



LHS

The Lackawanna
Historical Society
Journal

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Summer 2022

Stories From the Wholesale Block



It usually starts with this photo. A visitor to the Catlin House will come across this 1890 image of the unit block of Lackawanna Avenue and react one of two ways:

They say, *Oh, I remember the wholesale block!* or they ask, *Wow, What's going on there?!*

We then find ourselves caught up in a conversation about how that particular Scranton street

was once a buzzing hub of commercial activity where local grocery stores and restaurants would purchase fresh produce shipped in via the railroad from around the country. From as early as the 1870s, this block was the center of Scranton's commercial activity. It was a vibrant place where people came together not just to earn a living, but to support each other as a unique and diverse community in Scranton's downtown.

Cont. on pg. 6

A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

I hope you have been enjoying the wonderful summer weather in spite of the dryness and its effect on our landscape. It will soon change as those of us here in NEPA know all too well, and have become used to seeing four seasons .

In this issue of the Lackawanna Historical Society Journal, I want to draw your attention to two regular features I believe are worthy of note, both of which begin with the letter "M". On page 4, you will see a list of new members through the NET Credit Union's Preferred Membership program. LHS members automatically qualify for membership in the NET Credit Union, and as an incentive, NET will pay a prospective member's first year with the LHS. You can see that the results have been impactful with the large number of new members recorded. We feel this partnership is an excellent opportunity to introduce the LHS to local residents and hope that our NET members will renew their memberships and choose to stay with us.

The other item in this issue I wish to bring to your attention is our Memorials and Honors on page 15. Donations can be given and acknowledged for several reasons such as a birthday or anniversary celebration, to honor someone dear to you, or as in this issue, to remember someone who has passed away. Jim Clifford and Ed Osman who both passed away last Spring, and John Anthony Farkas who died in 2020, were three individuals who contributed greatly to the historical society and to their communities. While we will forever mourn their loss, I know their memory will be a blessing.

Please stay well, safe and involved,
Michael Gilmartin

Did you renew your membership?

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.

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 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, Gold, and Platinum levels of memberships are also available.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is printed in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Entire contents copyrighted © 2022 by the Lackawanna Historical Society. Visit www.lackawannahistory.org and like us on Facebook for up-to-date listings of all activities!



Thanks for your Support...

History Makers: LHS Legacy Society

Our Planned Giving Committee is making great progress. Thanks to LHS Trustees Dalida Walton, Michael Gilmartin, Chris Posly, William Rinaldi and Doug Forrer for working to develop a plan to encourage our members and friends to become History Makers by including the Society in their financial plan. Special thanks to LHS member Ray Pilch for sharing his knowledge of estate planning and trust management to advise our committee on the topic. The committee will continue its efforts to bring an awareness to the public, by distributing our *History Makers* brochure to provide valuable information on methods of planned giving and options to consider to ensure the LHS can continue to inspire the exploration of Lackawanna County History.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Individual

Daniel Goodall-Williams, Mayfield

Glenn Johnson, Dalton

Stephanie Lefkowski, Mesa, AZ

Richard McHugh, Salisbury Mills, NY

Donald Liotta, Fort Mill, SC

Michael Manzano, Scranton

Karen Ann May, Scranton

Evie Rafalko McNulty, Scranton

Mark O'Hara, Watertown, NY

Julie Wademan, Factoryville

Evan Weiss, Princeton, NJ



Family

Tom McLane, Scranton

Terry Pidgeon, Olyphant

Correction: In last issue we misspelled one of our new member's name which should have been listed as Sandra Mayer, of Scranton, who joined with James Markowich. Our apologies.

NEPA
GIVES

Thanks to
everyone who
donated to us on
NEPA Gives Day.

We've Won a National Award!



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION for STATE and LOCAL HISTORY

In September, the Lackawanna Historical Society will receive an **Award of Excellence** for "Beyond our Doorstep: Bringing Local History into Your Home" from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The Award of Excellence is part of the **AASLH Leadership in History Awards**, the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation of state and local history.



The Society rose to the challenge in spring 2020 by presenting local history "Beyond Our Doorstep" when we, like so many others, closed our doors at the Catlin House. The programs created during this period—Lackawanna Past Times, #DailyDiversions, the Ghostly Gallery, and Every Picture Tells a Story—developed by our staff of three individuals working from home with a limited budget, have reached more than 20,000 people and continue to receive positive feedback. We're delighted to have received national recognition for our hard work, and thank you all for supporting these programs!

The Catlin House will be closed from September 14-17 so the staff can attend the AASLH Conference and accept our award.

Welcome NET Credit Union!



LHS is proud to be a NET Credit Union Preferred Partner Group, allowing credit union members to become LHS members and LHS members to become credit unions members. Welcome to these new members:

Jason Abbott, Greentown	David Haines, Hallstead	Kody W. Parsons, Hunlock Creek
James Abell, Sweet Valley	David Harris, Scranton	Frank Payne, Freeland
Devon Philip Ackley, Clarks Summit	Amanda Hartman, Pittston	Michael Pheasant, Dunmore
Edward Adams, Dunmore	Paul Hattersley, Scranton	Joyce Piccolino, Archbald
Daniel Androckitis, Wilkes-Barre	Conor Hawm, Forest City	Chad Pinch, Thompson
John Artman, Milford	Isabella Hearn, Dallas	Isaac Pugh, Freeland
Angelo Ateniese, Scranton	Jonathan Hernandez Torres, Plains	Eric Ransom, Union Dale
Robert Barton, Peckville	Dylan Hoffman, Damascus	Edward Rejret, Nicholson
Franco Batzel, Olyphant	Stephen Holzman, Wilkes-Barre	Michael Richards, Moosic
Richard Benesky, Wilkes-Barre	Ethan Hosier, West Pittston	Damian Rickert, Hop Bottom
Dalton Bennett, Jefferson Twp.	Shane Howe, Lake Ariel	Justin Rodgers, Mountaintop
Robert Beward, Exeter	Raymond Jack, Mountaintop	Virgil Root, Meshoppen
Michael Bibak, Wapwallopen	David Johns, Avoca	Daniel Rosato, Scranton
David Black, Archbald	Zachary Stephen Jones, Harveys Lake	Jonathan Roscioli, Avoca
Casey Bobrovcan, Clifford Twp.	Kevin Joyce, Scranton	Stuart Ross, Laurel Run
Jennifer Bojnowski, Dupont	Ryan Kahanic, Scranton	Siarra Rozina, Jessup
Bryan Bowser, West Pittston	Christopher Karwan, Vandling	Curt Rutledge, East Stroudsburg
Jason Boyle, Jefferson Twp.	Michael Francis Kelly, Scranton	Albert Salansky, Uniondale
Bodge Brandice, Greentown	Lisa Kerylovicz, Carbondale	Samantha Sashko, Clarks Summit
Richard Brownell, Springbrook Twp.	Dawn Kieffer, Effort	Jason Sauerwine, Hanover Twp.
Keith Buchman, East Stroudsburg	Daniel Kocher, Noxen	Justin Scott, Scotrun
Jacob Bulkeley, Tafton	Robert Kochmer, Clifford	Ann Seana, Forest City
William Bunnell, Equinunk	Noah Kovaleski, Moscow	Christopher Serody, Greeley
Jason Cafro, Stroudsburg	Suvean Krakowski, Meshoppen	Richard Setser, Monroe Twp.
Patrick Sean Callis, Peckville	Mary Elizabeth Kramer, Moscow	Michelle Sheridan, Hallstead
Mary Catherine Campbell, Mehoopany	Mary Kreidler, S. Abington Twp.	Robert Shupp, Meshoppen
Richard Cary, Shavertown	Joseph Lafiura, Pocono Lake	Richard Sidelnick, Scranton
Christopher Catchpole, Shickshinny	George S. Lee, Moscow	Stanley Skonieczki, Honesdale
Vincent Cesari, Throop	Kenneth William Legg, Covington Twp.	John Slagus, Roaring Brook Twp.
Elizabeth Chupin, Ashley	Frank Lia, Old Forge	Corey M. Smith, West Pittston
Perry Clark, Dalton	Karen Longo, Scott Twp.	Raymond James Smith, Moosic
Thomas Clark, Factoryville	Michael Lowry, Scott Twp.	Bradley Taylor Smith, Hawley
John Clement, Union Dale	Kelly Major, Mountaintop	Crystal Snyder, Wilkes Barre
Jeremy Coates, Peckville	Jacob Mankey, Berwick	Zachary Stark, Dickson City
Allen Coolbaugh, Forty Fort	Brant Hunter Marshall, Springville	Joseph Stepanski, Harding
Brannon Richard Cooper, Hallstead	Adam Mataloni, Dunmore	Jaime Stine, Scranton
Joseph Patrick Day, Nanticoke	Alexa Matone, Jessup	Corey Stokes, East Stroudsburg
Myles Delia, Exeter	Casey McHugh, Kingsley	Hasta Subba, Scranton
Caid Nodin DeNaples, Scranton	Robert McNeish, Abington Twp.	Kody Sutliff, Shickshinny
Jonathan Dennis, Dickson City	Danielle Menichelli, Pittston	Veronica Torres, Gouldsboro
Justin Dolman, Pittston	Stephen Michaelimka, Nicholson	Christopher Toth, Greentown
James Dube, Greentown	James T. Mitchell, Kingston	Claude Townsend, Throop
Aiden Dussel, Milford	Michael Mosely, Mayfield	David Tran, Drums
Dominic Eremo, Old Forge	Andrew Mulcahy, Newfoundland	Kristopher Vitale, Wilkes Barre
Matthew Eso, Tunkhannock	Mark John Mumie, Wilkes-Barre	Joseph Wagner, Jessup
Evan Garver, Factoryville	Scott Murphy, Mountaintop	Casey Wernick, Factoryville
Brianne Gennow, Avoca	Evan Tracey Newell, Dallas	Samuel White, Lake Ariel
Stephen Gillette, Carbondale	Michael Odgen, Dunmore	Jaime Wickizer Jr., Monroe Twp.
Gabrielle Giordano, Moscow	David Osterhout, Clarks Summit	Mark Witkowski, Eynon
Mark Gorman, Scott Twp.	Robert Parada, Wilkes Barre	Richard Zindle, Clifton Twp.
Segdrick Green, Old Forge		Joshua Zurek, Pittston

Genealogy Forum and Workshop

The Lackawanna Historical Society's monthly genealogy forum was created to provide those interested in tracing their ancestry with an opportunity to come together to share experiences and provide helpful hints to others who are seeking their roots.

Space is limited; registration is required. Call the Society at 570-344-3841 or email us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com. Participants should bring a laptop (not tablet) for each session.

Upcoming Sessions

The Society is excited to work in partnership with our Lackawanna County libraries! Please note the location of each session.

Wednesday, September 14, 1 pm

Tracing English/Welsh Ancestors
Valley Community Library, 739 River St, Peckville

Wednesday, October 12, 1 pm

Tracing German Ancestors
North Pocono Public Library, 1315 Church Street, Moscow

Wednesday, November 9, 1 pm

Tracing Polish Ancestors
Abington Community Library, 1200 W Grove St,
Clarks Summit

Fall Genealogy Workshop for Beginners

Saturdays, October 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2022, from 9:30 am to Noon
Henkelman Room at the Albright Library, 500 Vine St., Scranton
Registration is required and participants must commit to all four sessions.

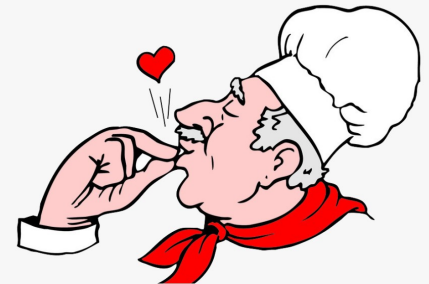
The fee is \$25 for LHS Members and \$35 for Non-Members.
Registration deadline is Friday September 30. See page 11 for more details.

DINE LACKAWANNA

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

September 21: **Cusumano**
432 S Main St, Old Forge
(570) 457-4166

October 19: **Stirna's Restaurant**
120 W. Market St, Scranton
(570) 343-5742



November 16: **Cooper's Seafood House**
701 N Washington Ave, Scranton
(570) 346-6883

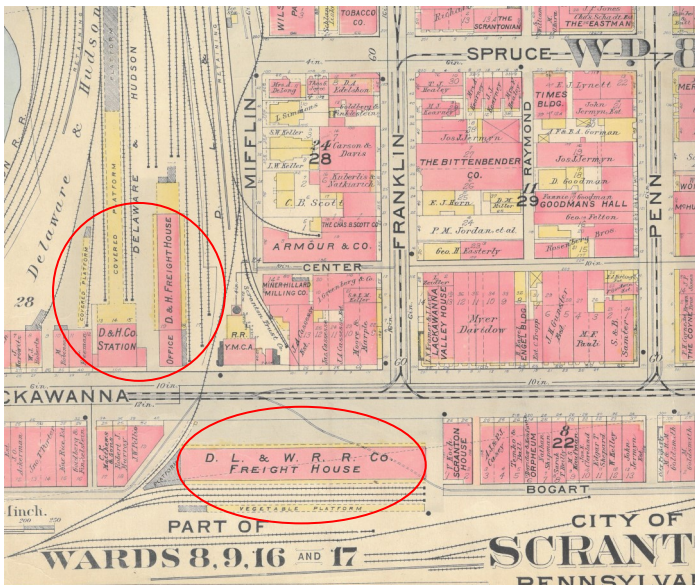


Thanks to Lamar Advertising, our generous media partner for its ongoing support of this program

Cont. from pg. 1

To better understand the Wholesale Block, it is helpful to look at how Scranton developed. When the Scranton brothers arrived in 1840 to build an iron works, the area was mostly agricultural and sparsely populated. The eventual success of the iron works, and development of anthracite mining and growth of railroads, created a boomtown soon flooded with immigrants looking for work. The City of Scranton was established in 1866 with the merger of Hyde Park, Providence, and Scranton boroughs. The city's population was just under 1,000 people in 1850 but would jump to 45,000 by 1880 and reach a peak of 140,000 in 1920. This growth resulted in a shift from rural to urban life, from self-sufficient farmsteads to working households who needed to purchase food, furniture, and dry goods. A merchant class quickly developed to meet this need, spurring commercial activity throughout the downtown.

Conveniently, two railroads - the Delaware & Hudson and the Delaware Lackawanna & Western - had freight depots at the western end of Lackawanna Avenue near Mifflin and Franklin Avenues,



Sanborn Atlas 1918

while the Jersey Central depot was just across the Lackawanna River. Dozens of wholesale shops sprang up adjacent to these depots, selling fruits, vegetables, meats, and cheese as well as wholesale tobacco, paper, dry goods, confections, and much more. Local “mom and pop” shops throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania relied on these markets for their products to stock the shelves in their individual businesses. The wholesalers were helpful middlemen, eliminating the need for small businesses to deal with the railroads.

In Scranton, the Wholesale Block was the linchpin of the city's larger commercial district. The unit block of Lackawanna Avenue, stretching from the river to just before Mifflin Avenue along both sides of the street, was the main location for wholesalers. The adjacent blocks across Penn and Franklin Avenues to Mulberry Street, and further along Lackawanna Avenue, as far as Adams and Jefferson Avenues, were home to many of the city's major commercial enterprises. From the very early establishment of Monies and Pughe bakery on the 500 block of Lackawanna Avenue to Plotkin's Shoes at 336 Penn Avenue to the later legendary Globe Store and Oppenheim's department stores, Scranton's commercial district had everything a person could need. In addition, the streets were also home to several restaurants, hotels, banks, and an assortment of other useful services.

This activity is the reason that much of this section of the downtown, known as the Lackawanna Avenue Commercial District, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Of course, the Wholesale Block is a major part of the district and, although little remains of its original structures, its story harkens back to a time when Scranton was at its industrial height and the city was thriving.

This winter, the Lackawanna Historical Society will present a new documentary “Stories from the Wholesale Block”. The project, produced by Cannon Fire Productions with funding support from private donations, Lackawanna Heritage Valley, and the Spitz Foundation, focuses on some of the businesses that operated on the Wholesale Block and highlights how the city's commercial activities reflected periods of growth and decline through the years. The Society worked with local film makers Bob Savakinus and Tim Novotney to contact individuals who remembered the wholesale block, and expand the story to include some details about the adjacent commercial district.

Some of our interviewees were descendants of the merchants who once occupied the block, and were excited to share their stories about growing up there, where they helped unload things that were then thought to be exotic produce like bananas, peaches and pineapples. Others recalled the early morning work hours and delivery routes throughout the region. Many remarked on the hectic hustle and bustle of the block, and of its less-than-sanitary working conditions, but all shared fond memories of a place where their families and neighbors worked side by side. They were proud of the role

their ancestors played in making sure local residents had access to fresh produce all year long.

The really memorable thing about the wholesale block is the community vibe it created. It was not just a place where people worked but a place where people came together to support each other. We hear stories about how the businesses were operated by families- brothers, sons, and grandsons. It was a tradition to start at a very young age helping out and then later as an adult taking over the reins, sometime literally. Perhaps one of our favorite stories was told by former mayor Gene Peters relating how many of the wholesalers would unwind after an early morning's labor at one of the local watering holes, then rely on his horse to find the way home.

Mayor Peters also notes how many of the merchants lived in the adjacent neighborhoods. Unlike coal miners living in company-owned housing or patch towns, wholesale merchants chose nearby

neighborhoods by choice and for convenience, creating a micro-melting pot with a bit more diversity than you see in the patch towns.

The Wholesale Block was demolished in the late 1960s and early 1970s, as part of the Scranton Redevelopment Authority's Lackawanna West project. The remaining wholesalers were relocated to newly established industrial parks to take traffic out of the downtown. Railroads were replaced by trucks and "Mom and Pop" stores gave way to larger "big box" chains but the block lives on through personal recollections of the individuals who worked and lived there. "Stories from the Wholesale Block", a documentary funded by Lackawanna Heritage Valley, the Robert H. Spitz Foundation and private donors, will capture a snapshot of this unique Scranton destination and those who made it successful. Stay tuned for more details about the upcoming premiere!

"Lackawanna Past Times" Returns!

Our monthly Zoom lecture series features famous local sons and early regional history. Email us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link, or catch up on past episodes on our YouTube channel!

Friday, September 30 at 2 pm: "William W. Scranton and the United Nations, 1976-77" explores former Governor Bill Scranton's tenure as Ambassador to the United Nations. Presented by Dr. Sean Brennan, professor of history at the University of Scranton.

Friday, October 28 at 2 pm: "Abington History: The Lackawanna Trail, 100 years ago" Join Julie Manwarren to learn more about the planning, construction and historic opening of the Lackawanna Trail (today US Route 11) connecting Scranton to rural communities in the Abingtons and its importance, then and now, to our region.

Friday, November 18 at 2 pm: "Spotlight on the Jenkins Archive" provides a sneak peek into a Colonial-era archive of more than 3,000 documents and maps in the Society's collection and explores the life of Col. John Jenkins, a Revolutionary soldier. Presented by Rich Jenkins, a descendant of the Colonel.

Scranton's Story Fall 2022 Events

The Society is excited to continue partnership with the University of Scranton this Fall to present Humanities themed programming for the *Scranton Story Our Nation's Story* project. We are especially excited to announce a new exhibit *Time and Lace, A History of the Scranton Lace Company* from **September 2 - 30 at the University's Hope Horn Gallery**. *Curator's Talk* will be given on **Friday, September 16 at 5 pm in Brennan Hall Room 228** followed by a public reception at **6 pm at Hyland Hall Room 407**. Other Scranton Story events scheduled this Fall include:



The 1902 Anthracite Strike: Causes & Consequences, A 120th Anniversary Evaluation, **Sept. 8, 5:30 pm, Courtroom #3 in the Lackawanna County Courthouse**, Panel with Keynote Speaker Dr. Bob Wolensky.

A Shop on Every Corner: Memories of the Garment Industry, **Sept. 21, 7-8:30 pm, Ritz Theater & Performing Arts Center**, Film Screening & Discussion with historian Dr. Ken Wolensky & filmmaker Maureen McGuigan.

Weaving the Past into the Future: Scranton Lace, **Oct. 15, 1:30 pm check-in, event 2-3 pm, Laceworks Village, 1315 Meylert Ave.**, Site tour in collaboration with the Center for the Living City.

All The Places We Come From: Stories, Food, & Community, **Oct. 25, 2022, 6-7:30 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm), Shopland Hall, Scranton Cultural Center**. An evening of story-sharing around the theme of migration featuring nationally acclaimed writers Anna Badhken, Angie Cruz, Chinelo Okparanta and Joe O'Neill. The event will begin with appetizers and sweets from Scranton's multi-ethnic restaurants, and a story-exchange.

For more details visit scranton.edu/scrantonstory, email community@scranton.edu or call 570-941-4419.

NEPA Local History Fair Planned at Viewmont Mall

The historical society is excited to announce the first ever NEPA Local History Fair slated to take place on **October 1st from 10 am to 4 pm at the Viewmont Mall** in Dickson City. The fair came about under the urging of LHS member Joe Klapatch who has participated in similar fairs in other parts of the state. He felt an event was needed in Northeastern Pennsylvania that would showcase our many local history resources in one place that would be convenient to interested individuals as well as for those who did not know that these hidden gems exist. Our hope is that we can promote our fellow local history makers by inviting everyone to come together at the mall to provide information about their collections and activities, offer items for sale, and recruit new members & volunteers. As of this date there are fourteen participants registered:

Archbald Historical Society
Cannon Fire Productions
Carbondale Historical Society and Museum
Dickson City Historical Society
Forest City Area Historical Society
Historical Society of the Abingtons
Jermyn Historical Society

Lackawanna County Library System
Lackawanna Historical Society
Stephanie Longo
North Pocono Historical Society
Waverly Community House
Wayne County Historical Society
West Pittston Historical Society

Please plan to come and support us on October 1st and, if you represent an organization that may want to join us, share register link: <https://forms.gle/emTkj8Vid9EBrVs6>

Mark Your Calendars... Watres Armory Tours Return!

The Society is pleased to announce the return of Watres Armory Tours made possible through our partnership with Neo-Expressionist artist Hunt Slonem. In the words of *Architectural Digest*, Mr. Slonem has created a "colorful castle," a personal museum of his paintings and collections of antique furniture and other goods, with bright colors and unique wall treatments.

Tours will be offered this Fall on **October 16 and November 20 at 2 pm**. A tour fee of \$20 per person will benefit the Society. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, please call 570-344-3841.



DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL LHS MEMBER BENEFIT!

Member & photographer, Cheryl Kaiser is excited to offer LHS members photo-restoration services and a percentage of your project will be donated to LHS.

For over 30 years, Cheryl has helped hundreds of families with restoration work, each image handled with the white-glove attention they deserve.

Learn more details-

www.CherylKaiser.com/LHS-partnership

See more - portfolio of work, recent projects and tips

www.facebook.com/CherylKaiserPhotographer



Cheryl is happy to answer your questions and help you get started on your restoration project - you can reach her directly at 570-282-4090 or at Cheryl@CherylKaiser.com

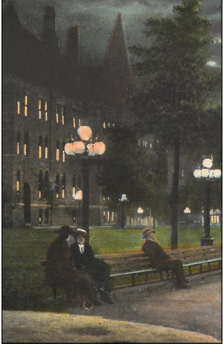
DUNMORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

This Summer, the LHS staff and trustees worked with Dunmore Historical Society to review its collection and determine what is appropriate to transfer to the LHS Collection. Some items that were duplicated or more appropriate for other repositories were also reviewed and accepted by Steamtown National Historic Site, Anthracite Heritage Museum and Albright Memorial Library. On August 5, the DHS collections we accepted were moved from their headquarters on Barton Street to offsite storage donated by one of our members. DHS representatives Dan Schreffler and Phil Sardo were extremely helpful in organizing the move. Thanks to LHS Trustees Ella Rayburn, Linda Lynett Bill Conlogue and Tom Cipriano, and volunteers Rich Jenkins, Charlie Kumpas, Nick Petula, Rich Sedelnick, Bob Savakinus, Bernie McGurl, and Owen and Evan Bernardi for supplying the muscle and the trucks for the move. DHS conducted a final sale of remaining items (mostly office supplies and furniture) on August 20. Their building has been sold and they closed on August 24. After all financial obligations have been met, any remaining monetary assets will be transferred to LHS. Our trustees will place the received funding in a restricted account to be used for future development. LHS will also offer one year complimentary memberships to current DHS members.



Haunted Happenings!

Scranton After Dark Walking Tours



Celebrate Halloween in Scranton with a bit of history! The Lackawanna Historical Society's "Scranton After Dark" haunted walking tours will return this Halloween season! Join the Society for a guided walking tour around Downtown

Scranton for tales of mayhem and mysterious happenings at some of your favorite places, as well as findings from past paranormal investigations. Tours will be given on Friday evenings: **September 30, October 7, 14, 21 and 28.** Each tour begins at **7 p.m.** and will meet at

the Society's headquarters, the Catlin House, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, and the tour will take about two hours.



Join us to learn more about Scranton's perfidious past! Tours are \$15 per person; advance tickets are required. Tour groups will be limited to ten people. Tickets can be purchased online via the QR code above or through Ticketleap at: <https://lackawanna-historical-society.ticketleap.com/haunted-tours/>

Guys, Gals, and Graves Scavenger Hunt

Our Valley Quest scavenger hunt is taking a cue from the spooky season! "Guys, Gals, and Graves" will focus on notable or unique burials in Lackawanna County cemeteries as an interactive way to learn who's who in local



history. The weekend-long hunt will open at **9 am on Saturday, October 22** and close at **1 pm on Sunday, October 23.** Participants will explore ten local cemeteries looking for specific burials; all players or teams will be required to email selfie photos of each site to the Society to receive points toward prizes. Join us after the hunt for a celebration on **Sunday, October 23 at 2 pm** at the Catlin House to enjoy festive refreshments. Prizes will be awarded to participants in various categories at the reception.

Registration for the hunt opens on September 15 and closes September 25. Cost is \$50 for a team of four players, or \$15 for an individual. Contact us at 570-344-3841 for registration information!

For an extra Spooky Haunted Happening Wyoming Valley Ghost Tours will conduct a paranormal investigation at the Catlin House on October 22. Stay tuned to their Facebook page for details.



Local History Legends of Lore!

Congratulations to **Gerard Hetman** of NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania, and **Owen Worozbyt** from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area and current champions of our "You Live Here; You Should Know This!" local history game show! On June 2, Owen and Gerard defeated Riverside's Dave Walsh and Joe Moceyunas in a dramatic, double-overtime, help-we're-running-out-of-questions final round. Thanks to event sponsor PPL, all our contestants, and everyone who watched! (If you missed it, find it on our YouTube channel!)



Genealogy Workshop for Beginners
Lackawanna Historical Society
Genealogy Forum

Albright Memorial Library, 500 Vine Street
Henkelman Room, Second Floor

Saturdays, October 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2022

9:30 am - Noon

Participants must commit to all four sessions.

Registration closes Friday, September 30, 2022

Class size limited to 10 people.

Participants will be required to adhere to the library's Covid-19 guidelines as determined by CDC recommendations during the workshop.

\$25.00 for LHS Members or \$35.00 for Non-Members
(non-refundable)

Required:

Laptop (NOT a tablet)

3-ring binder

Notepaper

To register:

Email lackawannahistory@gmail.com

or call 570-344-3841.

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 stories beyond the canvas.

-- Ronnie Mead

TWO LIVES, SO WHY NOT TWO NAMES

This story starts off with a rather familiar quandary – a young man’s father wants his son to become an architect while the young man has another profession in mind – he wants to be an artist..... But in this instance the young man fulfills his desire, attends art school, and goes on to become quite well-known as a portrait painter both in Scranton and in NYC. But then...



LIFE #1:

I doubt that many people reading this are familiar with the name Wilmos Bela Sandorhazi, but as you will soon discover, you may in fact be very familiar with much of his work, and, as you will see, you may also be familiar with his name!

(That doesn’t seem to make much sense, does it – but it is not a typo - please read on!)

Wilmos Sandorhazi was born in Austria-Hungary (now Romania) in 1882. Apparently, his family was well off financially as Wilmos was able to complete an 8-year study of painting at the Budapest Academy of Fine Arts. He showed such ability that he was then able to study at the world-famous Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris on a scholarship.

At the age of 28 he emigrated to the U.S. and settled in Scranton (he had a brother living in Throop). He assimilated into the local Hungarian community, centered around the Logan Memorial Church and opened an art studio at 604 Linden Street, room 201 of the P.P. Carter Bldg. (aka the Ad-Lin Bldg.), becoming mainly known as a portrait painter. In 1912 he presented an exhibition of 18 portraits of “select men and women” of Scranton. In 1913 he also opened a studio in NYC., traveling back and forth between the two locations. It was at this time that he completed a portrait of the noted evangelist

Billy Sunday and presented it to him during his revival mission in Scranton. He also painted portraits of the Woolworth family and other luminaries about this same time.

In 1915 he married Gwendolin Darling who suggested he change his name (due to rising anti-German sentiment due to World War I) to rid himself of the “foreign-ness” of it, which he did, becoming William S. Darling. A new name –one that is well documented in the annals of Hollywood, of all places!

LIFE #2:

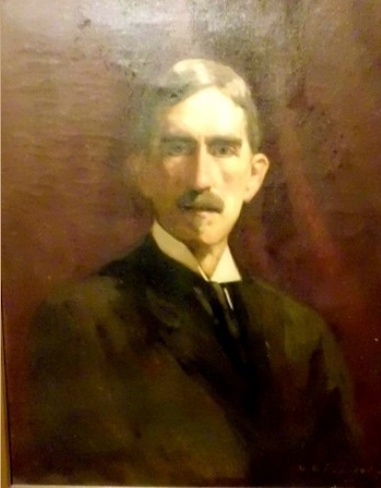
By 1920 William had relocated to Hollywood, California, joining 20th Century Fox in 1922 as Supervising Art Director. He remained in that position till 1946, crafting approximately 63 films. His work included providing sets for none other than some of the greatest movie directors of all time - John Ford, Howard Hawks and Fritz Lang. He was nominated for an Oscar 6 times, winning 3 times for the movies *Cavalcade*, *The Song of Bernadette* and *Anna and the King of Siam*.



He became quite well-known in the film industry before retiring in the 1950s, and returning to his first love – painting. His focus this time was not on

portraits but rather painting in oil, gouache and watercolor in a plein-air style of California impressionism, focusing on desert and coastal landscapes and quintessential western subjects more in tune with his geographic environment.

Gwendolyn passed away in 1955. In 1957 William married the portrait artist Marjory Adams. He died in Laguna Beach on December 15, 1963.



His name clearly has not become lost in history. In 2012 William S. Darling was inducted into the American Art Director's Guild Hall of Fame, at which time the Guild stated that "He, along with Richard Day, established the look of Fox's films during Hollywood's Golden Age, and he defined the craft of production design in a wide range of genres for the designers who followed him." The historical society has two of Sandorazi's portraits in its collection which are shown above the Honorable Joseph Benjamin Dimmick, 13th Mayor of the City of Scranton (1915) and Judge Edward Newell Willard (1911). A sample of Darling's plein-air works, "Farm near Rancho Santa Fe" (1940) that was recently sold at auction, is also included, above right.

ASSISTANCE: As stated in my article, W. B. Sandorhazi painted portraits of many of Scranton's leading men and women. According to a November 25, 1912 Scranton Times article, 18 of these works were exhibited at that time in his Linden Street studio including portraits of Mrs. J.M. Wainwright, Mrs. Joseph H. Odell and Mrs. James Linen, Jr. Should anyone have one of his paintings in their family, or know the whereabouts of any of his paintings, we would be interested in knowing about it. Thank you, Ronnie.



The Society's 2022 Annual Dinner will mark the 115th Anniversary of the Ritz Theater building on Wyoming Avenue with a special program presenting a vaudeville-style show inspired by Scranton's theatrical history. Performances will be offered by Ballet Theater of Scranton, Diva Theater, Kenny McGraw, Scranton Shakespeare and CAAPA with emcee Connor McGuigan.

Thursday October 13, 6 pm
Invitations will be mailed soon!

Nancy's Corner

From Scranton Bandleader to WWII Prisoner

By: Maura Gladys

Henry Nathan's journey as a musician took him from 618 Quincy Ave to the glitziest cities and farthest corners of the world. However, there's one stop on his journey as a bandleader that he never anticipated making, to a Japanese internment camp during World War II.

Born in Scranton as Henry Nathanowitz, he began his musical career as a member of the Boys Scout orchestra at the YMHA before graduating from Central High School in 1912. He was heard regularly on



WQAN along with the Scranton Sirens and Saxons, and appeared at several local dances heading up the Symphonators. He was lauded locally for his violin solos, but his talents soon took him to a global stage. Along with famous bandleader Paul Specht and his orchestra, Nathanowitz (who soon shortened his name to Nathan) toured Europe, playing in Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Budapest, and even performing for the King and Queen of Spain in Madrid.

By 1927, Nathan was headlining an orchestra at the Firpos Hotel in Calcutta (now Kolkata), where he made headlines in the *Scranton Tribune* by sending back a 10-foot-long tiger skin as a gift to his mother. His trips back to Scranton, to visit his parents on Quincy Avenue, were often well-covered events.

In the early '30s, Nathan had found his way to

the Far East, leading an orchestra at the world-renowned Cathay Hotel, a British-owned establishment in Shanghai. He led this orchestra for several years, but as global tensions began to rise in the mid '30s, with World War II on the horizon, the Cathay Hotel was forced to close its doors. It was even subject to an accidental bombing in 1937, which Nathan survived. Following the incident, however, Nathan decided to pause his music career, taking a job at American Motors, Inc. in Shanghai. By this time, communication with Nathan was tenuous, with each cable received from the bandleader welcomed with relief back in Scranton. But soon Nathan's messages stopped.

In November of 1943, his brother, Lester, received a communication from the American Red Cross that Henry had been taken captive by the Japanese in Shanghai and was being interned. His family had last heard from him in May 1940.

Nathan spent three and a half years in Japanese internment, where he suffered under-nourishment, but was largely unharmed. He was released in 1945 and immediately made his way back home to Scranton. In an interview given shortly after his arrival in the city, he detailed life as an internee, commenting that the food was "scanty and without variety" but overall, they made the best of their situation. "We had our own library, shoe service, playing fields, hospitals, etc. In fact, we were a city of our own, under guard," he told the *Scrantonian* in a November 4th, 1945 article.

Little is known about Nathan after this point. In that same article, when the reporter cheekily asked Nathan if he would consider returning to Shanghai, Nathan shot back a stern "I do not think so."

In 1961, per his brother Lester's obituary, he was living in Yokohama, Japan, and per his other brother, Alvin's, obituary in 2000, Henry had already passed.

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.*



Remembering Jim Clifford

In May, the Society received the sad news that our caretaker Jim Clifford had passed away. He and his wife, Gay, first joined the Society in 2004 when they signed up for a docent training program. They were active volunteers and members who supported so many of our programs.

Perhaps most memorable was our first Civil War Ball, where they danced the night away in Civil War period dress that Gay made especially for the evening! Jim and Gay also volunteered every year at our Holiday Open House and, on more than one occasion, arranged for a special visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus. In 2009, Jim and Gay became our caretakers, providing much needed TLC to our treasured headquarters for the last 13 years.

As a retired plumber, Jim brought much-needed skills to the job and never hesitated to go above and beyond to make sure everything in the Catlin House was in working condition and ready for visitors. But more than this, Jim often offered his guidance and support along with Gay to the other LHS staff and volunteers. As a man who had met so many challenges head on, he set an example for all who knew him about the importance of staying positive. It is that example that made Jim such a special person, and it is his positive attitude that we will miss most.



More Sad News

Ed Osman, long-time LHS volunteer also passed away in May. Ed was an active member of our Collections Committee who shared his extensive knowledge

about tools and the military. He started volunteering in 2005 and worked with curator Ella Rayburn and fellow volunteer Nick Petula to catalog our military uniforms. He also organized our collection of mining equipment and 19th century hand held carpenters' tools, and prepared an exhibit on domestic tools for display at Scranton's downtown post office. After suffering a stroke in 2010, Ed began to cut back on his time with us, but continued to visit when he could, to simply say hello and share a story. We will miss his cheeky sense of humor that could always be counted on to brighten our day.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Jim Clifford

Rose Ferraro & Family
 Michael & Nada Gilmartin
 Janet Grippi
 Jay & Kathleen Huthmaker
 Linda Lynett
 Michelle Magliocchi
 Gail O'Donnell
 Ella Rayburn
 Leni Piasky
 Sarah Piccini
 Chris Posly
 Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
 Amy Shea
 Dalida Walton

In Memory of John Anthony Farkas

- On his Birthday -
 Sarah Piccini
 Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

In Memory of Ed Osman

Michael & Nada Gilmartin
 Judi Keller
 Nancy Hanson
 Dennis & Sharleen Martin
 Marie McDonald
 Polly & Chris Metzger
 Bob & Linda Morrisette
 Ella Rayburn
 Cheryl Rorke
 Sarah Piccini
 Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
 Virginia Shupp

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.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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SCRANTON, PA 18510

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UPCOMING EVENTS & VIRTUAL HAPPENINGS

- Thurs., Sept. 8, 5:30 pm ***THE 1902 ANTHRACITE STRIKE CAUSES & CONSEQUENCES: 120TH ANNIVERSARY***
Courtroom #3, Lackawanna County Courthouse (See this and other Scranton Story events on pg. 8.)
- Sat., Sept. 10, 11 am ***DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR*** Meet at Lackawanna County Courthouse
- Wed., Sept. 14, 1 pm ***GENEALOGY FORUM*** *Tracing English/Welsh Ancestors* at Valley Community Library (see pg. 5)
- Wed.-Sat., Sept. 14-17 ***AASLH CONFERENCE IN BUFFALO*** Catlin House will be closed. (see pg. 3)
- Wed., Sept. 21 ***DINE LACKAWANNA*** Cusumano (see pg. 5)
- Fri., Sept. 30, 2 pm ***LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES*** *William W. Scranton & the UN 1976-1977* (see pg. 7)
- Fri., Sept. 30, 7 pm ***SCRANTON AFTER DARK*** Haunted walking tour begin, every Friday in October (see pg. 10)
- Sat., Oct. 1, 10am - 4 pm ***NEPA LOCAL HISTORY FAIR*** at the Viewmont Mall in Dickson City (see page 8)
- Sat., Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29, 9:30 am ***GENEALOGY WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS*** at Albright Memorial Library (see pg. 5 & 11)
- Wed., Oct. 12, 1 pm ***GENEALOGY FORUM*** *Tracing German Ancestors* at North Pocono Public Library (see pg. 5)
- Thurs, Oct. 13, 6 pm ***LHS ANNUAL DINNER*** *If You Can Play Scranton, 115 Years of the Ritz Theater* (details TBA)
- Sun., Oct. 16, 2 pm ***WATRES ARMORY TOUR*** (see pg. 9)
- Wed., Oct. 19 ***DINE LACKAWANNA*** Stirna's (see pg. 5)
- Sat., Oct. 22 ***WYOMING VALLEY GHOST TOURS*** Paranormal investigation of the Catlin House (details TBA)
- Sat./Sun., Oct. 22-23 ***VALLEY QUEST: GUYS, GALS, AND GRAVES*** Third annual LHS scavenger hunt. (see pg. 10)
- Fri., Oct. 28, 2 pm ***LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES*** *Abington History* (see pg. 7)
- Wed., Nov. 9, 1 pm ***GENEALOGY FORUM*** *Tracing Polish Ancestors* at Abington Community Library (see pg. 5)
- Wed., Nov. 16 ***DINE LACKAWANNA*** Cooper's (see pg. 5)
- Fri., Nov. 18, 2 pm ***LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES*** *The Jenkins Archive* (see pg. 7)
- Sun., Nov. 20, 2 pm ***WATRES ARMORY TOUR*** (see pg. 9)

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Please send your email address to lackawannahistory@gmail.com to make sure you are on the list.