

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

All events are free and open to the public unless noted \$\$.
For further information you can call 344-3841.

- Sept. 26** *Meet The Brewers Dinner* - Help kick off the PA Craft Brew Festival while sampling some specialty beers over dinner. See details inside, page 3.
- 27/28** *Second Annual Pennsylvania Craft Brew Festival* to benefit the Society. Sample beers from over 30 specialty breweries, food, fun & entertainment. See details inside, page 3.
- 29** *Friendly's Fun Night* - Have dinner at Friendly's in Dunmore & 10% of the proceeds will benefit the Society.
- Oct. 19** *Dunmore Cemetery Tour* - One of the most interesting cemeteries in the area, the Dunmore Cemetery takes you on a journey through the past. Tour begins at 10AM, weather permitting. Wear comfortable shoes.
- 27** *Friendly's Fun Night*
- Nov. 16** *Polish National Catholic Church History and Architectural Tour* of St. Stanislaus Cathedral, 529 East Locust Street. 2:30pm
- 24** *Friendly's Fun Night*
- Dec. 11/12** *Annual Holiday Open House* - 6:30 - 8:30 PM, candle light tours, entertainment, & refreshments, it's always a treat!!

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

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Pennsylvania
Craft Brew Festival
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New Library Policies

Dear Members:

As I write this letter to you and reflect on our activities over the last year, I have come to realize in amazement how much interest there continues to be in local history.

As a privileged member of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museums Commission's State Historical Marker nominations committee, I reviewed applications for new marker approval earlier this year. I was overwhelmed by the nominations sent to Harrisburg from across the State. They are a testimony to the Commonwealth's people and their remarkable pride in their heritage.

I was further amazed this past August while participating in the teaching of an Elderhostel sponsored by the University of Scranton. Individuals from the eastern part of the United States traveled to Scranton to learn of its Anthracite legacy. I was pleased at their enthusiasm and appreciation of this unique area. I was also pleased to highlight the efforts we as a Society have made in preserving that heritage. Our part may be small in the grand scheme of things, but it is none-the-less significant. My thanks to you as members for your continued support and for doing your part in preserving our community.

Maryellen Calemmo,
Executive Director



Members of the Board of Trustees in attendance at the Society's Annual Dinner in May. The Society hosted a record crowd (140+) at the Radisson Lackawanna Station in Scranton. Thanks to Dinner Chairperson Arlene O'Hara and her committee. Standing from left to right are: Leola Collins, Marie Smith, Richard Bovard, Barbara Mears, Lawrence Kennedy, Richard Matthews, Brolin Parker, Richard Leonori, Eileen Pocius, Arlene O'Hara, and Janice Patterson. Seated left to right are: Kathleen Keating, Immediate Past President Joseph Cimini, and 1997 President Alan Sweeney.

On the cover: The former Scranton residence of Charles Sumner Woolworth, Jefferson Avenue.

The Lackawanna Historical Society 1997

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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.

DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorials

*In Memory of Helen Jones
from Marie Smith*

*In Memory of Mrs. H. R. Van Deusen
from Ms. Linda Phillips*

*In Memory of Albert Freis
from Mr. and Mrs. John O'Hara*



Special Thanks to AKZO Salt for a \$1,000 donation.

&

Thank you to our members who supported the fashion committee work. Contributions defrayed the cost of textile storage boxes.



POST CARD PUBLICATION FORTHCOMING

The long awaited post card book on Lackawanna County, authored by Jack Hiddlestone and the Society's Director, Maryellen Calemmo, will soon be completed. With fund raising efforts, computer glitches, and of course everything else that stood in the way, the book had been delayed to the Fall 1997. It is expected that the book will be completed well before Thanksgiving. A book signing will be announced in the near future.

If you supported the project, the Society sends you its apologies on the delay and offers you our gratitude for your kind generosity.

Recent Donations to the Collection:

Handley Regional Library: local photographs; Miriam Beckerle: Scranton Jubilee wooden nickel; Rensselaer P. Norton: 1939 birthday greeting from Samters; Scranton Family: Globe Store information; Wyoming Historical and Geological Society: ICS handbook and local postcards; Christopher Albert: "Good Samaritan Salve" tin; James Howard: photograph of Scranton Public School No. 30; Michael Thomas: Luzerne County, 1994; Mark Boock: city tax assessment book for 7th ward, 1873; Kathryn Roberts: World War II uniform jacket, CARE organization letter, clothing pieces; Jeanne Cox: photograph of Petersburg Presbyterian Church, 25th Wedding Anniversary certificate written in German, land title, and World War I obituary scrapbook; Sr. Gilmary Spears: hat collection; Susan Hinkel: Ezra Ripple photographs; Elizabeth Bender: genealogy: Msgr. Sullivan: History of Scranton by Hitchcock, 1914, volume 1 and 2. Eugene Pronko: Blakely High School Class of 1947 commemorative booklet; Vandergrift Museum: mining postcards; Richard Reese: genealogy; Walton Sullivan: genealogy; Rosemarie Quinn: photograph of Temple Furnace.



Jewish History Observed

The Jewish community in Lackawanna County has long played a vital role in the history and development of the area. Now there is an opportunity to learn more on Jewish history through the upcoming program sponsored by the Weinberg Judaic Chair of the University of Scranton and the Jewish Historical Society of Scranton/Lackawanna County.

The public is invited to an afternoon of local Jewish history September 21, 1997 at 1:30 PM at the University of Scranton, Reddington Hall at the corner of Linden and North Webster.

Professor Marc Shapiro will speak about Professor Harry Wolfson and Harvard University; Rabbi David Geffen will speak about the early Period of Harry Weinberg in Baltimore and Scranton; and Mr. Joseph Hodin will chair a panel on Judaism in the Mid-Valley.

For further details call Marc Shapiro at 941-6309



NOTICE on NEW POLICIES

Please note that due to continuing wear and tear on the Society's library collections the following policies have been placed in effect:

- * Researchers will no longer be permitted to copy entire publications or compilations.
- * Copying will be limited to 20 pages per visit and no more than 10 pages from any one publication.
- * Copyrighted material will only be copied with appropriate permission.
- * Any records or files compiled by the Society may only be copied by hand.
- * The Society library is a non-circulating library and all guests are asked to sign in before beginning any research.
- * Researchers are asked to leave any bags, purses, or knap sacks in the designated area while conducting research.

Thank you for your cooperation.

New Members

INDIVIDUAL

Mary Bennie
Gino Mori
Roger Cronkite
Martha McAndrew
Judi Keller
Susan Delitta
Mary Patterson
Sandra Maxson
Margaret Beckwith
Blauer Association
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Charles Cocker
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James J. Oneil
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Dalton
Lake Ariel
Clarks Green
Scranton
Nutley, NJ
Scranton
Scranton
Bend, OR
Carbondale
Scranton
Scranton
Scranton
Scranton
Dunmore
Scranton
Scranton
Whispering Pines, NC

STUDENT

Christopher Steel Oradell, NJ
Francis Shimkus Dalton
Christopher Cordaro Dickson City
Michael Bufalino Scranton

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Mr./Mrs. Richard Walker Scranton
Kathryn Willahan Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Ross Megargel Lake Ariel
Mr./Mrs. John Cawley Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Fred Cox Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Robert Quinn Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Walton J. Sullivan Linthicum, MD

SUSTAINING

Todd Carpenter & Lisa Franko Tunkhannock

CORPORATE

Radisson Lackawanna Station Scranton



Friendly's Fun Nights

Join the Society this Fall for our *Friendly's Fun Nights*. Fun Nights are held at Friendly's Restaurant in Dunmore and offer local organizations an opportunity to raise monies in a fun and easy way. On weekdays (Monday through Thursday), between 5pm and 9pm, Friendly's will donate 10% of its sales to a specific group.

The Lackawanna Historical Society has scheduled Fun Nights for the last Monday of the next three months. This includes September 29, October 27, and November 24. So mark your calendars and come out to show your support and enjoy a good meal while you do it! Remember, the Society receives 10% of all sales so bring your friends and don't forget dessert.

Historical Tidbits:

*Woolworth's had the largest restaurant chain in the world.

*The original Scranton store is still standing on Penn Avenue and is now the site of Tucks Army and Navy Store.

*Until the 1912 merger, the company had four full time clerks to run 365 stores and up until that time they paid cash for all merchandise they bought.

*Jones Brothers Tea Company, i.e. Grand Union Tea Co., was originated by Scranton native Cyrus D. Jones.

*Sebastian S. Kresge was born at Bald Mount, Ransom Township. He was the founder of the S.S. Kresge five and dime store chain.

Volunteer Corner

LA FESTA ITALIANA
Thanks to all the volunteers who manned the booth at the Italian Festival. Thanks too to our new Courthouse Square tour guides: Michael Bufalino, Mark Cruciani, Marion Dunleavy, Douglas Forrer, Rita McNamara, Ann Marie O'Hara, and Leo Walsh.

PARADING AROUND
Once again Society volunteers were out in full force to represent the Society at the Moscow Country Fair Parade. Mark Cruciani, Michael Bufalino, Steven Mull, and Bridget Conlogue joined staff member Mary Ann Moran for a ride in Larry Warner's 1932 Chevy Truck. Congratulations to Larry for his second place recognition in the antique car classification.

FALL FASHION EXHIBIT PLANNED
This fall, the Society will present an exhibit featuring four velvet dresses from our collection. Each dress represents a decade between 1880 and 1910. Historic fashion enthusiast and committee volunteer, Bridget Conlogue has been busy preparing the exhibit and expects it to be ready by November. The exhibit will be displayed on the main floor of the Catlin House.

NEW VOLUNTEER
Welcome to new Society Volunteer Bill Gilroy. Bill is a Dunmore native, who is manager of the News and Information Service at the University of Scranton and an adjunct faculty member in the University's History and Political Science Department. Bill has been very helpful in preparing the newsletter and will continue to help us with future publications.

Society Happenings

SECOND ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA CRAFT BREW FESTIVAL at MONTAGE To Benefit Historical Society

Last October the Society and the County joined efforts in hosting the Pennsylvania Micro Brew Festival at Montage, a trendy approach to event fund raising. Over 1,000 people participated, which was enough of an incentive to host the event once again.

This year the Festival date has been moved to the last weekend in September to take advantage of the warmer weather. So, between September 26th through the 28th, brewers from Pennsylvania and neighboring states who have been busy the past few months, brewing some of their most popular beers, will tantalize the taste buds of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Co-sponsoring again with Lackawanna County and with a great deal of assistance from the Lion Brewery

of Wilkes Barre, the Society will host *The 2nd Annual Pennsylvania Craft Brew Festival* atop Montage Mountain.

Joining over 30 breweries this year, will be the *French Quarter Cafe*, *Damon's*, and *Hops and Barley's* restaurants who will be serving samples of foods either prepared with or as the perfect companion to a particular beer.

In addition, there will be live entertainment, including the area's popular *Daddy-O and the Sax Maniax* on Saturday night. There will be a home brewing exhibit, and a local breweriana exhibit from collector Al Kogoy.

Three tasting sessions will take place over the two day festival: Saturday 12-4pm and 6-10pm; Sunday 12-4pm. Tickets are \$15 per person and may be purchased through Montage Mountain's



ticket office. For more information call the Society at 344-3841 or Montage at 969-7669.

If you would like to help the Society and volunteer for one of the tasting sessions, give us a call.

MEET THE BREWERS DINNER

Friday September 26th 7:30PM
*\$25/person

If the large crowd and festival-like atmosphere of the Brew Fest is not your style, join us for a small, informal, beer sampling dinner in the Lodge at Montage.

As a kick-off to the Festival, the Lion Brewery's Master Brewer Leo Orlandini, will highlight the Lion's most unique and award winning brews. He'll also relate on how beer is made and how to distinguish one style from another. Leo has invited several guest brewers to highlight their specialties, all of this, while you are served a delectable array of foods to accompany the beer samples. Seating for this event is limited so, make your reservation early by calling the Society at 344-3841.

Historic Walking Tours

The Society has completed its training of Tour Guides for Court House Square and has begun offering tours as a service to the public.

The tour includes historical background on the founding of Scranton and Lackawanna County, the building of the Court House on the Lily Pond, the architectural details and symbols represented on the buildings on the Square and an explanation of the monuments around the square.

The first tours were given during La Festa Italiana and our guides are ready for tours requested this Fall, weather permitting. Contact the Society if you or your group is interested in taking a tour with us.



Court House, Lack, Co Scranton, Pa.

Woolworth's and Scranton

With the recent news that four hundred Woolworth stores will be closing nationwide, including the Scranton store, it seems fitting to explore how Woolworth's and Scranton came to be closely tied together.

The story of the Woolworth brothers and their road to success begins in the small town of Rodman, Jefferson County, NY where they were born in the 1850's. They later moved with their parents to Great Bend, also in Jefferson County, NY. As boys, they received some schooling but spent most of their time helping their father with the farm work. Charles Sumner Woolworth valued this experience, and in 1937 at his 81st birthday observance, he attributed his success in business and good health to "the foundation that the good air, hard work, plenty of sleep and nourishing food" gave him.

At age 21, Charles' older brother, Frank W. left the farm to pursue a career in retail. He found employment at Moore and Smith dry goods store in Watertown, N.Y.

Charles, or Sumner as he was called, would follow in his brother's foot steps and also leave home to work as a clerk for Moore and Smith. Interestingly, another Moore and Smith employee and co-worker of the Woolworths later became another well known dime store merchant, F.M. Kirby.

While Frank W. Woolworth is often credited as the founder of the concept of the five and dime store, it was actually his boss, Warren Smith, who originated the idea. One day, in an

attempt to get rid of some overstocked items, Smith heaped them on a counter and priced each at five cents. Soon he found that he couldn't keep stock in that section of the store.

Observing this, Frank W. Woolworth realized an opportunity and decided to leave Moore and Smith and, with capital borrowed from his former employer,



Charles Sumner Woolworth
Photo by Schriever of Scranton

open his own store in Utica, N.Y. That store and several other early attempts failed but, undaunted, Frank W. opened another store in Lancaster, PA., which proved very successful.

Frank W. began an expansion plan and invited his brother to join him. Frank W. and Sumner first tried Harrisburg where they opened the "Great Five-Cent Store." It was here that they introduced a line of ten-cent merchandise. However the store had to be closed after the first year due to an in-

crease in rent. The brothers next moved to York but could not find a profit there so Frank W. and Sumner decided to turn their attention to Scranton, the booming coal and iron town.

The Scranton store opened Nov. 6, 1880 at 125 Penn Ave. with Charles Sumner Woolworth as manager. The first day's sales were

store continued to profit and expand and eventually had to be relocated to a larger building, located at 319 Lackawanna Ave. It was moved again to the intersection of the 400 block of Lackawanna Ave. and 100 N. Washington Ave. In the 1960s, Scranton's last Woolworth's store was opened at the Keyser Oak Shopping Center in Scranton.

The Woolworth brothers never forgot their humble beginnings and often hired relatives and co-workers. It was Sumner who assisted one of these co-workers from Smith and Moore, Fred M. Kirby, in establishing a five and dime in Wilkes-Barre at 172 East Market St. on Sept. 10, 1884, known as Woolworth and Kirby. This business wasn't successful until 1886 when it realized a profit. In 1887, Fred M. Kirby bought Sumner's interest in the store and went on to build his own retailing empire.

Woolworth's were now on the move, and five and dime stores were opening across the country. In 1912, the "Great \$65 Million Merger" was undertaken by Frank W. Woolworth to bring his friendly rivals under one umbrella. The merger included F.W. Woolworth and Co., S.H. Knox and Co., C.S. Woolworth and W.H. Moore and eventually a total of 596 stores by Dec. 31, 1912.

The company was then to be known as the F.W. Woolworth Co., and with Frank as its president, built the 60 story "Skyline Queen" in lower New York as a cathedral of commerce. Designed by Cass Gilbert, it was hailed as the world's tallest building in 1913.

Frank Winfield Woolworth died April 8, 1919 and was succeeded

by his brother Charles Sumner as chairman of the Company. Sumner served in that position from his office in the Scranton Life Building until his retirement in 1944.

Sumner, who located to Scranton after the first store's opening, had substantial interests other than the five and dime stores. He was connected with the United States Lumber Company, Mississippi Central Railroad Company, First National Bank of Scranton, Scranton Lackawanna Trust Company, International Textbook Company and the Scranton Lace Company. He served as a trustee to Syracuse University, Wyoming Seminary, Scranton YMCA and YWCA, Mercy Hospital and Geisinger Memorial Hospital.

Locally, Sumner was a philanthropist who donated to the Johnson

Industrial School, Geisinger Memorial Hospital and Syracuse University. He was a founding father of the local Community Chest, which was a forerunner of the United Way. And with F.J. Platt, he donated \$400,000 for a dormitory building at the YWCA. Sumner also built a recreation hall at the YWCA Camp at Lake Ariel.

In 1886, Sumner married Anna Ryals of Utica, N.Y. and had three children: Ethel, Frederick and Richard. They purchased their first home in Scranton at 532 Vine St. Later they moved to a larger home at 740 Jefferson Ave., where Mercy Hospital now stands. In 1910, the Woolworth's hired architect Lansing Holden to design their home at 520 Jefferson Ave. The mansion, still standing next to the Catholic Youth Center, was built of Indiana limestone and pink granite

and cost \$50,000 to build, a very large sum in 1910.

Sumner also had a summer home called "Edgewood" overlooking Lily Lake in Dalton. It was a shingle style home that included a large farm. The home is no longer standing.

Charles Sumner Woolworth died Jan. 7, 1947, at the age of 90. The total value of his estate was over \$16 million and was the largest estate that the County Orphans Court handled at the time.

As we reflect on the closing of Woolworth's in Scranton, we should remember C.S. Woolworth's many gifts to the community, but even more the employment it brought so many of our citizens. When Woolworth's closes its doors for the last time, 117 years of continuous shopping pleasure will come to an end.

WOOLWORTH'S

PENN AVENUE STORE

Is Showing this Week Exceptional Values in

DOLLS Ranging in price from 10c to \$1.00 each.

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS at \$1.

TOY TEA SETS 10c. to \$1.00

DRUMS 25c. to \$1.00.

CUPS AND SAUCERS 10c. to \$1.00.

PUSH BOXES 25c. to \$2.50.

Colored Glass Baskets In great variety, 25c. to \$1.00.

AND Hundreds of other items, all at popular prices.

WOOLWORTH'S

125 PENN AVE.

Dec. 1892

- Allen Sweeney

INFORMATION CORNER: Organizing your Photographs

As interest continues to grow in learning more about our personal histories and genealogy becomes more and more popular, people have begun to realize the importance of organizing items that tell their story. For years, people have used photography to record important events, both personal and public. Many times these photographs were left unlabeled, heaped in a box, or glued into an album. Now with a new appreciation of what these photographs can tell us, people are attempting to organize old images and prevent further deterioration so that their stories may be told to generations to come. Here are some guidelines to follow when organizing your photographs.

1. Always handle negatives and photographic prints along edges and if possible wear white cotton gloves. Dirt, dust and oil on your fingers can cause permanent damage.
2. Remove prints and negatives from poor quality enclosures, carefully. If damage is a risk on old glued albums, pages or mats, do not try to remove, instead place the entire page in a sleeve or folder. *Remember to keep any information that is written on old pages.
3. Always remove any extraneous materials from prints including rubber bands, paper clips, notes, and clippings. If there is important information on the notes or clippings, keep it but store separately.
4. Never use pressure sensitive tapes or glue to mend photographs. It is better to store any damaged prints separately.
5. When organizing photographs, try to place any identifying information on the enclosures rather than directly on the photographs. Use a No. 2 pencil, Pigma Pen, India ink on paper and a film-marking pen on plastic. Felt tip pens and ball point pens should never be used because ink can bleed through and stain the photograph.
6. If it is necessary to write identification directly on photo, lightly write a brief description on the back of the print using a No. 2 pencil or softer. If the surface is resin coated and will not accept pencil, use a blue photo pen or a film marking pen.
7. Use labels with a stable adhesive on boxes and folders. Store in a place free from dust, light, temperature and humidity changes.