

# PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- MAR 5 *WOMEN IN THE 1920'S*  
SUSAN POULSON, PHD  
CATLIN HOUSE 2 PM
- APR 2 *CHRISTY MATTHEWSON*  
NORMAN BRAUER  
CATLIN HOUSE 2 PM
- 16 *MEMBERS-ONLY BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR OF STEAMTOWN*  
STEAMTOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE 2 PM
- MAY 13 *8TH ANNUAL PLACES OF WORSHIP TOUR*  
DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 18 *THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL DINNER*  
HOLIDAY INN IN DUNMORE (INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT IN APRIL)
- JUNE 10 *ONCE IN A LIFETIME RIDE ON THE PRIVATE VARNISH #353*  
SOLD OUT
- 23 *TASTE OF HISTORY*  
DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED
- AUG 18-20 *WEEKEND GETAWAY TO GREAT CAMP SAGAMORE*  
REGISTRATION FORM INSIDE

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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Lake Lincoln, Scranton, Pa.

## Nostalgic about Nay Aug Park by Alan Sweeney

In recent weeks, people have been taking notice of Nay Aug Park and getting together to discuss plans to awaken this sleeping jewel of Scranton.

The park's story begins at its inception over one hundred years ago when city forefathers determined the need for a place of enjoyment and recreation within the city limits. The thriving community of Scranton was incorporated as a city in 1866 and in

twenty seven years, by the time Nay Aug Park was established, grew into a bustling industrial center.

The park was built under the leadership of W. L. Connell, Scranton's ninth mayor. The city was booming and the park commission strongly recommended that the city purchase two tracts of land that had once been part of the Beckett estate and was at that time owned by the Lackawanna Iron and Coal

Company. These two acres, located in the hill section, included the scenic Nay Aug Falls. Over the years additional lands were acquired including Luna Park (the city's first amusement park), the Linwood section and the Harold Watres addition. With these additions, sometimes through direct purchase and at other times as a donation to the city, the park soon doubled in size.

*continued on page 4*



## Holiday Open House



The Lackawanna Historical Society hosted its members to a Holiday Open House on Dec. 9, 1999 and welcomed the general public on Dec. 10, 1999. Thanks to all who came out to celebrate the Season with us. Pictured are Society volunteers Marion Dunleavy and Ann Marie O'Hara with members Robert Quell and Rachel Sweeney.

**Congratulations  
to Catlin House Roof Restoration  
Windsor Chair Raffle Winner  
Alexis Davis of Dalton.**

## Gifts to the Society

*In Honor of Jane Reedy Manning  
by the Brown Family*

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

.....

## GRANT RECEIVED

The Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has awarded a \$10,000 grant to the organization to be used for general operating expenses in 2000.

In addition, the Society has received funding from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority in support of several projects including a curriculum guide, Court House Square Walking Tour brochure, and the Roof Restoration.

## The Lackawanna Historical Society 2000-01

**OFFICERS**  
 Alan Sweeney *President*  
 Richard Bovard *1st Vice President*  
 Eileen Pocius *2nd Vice President*  
 Douglas Forrer *Treasurer*  
 Mark Cruciani *Assistant Treasurer*  
 Arlene Devereaux O'Hara *Board Secretary*

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 Richard Bovard  
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 Richard Leonori, AIA  
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 William Nasser, Sr.  
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 Janice Patterson  
 Eileen Pocius  
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 Ella Rayburn  
 Alan Sweeney

**EMERITUS**  
 George Broadbent  
 Leola Collins  
 George Houck, Esq.  
 Joseph Levy  
 Edward Miller  
 William Pentecost  
 Marie S. Smith

**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 © 2000 by The Lackawanna Historical Society. Questions or comments can be addressed in writing directly to the Society.

## Society Weekend Getaway to Great Camp in the Adirondacks

On August 18-20, 2000, the Lackawanna Historical Society will sponsor a Weekend Getaway to Great Camp Sagamore on Raquette Lake, New York. The weekend promises to be exciting and full of history and nostalgia.

Great Camp Sagamore is a National Historic Site in the Adirondack Wilderness. It was built by William West Durant in 1897 and later sold to Alfred G. Vanderbilt before becoming the Sagamore Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the site through historic tours of its twenty seven building complex. The camp has been host to a variety of guests and offers tours, residential instructional programs in arts and culture, Elderhostels, outdoor skills and Adirondack heritage.

All meals (6), transportation, lodging (double occupancy), tours, and use of the bowling alley, tennis courts, croquet, volleyball, canoes, swimming area, and over 20 miles of hiking trails are inclusive in the \$280 fee. To reserve your spot please send in the attached form with a \$100 deposit by July 18th. The balance is due by August 1, when you will receive additional information on the camp and the complete schedule for the weekend. If you would like more information, please stop by or call the Catlin House for a detailed brochure.

## The Itinerary

*The Society's weekend will include:*

**Friday:** Check-in at 4 pm  
 Wine and cheese reception  
 Dinner  
 Great Camps slide lecture

**Saturday:** Breakfast  
 Tour of Great Camp Sagamore,  
 Lunch  
 Adirondack Museum outing  
 (with extra time to enjoy the  
 Camp's other amenities, possibly  
 a swim in the lake)  
 Wine and cheese reception  
 Dinner  
 Entertainment at the Playhouse

**Sunday** Breakfast  
 Tour of Camp Uncas  
 Lunch before departing for  
 home. Note that the schedule might change  
 dependent on the size of group.

This will be a very historical and entertaining adventure. We hope you will plan to join us!

*A bus for 20 guests has been booked by the Society. If you prefer to travel on your own, a reduced price is available. See reservation form.*

## REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\*WEEKEND GETAWAY: \$220 PER PERSON

\*\*BUS TRANSPORTATION: \$ 60 PER PERSON

I PREFER TO DRIVE MYSELF.

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*A \$100 DEPOSIT IS DUE BY JULY 18, 2000 TO HOLD RESERVATION. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

\*\* THE BUS CAN ACCOMMODATE 20 PASSENGERS, PLEASE SPECIFY IF YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION OR WOULD PREFER TO DRIVE YOURSELF.



# HAPPENINGS AT THE CATLIN HOUSE

## Wish List

If you would like to donate or make a contribution toward any purchase of an item please contact us. The Society is in need of the following items:

- microfilm reader/printer
- audio/visual cart
- projection screen
- blank video tapes
- oriental carpets
- archival storage supplies
- general office supplies
- paper shredder
- *Past Perfect* computer program

## History Alive! program scheduled for Annual Dinner

On May 18th, the Society will feature Rich Pawling's History Alive! presentation of *Fire in the Hole: A Coal Miner's Story*. As miner Frank Kehoe, Rich Pawling will tell the story of Northeastern Pennsylvania's coal industry focusing on the lifestyle of a miner and his family, home in the "patch", the perils of mining (miner's lung, black damp, fire damp, white damp, floods and cave-ins), the company store, the progression from breaker boy to door boy to mule boy to laborer and finally "miner with papers", the Mollie Maguires, the Lattimer Massacre, The United Mine Workers, the Strike of 1902 and Johnny Mitchell - the Savior of the turn-of-the-century miner.

The program is supported by historical accuracy and research based on oral history accounts from former miners, census data, diaries, photographs, engineering reports, and other reference material.

The dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn in Dunmore and invitations will be sent to members in late April. Please plan to join us for this exciting evening.

## Volunteer Corner

Thanks to our many dedicated volunteers, the Society continues to organize its collections and create exciting programs and projects for our members and the community.

Volunteers Ed Kuchinski, Maurice MacNamara, Clementine Fasbender, Ella Rayburn, Bridget Conlogue, Jessica Doncses, Barbara Spott and Joan Caffrey put in countless hours assisting with library research, filing and collections management. Leo Walsh, Ann Marie O'Hara, Marion Dunleavy, and Rita MacNamara offer their services as tour guides. Thanks to all of these volunteers who also contribute their time as needed for special events and programs.



## Notes from the Past...

Often, when the staff of the Society is conducting research, we run across some interesting tidbits in the newspaper almanacs. The almanacs were published annually and include a chronological list of local and national events for each year. In addition, these booklets occasionally list some interesting facts and statistics about the area. The following "Facts about Scranton" were taken from the *Scranton Republican Almanac for the year 1889* and demonstrate what a booming community Scranton was at that time.

Did you know that, in 1889, Scranton:

- ... shipped more tons of coal daily than any other city in the world.
- ... made more steel rails yearly than any other city in the world.
- ... used more electricity, for power purposes, than any other city of its size in the United States.
- ... had twenty-five miles of street car lines which were all run by electricity, generated from coal waste, at a cost of a cent and a half per horse power per day.
- ... had six companies that paid out over \$1,000,000 monthly in wages.
- ... was the commercial center of the Lackawanna-Wyoming Valley with a population of over 300,000.
- ... banks had a \$1,000,000 capital stock, with surplus and deposits of \$7,500,000.
- ... was four and one-half hours from New York and five hours from Philadelphia.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS\*

Student	
Scott Kester	Lake Ariel
Brian McCook	San Francisco, CA
Clair McHale	Scranton
Individual	
Jennifer Boyle	Scranton
Sylvester Coccia	Old Forge
Daniel Glodek	Dickson City
Edward Godwin	Middletown, NY
Thomas Logan	Dalton
Timothy McMullen	Dunmore
Eugene Monahan	Dunmore
Barbara O'Malley	Scranton
Michael James Passero III	Scranton
Elaine Pencek	Scranton
Robert Reynolds	Olyphant
Mrs. Emil Statsman	Dunmore
Maria K. Wojewodski	Scranton
Marian Yevics	Scranton
Family	
Mrs. Jean Hart	New Albany
Denise Hines & family	Scranton
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kane	Lake Ariel
Paul & Sandra Galdieri Kosiba	Scranton
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Mackie III	Blakely
Mr. & Mrs. Mark McDade	Scranton
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ruane	Mason, AZ
Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Scaramuzzo	Clarks Summit
Paul Wanas	Scranton

\*REMINDER

2000 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS WERE DUE FEBRUARY 15

## BOARD OFFICERS ELECTED

At the December 9th Members-Only Open House, Alan Sweeney was re-elected to serve another term as President of the Lackawanna Historical Society. The following officers were elected to serve one year terms:

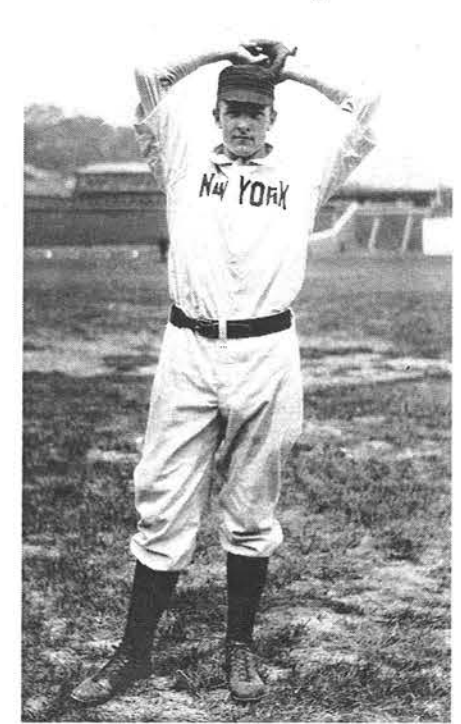
- Richard Bovard - 1st Vice President
- Eileen Pocius - 2nd Vice President
- Douglas Forrer - Treasurer
- Mark Cruciani - Assistant Treasurer
- Arlene Devereaux O'Hara - Secretary

The Class of 2002 was also elected to serve three year terms. They are: Thomas Horlacher, Kathleen Keating, Eileen Pocius, Paul Price and new trustees Ellie Axford and Donald Fredrickson.

*Congratulations to all of these dedicated volunteers!*

## April Program to highlight life of Christy Mathewson

On Sunday, April 2, 2000 at 2 p.m., the Lackawanna Historical Society will present a lecture by Norman Brauer on Northeastern Pennsylvania Baseball legend, Christy Mathewson.

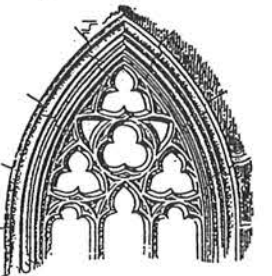


Born in Factoryville in 1880, Mathewson played on many local teams before joining the New York Giants in 1900 including Keystone Academy. Considered one of the greatest pitchers in the history of the game, Christy

Mathewson later managed the Cincinnati Reds before resigning to enlist in the US Army in 1918. Serving as a captain overseas, he was injured by poison gas and died in 1925 of tuberculosis which resulted from the injury.

Mr. Brauer's lecture will focus on Mathewson's early years and the time he spent in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

## 8th Annual Places of Worship Tour in West Scranton



The Lackawanna Historical Society has scheduled its 8th Annual Places of Worship Tour for Saturday, May 13, 2000. This year the tour will focus on churches in Scranton's West Side. Details and a registration form will be mailed out soon, so mark your calendar and plan to join us in exploring the rich cultural heritage of Scranton through a tour of some of its churches.



*Nostalgic about Nay Aug Park continued from page 1.*

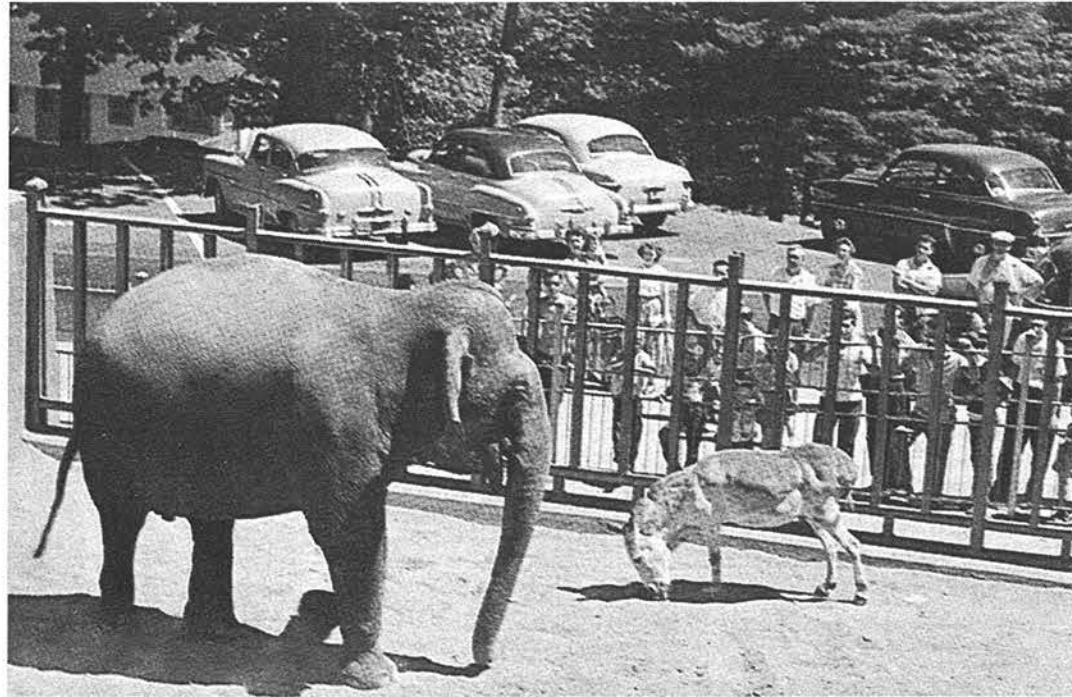
Park development started after a \$50,000 bond issue was said to raise funds for improvements needed. John E. Roche, the city's first Director of Public Works, is credited with directing the landscape of the park including the design of its paths and roads and the construction of the pavilions.

On May 30, 1908 Dr. Isaiah Everhart presented the city with a museum to house his extensive natural history collections including a large assortment of bird specimens. The Everhart Museum enhanced the setting of Nay Aug Park allowing residents of Scranton

and all of Northeastern Pennsylvania an exciting opportunity to learn about art and natural history

while visiting the park. A large monument of Dr. Everhart still adorns the front entrance today.

For years Nay Aug Park had the only zoo for a hundred miles. Developed in 1917 with a great



## Off the Shelf

*...new books at the Catlin House*

*The Myth of the Robber Barons*  
by Burton W. Folsom, Jr.

You may remember Folsom's first book, *Urban Capitalists: Entrepreneurs and City Growth in Pennsylvania's Lackawanna and Lehigh Regions, 1800-1920* (John Hopkins University Press, 1981). Now in *The Myth of the Robber Barons*, Folsom deals with some important questions about entrepreneurs, newly created wealth and the proper role government plays in American economic life.

The book contains six chapters focusing on specific robber barons including Vanderbilt, James J. Hill, Scranton, Schwabb, Rockefeller, and Mellon. The seventh and final chapter gives some insight into their importance in our nation's economic development. This publication offers a new look at the rise of some of the largest and most recognizable names in big business of America.

170 pgs.  
\$10.00 plus tax

*Chapters in Northeastern Pennsylvania History*  
by Sheldon Spear

An interesting history of Northeastern Pennsylvania is found in the book compiled by Sheldon Spear, who teaches at Luzerne County Community College. It details the social and economic problems that befell the Anthracite region.

The narrative highlights Wilkes Barre's thriving industry, in its transportation, entertainment and cultural activities in addition to some early accounts of local murder cases and capital punishment. He also recounts some of Scranton's historical points including pieces on local class struggles and labor disturbances. One chapter of particular interest, written by Marvin Berg, invites readers to revisit Scranton's old Bellevue section or the Flats and will take local residents on a poignant walk down memory lane.

220 pgs.  
\$14.95 plus tax

variety of animals, the zoo was a perfect compliment to Dr. Everhart's collections exhibited in the museum. The Children's Zoo was later added to provide an educational experience for visitors.

Another exciting and favorite attraction of the park was Lake Lincoln. Lake Lincoln was developed in the park in 1909. The original pool was designed by city engineer Blewitt and built by Peter Stipp for \$11,500. When the city council would not use tax money to cover the cost, Mayor Benjamin Dimmick appointed a committee consisting of A.B. Cohen, William Hagen, J.C. Simmons, and Hugh Dawson to raise the necessary funds. The pool was dedicated on July 4, 1909. In 1929, concrete replaced the natural dug out pool bottom and a water recirculation system was added in 1932. Today Lake Lincoln is known as the Walsh Swim Complex. The park also boasts the Pennsylvania Coal Company Gravity passenger car and the Brooks Mine.

In its heyday, Nay Aug Park was a center for local recreation and was often the recipient of local philanthropy. The Throop Memorial fountain was one such gift that is no longer

located in the park. It was donated by Dr. Benjamin Throop and was originally located between the pavilions near the steps leading to the Cleland Greenhouse. The greenhouse, donated by Globe Store founder John Cleland, was at one time used to produce plants to be used for a beautification project throughout the city. Mrs. C. S. Weston, always an enthusiastic supporter of recreation, donated the rosarium located along Arthur Avenue. This area has undergone some restoration in recent years.

Parks have always been a favorite spot for public memorials and Nay Aug is no different. Monuments there include the Slocum Grist Mill stone, the World War I Memorial, the USS Maine Memorial, the Everhart Statue, and numerous other bronze plaques affixed to granite stones throughout the park. Nay Aug Park also provided picnic groves which were often used for church socials, family reunions and group outings. Hanlon's grove, named for the late Mayor James Hanlon, was a popular spot. In addition to these small gatherings, Nay Aug Park was also the site of some of the city's major annual events including Welsh Day which attracted thou-

sands of people and the Memorial Day celebration when the "Battleship Scranton" boat was sailed across the lagoon before the local veterans began their ceremonies.

As most Lackawanna County residents, the writer has fond memories of Nay Aug Park, especially the Sunday afternoons that he spent there as a child, riding the amusement park rides located in the northeast section of the park that were run by

the Strohl brothers. This year, Scranton Tomorrow has taken on the project of revitalizing the park. The group, dedicated to promoting the community's assets, has been conducting meetings of local government and concerned citizens to create a plan to bring back Scranton's forgotten jewel. If the enthusiasm expressed so far is any indication, I know the plan will succeed.

## The Missing Memorial



Last year Society member Nick Petula submitted this post card of the beautiful monument of Abraham Lincoln at Nay Aug Park. The postcard was dated August 13, 1909 but Mr. Petula could not learn what happened to it or determine what happened to it. It is no longer at the park. He asked us if we could provide any historical information on it. The Society could find no record of it in its files or locate it through any photographs in its collection. It could possibly have been a model submitted for the park but was never constructed.

If you have any information on the monument, especially its current location, please contact the Society. We would be pleased to hear from you.