



LHS

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal

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Spring 2023

NEPA Trails: Rich Past, Bright Future

By: Mark Anderson

Bicycles are great, walking is wonderful, and people can go jogging to get their exercise, as well. Our valley corridor offers an abundance of trails to fit everyone's style. Finding the trails is easy. There are signs all along streets and sidewalks pointing this way and that. Information is available on websites and printed material with details about directions, maps, regulations, and advice. Over the past several years, there has been a concerted effort to connect these trails. Government agencies and community organizations are collaborating with grant money and volunteer help to keep the expansion going. The plans are ambitious and surely becoming a reality with trail maintenance and improved pathway access, while preserving the surrounding landscape.

Rivers and creeks, canals and towpaths, and trails hewn from the woods or following an old railroad bed are signature elements, and the public appeal becomes more immediate with good funding and management. Clubs and conservancies, trusts and agencies, newspapers and television reports all are beneficial towards keeping exercise, entertainment, and well-being in the public eye.

History is everywhere we look, and it will prompt the question, "How did bicycles and trails develop?" The answer dates back to the 1880s when bicycle design was improving and the public was taking notice. Newspaper arti-



cles will help, as will a wonderful book titled, "Old Wheelways: Traces of Bicycle History on the Land" by Robert L. McCullough. Pennsylvania is given good coverage, focusing on Hazleton, Wilkes Barre, and Scranton.

All those years ago, people realized the joys of getting out in the fresh air with a new method of travel. The novelty inspired lyricism that didn't fade with time. Even in 1942, as wartime shortages drove a resurgence of bicycle riding, a columnist for the *Wilkes Barre Times Leader* proclaimed, "[Bicycles] debunk our modern craze for speed...this machine I call Pegasus...allows me to be far removed from news of the War... I enjoy the symmetry of a hemlock tree or the flash of a cardinal's wing...children playing hopscotch...I am aware of the narrow path bordering the riverbank, of shady streets and shortcuts...coasting down an easy grade, the wind blowing in my face, I have a fair clue to finding something I have always looked for, the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

Cont. on pg. 6

A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

Well, we made it! Winter is behind us, and we can see the emergence of Spring. The signs are all around: budding trees and shrubs, crocus, daffodil buds, mild temperatures and the wonderfully extended daylight. We see all four seasons in NEPA and the change from one to the next is energizing!

Speaking of energy, our historical society has a great deal of it to share. The programs and activities will heat up as the weather warms. We continue to offer both in-person and virtual opportunities to promote and share our history of Lackawanna County. Our newsletter provides updates of our offerings as well as interesting local history feature articles. This issue's title article by LHS volunteer Mark Anderson about regional bike trails is most appropriate to kick off the Spring and Summer seasons!

As for upcoming programs and activities, I am excited for the return and change-up on one of my personal favorites. On Sunday June 25, we will once again be conducting a house and garden tour. This program is a combined effort of the LHS and The Greenhouse Project at Nay Aug Park. The partnership worked well in 2019 and again last year when we took the tour "Beyond the Hill" to explore sites throughout the city. For our 2023 venture, we will move the tour to the Abingtons to explore some exquisite early homes and extraordinary gardens, sure to delight your senses. Plans are coming together for some interior and exterior visits and will be announced soon. So mark your calendar for what promises to be a real treat.

Be well and safe, embrace the new season, and always stay involved.

Michael Gilmartin
President

Why not invite a friend to join!

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 2023

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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.

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Thanks for your Support...

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Student

Colton Barrett, Dunmore

Rose DeLorenzo, Silver Spring, MD

Individual

Mark Anderson, Wilkes Barre
Linda Belack, S. Abington Twp.
Jennifer Burrell, Vandling
Irene Cavanaugh, Dunmore
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Andrew Seamon, Dunmore
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Denny Silva, Hallstead
James Slawter, Aurora, WV
Ron Sleboda, Dunmore
Joanne Stetz, Clarks Summit
Jane Stevens, Scranton
Brian Swift, Havertown
Mary Clare Wagner, Clinton, NY
Donna Wegforth, Dunmore

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Maurya & Robert Bergan, Dunmore
Bob & Sharon Cuff, Dunmore

Chris DiMattio, Dunmore
Mecca Family, Moosic
Earl & Helen Trygar, Roaring Brook

Contributing

Judy DeSarro & Robert Snyder, S. Abington Twp.
Tara Jones, Scranton

Sustaining

Patrick Dempsey, Jefferson Twp.
Charles & Lynn Kokinda, Moosic



In February, we were approved for a general operating grant in the amount of \$4000 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This grant will help us accomplish our mission to inspire the exploration of Lackawanna County history through continuing our daily operations, maintaining collections care, and developing educational programs.



The Lackawanna Historical Society was notified in March that our Partnership grant from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority for \$5,000 to support Phase I of the "Col. John Jenkins Archive" project has been approved.



Lackawanna
County

Commissioners
Jerry Notarianni • Debi Domenick, Esq. • Chris Chermak

The Society was pleased to receive grant funding from the Lackawanna County Arts & Culture Community grant program in the amount of **\$19,000** this year. We are most grateful to the Lackawanna County Commissioners Jerry Notarianni, Debi Domenick, Esq., and Chris Chermak for their continued interest and support.

Welcome NET Credit Union Members!

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:



Joseph Addeo, S. Abington Twp.
 Lee Batzel, Greentown
 Jaime Belotti, Avoca
 Anthony Berrios, Factoryville
 William Bilinski, Dickson City
 Brian Bills, Clarks Green
 Justin Bloss, Shickshinny
 David Bluhm, Tunkhannock
 Heather Bocker, Dupont
 Carmen Bodon, Throop
 Sean Bonnice, Montrose
 Samantha Boston, Pittston
 Kipp Brobst, Harveys Lake
 Geneen Brown, Scranton
 Deborah Burchell, Wyoming
 Jacob Butwin, Harding
 Seth Caines, Mehoopany
 Carson Canavan, Larksville
 Maria Candela, Beach Lake
 Leann Centrella, Clarks Summit
 James Chapman, Lake Ariel
 Alan Chervenak, Tobyhanna
 Nathan Chludzinski, Carbondale
 William Clark, Hunlock Creek
 Brianna Cagnetti, Factoryville
 Kristen Anne Cope, Shavertown
 William Cotillis, Browndale
 Patrick Crispyn, New Milford
 Daphne Cron, Jessup
 Alexander Dietrich, Honesdale
 Robert Doney, Honesdale
 Tara Doty, Peckville
 Eulus Ducker, Hop Bottom
 John Dupay, Clifford Twp.
 Christopher Durmaiki, Jessup
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 Tiffany Jackson, Dunmore
 Thomas Jeffrey, Moscow
 Donna Jeffreys, Old Forge
 Amber Jerauld, Montrose
 Kristen Johnson, Hawley
 Wayne Kelley, Gouldsboro
 Franca Kelly, Scott Twp.
 Marsha Kloss, Dunmore
 Colleen Knight, Scranton
 Corey Koch, Throop
 David Kovalski, Lake Ariel
 Shirley Kraveski, Springville
 Terry Kvalkauskas, Pittston
 Susan Lamontagna, Swoyersville
 Morag Lawson, Dunmore
 Jason Leri, Peckville
 Tianna Lettieri, Old Forge
 Brent Long, Wyoming
 Mitchell Luna, Scranton
 James Malsberger, Eynon
 Philip Manwarren, S. Abington Twp.
 Sally Marcum-Russick, Pittston
 James Marinello, Dickson City
 Mark Massa, Lords Valley
 Donald McGill, Jr., Scranton
 Madison McGraw, Forest City
 Mason Mecke, Pittston Twp.
 Paul Meehan, Wilkes Barre
 Colleen Melnick, Scranton
 Lisa Marie Meluskey, Hazelton
 Nico Menichello, Roaring Brook

Christine Mercadante, Mountain Top
 Taylor Meyer, Hawley
 John Mulherin, Clarks Summit
 James Mulhern, Nanticoke
 Kyle Mullins, Peckville
 Jessica Leah Myer, Union Dale
 Gary Neupauer, Wyoming
 Enrique Nieto, Scranton
 Mikeal Noldy, Meshoppen
 Brandon Novack, Dickson City
 Valerie Nygard, Stroudsburg
 Renee Pasko, Dunmore
 David Phillips, Waymart
 Jacob Piazza, Archbald
 Daniel Price, Clarks Summit
 Lyman Price, Moosic
 Corryn Prince, Forest City
 Randy Richards, Moscow
 Kristen Anne Rinaldi, Dunmore
 Lillian Roba, Scott Twp.
 Brian Rotherforth, Moosic
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 Yenifes Sanchez, Nescopeck
 Albert Sarti, Pittston
 Joseph Sauer, Great Bend
 Bruce Searight, Albrightsville
 Lori & Thomas Shaffer, Wilkes Barre
 Karly Shepherd, Dalton
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 Michele Smith, Clifton Twp.
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 Ryan Wetzel, Jermyn
 Iona White, Duryea
 Ty Yost, Monroe Twp.
 Donna Young, Honesdale

STORIES FROM THE BLOCK REMEMBERING SCRANTON'S WHOLESALE DISTRICT

The April 21st
premiere screening has
SOLD OUT but DVDs will
be available for purchase
beginning on April 25th,
and future screenings
will be announced.



Trustee News

At the general meeting on
December 4th during the

Local History Holiday Emporium, Society members elected the following individuals to serve an additional three-year term on the Board of Trustees as the **Class of 2025**: Laurie Cadden, Joe Cimini, Doug Forrer, Mary Jane Memolo, Chris Posly, and Elaine Shepard. At their January meeting, the following Trustees were elected to serve as **Officers**: Michael Gilmartin, President; Donald Frederickson, Esq., 1st Vice President; Laurie Cadden, 2nd Vice President; Bill Conlogue, Secretary; Doug Forrer, Treasurer; Dalida Walton, Assistant Treasurer. Thank you to all our Trustees for their continued dedication and service to the Society.

The Society's **Bylaws Committee** is reviewing the current bylaws and proposing some needed revisions. Once the Trustees approve, a summary of the changes will be sent to all members with an invitation to vote at a special business meeting on June 14th before the 7 pm historical program on Winston Churchill (see back page).

MARKING EARTH DAY

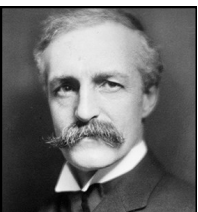
LHS Member Joyce Hatala will present a special Earth Day themed program at the Catlin House on **Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m.** She will offer an interesting look at what we consider trash today versus how it was viewed in "the old days" and discuss how archaeologists tend to focus their digs on middens or trash heaps because so much can be learned from what we throw away. She will also compare today's throwaways with what we consider yesterday's vintage, because as the saying goes "one man's trash..."



Lackawanna Past Times Continues!

The Society's monthly Zoom local history lecture series will continue through the early summer. Past episodes are available to watch on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@lackawannahistory/videos>

Friday, April 28 at 2 pm:



"Gifford Pinchot: The People's Governor" with author Gary Ryman explores the policies and practices of this Milford native.

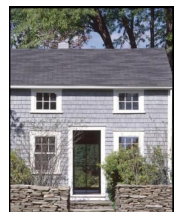
Friday, May 26 at 2pm:

Author Ron Moskalczak spotlights "Scranton's Automotive Heritage"



Friday, June 23 at 2pm:

Exploring Abington neighborhoods - a sneak peek of this year's house and garden tour!



Email us or check out our Facebook page for the Zoom link to tune in!

Cont. from pg. 1

Victorian-era big-wheel cycles were difficult to handle for some, and the attire of the day for riders was cumbersome, such as heavy tweeds and ankle-length dresses. Not all families could afford a bicycle. Could bicycle clubs be far behind? True to form, there they were, often with a clubhouse and matching sweaters. Soon parades were held, where some 300 people would ride around the square. Lengthy bicycle tours were organized. Races were held, and importantly, cross-country rides got underway in the 1890s with the goal of collecting donations that would go towards trail-building and maintenance. (Harrison Smith, *Wilkes Barre Times-Leader*, Jan. 27, 1968).

The trails covered terrain that was rough and unforgiving. In his “Wheelways” book, Robert McCullough details the efforts, focusing on the distance between Hazleton, Wilkes Barre, and Scranton. Trail building and maintenance were of great importance, and at first all work had to be done with donations. Rallies drew cyclists from many clubs in Pennsylvania and New York. They would ride great distances, publicized by newspapers that supported their cause. By 1898 the cinder paths were in such bad shape that repair of one only meant that others had to be built. McCullough recounts the many and arduous efforts towards building new trails in the stubborn terrain of the northeast corridor. Two efforts are detailed, and both benefited from a corporate charter granted in 1897. Stephen B. Vaughn, a railroad executive, and a mining engineer named Louis O. Emmerich did the paperwork and the heavy lifting, leading the way for the partnership. Emmerich and his men cut, chipped, dug and blasted their way along a rocky spine “to make one of the most enduring of 19th century bicycle corridors.” The other undertaking involved the many members of the Scranton Bicycle Club and the influential Stephen Vaughn. McCullough writes: “...a

cycle path was proposed, from Scranton to Hawley, about forty miles to the northeast. The corridor probably followed the Pennsylvania Coal Co. Gravity Railroad, which also stretched into Pittston, and at Hawley cyclists could transfer to the Delaware and Hudson Canal towpath.” (p. 109-117 and notes p. 329). These forward-looking efforts are still evident today.

Fast-forward to the modern day and we find the same sense of adventure and community spirit in our area clubs, as well as continued trail building.. Gene McDonough is the president of the Anthracite Bicycle Coalition in Scranton. McDonough tells us that his involvement with the Coalition dates from 2012. He and the Coalition board decided that bicycle safety and instructions on how to ride safely were primary goals. Word got around town and soon trail rides of 3 or 5 miles were undertaken at a leisurely pace. Helmets were required and cautionary advice was provided to give riders the feel of group activity and enjoyment. Donations of bicycles in any condition were solicited and a program was started, with Earn-a-Bike as the catchy name. A person could point to a bicycle and say, “...can you fix it...?”

The answer was, “Let’s fix it together.” Volunteer bicycle mechanics were on-call to assist



Anthracite Bicycle Coalition's Cycle Kitchen. Image courtesy ABC

and give tutorials to potential bike owners. The program is ongoing. The Club recently gained municipal permission to repurpose an old building in Connell Park. “We had so many bicycles,” Gene said with a smile, “that we were fortunate to find a place for storage and a workshop. We decided to call the place “The Cycle Kitchen” because in any house that’s where the important work gets done.” Tools and parts are provided by the ABC. People can work their way towards ownership by volunteering to clean up around the shop, or do some painting, along with applying the skills they learn to fix up their chosen bicycle. Last fall Tom Riese, a broadcast personality for WVIA Public Broadcasting visited with Gene at the Cycle Kitchen. The audio recording is posted on the WVIA website, along with photographs and the written script. It’s worth checking out! The Coalition continues its partnering with the community, for example, the St. Joseph’s Children’s Care project. Last fall they cycled the streets asking for donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the project. A backyard picnic was awaiting the cyclists and it was a treat to see them ride in with their satchels and backpacks brimming with dry goods for the St. Joseph’s project.

McDonough also emphasizes the cooperative aspect of partnering with agency and municipal managers to create more trail access points in neighborhoods. Valley in Motion is a community-based organization, which has spearheaded several projects. One focus of theirs is our urban landscape and the industry attractions of downtown. They designed a well-marked 6-mile bike loop around Electric City, and the Iron Furnaces are also a focus emphasizing signage on the urban streetscapes to ensure safe space for cyclists.

Trail-building continues today as well. The natural expanse of our valley lends itself to the north-south run of rivers, trails, and railroads. Broadly speaking, with the Lacka-



*Riders enjoy the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail
Image courtesy LHVA*

wanna Heritage Valley Trail at a mid-point, the D&H Trail travels north way past Carbon-dale to the New York State line. The website (www.LHVA.org) has good information, as does their marvelous booklet: spiral-bound, 4.5 X 9 inches, 120 pages on glossy paper with narrative, photographs and maps. It fits nicely in my backpack! The Lower Valley pages list Pittston and Duryea and the confluence Lackawanna and Susquehanna rivers. Points of interest, photographs, and a detailed map occupy each 2-page spread. It tells about our rich history, and is cautionary, as well: “Exploring the trails will mean traveling through a variety of conditions and routes, from natural and improved surfaces to public streets and off-road paths.” (Booklet p. 14).

The D&L trail system goes south and is given high marks in the Rails-to-Trails magazine (Winter 2023). The website for the North Branch Land Trust lists more than a dozen partner organizations involved in the D&L expansion project. From Wilkes Barre to Bristol (where the towpath ends) just north of Philadelphia, the D&L Trail will run for 165 miles. (W-B Times Leader, February 5, 2023, p. A4). The community spirit we are witnessing is welcome, indeed!

Civil War Ball and Ragtime Brunch

On **Saturday, April 29**, the Lackawanna Historical Society will host its 17th Annual Grand Civil War Ball, with music by Spare Parts and prompting by Ball Preceptor Susan de Guardiola, at the Waverly Community House. **Doors open at 6 p.m. and dancing begins at 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased at the door.

Advance tickets are available online here:
<http://www.lackawannahistory.org/cwball.html>. Tickets are nonrefundable.

The Lackawanna Historical Society's popular Civil War programming returns! We are excited to partner with the Waverly Community House to present our Grand Civil War Ball in the Comm's elegant, historic setting.

Join us for a delightful evening at the historic Waverly Community House as we travel back in time to reenact a mid-19th century formal ball. Dance the night away with live music by vintage dance band, Spare Parts, as they play authentic music from the Civil War era including polkas, waltzes, and several reels such as the Virginia Reel and Snowball Reel. The ball preceptor, Susan de Guardiola, will offer a brief instruction before each set dance and then lead you through the sequences that comprise each dance.

All dances will be taught, so no prior dance experience is necessary. Period dress and dress blues or grays are greatly admired, but not required. Modern formalwear is acceptable.



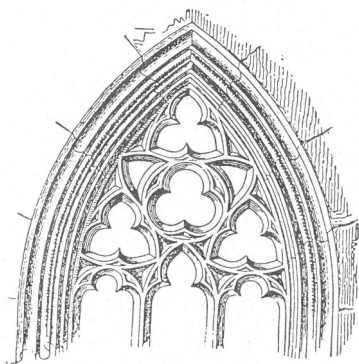
Not sure how to dance? No worries – it's easy, it's fun, and we will teach you! A **dance workshop** will be taught by vintage dance instructor Susan de Guardiola on **Saturday, April 29 from 1pm- 3pm** at the Comm. Susan will teach waltz, polka, and many other dances from the 1860's. Learn to dance like your ancestors did during the Civil War era! No prior dance experience is necessary, and you will be ready for the Grand Civil War Ball later in the evening. Price of dance lessons included with Ball ticket price.



On **Sunday, April 30**, the day after the ball, we invite you to step (slightly) forward in time to enjoy a **Ragtime Brunch at Carmen's Restaurant at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel!**

Enjoy a buffet brunch while dancers in period costume whirl around the fountain of the historic lobby to ragtime music provided by Spare Parts. Join in a dance or just sit back, relax and watch all the fun!

For more details or to make a reservation for the brunch, call the Radisson at 570-342-8300 ext. 0.



Places of Worship Tour Returns!

We're excited to announce that our popular "Places of Worship" tours will return this spring, in partnership with the University of Scranton's "Scranton' Story, Our Nation's Story" project. Each tour, one on May 7 and another on May 13, will visit six Scranton places of worship of varying Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu faith traditions, and will focus on the history and cultural aspects of the congregation as well as special architectural details. Use the link below to register for each tour.

Sunday, May 7 Tour departs from Catlin House at 12:45

Shree Swaminarayan St. Peter's Lutheran Temple Hased
 St. John Neumann St. Stanislaus Polish National Cathedral Steamtown Church
<https://lackawanna-historical-society.ticketleap.com/places-of-worship-tour-may-7/>

Saturday, May 13 Tour departs from Catlin House at 8:45 am

Covenant Presbyterian Bethel AME St. Luke's Episcopal
 St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic United Welsh Baptist Islamic Center of Scranton
<https://lackawanna-historical-society.ticketleap.com/places-of-worship-tour-may-13/>

NOTE: *We are especially excited to be including St. Vladimir's on the May 13th tour, which was recently featured in the January 27th issue of the New York Times concerning the church's effort to support Ukraine.*

GENEALOGY FORUM SPRING AND SUMMER SCHEDULE INCLUDING BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP

The Lackawanna Historical Society's Genealogy Forum will continue through the spring and summer to offer participants guidance on where to go when their family history search in the U.S. has led them back to Europe.

Participants should have completed genealogy research on the U.S. side of the Atlantic and have a good idea of where to look for family members across the pond. Session planners ask that anyone who registers know an approximate place of residence for ancestors in a specific region. Sessions will be held at various Lackawanna County libraries; please call the Society at 570-344-3841 or email lackawannahistory@gmail.com to register.

Saturday, May 20 at 10 am: Finding Records in England and Wales

Gino Merli Room, Valley Community Library
 739 River Street in Peckville

Saturday, June 10 at 10 am: Finding Records in Ireland

Community Room, North Pocono Public Library
 1315 Church Street in Moscow

Saturday, July 8 at 10 am: Finding Records in Italy

Abington Community Library, 1200 W. Grove St. in Clarks Summit

Saturday, August 5 at 10 am: Finding Records in Poland

Taylor Community Library, 710 S. Main St. in Taylor

Saturday, September 9 at 10 am: Finding Records in Germany

Gino Merli Room, Valley Community Library
 739 River Street in Peckville



In addition to the regular Forum meetings, the Society will partner with the Albright Memorial Library to host a **Fall Genealogy Workshop for Beginners** on Saturdays October 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 9:30 am. to Noon in the Henkelman Room at the Albright Library. Registration is required and participants must commit to all four sessions. The fee is \$25 for LHS Members and \$35 for Non-Members. The deadline is Friday September 29. Please call or email the Society for details.

LHS Fund for the Future

Thanks to your generous donations, our 2022 Fund for the Future has raised **\$11,747** for the Society.
We are grateful to all who have contributed; your support helps us continue to inspire the exploration of Lackawanna County history.

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

Peter & Sally Bohlin

Linda Lynett

Dalida Walton

Benjamin H. Throop (\$500—\$999)

Dorrance & Susan Belin

Bill & Bridget Conlogue

Richard Leonori

Alexander W. Dickson (\$275- \$499)

John & Jennifer Ochman

William Connell (\$175—\$274)

Conrad & Dottie Bosley
Paul & Adrienne Horger
John Revak

Defazio Amusement Company
Rich Jenkins
Mary Rhodes
Harry & Christine Zike

David & Ann Hawk
Jim & Alice Noone
Richard Stanislaus

Alfred Hand (\$75—\$174)

Joe Barrett
F. Warren Breig
James & Lynne Brown
Bill Burnell & Kate Holod
Joe Cimini
Marleen Cloutier
Jeremiah Eagen
Michael & Nada Gilmartin
Bill Gershey

Suzanne Harper
Polly & Alan Hughes
Mary Ann Jacquinot
Sharon Jarrow
David & Anita Lohin
James Markowich & Sandra Mayer
Jack & Rosemary McGuigan
Mary Jane Memolo
Gerald Ortell

Roy & Vee Pauli
Leni Piaskey
Ed Scahill
Bill & Maryla Scranton
John & Susan Sheerin
Elaine Shepard
Jim & Barbara Shuta
Joanne Stetz
Dierdre Taylor

James A. Price (under \$75)

Mark Anderson
Anne Armezzani
Gregg Betti
Joan Buchinski
Tom Cipriano
Daniel Diehl
Ginger Goodrich
Bill & Tess Graziano
Joyce Hatala

Beth Holmes
Dale Keklock
Lawrence & Annette Keener-Farley
Charles & Ann Marie Kumpas
Virginia Marker
Torrie Mattes
Barb O'Malley
Juliana Piccini

Tom Price
Paul Rudnick
Gary Ryman
Steve Thompson
Frank Walsh
Liana Walsh
Jane Willchock
Alicann Witkoski
Paula Yaggi



History Makers: The LHS Legacy Society

Do you love local history and want to find an additional way to support the Lackawanna Historical Society? We suggest checking with your employer to find out if there is a Matching Gift program in place. Companies and Corporations often set up this type of giving program where an employee can request a donation from their employer matching their own personal contribution. Check with your Human Resources department or inquire with your supervisor. Your contributions might be automatically deducted and matched as a one-time gift or as a recurring gift.





Do you love Local History? Do you Love Baseball?

Then please consider supporting the LHS this Spring when we mark the birthdays of some of our favorite local baseball legends! Purchase your tickets to RailRiders games using the link below and for any tickets sold, the RailRiders will donate \$5 to LHS.

Selected games are set for:

Sunday, April 2 (Hughie Jennings' 154th birthday)

Thursday, May 11 (Nestor Chylak's 101st birthday)

Thursday, July 6 (Steve O'Neill's 132nd birthday)

Saturday, August 12 (Christy Mathewson's 143rd birthday)

Tickets can be purchased online here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc7hwr3r>



Happy 115th Birthday to the Everhart Museum!

On May 30, 1908, Dr. Isiah F. Everhart opened the doors of his museum in Nay Aug Park, bringing his collection of taxidermied birds and natural history specimens to the public. After Everhart's death in 1911, the museum collection continued to grow, adding ethnographic collections, botanical specimens, and a collection of Japanese art. In 1929, Dr. Everhart's vision of dedicated wings for natural history, science, and art was fulfilled, with the completion of east and west wings abutting the main structure—forming an "E" for Everhart. Collections of folk art and the paintings of John Willard Raught arrived in the 1930s and 40s, followed by Dorflinger glass and artworks from North Africa, the Mediterranean, and South America. Spike the Stegosaurus first greeted visitors in 1991, and the museum today continues to feature changing exhibitions as well as beloved old favorites. A free "Everhart 115" community day will be held on **May 20 from 10 am– 5 pm** with the opening of the Founder's Gallery, arts and crafts, music and entertainment.

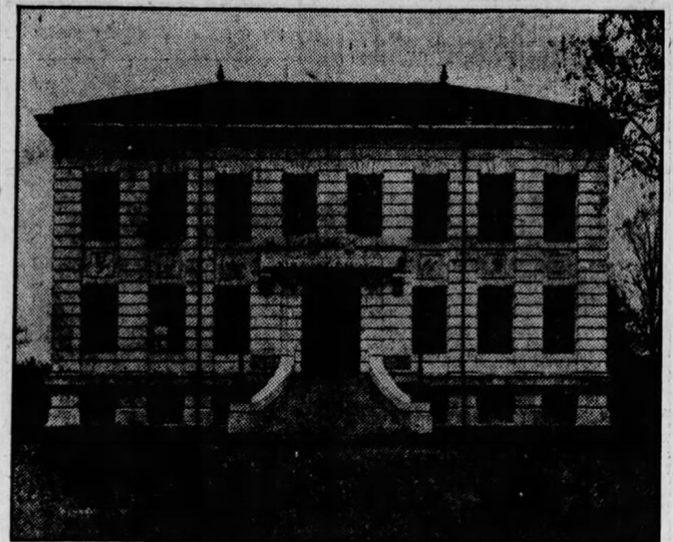
EVERHART MUSEUM IS READY FOR DEDICATION ON MEMORIAL DAY

On gently rising ground overlooking Lake Everhart and the park across the boulevard and allowing a fine view of the city below, the Everhart museum in Nay Aug Park which will be dedicated on Memorial Day, has a fine setting.

The striking appearance of the museum, which is pure white impresses one at once with what the city has gained in the gift from Dr. Everhart. The fine building is to have surroundings worth of it every way.

The grounds have been graded, the walks and the drives have been laid out and in a short time there will be signs of the green which will spread about the marble-like home of natural history. There are several walks leading up to and away from the museum and there is a horse shoe drive from the boulevard to Arthur avenue, passing in front of the museum.

The Everhart museum is practically completed for the building is now ready for the cleaners to remove what the busy mechanics have left



EVERHART MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, NAY AUG PARK.



EVERHART MUSEUM
NATURAL HISTORY. SCIENCE. ART.
1908 - 2023

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

Founding of the City of Scranton

In the past three years I have researched the lives, stories, highs and lows of a couple hundred people, the vast majority of whom were dead long before I was born. A large number of these people lived and worked in Scranton; I myself, and most of my family, were born and raised here in Scranton. As someone who has always had an interest in American History, and has a love affair with this city and its people, the details of the founding of the city, and the individuals who were responsible for it, have always been of interest to me. Literature from the era cites a number of people who played an important role in the founding: various members of the Scranton family, of course, and others, including Sanford Grant, William Merrifield, Philip H. Mattes and William Henry III, the individual that this author champions as the initial dominant force in the founding of the city.

William Henry III was born on Aug. 15, 1794, in Nazareth, PA. His father was a small arms manufacturer, and at age 13 William left school to enter the gunsmith business with his brother Joseph, in Philadelphia. In 1813 they erected the Boulton gun works on the Bushkill River. Four years later, in 1817, William married Mary Barbara Hubley Albright. The couple went on to have six children (one of his daughters married Seldon Scranton – also a key player in the founding of the city of Scranton). William sold his share in the gun works to his brother

in 1822. And the adventure now begins!

Henry’s life’s work history is too varied to go into detail, but suffice it to say he was a hardworking man who was always seeking new and interesting challenges. One writer described him as a “man of enterprise” and of “great optimism” – after researching him I would further add he was also a great visionary who kept moving forward.

He was clearly searching for some sort of significant undertaking, and it was at this point that William moved to a number of different locations in northeast PA., occupied with a number of different businesses, eventually settling in Wyoming, but spending a lot of time exploring and discovering the resources of the area – predominantly iron ore and coal in an area referred to as the Lackawanna region of Pennsylvania.

During his constant travel, he came to believe that the region’s large quantities of iron ore and coal could someday enrich the country if an iron furnace and rail system could be built. He was pragmatic enough to realize that it would require strong hearts, willing hands, and money, to make it commercially viable. He strongly believed the resources should be developed and tirelessly set about to make it happen.

In 1836 he held a meeting of “the friends of a road to Easton”, suggesting to them that if the old furnace at Slocum Hollow (now enclosed by Scranton) could be sustained for a few years, “a village would spring



NOTE: William Walker Scranton, son of Joseph Hand Scranton, one of the founders of the city, being born in 1844, was not involved in the founding of the city, or the building of the original iron mill. He did, however, “join the firm”, then named the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, in 1865. He apparently was quite proud of his family, and all they accomplished, as correspondence in our files, Ca 1890-1913, shows him in contact with a NYC portrait painter, Jessie Marian Isaacs. He commissioned any number of portraits from her for various family members, friends, etc., including one of William Henry III (in our collection).

In the correspondence for Henry’s painting, William clearly demonstrates the high regard he and his family had for Henry, advising the painter that Henry’s portrait would hang in his house between two portraits of other Scranton family members and that she should be free to paint this portrait at “such size as may seem best”. We believe it was hung between the portraits of George Whitfield Scranton and Seldon Scranton – both original founders of the city.



George Clough; View of the LI&C Furnaces, 1859

up”, thus a road to Easton would follow (allowing for export/commerce). The group, save one, was not convinced. The one who was interested was a Mr. Edward Armstrong, a resident of the Hudson River area of NY and a man of considerable wealth who already had business interests in the Slocum Hollow area.

About this same time, 1838-1840, a group of three men (W. Merrifield, W. Ricketson and Zeno Albro) were interested in selling 504 acres of land (basically what is now the downtown Scranton area) and contacted William Henry. Henry contacted Armstrong and in March 1840 an agreement was reached between the two to purchase the parcel. Armstrong would pay the \$8,000 (\$275,000+ today) for the land and Henry was to pick an appropriate site for the furnace. Alas, Armstrong died suddenly before the transaction could be completed. Henry, ever the hardworking optimist, was determined to complete the transaction and was allowed a 30-day extension to find the financing.

He immediately traveled to Belvidere, NJ to solicit his son-in-law, Selden T. Scranton, in this business venture. Selden enlisted his brother George W. Scranton, and they in turn recruited Sanford Grant, a wealthy lawyer, to join. The last to join was Philip H. Mattes, a banker from Easton.

In 1840 they purchased the 504 acres near Slocum Hollow where they erected a furnace, store, eighteen houses, and other dwellings, under the firm name of Scrantons, Grant & Co. (later to become the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company). Henry was in charge of both building and operating the furnace.

Henry had predicted that by building the furnace “a village would spring up”. That proved to be the case, and he was later to draw up the plans and lay out a city, which he called Harrison (now Scranton), named after his namesake, the President William Henry Harrison.

In March 1842 Henry left the firm. He died at his home in Wyoming on the 24th of May, 1878. William Henry was the visionary who saw and believed that a national industry and a village would

grow in the area that is now Scranton. Further, he was determined to make it happen. It came with the financial support and drive of members of the Scranton family, and several others, but only took place because of Henry’s persistence. I do not believe his importance to the Scranton family can be overstated. (see NOTE on page 12)

So, here we have William Henry III, a man perhaps a bit lost in history. His last name does not bear any association to the name “Scranton”, nor does the current city, originally drawn up by him, bear his suggested name of “Harrison”. But would we have the city if not for him?

His vision of building an iron furnace so a village would spring up, his efforts in getting financial backing, his manual efforts in building the furnace and operating it are all singular efforts in the growing of the city of Scranton. Not to be lost is the fact that his vision actually did become the reality he believed it would.

(But I must ask – if Edward Armstrong had not suddenly died, would we now be living in Armstrong, PA?)



Wm Henry’s original plan for Harrison (sic)



Nancy's Corner

Ludwig Music Hall Provided Brief But Meaningful Impact on City's Music Scene

By: Maura Gladys

There have been plenty of celebrated music halls and theaters throughout Scranton's history, from the Poli Theater to the Scranton Cultural Center. However, there was one space that, for a brief period in the 1920's, made a significant contribution to Scranton's arts and music landscape, then disappeared abruptly.

The Ludwig Music Hall was an active space located in the heart of the city from 1925-1928. It was operated in conjunction with Ludwig & Company, a music store which sold pianos, violins, even victrolas as far back as 1918.

Located at 310-312 Adams Avenue, currently The Prescription Center, Ludwig & Company offered local musicians access to high quality instruments, as well as the opportunity to learn, and showcase their talents.

In May of 1925, the company advertised its Conn Wonder violins, which included 6 free lessons from local violin virtuoso Arnold Lohman, a sign of Ludwig's commitment to the advancement of music in the city.

But this investment in the community's musical literacy was most evident in the Ludwig Music Hall.

The Music Hall opened on September 25th, 1925, featuring a free performance from well-known pianists of the era, Max Kortlander, Phil Ohman and Victor Arden. In the days leading up to the opening, several ads ran in the paper promoting the event and espousing the positive elements of the Hall.

"Here is a veritable Temple to Music, where will be heard private recitals and concerts, musical events and lectures long-desired by Scranton's Mu-

sic Lovers," the advertisement read. "It is here that our city's popular musicians will find a home worthy of their efforts and ideals and a welcome that will spur them to greater and greater achievements."

The Music Hall hosted several impressive local and national acts, as well as recitals from local music schools. Entertainment ranged from Leo Schaeffer and his orchestra and American pianist Frederic Dix-

on, to the Scranton Scout Council Band and the Bel-Canto Trio of Wilkes Barre.

The space hosted a Children's Hour every Saturday morning and was free to music teachers for student recitals, and available to chorus rehearsals, club meetings, entertainment and social affairs.

By October 29th of that same year, according to a writeup in the Tribune, this "gift to the artistic life of Scranton was growing in popularity. Through their free public performances, local artists are introduced."

Along with hosting weekly performances, the Music Hall also served as the home of WGBI Radio studio headquarters for a short time, and was the setting for a lively 'Old Timers Fiddle Contest' in 1926, which saw more than 500 people crowd into the hall to see Chris Totten of Parsons take home the title, and the \$25 prize, after a rousing rendition of 'The Donnybrook Fair Jig.'

The final advertisement for a performance at Ludwig Music Hall was on March 8th, 1928, and little was heard about the music hall or store after that. But despite the unceremonious ending to the Ludwig Music Hall, it still provided years of musical enjoyment in the heart of Center City.

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.

Looking for Volunteers:

The Divine Mercy Parish Cemetery Committee is looking for assistance to help walk through and identify all burial plots in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Minooka as they compare to the out-dated cemetery map. Volunteers will work with a committee member to account for location as well as to record the condition of tombstones and flat stones. Times will vary and only occur on reasonable weather days. No more than two hours at a time for assessment. If you are interested, please contact Barbara Spellman Shuta at Jmsbss@aol.com for details



The Eagen Family,
Lackawanna County Commissioners
& Lackawanna Historical Society
cordially invite you to attend
the dedication of the
Distinguished Citizen Memorial
honoring

Chief Justice Michael J. Eagen
May 9, 1907 – July 7, 1987

*Join us as we celebrate the life and achievements
of Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael J. Eagen*

Noon on Friday, May 19, 2023
Biden Street, Courthouse Square in Scranton, Pennsylvania

DINE LACKAWANNA

Enjoy a night out & help support the Society by dining out at supporting locations!

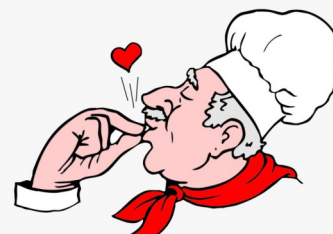
April 19: **AV Restaurant & Lounge**
320 Penn Ave., Scranton, (570) 457-5800

May 17: **Union Craft House**
601 N. Main St., Taylor, (570) 562-6496

June 21: **Harvest Seasonal Grill**
7011 Shoppes Blvd, Moosic, (570) 342-3330



Thanks to Lamar Advertising for
its ongoing support of this program.



MEMORIALS

In Memory of Cyndie Price:

Joan Avery
Kate Bohan
Jack Callenberg
Ann Marie Castelgrande
Gary Dennis
Mary Ellen Flanagan
Joe & Sandi Fusaro
Ron & Carol Kelley
Judith Hess
Dawn Mewhorter

Joseph & Dolores Michalczyk
Norma Kelly & Cheryl Salinkas
Sarah Piccini
Fran Polizzi-Guzi
Bill Roche
Leah Rudolph
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
James & Barbara Shuta
Stanley & Rita Stravinskaskas
Ann Thomas

Syma Zerkow

In Memory of Hila Williams:

Gayle Williams
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

In Memory of Daniel Glodek:

Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
Paula & Jayne Terry

In Memory of George Lowry:

Michael & Nada Gilmartin
Sarah Piccini
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

In Memory of Mary Elizabeth Hatala: Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

*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
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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EVENTS & VIRTUAL HAPPENINGS

Wed., Apr. 19 (p.15)

DINE LACKAWANNA @ AV Restaurant & Lounge

Fri., Apr. 21, 6 pm (p. 5)

STORIES FROM THE BLOCK documentary premiere - SOLD OUT

Sun., Apr. 23, 2 pm (p. 5)

MARKING EARTH DAY at the Catlin House

Fri., Apr. 28, 2 pm (p. 5)

PAST TIMES via Zoom: Gifford Pinchot

Sat., Apr. 29, 1 pm/6 pm (p. 8)

VINTAGE DANCE LESSONS & CIVIL WAR BALL at the Comm

Sun., Apr. 30, 11 am - 2:30 pm (p. 8)

RAGTIME BRUNCH at the Radisson Lackawanna Station

Wed., May 3, 4 pm (on right)

NET CREDIT UNION CARD EXCHANGE at the Catlin House

Sat., May 6, 11 am - 5 pm (Join us for our Marketplace)

PARANORMAL CRAFT FAIR at Forty Fort Cemetery

Sun., May 7, 12:45 pm /Sat., May 13, 8:45 am (p. 9)

SCRANTON PLACES OF WORSHIP TOURS

Wed., May 17 (p. 15)

DINE LACKAWANNA @ the Union Craft House

Fri., May 19 (p. 15)

CHIEF JUSTICE MICHAEL EAGAN

Distinguished Citizen Memorial Dedication

Fri., May 26, 2 pm (p. 5)

PAST TIMES via Zoom: Scranton's Automotive Heritage

Wed., June 14, 7 pm (on right)

WINSTON CHURCHILL at the Catlin House

Wed., Apr. 19 (p.15)

DINE LACKAWANNA @ Harvest Seasonal Grill

Fri., June 23, 2 pm (p. 5)

PAST TIMES via Zoom: Beyond the Hill sneak peek

Sun., June 25, 10 am - 4 pm (on right)

HISTORIC HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR Details TBA

- See page 9 for Genealogy Forum Meeting Schedule -

Email lackawannahistory@gmail.com to receive History BYTES



Unlike Your Bank

If you're a member of the Lackawanna Historical Society, then you can Bank on NET!

netcreditunion.com



NET Credit Union will host a card exchange at the Catlin House on Wednesday, May 3 at 4 pm.

Save the Date:

Our Historic House & Garden Tour comes to the Abingtons!

On **Sunday, June 25**, our popular historic house & garden tour is *really* moving "Beyond the Hill!" We will once again partner with the Greenhouse Project to tour homes and gardens in Waverly, Clarks Summit, and Clarks Green. Join us to learn more about the architecture of these old (and new) homes and stunning landscapes.

Stay tuned for a list of properties & ticket details!

Also coming in June...

Join us at the Catlin House on Wednesday June 14 when Vince Benedetto, President of the Churchill Society of Pennsylvania shares his favorite things about Winston Churchill and provides an overview of the Churchill Society and its activities.

