

100 Years of the Woman's Institute

By: Sarah Piccini

Thomas Foster introduced distance learning to the world in 1891 when he established the International Correspondence School. Recognizing that a traditional school day wasn't feasible for working adults, Foster's system of teaching by mail allowed students to complete lessons at their convenience before mailing them back to ICS headquarters for comments from an instructor. Within six months, 1,000 students had enrolled, and Foster quickly expanded his course offerings from mine engineering to include architecture, chemistry, civil engineering, drawing, electrical engineering, languages, commercial law, and navigation. Thomas Edison acted as a consultant on several courses and designed a phonograph for the language courses; Henry Ford and Walter Chrysler were both former students.

While ICS was originally geared toward male students looking for specialized skills for the anthracite industry, as coursework expanded the school taught female students as well. Advertisements drew women to courses in stenography, design, newspaper illustration, bookkeeping, lettering, and teaching. Rumors began circulating in Scranton around 1913 that ICS was planning a separate school for women

focusing on homemaking and the domestic arts. The school recruited known fashion experts Mary Brooks Picken and Ora Cne to develop the coursework, and the Woman's Institute of Domestic Arts & Sciences quietly began accepting students in February 1915 for instruction in



Mary Brooks Picken
Vice President &
Director of Instruction



Ora Cne
Director of
Millinery Department

sewing, patternmaking, tailoring, and millinery. ICS directors believed that "it was apparent that a man or boy in his spare time at home could master, through a correspondence course the theory of an engineering trade with which he was not previously familiar, it should be much easier for a woman to master a subject in line with her natural inclinations and duties and the knowledge of which she could constantly apply in practice in her daily work."

The school was in good hands from the start. Mary Brooks Picken was the vice president and founding director of instruction. Originally from Kansas, she taught sewing lessons at the YWCA, private schools, and to female prisoners at the Leavenworth Penitentiary before accepting a position as instructor (and later supervisor of teachers) at the American College of Dressmaking in Kansas City. In 1914, she was recruited by Thomas Foster to develop a series of domestic courses for ICS; within two years she had written 64 textbooks for what would become the Woman's Institute of Domes-

Cont. on pg. 4

A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

A favorite adage of mine, and one I am sure many of you also know, is this: "When the going gets tough, the tough get going". While it may vary in meaning or interpretation somewhat, I feel it can be applied to the present situation that our organization is facing. The Lackawanna Historical Society has put forth a strong work ethic in dealing with two years of the COVID 19 pandemic impacting life as we've known it.

It was tough to have to forgo in-person meetings and events, and adapt to a virtual world. We "got going" and haven't stopped yet! We have been able to carry on and even grow successfully. Having recently ended 2021 and begun 2022, I can report that the Society has increased its membership, is financially sound, and is planning for the future. It hasn't been easy but with your continuing support we are getting it done.

At our January trustee meeting, we took a moment to address the five goals of our 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, which was completed, formally approved by the board, and put into published format just as the pandemic was taking hold. It was and is, I feel, an excellent tool to aid us in being one of the "tough who got going"!

*Stay well, warm and safe. Stay involved.
Michael Gilmartin*

2020-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| GOAL #1 | GOAL #2 |
| STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL SECURITY | INCREASE ENGAGEMENT OF PEOPLE |
| GOAL #3 | |
| EXPAND PROGRAMS, USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ENHANCE COLLECTIONS | |
| GOAL #4 | |
| DETERMINE BEST USE OF CATLIN HOUSE AND ALTERNATE PHYSICAL NEEDS | |
| GOAL #5 | |
| BUILD PUBLIC AWARENESS | |

Renew your membership for 2022!

About Membership... *Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice, special discounts and invitations to all Society activities, 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 | \$250 | TELEPHONE | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold | \$500 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum | \$1000 | EMAIL | _____ |

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2022

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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 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, and membership dues. Regular hours are Tues. - Fri. 10 am to 5 pm and Saturdays noon to 3 pm.

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

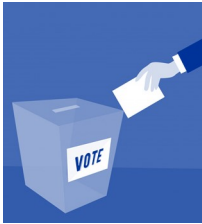
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At the Catlin House...

TRUSTEE ELECTION

In December, Members of the Lackawanna Historical Society voted for the following Trustees to serve as the Class of 2024:



Thomas J. Cipriano
Michael Gilmartin
Richard Leonori
Leni Piasky
Ella S. Rayburn
William J. Rinaldi, Esq.

At the January 19th meeting the trustees elected the following officers:

President: Michael Gilmartin
1st Vice President: Donald Frederickson, Jr., Esq.
2nd Vice President: Laurie Cadden
Treasurer: Douglas Forrer, CPA
Assistant Treasurer: Dalida Walton
Secretary: William Conlogue

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Individual

Linda Belack, Waverly Twp.
Tom Kahringer, Scranton
Paige Kelly, Taylor
Mary Kryzanowski, Dunmore
Beth Holmes, Fell Twp.
Mary McGraw, New York, NY
Maggie Perry, Scranton
Paul Rogan, Scranton
Ken Thomas, Marston Mills, MA
Lynn Valashinas, Jessup
Brendan Walker, Waverly

REMINDER: 2022 Renewals are now due.

Welcome NET Credit Union!

This past summer LHS joined the NET Credit Union as a Preferred Partner Group, allowing credit union members to become members of the Society. Welcome to new members:



Carl Alber, Mocanaqua	Elaine Cruz, Tobyhanna	Nicholas Safin, Cresco
Alex Altier, N. Abington Twp	Jennifer Demchal, Carbondale	Dianne Schlasta-Hepplewhite, Scott Twp.
Andrew J. Andrewsh, Dickson City	Catrina Enderline, Old Forge	Dominique Semple, Jermyn
John Arendt, Carbondale	Destiny Gadison, Wilkes Barre	John Simms, Hanover Twp.
Jessica Worobey Arrigan, Preston Park	Joshua Gardner, Waymart	Johathan Simon, Scott Twp.
Brian Ashton, Wilkes Barre	Xochiti Juarez, Scott Twp.	John Slater, Nicholson
Alain Blaise, Pocono Lake	Mckenzie Karaffa, Carbondale	Angelo Smith, Nanticoke
Kimberly Blaise, Pocono Lake	Emily Keating, Blakely	Morgan Stepien, Dickson City
Zachary Borgenson, Noxen	Thomas Kerrigan, Dunmore	Thomas Taras, Olyphant
Frank Buckley, Jermyn	Kevin Knapp, Pleasant Mount	Steven Tolerico, Clarks Summit
Lindsey Bugianesi, Jenkins Twp.	Tracy Kromko, Clarks Summit	Mark Totsky, Greenfield Twp.
Michael Burke, Dunmore	Carlo Mangiaruga, Scranton	Robert Urda, Carbondale
George Casterline, Pittston	Inga Morlock, Hawley	Julie Warfield, Tyler Hill
Matthew Congdon, Wyoming	Michael Occhipinti, Covington Twp.	Brian Way, Montrose
Jasmine Crispell, Berwick	Daniel Patrisso, Hawley	Corey Zaleski, Jermyn
	Ronnie Ann Posten, Laceyville	

Cont. from pg. 1

tic Arts and Sciences. She was only at the school a short time, but left her mark. Her "Picken square" dressmakers tool is still used to easily draft patterns. Mary resigned from the Woman's Institute in 1925, moving to New York to take a position as the fashion and dressmaking editor of the Pictorial Review.

While Mary oversaw the dressmaking department, the millinery department was the fiefdom of Ora Seaney, known as "the Man Milliner." A native of Indiana, Seaney positioned himself as something of a fashion arbiter; he was a successful clothing designer and milliner, but most often described in newspapers as a "fashion authority" or "fashion interpreter." After operating a successful dress shop in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Seaney moved to New York where he adopted the professional name "Cne" a more fashionable spelling. He opened an atelier where he created hats for Mary Bryan, the wife of William Jennings Bryan, and Edith Galt, the second wife of President Woodrow Wilson, who ordered her wedding hat from Cne. He also offered his services to department stores, advising women on what to wear.

The Institute quickly flourished. Mary Brooks Picken oversaw 200 instructors and more than 300 clerical assistants as she began establishing the curriculum. By September 1921, 125,000 women enrolled from all 48 states and 38 countries, with 3,000 to 5,000 students enrolling every month. The courses were easy to follow, starting with the basics and moving into more detailed, skilled work. The dressmaking course contained more than 1,500 photographs or drawings of a different method, process, or step worked out in practice; the millinery course included 1,000 different illustrations. A cooking course was offered as well, with a five-volume cookbook set detailing everything from simple technical basics and how to make toast to more elaborate recipes and menu planning. The courses were affordable, with reduced fees for enrolling in multiple courses. The full dressmaking and tailoring course, encompassing

39 lessons, was \$60 in 1919. The simplified dressmaking course was \$45; the millinery and cookery courses were \$40 each.

A booklet sent to new students entitled "How to Proceed with Your Studies" carefully explained the process, mindful that students may be unfamiliar with correspondence courses or that there may be a years-long gap since their last formal education. The booklet outlined the materials students received for each course, provided study tips, examples of student work and exam papers, explained the grading process, and even explained postal regulations for students across the world. Students also received required supplies- a dressmaker's form, tape measure, and Picken square for the dressmaking courses; pliers, thimble, assorted wire and needles needed for millinery; and a kitchen scale, measuring cups and spoons, spatula, and pastry bag for the cookery course.

The school's most popular lesson, and its biggest claim to fame, was the "One-Hour Dress," created in 1923 by Mary Brooks Picken. It was a simple, stylish, customizable dress that could be made in time for a spur-of-the-moment party. The kimono-style dress came together without a pattern, using only four basic measurements, three

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1924

PRETTY GINGHAMS FOR SUMMER FROCKS

have a specially nice way about, being washed any number of times and retain their true colors. For One Hour Dress. Cheapest we present the regular 35c quality gingham, 33 inches wide, in the latest plaid, checks and stripes, for **27c**

Imported English Gingham, 33 inches wide; the usual 45c quality in new plaids and checks **55c**





This Is One of the Seventeen Models In Which the Justly Famous

One Hour Dress May Be Made

Made by your own hands in your own home

The most talked-of dress in America this season. We have secured the exclusive right to display it in Scranton and all this week you will find it here, made up in a variety of materials and displayed as one of the features of Home Dressmaking Week.

The One Hour Dress was designed by Mary Brooks Picken, Director of Instruction of the Woman's Institute, to prove how easily you can make your own clothes when you have proper instructions. So do not only create a dress that admirably expresses the new lines for Spring, but she tells exactly how you can make it in an hour.

Instructions For Making Given FREE

To every woman who purchases material for a dress in the store this week we will present with our compliments a copy of the complete instruction book showing step-by-step just how to make the "One Hour Dress." Not merely how to make it in one style, but in many pleasing variations so that you may have just the dress that suits your taste in the fabric and color you like best with the individual touches that make it becoming to you.

DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS AT 10:30 AND 2:30 THIS WEEK ON THE THIRD FLOOR

During the Demonstration Hours Miss Vera Turman, lecturer from the Students' Extension Department, will describe, step by step, the manner in which you may proceed in your own home, to make the One Hour Dress. Miss Marion Kemp, dressmaker, will make a complete dress at each demonstration and Miss Margaret Gaynes, model, will wear the completed looks.

This is the practical lesson in home dressmaking, to which you are cordially invited, and you can make any of the seventeen lovely dress models just as well and almost as quickly, as those experts supplied by the Woman's Institute.

On the Main Floor, throughout each day, Miss Hermine French, special representative of the Woman's Institute, will be in charge and will gladly talk with you in person, about the One Hour Dress and its suitable materials.

All of the dresses made and displayed are from materials sold in this store all the time.

BUTTERICK PAPER PATTERNS With the "Deltor"

will help you over all manner of home dressmaking and trim difficult problems into actual realities.

NEW WASH FABRICS

Cape Blue, 36 inches wide, is a mixture of real silk and Egyptian cotton. There is a showing of 305-one different patterns in small checks and large figures on white, black, Copenhagen, tan and other grounds. **\$1.50**

Robes and Cape Vests, 38 inches wide, are shown in 85c (10) different patterns and colorings.

Shows in an entirely different class-actual weaves, bordering on bengaline. Plain shades of orchid, turquoise, light Copenhagen, gray, rose and jade. **\$1.50**

Lingerie Vests, 34 inches wide, are very pretty and quite inexpensive. Light shimmering shades of peach, sky blue, orchid, lavender, hyacinth, rose, coral, strong blue and apricot. **75c**

Fabric Suggestions For the One-Hour Dress

Silk Crepe	Wool Crepe
Satin	Twill
Georgette	Flannel
Alpaca	Draben Cloth
Ad-verse Lace	Voile
Cape de Chine	Dorchester
Bathurst	Cloth
Cathryn Crepe	Linen
Paulina	Trivaga
Trenchon	Dainty
Tan Silk	Flanne
Gaughan	Shantung
	Percale

Selection of these materials are in store in a handsomely illustrated booklet with diagrams and complete instructions for making the One Hour Dress. It costs, across a new and lovely frock and you have your own use of simply the cost of the material.

seams, five bound edges, and a sash. Picken emphasized that the vision and process were most important, noting “to make a dress in an hour, two things are essential: first, to know what you are going to do; the second, to do this in a systematic way.” In a stroke of “everybody wins” marketing genius, the Woman’s Institute sent seamstresses into department stores for timed demonstrations of creating the one-hour dress. Women who attended the demonstration received a copy of the direction booklet for dress, as well as promotional pieces about the other dressmaking courses offered by the school; the department store had a captive audience in their piece-goods department suddenly needing fabric, thread, and notions.

The Institute also tried to teach students more indefinable skills, like how to develop their own sense of style and promote good taste. This basic knowledge of fashion sense was an integral part of another lesson, teaching women to be self-sufficient and independent businesswomen in their own right. A course on “The Dressmaker and Tailor Shop” and “The Millinery Shop” covered everything a woman would need to start her own business, from selecting a name and location to advertising, decorating, and customer relations; the course included sample business cards and illustrations of appropriate furnishings. Further, since many women weren’t involved in household finances, the course included simple explanations on how to establish credit and obtain a loan, along with detailed instructions on managing a checking account, explaining the difference between a passbook and a deposit slip, and how to write a check. These lessons, combined with the skills acquired from the practical courses, were designed to help women “realize the dream of your lifetime by opening a cozy little shop that will be kept busy

by pleased customers.”

Whether women were using the courses simply to improve their domestic skills or hoping to expand into a profitable business, the school expanded quickly and soon outgrew its small office in a quaint residential home. In 1921, the school moved into a new \$1 million headquarters, a Gothic limestone structure designed by William S. Lowndes, the director of the ICS drafting department. The building opened to staff and students in September 1921, “dedicated to the service of women throughout the world.” The building featured airy office spaces for multiple instructors, as well as a library and reading room for staff. The top floor of the central tower served as Picken’s office; a large stained-glass “testimonial window” on the fourth floor was designed in appreciation of what the school’s courses meant to students.



Still, it didn’t last forever. The Institute had started at a time when home sewing was declining; increased mechanization made stylish, ready-to-wear clothing easily available and affordable, and ultimately rendered the courses obsolete. In 1937, the Woman’s Institute was absorbed by the International Correspondence School.

The school’s gothic headquarters served as administration offices for ICS, as well as the studio for WGBI and the Scranton Broadcasting Company, precursors to WYOU television station. The school continued to teach domestic science skills (including a course on tea room management) through the 1940s. ICS consolidated again in the 1950s, moving all offices into their textbook printery on Wyoming Avenue. In 1963, Scranton Preparatory School took over the Woman’s Institute building, and continues the long tradition of educating students today. ICS, now operating as Penn Foster, still provides online education for high school students and online degree programs and career certificates.

“For the Least of Them” Streaming Event

As part of the annual January celebration of Anthracite Mining Heritage Month, the Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to present an introductory one-act of the play “For the Least of Them.” Presented at the Catlin House on **Sunday, January 30, at 2 pm** the performance will be available to stream LIVE via Electric City Television YouTube page. The program will later be available to view on the LHS YouTube channel.

Written by KK Gordon, the play offers a glimpse into the private thoughts and prayers of Fr. John Curran during the Anthracite Strike of 1902. Fr. Curran played an important role in the strike, supporting the striking miners, counseling UMA president John Mitchell and acting as a trusted confidant of President Theodore Roosevelt, whose decision to set up a neutral commission to intervene in a labor dispute marked a major change in how the US government dealt with labor, which up until this point acted as strikebreakers siding with management over labor. KK Gordon, a proud Scrantonian, poet, author and actor, became intrigued by Fr. Curran’s story when he saw Gary Anderson’s critically acclaimed one-man play “Clarence Darrow’s Search for Justice” at the Lackawanna County Courthouse in Scranton in 2010. Fr. Curran will be portrayed by Plains Native Scott Rave under the direction of Art Walsh.

This one-man, one-act performance is adapted from a full-script play. The Society hopes to present the full version live in the near future, so stay tuned for more details!

How to watch:
Go to YouTube,
Search for “Electric City Television”
and look for livestream.

LHS Genealogy Forum

The Lackawanna Historical Society is sponsoring a monthly Genealogy Forum in 2022, in both virtual and in-person formats. This is an opportunity to learn more about specific topics in family history research and discuss particular research tactics to uncover your family story.

To assist with individual queries, the Forum plans to schedule an intensive hands-on workshop in June-July 2022. Details will be announced.

To register for the Genealogy Forum sessions or receive access to recorded Zoom sessions, email the Society at lackawannahistory@gmail.com

or call 570-344-3841

2022 Calendar

Virtual sessions via Zoom

January 12, 1 pm: General Q&A session to determine areas of interest or need

February 9, 1 pm: Military Records and Cemeteries

March 9, 1 pm: National Archives

In-person sessions at the Catlin House, 232 Monroe Ave. Sessions will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

April 27, 1 pm: Tracing records for Irish ancestry

May 18, 1 pm: Tracing records for Italian ancestry

September 14, 1 pm: Tracing records for English/Welsh ancestry.

October 12, 1 pm: Tracing records for German ancestry.

November 9, 1 pm: Tracing records for Eastern European ancestry.

HANDYMAN NEEDED

Recently, the LHS Building and Grounds Committee met and discussed several small repair jobs that are needed at the Catlin House including some tricky work like stabilizing the basement stairs and waterproofing the exterior basement doors. If you can help, or if you know someone who can, please call (570) 344-3841 to discuss the details with Mary Ann. Thank you for your help.



OUR APOLOGIES & APPRECIATION

In our last issue, we printed a story by Ronnie Mead about a recent acquisition of a Civil War era print entitled "The Question Answered" featuring three cats in a milk bowl. We neglected to acknowledge that the print was donated to us by LHS member and volunteer Joanne Stetz and belonged to her grandmother. We are most appreciative to Joanne and her family for sharing this very unique piece of history and to all of our donors who add such fascinating local history tidbits to our collection.



"Lackawanna Past Times" Continues!

Our popular "Lackawanna Past Times" lecture series will continue in 2022! Join us monthly via Zoom to learn about local history topics, partner events, and more!

Fri., January 28, at 2 pm:

The Scranton Lace Company with *Darlene Miller-Lanning and Roman Golebiowski of the Hope Horn Gallery*

Fri., February 25 at 2 pm:

Presidential Campaigns in Scranton with *Nick Petula*

Fri., March 25 at 2 pm:

"From Parlors to Protests: How Music Impacted the Women's Suffrage Movement in America" with *CeCe Otto*

Email us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com to register or check our Facebook page for the Zoom login.

If you miss any of our lectures, or want to see previous programs, videos can be found on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/lackawannahistory/videos>

DINE LACKAWANNA

Enjoy a night out and help support the Society by dining out at these locations!

January 19: **Stirna's Restaurant**

120 W Market St., Scranton

(570) 343-5742

February 16: **Café Classico**

1416 Mulberry St., Scranton

(570) 346-346-9306

Voucher required:

Call or Find it on our website after Feb. 1.



Thanks to Lamar Advertising, our generous media partner for its ongoing support of this program



LHS Fund for the Future

Thanks to your generous donations, our 2021 Fund for the Future has raised \$11,455 for the Society, just \$545 short of our goal of \$12,000. We are grateful to all who have contributed; your support helps us continue to preserve and present Lackawanna County history.

George H. Catlin (\$1,000 and over)

Linda Lynett	Ross Family Foundation
Walter Schautz Foundation	Dalida Walton

Benjamin H. Throop (\$500—\$999)

Bill & Bridget Conlogue	John & Jennifer Ochman	Torry Watkins
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Alexander W. Dickson (\$275- \$499)

John Revak

William Connell (\$175—\$274)

James Earley	Joanne Stetz	Isaac Tripp IV
RJ Walker	Harry & Christine Zike	

Alfred Hand (\$75—\$174)

Michael Balgley	Rich Jenkins	Leni Piasky
Laurie Cadden	John Krisa	Greg & Chris Posly
Joe Cimini	Ellen Lodwick	Ed Scahill
James & Marleen Cloutier	David & Anita Lohin	John & Susan Sheerin
Dunmore Cemetery Assn.	Sally Marquardt	Elaine Shepard
James Dougher	MaryJane Memolo	Barbara Shuta
Jeremiah Eagen	Alex Molfetas	Bernie Strenecky
Esther Friedman	Ron & Mary Ann Moskalczak	Liana Walsh
Bill Gershey	Andera Mulrine	Frank Walsh
Michael & Nada Gilmartin	Gerald Ortell	Shelly White
Steve & Susanne Green	Roy & Vee Pauli	Jon Wozniak
Polly Hughes	Nick & Sue Petula	Harry & Kathy Zinskie

James A. Price (under \$75)

John Andrejack	Joyce Hatala	Lucinda Neubert
Warren Breig	Marla Hoskins	Vera Pace
Joan Buchinski	Don Hughes	Juliana Piccini
Beth Burkhauser	Dominic Keating	Tom Price
Ann Maria Castelgrande	Judi Keller	Ella Rayburn
Carol Chisdak	Chester & Deilsie Kulesa	Phyllis Reinhardt
Mike Chmiola	Charles & Ann Marie Kumpas	Paul Rudnick
Tom Cipriano	Abington Community Library	Mary Ann Savakinus
Jim & Gay Clifford	Virginia Marker	Rosalie Warner
Alexis Davis	Torrie Mattes	Richard Weintraub
Mary Dymond	Jeffrey & Suzanne Mogerma	Jane Willchock
Ginger Goodrich		Alice Witkoski

Beyond the Canvas with Ronnie

I have spent the last couple years researching our paintings collection. Along with learning a great deal about the artists, the sitters and/or the views depicted in the paintings, I would often also stumble across a number of interesting “back stories” – stories that may not relate DIRECTLY to the painting but nonetheless are connected in some way. Some of these stories are sad, some are weird, and some are just plain interesting. That is what this column, “Beyond the Canvas with Ronnie” will be all about – the back stores beyond the canvas.

—Ronnie Mead

Joseph Fellows



Some backstories are long, and some are short – this one is short, but I thought it was interesting in both a weird and a sad way.

But first – lets briefly discuss the Honorable Joseph Fellows, whose portrait hangs in the

Catlin House. Joseph was born in England in 1782. His family immigrated to America in 1790 and were among the earliest settlers in the Hyde Park section of Scranton. Joseph was a lawyer and served in various political positions, eventually being nominated by none other than President George Washington and confirmed as a Judge in the District Court of New York. Joseph acted as a land agent across New York state, and was noted for his “remarkable and old-fashioned” manner and appearance. He passed away peacefully at home in Corning, New York, never having married. A stone obelisk marked his grave in the Fellows family cemetery along Luzerne Street; in 1915 the family donated the land to the city to serve as Fellows Park and the burials— except for Joseph— were removed to Dunmore Cemetery.

BACKSTORY: Alas, Joseph’s father, also named Joseph, was not to find such a

peaceful ending to his life. Joseph Sr. was born on May 27, 1758 in Red Ditch, Worcestershire, England. He immigrated to America in 1790, settling in the Albany, NY area before moving to the Hyde Park area of Scranton in 1796. Joseph built a farmhouse on a bluff along what is now Scranton Street and Seventh Avenue; when other members of the family built homes nearby, the area came to be known as Fellows Corners. In 1796, Joseph built the first bridge across Roaring Brook, using planks from John Stafford’s mill, to connect Hyde Park to the grist mill operated by Benjamin & Ebenezer Slocum.

But, all that is not the interesting part of his story. Fellows served as a local prosecutor, and made an enemy of John Malone, accused of poisoning a neighbor. The day after the trial, in June 1836, Fellows was helpless and bruised in the road near his home. A witness, Mr. Miller, testified that he had been riding in a carriage with Malone when they came upon Fellows walking along the road. Malone overtook Fellows, running him over with the carriage. He told Miller to drive away quickly, and put the horses in barn. Joseph Fellows died of his injuries later that day. Although other witnesses testified that Malone was of “good disposition” and not malicious, he was found guilty of manslaughter. Malone’s request for a new trial failed; in November 1836 he was sentenced to three years in jail.



Nancy's Corner

Beatrice Brown: First Female Conductor of the NEPA Philharmonic

By: Maura Gladys

On February 28th, 1967, in reviewing the Scranton Philharmonic Orchestra's latest performance, Mary M. Jordan of the Scranton Tribune wrote, "The Scranton Philharmonic Orchestra – indeed the whole city of Scranton– is mighty lucky to have Beatrice Brown."

That statement proved true. As one of the most accomplished conductors to ever practice in Scranton, Beatrice Brown set high standards and broke barriers in her ten years as music director and conductor for the Scranton Philharmonic Orchestra and later the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Orchestra.

In her early career, Brown studied extensively in Europe, conducting in Naples, Geneva and Berlin. She was the only woman to receive both a Fulbright and a Rockefeller Award when she took over the Scranton Philharmonic's conductor position in 1962, replacing Skitch Henderson. By her third year as conductor, she was the only woman under contract as a regular conductor on the East Coast.

Known for being dynamic, creative and authoritative, reviews of Brown's performances often lauded her versatility, and ability to reinvigorate older or unknown pieces while also making newer styles and sounds accessible to a wider audience.

"I cannot remember ever having heard a more

sensitive and completely satisfying reading of Schubert's 'Unfinished Symphony' (No. 8 in B minor) than that given by Beatrice Brown," raved Scranton Times music critic Harold G. Mundy after a December 1966 performance. "Miss Brown was at her interpretative best, and Miss Brown, at her best, is very good indeed."

Brown's involvement extended beyond just the conductor stand. She was active within the arts community of Scranton, often giving lectures to local community groups and overseeing local youth concerts and competitions. In a 1964 New York Times profile on Brown, she outlined her ambitions to introduce a series of contemporary concerts at colleges in and around Scranton, featuring both well-known and local composers.

Brown resigned from the NEPA Philharmonic after 10 years at the helm, and gave her final performance on April 29, 1972.

"There was a noticeable grace about Miss Brown's conducting on Saturday night, marked by a flowing

line and pronounced linear movement," wrote Roy E. Morgan for the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader of the performance. "One almost felt that she was cajoling, and at the same time, prodding the ensemble to do its very best."

Brown conducted the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra from 1970 - 1995, and passed away in 1997 at the age of 79.



Program Pleasing

**Philharmonic Superb,
Conductor at Her Best**

NOTE:

The Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to offer Nancy's Corner celebrating our musical history and dedicated in memory of LHS member and friend Nancy Farkas. Nancy was a true lover of the arts, especially music, and we hope that by sharing stories about our rich musical heritage, we will honor her memory and inspire others.

In Memoriam



In December the Society lost longtime volunteer and former staff member Ann Marie O'Hara. Ann Marie first joined the Society in 1992 and also signed on for our first Docent Training Program. She was a dedicated volunteer guiding tours both of the Catlin House exhibits and as one of the downtown walking tour guides. She joined the LHS staff in 2005 and as the LHS office assistant managed all daily activities, greeting visitors, fielding phone calls and maintaining membership and sales records, always with a smile. Ann Marie was an inspiration to all she met. She worked for more than 30 years as a nurse at Moses Taylor Hospital while raising seven children and caring for her husband Cyril. When she retired, she pursued her lifelong love of learning as a student at the University of Scranton, and as a volunteer for the LHS. She also found time to travel. She loved to share her experiences, whether relating details of an exciting trip abroad, recalling a special event at the Hotel Casey, or telling us how much fun it was to have tea at the Overbrook! Her memories were not only fun to hear about but were often the key to answering a local history inquiry from one of our visitors. As a native of West Scranton, Ann Marie treasured her time with family and friends, and also cherished those who came before her. She often told stories about her Aunt Ella Murray, who attended the 1914 convention of the Pennsylvania Woman's Suffrage Association, and her Aunt Agnes O'Loughlin who successfully lobbied for Suffrage in New York. I am sure her aunts would have been proud of Ann Marie and the amazing life she led. We were honored to know her and will miss her.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Ann Marie O'Hara

Jim & Gay Clifford	Nancy McDonald	Greg & Chris Posly
Maureen Faux	Mary Eileen O'Hara	Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
Michael & Nada Gilmartin	Leni Piasky	Barbara Spott
Joanne Kavulich	Juliana & Sarah Piccini	Kevin & Margaret Wassner
Lois Kretsch		Dalida Walton

**In Memory of
Joseph Castellano
& In Memory of Lori Zepponi**

Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

In Memory of Eileen Pocius

Carol Davis
David & Susan Jones
Chris DiMattio
Bernadette & Warren Ross

**In Memory of
Rosemary DeMichele
& In Memory of Helen Revak**

Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
Sarah Piccini

**In Memory of
Michael Sr. & Phyllis Passero
& In Memory of Julia Savakinus**

Mike Passero

Contributions made in the name of individuals are placed in a Memorial Fund and are not used for general operations. To make a memorial donation, please send check payable to the Society with the 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.

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SCRANTON, PA 18510

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UPCOMING EVENTS & VIRTUAL HAPPENINGS

We're excited to see you!

Please remember that facemasks must be worn and social distancing is required. Thank you.

- Fri., Jan. 28, 2 pm **LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES** via Zoom, *The Scranton Lace Company* (pg. 7)
Sun., Jan. 30, 2 pm **FOR THE LEAST OF THEM** via YouTube *For Anthracite Mining Heritage Month* (pg. 6)
Wed., Feb. 9, 1 pm **GENEALOGY FORUM** via Zoom *Military Records and Cemeteries* (pg. 6)
Sun., Feb. 13, 2/3 pm: **HORSE AND CARRIAGE TOURS** *Rescheduled from December* (SOLD OUT)
Wed., Feb. 16 **DINE LACKAWANNA** at Café Classico (pg. 7)
Fri., Feb. 25, 2 pm: **LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES** via Zoom, *Presidential Campaigns in Scranton* (pg. 7)
Sat., Mar. 5, 6:30 pm: **PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION** *Register at wyomingvalleyghosttours.com*
Wed., Mar. 9, 1 pm **GENEALOGY FORUM** via Zoom *National Archives* (pg. 6)
Wed., Mar. 16 **DINE LACKAWANNA** Venue TBA
Sat., Mar. 19 A Revamped **DINNER BY DESIGN** Details TBA
Fri., Mar. 25, 2 pm: **LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES** via Zoom, *From Parlors to Protests* (pg. 7)
Sun., Apr. 3, 1 pm: **PYSANKY WORKSHOP** in-person at Catlin House with Tammy Budnovitch *FEE: \$25*
Sun., Apr. 10, 2 pm: **ORGANIZED CRIME IN NEPA** in-person at Catlin House with James Kanavy
Sun., May 15, 2 pm: **EARLY WYOMING VALLEY** in-person at Catlin House with Nancy and Mark Walker

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