

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- MAR. 9-18** PENNSYLVANIA HERITAGE WEEK
- 25** *HARD COAL, SOFT COAL: PENNSYLVANIA MINING IN FILM AND SONG*
 PHILIP MOSLEY, PH.D., COMMONWEALTH SPEAKER
 CATLIN HOUSE, 2 P.M.
This presentation is a program of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, supported in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council of the Arts.
- APR. 22** MEMBERS-ONLY TOUR OF THE WATRES ARMORY
 WATRES ARMORY, 2 P.M.
- 29** *THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON COAL COMPANY: NEW INSIGHTS FROM THE JAMES ARCHBALD PAPERS*
 MICHAEL KNIES, WEINBERG MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 CATLIN HOUSE, 4 P.M.
- MAY 12** *PLACES OF WORSHIP TOUR IN CARBONDALE*
 DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 23** *UNDERGROUND RAILROAD*
 THE CENTER FOR ANTI SLAVERY STUDIES
 THE WAVERLY COMMUNITY HOUSE, 7 P.M.
Also coming this spring: The return of the Once in a Lifetime Train Ride, watch you mail for the date and details on how to make your reservation!

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 232 MONROE AVENUE
 SCRANTON, PA 18510

WINNERS—Holiday Open House Raffles

Congratulations to Janet Walker and Rod Brown! Janet claimed the Winsor Chair, and Rod won a \$10 banknote from First National Bank of Scranton.

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The Year in Review

Visitors

In the year 2000, the Catlin House welcomed 1,614 visitors. Of these, 445 people came to tour the site, 330 came to conduct research in the library and 303 attended a lecture or program. 536 visitors came to the Catlin House for special events: the Annual *Taste of History* (274), the Prospective New Member *Grapes to Glass* Wine Tasting (130), and the Annual *Holiday Open House* (159).

Special Events and Programs

The Society served an additional 3,469 people through its educational programs and lectures, walking tours and Members-Only events. These included: 4 lectures to local organizations (95); a special presentation by Society President Alan Sweeney at Nay Aug Park on Memorial Day (306); two *Places of Worship Tours* (63); the Annual Dinner (79);

Courthouse Square Walking Tours (120); *Heritage Express* (306); the *Dunmore Cemetery Tour* (200); and the *Santa Train* (2,300). The Society also offered new programs to its members last year including the *Once in A Lifetime Train Ride* (30)

and the *Weekend Getaway to Camp Sagamore* (27).

Expanding our Audience

The Society expanded its audience in 2000 through continuing work with local media resources including the *Scranton Times*, for which we provided research and photographs for the very popular Sunday

column, *Scranton Then and Now*. We also provided historical articles to local newspapers, *The Active Senior* and *The Paper*, and began a

series of articles for *Happenings Magazine* on local National Register properties.

Partnerships

The Society was also active last year in working with other local organizations to complete many exciting projects. Partnerships included first and foremost, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA)

who supported the Society in accomplishing several new projects including the *Courthouse Square Walking Tour Brochure*, and the *Olyphant Heritage Housing Exhibit*. In addition LHVA created additional partnerships for the Society

with Northeast Education Intermediate Unit # 19 (NEIU), the Anthracite Museum, and Steamtown

National Historic Site to continue and develop popular educational programs like *Heritage Express* and the *Traveling Trunks*. The Society worked with NEIU and LHVA to pro-

duce the *Catlin House Curriculum Guide*. In 2000, the Society continued its partnership with Scranton Tomorrow in planning the second annual *Heritage Week* and added the Scranton Cultural Center to its list of partners in planning the *American Labor Celebration Weekend*. United Studios of America became another new partner asking the Society not only for historical research assistance but also selecting the Catlin House as a site for filming the very exciting *Stories from the Mines* documentary. Overall, the Society had a very productive year and we look forward to continuing work in 2001 that will enhance and promote Lackawanna County History. We thank you, our members, for making our organization a success and hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming programs. To learn more about our activities in 2000, turn to page 3.



Bishop Timlin, Alan Sweeney, John Cosgrove, and Monsignor Quinn at John Mitchell gravesite at the Cathedral Cemetery.



Dom Keating and Alan Sweeney were ready to serve at the *Once in a Lifetime Train Ride*.

Students

Chris Dougherty, Scranton
James Gavern IV, Archbald
Paula Goodfellow, Scranton
Eric Helbing, Old Forge
Finley Brock Kileen, Ithaca, NY

Individuals

Eric H. Anderson, Scranton
Madeline Armbrust, Scranton
Bonnie Blasé, Clarks Summit
Diann Brown, Scranton
Tom Curra, Fleetville
Margaret Dermody, Scranton
Doug Dixon, Dunmore
Linda English, Laceyville
Jeanne Fitzgibbon, Dover
Suzanne Harper, Scranton
Ann Marie Kiehart, Mayfield
Joseph Laskowski, Scranton
Jennifer McCambridge, Scranton
L'Raé McCormack, Longwood, FL
William McDonald, Endwell, NY
Jeffrey Moran, Archbald
Earl Nelsen, Scranton
William J. O'Hara, Jr., Scranton
Martina O'Hare, Scranton
Vera Jean Pace, Scranton
Barb Pramick, Clarks Summit
Gail Rees, Scranton
Mary Ann Sembrot, Olyphant
Elaine Shepard, Clarks Summit
Elizabeth Slovenkai, Scranton
Allan E. Stipp, East Brady
Judith Vessels, Long Beach, CA
Kenneth Woodburn, Scranton

New Members**Family**

Mr./Mrs. William Askew, Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Fred Babarsky, Scranton
John James Blanco, Scranton
Mr./Mrs. William Conlogue, Dunmore
Dr./Mrs. Leo DeAngelo, Clarks Summit
Mr./Mrs. Christopher Doherty, Scranton
Lawrence Gallagher, Yorktown Heights, NY
Mr./Mrs. David James, Clarks Summit
Mr./Mrs. Robert Keating, Dunmore
Mr./Mrs. Edward Kennedy, Archbald
Ann Mackrell, Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Andrew Medina, Clarks Green
Mr./Mrs. Chester Muklewicz, Dunmore
Mr./Mrs. John Nalevanko, Moscow
Mr./Mrs. Edward Nuttall, Scranton
Greg O'Connell/Dorothy Lehman, Scranton

Mr./Mrs. Michael Poveromo, Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Robert Preston, Dunmore
Mr./Mrs. Dan Ross, Clarks Summit
Lyon Rathbun, Ph.D., Clarks Summit
Mr./Mrs. Niles Saxton, Clarks Summit
Christine Yarns Schaefer, Taylor
Dr./Mrs. Doug Sheldon, Dalton
Mr./Mrs. Ron Yazinski, Moscow

Contributing

Howard Evans, Jermyn
Mr./Mrs. Matthew Flynn, Scranton
Mr./Mrs. James Horgler, Clarks Summit
Mary Beth Krogh-Jespersen, Scranton
Shawn Murphy, Taylor
Kathleen Ann Murrin, Scranton

**The Lackawanna Historical Society 2001-02**

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Eileen Pocius 2nd Vice President
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Leola Collins
Joseph Levy
Edward Miller
William Pentecost
Marie 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 © 2001 by the Lackawanna Historical Society. Questions or comments can be addressed in writing directly to the Society.

**In Memoriam...**

Janice Patterson, a respected LHS Trustee, friend to many, and longtime supporter of the Society's mission died November 22. Janice served the Society for more than 30 years and worked to enhance the organization and increase membership. An active member of various committees such as Public Relations and Program Development, she volunteered her time and talents freely to expand services and promote the Society. She also helped to develop new sources of income for its growing functions. Janice was a community leader in many other ways as well. A librarian, she served as board director and president of the Abington Community Library. She was also the first woman to serve as director of the Scranton YMCA. In her honor, more than 60 individuals have contributed monies to restore the Catlin House roof project, which Janice was especially dedicated to. The staff and Trustees of the Society express our deepest sympathy to her family. She will be greatly missed.

At the Society's Book Shop

Nicholas Petula's interest in bottle collecting, Scranton history, and early glass making techniques resulted in a Society publication—*Brewed in Scranton: A History of the Brewing Industry in Scranton, PA*. In his book, Petula primarily chronicles the development and decline of the brewing industry in Lackawanna Valley. Readers are introduced to the brewing process as well. The volume also reproduces many documents and advertisements associated with brewing companies—M. Robinson's, Morton & Renwick, Standard Brewing, among others. Historical events such as prohibition and national marketing are also highlighted, both of which impacted the industries expansion and contraction. A final section of *Brewed in Scranton* notes the increasing popularity of brewery collectibles or "Brewerania."

Brewed in Scranton is currently available for purchase at the Society. We also remind you to pick up our latest additions: *The Stories from the Mines* video (\$21.15) and the recently published *Lackawanna County Illustrated History* (\$43.00)

**Volunteer Corner... New Faces at the Catlin House**

The Catlin House welcomes new volunteers Daniela, Doug, and Karin.

Daniela DiGregorio hails from the Czech Republic. She earned a BA in Art Education and a Master's in ESL from South Bohemia University. Marywood University recently held an art exhibition of Daniela's work.

Doug Dixon, University of Scranton professor, is a native of Indiana, but most recently arrived from NYC. He provides research services, and plans to take a more active role in curriculum development. Doug has documented the services of the Society's research staff over the past year in this issue of the Society's journal.

Grants Awarded

The Society is please to announce that funding has been received for some exciting new projects at the Catlin House. In addition to a \$10,000 General Operating Support Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), the Society has received a PHMC Archives and Records Management Grant of \$3,715 to begin a photo digitization project at the Catlin House. The Northeast Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Program has awarded a grant for \$10,000 to the Society for the implementation of an Education Garden at the Catlin House. The forestry program is funded by the USDA Forest Service—Northeast Area, and supported and directed by PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry and the University of Pennsylvania Morris Arboretum.

Petition Drive

A Coal Miners Commemorative Postage Stamp Committee is soliciting the support of LHS members. Of course, coal mining is an industry that has influenced the history of Lackawanna County and the country. To learn more about how to celebrate the work of coal miners click on their WEB site at www.minecountry.com.

About Membership...

The Lackawanna Historical Society currently has 530 members. If you know anyone who is interested in the Society, please invite them to join. Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice and invitations to all Society activities, special members-only programs and the quarterly newsletter.

Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend or neighbor who is interested in joining. Please return it to the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue Scranton, PA 18510

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	NAME _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$22	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30	ADDRESS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$75	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Corporate	\$500	

The LHS in the New Millennium ...continued from page 5

search files that the phrase was connected to a stretch of railroad tracks (Pennsylvania Coal Company's Gravity Railroad), then noted the two major community resources for the topic: the Anthracite Heritage Museum Library and the Steamtown National Historical Site.

The LHS staff has often assisted its patrons by referring them to other organizations including the following historical societies Schuylkill, Monroe, Cumberland, Wyoming, Wayne, Luzerne, Broome, Westmoreland,

Armstrong, Carbondale, Susquehanna, and Western Pennsylvania.

The Society has directed inquirers to a host of other organizations for specific purposes such as the Pennsylvania Department of Health for death certificates, the Lackawanna Bar Association for biography on notable legal figures, the Scranton Public Library for obituaries, the Lackawanna County Courthouse for tax records, and the Genealogical Research Society and the Church of Latter Day Saints for genealogical information. LHS will have computer links to the Everhart Museum, Moses Taylor Hospital Library, the University of Scranton, and the Scranton Public Library in the near future. Tapping into the resources at the Lackawanna Historical Society, therefore, is not limited to in-house materials but includes insights into other organiza-

tions that may be of some assistance.

Lackawanna Historical Society Special Collections

The Lackawanna Historical Society was founded in 1886 and has

labor, commerce, religion, firearms, names and sites of streets, residences and burial grounds, census data, biographical portraits, photographs, and primary source documents. The Catlin House also stores artifacts of 19th and 20th Century Northeastern Pennsylvania.

If you have an interest in history, the Lackawanna Historical Society offers information, documents, artifacts, insightful referrals to other organizations and services that are invaluable and unique.

Written by Douglas Dixon, Assistant Professor of Education, University of Scranton, with Mary Ann Moran, Alan Sweeney, Mary Ann Gavern, and Marian Yevics.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

THE DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA, AND WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY COAL DEPARTMENT RECORDS ARE HOUSED AT LHS AND OFFER THE RESEARCHER VALUABLE INFORMATION ON THE EVERYDAY BUSINESS CONDUCTED BY THE COMPANY. THE COLLECTION INCLUDES:

- > LETTERBOOKS OF THE COMPANY DIRECTORS (1856 TO 1908)
- > MINE ACCOUNT BOOKS (1862-1904)
- > PAYROLL BOOKS (1857-1903)
- > INVOICE BOOKS (1864-1906)

SCRANTON LETTERBOOKS (1850-1916) PROVIDE DATA ON THE FOUNDERS OF THE LACKAWANNA IRON AND COAL COMPANY. THESE LETTERBOOKS DESCRIBE THE WORK OF COMPANY AND CITY FOUNDERS GEORGE AND SELDEN SCRANTON AND THEIR DESCENDANTS WHO CONTINUED OPERATIONS; JOSEPH HAND SCRANTON AND WILLIAM W. SCRANTON.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY PRISON RECORDS (1878-1932) INCLUDE QUARTERLY REPORTS OF ALL PERSONS COMMITTED TO THE PRISON BETWEEN 1878 TO 1906, AND ADDITIONAL CONVICT AND DISCHARGE DESCRIPTION INFORMATION FOR THE YEARS 1878 TO 1924. THESE RECORDS GIVE DETAILS NOT ONLY ABOUT THE CRIMES COMMITTED BUT SOME BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON EACH PRISONER SUCH AS AGE, ETHNICITY, AND MARITAL STATUS.

THE JAMES ARCHBALD PAPERS ARE A COLLECTION OF LETTERS THAT WERE SENT TO JAMES ARCHBALD DURING THE TIME THAT HE WORKED FOR THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON RAILROAD COMPANY (1827-1855).

THE JONES MUSIC SCRAPBOOK COLLECTION (1885-1946) CONSISTS OF SCRAPBOOKS HIGHLIGHTING SCRANTON'S SIGNIFICANCE AS AN ENTERTAINMENT CENTER IN AMERICA. THE ARTICLES DOCUMENT THE MANY ACTS THAT ONCE PLAYED IN SCRANTON AND THE VARIOUS VENUES THAT ONCE EXISTED IN THE CITY.

continued since that time to collect and preserve pertinent information detailing the county's history. The collections of the Society are diverse and deal with many facets of the county's history. Special collections (see box) deal specifically with local businesses, organizations, events, and persons who were vital to the county's development.

Lackawanna Historical Society Benefits

The best clue to what the LHS can do for you is a summary of what it has done for patrons in the past. The variety of benefits it offers has been demonstrated in the many responses to requests housed in the Society's Research File. While genealogical searches receive great attention, LHS staff also responds to historical queries encompassing topics as diverse as

Welcome

New Trustees



At the December 7th Members-Only Open House, Paula Rochon and Robert Farrell were elected to the LHS Board of Trustees. Paula Rochon, President and Managing Editor of *Happenings Magazine*, is active in the community through several organizations including the Abington Business and Professional Association, the Northeast Pennsylvania Visitors and Convention Bureau, and the Scranton Chamber of Commerce. Rob Farrell, native of Kentucky, is an associate with the *Kreder, Brooks, Hailstone, & Ludwig* law firm and serves on many community boards including the Lackawanna River Corridor Association and Scranton Tomorrow, for which he recently co-chaired *First Night Scranton Celebration*.

The Lackawanna Historical Society in the New Millennium: Benefits for Patrons at Home and Abroad

How do we measure success? Recently, the Lackawanna Historical Society asked itself that very question. We wanted to know if we are successful in providing programs and services to our community to accomplish our mission to preserve and promote the history of Lackawanna County. Society member and volunteer, Doug Dixon, Assistant Professor of Education at the University of Scranton, assisted us in this quest and compiled the following review that serves as a very useful and informative guide to the Society Trustees and staff:

Genealogists often trace family history through public services such as county courthouses, public libraries, and national parks (e.g., veteran's memorial cemeteries). But valuable historical depositories of information are available for family researchers at local historical societies too. The Lackawanna Historical Society (LHS) at the Catlin House near the campus of the University of Scranton is an exemplar of such organizations. A review of LHS records demonstrates that while requests from genealogists represent the majority of claims on staff time, those types of requests are not the only ones. During the past year, LHS staff can boast that they have provided information and resources to authors, veteran and firearms researchers, labor historians, and sports enthusiasts, among others, across the United States and from the South Pacific to Europe.

This research note documents the variety of services that the Lackawanna Historical Society has provided its patrons over the past year. More specifically, it addresses the following information related to its activities and collections: The nature of requests the Society receives and some of its most unusual queries; the information sources that have been most valuable to its patrons; the types of referrals to other organizations; and the unique quality of its resources, particularly in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Finally, the article summarizes the benefits the LHS can provide to you. The information collected for this article was derived primarily from letters catalogued in the Research File at the Catlin House.

A Valuable Community Resource

The Lackawanna Historical Society (LHS) has provided information, resources, and links to other organizations for patrons across the United States and in countries as far reaching as New Zealand and Germany. The majority of LHS research is tied to genealogical requests. Nearly 100 of year 2000 inquiries were for this type of information. Family members were interested in docu-

menting family trees, but they also pursued information related to military records, naturalization documents, group athletics photographs, and family residences and cemetery plots. Many requests for LHS information or documentation went beyond family records though. Some of the following quotes from LHS Research File letters reflect that variety.

From Hampshire, England: "I am appealing for help in research I am doing on surviving Colt Percussion Revolving Rifles and Pistols.... I hope to eventually achieve my aim of recording ALL the Survivors WORLD WIDE...." (file BOU)

From Portland, Oregon: "I am writing a book about the building of a lighthouse in Washington State.... Alonzo Hull [one of the associates of the contractor] was born in 1844, and raised in Lackawanna County.... His father was William Hull.... I am hoping that you might have a group picture of the Hull family." (file GRO)

From Erie, Michigan:

"Would you please be able to provide me with a map of Scranton circa approximately 1870? Actually a map that shows 524 Cherry St. during the last half of the 19th century will do...." (file BON)

There are many more requests that fall outside the penumbra of genealogy. For instance, LHS patrons sought information about how immigrants from New York City might have traveled west in the 1800s, what the origins and description of the county courthouse statue of General Pulaski are, what primary documents are available on the coal and iron police in the late 19th Century, where World War II sheet music titled "Buy Scranton Bonds" might be accessed, and what historical questions the Society can provide to WPSX-TV's "The Pennsylvania Game" show. There are many others.

The nature of requests that the Lackawanna Historical Society receives is nearly as disparate as the residences of its patrons. Pennsylvanians, not surprisingly, wrote for information most frequently—nearly 25 letters. New Yorkers, Floridians, Californians, Texans, and New Jerseyans also inquired often. In fact, 50 letters were received from these five states combined. A broader measure of LHS value to its patrons is reflected in the Society's responses to residents from more than half of the states in the U.S. and to inquirers in five foreign countries, England, France, Germany, New Zealand, and Canada. Society staff members

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From Banning, California: "I am researching the history of Morca, C.A. and I need the biography of Eli E. Hendrich, born in PA and who bought many acres of land here.... While in Carbondale he invented a process to greatly simplify oil refining. He built the nation's first refinery, called Valvoline Oil Co. He later sold it to John D. Rockefeller." (file HAN)

And a Good Time Was Had By All....

A good time is the consensus of the August weekend at Great Camp Sagamore in the heart of New York State's Adirondack Mountains. Organized by Society President Alan Sweeney, this trip is thought to be the first weekend adventure sponsored by the historical society. With this success, more such trips may be offered. If you have ideas for destinations or, even better, wish to organize a trip let the office know.

Great Camp Sagamore is part of the group of camps and summer retreats built in the Adirondacks at the turn of the last century. These retreats were built on private lands held within the Adirondack Park. William West Durant worked with his father for 12 years developing real estate holdings woven among the Adirondack lakes and mountains. With his father's death, the young Durant embraced the life of the very wealthy. He developed the "Grand Camp" concept as a cluster of individual, single-function cabins, cottages and support buildings, utilizing natural materials, situated on a lake. Durant's style was epitomized by long, sloping roofs. Durant's first camp was Pine Knot on the shores of Raquette Lake. He also was instrumental in developing an improved transportation system purposefully designed to bring the new middle class and the very monied into the New York mountains. Durant built each camp for himself and his family but each time over extended and was forced to sell.

Durant sold Pine Knot to Collis P. Huntington, president of both the Central Pacific and the Southern Pacific Railroads. He then built Camp Uncas. Financier J. Pierpont Morgan acquired Uncas in 1897. Next he turned to building what became the grandest camp of

all – Camp Sagamore, completed in 1899. Sagamore is two miles from Uncas. Once again financially stretched, Durant sold Sagamore in 1901 to Alfred G. Vanderbilt who at age 22 was one of the wealthiest men in the country having inherited \$46 million. Vanderbilt set about expanding the camp with a two-lane semi-open bowling alley, telephone, water and sewer system, and more buildings. After his death on the Luisitania at the beginning of World War I, his second wife Margaret Emory inherited the camp and used it until 1955.

Among the prominent figures who visited Sagamore were Hoagey Carmichael, Gary Cooper, Lord Mountbatten and Bernard Baruch. As the decades passed, interests in the great camps waned as did some of the enormous wealth. The camps required a year round staff of 10 to 40 persons including the superintendent, stone masons, carpenters, black smiths, furniture makers, cooks, and gardeners, and the families of resident employees. Sagamore had its own school house and teacher for the employees.

After more than a half century, the great camps had run their course. Costs, staffing, and changes in life styles brought the camps to an end; or, so it seemed. Mrs. Emerson donated her camp to Syracuse University who found it perfectly suited for high school students and then for adult education programs.

In the mid-1970s, Syracuse University put Sagamore up for sale and preservationists acted to keep it from going to the State of New

York. The State agreed that the camp should be saved and worked with the preservationists allowing a third-party purchase of the eight (and later 11) central



LHS members enjoy the Weekend get-away at Camp Sagamore.

acres while the State received the surrounding 1500 acres. The transactions had to be carefully handled as legislation predating the building of the camps and resorts required that all lands owned by the State within the

map-drawn boundaries of the Adirondack State Forest Preserve remain "forever wild." This means that lands which revert from private ownership to the state must have the buildings and improvements removed. With the approval of New York, the non-profit Sagamore Institute acquired the property. Great Camp Sagamore is designated as a National Historic Landmark.

As an educational center, the Institute provides year round programs on many topics covering Adirondack history and aesthetics, recreation and environmental education, and professional growth and training. Individuals can enroll in the programs or reserve a room for a different kind of get-away experience. Its website is www.sacagmore.org.

It was this environment and history that formed the background for the LHS weekend. As fascinating as the history is, not all moments were earnestly educational. The first evening opened with a pre-dinner cock-

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replied to more than 150 written requests for information throughout the year, not including several local area inquiries, and of course, the volume of local calls that come its way. The Lackawanna Historical Society is a treasured organization locally, nationally, and internationally.

Catlin House Resources and Links to Organizations

To answer all its inquiries, the LHS draws on an extensive library and resource collection of primary and secondary source documents and artifacts. Most requests require

family history research, and therefore, staff members peruse city and/or county directories for names, related residences and occupations. (*The City of Scranton Directory* is the most consulted volume. It covers selective years

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tail reception. After dinner, the program director presented the history of William West Durant, the Adirondack "great camps," and the history of Sagamore.

On Saturday, everyone went to the Adirondack Museum, about 15 miles away. The museum stood up to the intense scrutiny of LHS members and, indeed, its reputation as a top flight history museum was declared well earned. What had not been advertised to us was the exhibit of the works of Rockwell Kent. Kent and the Adirondack show were reviewed in *Smithsonian*, August 2000. Kent (1892 - 1971) painted in the Adirondacks as well as northern Europe.

Upon returning to Sagamore, several adventurers took out

from 1859-2000.) The Society's library also houses Lackawanna County and other local town and county directories. Files of prominent families are also available to researchers. The general library houses nearly 3000 volumes, many of which encompass family related documentation. Aside from family history materials, LHS researchers must also investigate historical maps and photographic and historical files on industry, railroads, streets, bridges, mines, schools, among other organizations and activities.

Given the variety of requests for historical information and materials, the Society must be aware of, and build relationships with, other community organizations. One patron wrote to locate information on a Catholic Cathedral existing circa 1869, in

From Linthicum, MD: "Just a short note to thank you for your prompt response to my request. Not only were you quick with the response but you certainly gave me some of the information I was researching... I really appreciate the good work." (file SL 1)

which his "great-great grandparents were thought to have been married" (file McC). Another sought biographical information on the late Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle, an avid pro-labor activist (file MAC). Aside from drawing on its collection of resources, the LHS linked its inquirers to entities that would be of further assistance. In the cases above, the patrons were directed to Saint Peters Cathedral and two books, *Wish You Were Here*, published by the Society, and Elsie Gluck's biography *John Mitchell, Miner*.

In response to one historian, writing a book on Civil War veteran burials (file LIN), the staff noted he should contact the Dunmore Cemetery Association. One intriguing letter came from a patron who was puzzled by a phrase he came across in research on a child laborer, "Number Four Planes" (file KOU). The staff found in their re-

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canoes and guide boats for a quick pre-dinner row. After dinner, a band with caller put the aerobically fit through the Virginia Reel and a series of square dances. Sunday meant a trip across the road to Camp Uncas. Uncas has remained in private ownership from Durant's original design and subsequent 1897 sale to J. P. Morgan to the year 2000. It is closed to the public but the Sagamore program director conducts exterior tours. The present owner invited us into the living room, which she has tried to maintain in the early 20th century style. This owner was one of two persons most instrumental in creating the Sagamore Institute. After Sagamore which was purchased as a public trust, she purchased Uncas for herself. On the return to Scran-

ton we stopped at Old Forge, New York (which has no pizza) for a look at this Adirondack town now catering to tourists.

Visitors to Sagamore stay in the historic buildings which were known to the Vanderbilts. The furniture, most of which is original, is in the rustic style. Fires are allowed in certain living room fire places and made a nice background for evening gatherings. The fires took the edge off the unusually cool weather. The lake water was red yet extraordinarily clear and the air was filled with the aroma of balsam and cedar. There is no television in the entire camp and no telephones outside of the administrative areas. It was a good weekend.

Written by Ella S. Rayburn