

Scranton's Boys of Summer

-from Souvenirs of Scranton Series by Photographer John Horgan

Believed to have been taken at the Delaware Lackawanna and Western Railroad Bridge near the South Works of the old Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company, c. 1900

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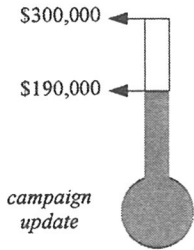
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WE'RE RAISING THE ROOF!



Dear Members,

This year, the Society kicked off its capital campaign to raise the needed funds to restore the Catlin House Roof. To date we have raised \$190,000 of our \$300,000 goal! We would like to raise \$30,000 from the membership portion of this drive and still need to hear from many of you.

We express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this project so far and hope that any member who plans to make a pledge will do so soon so that we can show the community that the Society membership is behind this project 100 percent. To date we have received responses from 98 of our 587 members for a total contribution of \$9,856. We are one third of the way there!

Because of the high priority of this project, we would also like to inform our members of some necessary program changes this summer. The Society's annual dinner which has usually been scheduled in May will be postponed this year to take place in October. There will also be no Taste of History this year, as the Catlin House will be under heavy construction for most of the summer months. We appreciate your continued interest and support and thank you for your patience with us as we undergo this very important maintenance work.

Sincerely,

Alan Sweeney

About Membership...

The Lackawanna Historical Society currently has 587 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

Student \$10 NAME _____

Individual \$22

Family \$30 ADDRESS _____

Contributing \$75

Sustaining \$150

Silver Corporate \$250 TELEPHONE _____

Gold Corporate \$500

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2001-02

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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. 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.

Happenings at the Catlin House

...EXHIBITS AND TOURS



Military Uniform Exhibit at the Catlin House

This summer, the Society will display some military uniforms from its collection. The exhibit has been prepared by Collections Committee member and LHS volunteer Bridget Conlogue with assistance from Steamtown Ranger Ken Ganz, and LHS volunteers Maurice MacNamara and Daniella DiGregorio. The uniforms displayed represent all service branches and include the uniform worn by Gen. Linus T. Hoban.

Civil War Exhibit at Steamtown

In February Steamtown National Historic Site opened a new exhibit entitled, "Railroads in the Civil War." The exhibit, which will be in place until November, uses artifacts, posters and other items loaned from several area organizations including the Lackawanna Historical Society and the Sons of the Union Veterans and focuses on local involvement in the Civil War. According to park curator, Ella S. Rayburn, "The Civil War, in the middle of the 19th century, affected Scranton because so many men went to war from here. During the war, all around them were new ideas and experiments with the new technologies such as railroading." For additional information on the exhibit or for park hours and admission fees, call Steamtown at (570) 340-5203 or toll free (888) 693-9391

Courthouse Square Tours start June 16th

The Society will once again offer guided Courthouse Square Walking Tours this summer on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. These hour long tours will start at the Columbus Monument, corner of Spruce Street and Washington Avenue, and offer participants a chance to learn more about our local architecture and early history. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to stop and enjoy our city's beautiful downtown treasures!

Carbondale Places of Worship Tour, A Great Success

In May the Society conducted its ninth annual Places of Worship Tour in Carbondale. The following letter from LHS members Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gallagher, Yorktown Heights, NY, was received by the Society after the tour:

Dear Sirs:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for a very nice tour of the Churches. I am not from the area and I really learned a great deal. Your tour was very well planned and organized and extremely informative. The idea of bringing the architect along was a great surprise to me. I go on similar tours in N.Y.C. by the Municipal Arts Society but I really enjoyed yours.

I was really surprised to see each priest or minister at each other's church and not only that, willing to help each other and being able to discuss problems in the other churches. Some of the priests and ministers sat at lunch with us which I thought was impressive. The lunch was very well done, thanks a lot.

Your side trip to City Hall was a great idea because it lends a flavor of the town to an outsider like myself and my wife.

Mr. Pasco did a very nice impromptu job at the Church of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. It added a lot of interest to a very nice job.

Most of all, the heavy rain held off till the ride home. Again, thanks a lot.

Sincerely,
Larry Gallagher

Thanks to the Gallaghers for this very positive response and to everyone who helped make the tour such a great success.

The Story of the Benjamin Crippen Coin

Researched and written by Alan Sweeney

Benjamin Crippen joined the service of the Union Army at Hyde Park, once a part of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (now Lackawanna County), on September 6, 1862. He joined the ranks of the



*Martin Crippen,
Benjamin's younger brother*

143rd Pennsylvania Infantry, Company E, commanded by Captain W. Lewis Blair. He was subsequently stationed at Camp Luzerne.

As he was leaving home for his military duty with the 143rd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, he handed his younger brother, Martin Crippen, a coin with the admonition to keep it for him until his

return from the service with the Army of the Potomac.

At the battle of Gettysburg, the 143rd was involved on the first day of fighting, with the Army of the Potomac. They fought stubbornly to slow down the Confederate onslaught west of town. Delivering their volleys, loading while retreating, turning to fire once more, contesting every inch of ground, the Union troops made their retreat. Confederate General A.P. Hill gazed with admiration upon the retreating Union troops. Riding by the side of General Hill was Colonel Treemantle of the English Army. Reflecting upon the battle, General

Hill specifically noted the bravery showed by Crippen in his report:

"A Yankee color bearer floated his standard in the field and the regiment fought around it and when at last the troops were obliged to retreat, the color bearer retreated last of all, turning around now and then to shake his fist in the face of the advancing Confederates."

Benjamin Crippen, the Yankee color bearer, mentioned in Hill's report died during that Confederate fire.

As stated Benjamin Crippen, was killed in action on July 1, 1863. It is only the report of General Hill that provides historical documentation of Crippen's fate. It is assumed that Crippen was buried in a mass grave of 1500 Union soldiers. Martin Crippen, a respected and successful citizen of this county, kept his brother's coin in his pocket until his death in 1938. The coin was then given to his daughter, Mrs. Ralph (Emma Crippen) Williams, who held it until 1958 when she presented it as a gift to J. Hayden Oliver, who always treasured the story of Ben Crippen and the history of the coin. Oliver carried it in his pocket until his death in 1960. The heirs of J. Hayden Oliver then presented the coin to the Lackawanna Historical Society as a memento of the patriotism and family loyalty represented by its history.

Reference: LHS vertical files and Blackburn's Journal

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

The Society extends sincere thanks to **Deidre Taylor**, a dedicated member, who has been sending local obituary clippings from Milford, Connecticut to the Catlin House for several years. These clippings document the deaths of people from the Scranton area who moved to Connecticut. They include dates of death, maiden names, and relatives of the deceased. Ms. Taylor has been very thorough in documenting these clippings and we truly appreciate her efforts.

Thanks also to student volunteer and LHS member, **Erik Helbring** who has been very helpful in organizing Ms. Taylor's records for the Catlin House library.

In addition, special thanks goes to longtime member **Walton Sullivan**, who continues to send innumerable records of his family and any related families to the Catlin House. We appreciate the many hours he has dedicated in preparing these files and happy he can share them with us.



New Members

Students

Chris Boltinghouse Kulpmont

Individuals

Robert Ballot	Scranton
Charles Browning	Olyphant
Allean Derr	Factoryville
Louise A. Davis Doric	Harrisburg
Judy Duffy	Clarks Summit
Anthony Gabello	Scranton
Carol Haase	Greentown
Joan Kryzanowski	Peckville
Catherine Mapp	Durham, NC
Mark Moran	Bowling Green, OH
Chris Murphy	Taylor
Helen Obidinski	Scranton
William Peoples	Scranton
Vera Pugh	Clarks Green
Paula Rochon	Clarks Summit
Linda Serplus	Scranton
Jane Schulenberger	Scranton
Donald Wickizer	Moosic

Family

Mr./Mrs. Thomas Bailey	Olyphant
Bernard Blier	Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Philip Bochnovich	Olyphant
Mr./Mrs. Robert Brown	Dunmore
Mr./Mrs. William Burnell	Waverly
Mr./Mrs. John Burns	Scranton
Russell E. Collins & family	Peckville
Mr./Mrs. John Conforti	Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Jerry Cooper	Dickson City
Atty./Mrs. Robert Farrell	Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Thomas Fiorelli	Jessup
Mr./Mrs. Hal Franklin	Dickson City
Mr./Mrs. Gerard Michaels	Dunmore
Dr./Mrs. John Moran	Danville
Mr./Mrs. John Sheerin	Olyphant
Eleanor/Mildred Washenik	Throop

Reminder: Membership renewals were due in February. To date 413 members have renewed... Have you??!

Memorials

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

*In Memory of Mrs. William Pentecost
From Barbara Mears, Marie Smith,
& Leola Collins*

*Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Peters
From Leola Collins*

*In Memory of Virginia Sallack
From Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Adler & Vernon Sallack*

*In Memory of Anne Morrow Lindbergh
From Leola Collins*

*In Memory of Robert Davis
From Marie Smith*

Volunteer Corner

Mentorship Program at LHS

In February the Society welcomed Scranton High School Senior Carissa Townsend. Carissa worked at the Catlin House as part of her senior mentorship program. She spent one hour a week working for the Society on various projects including assisting the staff with genealogical research, preparing historical articles for local publications and working with Society director on the *Museums as a Classroom* project.

In April, Carissa prepared a short review of the Society's photograph collection and an explanation of how it could be used as an educational tool. She presented this review to twenty teachers who attended the *Museums as a Classroom* in-service at the Catlin House. The participants were very impressed with her work as were we. We are very grateful to Carissa for the time and interest she dedicated to the Society and wish her great success with her studies at George Washington University.

Genealogy Fair Planned for June 16th

The Wayne County Historical Society will host its annual Genealogy Fair 2001 on June 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Wallenpaupack Area Middle School. Last year the event drew over 100 eager genealogists.

The Lackawanna Historical Society will join the 12 participating organizations to provide panel discussions, workshops, personal consultations, shopping and good genealogy conversations.

The morning session will feature a panel discussion entitled, "You Can't Get There from Here: The Impact of History and Geography on Genealogical Research." Wayne County Historian Richard O. Eldred will be the moderator, with panelists James Beidler, Executive Director of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania; Joseph Bryer, President of the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania; Susan Bennett-Dyson, Susquehanna County Historical Society; Donal Coutts, President of the Palmyra-Pike/Wallenpaupack Historical Society; and Peter Osborne, Executive Director of the Minisink Valley Historical Society. Four workshops will be held in the afternoon.

Tickets for the event may be obtained through the Lackawanna Historical Society or through any of the other participating organizations: Bethany Historical Society, Equinunk Historical Society, Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern PA, Minisink Valley Historical Society, Monroe County Historical Association, Palmyra Pike/Wallenpaupack Historical Society, Pike County Historical Society, Susquehanna County Historical Society, Local History Association of the Tusen-Cochcton Library, Wayne County Historical Society, and Wyoming County Historical Society.

Third Annual Windsor Chair Raffle Planned

This Summer, the Society will once again be sending members raffle tickets for a handmade Windsor Chair crafted by the Frederick Ducklode Brothers Company of Portland, PA. This is the third year for this popular fundraiser towards the Roof Restoration Project, which is slated to begin in Mid-July. Please consider purchasing the tickets when you receive them and don't hesitate to stop by the Catlin House if you wish to purchase extra tickets to support this very worthy cause.



Off the Shelf...

Check out these books at the Catlin House Library:

Dancing Along the Deadline

Dancing Along the Deadline is Scranton native, Col. Ezra Ripple's eyewitness account of Confederate Prisons written just after the end of the Civil War. Designed to hold 10,000 men, the Andersonville Prison confined over 31,000 Union prisoners by the time Ripple, then a Private, and his comrades arrived. Private Ripple found the stockade to be chaotic and a filthy sea of starving and decrepit humanity.

About twenty paces from the stockade walls was the so-called "deadline," a bunch of posts driven into the dry ground, and the crossing of which would instantly guarantee death from one of the guard's bullets. At the urging of his comrades, Private Ripple formed an orchestra of other prisoners with musical abilities. The band was so good that they were allowed to play at social functions outside the prison grounds. Private Ripple eventually escaped because of the privileges he had from being involved in the orchestra band, but he was recaptured.

Available for purchase: \$19.95 (A great deal!)

The Chums of Scranton High on the Cinder Path

This book is based on eight Scranton High School boys determined to get a spot on the school's baseball team. Each of the boys tell their story about the other kids trying out for the team. Eight friends are determined to get one of the better spots, so they work as a team and practice everyday, all day. They were under pressure because Scranton High's baseball team had won the pennant for the past couple of years and they wanted to continue the winning streak. When tryouts time arrived, the boys were very nervous because only the best players would get the good positions. It's really a book that stresses teamwork and the importance of practice. To find out who makes the team, come to The Lackawanna Historical Society's Library and follow up. -- By Karin Mackaliunas*

**(Karin has been volunteering at the Catlin House since December on the Library Project. She has labeled and shelved more than 1500 books and wanted to share some information on two books that she thought were interesting.)*

Society Plans Members-Only Tour of the Fuller Estate Trophy House

LHS members are invited to tour the Fuller Estate Trophy House on November 4th at 2:00 p.m. Come and explore this exquisite retreat that was built in 1930 by Mortimer B. Fuller, Jr. to house his collection of African specimens that he obtained on safari in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika. At that time, game was plentiful and trophy-taking was an accepted way to expose people at home to the wonders of African wildlife. This collection is one of a kind and is not often seen outside of zoos and museums.

Mortimer Fuller Jr. was a life-long resident of Northeastern Pennsylvania who grew up on his family's property, known as Overlook. He was dedicated to preserving natural habitats and in 1973, as President of the International Salt Company, established the Mortimer B. Fuller Jr. Solar Salt Facility on the island of Bonaire in the Netherlands Antilles in an effort to protect and restore the threatened nesting grounds of the pink flamingo. The Overlook Estate Foundation, Inc., which operates the Trophy House, was founded by his family to recognize and continue Mortimer Fuller's work.

*If you wish to join us for this Members-Only Tour,
please call the Catlin House at 344-3841 to reserve your place.
Light refreshments will be served. Fee: \$10*

Summertime Getaway

On September 8, 2001 the Lackawanna Historical Society will sponsor a day-long getaway to Hagley Museum in the Brandywine Valley.

Situated on 235 picturesque acres along the Brandywine River, Hagley is the birthsite of the DuPont Company. Among industrial ruins and restorations, today's parklike museum depicts home and work life in a nineteenth-century industrial community. The bus trip, which is being planned in commemoration of the DuPont Company's 200 anniversary, will include a visit to Eleutherian Mills, the 1803 Georgian-style home of five generations of the Du Pont family, and the restored nineteenth-century French-style garden of E.I. Du Pont. Also included will be a stop at the Hagley Library where some local archives on the Moosic Powder Works and Jermyn's Consumer Powder Company will be displayed.

The fee for this trip is \$45 per person and includes bus, museums fees, and lunch. To reserve your spot, please send in the attached form with check made out to the Lackawanna Historical Society by August 8th. A preliminary information meeting, including a short lecture on the Moosic Powder Works by Society Trustee Donald Fredrickson, will be held for all participants in late August. If you need more information, please stop by or call the Catlin House.

The Itinerary

- 8:00 a.m. Depart from Catlin House
- 11:30 a.m. Arrive at Hagley Museum for guided tour
- 1:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. Visit Hagley Library
- 4:00 p.m. Depart Hagley Museum*

**The bus will stop at a restaurant for dinner on your own on the way back.*

Please note that the schedule might change dependant on size of group. A bus for 20 passengers has been reserved by the Society.

Hagley Museum Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Number of Seats _____ (\$45 per person)

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please fill out and return with payment to:

The Lackawanna Historical Society
232 Monroe Avenue
Scranton, PA 18510

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

JUNE. 16

Courthouse Square Tours

every Saturday this summer

10:45 a.m. registration at the Columbus Monument

SEPT. 8

Summertime Getaway to Hagley Museum

Fee: \$45

*Also in September a program is being planned on Stickley Furniture
(date TBA)*

OCT. —

The Society's Annual Dinner will be held in October (details to be announced)

NOV. 4

Members-Only Tour of the Fuller Estate Trophy House

Fee: \$10

18

Private Railroad Cars

lecture by Alan Sweeney

2 p.m. at the Catlin House

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Sweeney
105 Washington Rd.
Scranton, PA 18509

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