

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Note: Beginning January 1, 1999, the Lackawanna Historical Society will charge a \$2 non-member admission fee for Programs presented at the Catlin House.

- September 17** LECTURE: "HOMETOWN MONEY"
Catlin House 2:00pm by Jack Chipak
- 29** MEMBERS-ONLY TOUR OF CHIPAK FUNERAL HOME
Madison and Mulberry 7:00pm •Please call for reservation by Sept. 25
- October 3-9** SCRANTON HERITAGE CELEBRATION WEEK
Call (570) 586-2527 for list of activities
- 17** LECTURE: "IF YOU CAN PLAY SCRANTON—SCRANTON'S THEATRICAL HISTORY"
Catlin House 2:00pm by Nancy McDonald
- 31** ANNUAL TOUR OF DUNMORE CEMETARY
Dunmore 2:00pm
- November 14** LECTURE: SCRANTON'S EARLY POLITICS
Catlin House 2:00pm by Joseph Flannery
- December 9** CATLIN HOUSE MEMBERS-ONLY HOLIDAY PARTY
Catlin House 7:00-9:00pm
7:00pm Holiday Reading by Janet Loew
8:00pm Election of officers
- 10** CATLIN HOUSE OPEN HOUSE
Catlin House 7:00-9:00 pm

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

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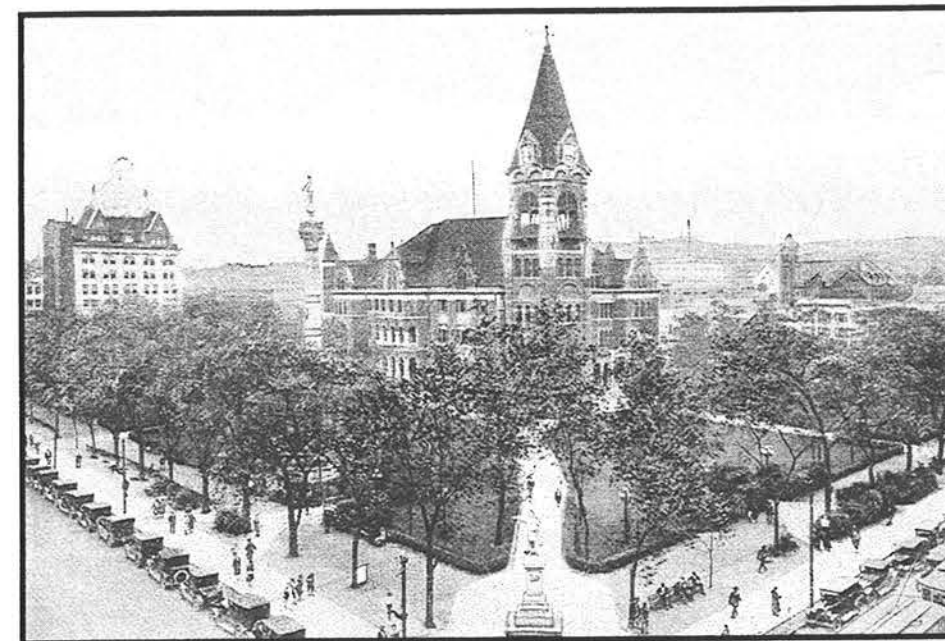
The LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

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Autumn 1999



LACKAWANNA COURT HOUSE SQUARE WALKING TOURS

This summer, the Society once again offered Walking Tours of Court House Square. The tours will continue each Saturday through the end of September at 11:00am. Group tours are welcome. If you or your group cannot make the Saturday tours, please call us at (570) 344-3841, and we will be happy to arrange a tour to fit your schedule. Registration is taken at 10:45am near the Columbus monument, corner of N. Washington Ave. and Spruce St. Fee is \$2.00 per person.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

This sentiment could not have been more true in the past year. In December, the Society held its first Members-Only Night at the Catlin House which offered special entertainment and an expansive array of holiday treats. The house looked beautiful and the evening was enjoyed by all. In March, members were invited to a special Members-Only tour of the old Globe Store, now Diversified Records Corporation.

Ruth and Clifford Melberger welcomed over forty Society Members to the new facility and provided a delicious selection of hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

If you did not get a chance to attend these events, the Society is planning new Members-Only surprises for the upcoming months to thank you for your membership including a guided tour of the Chipak Funeral Home at 343 Madison Avenue on September 29. Space is limited so call soon to let us know if you plan to attend.

Additional Members-Only events will be announced as plans are finalized.

As a Member of the Lackawanna Historical Society, you play an important part in the preservation and interpretation of Lackawanna County History.

Becoming a Member is a vital aspect to the organization. Your support will foster programs which strive to support the historical, social, historical, cultural and economic developments of Lackawanna County.

As a Member you will receive:

- The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal
 - Unlimited use of the research Library
 - Advanced notice of upcoming programs and events
 - Discount on items sold through the Society
 - Exhibits and Displays
 - Lecture Series
- To become a member of the LHS call at (570)344-3841.

A TASTE OF HISTORY FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

In May the Society held *A Taste of History* and raised \$5000 for the Roof Restoration Project. We would like to, once again, extend our appreciation to the Board of Trustees, Taste of History Planning Committee and Table Captains for making this event so successful and worth repeating. Thanks, also, to everyone who supported this exciting event: James Gavern, Dorothy Mackie, W.F. Megargel, Marilyn Florey, Atty. and Mrs. William Steppacher, Jerome Leeson, Thomas Parfrey, Patricia H. Christian, F. Warren Brieg, Jr., Michael Lucas, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mekilo, Deidre Taylor, Roy E. Whitman, Juliana Jones, Laila Kane, Rev. Joseph M. McShane, Jacqueline Bachar, Binder-Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. John Hennemuth, E. F. McFarland, Richard Rigard, Pearl Ecker, Robert Ballot, James W. Rodway, The Beergarden, Schiff's Food Service, Jack Bardo, Sandra Chestnut, Lackawanna County Cultural Affairs and the Lackawanna County Commissioners.

... a letter from your president

Dear Members,

As we look toward the New Millennium, the Lackawanna Historical Society is preparing to enter into this new decade with plans in place to repair our aging roof.

Our financial committee has been sending letters to foundations and our staff has submitted a grant application to aid us in achieving our goals. The second phase of this fundraising effort will be to solicit our members for the remaining amount. When you are contacted, please give generously.

The Trustees are doing their best to preserve the Catlin House as a local treasure for the community. The Windsor Chair Raffle has once again had a tremendous response and will help us meet the costs associated with the upcoming capital campaign. We ask you, our members, to promote this raffle to your friends and family. Additional tickets can be obtained by calling the Catlin House.

The Society exists for the benefit of its members, so please plan to visit the Catlin House soon for a tour or to browse in the library and possibly to learn more about your family history. You may also want to check out the many exciting new programs that are planned for the Fall. See the calendar on page 8 for schedule.

Sincerely,
Alan Sweeney

Memorials

The Society receives memorial/honor donations in memory of loved ones or friends. Contributions can be made to the Lackawanna Historical Society Memorial Fund.

In Memory of Mrs. Helen Povish
by Marie Smith

In Memory of Raymond Devereaux
by Ella S. Rayburn

In Memory of Ethel Swartz
by Barbara Mears

In Memory of Raymond Devereaux
by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Sweeney

In Memory of Sara Mendlowitz
by Marie Smith

In Memory of Lorraine M. Durkin
by Mrs. Dorothy Bosley

In Memory of Louis Bisignani
by Mr. and Mrs. David Wenzel

In Memory of Willard Henkelman
by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Sweeney

In Memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Reddington
by Marie Smith

In Honor of Mr. Joseph Rocerto
by Mrs. Edgar Collins

In Memory of Lucille Warnke
by Marie Smith

In Honor of Thomas Driebe
by Letha Reinheimer

In Rememberance

On August 13, Society Trustee Emeritus, Willard Henkelman passed away. As a Trustee, Mr. Henkelman was active in serving the Society as a member of the Building and Grounds Committee and the House Committee.

As an Emeritus Trustee he continued to support the society through his interest as a member. Mr. Henkelman was a Trustee for more than thirty years and he will be greatly missed. The staff and Board of Directors extend their sympathy to his family.



The Lackawanna Historical Society 1999-2000

OFFICERS

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Alan Sweeney | President |
| Richard Bovard | 1st Vice President |
| Eileen Pocius | 2nd Vice President |
| Janice Patterson | 3rd Vice President |
| Douglas Forrer | Treasurer |
| Mark Cruciani | Assistant Treasurer |
| Arlene Devereaux O'Hara | Board Secretary |

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Kathleen Keating
Barbara Mears
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Janice Patterson
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Paul H. Price, Esq.
Ella S. Rayburn
Marie S. Smith
Alan Sweeney

Emeritus

George Broadbent
Joseph Levy
Edward Miller
William Pentecost

STAFF

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Mary Ann Moran | Executive Director |
| Mary Ann Gavern | Museum Assistant |
| Marian Yevics | Receptionist |
| James Gavern | Caretaker |

The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization which is dedicated to keeping vital the history of Lackawanna County. It is supported in part by the Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and membership dues.

The Lackawanna Historical Society journal is published by The Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510 Tel(570) 344-3841.

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$22 and up for individuals, \$30 for families, and \$125 for organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available. The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is printed in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Entire contents copyrighted © 1999 by The Lackawanna Historical Society. Questions or comments can be addresses in writing directly to the Society.

OLYPHANT SCHOOL PROJECT

In January, the Society began plans to develop an exhibit at the new Olyphant Senior Housing Project, the former Olyphant Elementary School, in cooperation with the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. The LHVA is funding the project which includes a computer system that will allow us to complete the exhibit in-house. Local exhibit designer, Dan Perry is acting as consultant for the project and will assist the Society in scripting the exhibit which will focus on education and immigration in the Mid Valley. Members can help with this project by contributing any information or photographs that relate to the Mid Valley, particularly early views of Olyphant. Call the Society for details.

In addition to this project, the Society continues to work with the LHVA on several projects. The Traveling Trunk project, a joint effort with LHVA, area museums and the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19 to bring museums into the classrooms, will be completed by September. This month, work was begun on a LHVA funded Catlin House Curriculum Guide to be used as a tool for class tours. Plans are in place to repeat last year's Heritage Express Educational Railroad Excursion. The Society also worked with the LHVA to develop policies for placing Local Historical Markers. Thanks to the LHVA, the Catlin House has a brand new sign.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS

Paul J. McGloin, Jr., Scranton
Chris Owens, Binghamton, NY

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Dorothy H. Appell, Jacksonville, FL.
Elizabeth Barrows, Clarks Summit
Gina Mason Cicerini, Clarks Summit
Nancy Dickey, Moscow
Louis DiMattio, Dunmore
David Evans, Palos Verdes Estates, CA
Clementine M. Fastbender, Scranton
Bonnie Flynn, Dalton
Janet M. Gordon, Santa Maria, CA
Doreen Greenwald, Dearborn, MI
M. J. Howard, Clarks Green
Michael Iluzzi, Tunkhannock
William T. Jones, Scranton
Charles Kohl, Scranton

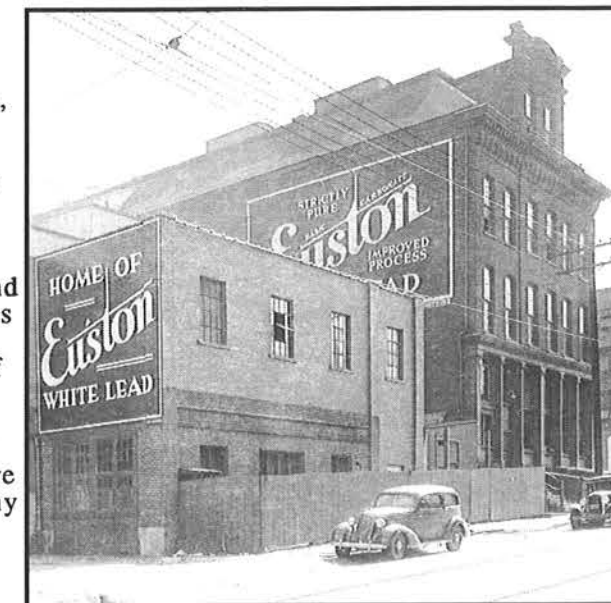
RESEARCHER SEEKS SAMPLES

The Society recently received a telephone call from Michael Rabinowitz, PhD., of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, asking for samples of Euston White Lead. The Euston Lead Company, at the corner of Penn Avenue and Vine Street, Scranton, was destroyed by fire on January 28, 1960. Site of the first commercial introduction of a remarkable breakthrough process in the manufacture of white lead, the company was founded in 1915. Instead of the traditional Old Dutch method which took 3 or 4 months, the Euston process was nearly immediate. The new Euston process relied on a chemical reaction rather than the fermentation of old rotting piles of manure and tannery wastes. Gas was bubbled through a lead solution and the white lead precipitated. The process could be controlled in a vat. Particles of pigment produced were said to be of an unusually fine size and regular shape.

In 1924, Glidden acquired Euston Lead and operated the works until May 1958. The product had a good reputation for quality and performance, and was preferred by many commercial painters.

Unfortunately, there are no documented samples of this material. Researchers are at a disadvantage because there are no known old cans or other identified samples to examine.

Mr. Rabinowitz is, therefore, asking for our help. If you have any, or know of someone who has, old cans of this paint that was made in Scranton, please contact him. Cans may say Euston or Glidden on them, and would be older than 1958. He only needs a few thimbles full of paint or scrapings from inside the can and a picture of the can label. Mr. Rabinowitz is also interested in other types of paint samples and promotional materials. Even a paint chip sample would be acceptable if it is definitely identified as Euston lead. You may call him, collect, at (508) 289-7613 between 9 am and 2 pm on weekdays.



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Troy Kolodziejewski, Scranton
Chester Kowalski, Jermyn
Joseph Loughman, Scranton
Claude Martin, Ann Arbor, MI
Donald McLane, Scranton
Donald Michel, Mesa, AZ
June C. Morgan, Scranton
Elizabeth Nebesky, Scranton
Thomas Parfrey, Jr., Waverly
Margaret C. Rafter, Dalton
Matthew Reiprich, Scranton

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Beverly Addenbrooke, Bridgeport, CT
Mr. & Mrs. J. Christian, Harwintown, CT
Mr. & Mrs. J.T. Langan, Scranton
James J. Martin, Scranton
Elizabeth Meehan, Dunmore

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Mr. & Mrs. David Mozeleski, Moosic
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Price, Dunmore
Ray Sauvey, Clarks Summit
Mr. & Mrs. Robert K. Thomas, Clarks Summit
Taylor-Wayman, Kingsley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yeager, Scranton

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERSHIPS

Dr. Josephine Dunn, Waverly

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy McCabe, Scranton

THE LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECOGNIZES ITS FIRST CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP(SILVER):
Ross Family Foundation, Clarks Green

Happenings at the Catlin House

GRANTS AWARDED

The Society has received two grants this summer. In April, we were notified that we had received a Technical Assistance Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. The funding, not to exceed \$1500, covers the cost of a two-day on-site consultation with a professional archivist. On July 21, Diane Shaw, Archivist and Librarian at Lafayette College in Easton, met with the Executive Director, Mary Ann Moran and Society Trustee, Ella S. Rayburn to review the archival holdings and physical storage environment for paper-based collections at the Catlin House. Ms. Shaw spent one full day on-site and will return in September for a second visit and survey. She will then supply the Society with a written report summarizing her findings and suggestions. In addition, the Society will receive \$200 cash for the purchase of archival supplies.

The Society also received \$500 from the Lackawanna County Department of Cultural Affairs for Arts to the People. The money will be used towards the purchase of solar film for the Catlin House Library and display areas. Solar film is a see-through plastic product that reduces ultra violet and ambient light which can cause fading, drying, and other damage to archival and artifact collections. The film also reduces glare and summertime heat.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Welcome to new LHS volunteers Clementine M. Fasbender and Mara E. Beckage for their publishing expertise in the production of our journal. Clem is working closely with other volunteers in organizing our collections. Mara volunteers in publishing, graphic design and public relations materials.

Thanks to LHS Volunteers Michael Bufalino and Douglas Forrer for representing the Society at the Moscow Country Fair Parade in August. Thanks also to member Frank Regan for contacting Michael Passero who drove the volunteers in his 1968 Chrysler Imperial Convertible. Mr. Passero and the Society received 1st prize!

AN INTERN'S VIEW

In June, the Society welcomed University of Scranton student, Jessica Doncses. Jessica, a senior history major, is spending time at the Catlin House working with Ella S. Rayburn in organizing and developing documentation on the LHS collections. When asked to contribute some lines on her experience she submitted the following:

As an intern spending my summer at the LHS, I am primarily working with Curator and Society Trustee, Ella S. Rayburn. I am learning the professional processes of historical and museum setting and gaining practical experience that will help me in my chosen field. It is a great learning experience primarily because the LHS is just now beginning to professionally organize its accession records and cataloguing system. I am encountering, first hand, the methods that should be used and realizing that there are some former methods that the Society never should have used. I have enjoyed this opportunity and plan to stay on as a volunteer after my internship is completed. I chose to do this because I now recognize the importance of continuing the cataloguing process at the Society and hope to see it through to a complete documentation of the LHS collections.

NEW STAFF

MEMBER WELCOMED

In June, the Society welcomed new receptionist Marian Yevics. Marian, a native of Scranton's Bellevue section, is a retired retail professional who worked at Scranton Dry Goods and the Globe Store. She is active in her church where she volunteers to make pierogies for their annual summer picnic. She has been assisting our staff in everyday business. Marian has a great knowledge of local history which comes in handy when assisting visiting researchers at the Catlin House Library. The Society thanks her for her enthusiasm and welcomes her as an excellent addition to the "staff of Marys."



SOS

The Society's community awareness program with Save Outdoor Sculpture and Adopt-A-Monument is progressing very well. The "Maine" monument at Nay Aug Park has been restored thanks to the many Society Members who made contributions.

Last Spring, local trade unions adopted the John Mitchell Monument on Court House Square and raised the necessary funds for its restoration. Work will be completed soon. On October 21, 10 am, the Society will join the unions in marking the re-dedication of the restored John Mitchell Monument at the Monument on Adams Avenue behind the Lackawanna County Court House. A reception will follow at the Catlin House. Please join us for this monumental occasion.

If your organization is interested in adopting a Monument, please contact the Society at (570) 344-3841 for more information.

LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CONTINUES:

Last year, we began a project to improve the library research and storage areas. To date, new lights, solar film and fans were installed. Work has also begun on the repair and prevention of further deterioration of library records. Funding has been received for this project, including \$5000 from the Department of Community and Economic Development, which will be used for electrical work and additional shelving.

NESTOR CHYLAK INDUCTED INTO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

by Alan Sweeney



On March 2, 1999, the Committee on Baseball Veterans elected Nestor Chylak to the Baseball Hall of Fame. He was inducted posthumously on July 25, 1999 in Cooperstown, NY.

Chylak, an American League umpire for twenty five years was born in Olyphant on May 11, 1922. He is the first person born in Lackawanna County to receive this honor. The only other local to be inducted was Hugh Jennings aka "Hustling Hughie" who grew up in Scranton and was inducted in 1945. Chylak, a graduate of Olyphant High School in 1940, studied engineering at Rutgers University and attended the University of Scranton. He served with the Army Rangers in World War II and saw action in most European battles including the Battle of the Bulge. He received a Purple Heart and Silver Star before his service career ended.

Mr. Chylak, became an American League umpire in 1954, previously he had umpired in the Pony League, the Canadian-American League, New England League, Eastern League and the AAA International League. He was also a veteran of five World Series: 1957, 1960, 1966, 1971 and 1977, three American League Championship Series and four All Star games.

He was quoted as saying that an umpire's job "is the only one in the world that everybody else can do better" and that he "umpired twenty five years and can honestly say I never called one wrong in my heart." Nestor retired from baseball after a twenty five year career in 1978. But he never gave up his love of the game and continued to serve as assistant to the American League's Executive Director of Umpires. He conducted Little League clinics and was a frequent speaker at sports banquets.

Chylak died unexpectedly on February 17, 1982 of a heart attack. His funeral was conducted from the S.S. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Olyphant, a church that was founded with the assistance of his grandfather, George Chylak, Sr., in 1888. He is survived by his wife Sue and sons Robert and William.

In 60 years of Hall of Fame voting, Nestor is only the eighth umpire to have this honor.

The Nestor Chylak Induction Committee was made up of local volunteers: Don Boykle, Joe Butash, Chet Zelinski, Phil Goldstein, Chairman, Larry Holeva, Vince Puchalski, and LHS President, Alan Sweeney.

SCRANTON TOMORROW SCHEDULES HERITAGE CELEBRATION WEEK

In 1992, Scranton Tomorrow was formed to bring community leaders together to help revitalize Scranton. One key element of Scranton Tomorrow's strategic plan is the Community Betterment Task Force.

Designed to carry out a goal-oriented action plan, this group is undertaking the mission to communicate awareness that Scranton's numerous attributes should motivate its civic pride and foster a positive self image.

Chaired by Nancy Saxton, Niles Saxton and Frank Goskowski, the Task Force, known as the Civic Pride Committee, has set forth a plan including "two distinct spirit-enhancing events over the next several years" including Scranton Heritage Celebration Week in October.

A blending of Scranton's past, present and future, Scranton Tomorrow's Heritage Celebration Week will offer the public an opportunity to savor the rich cultural multi-ethnic heritage for which our region of northeastern PA is known.

Several community resources will participate in the event, scheduled for October 3rd through 9th. The Anthracite Museum will present tours and special programs. Steamtown will host a series of educational activities. The Everhart will provide exciting workshops. In addition, there will be musical performances, a guided tour of the Tripp House and an education fair at the Steamtown Mall. The Historical Society will participate in this event by expanding regular hours to 6:00 pm during the week, hosting an Open House on Tuesday, October 5th, offering afternoon Court House Square Walking Tours on October 4th, and sponsoring a Downtown Walking tour led by Society Trustee and Scranton architect, Richard Leonori on October 9th.

To find out more about Scranton Heritage Celebration Week, call Scranton Tomorrow's Civic Pride Task Group at (570) 586-2527.

SUPPORT THE SOCIETY WHILE YOU ENJOY A PIZZA FROM PIZZA HUT!
USE ATTACHED COUPON

1899-1999

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF FIRST AID IN JERMYN, PENNSYLVANIA

"HOMETOWN MONEY"

by Jack Chipak

What is "Hometown Money?" It is paper currency issued by the Federal government through locally chartered banks, imprinted with the bank's charter name and state, personally signed by the bank's president and cashier. This currency circulated not only in our local community, but also through other chartered banks throughout the United States from 1863 until 1935.

This article cannot begin to explore all the facets of the monetary system from the early days of the 13 colonies through the Great Depression of the 1930's. It will try to show the relationship between national monetary needs and our local commerce and banks.

The federal government has been minting coins, or specie, since 1793 to pay its bills and have a consistent means of exchange

for goods and services. Eleven of the original colonies printed their own currency called "colonials" beginning in 1775. The new

Continental Congress gave legal tender status to the new Continental Currency, commonly known as "continentals." This

paper money was used to pay for public works and military expenses. Unfortunately, these notes quickly became worthless and were known as "not being worth the paper they were printed on."

In the 1780's, the states were allowed to charter banks that could issue paper money backed by state bonds. A slew of bank failures followed over the years and by 1865 virtually all of these bank-issued paper notes were worthless "skin plasters." Sometimes these banks were known as "wildcat banks" or "broken banks" because they went "broke."

In 1863, there was virtually no circulating paper currency in the country that had the confidence of the people and business interests. Specie was hoarded by everyone. There was an enormous shortfall of hard money to pay for goods and services. What little state bank currency and specie that was available made commerce very difficult for a growing economy. The United States suspended specie payments in 1863 due to the increasing pressure of the Civil War. Because of this situation, the government minted very few coins from 1860 to 1865. Even postage stamps were encased in brass holders with clear mica covers to help with the extreme shortage of coins. These "encased postage stamps" were offered by merchants in various major cities as "change." Today they are very rare and highly sought after.

National Bank notes were authorized by the National Currency Act of February 25, 1863. When President Abraham Lincoln signed this legislation, he put in motion the law that would establish the National Banking system and the currency that would be issued by

these banks. This was supposed to be a "temporary" solution but became a fairly long-term answer to the nation's monetary problem. The first bank, in a line of over 14,000 national banks to be chartered under the new banking system, was the First National Bank of Philadelphia, Charter #1 issued on June 30, 1863.

In 1863, Scranton was in its birth throes. Still part of Luzerne County, it was known as "Slocum Hollow," "Harrison," or "Scranton." It was not incorporated as a city until 1866 and Lackawanna County was not formed until 1878. Most of the business area was concentrated within a few blocks of Lackawanna and Penn Avenues. Much of the town was still undeveloped with no paved roads, sidewalks or running water.

Scranton did have anthracite coal and the ability to turn out much needed iron rails for the burgeoning railroad industry. What it desperately needed was a solid banking system to help finance the rapidly expanding local commerce and industry. What it had was "banking houses," and not many of them. It was a community with a population of about 20,000 by 1863.

The area included Providence, Hyde Park, Dunmore and Scranton proper. The banking system, as it stood, was wholly inadequate.

The first banking houses were Mason, Mylert & Co., established in May of 1855 on Wyoming Avenue; George Sanderson Co., established in November, 1855 on Lackawanna Avenue; and W.W. Winton Co. established on Penn Avenue at an unknown date. Research suggests that none of these Scranton banking houses issued currency directly to the public. If they did, no examples are known. They did however, redeem small change coupons or "scrip" as a substitute for small denomination coins, which as mentioned earlier was non-existent. Local merchants would have this scrip printed by private companies in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents and use them as change for purchases. Each scrip note could only be exchanged at the merchant designated on the note or at that associated banking house. Thousands were issued and redeemed by numerous merchants in the Scranton and surrounding area. Only a handful of examples are known and many are extremely rare.

With the establishment of the National Currency Act, some prominent citizens jumped at the chance to establish a bonafide national bank in Scranton. Joseph H. Scranton headed a group of men including Thomas Dickson, Joseph C. Platt, Joseph J. Albright, Edward W. Weston and Moses Taylor. They pooled their resources in the form of stock; incorporated the First National Bank of Scranton on May 30, 1863, and were given national bank Charter #77 by the United States Department of the Treasury on September 7, 1863. Another group of men actually made application before the previous group for a national bank charter, but due to errors in paperwork had to settle for the title of Second National Bank of Scranton, Charter #49 on August 5, 1863.

Non-currency issuing national banks in Lackawanna County were the County National Bank of Scranton #13040, the Hyde Park National Bank of Scranton

#13225, the First National Bank of Peckville #13754, and the First National Bank of Dickson City #13937.

The charters of the national banks were to be of a 20-year duration. At the end of this period, the federal government could renew their charter for another 20 years. With this system, a national bank could issue up to 90% of the value of specific bonds deposited with the federal treasury in the form of currency. The federal government also imposed a 100% tax on all circulating state bank notes. This was the last blow to the "wildcat" banks.

"Large Size" currency, often called "horse blankets" because of their large folding size, were printed by various companies. They had the approved name of the bank, charter numbers, portraits or vignettes, denomination and signature lines printed on them. They were sent to Washington to receive the treasury seal, charter numbers in bold letters and the notes' individual serial numbers. These notes were approximately 7.5" x 3". They were printed four to a sheet and cut to size either by hand or by a paper cutter, sometimes even on the edge of the table! Until about 1907, each and every note was hand signed by the president and cashier of the bank. Sometimes a rubber stamp facsimile was used to overcome writer's cramp. These First Charter large-size notes were printed from 1863 to 1902 and are considered by many collectors to be some of the most beautiful notes ever issued by the US Government. Only 5, 10, and 20 dollar notes were issued by the national banks in Lackawanna County. However, 1, 2, 50, 100 and 1000 dollar notes were authorized but never issued by the banks.

In 1902, the note designs were changed to reflect the "modern" emerging industrial might of the United States. These notes, issued from 1902 to 1908, had a distinctive red treasury seal and charter numbers and are considered to be very rare. The author is extremely fortunate to own a Serial #1 20 dollar, Red Seal note issued by the Union National Bank of Scranton, Pennsylvania. It has large "vanity" signatures of F. W. Wollerton, Cashier and W. L. Connell, President. The author also has at least one example of currency from 17 of the 20 issuing national banks in Lackawanna County and over 230 examples overall.

The year 1908 marked another change in national bank notes. New blue treasury seal and charter number notes were issued with changes to the legends and back designs. They were issued until 1929 and all of the large type notes were printed and circulated until 1935.

In 1929, a major reform of the nation's monetary system took place. With the stock market crash and the nationwide failure of many national and state chartered

banks, the Federal Reserve Bank system was moved to the forefront. Established in 1913, it was a safer, cheaper and more efficient means of regulating the nation's monetary system.

All designs of the nation's bank notes were standardized in size, basic design and portraits. The new size was 6.3" x 3", the size of the present day bank notes. They were printed on high-speed presses, 12 to a page, cut to a uniform size, and were bound and packaged automatically by machines. All signatures were authorized facsimiles. As stated before, only 5, 10, and 20 dollar notes were issued in the small size notes by the local banks.

The last shipment of small size national bank notes was made on July 10, 1935 to a bank in Ohio. Slowly but surely almost all extant national bank notes were redeemed and taken out of circulation by 1935. It is estimated that there are perhaps 250,000 to 350,000 unredeemed national bank notes, in the hands of collectors today, out of billions printed. A very small number indeed.

Many notable persons lent their signatures to our local Hometown Money including: John T. Porter, M.J. Murphy, W. L. Connell, F.W. Wollerton, William W. McCulloch, George L. Peck, J.J. Jermyn, C.S. Weston, Joseph P. Wright, Cyrus D. Jones, George C. Nye, D. R. Atherton, Robert M. Fish, F. H. Hemelright, J.D. Peck, F. M. Connors, John J. Aikin, and many, many others too numerous to mention.

Maybe one of the above signatories of our Hometown Money is a distant relative of yours. Maybe you have one of these pieces of local history tucked away in a cigar box or at the bottom of some old papers. Maybe after reading this article, you too are just as amazed as I was when I found out that there was Hometown Money from my own home town!

On September 19th, the Society will present a lecture on HOMETOWN MONEY by Jack Chipak, Society Member and collector of Lackawanna County bank notes.

Other currency issuing national banks in the future Lackawanna County were:

Abington National Bank of Clark Summit #10383
First National Bank of Carbondale #664
First National Bank of Dunmore #9868
Dickson City National Bank #9851
Liberty National Bank of Dickson City #12459
First National Bank of Jermyn #6158
First National Bank of Jessup #9600
First National Bank of Moscow # 9340
First National Bank of Olyphant #8806
National Bank of Olyphant #14079
Peckville National Bank #7785
First National Bank of Providence #521
Traders National Bank of Scranton #4183
Union National Bank of Scranton #8738
Peoples National Bank of Scranton #8235
Third National Bank of Scranton #2697
Scranton National Bank #13947