

The Lackawanna Historical Society BULLETIN

Vol. 6, No. 3

September – October 1972

INTERESTING OUTLOOK FOR 1972-73 SEASON

The Lackawanna Historical Society got off to a fine start with a most interesting account of a visit to modern Greece by a member of the Society, W. Kenneth Moffat, Jr. on Tuesday, September 26, at the Catlin Memorial Home. Mr. Moffat, Chairman of the Central High School English Department, spent a year in Salonica, Greece, teaching conversational English and was consequently, well-grounded in his subject.

The October meeting, to be held at the Catlin Home on Tuesday, October 24, also forecasts an interesting program. Mary Theresa Connolly, a member of a railroad-oriented family, will present a history of the Pennsylvania Coal Co. Gravity Railroad. Miss Connolly has thoroughly researched her subject and should present an interesting program of enlightenment on a phase of local history that will never be dull to the historically minded.

IN MEMORIAM

Many of us will recall with warm memories, a gracious personality — a member of our Hospitality Committee — who took such pleasure in greeting each arrival at the door with a kind word of welcome.

Such was the character of Johanna Dunn — long a member of our Society — so recently deceased.

In her memory, a Memorial Fund has been established by her sister, Sarah Dunn.

R.C.M.

NEW MEMBERS OF LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. & Mrs. T. Harold Campion — Scranton
Paul M. Kaczmarcik — Carbondale
Mr. & Mrs. William M. Dawson — Waverly
John E. Close — Dunmore
J. C. Hanahue, Esq., — Clarks Summit
Michael B. Comerford — Scranton
Stanely G. Radgowski — Scranton
William J. Murray — Waverly

Catharine T. Shulenberger — Scranton
Robert P. Warzecha — Dickson City
Major Lee White, Jr. — Dalton
Mrs. Clarence Gaskill — Scranton
Mr. & Mrs. Robert N. Cohee — Scranton
Mr. & Mrs. William B. Roth, Jr. — Clarks Green
Marie S. Smith — Scranton
Mrs. Mary A. Kerr — Scranton
Elizabeth D. Brauer — Olyphant
George B. Dimmick — Olyphant
Bernard J. Marinucci — Scranton
Pastor Stephen Yelovich — Scranton
John F. Radkiewicz — Clarks Summit

1867 SCRANTON DIRECTORY

Among the multitude of fascinating old things that have been accumulating in the rooms of the Historical Society, a Scranton City Directory for the year 1867, was brought to my notice by Custodian Bob Mattes in response to my query for "something to write about in the society's Bulletin". This opportunity for seeing our habitat as it was over a hundred years ago seemed to fill the order, especially since it has in it a "History of Scranton, Providence, Dunmore, Waverly and Humphreysville with authentic accounts of the origin and present condition of the various railroads, coal, iron and manufacturing companies, churches, schools, societies, etc., of the places above named."

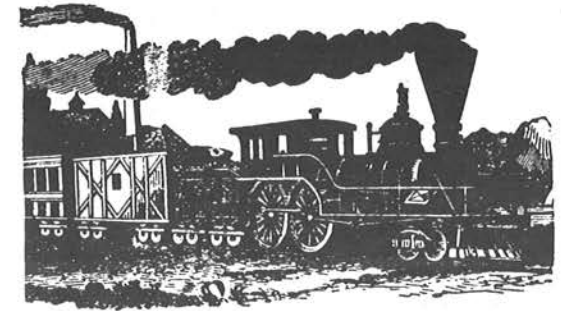
Here, indeed, is material for a dozen bulletins, although I can only touch on some of its interesting contents and reproduce a few of the quaint cuts that adorn the solicitations of its advertisers.



There are listed in the book about 170 pages of Scranton citizens, together with their occupation and place of employment. Since there are an average forty names on each page, Scranton at that time must have numbered about 6800 families. There seems to have been few street numbers, except in the center of town, where an occasional number pops up on Lackawanna or Wyoming Avenue. For the most part address would be given as "Hoban, Patrick, 3rd Ward", "Hinckley, Samuel, carpenter, Hyde Park Ave." or even more vaguely, "Hartman, Charles, miner, Petersburg." Even so important a citizen as

Scranton, Joseph H., Pres. L.I. & Co., h Ridge Row, without a house number given, probably shows that there was none to give.

A list of the current city officials shows that E. S. M. Hill was mayor; Peter Nallen, Marshal; F. L. Hitchcock, Clerk of the Mayor's Court; P. Schrader, Treasurer; James Mahon, District Attorney; T. Mayo Bartlett, Chief of Police and Edward N. Willard, City Attorney. There are listed the names of 12 Select Councilmen and 23 Common Councilmen including on the Select Council, Dr. Henry Roberts, F. B. Marsh, S. G. Oram, A. B. Stevens, E. Heermans, Patrick Mahon, P. Scanlon, S. Shopland, Alfred Hand, Maurice Tauer, Jacob Robinson and Darby Melvin. On the Common Council there seems to have been two councilmen from each of 12 wards, except from the 5th ward, which lists only one man. Space limitations prevent their listing.



The historical sketches are quite interesting and probably contain original material for the local historian, especially that of Waverly and Humphreysville, now Glenburn. Early inhabitants of those towns are also listed.

But the early atmosphere is presented by the advertising matter, which makes up over half of the directory.

Some of the cuts are reproduced here and I am sorry there isn't room for more. Apparently the printer had a limited number of them because the railroad train, puffing ahead, is used four or five times to brighten the ads of different railroads and the photographic studio appears with the ads of two different studios, probably competitors.



I reproduce in full, an account of Scranton's first baseball club, with the thought that the local papers may want to give it a little wider circulation on their sport pages.

SCRANTON BASEBALL CLUB OF SCRANTON

This club, now eminently and justly an organization which Scranton and vicinity may well be proud of, was first organized under the name of Wyoming B.B.C. by James A. Linen, M.D. Botsford, H. C. Dowd, F. H. Simpson, P. C. Carling and C. H. Welles, May 6, 1865.

Up to this time, Baseball — now the great national game — had hardly been thought of in this community, and the original organization named above, had scarcely faith enough to attempt to start the enterprise, but Mr. James A. Linen, to whom the club is really indebted for its birth and largely its grand success, infused his spirit into others, and with this commencement it rapidly grew in favor and support. The first challenge for a match was received from the Susquehanna Club of Wilkes Barre and accepted August 29, 1865, the game to be played upon the grounds of the former, Friday, September 1, 1865, play to be called at 3:30 p.m. This announcement to the public gave a new incentive to the interest in the club, now rapidly increasing. The match came off at the time and place appointed, in the presence of a large number of citizens of both sexes and great enthusiasm, and proved a signal victory for the Scranton Club, which lucky star has followed the organization to the present time.

On the 11th of July, 1866, the name of the club was deemed inappropriate, as it had no local significance and no claim could be made to it, it was therefore changed to its present title, under which the organization has been chartered by an Act of Assembly, approved the 23rd day of March, A.D. 1867, with power to hold lands, execute leases, sue and be sued, etc. The Club has labored under a great disadvantage in procuring suitable grounds within convenient limits, till in the spring of 1866, they succeeded in securing grounds of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Co. situated on the banks of the Lackawanna River, for a term of five years, but the onward march of improvement put a railroad through the center of same, destroying them for Baseball purposes, causing a loss to the Club of about \$500. This compelled them to look elsewhere, which they have succeeded in doing on the lands of Ira Tripp, Esq., known as the Scranton Race Course, directly alongside of the tracks of the People's Street Railway of Luzerne County (now Weston Field). These grounds have been secured for one year, with the privilege of three years additional, and at the present writing are being put in condition for play and practice. The present grounds are pleasantly located, and it will be the effort of the club to make them attractive to visitors and all lovers of the game of

Baseball. Since the organization of the Club, it has played some fifteen matches with various Clubs from this and New York State, and out of that number has vanquished all but one, that of the famous "Athletic" of Philadelphia. The record of the Scranton B.B.C. is one that any Club in the country may be justly proud of and it is the aim of the members (which number about 150 active and sustaining) to preserve its laurels and trophies untarnished, and keep this manly and noble game pure from immoral influences or anything calculated to render it any degree less than what it should be — beneficial to all connected with it, morally, physically and mentally, and to discountenance the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

The following have composed the 1st nine, winning the glory on the field up to the present time: J. A. Linen, Captain and Pitcher; Wm. M. Silkman, 1st Base; M. D. Botsford, Catcher; H. C. Dowd, 2nd Base; R. J. Matthews, 3rd Base; Walter Chur, Left field; Charles A. Hurlbutt, Center Field; Wm. T. Hickock, Short Stop. The position of Right Field has been filled by different ones.

April 3, 1867, the Club reorganized under the charter, and elected officers for the coming year, as follows: Fred Fuller, President; Wm. M. Silkman, Vice-President; M. D. Botsford, Treasurer; F. L. Hickock, Recording Secretary; H. A. Coursen, Financial Secretary; Alex. Ruthven, Scorer. A brilliant season is anticipated for the present year.

H.H.N. III

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