

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Downtown Walking Tours every Saturday through October at 11 am

(Tour begins at main entrance to Lackawanna College at Washington Avenue and Vine Street)

**SUN. SEPT. 26, 1-3 PM BOOK SIGNING BY MARGO L. AZZARELLI**

Author of *Images of America: Taylor* from Arcadia Publishing at the Catlin House

**SAT. & SUN.  
OCT. 2/3/9/10/16  
6 PM & 8 PM**

*Scranton After Dark* paranormal walking tours with an exciting reveal on Sat. Oct. 16, 10:30 pm or Sun. Oct. 17, 5:30 pm at Electric City Theater, Hotel Jermyn  
LHS Members: \$10 Non Members: \$12 See page 4 for details.

**FRI. OCT. 15, 1 PM TOUR OF GERTRUDE HAWK**

Don't miss this exciting members-only event! Registration required. Call (570) 344-3841

**SUN. NOV. 7, 2 PM CIVIL WAR COLLECTING**

A lecture by Frank Mroczka at the Catlin House

**SUN. NOV. 14, 2-4 PM BOOK SIGNING BY JULIE SNELL-ESTY**

Author of *Stories in Stone: Tales of Life from the Dunmore Cemetery* at the Catlin House

**THURS. & FRI.**

**DEC. 9 & 10, 7 PM HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** Details to be announced.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
232 MONROE AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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## Famous Circuit Rider's Saddlebags Given to Society

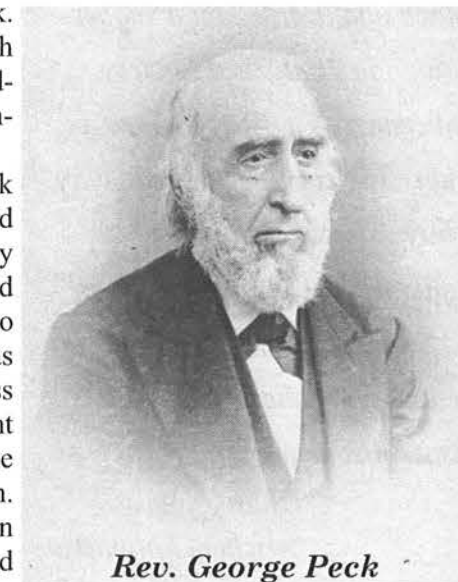
Ella S. Rayburn

It is not often that the Society's Collections Committee is presented with an iconic artifact representative of Lackawanna County history. Abigail Peck donated saddlebags used by Rev. George Peck, her grandfather seven generations back. The Peck Family weaves through Lackawanna County history as Methodist ministers, writers, and business owners.

Descending from a family that took part in the crusades, Henry Peck arrived as a founder of the New Haven Colony in 1638. A few generations had passed when Luther Peck settled in Otsego County, New York in 1794. Luther was a Methodist Episcopal Church class leader who transmitted his commitment to his five sons, each of whom became ministers—as did five grandchildren. Luther's second son, George, was born August 8, 1797, in Otsego County and died in Scranton several decades later on May 20, 1876.

Continuing the traditions of the Peck family, George heeded the call to preach. He received his license in 1816 and rode a circuit in Cortland, New York spreading the Gospel. George Peck rose rapidly through the Methodist Episcopal Church. At age 27 he was presiding elder of the Susquehanna district, then a seminary principal, again presiding elder, editor of the *Methodist Quarterly Review* (1840 – 1847), editor of *The Christian Advocate* (1847 – 1851), then returned to active ministry serving from Wilkes-Barre to Binghamton. Peck spent 1856 preaching at the Scranton Mission, which became Elm Park Methodist Church. He served churches in Providence and Dunmore, followed by another call as presiding elder. As Horace Hollister wrote, Methodism in the Lackawanna Valley was advanced through the presence of a young, bold,

and fervid Rev. George Peck. After 58 years serving the Methodist Episcopal Church as exhorter, preacher, presiding elder, writer, and editor, he entered retirement.



Rev. George Peck

His 1819 marriage to Mary Myers, who accompanied him on his circuit, produced five children. One died in infancy, George and Luther each became Methodist Episcopal ministers, Wilbur became a surgeon, and Mary married Rev. J. T. Crane, also a Methodist minister. (The Cranes had several children including Stephen, best known today as the author of *The Red Badge of Courage*.)

In 1856 George Peck moved his family into the young town of Scranton. They lived on Adams Avenue near Lackawanna, renting or boarding with Joseph Cor. Soon they had their own home at 106 Adams Avenue. In addition to his preaching and church administration, Peck wrote several histories and religious tracts including his autobiography *The Life and Times of Rev. George Peck, D.D. Written by Himself*. Peck's biography and family history is complicated and more interesting than can be presented here in a few paragraphs.

Descendents of George Peck remained in the Lackawanna Valley, contributing to the growth of the county and handing down family tradition generation to generation. Abby Peck became the recipient of her ancestral grandfather's saddlebags. Rev. Peck rode horseback on his preaching circuit with his possessions in a saddlebag thrown across his horse. A note, typed at an unknown date on a now yellowed index card, received with the saddlebags tells us "One side of the saddlebags were used to carry personal belongings. The other side for his Bible and books."

## A Word from the President...

Greetings to all as we move into a change of seasons,

I think it is prudent that I speak to the issue of membership, for it is an important part of the work that drives the Lackawanna Historical Society forward. While the current number of members is significant and continuing to grow as reported quarterly, I feel that we could do more with membership development. This is where you come in!

As a member of the society, try to recruit one new member. I realize the challenge this implies, but certainly one with worthwhile results. Levels of membership vary, which might give you a suggestion as to who to ask to join the Lackawanna Historical Society. Perhaps you can think of giving a membership as a gift to honor a birthday or anniversary. Giving a membership could be a great way to surprise that person who is hard to buy something for.

Please give these ideas some thought. It just might lead to a way of helping our organization grow. More information about membership is available on the website and a membership form is below. And remember "membership has its privileges."

Thank you,  
Michael Gilmartin

**WELCOME ...** THE LHS IS PLEASED TO WELCOME  
JOSEPH X. GARVEY TO OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

**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 2010-11

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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 © 2010 by the Lackawanna Historical Society.

## Second Alan Sweeney Community Volunteer Award Presented at Steamtown National Historic Site's Railfest

Congratulations to Norm Barrett for receiving the second annual Alan Sweeney Community Volunteer Award in recognition of unwavering dedication to the interpretation of local history to encourage embracing our heritage throughout the Lackawanna Valley.

The award was presented by the Lackawanna Historical Society in memory of Alan Sweeney to recognize a person who embodied everything that Alan's memory represents in our community, a person who is dedicated to promoting local history and who offers his time, talent, and knowledge unendingly.

Norm Barrett, a lifelong resident of Dickson City with a profound love of railroads, has worked for the Delaware and Hudson Railroad since 1979 and for Canadian Pacific RR since 1991 when the DH was integrated into the Canadian Pacific. Norm is a volunteer at Steamtown National Historic Site, where he plays a major role in planning events like Rail Fest, Rails to Trails, and the annual Holiday Train. He is a key participant in the annual

"Toys for Tots" a joint initiative between the US Marine Corps and Canadian Pacific and actively serves on the board of directors of the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society and is the Northeast Chair of the New York Ontario and Western Historical Society. When not working or volunteering on railroad related projects, he also spends time researching his genealogy and is active in his church. He and his wife Joan have been married for 41 years and have raised a wonderful family including their son, Scott, and daughter-in-law, Brenda, their daughter, Heather, and six grandchildren: Taylor, Dylan, Hope, Scott, Kayla, and Elizabeth.

On September 19, Norm marked another milestone by retiring after 31 years on the railroad, but if anyone asks, he would probably still say that the best part of his job is being on the trains.

Special thanks to last year's recipient Dom Keating for his assistance in planning Norm's award.

## Framing Faith: Traveling Exhibit Documents 10 Churches Slated to Close Next Year

This summer the Lackawanna Historical Society worked with photographer Ivana Pavelka to document several churches in Lackawanna County that are slated to close by 2011. The project was funded by LHVA and the Arts Engage program of Lackawanna County. Ivana taught local high school students Paola Andujar, Sam Nourse, and Brianna Searles to document 10 churches through photography and prepare an exhibit of three to five images of each. The Society then prepared short histories of each church that will also be used in the exhibit and traveling educational pieces at three local county library sites this winter: Carbondale Public Library in November, Albright Memorial Library in December, and the Taylor Community Library in January. A publication including the images and histories written by Sarah Piccini will be released in February 2011. Special thanks to Richard Leonori for providing architectural background and to Scranton Diocese Chancellor James Earley for assisting in church selection and providing contacts for each site.

### CONSIDER PLANNED GIVING

*Remembering the Lackawanna Historical Society in your estate is a wonderful way to leave a lasting gift to the community. Planned giving, or charitable gift and estate planning, allows you to contribute to the Society's long-term financial health.*

*Planned giving has become increasingly popular because it can be tailored to your financial situation. Your gift can be funded through cash, marketable securities, mutual funds, real estate, life insurance, and retirement plans. Your gift can be structured around your circumstances so that you may find you can do more than you might have thought possible.*

*Tax incentives for publicly supported charities are the most advantageous under the tax law. Your bequest is tax deductible.*

### A Note about Funding

The Lackawanna County Historical Society is losing \$10,000 in funding due to cuts to the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission in this year's state budget. To make up for this funding cut, the Society needs your help now more than ever.

You can help the Society by making a gift during this year's Fund for the Future Campaign. Gifts made prior to December 31, 2010 can be deducted from your next tax filing to the fullest extent of the law. This presents a wonderful opportunity to assist the Society while helping yourself.

When planning your gift-giving for this holiday season, please keep the Society in mind.





## Community Calendar

### LHS Offers Downtown Tours for Pages & Places Festival

The 2010 Pages & Places Book Festival, Scranton's second annual celebration of books and the city, will take place on Saturday October 2. Pages & Places will convene five panels in five of downtown Scranton's most vital and impressive architectural structures. The festival will bring to downtown Scranton 15 nationally and internationally recognized panelists, featuring author, journalist, and critic Christopher Hitchens and Scranton native Jay Parini, who will explore the terrains of history, policy, science, media, and literature.

This year's festival is organized around questions concerning the dearth of access to world literature, responses to human death and catastrophe, how trends in neuroscience are already transforming culture and policy, how robust argumentation has shaped civic life, and the contributions of gendered viewpoints in documenting our lives.

The Lackawanna Historical Society is partnering with Pages & Places to provide tours of Courthouse Square and historical buildings throughout Scranton's downtown. The tours will be part of an expanded Book Expo on Courthouse Square, including a new Kid's Fest with activities for kids of all ages.

For more information, a full schedule of events, and to purchase tickets go to [www.pagesandplaces.org](http://www.pagesandplaces.org).

### When Humanity Fails

An exhibit at the Melberger Arts Center (MAC Gallery),  
123 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton  
October 20-November 20.

The exhibit celebrates the American GIs who liberated Europe and helped survivors of the Nazis.

### Veteran Honor Roll

Additionally, an Honor Roll reading of World War II veterans who fought in the European and the Pacific Theater will be held November 10-11 in the William J. Nealon Federal Building and Post Office.

For information or to share the name and details of a veteran, call Rae 570-961-2300, x4.

### Clarks Summit's Centennial

*Clarks Summit became a borough on August 30, 1911. To celebrate this, the borough is planning a full year of activities, including the existing Ice Festival, Fishing Derby, July 4th activities, and ABPA SummerFest as well as a collection of new activities all celebrating our heritage. While local pride is strong in the borough, we expect that our neighbors will help us celebrate the shared heritage of the entire Abington community.*

*At this point we are in great need of help from our community. Open up your old photo albums and let us have copies of your photographs. Tell us what you remember of growing up in Clarks Summit. Join us as we plan activities that will remind us of our religious heritage, our business community, our social entertainments, and the moments that marked our lives. In particular, we want to involve our children who will carry on the future of our community.*

*For more information, there is a link to our website on the Links page of the Society's website [www.lackawannahistory.org](http://www.lackawannahistory.org)*

### Dunmore Cemetery Tour

October 3 and 10 at 2 p.m.

Featuring the *Dearly Departed Players* and under the direction of Julie Esty, the Annual Dunmore Cemetery Tour presents some of the wonderful stories of the individuals interred in the Dunmore Cemetery.

400 Church Street, Dunmore.

Admission is free.

Tours start at the Cemetery gates.

Call 344-3819 for more information.

## In the Catlin House...

### LHS Annual Dinner Held Sept. 21 Scranton Cultural Center Host and Focus

The Society's 2010 Annual Dinner was held on Tuesday, September 21, at the Scranton Cultural Center's ballroom. To commemorate the 80th anniversary of Scranton's Masonic Temple, we



were pleased to present guest speaker Tony Robins. Mr. Robins, who has been guiding walking tours of New York City's wonders of steel and stone for 25 years, is a founding member and past Vice President of The Art Deco Society of New York, where he created the Society's original tour program in

1981. He has lectured in the United States and abroad on New York history and architecture to audiences ranging from high school students to senior citizen groups and is a noted expert on Architect Raymond Hood.

Raymond Hood designed Scranton's Masonic Temple, the current home to the Scranton Cultural Center. In honor of the 80th anniversary of its construction, Mr. Robins will discuss Hood's work on the Cultural Center design as well as some of his other masterpieces including New York City's Rockefeller Center.

Thanks to everyone who joined us for a wonderful evening, and congratulations to Annual Dinner Chairperson Mark Cruciani and his committee, Laurie Cadden and Arlene Devereaux O'Hara. A special thanks to Matt Flynn and his staff at the Cultural Center for their assistance and cooperation.

*This Summer was a very busy one for the Lackawanna Historical Society, and we wish to take a moment to thank everyone who supported our programs and activities, especially our dedicated volunteers who continue to generously offer their time and talents to ensure our success.*

*Thanks to: Ann Marie O'Hara, Guy McGinnis, Olivia Bernardi, Juliana Piccini, Mary Ann Gavern, Joanne Kavulich, Leni Piasky, Bob Booth, Irwin and Donna Adler, Pat Fairall Chipak, Clem Fasbender, Marion Dunleavy, Elaine Carroll, Hayley Lenahan, and Paola Andujar for guiding tours, assisting with special programs such as the July 23 Patrick Brown book signing, and staffing an activity table the Everhart Museum's Sunday in the Park. Special thanks also to Sue Petula, Lois Kretsch, and Ann Griffiths for their great work in presenting the History of Nursing program on September 12.*

### NEW MEMBERS

#### Family

Lynne and Jim Brown, Malvern  
Raymond J. Graham, Pelham, NH  
Mr. and Mrs. John Parsons, Simpson



#### Individual

James Benetzky, North Catasauqua  
Kathleen M. Bowman, Tunkhannock  
Richard W. Gumpert, Greenfield Township  
Ed Roberts, Scranton

### MEMORIALS

In Memory of Lucille Perdyan Piasky  
Abrahamsen, Conaboy & Abrahamsen, PC,  
Scranton

Thomas & Cathrine Dorricott  
Kavulich Family, Clarks Summit  
Connie Magistro, Scranton  
David & Alicia R. Roberts, Victoria, TX  
Emil & Jane Statsman, Dunmore  
Antionette Zandarski, Dunmore

#### About Memorial Gifts to the Society

Contributions to the Lackawanna Historical Society in the name of individuals are placed in a Memorial Fund and are not used for general operations. If you would like to make a contribution to the Society in the name of an individual, please send your check payable to the Society including name and address of person(s) for whom memorial is made. All contributions to the Lackawanna Historical Society are tax deductible to the fullest extent that the law provides.



## Scranton After Dark Planners Announce More Details about the October 16 & 17 Paranormal Investigations Reveal At the Hotel Jermyn

Presented By:

The Lackawanna Historical Society & Scranton After Dark Paranormal Team

The annual *Scranton After Dark* walking tours, an original walk through Scranton's haunted history and a reveal of paranormal evidence, will be held October 2, 3, 9, 10, and 16, 2010. This is a guided walking tour by candlelight through the darkened streets of downtown Scranton for a glimpse into the city's tragic and macabre past. Tours will start at the Catlin House, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling the Lackawanna Historical Society at 570-344-3841. Space is limited so call early. Registration begins at 5:45 p.m. for the 6 p.m. tour and 7:45 p.m. for the 8 p.m. tour. Cost of the event is \$10 for LHS Members and \$12 for Non-Members. Children 12 years and younger are free.



The *Scranton After Dark* walking tour is only the beginning. On Saturday October 16 and Sunday October 17, a special presentation of recent paranormal evidence collected from several local actively haunted locations will be offered at The Electric Theatre Company at the Hotel Jermyn. Saturday's reveal will be a late evening presentation starting at 10:30 p.m. Sunday's reveal will be presented at 5:30 p.m. Participants can reserve a seat for the reveal of their choice at the tour registration. For more details and reservations please call (570) 344-3841.

## About Your Town

Old Forge's name came about because of the need to distinguish the forge of Dr. William Hooker Smith and James Sutton from later forges in the Lackawanna Valley. The Smith and Sutton forge was located on the south bank of the Lackawanna River in what is today Old Forge Borough. The first non-Native American in the area that would become Old Forge was Arnold Viele, a Dutch trader, who passed through in 1692. Over time, settlers would come to the area and build log cabins and grist mills. By 1848, Old Forge Township established its first post office in a brick building on South Main Street. On May 2, 1899, the borough of Old Forge was officially incorporated from part of Old Forge Township. A couple of decades later, in the 1920s, Old Forge had a peak population of more than 14,000 people. More recently in the 1960s, Old Forge became known as the "Pizza Capital of the World." - Josh Felter

*Send the Society a piece about your town or neighborhood, and we'll be happy to include it in a future issue as we relate and preserve the vital history of Lackawanna County.*

The Scranton-Abingtons Planning Association recently donated a copy of its Final Draft of its Comprehensive Plan to the Lackawanna Historical Society's library. Society member Denise Prowell also included the following letter from SAPA as an update on enacting and implementing the Plan. The Lackawanna Historical Society provided historical research for the historic preservation aspect of the SAPA Plan.

## Historic Preservation in Our Communities

The Scranton-Abingtons Planning Association (SAPA) was created in 2005/2006 by 11 communities, all voluntarily: Scranton, Dunmore, and nine of the Abingtons municipalities. The full-length Draft of the SAPA Plan, a Comprehensive Plan, was presented in July 2009. A Comprehensive Plan is a general, flexible plan that is described as a "loose shirt" – it fits well, but there is wiggle room. It includes general land use, transportation, housing, conservation, historic preservation, and community facilities.

Dunmore Borough and eight of the Abingtons communities adopted the SAPA Plan last December. In a 2-to-1 vote on June 22, Scranton City Council defeated introduction of the legislation to adopt the Plan. The three previous votes by City Council regarding SAPA—in 2005, 2006, and 2008—were unanimously in favor. City Council hasn't adopted as of this writing.

In 2000, the state legislature passed Act 67 & 68 as a response to Pennsylvania's exaggerated problem of sprawling development into the countryside, linked with abandonment of older urban areas. This legislation enables communities to voluntarily develop Comprehensive Plans (multi-municipal planning) together. Only with a multi-municipal plan such as SAPA can older urban areas be designated as the main growth areas within the group, through revitalization, while at the same time minimizing development in rural areas where desired, within the context of property rights.

To join, municipalities must be contiguous or in the same school district. It works best when rural and urban communities work together. SAPA is one of the largest planning groups in the state.

Without participation in such a group, a rural municipality in Pennsylvania is forced to compete with existing urban areas, as by law it must allow "enough" land for each and every use. Scranton has the highest number of designated growth areas of any community in the SAPA Plan. Thus, if Scranton is not in the plan, much more growth in the Abingtons communities would be required in terms of residential and Employment Centers (a mix of commercial, industrial, and office).

As the law now stands, if Scranton is not in the group, Dunmore would also be left out, as it would no longer be contiguous with the other communities.

Municipalities that are part of such joint planning groups are given added priority points on many grant applications

from state agencies such as DCNR, DEP, and DCED.

The entire Plan Draft – and important "Adjustments" document – is available at [www.sapaplan.com](http://www.sapaplan.com). There's also a separate map page. The most important map is the Draft Land Use Plan. This forms the centerpiece of the Plan, and it can be compared to the Existing Land Use map. A hard copy of the Plan is at the Catlin House.

North Abington, a rural township, chose not to adopt the Plan, but it remains on the map.

The SAPA Plan's targeted growth areas, all mixed-use, are shown on the map as shades of pink, magenta, orange, red, and striped. By far the largest of the Employment Center growth areas, are in Scranton and Dunmore. All these growth areas are targeted by the Plan for new or upgraded infra-

structure as well. Targeting on Comprehensive Plans is important on grant applications to state agencies.

Creating the Plan cost almost \$300,000 in funds from the participating municipalities, DCED, and PennDOT. The Willary Foundation and Scranton Area Foundation also provided funds. Each community paid their shares years ago. A Comprehensive Plan for any individual community would be far more expensive for that community than being part of a multi-municipal plan.

Creating the Plan was the first phase. Many small meetings and three large Public Meetings in the Scranton High School were held during the plan's development to solicit input from public and officials.

The act of Plan Adoption itself carries no obligation for expenditure of future funds.

Implementation is the second phase. Implementation cost is for each community to decide upon, depending on how many of the Implementation tasks it can and wants to tackle.

The most important part of Implementation for Scranton would be the zoning work. Some City Council members as well as the city planner have mentioned the possibility that zoning work could be done partially or perhaps completely in-house. Ballpark estimates have been provided if not done in-house. Funding would also be sought, as in the first phase. Any municipality will always retain the option to withdraw from the SAPA group.

The SAPA group hopes that City Council reconsiders its vote, and remains a member of the group.

*Written by Denise Prowell, SAPA Secretary, for the SAPA Committee.*

