

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- FEBRUARY 17** *Laotian Community Donation Presentation to the LHS*
Catlin House, Noon
- FEBRUARY 26** *Sojourner Truth's Ain't I a Woman*
Speeches presented by performing artist Carolyn Evans
Catlin House, 2:00 p.m.
- MARCH 19** *Laotian Exhibit Opening*
Catlin House, 1:00 p.m.
- MARCH 21** *The 'Good War' in American Memory: Local, Personal, and National Dimensions of the Way Americans Recall World War II*
Dr. John Bodnar, Professor of History
University of Scranton's Brennan Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- MARCH 26** *Women of the Century Club and Other Stories*
Presented by the Past Players
Century Club, Details TBA
- APRIL 22** *Second Annual Scranton Civil War Day*
See insert for more information and registration form

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #56
SCRANTON, PA

Remembering Scranton's Colored Troops by Alan Sweeney

Since our newsletter will be in the mail in time for Black History Month in February, I thought I'd share with you a small piece of our local history that has remained dormant for a long time.

The Civil War was raging and President Lincoln was calling for more troops from the northern states. Since the war had begun, African-American men had wanted to do their share of the fighting, but the United States military had barred African-Americans from bearing arms since 1792. Heavy losses on the Union side, and a decrease in white volunteers, prompted Lincoln to change the policy, permitting African-Americans to serve in the Armed Forces.

During the war, African-Americans served under the United States Colored Troops (USCT), commanded by white officers and often ill equipped with essentials such as uniforms, shoes, and pay.

Throughout the war, the USCT totaled more than 200,000 on the Union side in 166 regiments, with free African-Americans from the North and ex-slaves from the South comprising their ranks. They participated in 449 engagements, thirty-nine of which were major battles. By war's end, thirteen members of the distinguished United States Colored Troops had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

On July 18, 1998 a memorial was erected and dedicated in Washington D.C. to honor the 209,145 USCT troops and their white officers.

Several members of the USCT came from Scranton:

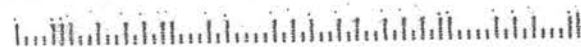
Jackson Merryweather
Private, Company C, 24th Pennsylvania USCT. Resided at 197 Wyoming Avenue and was a barber.

Joined the Grand Army of the Republic on May 21, 1886 and died in Scranton on September 27, 1909. Buried in the Soldiers' Plot at the Forest Hills Cemetery, Dunmore. Merryweather was one of the founders of the Shiloh Baptist Church.



John S. Sampson
Private, Company D, 3rd USCT. Served from July 4, 1863 to October 31, 1865. No other information is available. Died in Scranton and is buried at lot 121, Hickory Grove Cemetery, Waverly.

George W. Keyes
Private, Company F, 22nd USCT. Resided at 1011 North Main Avenue and was a coachman. Joined the Grand Army of the Republic on February 20, 1891 and died in Scranton July 4, 1908. Buried in Dunmore Cemetery.





LHS Staff Member Marian Yevics

On January 8th the Lackawanna Historical Society lost a great friend. Marian Yevics began working at the Society's Catlin House in June, 1999 and immediately became an integral part of our staff. Marian worked as

receptionist and head researcher for the LHS and was a valuable resource for local history, not only because of her knowledge of our collections, but also because of a lifetime of memories of living in Scranton. Marian worked closely with LHS volunteer Maurice MacNamara to prepare the *Then and Now* features for the *Scranton Times*, and together these two Bellevuites were quite a force. They spent many a day reminiscing about the Bellevue Section of Scranton and thoroughly enjoyed swapping stories about the old neighborhood. Marian left a positive mark on everyone who worked with her at the Catlin House, especially on our student volunteers, for whom she was a strong positive role model. She truly relished showing them the ropes and instilled in them a great sense of pride in our shared heritage. Marian will be greatly missed but will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her.

Memorial Contributions have been received
in memory of Marian Yevics from
Joan Caffrey
Barbara Spott
and
the Lutherwood Travelers

About Membership... 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 at 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	NAME _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35	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 Lackawanna Historical Society 2005-06

OFFICERS

Alan Sweeney	President
Richard Bovard	1st Vice President
Donald Frederickson	2nd Vice President
Douglas Forrer	Treasurer
Mark Cruciani	Assistant Treasurer
Arlene Devereaux O'Hara	Secretary

TRUSTEES

Ellie Axford
Richard Bovard
Laurie Cadden Foley
Joseph F. Cimini, Esq.
William Conlogue
Mark Cruciani
Douglas Forrer, CPA
Donald Frederickson, Esq.
Michael Gilmartin
Thomas Horlacher, AIA
Kathleen Keating
Richard Leonori, AIA
Mary Jane Memolo
Arlene Devereaux O'Hara
Eileen Pocius
Ella S. Rayburn
Elaine Shepard
Alan Sweeney

EMERITUS

Leola Collins
Barbara Mears
Edward Miller
Paul H. Price Esq.

STAFF

Mary Ann Moran	Executive Director
Ann Marie O'Hara	Museum Assistant
Dwane & Meredith Reese	Caretakers
Cheryl Kashuba	Editor

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 \$25 and up for Individuals, \$35 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 © 2006 by the Lackawanna Historical Society. Questions or comments can be addressed in writing directly to the Society.

WRITER JOINS NEWSLETTER

The Society is pleased to welcome Mr. David Ackerman as a contributor to our newsletter. An honorary and an active member of the National Writing and Television Society, Mr. Ackerman brings with him a lifetime's worth of professional writing experience.

Prior to retirement, Mr. Ackerman lived in New York City where he wrote for *Scientific America* and did work for the American Broadcasting Company. He has written for *Industrial Research*, extensively for *Travel Holiday*, and in a free-lance capacity.

His writing career has taken him all over the world, including New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, as well as most of the major countries in Europe, particularly Russia and countries once under the Soviet bloc. A graduate of the University of Miami in Florida, Ackerman studied Russian and, by his own account, speaks "well enough to get by."

Adventurous by nature, Mr. Ackerman admits to doing many things "that no sane person would have done in the first place."

One trip in particular brought unexpected adventure. He and his wife traveled to Lithuania several years ago to visit his wife's daughter, then a professor of demographics at a university there. "The day we arrived is the day Mr. Gorbachev decided to invade the place," Ackerman says. "We were hiding in doorways, parachutes falling, guns everywhere." Not until he and his wife had safely returned to the States did they find out that their daughter had been working secretly for the Lithuanian government. "She wasn't nervous at all!" Ackerman notes.

His own career began in Washington D.C. in 1941 when, fresh out of high school, he went to work for *Broadcasting* magazine, going back and forth to Congress with news on radio and early television.

A collection of some 1000 slides documents his travels — exploits such as landing in a small plane with skies on an iceberg in New Zealand, stopping just before going over an ice cliff.

Retirement brings with it fewer escapades, but Mr. Ackerman has already begun delving into the complex topic of our area's religions. Our newsletter can only be strengthened by his efforts. We look forward to his further contributions.



LHS IN TRANSITION

In October, Mary Ann Gavern officially retired. Mary Ann began working for the Society as our receptionist in 1991 under the Green Thumb Senior Worker's Program and was later hired directly by the Society to con-

tinue her work. During her 14 years with us, Mary Ann was an invaluable part of the LHS staff. She managed our membership records, coordinated tours, and oversaw all office activities. She and her husband Jim, who retired in July, worked as dedicated caretakers who lovingly cared for the Catlin House and who oversaw the set-up of programs, lectures, and special events. Their personal touch was obvious to all who attended our annual Holiday Open Houses or any programs held at the Catlin House. We wish the Gaverns a happy retirement and hope that they will visit us often.

In November, the Society welcomed Ann Marie O'Hara to our staff. Ann Marie, who has volunteered at the Society since 1993, brings valued experience to fill the shoes of Mary Ann Gavern. Ann Marie is working as the Assistant to the Director and is responsible for office management, tour coordination, and assisting with all library activities. She is doing a fine job, and we are pleased she has joined us.

In December, Cheryl Kashuba took on a part-time position as temporary receptionist. Cheryl, who has been preparing our newsletter for the last year, is helping the Society through our transition with the recent loss of Marian Yevics. She has been working at the Catlin House on weekday mornings, handling telephone inquiries and assisting visiting researchers in the library. We are grateful to both of these women for their willingness to share their talents and time with the Society.

LAOTIAN PROGRAM SCHEDULED

In November, Dan Sphabmixamy, of Laotian Americans of Northeastern Pennsylvania, sought the help of the Society in promoting the local Laotian community. The efforts resulted in a plan to coordinate the donation of artifacts representing Laotian culture and traditions. The donation will be turned over to the Society on February 17th. A related exhibit opens on March 19th, recognizing the Laotian presence in our county, including dance performances and food.

FUND FOR THE FUTURE

In November, the Society began its 2006 annual fund campaign, *Fund for the Future*. To date we have received \$3758.37 in donations. We thank everyone for their continued support and interest. It is because of your generosity that we can continue our mission to preserve and promote Lackawanna County history.

Contributions received as of January 10th, include:

Breaker Boys

Irwin & Donna Adler ²⁰⁰⁶
 Robert Ballot
 F. W. Breig, Jr. & Carol Fells
 Jack & Alice Carling
 Jonathan Corbett
 Louis & Katherine Danzico
 Mrs. Muriel A. Devereaux
 Robert J. Donovan, MD
 Clementine Fasbender
 Grace Flannelly
 James T. Fleming
 Marilyn & Gordon Florey
 Ruth Freidenburg
 Esther K. Friedmann
 Martin Gilgallon
 David G. Jones, MD
 George & Margaret Kahanick
 Judith M. Keller
 Andrew Kohut & Family
 J. D. Kryzanowski

Chester Kulesa
 Ronald Leas
 Robert Lewis
 Mark & Michele McDade
 Frank & Doris Milani
 Eugene & Barbara Monick
 John & Kathryn Nalevanko
 Elizabeth Nebesky
 Charles Newton
 Ann Marie O'Hara
 Barbara O' Malley
 Martha L. Phillips
 Leni Piasky
 John & Silke Reddington
 Margaret Reese
 Mary B. Rhodes
 Helen Smetana
 Peter & Angela Tripodi
 Roy E. Whitman

Silk Throwers

Delores Bray
 Bernice Colangelo
 Judge & Mrs. Richard P. Conaboy
 William & Bridget Conlogue
 Mr. & Mrs. William M. Davis
 Richard Eckersley
 Douglas & Shannon Forrer
 Joseph X. Garvey, Jr. CPA
 Dave Hawk
 Mr. & Mrs. John Hennemuth
 Charles S. Holman, Jr.

Paul & Adrienne Horger
 Tom Horlacher
 Gerard & Maryann Jacquinet
 Kathy Keating
 Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Mackie
 Jane Oppenheim
 Pesavento Monuments, Inc.
 Vera M. Pugh
 Ella S. Rayburn
 Elaine Shepard
 Mr. Neilson Wood, Jr.

Iron Puddlers

David & Janet Wenzel

NEW MEMBERS

Individual

David Brown Scranton
 John P. Devers Scranton
 Jennifer Hill-Kaucher Edwardsville
 Joan Langdon Kujawa Moscow
 Jean Leonard Dunmore
 Gerard Loeffler Old Forge
 Sarah Jane McHale Scranton
 James J. McMenamain Scranton
 Carolyn Miller Scranton
 Romaine Monahan Scranton
 Donald Murray Scranton
 Elizabeth Novak Scranton
 Thomas Ralicke Scranton
 Faye Turley Scranton
 Louis T. Umile Jessup
 Rev. Robert R. Van Deusen Northumberland
 Thom Welby Scranton

Family

Josephine Babiarz Scranton
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Davis Dunmore
 William & Shirley De Savina Olyphant
 Andrew & Mary Hailstone Scranton
 David & Catherine Hinsley Scranton
 Louis & Joyce Maddi Scranton
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Morrisette Paramus, NJ
 Tom & Cyndie Price Dunmore
 Jay D. Sequin Scranton
 Wood Family Scranton

Student

Maura Rose Hedman Scranton
 Alexandras Malfetals Lake Ariel
 Margaret L. Shultz Andover, NJ

Contributing

Robert J. Walker Co. Scranton

MEMORIAL Contributions

Francis Moran

With Sympathy of Mary T. ("T.C.") Connolly

Jeanne K Hennemuth

With Sympathy of Mary T. ("T.C.") Connolly
 and of Alan and Judy Sweeney

Marlam Parker Gelb

With Sympathy of Alan and Judy Sweeney

Jean Moxley Gant

With Sympathy of Howard Gant

The Society was also saddened by the recent death of Trustee Emeritus Joseph Levy. Mr. Levy served on the Board since 1993 and was appointed Emeritus in 1998.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to some new LHS volunteers:

Retired school teacher **Bob Booth** has undertaken the often painstaking task of photocopying old, brittle newspaper clippings and filing them. We're happy to have Bob and his patience!

We also welcome on board new volunteer **Karl Kretsch**, who brings with him a great enthusiasm for local history. Karl has involved himself thus far in research and in library organization.

We appreciate all our volunteers for their continued service and dedication.

DECEMBER 1ST ELECTION RESULTS

At the Members Only Open House, the following were elected to serve on the Board for 2006:

Officers:

Alan Sweeney, President
 Richard Bovard, 1st Vice President
 Donald Frederickson, 2nd Vice President
 Douglas Forrer, Treasurer
 Mark Cruciani, Assistant Treasurer
 Arlene Devereaux O'Hara, Secretary

Class of 2008:

Ellie Axford
 William Conlogue
 Donald Frederickson
 Thomas Horlacher
 Kathleen Keating
 Eileen Pocius

New Board of Trustees member **William Conlogue** is filling a space left by **Paul Price**, who retired last year. Mr. Price has been appointed Trustee Emeritus. The Society extends warm thanks to Mr. Price for his years of dedicated service.

IN THE BOOKSTORE

The Fire Down Below

The Great Anthracite Strike of 1902 and the People Who Made the Decisions

By Jack McDonough

An Avocado Productions Book, 2002 (\$15.00)

Theodore Roosevelt's creation, in October 1902, of a Presidential Commission to arbitrate miners' grievances marked the first time that the federal government intervened in negotiations to settle a labor dispute. The hearings opened at the Lackawanna County Courthouse on November 14, 1902, bringing to public attention the dangerous and appalling conditions in the coalfields of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Scranton native McDonough provides a chronology of early labor strife, details the harsh realities of mining life, and reviews events leading up to the Great Anthracite Strike. Chapters devoted to the four key players — President Roosevelt, United Mine Worker's Union President John Mitchell, attorney Clarence Darrow, and Father John Curran — offer insight into the men whose efforts led to much-needed change, including child labor laws and safer working conditions.

Side bars add to the main text, and several black and white photographs illustrate the book.



Congratulations to this year's Windsor Chair Raffle winners:

Michele and Mark McDade, winners of the Windsor Rocking Chair

Barbara O'Malley, winner of the 1886 Morgan silver dollar

Kenneth Savitski, winner of the DVD player

Paul Wanas, winner of the gift certificate to Patsel's



CONSIDER THESE RELATED TITLES FOR YOUR WINTER READING

Anthracite Trust, by Aileen Sallom Freeman - an introduction to the men at the center of America's energy supply, from discovery days and the Industrial Revolution to the 20th century

The Coal King's Slaves: A Coal Miner's Story, a novel by William G. Williams

Mine Seed, a novel of mining life, by Lucia Dailey

Fighting for the Union Label: The Women's Garment Industry and the ILGWU in Pennsylvania, by Kenneth C. Wolensky, Nicole H. Wolensky, Robert P. Wolensky, the story of building the ILGWU in the Wyoming Valley

THESE STANDARDS MAKE GREAT BROWSING:

Stories from the Mines, by Greg Matkosky and Thomas Curra

Pennsylvania Folk Art of Samuel L. Plank by James and Vivian Bonson et. al.

As Seen Through a Camera in Scranton & Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania: Antique Postcard Gems, by Jack Hiddlestone

A Return to Scranton Luna Park, by Jack Hiddlestone

Wish You Were Here: A Picture Postcard History of Lackawanna County, Pa., by Jack Hiddlestone and Maryellen Calemmo

This Day in History

1892

26 Jan. A blizzard strikes the city and the thermometer drops below zero

1893

1 Jan. The transfer ticket system goes into operation on street railways

6 Jan. Excellent sleighing

2 Mar. Thirteenth Regiment goes to Washington to participate in the inaugural parade of Grover Cleveland

8 Mar. The new Municipal Building opens to the public in a blaze of light

1894

19 Jan. Elmhurst Boulevard bridge opens to the public

1896

10 Jan. Home for Friendless Children building badly damaged by fire. Many donations follow

25 Jan. James P. Dickson resigns as President of the Dickson Manufacturing Company

14 Mar. 75 miners struck at Dickson Colliery, Green Ridge, against reduction of wages

22 Mar. Rev. Michael J. Hoban consecrated assistant bishop of the Scranton diocese

24 Mar. Borough of Jermyn voted in favor of owning its own water works

1897

15 Jan. West Side hospital opens for medical cases

31 Jan. Scranton Illuminating Heat and Power Company plant destroyed by fire, loss of \$50,000

10 Feb. Scranton Lace Manufacturing Company fails; judgment \$75,000

19 Mar. C.H. Welles purchases Scranton Lace Curtain plant at sheriff sale as trustee for \$61,565

1898

21 Jan. Delaware & Hudson breaker, East Side, Jermyn, destroyed by fire, loss \$30,000

23 Jan. Hotel Harrison of Peckville robbed of \$296.75

1 Feb. Double house owned by C.S. Woolworth, Adams Ave., destroyed by fire

1901

9 Jan. Scranton Railway Co. issues order that all police officers must pay fare

Source: *Scranton Republican* almanacs

Disaster at Marvine Breaker Remembered

Recent fatalities involving W. Virginia miners remind us of tragic moments in our own mining history. February 19 marks the anniversary of the 1963 accident at Scranton's Marvine Breaker. Veteran colliery workers called the accident "one of the most freakish in mining history."

On that fateful day, the *Scranton Times* reported, "a thundering rumble gave only a split-second warning of trouble" as a huge outside conveyor collapsed shortly after 8:00 a.m. One man was crushed to death and several others were trapped by more than 100 tons of

twisted iron, steel, and coal.

According to the newspaper account, nine Marvine employees were working in or under the conveyor line at the time of the accident. Eight workers were in the pit area when the accident occurred.

Rescue workers cut a path to three of the trapped men with acetylene torches. The last of the men was freed within a half hour. John Misko of Dickson City did not survive.

The Marvine Colliery was owned by the Glen Alden Corp. and was located at 3100 N. Main Avenue in Scranton.

In downtown Historic Scranton, Pennsylvania

2nd Annual

Scranton Civil War Day

Saturday April 22, 2006



Join the Delaney Delacy Guard, Sons of Veterans Reserve and the Lackawanna Historical Society for a day in historic Scranton, celebrating our Civil War heritage. End your day with our Grand Civil War Ball!

Schedule of Events

10 am - Ecumenical Service by the Scranton Central City Ministerium
A service to bless all our country's Armed Forces.
Location: to be announced

Noon - Annual Appomattox Day Luncheon
The Ezra Griffin Post #8, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, hosts the 2006 Pennsylvania Appomattox Day Luncheon and play "Witness at Appomattox", written by society president and first lieutenant Delaney Delacy Guard, Alan Sweeney.
Location: Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, Lackawanna Ave.
Cost: \$25 per person.
Mail check for luncheon to: Joseph Long, Jr., U.S.M.C. Ret.,
505 Marcy Street, Dureya, PA 18642.
Please note "Appomattox Day Luncheon" on check.

2:30 pm - Benefit Concert for the Fife & Drum Corps and Monument Restoration Fund
Featuring the 28th Pennsylvania Regimental Brass Band of Philadelphia, PA. and a Civil War dance demonstration by the Lackawanna Vintage Dancers.
Location: Scranton High School, Providence Road and Munchak Way
Donation: \$5. See form on back to order tickets.

8 pm - Grand Civil War Ball
Music by the 28th Pennsylvania Regimental Brass Band of Philadelphia.
This event was sold out last year! We suggest you register now by filling out the form on the back to order your tickets. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.
Period dress and dress blues greatly admired but not required.
Formal dress for both men and ladies is required. See website for information on dance lessons prior to ball.
Location: The Century Club, 612 Jefferson Ave.
Cost: \$35 per person or \$60 per couple. See form on back to order tickets.

See: www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com for more information!

This project is provided in part by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority with financial assistance from the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

Sponsored by the Delaney Delacy Guard, Sons of Veterans Reserve
and the Lackawanna Historical Society

For full schedule of daytime events
and current information on the ball
(including dance lessons):

www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com

Use this form to register for both the Benefit Concert and Grand Civil War Ball.
See schedule for luncheon resigtration information. In order to save costs, tickets will not be mailed. Instead,
you should receive an email confirmation that we received your order. The Grand Civil War Ball was sold
out last year, so please register as soon as possible.

Costs are as follows:

Benefit Concert: \$5. per person.

Grand Civil War Ball: \$35. if you are registering as an individual (no partner)
\$60. if you are registering as a couple.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

Benefit Concert : _____ tickets at \$5. per person _____

Grand Civil War Ball:
(single person registration) _____ tickets at \$35. per person _____

Grand Civil War Ball:
(registering as a couple) _____ tickets at \$60. per couple _____

Total amount of check: _____

Send this form along with a check made payable to:
Lackawanna Historical Society - Civil War Ball
232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510

For information on daytime events, contact Capt. Hart at (570) 241-1774.

For more ball information and information on the series of vintage dance workshops offered
at additional cost during March, phone Jennifer Ochman (570) 655-6340 or email:
jennochman@adelphia.net

www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com

Program Reveals Interesting Bit of Local History

by Alan Sweeney

You never know when you'll find an interesting footnote regarding our local history. While attending an oral history program jointly sponsored by Marywood University and the University of Scranton, I learned that the famous psychologist B.F. Skinner lived in Scranton between his university years.

Born March 20, 1904 in Susquehanna, Pennsylvania to William and Grace Skinner, Burrhus Franklin Skinner went on to become one of the most celebrated psychologists since Sigmund Freud. Skinner's father was an attorney for the Erie Railroad, and Skinner spent his youth in Susquehanna. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, earning his degree.

Our 1927 City Directory first lists the Skinner family residing at the rear 2100 North Washington Avenue. B.F. is listed as a student living with his mother and father.

Skinner went on to enroll at Harvard as a graduate student in 1928 and to graduate with his master's degree in Psychology in 1930. In 1931, Skinner received his doctorate.

The city directory still lists him as living at the same Scranton address. He is not listed after this time.

According to his biography, Skinner did research at Harvard until 1936, taught at the University of Minnesota, Indiana University, and then Harvard, where he spent the rest of his career. He died on August 18, 1990.

Doing History in Scranton is a joint project of Marywood University and the University of Scranton. Two LHS members, Dr. Kathleen P. Munley of Marywood and Dr. Lawrence Kennedy of the University of Scranton, are responsible for the programs. The next lecture is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Scranton's Brennan Hall. Forest City native and history scholar Dr. John Bodnar, Professor of History at Indiana University, will present "The 'Good War' in American Memory: Local, Personal, and National Dimensions of the Way Americans Recall World War II."

The program is open to the public. Why not attend? Maybe you can discover a fascinating fact of our local history.

SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANTS

Keystone Historic Preservation Grant

A grant in the amount of \$90,00 was awarded for continued exterior restoration of the Catlin House. The Society's Building and Grounds Committee has met, and plans are underway to continue this important project.

Lackawanna County Council on the Arts

A grant in the amount of \$2321 will fund the Women's History program at the Century Club, featuring the *Past Players*. The program will portray lesser-known stories of some of Scranton's notable women and will relate the development of the Century Club. Julie Esty will direct the program. Julie has played an integral part in recent Dunmore Cemetery Tours and in last year's March program on Scranton women. We are sure she has many surprises in store for us at this year's program, so don't miss it! Tickets for the program are \$5 and will go on sale in February. Performance date and time will be announced. *This project is supported by a Lackawanna County Arts and Cultural Grant, a program of the Lackawanna County Commissioners and the Lackawanna County Council on the Arts.*

LACKAWANNA
WONDERFUL

FEBRUARY PROGRAM SET

The Society has scheduled its February program for Sunday, February 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the Catlin House. Sojourner Truth's *Ain't I a Woman* speeches will be presented by performing artist Carolyn Evans. Sojourner Truth was born into slavery in New York as Isabella Baumfree. *Ain't I a Woman* is her most famous speech and was first performed in 1851 at a women's rights convention in Ohio.

Carolyn Evans is a highly spirited performing artist, motivational speaker, poet, and author of the book *Bouncing Back: Dialogues with the Lord*. She received her dramatic training at Syracuse University and York College in New York State. She has been involved in film, theatre, radio, and television, as well as historic dramatizations. Don't miss this exciting program to mark Black History Month.

LHS BOARD HONORS ROSAMOND PECK

The Board of Directors of the Lackawanna Historical Society, at the suggestion of University Professor Josephine M. Dunn, has agreed to recognize the volunteer efforts of the late Rosamond Peck by naming a collection of oral histories in her honor.

The oral history project began in 1991 when the society received a grant to conduct oral history interviews with local women as part of the *Raising Our Sites: Women's History in Pennsylvania* program under the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. The interviews were completed in 1992, and since that time, in partnership with the University of Scranton Department of History, we have begun to transcribe the taped interviews.

INFORMATION SOUGHT

LHS newsletter editor Cheryl A. Kashuba and University of Scranton Professor Josephine M. Dunn are working on a book and an exhibit regarding the history of women in our area.

Anyone who has photographs, other documents, or artifacts regarding notable women is encouraged to contact the Historical Society. Of particular interest are women who worked in the area mills and women who were active in the women's suffrage movement.

Also of interest are women who were pioneers in any area, or any women with noteworthy accomplishments.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Area Women's Firsts

H. Evelyn Brooks, Carbondale — elected first Lackawanna County superintendent of schools; served 1879 to 1884

Mary C. Owen Nivison, M.D. — graduated from Medical College of NY; came to Scranton in 1871 as first female physician in county
Edith Van Dervoort, Lake Ariel — member of the first graduating class of Lackawanna Training School for Nurses, 1895

Francis Slocum Oakford, Scranton — one of 15 women who founded Hahnemann Hospital (now CMC) in 1897 and served on its Board
Sister Immaculata Gillespie, IHM — Dean of Marywood College; first area woman to receive a doctoral degree (1921)

Wilma B. Andrade, Scranton — graduated from St. Thomas College (the night school was the only route open to the women of her time) and went on to become the first female CPA in the area (c. 1940)

Other Notable Area Women

Mina Schimpff Robinson, Scranton — finished building brewery after husband Philip's death and ran it; founder of South Side Bank, 1905; three sons

Jennie Lewis Evans — born in Wales, came to Scranton with parents in 1868; opened (1888) and operated successful Lewis & Rilley shoe store with business partner David Reilly; married Elias Evans in 1909

Faithful to Our Heritage

By David Ackerman



Art and Architecture of St. Peter's Cathedral, pictured right:

- Designed by Joel Amsden as a Grecian structure
- Original windows contained red and white diamond-shaped pains
- Alterations began in 1883
- Now a Romanesque structure
- Contains beautiful stained glass windows depicting scenes from the Life of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Much of this work can be attributed to the French architect Durang and later to the German designer Frank Mayer

English, Welsh, Irish, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, German, Italian, Polish, Lebanese. Ours is an area of immigrants—these and many others. Each group brought with them customs and traditions that have made for a complex ethnic heritage. Among the most significant and enduring traditions are those based in faith.

The LHS *Places of Worship* tours have been popular since their beginning in 1993. Area churches, synagogues, mosques, and others preserve historical information and perpetuate cultural traditions.

Given the significance of our institutions of faith, the Historical Society has decided to pursue a series of articles about the various houses of worship in our area, beginning with The Catholic Diocese of Scranton.

The Scranton Diocese was reportedly established in 1868. However, the recent *Images of America*, book *Scranton*, by Kashuba, Miller-Lanning, and Sweeney, reports that Pope Pius IX established it in 1883.

In either case, prior to the establishment of the Scranton Diocese, Catholic worship was the responsibility of the Philadelphia Church and encompassed Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Southern New Jersey.

John Neumann, fourth Bishop of Philadelphia and now Saint John Neumann, used to journey to Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

THE EARLY CHURCH IN SCRANTON

The Catholic faith was formally brought to Scranton in 1841 by James Sullivan, a missionary priest who celebrated the first Mass in a house on Shanty Hill, in what is now the city's South Side. The first Catholic church was built in that section and dedicated by Bishop John Kenrick of Baltimore.

The second Catholic church in the city, the church of St. Vincent de Paul, was built in 1853 on the corner of Franklin and Spruce Streets. The evolution of this parish includes the move to the corner of Wyoming Avenue and Linden Street, the home of present-day St. Peter's Cathedral.

The Cathedral was designed by city engineer and architect Joel Amsden and completed in 1867 at a cost of \$70,000. The parish church was renamed St. Peter's when it became the diocesan seat. The building was added to The National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

EARLY DAYS OF THE FAITH

Many parishes were scattered throughout our area long before those established in the city of Scranton. Some of the earliest established Catholic houses of worship are divided into ethnic categories such as Slovak, Italian, German, Magyar, Slovenian, Lithuanian, and many others.

The earliest recorded Catholic churches in the our area include St. Bridget's in Throop, 1874; St. Joseph's in Minooka, 1875; and in Scranton, St. John the Evangelist, 1886; St. Patrick's, 1874; St. Paul's, 1887; Holy Cross, 1897; St. Ann's, 1901; and Nativity of Our Lord, 1903.

The history of the growth of Catholicism in Lackawanna County in Northeastern Pennsylvania includes an interesting biography of Father Henry Fitzsimmons. Stationed in Carbondale, he was the first Priest Missionary to make regular visits to the early population of the Catholic faithful in Pittston and environs.

Father Fitzsimmons was born in County Cavan, Ireland and ordained in Philadelphia in the year 1836. During his lifetime, he served as spiritual leader of St. Rose of Lima in Carbondale, St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception in Wilkes-Barre, St. Patrick's in Pottstown, and St. Joseph's in Susquehanna County. He died while serving at St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception in Wilkes-Barre in the year 1874.

Riding horseback from Carbondale to the scattered districts of "Slocum Hollow" (what is now the city of Scranton) and its outlying areas, he would stay overnight with the Catholic family who owned the largest home in the area. From its living room, he would administer Sacraments and attend the sick in need of consolation. To make such a trip three or four times a year was standard practice for early Catholic missionaries.

Many of the earliest missionaries were of German descent, and records reveal them to be a hardy lot, able to endure extreme pressures from both nature and mankind. Among

them were Father John Bach, first resident pastor of St. Boniface in Williamsport, from 1857 to 1861; Father Peter Nagel, first resident Pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre, from 1858 to 1911; and Father John Shelle, first pastor of St. Mary's of the Assumption in Scranton, from 1865 to 1884.

As more and more Catholics arrived in the district, the clergy took measures to see to it that Mass could be celebrated in a proper church, not in the confines of someone's living room.

And so the first churches of the Scranton Diocese were erected, thanks to the efforts of these first settlements and their missionary priests.

Subsequent issues of the LHS *Journal* will explore the history of other religious groups and their historic presence in Lackawanna County.

The Society gratefully acknowledge the role of both the Diocese of Scranton, in particular Rev. Charles P. Connor, and St. Peter's web page in researching this article.

Continued from page 1

Scranton's Colored Troops



George Miller

Private, Company H, 39th Maryland Volunteers, USCT. Lived at 422 Lee Alley and was a barber. Joined the Grand Army of the Republic on June 22, 1888 and died in Scranton in 1901. Buried at Forest Hills Cemetery.