

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- SUN. FEB. 1** **BLACK GOLD: FROM THE VALLEY TO NEW YORK CITY: HOW IT ALL GOT STARTED!**  
LECTURE BY TOM KENNEDY  
2 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE
- SAT. FEB. 14** **FOREVER FREE, ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S JOURNEY TO EMANCIPATION**  
SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION (SEE PAGE 8)  
8:30 A.M. TO 1 P.M.  
UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON PATRICK AND MARGARET DENAPLES CENTER  
EXHIBIT RUNS FEBRUARY 9 THROUGH MARCH 22
- SUN. MAR. 8** **BOYS IN BLUE**  
LECTURE BY RICHARD SAUERS, PENNSYLVANIA HUMANITIES SPEAKER  
SPONSORED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA HUMANITIES COUNCIL  
2 P.M., ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY (SEE PAGE 4)
- SUN. APR. 5** **CALL ME KATE**  
BOOK SIGNING WITH MOLLIE ROE  
2 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE
- SAT. APR. 18** **ANNUAL CIVIL WAR BALL CENTURY CLUB**  
7 P.M., CATLIN HOUSE (SEE PAGE 6)
- SUN. APR. 19** **DANCE DEMONSTRATION AND TEA**  
1 P.M., SCRANTON CULTURAL CENTER (SEE PAGE 7)

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
232 MONROE AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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# The LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

Founded 1886



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Winter 2009



Alan Sweeney (1953-2008) receives the PFMHO Individual Leadership Award from Scott R. Becker (right), executive director of the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum.

## Alan Sweeney, LHS President 1997-2008

On December 5, the Lackawanna Historical Society lost a dear friend and priceless leader with the passing of Alan Sweeney, who served as president of the Society's Board of Trustees for 11 years.

Under Alan's leadership, the Society partnered with community groups to expand or introduce new programs and to tap talented community leaders for Board membership and project chairmanships. On October 28, Alan was recognized for his work and received the Individual Leadership Award from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations (PFMHO).

Alan loved the history of Lackawanna County and Northeastern Pennsylvania. The final article that he wrote, which examined Native American names along the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad, is published in this edition of the newsletter—one that is dedicated to Alan.

## Indian Names used by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad

American Indians and a railroad, what do they have in common? Well, from the following research information, I'll let you decide. Railroad companies often used Native American names along their lines. I first noticed this while reading many books about the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad.

The main-line of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad from New York City to Chicago shows several examples of the use of Native American names. It is my contention that the Railroad liked the idea of identifying not only lines but anything that needed a name using Native American derivatives. A lot of these names were tongue-twisters and sometimes didn't sound too great. So the DL&W printed a brochure to let its riders know the correct definition and pronunciation of these *Indian names*. The pamphlet *Indian Names Along the Lackawanna* proved to be an excellent marketing idea for the Railroad.

One thing that I found of particular interest was the DL&W's use of Native American names for specific cars that were out-shopped and painted right in our own backyard by the American Car and Foundry Company of Berwick, Pennsylvania. These newly designed cars were made by noted railroad car designer Henry Dreyfus of the Pullman Railroad Car Company. Berwick's own American Car and Foundry

Company also built cars for the Nickel Plate Railroad, Pennsylvania Railroad, and Seaboard Railroad to name just a few.

In conducting this research, I learned a lot about Native American names and their meanings, which I have summarized here as a glossary for your information. This project brought back many thoughts of my childhood traveling along the tracks from Hoboken to Scranton. My imaginations of long lost Indians are just a memory away.

In closing I hope you enjoy this journey along the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad and its Native American place names. I have enjoyed doing the research. I would like to extend my appreciation to Yellowwood Student Kenesha McDaniel who typed this article for me, my fellow Trustee Ella Rayburn, and Patrick McKnight of Steamtown National Historical Site for their research assistance. I would also like to thank our Executive Director Mary Ann M. Savakinus and Office Assistants Ann Marie O'Hara and Mary Ann Gavern. Without their assistance I would not be able to share the information on this interesting subject with you.

Alan Sweeney  
Scranton, Pa  
November 2008

Dear Friends,

As I am sure many of you know our President, Alan Sweeney, passed away on December 5, 2008. Any member who was lucky enough to meet him when they attended an LHS event or spend some time "talking history" with him at the Catlin House understands the impact that Alan had on our organization. Alan was a great leader with a real passion for local history. He relished any opportunity to learn and was always investigating. In his final days at the Society, Alan was researching at least three different topics. His enthusiasm for local history did not stop with his own research. He was always interested in learning about other Society patrons and inquired often about what they were researching, just in case he could assist them in their queries. As President of the LHS, Alan brought our organization forward by forging useful partnerships, establishing exciting new programs and stabilizing the finances.

But Alan was more than the President of the Society, he was a true friend. He was someone who could always be counted on for support and advice in almost any situation. He lived every moment to the fullest and made everyone around him want to do the same. At his funeral I was honored to read the following poem. Because several members have contacted us for a copy, we decided to print it in this issue. I hope that it will inspire you to live every moment to the fullest as Alan did.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Moran Savakinus,  
Executive Director

Life is too short to wake up with regrets.

So love the people who treat you right.

Love the ones who don't because you can.

Believe everything happens for a reason.

If you get a second chance, grab it with both hands.

Kiss slowly. Forgive quickly.

God never said life would be easy.

He just promised it would be worth it.

~Anonymous

**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	_____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE _____
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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.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is printed in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Entire contents copyrighted © 2009 by the Lackawanna Historical Society.

origin word is "The place of wild Grapes." It is also a name of a small town and lake in southern New York State. Oswego - This Indian word of Algonquin origin means "Where the valley widens." This small town was the terminus of the Oswego and Syracuse Division of the railroad.

Owego - This Indian word comes from the Cayuga tribe and means "Swift waters." This Indian name is a station stop on the main-line of the railroad to Buffalo.

Passaic - Of Algonquin derivation. PACH-RC means "Place where it divides." This is supposed to refer to the separation of the Hackensack River in New Jersey that the railroad crosses.

Pequest - An Indian word that has been found to have no real meaning but is used as a name of a river in western New Jersey crossed by the railroad.

Pocono - An Indian word meaning "A stream between mountains." The region of the Pocono Mountains exists from the Delaware Water Gap across Monroe County but originally only included East Stroudsburg to Tobyhanna.

Pohoqualin - This Indian word means "A river between two mountains" and is referred to Mt. Minsi and Mt. Kittatinny at the Delaware Water Gap.

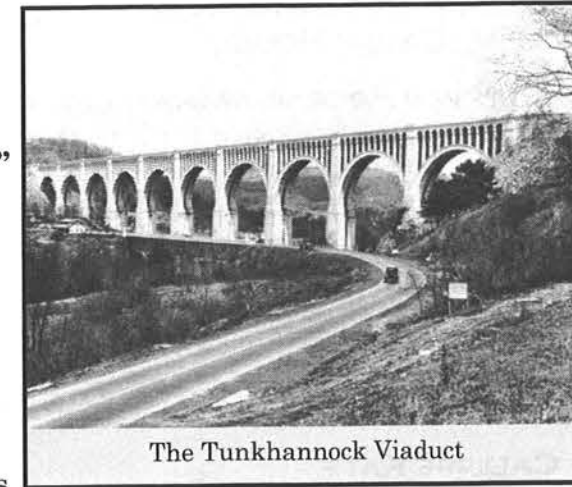
Secaucus - From Lenape Indian origin as a derivation of SEK-AK-ACH-QOCK, it was corrupted from the original which meant "Hand of great soaks - place of tenor." The railroad has a station stop here.

Susquehanna - An Indian tribe that became extinct before the Revolutionary War and whose name means "The beautiful flowing river." The river parallels the railroad from Binghamton to Waverly, New York

Tamenend or Tammany from the Lenni-Lenape Indian tribe. We see the New York City political organization took this tribe name as its own.

Tioughnioga - This Indian word has two interpretations "Forks of river" and "Meeting of waters." It also gave its name to a small river that empties into the Chenango River that parallels the railroad's Syracuse Division.

Tobyhanna - An Indian word taken from the



The Tunkhannock Viaduct

name of a stream meaning "Alder - Stream." This stream empties into the Lehigh River. This is a station stop on the main-line of the railroad.

Tunkhannock - An Indian name taken from TANK'HANNE meaning "The

small stream." This name is also is the name of the famous Tunkhannock Viaduct, one of the seven civil engineering wonders of the world. Wallenpaupack - An Indian name given to a stream that divides Wayne and Pike counties and also a name of its large man-made lake used to generate electricity. Taken from the WALENK'PO PACK meaning "Deep and slow water."

Watsessing - This word is partially unknown in its derivation but Wad-chu-assin-ink means "A stone hill."

Wilawana - This Indian word of Delaware tribe origin means "Harm." It is also a station stop in the railroad near Elmira, New York.

Wyalusing - A Delaware Indian word meaning "Place of the hoary veteran" and also the name of a small town northwest of Scranton on the Erie Railroad.

Wyoming - This Delaware Indian name is corrupted from two meanings "Large plains" and "Extensive meadows."

The small town is a station stop on the Bloomsburg Branch of the railroad.





*Names continued from page 1*

**Anwaga** – This Indian name comes from Ah-wa-ga, which means **“Where the Valley Wonders.”** It is also said that it was also the original name for Owego.

**Catatonk** - An Algonquin Indian word of origin meaning **“Principal return.”** This also gives a station stop name on the railroad near Owego, New York.

**Catawissa** - A Indian word that they say is a corruption of the word “Gattawisi,” meaning **“Growing fat,”** others say the meaning **“Clean water.”** You are the judge. But Catawissa is a station stop on the Bloomsburg branch waters railroad.

**Cayuga** – This Iroquois Indian name means **“Macky land.”** It also gives its name to a Finger Lake near Ithaca New York and the home of Cornell University. It is also the terminus of the Ithaca Branch of the railroad.

**Chenango** – This word is of Seneca Indian Origin O-CHO-NANG and means **“Bull This-tles.”** The Chenango River parallels the railroads’ Lackawanna Utica Division.

**Chemung** – This Iroquois Indian name means **“Big horn.”** It also gave its name to a small town along the railroad near Elmira, New York. It also gave its name to the river that parallels the railroad from Waverly to Corning, New York.

**Cohocton** – This Indian word means **“Crossing a river on a log.”** It is also a station stop on the railroad.

**Delaware** - An Algonquin Indian name meaning **“In the plains.”**

**Elmira** – Takes its derivation from skew-so-wa meaning **“Great plains.”** It is also a station stop on the railroad main-line.

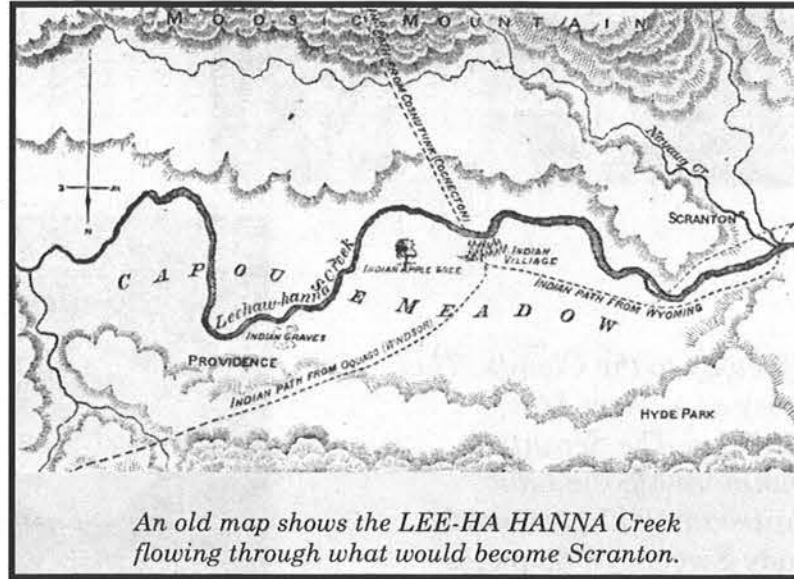
**Genesco** – It’s an Iroquois Indian name meaning **“Beautiful Valley.”** Its origin word cannot be found.

**Hoboken** – An Algonquin origin meaning **“Country of Tobacco Pipe.”** This city is where the railroad ferry terminal was located with more than 100,000 people using the terminal daily.

**Hiawatha** – This Indian name gave us a famous Indian Chief name and also a small island in the Susquehanna River near Owego, New York. It means **“Wise man.”**

**Hopatcong** – This Indian word had no Indian tribe association to it. It means **“Honey waters of many cones.”** Lake Hopatcong, a summer resort in New Jersey is located on the main-line of the railroad.

**Kittatinny** – A Delaware Indian name meaning **“Endless Mountain”** this is the name of the mountain chain that forms the Delaware Water Gap.



**Lackawanna** – a combination of two Indian words – **LEE-HA**, meaning **fork or junction** and **Hanna** meaning **river**. The river fork that explains this two word name lies above Pittston, Pennsylvania.

**Lenni** – **Lenape** – This Indian tribe is the first tribe to live in the region of the Delaware Water Gap. It means **“Original people.”**

**Manhattan** – An Algonquin origin meaning **“Town of the island.”** This was the eastern terminus of the railroad.

**Minisink** – Taken from the Indian meaning **“The water is gone”** and is known today at Minisink Hills or North Water Gap.

**Nanticoke** – An Indian word meaning **“Tidewater people.”** This is also a station stop in the Bloomsburg branch of the railroad.

**Onondaga** – The Iroquois Indian name means **“People from the mountains.”** These Indians lived in southern New York State . A rail sleeper car was also named after this tribe.

**Oquaga** – The Indian meaning of this Mohawk

## In Memory of Alan Sweeney (Memorials made as of January 9, 2008)

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Also:  
 Cemetery Association of Dunmore  
 Coolbaugh Twp. Historical Association  
 Scranton City Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution  
 Erie Lackawanna Dining Car Preservation Society  
 Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
 Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society, Inc.



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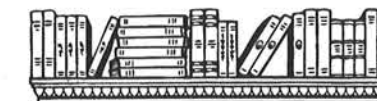
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 Patrick O'Malley, Scranton  
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 David B.C. Tucker, Montague, NJ

### Contributing

Attorney & Mrs. Todd O'Malley, Scranton

## IN THE BOOKSTORE



### The Books of Alan Sweeney

Alan's love of history is evident in the books he wrote. He traced the visual histories of a city, a rail line, and a community's escape to a nature retreat. All books are available at The Lackawanna Historical Society.

The Abington Community Library and the Lackawanna Historical Society  
 Present

### A Three-Part Series on the Civil War

Sunday, March 8, 2 p.m. at the Catlin House, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton):

**"The Boys in Blue"** presented by Richard Sauers,  
 Pennsylvania Humanities Council

Tuesday, March 24, 7 p.m. at the Abington Community Library,  
 1200 W. Grove St., Clarks Summit:

**"Civil War Era Music"** with Thomas Jolin,  
 Pennsylvania Humanities Council

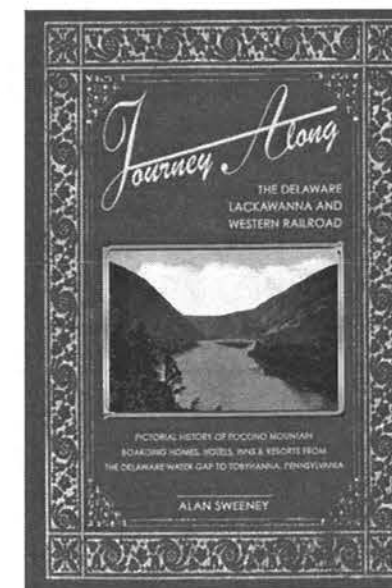
Tuesday, March 31, 7 p.m. at the Abington Community Library:

**"Civil War Dance Demonstration"**  
 presented by John and Jennifer Ochman

Seating is limited and registration is required. Register in person or call 570.587.3440.

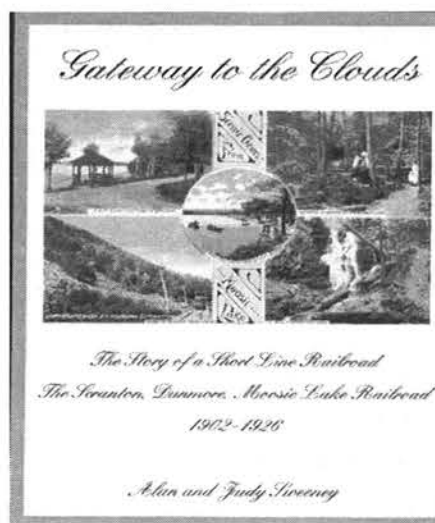
For information on other Abington Community Library events  
 visit [www.lclshome.org/abington](http://www.lclshome.org/abington), Library Events.

The Lackawanna Historical Society runs announcements and upcoming events for organizations with similar purposes to preserve and promote the history of Northeastern Pennsylvania. To include your events in a future edition, email information to [maryann@lackawannahistory.org](mailto:maryann@lackawannahistory.org)

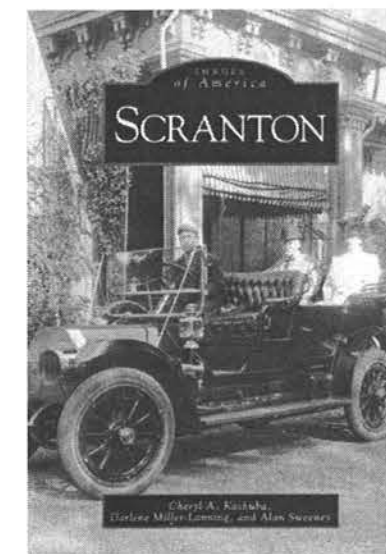


*Gateway to the Clouds, The Story of a Short Line Railroad The Scranton Dunmore Moosic Lake Railroad 1902-1926* (with Judy Sweeney). 86 pages with pictures. Tribute Books. \$21.95.

*Scranton* (with Cheryl Kashuba and Darlene Miller Lanning). 128 pages of pictures and captions. Arcadia Images of America series. \$19.10



*Journey Along the Delaware Lackawanna and Western Railroad Pictorial History of Pocono Mountain Boarding Homes, Hotels, Inns, and Resorts from The Delaware Water Gap to Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania.* 323 pages includes pictures and descriptions. Tribute Books. \$19.10



**In Memoriam**  
*In Memory of Irene Svetlovies*  
 from Alan Sweeney, Scranton

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NORTHEAST TRANSIT INC.  
MARILYN WENTLAND

Symposium & Exhibit Opening Reception for  
***Forever Free:  
Abraham Lincoln's Journey  
to Emancipation\****

The University of Scranton, Patrick & Margaret DeNaples Center  
Saturday, February 14, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FOREVER

FREE

ABRAHAM  
LINCOLN'S

JOURNEY  
TO  
EMANCIPATION

RSVP:

Michael.Knies@Scranton.edu  
or call (570) 941-6341  
for further details

Symposium will include:

*In the Heat of War: Lincoln, Emerson, and the Fortune of the Republic*  
by Dr. Leonard G. Gougeon, The University of Scranton

*Effects of the Abolitionist Movement on Slavery Laws in Pennsylvania*  
by Karen James, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

*The Underground Railroad in Northeastern Pennsylvania*  
by Thomas E. Wooden, Sr., Center for Anti-Slavery Studies

...and a very special

Visit

with

*President Lincoln*

as portrayed by Jim Getty



*Exhibit Opening will take place in the Heritage Room,  
5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Memorial Library,  
the University of Scranton, at 1:00 p.m.*

*- Exhibit runs February 9 through March 22, 2009 -*

*Event sponsored by the Weinberg Memorial Library, University of Scranton, the Lackawanna Historical Society,  
the Center for Anti-Slavery Studies and the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library  
with funding support from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority.*

*\*"Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation" has been organized by the Huntington Library, San Marino, California, and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, New York City, in cooperation with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. This exhibition was made possible by major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, promoting excellence in the humanities, and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, created by Congress and charged with planning the national celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday.*



THE GILDER LEHRMAN  
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED  
THE LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 2008!



In downtown Historic Scranton, Pennsylvania

# 5th Annual Grand Civil War Ball



Saturday April 18, 2009

Music provided by Spare Parts

The Century Club, 612 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, Pa.  
 Dancing begins at 8pm.  
 Dance music provided by Spare Parts  
 Period dress and dress blues greatly admired but not required.  
 Cost of Ball is \$35 per person or \$60 per couple.

Pre-ball dance workshop Saturday afternoon, April 18, 1pm  
 The Century Club, 612 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, Pa  
 Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple (payable at the door)

Additional series of vintage dance lessons offered on Wednesdays during March/April. Cost is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. (payable at the door)

For more information, contact John or Jennifer Ochman at (570) 655-6340 or: jennochman@comcast.net

Full weekend of events scheduled! Tea & Dance Demo on Sunday!  
 Current information available at:

[www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com](http://www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com)

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ ball tickets.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send checks made payable to Lackawanna Historical Society Civil War Ball  
 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.

This project is funded in part by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. This project is also supported through the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA), with funding from an annual state appropriation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. PPA is administered in Lackawanna County by the Scranton Area Foundation to bring significant value to the arts of Pennsylvania.

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

# Dance & Dress in High Society

circa 1860-1912

Victorian Tea, Dance Demonstration & Lecture  
 sponsored by the Lackawanna Historical Society



Sunday April 19, 2009  
 1 pm to 3 pm

The Scranton Cultural Center

Shopland Hall  
 420 N. Washington Ave.  
 Scranton, PA

Cost: \$30 per person before April 5  
 \$35 per person after April 5

Advanced registration required.  
 No tickets sold at the door.

For more information:  
[www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com](http://www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com)  
 or phone: 570-344-3841

Join us for a lovely afternoon tea, served in the Victorian style in the historic Scranton Cultural Center while you watch authentically costumed dancers recreate popular dances from the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Learn what dances were in vogue from the Civil War through the turn of the last century, what people wore to a high society ball, and most of all - proper ballroom etiquette!

Vintage dance band "Spare Parts" will entertain you with period music throughout the event. There isn't a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

This event is graciously presented by the Lackawanna Historical Society. Seating is limited and advanced registration is required.



Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tea & lecture tickets.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send checks made payable to Lackawanna Historical Society  
 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.