

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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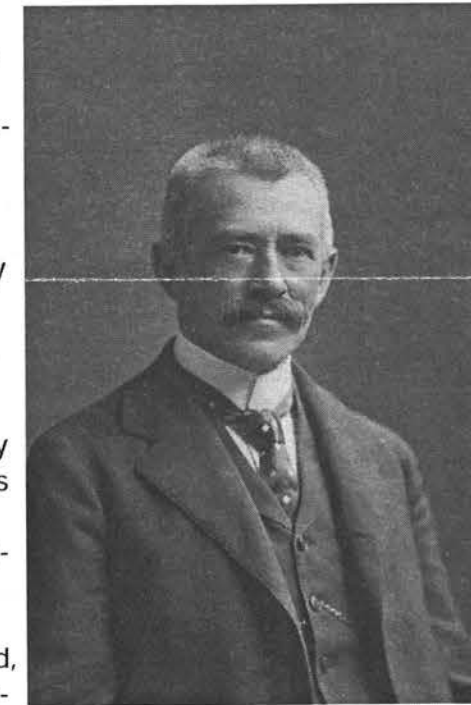
Dr. Andrew Bedford of Waverly

By Ella S. Rayburn

Today the name of Dr. Andrew Bedford is not particularly known in the annals of local history recounting the chartering and development of the Leggett's Gap Railroad in 1852. Although some county residents preferred the stage coach road, Bedford and others were visionaries understanding, at least to a degree, the need for a railroad at a time when the only local railroad was the gravity road running up and down the hills from Carbondale to Honesdale.

In its genealogical files, the historical society has a slim privately published volume, "Reminiscences of Doctor Andrew Bedford Relating to the Inception and Construction of the D.L. & W. Railroad, 1830 - 1850," written by his son Sterling Bedford in 1899. Bedford, born in Wyoming, PA, in 1800, arrived in Waverly in 1824 from Yale Medical College and set about establishing his medical practice that encompassed 200 square miles of forested land from Glenwood to Slocum Hollow, from Factoryville to Greenfield. He built the third house in the new town of Waverly. Bedford soon allied himself with progressive interests advocating a railroad from Slocum Hollow (Scranton) north to Great Bend, PA on the New York border, this at a time when Slocum Hollow, Providence, and Hyde Park barely totaled 500 inhabitants. Bedford, Thomas Smith, and Jeremiah Clark secured a charter for the Leggett's Gap Railroad from the state in 1832 but the railroad held no

land or rights of way. Bedford personally renewed the charter every five years: 1837, 1842, and 1847. Seeking a route to move coal and iron products out of the valley, the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company operated by brothers George and Seldon Scranton purchased the railroad's charter and renamed it the Lackawanna and Western Railroad.



Dr. Andrew Bedford

In 1850, the railroad corporation elected its first managers and sold stock. The list of subscribers at this meeting in Harrison (Scranton) included a roll call of well-known names: Bedford, of course, Clark, Platt, Scranton, Drinker, Phelps, Tripp, Blair, Miller, Fuller, Griffin, and Mattes. These directors appointed Bedford as negotiator to secure the needed rights-of-way; utilizing his knowledge of the area and the respect given him by residents, he secured the land at good prices. Construction

began in the spring of 1850 with the then-named Tunkhannock Tunnel (Nicholson) being the only major engineering concern. All but the tunnel was completed October 20, 1851. Engineers moved their trains over switchbacks spanning the mountain while construction workers continued blasting through the center. The tunnel opened in April of 1854.

In addition to their control of the line running north from Slocum Hollow, the Scrantons controlled the Delaware and Cobb's Gap Railroad running from Slocum Hollow to the Delaware Water Gap. They executed an

See Bedford, pg. 6

Upcoming Programs and Events

- Apr. 16, 7 pm **Grand Civil War Ball**
at the Century Club (see pg. 7)
- Apr. 17, 1-3 pm **Century Club Centennial Concert And Tea**
At the Century Club (see pg. 7)
- Apr. 29/30, 7 pm **You Live Here, You Should Know This!**
at the Scranton Cultural Center,
Shopland hall (see pg. 7)
- May 15, 2 pm **Death and Dying in the 19th Century**
program by JoAnn Bogdanovicz
at the Catlin House
- May 20, 6:30pm **Alan Sweeney: A Man of Character**
At the Oppenheim Building (see pg. 7)
- May 22 **Tony Robins' Art Deco Midtown Tour**
In New York City (see pg. 6)
- May 27-28 **Anthracite Heritage Conference 2011**
At the Anthracite Museum (see pg. 5)
- June 3-4 **Arts on Fire**
at the Scranton Iron Furnaces (see pg. 6)
- June 24-26 **Civil War Encampment Weekend** (details TBA)
- June 26, 11am-4pm **Historic Hill House Tour** (details TBA)

A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

If you feel the way I feel, then you are a victim of "Spring Fever" in a big way. The signs are everywhere...fat playful robins...green leaves and pale yellow heads of emerging spring flowers...buds on trees...occasional shorts...baseball and golf discussion...more mild temperatures.

I could go on, but for many of us at the Lackawanna Historical Society, the most noticed sign of spring is the Civil War Ball. Continuing to grow in popularity locally, the ball is also one of the featured events on a circuit of period dance events held in the eastern United States in the spring into summer seasons. Be sure to read through the related information in this issue of the LHS newsletter to find out the specifics of this year's Civil War Ball Weekend that will take place at the Century Club.

In addition to the ball and tea, I highly recommend a visit to the Everhart Museum soon to enjoy a wonderfully curated exhibit on the Civil War. The Historical Society was very much involved in this project which was noted at the opening. Don't miss an opportunity to enjoy it and all the other wonderful signs of spring out there. We certainly waited through a long winter to get here!

Best wishes, Michael Gilmartin

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 2011-12

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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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Civil War Ball Returns April 16th

The 7th Annual Grand Civil War Ball, Dance Workshop & The Century Club Centennial Concert and Tea
www.ScrantonCivilWarDay.com

Saturday April 16, 2011 and Sunday April 17, 2011 at The Century Club, 612 Jefferson Ave, Scranton

Vintage Dance Workshop (Sat., Apr 16, 2011 - Noon to 3 PM)
 \$10 per person or \$15 per couple (pay at the door).

Grand Civil War Ball (Sat., Apr 16, 2011 - 7 PM to 11 PM)
 Tickets are \$35 per person or \$60 per couple.
 Dancing begins at 8pm. Dance music provided by Spare Parts.
 Prompting by Martha Griffin. Light refreshments will be provided.

Century Club Centennial Concert and Tea (Sun., Apr 17, 2011 - 1 PM to 3 PM)
 Tickets are \$35 per person.

A concert of light music from the Titanic era with a lovely Edwardian tea.
 Join us for period waltzes, ragtime favorites and tangos.

Advance registration required for Sunday's event (No tickets will be sold at the door.)

You Live Here, But Do You Know Here?

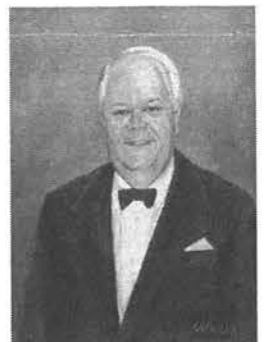
On Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th, the Lackawanna Historical Society, with support from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and the Northeast Intermediate Unit 19, will present the second annual "YOU LIVE HERE: YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS!" local history quiz show at the Scranton Cultural Center, Shopland Hall at 7pm. The teams will consist of well-known individuals from NEPA who are willing to test their knowledge of our vast local history.

Participants include: Mike Stevens, S. Robert Powell, Laurie Cadden, Evie Rafalka McNulty, Margo Azzarelli, Joseph Daley, David Wenzel, Dan Perry, Andrea Mulrine, Conor McGuigan, Nada Gilmartin, John Cosgrove, Catherine Cullen, Jack McGuigan, David DeCosmo, Bernie McGurl, Katie Gilmartin, Steve Corbett, Paul Nardone, Maureen McGuigan, John Murray, Sr. Maryalice Jacquenot, IHM, Matt Flynn, and Lisa Massarella.

The show will be co-hosted by Tony Bartocci and two student co-hosts. The contestants will be choosing from categories such as People, Places, Entertainment/Sports, Industry, and Local General Knowledge. The game was created by students from Valley View High School and Riverside High School and our hope is that this interactive program will increase interest in our local heritage, especially among our younger demographic! For additional information or to purchase tickets, call the Lackawanna Historical Society at 570-344-3841. Ticket prices are \$10 General Admission, \$5 Student Admission. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at The Catlin House, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton or at the door on the night of the games.

Remembering Alan Sweeney: A Man of Character

Alan lived his life according to the words of Thomas Jefferson, believing that true **Character** is best described as "doing it right when no one is looking"



The Lackawanna Historical Society invites you to join us for a special reception with the unveiling of **The Alan Sweeney Portrait** painted by Artist Marylou Chibirka

Friday, May 20th at 6:30pm
 The Oppenheim Building Atrium
 409 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton

The cost is \$25 person and all proceeds will benefit the Lackawanna Historical Society. For reservations send check payable to The Lackawanna Historical Society 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

Bedford (continued from pg. 1)

end-to-end merger creating a connection from the Erie Railroad in Great Bend through to the Water Gap. The entire line which became the core of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad carrying coal, freight, and passengers was opened and operational in 1856.

In recognition of his efforts, Bedford received a lifetime pass on the DL&W RR. While involved in the creation of the railroad line, Bedford was equally active in the Democratic politics of his chosen community.

One wonders how he had time to adequately perform all the responsibilities. He served as postmaster for Abington Center from 1828 to 1840; member of the 1838 state Constitutional Convention; Prothonotary and Clerk of Courts

at Wilkes Barre, 1840 to 1846; a founder of the Wilkes Barre and Providence Plank Road Company; a burgess serving from the time of the incorporation of Waverly in 1854 until 1871. He attended the Waverly Methodist Episcopal Church. While the transportation industry was expanding during the early 1850s, Bedford left his medical practice in 1853 and opened the first drug store in Waverly. Bedford and his first wife, Hannah Reynolds, had seven sons. She died in 1845. Two years later he married Mary Porter Burtis, a widow, and had a son and a daughter.

Bedford died at the age of 89, having lived an obviously long life contributing to the growth of Waverly.

Look Up Look Out, We Out and About

New Downtown Walking Tours will begin in June.

Thanks to LHS volunteer Guy McGinnis for acting as Downtown Tour Coordinator!

Tony Robins' Art Deco Mid-town Tour

May 22, 2011
25 individuals
Tour: Three Hours
Cost \$90.00

The tour begins from East 42nd to 44th Streets, from 2nd Avenue to 1st and back to Lexington (about 7-8 blocks). It continues up Lexington Avenue from the Chrysler Building at 43rd St to the G.E. at 50th. It concludes with a two-block walk from Park Ave and 50th to Rockefeller Center at 5th and 50th. Lunch stop for buffet at the Waldorf-Astoria's Oscar's Brasserie

Call 344-3841 by April 20 to register.

Volunteer for Arts on Fire!

In June, the Anthracite Heritage Museum will once again present **Arts on Fire** with a special evening pour and fund raiser. Dates and times are listed below. For additional details or to find out about volunteer opportunities for this event, contact the Anthracite Heritage Museum at 963-4804.

June 3, 2011 from 8 pm to 11 pm
Fire at the Furnaces will include an evening iron pour and fundraiser for the Anthracite Heritage Museum and Lackawanna Iron Furnaces. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. A special \$25 patron price is also available.

June 4, 2011, from 11 am to 7 pm
Arts on Fire Industrial Arts Festival and Iron Pour
Open to the Public

Now On Sale!

Framing Faith: A Pictorial History of Communities of Faith

By Sarah Piccini, photography by Ivana Pavelka and ARTS Engage!

\$24.95, order at framingfaith.blogspot.com, www.tribute-books.com, or at the Lackawanna Historical Society

At the Catlin House...

Happy 125th Birthday, LHS!

On March 27th, the Lackawanna Historical Society marked the 125th anniversary of its founding in 1886 with a Birthday Party at the Catlin House.

Lackawanna County Commissioner Mike Washo and Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty each presented the Society with special proclamations to congratulate the organization on this important milestone and more than 70 members and friends enjoyed a special cake illustrated with a map of Lackawanna County! Special thanks to LHS staffer Olivia Bernardi for baking and decorating the 3 ft. by 2 ft. cake and to her father, Ron for donating the baking costs.

Special thanks also to our generous member who offered donations to commemorate our 125th birthday including Commissioner Michael Washo, Paul O'Hara, and Chester Kulesa.

Special Honor

In March, the Society received a donation in honor of LHS Trustee **Richard Leonori's Birthday** from fellow Trustee Arlene Devereaux O'Hara

Memorials

In Memory of Jessica Alferio Clark from Donna and Irwin Adler, Scranton

The Lackawanna Historical Society extends its deepest sympathies to LHS newsletter editor Brian Clark and the Alferio family.



New Members

Individual

Anthony Archer, Scranton
Beth Chaplin, Malden, MA
Judie Ferree, Clarks Summit
Mary Lou Graham, Archbald
Shirlee Graham, Scranton
Rita O'Brien, Binghamton, NY
John J. Revak, Simpson
Marc Tobin, Factoryville

Family

Janice Anderson, Scranton
Ed Casey, Archbald
Ami Englehardt, Scranton
The Greater Carbondale Chamber of Commerce
Maura McGuire & Thomas Egan, Scranton
John J. Wharton, Jr., Scranton

Contributing

Joseph X. Garvey, Jr., Scranton

Volunteer corner

The Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to welcome two new volunteers, JJ DelSerra and John Anthony Farkas, Jr.

JJ has been helping the LHS with newsletter layout. He grew up in Scranton and attended Scranton High School, then majored in Japanese at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Upon graduation, he taught English in Japan for one year. After returning to America, he worked in Seattle and NYC before moving back to Scranton in December 2010. JJ joined LHS because he wanted to learn more about local history, and get involved with the community.

John assists LHS with event planning. He was born in Wilkes-Barre but grew up in Atlanta. At 17, his family moved to Waverly, and he attended Abington Heights High School. John earned a degree in History at George Washington University and traveled to Israel and Poland on scholarship. John joined LHS after returning home to continue his interest in the study of history.

Fund For The Future

Miners

Sandra Manzo Whitlock, Scranton

Iron Puddlers

Jim and Lynne Brown, Malvern

Silk throwers

Thomas Horlacher, Scranton
Pauline Y. Jordan, Souderton
Barbara and Hank Platt, Waverly

Breaker Boys

Mary Joan Burns, Scranton
Nancy T. Cawley, Jefferson Twp.
Maureen Duffy, Scranton
Mr. and Mrs. William Fritz, Scranton
Mary Ann Gavern, Dunmore
Ann Marie O'Hara, Scranton
Paul Rudnick, Camp Hill
David Tucker, Montague, NJ

We are delighted to report that as of April 12 we have received \$10,517 for the Fund for the Future. Donations continue to come in and we are truly grateful to everyone for their continued interest and support. If you have not yet had an opportunity to make your donation, please use the form below:

Please Print

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

Levels of Giving

Barons \$1,000 and over

Engineers \$ 500 - \$999

Miners \$ 275 - \$499

Iron Puddlers \$ 175 - \$274

Silk Throwers \$ 75 - \$174

Breaker Boys under \$75

YES! I/We will help.

Amount of Tax-deductible Gift* \$ _____ Check Enclosed

Make checks payable to The Lackawanna Historical Society

*Contributions are tax-deductible within the limits of the law. A copy of the official registration may be obtained by calling the Bureau of Charitable Organizations, PA 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Oral Her-Story by Sharleen and Dennis Martin

What was it like to be a woman growing up in the first part of the last century? The Women's Oral History Project of Northeastern Pennsylvania (1991-1992) provided an excellent snapshot of the lives of about fifty women from that time. Funded in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and administered by the Lackawanna Historical Society, the four-volume collection of oral interviews is now available in the Society library, the transcriptions being recently completed by us. The women interviewed comprised a selection of ethnic and religious backgrounds and their lives illustrate the diversity and similarity of their experiences. They talked about birth at home or in a hospital and wakes held at home or at a funeral parlor. They described religious services, holiday celebrations, work and marriage. A small selection of these interesting stories is noted below.

Doris Clark Whitney was born in 1903, a descendent of Deacon William Clark, the first settler in what is now Clark's Green. She rode a two-horse school wagon from Edella to the Clark's Summit-Clark's Green High School, danced at the pavilion in Northern Electric Park and married a reporter for the Scranton Times who wrote about the "Horizontal Entertainment Industry" in Scranton.

Jeanette and Thelma Ackroyd were born in Scranton of Irish descent and between them worked one hundred years for the Scranton Lace Company. They took jobs there to supplement their family's income after their father died. At that time, married women were expected to stay home so they worked mostly with other single women.

Irma Zenke told about Zenke's Restaurant which opened on Penn Avenue next to the Capitol Theater in 1906 and closed in 1955. It contained a bar and dining room where food was served family style. She discussed how they made many dishes such as pigs' knuckle soup and German potato salad. They did a large business between the acts at the Capitol, and the restaurant was also very popular with the performers and she mentions several that she met.

Alice Blue was an African-American who worked for Brown's Trucking Company, a firm owned by another African-American woman. She describes raison stew, her church and home life and early work at the Hotel Jermyn. She also volunteered with Meals on Wheels and Family Services.

Be sure to visit the Lackawanna Historical Society's library at the Catlin House to read more of these women's fascinating stories.

Are you the descendant of a Mayflower Pilgrim?

One of America's favorite national holidays is Thanksgiving. It's the time of the year we think about Pilgrims, turkeys, and feasts with family and friends. It is also a fact that over the years many myths have grown up around the true story of the Pilgrim experience. Their story is one of perseverance and survival. Of the 102 passengers aboard the *Mayflower* when she left Plymouth, England, on September 6, 1620, only half of them survived their first New England winter. It is estimated today that approximately 30 million Americans can trace their lineage back to the *Mayflower Pilgrims*. **Are you one of them?**

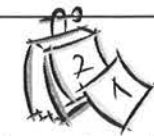
Membership in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and PA Society of Mayflower Descendants in the Commonwealth of PA (SMDPA) is a dual membership and is open to any person who can trace a direct bloodline from the passengers on the ship. In previous years, only the male lines were eligible; however, last year a change was made and most female lines are now eligible for membership in the Society.

Information on joining the SMDPA is available at our award winning web page, www.sail1620.org. The application fee is \$125 and yearly membership dues for regular members are \$35. The Society also offers a junior membership and lifetime membership. The fee for a lifetime membership is based on the applicant's age. Many parents and grandparents purchase lifetime memberships for their young family members. Once asked, "What are the benefits of membership?", my reply, beyond the obvious of member access to the GSMD, its research and its records, as well as subscriptions to the *Mayflower Quarterly* and the *PA Mayflower*, is the following which I think says it best, "Uphold the Mayflower heritage in the face of a rapidly changing world. Establish a friendship with others whose roots hark back to the Mayflower..."

To assist in research, the SMDPA has placed a series of 29 books entitled *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* at libraries around the state, including the Albright Memorial Library in Scranton. A 50 year project of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the books trace descendants of the Pilgrims through the fifth generation to the birth of the sixth generation children.

I am available to answer questions about membership and to assist with the application process. My e-mail address is jkmyers2@verizon.net and my phone number is (814) 371-5128.

Kathy Myers, Membership Officer, SMDPA



Community Calendar

A Scranton Hero: Jane Jacobs and the Electric City

An illustrated talk by author Glenna Lang
Marywood University School of Architecture
Cloud Room, 2nd floor of Main Architectural Studio
Friday, April 15, 7:00pm
Free admission

Lenape Indians of Pennsylvania

A presentation by Dr. Marshall Becker
Clifford Township Fire Hall
Main St. (Route 106), Clifford
Thursday, April 21, 6:30pm
Free admission

Anthracite Heritage Conference 2011

Anthracite Heritage Museum
Friday, May 27, 8:00am-3:00pm
Saturday, May 28, 8:30am-5:00pm
\$25/non-members, \$20/members, \$15/students
RSVP by Tuesday, May 24th, 2011
Call 570-963-4804 for more information

Kickoff for 125th Anniversary of Scranton's Electric Trolley

June 19th Details To Be Announced

Save the Date for these special 150th Anniversary of Civil War Events

4th Annual Forest Hill Cemetery Tour
Sunday, June 5th and 12th, 2011, 1:00pm
Free admission, no reservations needed
Call 570-346-6179 for more information
Please bring chairs and blankets for your comfort

Civil War Community Day

The Everhart Museum
Sunday, June 5th, 1-4pm
Proposals requested: Contact Aleta Yarrow at 570-346-7186 by May 10th

Civil War Encampment

June 24-26 at the Nay Aug Park (details TBA)

