

The Lackawanna Historical Society BULLETIN

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Special Issue 1975

PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

REGIONAL MEETING APRIL 19, 1975

On Saturday, April 19, 1975, the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies will hold its Spring regional meeting at the Catlin House, headquarters of the Lackawanna Historical Society. Dr. John L. Earl, III, and Dr. John Quentin Feller are serving as Co-chairmen for the event.

All members of the society are strongly urged to participate in the day-long regional meeting which will begin at 9:00 o'clock a.m., with a coffee-registration period and end with a wine and cheese reception. The registration fee for the meeting is \$5.00, which includes luncheon at Top-of-the-Lindens, the new dining facility at the adjacent University of Scranton, in addition to the morning and afternoon receptions. For your convenience, a registration form is included at the end of the program which may be filled out and returned to the Society. Telephone reservations can also be made by calling the Catlin House, 344-3841, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Please try to make your reservation as early as possible.

The official program of the meeting is as follows:

- 9:00-9:45 a.m. Registration (\$5.00)
 - at the Catlin House, 232 Monroe Avenue (adjacent to the University of Scranton)
 - informal tours of the Catlin House by hostesses attired in period costumes
 - coffee, tea and pastries
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Address of Welcome
 - Rev. William P. Lewis, President of the Lackawanna Historical Society
- 10:15-11:15 a.m. Session I
 - "Clio vs. Agnes: The Wyoming Historical and Geological Society and the 1972 Flood"
 - by William H. Toner, Jr., Executive Director, Wyoming Historical and Geological Society
- 11:15-12:15 p.m. Session II
 - "Community Preservation and the Local Historical Society"
 - by Dr. John Quentin Feller, Former Executive Director, Lackawanna Historical Society

- 12:30-2:00 p.m. Luncheon
 - Student Center, third floor, University of Scranton
 - Special Award presentation to the Lackawanna Historical Society
 - Remarks on the Anthracite Museum, Keyser Valley, by Sandra Downey, Penna. Historical and Museum Commission
- 2:15-3:15 p.m. Session III
 - "French Azilum: Past, Present & Future"
 - by Elizabeth Homet, Secretary, French Azilum, Inc.
- 3:15 p.m. Session IV
 - optional walking tour of the restored blast furnaces of 19th century Scranton
 - optional walking tour of Catlin House and study of display techniques
 - informal discussion of the Fashions Collection by Mrs. James K. Peck
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Reception
 - at Catlin House

REGISTRATION CARD

Registration Form: Please return to Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, Penna. 18510, by April 17, 1975, or telephone for a reservation at 344-3841, Tuesday through Friday, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Please reserve _____ places at the regional meeting of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. (\$5.00 per reservation, payable to the Lackawanna Historical Society).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

A VERY SPECIAL DONOR

Several months ago, Mrs. Robert Y. Moffat once again demonstrated her continued interest in and support for the Society with the gift of one thousand dollars. The gift was earmarked for the use of the House Committee in making some necessary improvements.

As a result of Mrs. Moffat's gift, handsome rose moire draperies over tergal glass curtains have been installed in the sitting room, an important but long neglected area on the main floor of the Catlin House. The moire drapes are held in place by Williamsburg reproduction brass tie-backs and are suspended from antique gilt rods original to the house.

Because of Mrs. Moffat's generosity, the House Committee has arranged for the installation of storm windows (with screens) across the front of the Catlin House on the first floor. The Board of Trustees has indicated that serious consideration be given to the installation of similar storm windows throughout the Catlin House as funds permit. Without question, such windows will conserve fuel in Winter, so that in the long run fuel savings will pay for the project. At the same time, those who experienced the closed atmosphere in the sitting and drawing rooms during the annual dinner meetings of the past can anticipate a major improvement in ventilation this May.

Mrs. Robert Y. Moffat, who has been a hard working member of the Society for many years, is an honorary member of the Board of Trustees. She has also served for several years as chairman of the House Committee, prior to the appointment of Miss Margaret Briggs.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP VACANT

On November 1, 1974, Dr. John Quentin Feller announced his resignation as the Society's first Executive Director, effective February 1, 1975, in a letter addressed to the Reverend William P. Lewis, President.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Society held on December 4, 1974, the resignation was accepted. The Board authorized the reactivation of the Personnel Committee under the chairmanship of Reverend Lewis to establish guidelines for the selection of a new Executive Director and to interview applicants. The committee, which includes Everett D. Thomas, Dr. John L. Earl, III, Mrs. Esther Friedmann, Miss Margaret Briggs, Atty. Raymond T. Law, and Carl E. Ellis has met several times and is working on the composition of a meaningful job description.

MRS. MARIE ORT RETIRES

After more than five years of service to the Society as custodian of the Catlin House, Mrs. Marie Ort is retiring at the end of April. She plans to join her son and his family in Warren, Penna. Mrs. Ort's

service to the Society, conducted in her own quiet and efficient way, was most appreciated by the officers and trustees. She will be sorely missed by those who came into frequent contact with her.

The Trustees were gratified, more particularly some eleven months ago, after the sudden death of her husband Murvinton, that Mrs. Ort expressed a willingness to stay on for the time being at the Catlin House. In January of this year when she announced her plans to retire and move away, Mrs. Ort, with her characteristic generosity agreed to stay on through the month of April because of the regional meeting scheduled for the 19th.

The Board of Trustees has set up a special committee to select a successor under the chairmanship of Attorney Kenneth A. Rhodes.

PRESERVING CATLIN'S LITHOGRAPHS

In the Fall 1974 issue of the *Bulletin* appeared an article requesting contributions in the amount of thirty dollars per picture from those individuals willing to donate the cost of framing one or more of the remaining unframed lithographs by George Catlin. The response has been very satisfactory. Special thanks go to Mr. Frederick J. Platt, Jr., for defraying the cost of framing three lithographs; to Attorney Paul Horger for the framing of a picture in memory of his late father, William; and to Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell. The Society is grateful to Mrs. Rose Stuckart, Attorney Joseph Cimini, and Mr. William Nasser - all of whom have promised to donate the cost of framing one lithograph each.

The members of the House Committee selected eight of the remaining fifteen lithographs for framing by the Windsor Studio in Scranton. The new additions will be on public display for the first time to coincide with the forthcoming regional meeting.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

On November 20, 1974, the Board of Trustees held its first Fall meeting. Miss Florence Gillespie, 1726 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, was nominated to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Searle VonStorch, whose resignation from the Board was accepted with regret. Miss Gillespie, who joined the society in November, 1969, will serve until April 1977.

The annual dinner meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 1975, at the Catlin House. Miss Dorothy Ellison, associate editor of *The Magazine ANTIQUES*, will deliver a slide lecture entitled "Gardens in Eighteenth Century America."

Special thanks go to Ronald W. Brenne, Sean J. Creegan, and Thomas Loven for the many hours of work they have put in at the Catlin House in preparing special exhibits for the regional meeting on April 19. Ronald has carefully planned and executed a room that portrays Scranton in terms of its business and industrial past. The display area is located on the second floor, as is the new Civil War exhibit area planned by Sean. Assisting with the two projects were Dennis Buckley, Michael O'Malley, and Mrs. Marie Vellela.

Dr. John Quentin Feller, former Executive Director, was selected this past February to attend the first Community Preservation Conference sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. During the eight-day conference, Dr. Feller and fourteen other participants from across the nation all lived at historic Woodlawn Plantation, near Mount Vernon, in Fairfax County, Virginia.

The many friends and co-workers of Carl Ellis at the Catlin House would like him to know that he is in their thoughts and prayers and that they wish him a speedy recovery.

Because of the regional meeting sponsored by the Pennsylvania Federation this month, the Society will not hold its annual election of officers and Board members (whose three-year terms expire this Spring) until the May dinner meeting. Any member wishing to nominate someone for an officer or Board position may do so, either by contacting Attorney Philip V. Mattes, chairman of the Nominations Committee, or by presenting a nomination at the May meeting itself.

NEW MEMBERS

The John A. Carson Family
Marianne Cegelka
Olivia DiBiasi
Joseph F. Gibbons
Peter Gulick
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis W. Hull
Michael J. Hynak
Mrs. Paul Jennings
Carolyn S. Koch
Bonnie A. Lehman
Catharine Koch Lindsey
Gerard M. Makarevich
Mrs. Edward F. Monley
Frances Pelicci
Howie Pittle
Gary J. Richards
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Wenzel
Charlotte Wysochansky

April 1975

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CATLIN HOUSE
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA 18510

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SCRANTON, PA. 18510

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