

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- SUN. OCT. 19** **THE AVONDALE MINE DISASTER**
PRESENTATION BY ROBERT P. WOLENSKY
2 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE
- SUN. NOV. 9** **THE HISTORY 'SCRIMSHAW' THROUGH THE YEARS**
PRESENTATION BY KEN KENOWSKI
2 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE
- SUN. NOV. 16** **PATRICK W. COSTELLO (1866-1935)**
BELLEVUE BREAKER TO NATIONALLY RENOWNED PEN AND INK ARTIST
CO-SPONSORED WITH THE SCRANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
2 P.M., ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
- THUR. DEC. 11** **MEMBERS-ONLY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**
7 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE
- FRI. DEC. 12** **GENERAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**
7 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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Scranton's Early Growth Reflected in Work of Local Artist

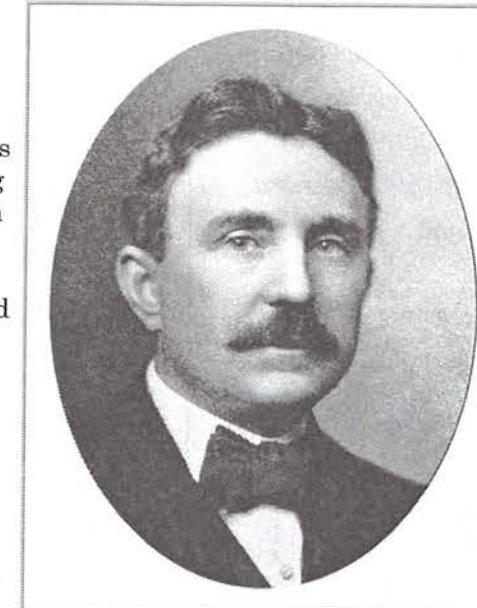
By Tom Costello

Patrick W. Costello was born in 1866, the same year Scranton was incorporated. It's fitting that Costello's rise from poverty to national prominence as a pen and ink artist paralleled an era of extraordinary growth in the young city's population and economy.

In the late 1800s, Scranton was fertile ground for a talented artist eager to open a studio in the heart of the bustling downtown. Through four decades, Costello created hundreds of masterfully-drawn engrossings and portraits that honored Scranton's leading figures in business, politics, civic organizations, labor unions, the arts, education, religion, and sports. His impressive body of work provides a unique look into every major facet of the community from a pivotal time in its history.

Patrick Costello (known professionally as P.W.) was the only child of Irish immigrants from County Mayo. His father, William Costello, a coal miner, was among the first settlers in Minooka. His mother, Bridget Langan, died when Patrick was only two years old. Financial hardship took him to work as a breaker boy for two years. From the breaker, he went to work in a neighborhood grocery store—a move that got him out of the mines.

P.W. discovered his innate talent at an early age. Without ever attending an art school, he developed basic skills in lettering, portraiture and illustration. Later, he likely studied the work



Patrick W. Costello
(1866 - 1935)

of other artists in museums, journals, and books.

In 1890, Costello married Mary Agnes Mahon, a Bellevue native and daughter of a former City Treasurer. He passed his talent on to three of their eight children, and those three went on to become accomplished artists. Costello was involved in city and county politics for 20 years, where he served as Clerk for the City Engineer, County Auditor, City Controller and Registration Commissioner. He was one of the founding officers of the Irish American Society of Lackawanna County.

P.W. Costello started his engrossing business in 1890 in a small studio near the corner of Lackawanna and Wyoming Avenues. His was the only name listed under the title "Engrosser" in that year's Scranton Directory.

He entered the profession in the right place and at a perfect time. Scranton's economy was booming. Employment opportunities in industry and manufacturing led to a steady rise in population, which caused more demand for the services of a skilled engrosser like Costello.

Typically large in size (18 x 24), and either congratulatory or memorializing in content, an engrossed document's complexity required mastery of diverse skills. Michael Sull, a Master Penman, engrosser, and founder of a program teaching the history and techniques of engrossing, views Costello as the best engrosser from his era based on exceptional ability across a range of techniques.

Continued on page 4



Ad for P.W. Costello's Engrossing Business - *The Business Educator*, 1912

RECAPPING THE ANNUAL DINNER

The 2008 Annual Dinner was held on September 17 with a sold-out crowd at the Historic Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel. David Lembeck was our invited guest speaker who discussed Post Office Art in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Natalie Solfanelli, Executive Director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, gave a special presentation to recognize and honor Lackawanna Historical Society President Alan Sweeney. Alan will receive the 2008 Individual Professional Leadership Award from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations on October 28. We were delighted to use our Annual Dinner to celebrate Alan's award. Congratulations to Alan, and thank you to everyone who joined us that evening!



LHS Trustees at the Annual Dinner on September 17 at the Radisson.

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	EMAIL _____

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2008-09

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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. Address questions to Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus at maryann@lackawannahistory.org.

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.

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Community Calendars

The Dunmore Historical Society will conduct its Second General Membership Meeting on Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Dunmore at Chestnut Street. All members are invited to bring a guest.

Taylor Historical Society meetings are at 6:45 p.m. at the Taylor Community Library. Membership in the society is free.

- Oct. 21: "Underground Miners" Program on the preservation of our mining history.
- Nov. 18: Medicine Women Frost Bear and Princess White Owl tell of the kidnapping of colonist Mary Jemison.
- Dec. 2: Annual Potluck Christmas Dinner.

Remember the 139th Anniversary of the Avondale Mine Disaster

Oct. 19 at 12:30 p.m. at the Washburn Street Cemetery. The program features Robert P. Wolensky, a Luzerne County native who recently completed Tragedy at Avondale, a book about the mine fire that killed 110 people. Linda Scott, who's working to repair the victims' gravestones, and Jerry Williams, President of the Saint David's Society of Lackawanna County, will also speak at the memorial.

Now on Sale:

The History of the Public Schools of Scranton, Pa.

By Nicholas E. Petula and Thomas W. Morgan Sr.

Contact the Historical Society at 344-3841 to order. \$25



Anthracite Heritage Museum

- Oct. 19 Remember Johnny Mitchell Day. Noon to 5 p.m. Free Admission to the Museum.
- Oct. 24 Mother Theresa Maxis, IHM, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission Marker Dedication. Location: Turnpike Street (SR 1013) at the intersection of Broad Avenue, Borough of Susquehanna Depot, Susquehanna County. 2 p.m.
- Oct. 26 Mule Appreciation Day. 2 p.m.
- Nov. 15 Annual Anthracite Heritage Museum & Iron Furnaces Associates Meeting featuring guest speaker and board member Allan Austin, Ph.D. Dr. Austin will present "Immigration and Politics in America" at 2 p.m. The day begins with a noon luncheon (for reservations call the Anthracite Heritage Museum at 570-963-4804). Additional programming is free and open to the public. The Cuban Girls perform music at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Austin's lecture is at 2 p.m. Salvatore W. Mecca, president of the Dunmore Historical Society, gives a presentation on the Pennsylvania Coal Company Gravity Railroad at 3:30 p.m.
- Nov. 16 Audubon Society Program. Professor Jerry Skinner of Keystone College will present a program on dragonflies. 2:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13 German Christmas in America. 2 p.m. Registration is required for this multi-generational program. Call 570-963-4804 to register.
- Dec. 19 Coal Miner's Day in Pennsylvania.

Williamsport Day Trip



LHS tour group including Sue Rozdilski, Sharleen Martin, Bill Nalevanko, Dennis Martin and Ann Marie O'Hara enjoy a cruise on the Susquehanna River

On September 14, the Society hosted a day trip to Williamsport where members toured **Millionaire's Row**, took a cruise on the **Hiawatha**, visited the **Bastress Mountain Winery**, and the **Thomas Taber Museum**. Thanks to Bob Savakinus for organizing the event and to everyone who joined us for a great trip!

Dunmore Cemetery Tours a Popular Show Again; Thanks to the Past Players

This year's tours, on October 5 and 12, included 23 people from the past featured in 21 scenes throughout the cemetery. More than 600 people attended this year's tours.

This was the fifth year for many cast members performing in the cemetery as the Past Players. Thanks to their consistent dedication.

Under the direction of Julie Esty, veteran cast members Joan Glowinski, Bridget Conlogue, Jenn Ochman, the Woods Family, John Moran, Karl Barbee, Megan Esty, Leslie and Kelly Kirchner, Nancy McDonald, and Wendy Belaski were joined by newcomers Jim Patterson and Susan Rosler.

Thank you to everyone involved for another successful season!



NEW MEMBERS

Family

Robert and Elizabeth Barnack, Dalton
 Robert and Joan Bonczek, Clarks Summit
 Edward J. Byer, Sr., Clarks Summit
 Raymond J. Graham, Pelham N.H.
 Andy and Gail Hurchick, Scranton
 Roberta and Donald Naeher, Scranton
 Erika Nati, Carbondale
 Nancy and Jerry Phillips, Scranton
 Rodger J. Samuels and Charlee I. Trantino, Harvey's Lake

Student

Greg Gondella, Taylor

Contributing

Christine D. Saunders, Scranton



Individual

Barbara Barrett, Dunmore
 Patricia A. Dickenson, Morristown N.J.
 Carole W. DiNonno, Milton N.J.
 Jim Hennigan, Clarks Summit
 Thomas Kingsley, Lake Ariel
 Anne D. Lewis, Clarks Summit
 Raymond E. Lynott, Hackensack N.J.
 Eileen Mallos, Dunmore
 Lorraine Mursch, Scranton
 Leo Nolan, Scranton
 Mary Ellen Riegal, Endwell N.Y.
 Cheri Riser, Philadelphia
 Blanche F. Tomaselli, Clarks Summit
 Audrey J. Walter, Clarks Summit

In Memoriam

In Memory of Mary Helen White
 Mary Jane Memolo, Scranton

In Memory of James Gavern
 Arlene Devereaux O'Hara, Scranton
 Elaine Carroll, Scranton

In Memory of Maurice MacNamara
 Marjorie, Elliot, and Alyssa Ecker, Scranton
 Joe Ricardo, Scranton
 William J. MacNamara, Scranton
 Ella Rayburn, Scranton

FUND FOR THE FUTURE

BARON: THE OPPENHEIM FAMILY

IRON PUDDLER: JANET AND DAVID WENZEL

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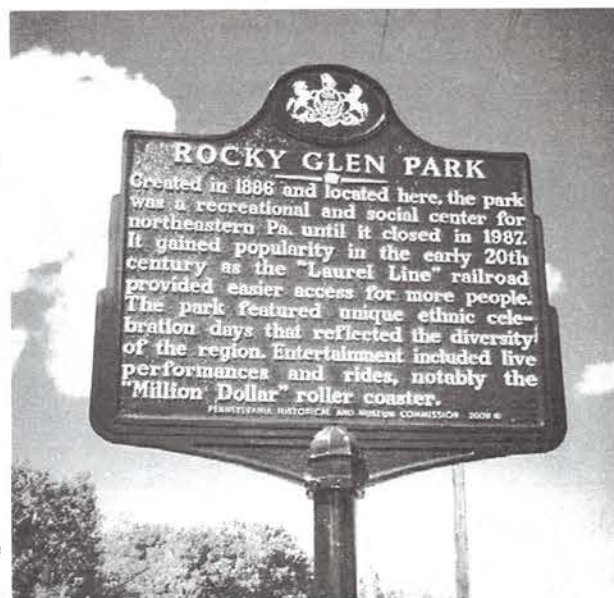
Two State Markers Dedicated

August 9, 2008, *A Day of Amusement in Lackawanna County with Markets, Markers, and Martinis* was truly a success. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. everyone had the chance to participate in the creation of a custom piece of artwork on a Heart to Art mural specifically designed for Rocky Glen Park while browsing the marketplace.

Local area businesses such as Outrageous, Gertrude Hawk, and Harbor House, and community organizations including Lackawanna Visitor's Bureau and the Electric City Theater Company donated items for raffle baskets and food for the reception. A trolley bus took people from the marketplace to the Rocky Glen Park site in Moosic where the Pennsylvania State Marker Dedication ceremony took place at 2 p.m. and Rocky Glen Day was proclaimed by County Commissioner Mike Washo. The 6 p.m. reception at the Trolley Museum was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed listening to the Ron Leas Band, sipping martinis, perusing the Rocky Glen Exhibit, and finishing the Heart to Art mural. We would like to offer a special thanks to our committee members Barbara Barrett, Nada and Michael Gilmartin, Thom Welby, Maureen McGuigan, Clementine Fasbender, Marion Dunleavy, Donna Doherty, Paul Nardone, Ella Rayburn, and Robert Savakinus who were instrumental in making this event a success.

Congratulations also to the Azzarelli Family for their success in the nomination of a Pennsylvania State Historical Marker on the 1877 Riot. On August 3 the Azzarelli's and the Anthracite Heritage Museum dedicated the marker on Lackawanna Avenue.

The LHS was pleased to work with its community partners to dedicate these two important markers in Lackawanna County.



The Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to announce that it has received a Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) Program Stream award in the amount of \$4265. PPA funding comes from an annual state appropriation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and is administered by the Scranton Area Foundation. Through the Program Stream, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts seeks to be a reliable source of funding to applicants who bring the significant value of the arts to Pennsylvania. The Society will use this funding to present arts programming that promotes local history.

Caretakers Wanted

The Society is desperate for someone to assist in the care and maintenance of our home, the Catlin House. We are looking for a couple who can provide much needed TLC in a paid position as caretakers. Please call our office if you are interested.

Thanks to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for a \$12,500 local history grant. Through this grant, the Historical Society, the Anthracite Heritage Museum and scholar-in-residence Richard Healey will organize and process the LHS collection of Delaware Lackawanna and Western Railroad Coal Department records.

Costello continued from page 1

Costello's work as a portrait artist and illustrator showed superior skills in planning, layout, and design—crucial to combining multiple elements and enhancing visual appeal. He enjoyed using varying shades of Payne's Gray—a versatile blue-black pigment—and multi-layered watercolor washes—"cloud-like" backgrounds designed to highlight headings, titles, or borders. Elaborate ornamental Acanthus Leaf patterns were another favorite technique.



Part of engraving honoring Hon. William Connell (1905)
Courtesy of the Elm Park United Methodist Church

The Connell Family played a significant role in Scranton's history. Hon. William Connell, a former Congressman, was the subject of a Costello engraving (above), which was presented to Connell on his 78th birthday on behalf of his family.

At the end of an illustrious career in the coal, steel, textile, and banking industries, Connell ran for a congressional seat and won easily—an indication of the public's high regard for a man who had contributed so much to the city's economic vitality.

The engraving is a masterpiece, a stunning example of Costello's range of skills. It includes 12 drawn and brushed portraits of family members and three illustrations of Connell businesses, an extraordinary accomplishment. It took superior abilities in layout and design to effectively blend so many individual drawings. This piece can only be fully appreciated when seen in color, a striking combination of white, bright blue, and vermilion.

The ability to get coal, steel, and textiles to market quickly fueled Scranton's economic

growth. William F. Hallstead, General Manager of the DL&W Railroad, was a major figure in the local industry. A Costello engraving, presented by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, honored Hallstead when he retired in 1899.

The centerpiece of the document (below) is a beautifully-detailed illustration of a locomotive named the "H. F. Hallstead," showing Costello's well-developed art skills at an early stage in his career.

The emergence of theatre in Scranton near the turn of the century demonstrated the cultural benefits of the city's growing prosperity. Costello's large collection of portraits of stage performers, many of them auto-graphed, reflected his love for the arts.

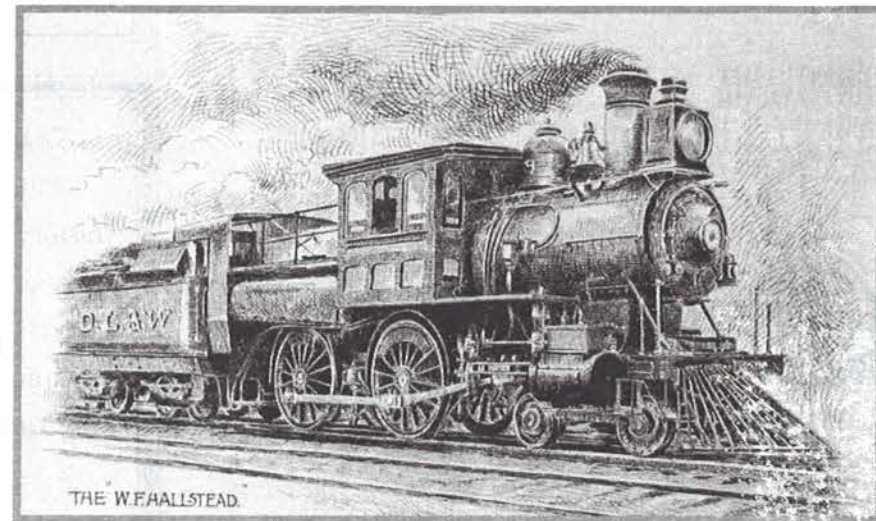
P.W. used a distinctive technique of stippling and cross-hatching to create ink drawn illustrations with amber or rose-colored background washes.

As one of the nation's most talented pen and ink artists, P.W. Costello devoted 40 years to honoring the lives of others, including three Presidents. He captured in his work a significant period in Scranton's history and made a lasting contribution to its art heritage.

As part of his research into the life of his great-grandfather P.W. Costello, who lived in Bellevue from 1880 to 1907, Tom Costello is very interested in photographs of Bellevue from around that same time period. If you own any, he would appreciate hearing from you. Tom can be reached at 732-613-0820 or at e-mail address: tomc1228@aol.com.

Learn more about the artist

There will be a special presentation on P.W. Costello by Tom Costello on November 16 at the Albright Library. See the calendar on page 8.



Train illustration, part of the William F. Hallstead Engraving, 1899

Having Babies - A Century Apart

Sharleen Martin

How has the experience of childbirth changed in a century? Comparing two women's experiences a century apart shows some differences but many similarities. One of the artifacts in the Lackawanna Historical Society collection is a one-month diary of Della Evans Thomas, who had her first baby in 1901. For comparison, I talked to Debbie Evans whose first baby was born in 2003.

Della was a teacher for 20 years until she married in 1898 at 37. She was 40 when she had her first and only child, a son, Everett Daniel. That age is late by today's standards but was even more unusual and risky back then. Debbie Evans was in her early 30s when her son, Ryan Philip, was born—an age considered more normal, especially for first-timers.

From her diary, we know that Della was apprehensive and not quite sure of what to expect as she entered her last trimester. That is

not too unusual at any time for a first birth. She had her baby at home attended by a doctor and a nurse.

Her labor started on April 2 and her son was born on April 4. Although home births still occur, possibly attended by a midwife, these days most births happen in a hospital.

Della stayed in bed for almost a month; the doctor came to the house every day until April 15 and the nurse lived at the home until May 1 when Della was finally allowed to be up and around. Della didn't even "sit up" until April 17. Her first day alone with her new son wasn't until April 28 when the nurse went out for a short time.

A century later, Debbie said that her experience was similar to

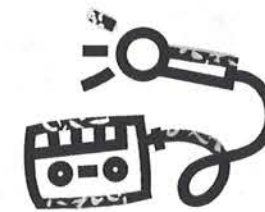
Della's. She had a long labor and was apprehensive, but the similarity ends there. The nurses had Debbie up within an hour of having her son. She was home doing laundry and cleaning the house within 48 hours. She was shopping at the grocery store within the week and went back to her job within 12 weeks.

The first night home alone was described similarly. Both mentioned a definite lack of sleep. Debbie described it as a "Twilight Zone" experience and while Della did not know about the "Twilight Zone," she wished that the nurse were back to take care of her baby so she could get a moment's rest. Perhaps this explains the brevity of Della's diary. It stopped just after Della started to go it alone!

The Lackawanna Historical Society extends its condolences to the family of Cynthia Thomas Stuck. Recent articles about the Thomas/Evans families were inspired from donations made by Cynthia.



Take part in an
**ORAL HISTORY
PROJECT**



The LHS wants to hear
YOUR story. This is your chance to share your memories. Contact us at 344-3841 for more information.

Got a family story?

Send us an old family photo with your family story. Include who's in the picture, when they lived, where they lived, and what they did.

We could include your story in a future issue of *The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal*.

