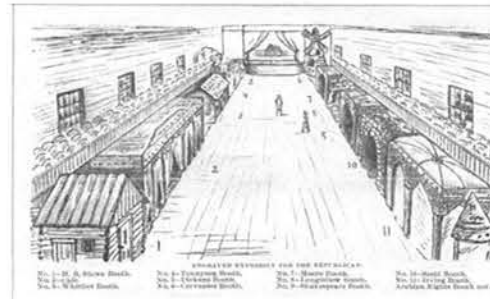


## The Authors Carnival of 1886

Dennis Martin

Major fund raising has always called for creative new ideas to attract the attention of people who have already contributed to other worthy causes. That was the problem facing the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) about 125 years ago when it was struggling to complete its new building. Based on information from other cit-



ies, the organization employed Mr. Marion Stuart Cann to put on an "Authors Carnival" at the Lackawanna Rink, located at the corner of Adams Avenue and Linden Street. The event was described in the program as follows: "The floor of the rink is occupied on either hand with gaily dressed booths, in each of which reside the characters taken from popular authors. They are dressed as nearly as practicable in the costume of the person they represent, and at the opening of each evening's entertainment march around the large hall in a stately and glittering procession, while different colored calcium lights bring out the effects of the splendid and gorgeous costuming. Each evening there are tableaux given from the works of two authors, of whom there are eleven given altogether." A poster for the event advertised 500 people in the Grand Procession.

The Authors Carnival was held April 26 to May 1, 1886 at the Lackawanna Rink. The room was set up with 12 booths (including a café) on the sides of the rink and a stage at one end. The authors featured were Harriet Beecher Stowe, John Greenleaf Whittier, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Charles

Dickens, Miguel de Cervantes, Sir Thomas Moore (who published the poem Lalla Rookh in 1817 which was featured at his booth), Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, William Shakespeare, Sir Walter Scott, and Washington Irving. There was also a booth labeled *Arabian Nights*.

The YMCA provided Mr. Cann with "the assistance of ladies of marked executive ability and a positive genius for hard work to carry through a brilliant social success." At the time married women seldom worked outside the home other than for charitable causes. An example of the prestigious women involved can be seen by considering the Harriet Beecher Stowe booth. Mrs. Ezra H. Ripple was chairman and her committee members were Mrs. William Connell, Mrs. E. J. Dimmick, Mrs. I. F. Megargel, and Mrs. Hattie Clay. Ezra Ripple was a Civil War survivor of Andersonville Prison who became a partner of William Connell in his coal mines. Later that year he would be elected Mayor of Scranton. E. J. Dimmick was a lawyer and Scranton City Controller. Isaac F. Megargel was the co-owner of a wholesale grocery business with James Connell, and *See Carnival Page 7*



### UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- WED., MAY 15, 7 PM** **BREWED IN SCRANTON**  
Presented by Nick Petula, Sean Wolfe, and Lee Burke, a history of brewing in Scranton with samples of pre- and post- Prohibition brews at the Catlin House. Admission: \$25, Lecture-only: \$5 Reservations are required. (See page 7)
- SUN., MAY 19, 2 PM** **AVANTI VS. PETRI, OR SCRANTON VS. SAN FRANCISCO**  
Presented by Dominic Keating at the Catlin House. (See page 3)
- FRI. - SUN., JUNE 7-9** **ARTS ON FIRE WEEKEND AT THE SCRANTON IRON FURNACES**  
Friday evening reception tickets can be purchased at Catlin House. (see page 5) Go to [www.artsonfirefestival.com](http://www.artsonfirefestival.com) for full details.
- FRI., JUN. 21, 7 PM** **HISTORIC HILL HOUSE TOUR PREVIEW PARTY**  
The Rossetti residence, 1005 Vine Street, \$45 (See page 7)
- SUN., JUN. 23, 11 AM** **HISTORIC HILL HOUSE TOUR**  
Scranton's Hill Section, \$25 in advance (\$30 at the door). \$60 for a Combo for Preview Party and Tour. (See page 7)
- SAT., JUL. 20, NOON** **CHILDREN'S DAY AT THE CATLIN HOUSE** Details TBA
- TUES., AUG. 13, 7 PM** **LHS NIGHT AT RAILRIDERS GAME**  
Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased at the Catlin House. (See page 3)
- SAT., OCT. 12, TBA** **LINCOLN CIVIL WAR TRAIN and the LHS ANNUAL DINNER**  
Train ride presented by Steamtown National Historic to followed by LHS Dinner with President Lincoln and the Civil War Generals at the Century Club. Details TBA
- TUES., OCT. 22, ALL DAY** **BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS** (See page 3)

*The Lackawanna  
Historical Society 2013*

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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, and membership dues. Regular hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 am to 5 pm and Saturdays noon to 3 pm.

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 lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$35 and up for Individuals, \$45 for Families, and \$125 for Organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

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*Carnival continued from Page 1*

Miss Hattie Clay is listed in that year's City Directory as a teacher. As to William Connell, he owned coal mines and was a banker and later a congressman. Responsible for both Connell Park and the Connell Building, he is sometimes confused with his nephew William Lawrence Connell, later two-term mayor of Scranton, who also was a participant in the Carnival.

Among the 23 costumed actors for the Harriet Beecher Stowe booth were Mrs. Connell as Harriet Beecher Stowe in "rich black satin, gray hair

with velvet bands" and Mrs. Ripple as Aunt Chloe in "orange colored skirt, with blue sacque, white apron and red turban." Mrs. William L. Connell was on the committee for the *Arabian Nights* with Will Connell as the Sultan in "dress of royal purple, regal style."

The Carnival was a festive and gallant entertainment as well as a noble fund raiser. The Society is proud to have a poster advertising the Carnival, two of the programs, and two scrapbooks of photos of the booths and their casts.

**2013 Hill House Tour Scheduled for June 23**



*The Rosewood Dining Room at the Cleland House, 520 Madison Avenue. The Cleland House, built in 1882, is now open as a Bed & Breakfast.*

The Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to announce that the 2013 Historic House Tour in the Hill will take place on Sunday, June 23 from 11 am to 4 pm. Houses that have been confirmed for the tour include the 1882 Cleland House, the American Red Cross Building, and Trustee Richard Leonori's 1923 home at 848 North Irving Avenue, to name just a few.

As in previous years, *Lolly the Trolley* will be providing service to all sites along the tour throughout the day; a marketplace will be held at the Catlin House; and a special preview party will be offered on Friday evening. This year we are grateful to the Rossetti family for hosting the Friday Preview Party at their home at 1005 Vine Street. Ticket sales start May 14th. Tickets are:

- ◆ \$25 in advance (\$30 at the door) for Tour-Only;
- ◆ \$45 for Preview Party-Only;
- ◆ \$60 for a Combo for Preview Party and Tour.

To order tickets or for more details call (570) 344-3841.



**BREWED IN SCRANTON & BEER TASTING  
HOSTED BY THE LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Wednesday, May 15 at 7 pm at the Catlin House  
232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton**

**Tickets: \$25 per person or \$5 for program only**

*Author Nick Petula will present a brief lecture on the history of beer and brewing in Scranton, followed by a beer tasting, led by Sean Wolfe and Lee Burke, focusing on pre- and post-Prohibition beers. The beers will be presented with food pairings by Accentuate Caterers. An exhibit of artifacts and photos from local breweries will also be on display.*

Space is limited so make your reservations early! Please call the Lackawanna Historical Society at (570) 344-3841 for reservations.



*A Word from the President...*

*Hello everyone,*

*Each month, our executive director's report is presented at the trustee meeting by Mary Ann Savakinus and includes the total number of visitors to the Catlin House. She keeps us informed as to how many people are using the research materials and attending LHS events.*

*During the years that I have been involved at the Lackawanna Historical Society, I continue to be amazed at the amount of participants in the variety of programs and events that it sponsors alone or in partnership with other organizations. Much effort, time and creativity are put forth into all the offerings of our organization by both staff and volunteers. That drives an audience! In addition, the Society, through its headquarters in the Catlin House, offers this community considerable research material and a library that is focused on local history. That drives an audience as well!*

*The continued support of all audiences is vital to the success of the historical society through membership dues, ticket sales for our events, memorial contributions and a successful capital campaign currently in progress. Each of you reading this are that audience. As you read through this issue of the newsletter, I hope you will keep that in mind. Each of you are very important to the Lackawanna Historical Society and all that we provide to the community. For that I am very appreciative and want to thank you very much on behalf of the staff and the board of trustees.*

*Stay well, involved and enjoy the beauty of Spring. I hope to see you on the "House Tour" in June!*

*Best regards,  
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	\$35	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45	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 _____

# Let's Get Wired!!!

The Lackawanna Historical Society kicked off its Capital Campaign in October 2012. Our campaign marks the centennial of the Catlin House, the Society's home. Funds raised go to preserve the Catlin House and upgrade its wiring and HVAC systems. As of May 1, campaign pledges total \$66,723. We appreciate everyone's support!

## Amps (\$3000 and over)

Mort & Sue Fuller  
William J. Rinaldi, Esq.

## Ohms (\$1000-\$2999)

Charles Connell  
Donald Frederickson, Jr., Esq.  
Tom & Eileen Griffiths  
Tom Horlacher  
Jeff Kiefer  
Penn Security Bank  
Greg & Chris Posly

## Watts (\$100-\$499)

Irwin & Donna Adler  
Dr. & Mrs. Edward & Regina Boehm  
Peter & Sally Bohlin  
Bohlin, Cywinski, Jackson  
F. Warren and Carol Fells Breig  
Conrad & Dorothy Bosley  
Laurie Cadden  
Willis Conover  
Cathy Cullen  
Fidelity Bank  
Ann Gilmartin  
William & Theresa Graziano  
Andrew & Mary Hailstone  
Hinerfield Commerical Realty  
U. Peter & Jean Horger

## Volts (under \$100)

Ray Ceccotti  
Joshua Felter  
Diane Fritz  
Anne Gershey  
Rudolph Kunz  
Conor Malone

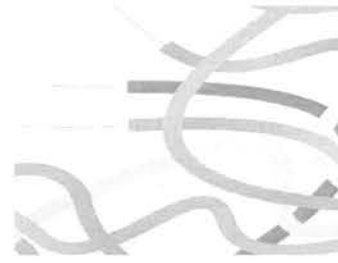
## Joules (\$500-\$999)

Theodore Horger  
Tom & Fafi Karam  
Mary McDonald  
Quandel Construction Group  
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus  
Elaine Shepard

## IBEW Local #81

Violet Kelly  
Lawrence & Judith Kennedy  
Michael & Jennie Knies  
Lee Electric Supply Co.  
Scott & Libby Lynett  
Nancy McDonald  
MidAtlantic Engineering Inc.  
People's Neighborhood Bank  
PNC Bank  
Gene & Joan Turko  
University of Scranton  
James & Sharon Vipond  
Thomas Yeager

Pat Marion  
Mary Lynn McDermott  
Chris McWilliams  
Gino Mori  
Linda O'Leary



# In the Catlin House...

## Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Mark your calendars for August 13 and plan to join us for a night of baseball! On Tuesday, August 13, the *Scranton Wilkes-Barre Rail-Riders* will welcome the LHS as its community organization for the night. In an effort to include all of our members, the Society will be selling tickets for the game with a portion of the proceeds benefiting our organization. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased directly from the Society. Stop in or call today to get your tickets for what's sure to be a historic night of baseball!

## Boscov's Friends HELPING Friends

If baseball isn't your thing, why not go shopping!?! This year, the Society is participating in Boscov's *Friends Helping Friends* program. We will be selling *25% off shopping passes* that can be used on Tuesday, October 22 at any Boscov store. Passes are \$5 each and are on sale now at the Catlin House. Remember, the LHS keeps funds raised from every ticket we sell!

## Avanti Cigar Program Rescheduled

Part two of Dominic Keating's History of Avanti Cigar Company has been rescheduled from May 12th to May 19th due to Mother's Day. On Sunday, May 19 at 2 p.m., the Lackawanna Historical Society will host part two of their Avanti Cigar Company history program. The program, *Avanti vs. Petri, or Scranton vs. San Francisco*, will continue Mr. Keating's discussion from last fall of the company's growth in the 1940's and focus on some of the challenges the founders faced during those years. Avanti was founded in Scranton 1912 by two brothers and had much success with its very popular Parodi line. It grew to include a selection of flavored cigars and has even developed a line of cigars for Francis Ford Coppola. The Society is pleased to welcome Mr. Keating, a third generation owner of the company, back for part two of his presentation.



## NEW MEMBERS

### Gold Corporate

PPL, Scranton

### Sustaining

The Cleland House, Scranton

### Contributing

William J. Rinaldi, Esq., Scranton  
Torry Watkins, Hightstown, NJ

### Family

Michael & Julia Mullen, Clarks Green

### Individual

Kathryn Adams, Lake Ariel  
Joseph Andres, Scranton  
William L. Connell Houck, Clarks Summit  
Deborah Lach, Peckville  
Joseph Santaniello, Madison Township  
Gail Siracuse, Throop  
Jane Willchock, Peckville



Photo by Dom Keating

Congratulations to the **2013 You Live Here; You Should Know This!** Champions, Scranton Times team members Josh McAuliffe, Patrick McKenna, Chris Kelly and Brian Fulton, pictured above as Riverside students and game scorekeepers Andrew Panek & Mason Dennis observe. Kudos also to all of the participating teams and students who planned the games: Riverside's Morgan Mickavicz, Dave Torrisi, Jimmy & Johnny Segilia; Valley View students Kendra Farrell, Daniel DeLeo, Erica Gerichten and Tyler Williams. The program drew a wonderful crowd and was a great night of local history fun!

**A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PANCOAST MINE DISASTER:** *As part of a book writing project, I am interested in interviewing descendants of victims of the Pancoast mine disaster, which happened in Throop in April 1911. If you are interested in discussing with me your family's pre- and post-disaster history, please contact Bill Conlogue at conlogue@marywood.edu or call 570-961-4780.*

## Michael Davitt Irish Hero/Humanitarian

Lucia Dailey

*To all my friends I leave kind thoughts; to my enemies the fullest possible forgiveness...*

— Michael Davitt  
*A Tale of Two Graveyards*

Martin Davitt is buried in a modest grave in Scranton's Cathedral Cemetery. His son, Michael, is buried in Ireland as a national hero. From the simple grave of the father no one would guess his son's remarkable life and achievements. But Michael Davitt's contributions are known the world over; Mahatma Gandhi acknowledged Davitt's influence on him.

Michael Davitt was born in Straide, County Mayo, Ireland in 1846 during the famine—years when the potato crops failed, known in Ireland as the Great Hunger, a disaster that led to starvation and forced immigration for millions of Irish. Whole families were "turned out on the roadside to die." But there was no real famine in Ireland: bountiful harvests of other crops came each year but had to be paid to English landlords as "rent" for lands confiscated during English invasions. Many Irish subsisted on potatoes. When the potato blight came they starved, or were forced to consume crops reserved for rent.

Like many Irish suffering unfair land laws, the Davitt family were evicted from their home for non-payment of rent. Martin and Catherine Davitt first brought their family to Haslingden, England where they found menial jobs. Michael got work in a cotton mill. He lost his right arm in an accident there at age eleven. He then attended school and as a young man joined his countrymen in the fight for Irish independence. In 1870 he was jailed in England as a political prisoner. His father and his sister Mary came to Scranton. His father was buried here in 1871, his sister in 1905. Michael Davitt visited the United States many times seeking support for reforms in Ireland.

Davitt was given a hero's welcome on returning to Ireland in 1877, partly due to outrage felt at the harsh treatment he and other Irish political prisoners had endured. In prison Davitt realized that without title to their own land the Irish would continue to suffer. Advocating "land for the people" he started a campaign for land reform and founded the Land League, an organization that would have a profound impact.

Famine threatened Ireland again in 1879. The Land League advised people to withhold rent (food) to save themselves from starvation. "Troops started pouring into the country to aid the landlords in enforcing rent collections and in making evictions.... Armed with a revolver and backed by soldiery, the process-server forced his way into the bare and wretched cottage and thrust the paper into the thin fingers of its outraged but helpless tenant." In October 1879 Davitt told the Irish: "If, to save your families from death, you must keep back the rent, keep it back.... You must not imagine that you will be turned out to die as your fathers were in '46. There is a spirit abroad in Ireland today that will not stand that to happen a second time in a century."

The following year 1880, Davitt organized a peaceful protest in Mayo against the ever-increasing rents demanded by Lord Erne's agent, a Charles Boycott. As a result, no shop would supply Boycott with food, his servants left him, and no one would harvest crops for him. The tactic used against the agent was so successful that "boycott" entered the dictionary almost immediately. Though jailed several times more for his peaceful resistance activities, the massive popular support for the Land League along with Davitt's work with Irish political leader Charles Stewart Parnell achieved significant land reforms and other improvements in Ireland.

Davitt went on to serve in Parliament and traveled the world speaking and writing. He was a proponent of women's rights, of labor and prison reforms, and spoke for the underprivileged everywhere. In 1903, he traveled to czarist Russia and reported on the programs there against Jews. He spoke out against anti-Semitism. He was formative in the Trade Union movement in England and Ireland and understood the common plight of workers in every country. Michael Davitt's work and methods of passive resistance shaped Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent resistance movement in India and, later, Dr. Martin Luther King and the American Civil Rights movement.

Michael Davitt died in Ireland in 1906. In his will he asks for a simple funeral with no pomp and concludes it with these words: "To all my friends I leave kind thoughts; to my enemies the fullest possible forgiveness; and to Ireland the undying prayer for the absolute freedom and independence which it was my life's ambition to try and obtain for her."

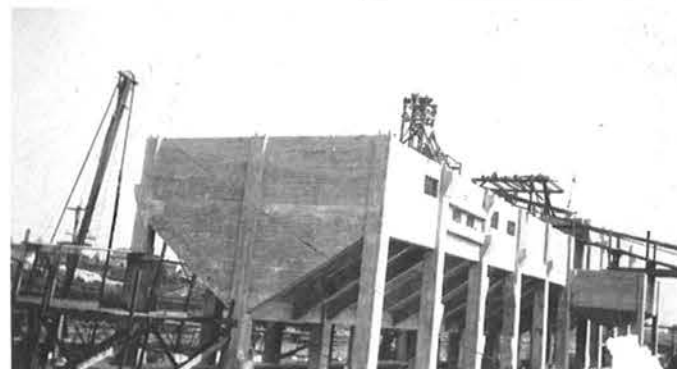
Although he had requested a simple burial, according to the New York Times, "vast crowds" attended Davitt's funeral in Dublin. Businesses closed, private houses had their shades pulled down, the funeral procession "stretched out to enormous proportions" and a "feeling of the deepest sorrow was evident." In County Mayo another multitude awaited the arrival of the train from Dublin bearing Davitt's body. An eyewitness account describes the event:

*On the day of the funeral I went with John Davitt to Foxford Railway Station, where an enormous crowd awaited the arrival of the train. The train, I remember, was drawn by two engines, the St. Patrick and the St. Michael.*

*The two engines and the long line of carriages were covered with black tapes. The leading carriage contained the remains of Michael Davitt. The next contained nothing but wreaths and floral tributes, and almost all the carriages were reserved. When the train stopped hundreds of passengers, including the whole Irish Party of M.P.s from Westminster alighted.*

*Many wore tall hats and black armbands. The hearse, owned by Hewson's of Ballina, was drawn by four black horses and there were ten brakes, six of which were reserved for the Irish Party, while the others carried the wreaths.*

*The most colourful of which was an Irish*



*This image is part of an album in the LHS collection that shows construction projects in the region between 1913-1923 but no further documentation is included. Please call us if you can identify it.*

*harp, presented by the Jewish Community of Ireland. Every horse-and-cart and trap for miles around was there, all filled to capacity with those who came to pay their final respects.*

*Slowly the crowd moved to one side and the long walk to Straide Abbey, a distance of five miles, started. The stewards, with some young priests, kept the procession orderly. All along the road, people came from cabin and hamlet to see the funeral pass.*

Michael Davitt is buried in Straide Graveyard where, as he once remarked, the bodies of those who died in the dark years of the 1840s from disease and starvation were buried in heaps without coffins. His grave is a few hundred yards away from the spot where his family's homestead once stood, the place they had been evicted from in 1852 when he was a five-year-old boy.

James Joyce memorializes Michael Davitt in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. And Haslingden, England erected a monument to him inscribed:

This memorial has been erected to perpetuate the memory of Michael Davitt with the town of Haslingden. It marks the site of the home of Michael Davitt, Irish patriot, who resided in Haslingden from 1853 to 1867. He became a great world figure in the cause of freedom and raised his voice and pen on behalf of the oppressed, irrespective of race or creed, that serfdom be transformed to citizenship and that man be given the opportunity to display his God given talents for the betterment of mankind.

*Editor's Note: Many Irish from County Mayo immigrated to our area in the 19th century. Scranton's sister city is Ballina in County Mayo.*

**Don't miss  
FIRE AT THE FURNACE  
Friday, June 7, 8 pm to 11 pm  
\$15 in advance/ \$20 at the door\***

Includes drinks, food, music by Coal Town Rounders plus a LIVE NIGHTTIME iron pour!

The evening event kicks off the *Arts on Fire* Industrial Arts weekend at the furnaces, which offers a variety of industrial arts demonstrations, a live iron pour and other surprises. The Society will be having a local history marketplace, including de-accessioned maps, atlases, and other treasures! \*Tickets for Friday are on sale now, and can be purchased at the Catlin House.