

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

All events are free and open to the public unless noted that there is a fee \$.
Future notices will provide further information or you can call 344-3841.

May 15

Annual LHS Dinner Lackawanna Station at the Radisson 6:30pm
Mark A Snell, editor of Ezra Hoyt Ripple's memoirs of his captivity
in Andersonville and Florence prisons during the Civil War (\$30).

May 17

Annual *Places of Worship Tour: Dunmore*
Join us as we celebrate the National Trust's Historic Preservation
Week by highlighting some of the oldest churches in the borough
of Dunmore (\$12).

Summer

The Lackawanna Historical Society hosts guided tours Tuesdays
through Saturdays between 1&3P.M.

**Looking to
the Fall**

Second Annual Brew Festival at Montage (Sept.26-28)
The Polish National Church Tour & Lecture
Identifying Oriental Carpets
Archival Workshop & more

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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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Happenings

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Information

Dear Members,

This is my first correspondence as President to address our membership on many important facets of our Society.

1997 will be very challenging in regard to needed repairs to the Catlin House, keeping our expenses in line with our budget, additional income development, increasing our membership, completing Frogs in the Beer Pail and becoming more user friendly.

Without the help of our Trustees, dedicated volunteers, and our ever loyal staff, my job would be difficult. We are always in need of more volunteers to conduct tours, work in our library, catalog, research, and assist in archival preservation. Please call the Society today and ask for a job; your volunteerism will be appreciated.

Some very exciting programs are coming up, including the Annual Dinner, Places of Worship Tour and Second Annual Micro Brewfest. Please join us when you can.

Sincerely,
Alan Sweeney



On the cover: Scene along the Lackawanna River near Jermyrn. Ca. 1900

Welcome New Board Members

William Chessick
Douglas Forrer
Richard Leonori
Paul Mansour
Richard Matthews, Ph.D.
Arlene Devereaux O'Hara
Ella Rayburn

Trustees Emeritus

The following Trustees have been elected to the status of Trustee Emeritus for their many years of service, commitment and generosity.

George Broadbent
Willard Henkelman, Esq.
Edward S. Miller

Thank you gentlemen.

The Lackawanna Historical Society 1997

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George Houck, Esq. *1st Vice President*
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Eileen Pocius *3rd Vice President*
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Mary Ann Moran, *Administrative Assistant*
Mary Ann Gavern, *Museum Receptionist*
Jack & Nancy Hiddlestone, *Caretakers*

The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501(C)(3) 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, \$125 for organizations, and \$500 for corporations.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is printed in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Entire contents copyrighted 1997 by The Lackawanna Historical Society. Questions or comments can be addressed in writing directly to the Society.

Recent Donations

Thanks to all who have made donations to the Society's collection in the past year. Listing includes donations received between July, 1996 through March 1997:

Marylee Schirg: Dalton Shoemaker Cemetery Records; Wyoming Historical and Geological Society: Lackawanna County publications; Phil Gast: Archbald High School diploma and class photograph; Mrs. William Davis: Wyoming Valley Commandery ribbon; Kenneth Wilmarth: local history clippings; Alan Sweeney: recent issues of Historic Preservation and local brochures; Romaine Bell Perritte: Miller and Foster families histories; Steven Mull: America, Then and Now; Cecile Champagne: Rodham family history and related materials, Robert Booth: Lackawanna Junior College at Central souvenir booklet and local newspapers; Mark Boock: photographs and Where Duty Calls, There You Will Find US, Firefighting in Scranton; Mildred Pretzer: Winter family history; J. Paul Thompson: Thompson family history; Robert Evans: photograph of Woodlawn Dairy; H. Ray Fister: Stoehr and Fister information and related materials; Leda Baldassari: St. Francis of Assisi 75th anniversary; Bill Piccone: reproduction of Inness Painting "The Lackawanna Valley"; Don Reina: Artwork of Scranton, part 2; Herbert Barton: Central High School class of 1937 collection; Fred Lidle: list of PA residents whose names are listed on the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Wall; Thelma Sutton Rogal: Lackawanna Railroad photographs and artifacts; Kitty Dye: Moconaquah's Story, the Saga of Frances Slocum; Peter Walenta: local political scrapbook and related materials.

Final Frogs Benefit

"An Evening of Music and Dance to Celebrate Our Anthracite Heritage" was held on Saturday April 19th from 6pm to 10pm at the Lakeside Ballroom in Barnesville. Tickets sales benefited the completion of Frogs in the Beer Pail documentary. Entertainment included John Stanky and the Coal Miners, Tom Flannery, the Irish Balladeers, and the Faberge Follies dancers. The night was filmed to be used as part of the documentary.

On Sale in our BOOK SHOP

If you are looking for a different gift idea why not stop by the Catlin House Book Shop to purchase a local history publication or photographic reproduction. The Historical Society also offers a selection of notecards showing historic images including Lackawanna Avenue, the Scranton Bicycle Club, Pennsylvania Railroad car and the Breaker Boys. Or if you are interested in something really different, the Society is offering t-shirts and glasses from last year's Micro Brew Festival. These one-of-a-kind items list the participating breweries, event sponsors, and the year to commemorate the 1996 fund raiser that has become an annual event with planning for the 1997 event already underway!

Reminder

Don't forget to purchase a copy of the memoirs of Ezra Ripple, DANICING ALONG THE DEADLINE before May 15th and bring it to the Annual Dinner where editor Mark Snell will be happy to sign it!

Memorial Contributions

In Memory of Albert F. Fries, Sr.
From Mr. and Mrs. William I. Pentecost
Marie Shriever Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Post Sr.

In Memory of Charlotte Van Deusen
From Mr. and Mrs. Peter Axford
Mr. and Mrs. John Hiddlestone
Mrs. H. L. Swenson
Jane Dakin
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Campbell
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Marie Shriever Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Roswell Patterson

In Memory of Ira T. Broadbent
From Mrs. Barbara Mears
Mr. and Mrs. Roswell Patterson
Mrs. Leola Collins
Mrs. Carol K. Gemmell

Memorial contributions are not used for general operations. If you would like to make a contribution to something specific, please discuss it with the Society's Director.



A Very Special Thanks

for the following most charitable contributions to the Society's annual operations:

\$1,000 gift of Marie Smith
\$1,000 gift of Anonymous Donor



WISH LIST:

Oriental Rugs
Funding For:
Shelving
Library Furniture
Archival Supplies
ETC

New Members

Individual

Frank J. Grasso, Sr.	Scranton
Jean Colombo	Waverly
Margaret Hulsman	Clarks Summit
Richard Nicholoff	La Mirada, California
Mary M. Bennie	Moosic
Joseph Long, Jr.	Duryea
Helen Biggar	Dunmore
Rita Browne	Jermyn
Donna McTeigue	Odgensburg, NY
Joan Bennie	Moosic

Student

Maura Calderone	Dunmore
Mary Jo Neilan	Scranton
Robert Evans	Scranton

Family

William G. Chessick, Jr.	Waverly
Cheryl Bunger	Severna Park, Md

Sustaining

Barbara E. Price, MD	New York, NY
Stephen H. Price	Wernersville

Contributing

Carl J. Savino, Jr.	Scranton
Martha L. Phillips	Scranton
Mr./Mrs. John L. Chipak	Silver Spring, Md

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER:

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAST DUE. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RENEWED FOR 1997, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE SOCIETY IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY GRANTS FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION AND LACKAWANNA COUNTY. REVENUE GENERATED FROM MEMBERSHIP DUES REPRESENTS MORE THAN 10% OF OUR CURRENT ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET. WE RELY ON YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

THANK YOU!

Volunteer Corner

Welcome to new volunteers Janice Patterson, Maura Calderone, Steven Smith, and Mary Bonner.

Janice Patterson is a graduate of Wells College with a B.A. in English, and Marywood College School of Library Science M.L.S. Janice is a Trustee of the Society and currently chairs the program committee. She has also served on the boards of the Junior League of Scranton, the Everhart Museum, the Lackawanna Arts Council and the Abington Community Library. She has written book reviews for the Children's Book Review Service for 8 years. She began volunteering at the Society this year and is instrumental in preparing the quarterly bulletin, organizing program publicity and cataloging library materials.

Maura Calderone joined the LHS volunteers last fall and has been one of the Saturday regulars. A senior at Dunmore High School, Maura plans to attend Marywood in September to major in English and minor in Fine Art. Her interests include writing, poetry and history, especially in the form of old houses and objects. Maura works in various areas at the Catlin House including filing, research, and contributing articles to the bulletin.

Steven Smith, a junior, is a finance major and History minor at the University of Scranton. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Steven has a strong interest in local history and thought the Historical Society would be an enjoyable way to fulfill community service hours for school. He is currently inventoring and refiling maps and has assisted in conducting various collections inventories.

Mary Bonner is a senior at the University with a double major in English and History. Raised in Long Island, she currently resides in Lakehurst, NJ when not attending the University. She is volunteering at the Catlin House to learn different types of research techniques which will prepare her for a career in a research field. She also hopes to learn more about the history of Lackawanna County.

April 13-19 was Volunteer Recognition Week and the Society recognizes all of its volunteers who have assisted us in making such excellent progress in the last year. Volunteers spent a total of 567 hours since April, 1996 working at the Catlin House in all aspects including cataloging, research, and guiding tours. Honorable mention goes to:

Maurice MacNamara	67 hours
Jack Hiddlestone	61 hours
Edwin Kuchinski	58 hours
Bridget Conlogue	55 hours
Michael Bufalino	53 hours

Thanks to these volunteers for their dedication and continued support. Active Volunteers currently include: Maurice and Rita MacNamara, Michael Bufalino, Steven Smith, Mary Bonner, Edwin Kuchinski, Bridget Conlogue, Alexandra Caruso, Ann Marie O'Hara, Mark Cruciani, Richard Stanislaus, Maura Calderone, Arlene Devereaux O'Hara, Jack & Nancy Hiddlestone, Sandra Maxson, Janice Patterson.

Society Happenings

LHS Annual Dinner to feature *Dancing Along the Deadline* editor

For the members of the Lackawanna Historical Society our annual dinner meeting May 15th at the Radisson should be especially interesting. Mark A. Snell, editor of Ezra Hoyt Ripple's Civil War memories, *Dancing Along the Deadline*, will present a slide lecture on Ripple's incarceration at Andersonville and Florence prisons during the War between the States. A noted scholar of the Civil War, Snell is the director of the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War at Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, W. Virginia.

Ezra Hoyt Ripple was a young private of the 52nd Pennsylvania Regiment who had been a soldier only 2 1/2 months before being captured July 1864. How he survived nine months of captivity in Florence and Andersonville prisons, the latter designed to hold 10,000 men but housing 31,000 at the time of his imprisonment, provides a fascinating Civil War epic.

Born in Mauch Chunk, Pa (now Jim Thorpe), Ripple moved to Scranton in 1857 and worked with his father as a hotel proprietor and had become a druggist before enlisting in the 52nd Regiment in March 1864.

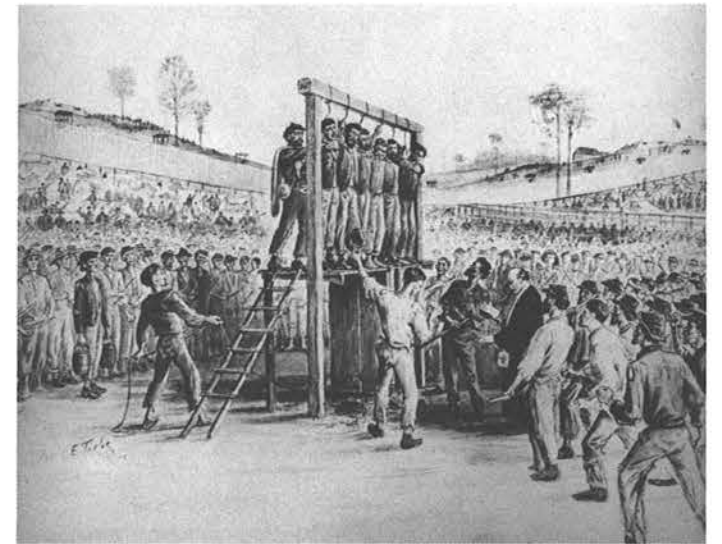
Following the War, Ripple returned to Scranton where he became active in politics and was elected County Treasurer in 1879 and Mayor in 1886. Appointed Postmaster by President McKinley, he was active in community affairs and was one of the founders of the Scranton School for the Deaf. As an active member of the Pennsylvania National Guard, he rose to Colonel in 1888.

RESEARCH

The Lackawanna Historical Society is often a source to the community of helpful answers to local history and genealogical inquiries. Recently, a letter came to the Catlin House from Joseph G. Pais, Chairman of Programs and Exhibits of *Remembering the Maine* Commission in Key West, Florida, requesting any information on Paul Loftus, USS Maine explosion survivor.

In 1998, the U. S. Battleship Maine Centennial Commission is planning a series of events, exhibits, and seminars to be held in Key West. A major part of the commemoration exhibit will focus on the crew of the Maine. Planners are asking for any related photographs, letters, or documents relating to crew members or the USS Maine.

If you have any information, please contact the Society or respond directly to Mr. Pais at U.S. Battleship Maine Centennial Commission, 3501 South Roosevelt Boulevard, Key West Florida 33040.



At his sudden death in 1909, the local newspaper called him "Scranton's Best Beloved Citizen."

In addition to artifacts from Ripple's life provided by his granddaughter Susan Ripple Hinkel, there will be displays of Civil War memorabilia from the Society's collections and a presentation of the color guard by the G.A.R.

Because of the strong local interest in the Civil War, the dinner meeting is being opened to the public and copies of *Dancing Along the Deadline* will be available for purchase and signing. Price of the Dinner is \$30 and reservations are a must. Don't miss this event and the chance to find out what *Dancing Along the Deadline* meant!

Library Usage Rules

As the Society continues to organize its collections, more materials become available for research. To better prepare visitors, the following is a review of some of the Society's policies.

- *The research library is open Tuesday through Friday 10am to 5pm and on Saturdays 12 noon to 3pm.
- *Visitors are welcome to use the library and reference the card catalogue.
- *The staff is available to provide assistance in locating appropriate resources including any information from the vertical files, genealogies and special topic records.
- *Researchers are welcome to study and take notes in the designated areas.
- *Copies can be made by staff of appropriate materials and fees are posted.
- *Due to their fragile condition, the Society will no longer photocopy the Scranton City Directories.
- *Visitors can view special collections including photographs, manuscripts, postcards and maps only with the assistance of staff.
- *Please note that an appointment is required for use of manuscripts and special document collections.
- *No food or drink is permitted in the library or research area.

Old Houses Reveal Interesting Histories by Maura Calderone

Three old Jefferson Avenue houses have always been of particular interest to the author, an admirer of such places. Just the general experience of beholding the rows of historic houses in Scranton's Hill Section aroused such curiosity for her. As a senior in high school this year she seized the opportunity to learn about these houses with her required Senior Project, a large part of which involves research of a self-chosen topic. Although it can be said of all, one house in particular caught her attention and she felt it was very worthy of mention, since it seems that so little is known about it.

The large, white, neoclassical styled home, located at 401 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton dates back to the early 1870's. A photograph in the collection of the Historical Society shows the same building with Victorian style details; in 1910 it was remodeled to its current look (with a few exceptions), which is very different.

This house was originally owned by Austin



Blair, son of James Blair, a prominent and successful Scranton businessman who was an original stockholder and director of the D.L. & W. Railroad. Austin, an assistant cashier of the Scranton Savings Bank, was born in 1838. He came to Scranton with his parents in 1865 and was educated at Prince-

ton University. Before working at the Scranton Savings Bank, he was involved in the Scranton dry goods business of Corsen and Blair. He married Emma Gay and had three children: Jessie, Alice, and James Jr. He died in 1908.

James Jr. was responsible for remodeling

the house in 1910. He was born in 1872 and attended the School of the Lackawanna and later Princeton University where he was also president of his Junior class. In 1913 he followed in his father's footsteps and became an assistant cashier of the Dime, Deposit, and Discount Bank, which became Peoples Savings and Dime Bank in 1918. He was active in the community and a prominent professional. He married Dorothy Keifer in 1926, but had no children.

The imposing third story of the house was added as a ballroom since the couple entertained often. Mrs. Blair was reputed to be a grand hostess and there were many parties at the house. In the couple's heyday, horses and carriages of guests convened along Jefferson Avenue.

For some it was an age of importance, prominence, beauty, and flourishing in Scranton. Many of these grand old houses stand as reminders of a bygone era.



Jefferson Avenue
from Mulberry Street,
Scranton, Pa.

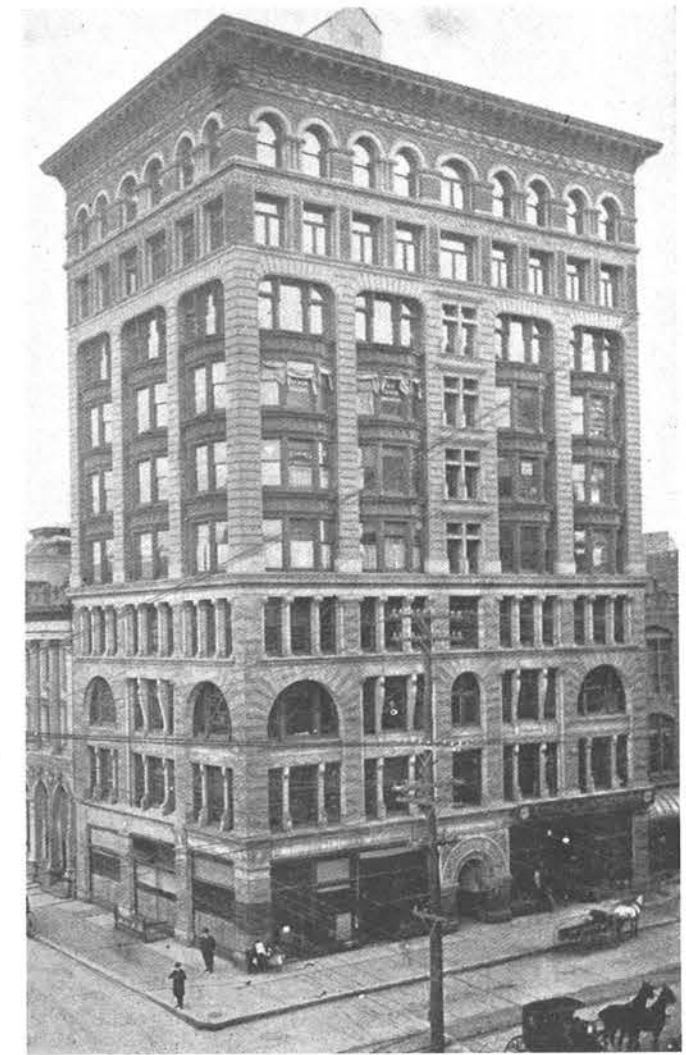
Postcard Book

As you may know, the Society is publishing a picture postcard history of Lackawanna County which is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

The book will include the best collection of postcards representing almost all of the towns and boroughs in the County. With the assistance of Jack Hiddlestone and the Society's Director, Maryellen Callemo, the book will feature over 300 images throughout the 230+ pages of the book. The project is underwritten in part by contributions. While we had asked sponsors to contribute some time ago, we still have room and are in need of ad-

ditional support. If you would like to sponsor a page for \$100, please contact the Society before May 31st. You will become a part of the region's history with your name printed on one page of the book.

At this time we'd like to thank all of the members of the Society who already contributed to the project. We look forward to being in touch when the book is completed.



Information Corner

For the convenience and information of its members, The Lackawanna Historical Society presents the Information Corner. On April 9th, the Society hosted a workshop, *Caring for your Family Papers*, presented by University of Scranton's Special Collections Librarian, Michael Kneis. Focusing on how to preserve old letters, photos, and even audio and video tapes, attendees learned some very useful hints. For the benefit of members who could not attend the workshop we include the following information. In upcoming newsletters, the *Information Corner* will note basic preservation tips and answer queries on the topic. If you have any questions on how to preserve your family papers, photographs, or artifacts, please write to the Society and we will be happy to address your needs in this new feature of our Journal. In this issue, we will share some of Mr. Kneis's suggestions on how to deal with old letters:

Storing Letters:

The art of hand-written personal correspondence is a declining one. Since nothing can tell us more about people, places, and the past, the care of old letters should be well-regarded. Here are some helpful hints for storage and preservation:

- All letters should be unfolded for storage and flattened with pressure.
- Keep the papers free, that is remove from envelopes, and remove any paper clips, staples, rubber bands, etc.
- Newsprint paper, if clippings or such are with the letter, is highly acidic and should be stored and labeled separately.
- For storage, the use of archival folders kept in archival boxes is best. Avoid the basement, where damaging mold can take over, and the attic where drastic temperature changes occur. A second floor closet is a wise bet.
- Be sure to label boxes and perhaps letters with ample information about the contents therein, for easy location. If any letters need to be labeled, use a No. 2 pencil as most ink will eventually erode the paper.

Visit the Catlin House for some helpful preservation pamphlets and catalogues for archival materials or order catalogues by calling the companies listed below. Light Impressions 800-828-6216; University Products-Archival Quality Materials 800-628-1912; Gaylord Archival Storage Materials 800-448-6160