit Gloria Mundi* to produce the one hour, soon to be released, video "Ed Miller's Anthracite Traction, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and the Laurel Line." According to *Transit Gloria Mundi*, "Two medium size city streetcar systems and the high-speed interurban which connected them are the subject of Ed Miller's superb motion picture camerawork." On this film you will see the Laurel Line from Scranton to Wilkes-Barre and the freight-only branch to Minooka, featuring their 19th-century-design locomotives. In addition, the Scranton Transit operations, post WWII track removal and car scrapping, are all part of Ed's camerawork. For further information on obtaining this video please call us at 344-3841.

NEW PUBLICATION TO BE RELEASED

Local author, Jack Hiddlestone and Society Director, Maryellen Calemno have teamed up to compile an historical piece on Lackawanna County. Using real photo postcards from Hiddlestone's collection as well as from the Historical Society and local collectors, the team is producing a book which will provide a general overview of the County's history. The focus will really be the historical images depicting scenes which in some cases, have changed dramatically, and in other cases appear not to have changed at all.

Jack Hiddlestone's 1985 publication, "Greetings From Scranton," which was a huge success, has been out of print since 1990. The publication realized over \$10,000.00 which was donated to the Society.

This new picture post card look at Lackawanna County will be completed by the Fall of 1995. For further information or contributions to this project, give us a call.

New Publications

THE LACKAWANNA RIVER GUIDE by Bernard McGurl. Published by the Lackawanna River Corridor Association, 1994. Includes a history of the Lackawanna Valley and the Lackawanna River. 77 pages. \$7

SCRANTON'S HISTORIC FURNACES by Daniel K. Perry. Published by the Iron Furnace Associates and the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, 1994. 47 pages, incl. illustrations. \$6.25.

Also...

LIFE ON THE OHIO FRONTIER. Letters From Mary Lott to Deacon John Phillips 1826-1846 by Jacqueline Miller Bachar. Published 1994. Includes historical information on the Phillips Family, the Lott Family and the Williams Family. 149 pages, incl. illustrations. \$27.

The Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society's 1995 Railway Calendar. \$5

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY
T - SHIRTS FOR SALE**



Lackawanna
Historical
Society

100% unbleached cotton t-shirts, designed and produced locally by AEO Printing Co. The design is from a historic photo in the Society's collection. Membership price \$12. Medium, Large, X-Large.

**HAPPENINGS AT THE
CATLIN HOUSE**

**Behind the Scenes
INVENTORY &
ORGANIZATION**

During the months of January and February, the staff of the Society will be concentrating on an inventory and re-organization of archival materials which are in storage. If you are seriously interested in volunteering your time to assist us, please give us a call at 344-3841. Volunteers are needed specifically to inventory paper documents and books. This project will allow us to make materials which are in storage accessible to the public. It will also assist us in our current development of a long range plan.

**Behind the Scenes
RESEARCH**

In November, the Society began to research Helen Walsh Catlin, second wife of George Henry Catlin, benefactor of the Lackawanna Historical Society, in an attempt to learn more about her life, her husband, and her home, the Catlin House. With the assistance of volunteer Elise Fleckenstein, and LHS member Louise Finetti, the staff began to research a variety of undocumented stories. Thus far our research has turned up some very interesting and helpful information. Locating the local news announcement of Mr. Catlin's second marriage, we learned that Helen Walsh was employed at the Archbald Home, the former residence of George Catlin and his first wife Mary Archbald. Through our re-

search we have also been able to find Helen's death certificate, obituary and last will and testament. This documentation revealed her age, and contrary to earlier beliefs, showed that she lived in the Catlin House until three months before her death. Louise Finetti discovered that three of Helen's nieces are still living in the area. Upon further investigation, we spoke to the youngest of the three who informed us that she often visited the Catlin House, when her aunt "Ellie," as she was called, and uncle George lived there. Mrs. Catlin's niece will soon be our guest as we record her memories and learn more about the life of George and Helen Catlin.

If anyone has any additional information relating to Helen Walsh Catlin, the Catlin family or the Catlin House, please share it with us.

EXHIBITION WORK
Staff and Volunteers have begun to update and re-organize the exhibits in the Catlin House. The Civil War room on the Second Floor is the first area to receive attention. The artifacts will be organized sequentially with new label copy to better identify the items on display as they relate to local history. As a result of our docent training sessions, we will exhibit copies of original architectural drawings of the Catlin House by Edward Langley. Each floor will display the corresponding drawing to inform visitors of each room's original function.

**Thank you Volunteers
and New Members**

On September 21, LHS volunteers and new members were recognized for their support at a reception held at the Catlin House. It was an excellent opportunity for everyone to meet each other and for the staff to say thank you. The Historical Society thanks speakers and participants in our fall programs: Homer Butler, Sherron Biddle and Alan Sweeney, the Sierra Club, and Dan Perry.

NEW LIFE TO OLD ROOM
Thanks to the volunteer services of Jack Hiddlestone, the dining room at the Catlin House has been recently beautified. After a great deal of thought on a color, Jack repaired the plaster walls and completely painted the dining room. Special thanks also to Jerry Holmes who donated his services to the repair of the decorative molded plaster ceiling. It is truly beautiful.

GRANTS AWARDED

Funding has recently been awarded to the Lackawanna Historical Society by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in their grant category for general operating support. This funding is available only to officially recognized County Historical Societies in Pennsylvania. This year's grant was made in the amount of \$4,000, almost 50% of the amount which was requested. Historical Societies may only request funds for general operations which are matched by their County Government. However the cap on Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission grants is at \$10,000.

Since 1990, the Lackawanna Historical Society has received an appropriation from Lackawanna County in the amount of \$7,187.00, with an anticipated increase in 1995.

The Historical Society has just recently been notified of an award through the city of Scranton's Office of Economic and Community Development in the amount of \$25,000. This funding comes to us through the historic facade grant program. Funds will be used to replace the roof of the front porch of the Catlin House as well as to repair all damage which occurred over the years as a result of the failure of the porch roof and gutter system. Work will also include restoration of iron railings on porch and porch roof, restoration of carved wood brackets at exterior of porch roof line and possibly re-pointing of masonry at front porch columns. Work is expected to be completed by Summer 1995.

The Search For Belinda Mulrooney

by Jack Jackson

Earlier this year, when Iris Warner wrote us from her home in British Columbia to inquire about Belinda Mulrooney, she could not foresee the flurry of research activity her letter would generate. Mulrooney, she told us, was a woman who left our area at age eighteen for the bright lights of Chicago's Columbian Exposition in 1893, then went on to make (and lose) several fortunes in the Great Alaskan Gold Rush as an entrepreneur and hotelier. A number of books on the Gold Rush describe her as "a coal miner's daughter from Scranton," but little is known of Belinda Mulrooney's origins and upbringing.

"I would like to learn a bit more about her years in Scranton," Mrs. Warner wrote, "where she may have learned the ways of mining men, and had enough education to make finances easy for her."

Our search got off to a lucky start. One of our staff lives next door to a 90-year old woman from Archbald who knows the community's history well and recalls neighborhood talk about "the Mulrooney girl who left town and struck it rich in Alaska." This woman owns a book in which there is a photo of Belinda with her dog--a large affable canine immortalized as *Buck* in Jack London's *Call of the Wild*. But we calculated Belinda's year of birth to have been around 1875, and the 1880 census does not list her among Archbald's coal mining Mulrooneys. The next census, that of 1890, was taken for the purpose of Civil War pension verification only, and by 1900 of course, Belinda was no longer here.

Checking into Iris Warner's sources, we found ample corroboration for the details surrounding Belinda Mulrooney's Alaskan career. She arrived in Dawson, on the Alaska-Canada border, in 1897, and cleverly invested her savings in dry goods, cotton clothing, and hot water bottles. Her profits were used to buy mining shares and to build hotels in Grand Forks and Dawson. The Dawson establishment, Fair View Hotel, offered European-style luxury in the remote wilds of North America.

"It is well-located on high ground on Front Street," reported the Klondike Nugget in 1898, "is three stories high, and has 30 guest rooms, besides a ladies' parlor, gentlemen's smoking room, and Turkish bath. Every

room is elegantly furnished and the hotel is fitted up with telephones, hot air for heating, and with electric lights."

Before the Fair View burned in 1899, a frequent business caller was Charles Eugene Carbonneau, a champagne salesman who presented himself as a French Count--though at least one source insists he was a Montreal barber. Whatever else Charles was, he was charming and persuasive: Belinda became Mme. Le. Comtesse Carbonneau in 1900. Thereafter, her reservoir of cash emptied rapidly, and the Carbonneaus divorced in 1906. However, Belinda Mulrooney still possessed her remarkable business skills and amassed another fortune, with the help of her sister, Margaret, in Fairbanks. She retired to her stone castle outside Yakima, Washington, moving eventually to Seattle when her money ran out. Belinda Mulrooney died in 1967.

She was an extraordinary personality, and many stories have been woven into her Klondike legend. Here is one of our favorites:

Returning to Dawson via dog sled from a trip to Skagway, Belinda came upon a woman collapsed in the snow. She loaded the woman onto the sled and mushed-on into camp. There she found that two old-time prospectors had taken advantage of the unwritten law of the North extending unlimited hospitality to all in times of blizzard and sub-zero cold. They were comfortably asleep in her tent. Belinda's dilemma was just where to put the frozen woman. "Put her right between us," one of the miners said. "She'll be as safe as if she was in God's pocket." And so she was. Thawed out and revived, the woman continued with them to Dawson in search of her Norwegian husband. Belinda located the man and delivered his bride safe and sound. Gesturing to the two prospectors, the woman exclaimed "Honey come here and take a look. These are the men I slept with on the trail!"

The Society has since learned that the Mulrooneys arrived from County Mayo, Ireland, in 1885, when Belinda would have been about ten years old. Beyond that, we have no information about her early years in Archbald. If any of her clan still reside in the area, we would love to hear from them.

We owe Iris Warner a letter.



Belinda Mulrooney of the Forks

1995 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AWARENESS PROJECT

A Curriculum Competition sponsored by The Pennsylvania Commission for Women March 1995

Competition open to everyone in Pennsylvania. Entrants are asked to research a woman within their community who is not well known and submit an article, 1000 words or less, telling what was learned about her. It should be written in an interesting manner and should include documented resources and a photograph of the woman if possible. The woman could be a friend or relative about whom you have heard stories or whose letters or diaries you have read.

Articles will be reviewed in February, and winners will be honored at an awards ceremony in March, Women's History Month, at the State Capitol. The first place winner will receive \$100; second, \$50; third, \$25.

For applications and guidelines contact the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, Room 209 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, or call (717) 787-8128. SUBMISSIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 27, 1995.

RECENT DONATIONS

Thanks to all who have donated to the Society in the last few months. Donors include:

Marcia Wilson, Leonia, NJ: Hubler family history; *Christopher C. Wollyung, Bloomsburg, PA:* 1880 newspaper advertisement for J. G. Thomas, tailor in Hyde Park; *Charles Henwood, Tampa, FL:* 1916-17 photograph of Scranton City Council and a photograph of the Baptist Church fire on Scranton Street; *Cecilia Philbin, Archbald:* 1895 autograph book belonged to Cecilia Lenore Swift signed by her co-workers at ICS; *Charlotte Van Deusen, Scranton:* Collection of programs and bulletins of the Junior League of Scranton; *Frances Birmingham, Scranton:* *The Science of Penology* by Henry M. Boies and *Secrets of the Natural World* collection from Readers Digest; *William Tyler, Lake Ariel:* *An Address: Thomas A. Edison, Individualist* by George Maxey, 1950; *Marge Gray, Jacksonville, FL:* *Picture History of Club Activities, Press Pictures and Notices 1926-19-*; *John Q. Feller, Scranton:* Framed photograph of Scranton, 1929, album of views of the Woolworth Home taken by John Horgan, and six small photographs showing scenes in Scranton; *Dorrance R. Belin, Scranton:* Civil Defense uniform belonged to Constance Reynolds Belin; *Dr. Charles W. Belin, Jr., Scranton:* Opera hat in box from Brooks Brothers; *Mary B. Rhodes, Scranton:* Opera hat in box marked Alois Speck Pelz.-Hut.-and Mutzenhandlung ZUG; *Lucie B. Steele, Scranton:* Opera hat in box marked Rogers Peet and Company, New York City; *Dorothy Morgan, Honesdale:* Cross family history; *Joe Robertson, Seaford, DE:* Stamp from Scranton's Mayor's office for James G. Bailey; *Dorothy Noone, Scranton:* Fan from the Fidelity Bank in Dunmore; *Mrs. Lewis Healy, Waverly:* Samuel Healy collection including family wedding gown; *Paul Lenakos, Scranton:* Globe Store credit card.

Note about collections: It is the policy of The Lackawanna Historical Society to collect artifacts which have relevance to Lackawanna County. Following review, we will make recommendations on items to be accessioned to our collection.

*Items of particular interest to us at this time: Family histories; children's clothing pre-1950; Photographs circa 1940 through 1960 of local events and scenes.

GIFTS RECEIVED

In memory of

the Scheuer Family
by William J. Curnow

Frances Atherton Birmingham
by Joseph F. Cimini, Esq.
by Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Graham
by Miss Marie Schriever Smith

William Millhime
by Mrs. John Mears, Jr.

All contributions to the Lackawanna Historical Society are tax deductible to the fullest extent that the law provides. Memorial contributions are placed within a Memorial Fund which is not used for general operations.

Welcome New Members

Individual

Janet Brennan	Carbondale
Dr. Rodney D. Brown	River Edge, NJ
Rella J. Smih Bruce	Cincinnati, OH
Rick Chojnowski	Dickson City
Mark A. Cruciani	Scranton
Thomas Doherty	Scranton
Joellen Flynn	Taylor
Philip A. Hackett	Valley Forge
Jack Jackson	Scranton
Richard Kachinski	Scranton
Julie C. Keenan	Dunmore
Joan A. Lavelle	Scranton
Howard Otto	Fleetville
Edward O. Wells	Washington, DC
Glenn Young	San Mateo, CA

Family

Donald Y. Nicholas	Clarks Summit
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RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

POSTCARD MEMORIES...

Researched by Jack Hiddlestone

When we think of old postcards, most of us immediately remember the standard "Greetings from Atlantic City" or "Greetings from Scranton" cards, or maybe the busy street scene of tall buildings sent from large cities. Then again, we might first think of the awesome outdoors represented on many early and even present day cards. But old postcards went far beyond these categories. They documented social habits, clothing, transportation, advertising, architecture, and even politics.

The card shown here was a political advertising postcard published for John R. Farr, one of Scranton's best known turn-of-the-century politicians. Farr was born in Scranton on July 18, 1857. He was educated in local public schools and attended the School of the Lackawanna, the Keystone Academy, Phillips Academy and Lafayette College. In his early political career, he was elected to the local school board, and though a Republican, represented the 14th Ward, a Democratic stronghold. In 1890, he was elected to the state legislature for the first of five terms during the 1890's and became

Speaker of the House in 1899. While serving in that office, he campaigned for, and won, the fight for compulsory education. This was approved by Governor Hastings in 1895. He also championed the enactment of the Free Textbook Law in 1893. Other states soon followed Pennsylvania's lead in this direction. He fought for reforestation, conservation, reduction of Government spending, the eight-hour workday, and protection of the American flag from degradation and its use for advertising purposes.

He was elected

to the 62nd, 63rd, and 64th Congresses and during his first term secured a public building for Olyphant. Mr. Farr also is credited with having introduced the bill into Congress which gave free rural mail service to Lackawanna County.

In addition to all of this, Farr was city editor of the Republican newspaper in Scranton and published the West Side Courier Progress for many years.

Scranton's *Farr Street* and the old *Farr Building*, that once stood at 141 Adams Avenue, were named for him. John

Farr died on December 11, 1933, in West Side Hospital, an institution established through his efforts in the 1890's when he served in the state legislature.

A quote from Col. Frederick L. Hitchcock's *History of Scranton and its People*, 1914, pays tribute to Farr:

"Whenever the question of fitness for public position of the Honorable John R. Farr has been left for the decision at the polls, the verdict has invariably been in his favor."



When we were Kids, we did not have Free School Books. Our children have-- Thanks to John R. Farr.

The above postcard shows children surrounding a neighborhood game of marbles. The print on the bottom of the photo says, "When we were kids we did not have free school books. Our children have-- Thanks to John R. Farr." Printed on the back of the card: "John R. Farr, Republican candidate for Congress." It also lists five of his accomplishments including compulsory education, eight-hour workday and the law to protect the American flag.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Welcome to new volunteers at the Historical Society: Susanne Christy, Patrick Kennedy, Tom Bobroski and Elise Fleckenstein.

Patrick Kennedy, a Boston native, is a senior at Scranton Prep. He learned about the Catlin House from former LHS volunteer and Prep graduate, Ed Kerber. Patrick has completed our docent training to be able to assist us in guiding tours at the Catlin House. On a regular basis, he has been assisting us in answering some of our written research requests.

Tom Bobroski and Susanne Christy are freshmen at the University of Scranton who signed up to volunteer at this year's Collegiate Volunteer Fair. Both are Physical Therapy majors, and although they are not natives to the area, they enjoy learning about local history. Their work at the Historical Society will fulfill required community service hours at the University. Susanne has been cataloging our slide collection and Tom is helping update our Fine Art Inventory. They first visited the Catlin House as part of a tour conducted by their English Composition professor and LHS docent, Leo Walsh.

Elise Fleckenstein is also from the University of Scranton. She is a senior History major and wants to gain some practical experience in an historic setting. She has been assisting us in a research project involving records at the Lackawanna County Courthouse, and by transcribing a collection of oral histories as part of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council's "Raising our Sites: Women's History in Pennsylvania" project.

* * *

A special thanks to the Gavern family who assisted us once again in cutting and delivering our Christmas tree. Also, thanks to the Sweeneys for their assistance in decorating the Catlin House and our trees. And, thanks to all of our docents who dressed in costume and provided candlelight tours this holiday season.

DOCENT TRAINING

In October, the Historical Society began its new docent training Program. Volunteers wishing to learn more about the Historical Society and its collections for their own information or perhaps more importantly, to share their knowledge with visitors to the Catlin House through guided tours, attended the Wednesday evening classes. Each session consisted of a topic relevant to the collections and exhibits. New topics this year included the Civil War, railroading in Lackawanna County, and a look at the changing roles of women over the last three centuries.

Thanks to all participants including speakers Kurt Reed, Maria Montoro-Quinn, Richard Stanislaus, Jack Riley, Susan Poulson, Maurice MacNamara, Donald Powell and Sandra Whitlock.

New docents include Michael Bufalino, Louise Hoban, Mary Theresa Montoro, Nancy McNelis, and Patrick Kennedy.



HISTORICAL MARKER IN THROOP

In October the Lackawanna Historical Society participated in the dedication of an Official Historical Marker commemorating the 1911 anthracite mining disaster in Throop, Pennsylvania where 72 miners and one government rescue worker lost their lives at the Pancoast Mine as the result of a fire. Because of this tragedy, state legislation was enacted requiring that all interior buildings at coal mines be constructed of incombustible materials.

The Official State Historical Marker program, administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, places outdoor public markers throughout the State to mark significant events throughout the history of the Commonwealth.

Making remarks at the dedication ceremony were: Penn State University Professor of History Harold Aurand, Ph. D.; Pennsylvania State Representative Gaynor Cawley; Assistant to Senator Robert Mellow, Thomas Browning; representing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Curator of the Anthracite Museum Complex, Chester Kulesa; Mayor Stanley Lukowski of Throop; former mayor of Throop, John Srecco; the Rev. August Ricciardi and Rev. Robert Harris; representing the Heritage Valley Authority, Annette Schultz; and Historical Society Director Maryellen Calemme. Also, the Throop Choral Group performed during the ceremony. Funding for the sign was made possible through the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. The marker is permanently located on Charles Street in front of the Throop Borough building.



SOS! UPDATE

Students from East Scranton Junior High School and Scranton High School, assisted the Society by participating in the national initiative, SOS!, Save Outdoor Sculpture. In October, students were trained by project coordinator Sherron Biddle of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission at the Catlin House.