



HISTORY BYTES

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

Vol. 1 No. 3

July – August 2018

Rick Sedlisky, Editor



July 4, 2018

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame;
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Emma Lazarus

November 2, 1883

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The Statue of Liberty

La Liberte Eclairant le Monde or *Liberty Enlightening the World* is the name given to the statue by sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi. The statue is a symbol of freedom for the entire world. Bartholdi was commissioned to design the statue, which he modeled after his mother, Charlotte Gustave Eiffel, who later designed the Eiffel Tower in Paris. It was French statesman and writer, Edouard de Laboulaye who proposed the monument as a gift to the United States from the people of France. It was in recognition of the friendship between the two countries that was established during the American Revolution.

The statue was completed in France in July 1884. The statue's 300 pieces of copper, which were packed in 214 crates aboard the French ship, *Isere*, almost didn't make it across the Atlantic. The ship ran into rough seas and was close to sinking. The statue's components arrived in New York on June 17, 1885, but remained unassembled for a year until construction of the pedestal was completed in 1886.

President Grover Cleveland accepted the statue on behalf of the American people during dedication ceremonies that were held on October 28, 1886. In 1903, Emma Lazarus' poem, *The New Colossus*, was inscribed on a bronze tablet and placed in the statue's pedestal. The Statue of Liberty was declared a National Monument in 1924.

In Memoriam

In May 2018, the Lackawanna Historical Society was saddened by the passing of one of our trustees, Tom Horlacher. Tom was a member of the Society for more than forty years and a founding member of the Scranton's Architectural Heritage Association.

In 1980 he donated his services as a registered architect to assist us with much needed restoration work to the exterior of the Catlin House. The following year he was nominated and elected to serve as a Trustee. Since then, Tom has been invaluable to our organization, providing his guidance, offering advice and sharing his expertise.

As a member of the LHS Building and Ground committee, he played a vital role in ensuring the preservation of our home and, at the same time, kept us up to date on any needed upgrades such as the 1989 additions of a ramp and restroom to improve accessibility. Tom was a gentleman who contributed so much to the Society and the community in his dedication to preserving local architecture. He will be greatly missed.

At their June 20th meeting, LHS Trustees nominated and elected Tom's daughter, Elizabeth, to fill his seat for the remainder of his term.

Scranton Veterans Monument and Memorial Park Project

By Pat Ahern with Rick Sedlisky

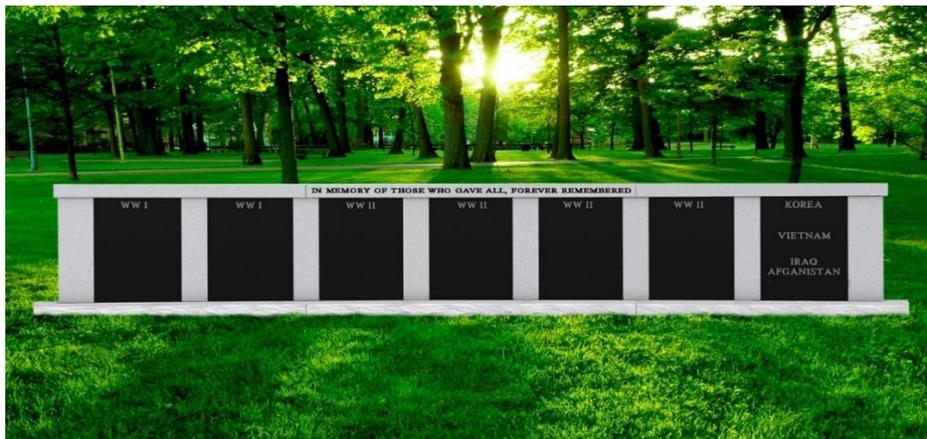
Please enjoy the following article in which Pat Ahern tells the story of how he and 14 other Scranton veterans conceived the idea of a veterans' monument and memorial park. A special thank you to Paul Kowalski of Moscow, PA, for suggesting that an article about the project be written.

The idea of a Scranton Veterans Monument and Memorial Park was conceived after reading the inscription on the plaque at the base of the flagpole inside Scranton Veterans Memorial Stadium. The stadium was dedicated "IN MEMORY OF ALL FORMER STUDENTS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM".

I contacted my veteran friends and they all agreed that we should do something to recognize these Scranton heroes BY NAME on a memorial. We formed a veterans committee to organize our efforts. Members of the committee include me, Jim Kuchwara, Wally Evans, Dave Roman, Vince Carden, Joe Sylvester, Rich Scholendorn, Manny Griffen, Bill Smith, Joel Sofranko, Jim McLain, Mike McLane, Tom McLane, Rob DeLuca and Mike Rock.

We then asked the school district if we could locate a monument and memorial park on district property near the stadium. They agreed. We then proceeded to ask students, teachers, and the public for ideas of designs for the monument and park. After going through dozens of ideas, we as the veterans, came up with the present design and incorporated some of the proposed ideas into the memorial park. So in effect, it is a design inspired by the whole community. We also received great help from local monument companies to put our ideas on paper.

The monument design is presently 33 feet long at the base and 6 feet 8 inches high. The base is 2 feet wide and the actual wall is one foot deep. The monument will be made from black and grey granite with a slight inward curve to the wall.



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The exact location was determined by us as veterans to give a clear view of the monument from the entrance of Scranton High School. The monument will face the original flagpole and plaque inside the stadium. The location is easily accessible and visible to the public.

Currently, there is no exact completion date although Phase One should be completed by July 2018. The initial phase will include a handicapped accessible ramp and sidewalks, footer for the monument and sidewalks around the footer, five branches of service flags, an MIA/POW flag, and of course, the American flag. Landscaping will be finished and some benches will be available for sitting. The cost of Phase One is approximately \$153,000. That amount has been raised.

Phase Two will include the monument with the names and a learning plaza to include information on the branches of service and some historical information on the United States and our defense of freedom. The cost of Phase Two will be approximately \$335,000, with the finished cost of the project totaling approximately \$488,000. We are currently developing a plan to raise Phase Two funds. This fall, we will inform everyone on how to help the Phase Two fundraising effort.

More than 900 names will be on the monument, however, the exact number is still being researched. Some 400 names have never been recognized on a public local monument or plaque. Veterans named on the monument should have been a Scranton resident or former Scranton resident and died in one of the five wars, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq/Afghanistan. No death certificate is required, just a statement from a friend or family member verifying information. We will take it from there. We also include Merchant Marines and veterans from Minooka. You can submit names by contacting us at onestrongamerica@gmail.com



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Ambrose Revels: A Victim of the Spanish Flu?

By Sarah Piccini

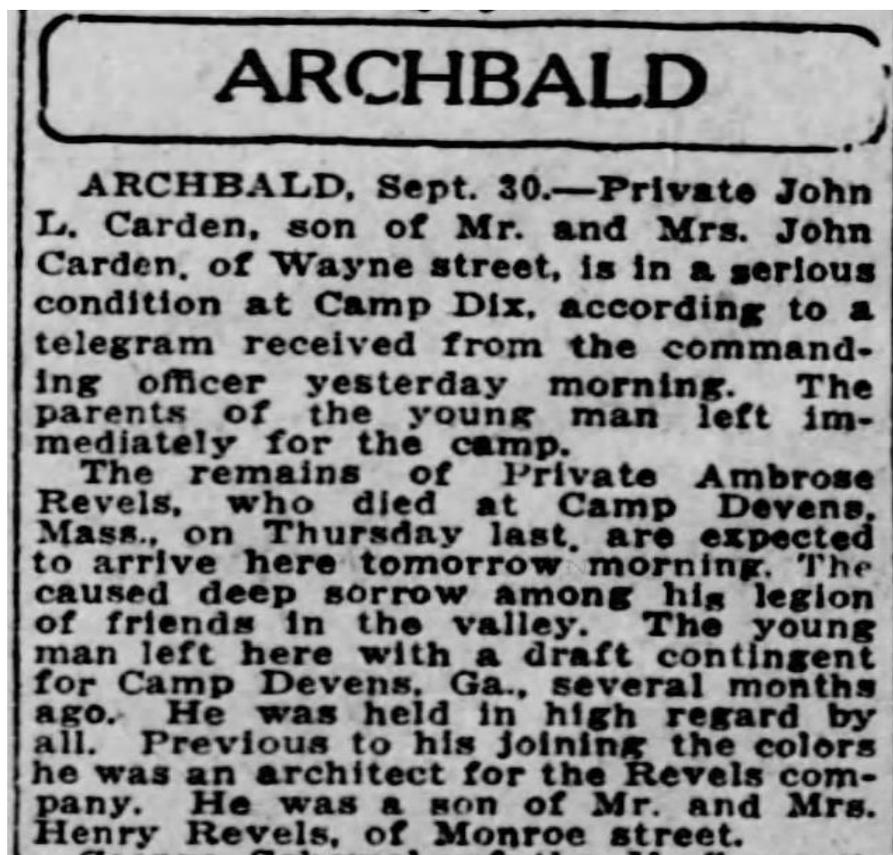
While researching the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic, I found a notice in the Scranton Republican about the death of Ambrose Revels at Camp Devens, MA. Mr. Revels was from Archbald, PA.

Camp Devens, a military camp in Massachusetts, was the location of one of the first major outbreaks of the flu, with 100 men dying per day at its peak. I'm inferring that Mr. Revels was a casualty of the flu at Devens, one of the first statistics of the outbreak.

There is an interesting connection to the national story that gets better. American Legion Post #328 in Archbald is named for Ambrose Revels. Below is the original article as it appeared in the October 1, 1918 edition of the Scranton Republican. The article is available at newspapers.com

(Note: One sentence in the newspaper article states that Camp Devens was located in Georgia, which is incorrect. It was located in Massachusetts and is now a museum)

Sarah Piccini is an assistant director at the Lackawanna Historical Society.



“Let’s Get Wired!”

Commit now to keep the Catlin House wired! The cost of the Catlin House electrical and HVAC upgrades is \$463,180. To date, slightly more than \$434,000 has been raised, leaving a balance of \$29,180. Please join us in taking care of one of the region’s architectural treasures and make your commitment today.

Please use the form below to make your pledge. Please make checks payable to the LHS Restoration Fund and return to:

Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY		
Capital Campaign Pledge Form		
<p>I am pleased to support the Lackawanna Historical Society with my contribution indicated below to upgrade the Catlin House electrical and HVAC systems:</p>		
Please Print _____	<u>Levels of Giving</u> // Amps \$3000 or more	
Name(s) _____	// Ohms \$1000 - \$2999	
Address _____	// Joules \$500 - \$999	
	// Watts \$100 - \$499	
	// Volts under \$100	
City	State	Zip Code

Phone (Day)	Phone (Evening)	Email
The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501 (C) (3) organization. All contributions are tax deductible in accordance with Pennsylvania state law. Your check is your receipt.		

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Information about LHS Membership

2018 Membership are now due!

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 Corporate | \$250 | TELEPHONE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Corporate | \$500 | EMAIL _____ |

LHS Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 14, Noon – 3 pm: Children’s Day at the Catlin House.

Children’s Day is July 14
Mark your calendar & don ’t forget the kids!



Arts & Crafts Free pony rides History Mural Archeology Display

at the Catlin House, Noon to 3pm

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Wednesday, July 18: Dine Lackawanna at State Street Grill, 114 S. State St., Clarks Summit, 570-585-5590.

Wednesday, July 25 at 6pm: Christmas in July at the Circle Drive-In.

Admission: \$7 per person. Put down your sun screen, sparklers and miniature American flags & get a jump on your local history holiday shopping! Join us for a Local History Marketplace at the drive-in and meet some of your favorite authors including Nick Petula, Gary Ryman, Jay Luke, S. Robert Powell, Ron Moskalczak, Gary Ryman and Stephanie Longo. Stay for a special showing at dusk of the holiday cult classic, **Christmas Vacation**. Before movie starts, a character look-a-like contest will be held so be sure to come dressed as your favorite CV character!

Thursday, August 2, at 6pm: Gearing up for Groundhog Day at the Circle Drive-In.

Admission: \$7 per person. Did you know that the first documented observance of Groundhog Day was in 1886, which is the same year that the LHS was founded! Join us as we mark the half-way point to Groundhog Day with a special showing of the movie **Groundhog Day**! Information will be displayed to how ancient myths and folklore about animals and weather resulted in the popular annual Pennsylvania event and discover how Punxsutawney Phil became a national treasure!

Wednesday, August 15: Dine Lackawanna at Kol Steakhouse at the Hotel Anthracite, 25 S. Main St., Carbondale, 570-536-6020.

Saturday, August 18 at 10am: Genealogy Workshop sponsored by the DAR at the Catlin House.

Tuesday, August 28 at 7pm: Community Night with the RailRiders. Join us for an evening of baseball when the RailRiders play the Syracuse Chiefs at PNC Field in Moosic at 7:05pm. The Society has secured the Lackawanna County box for the Evening, with catering by Reviello's Pizza. Box tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple and can be purchased at the Catlin House. Space is limited so reserve your space soon. Infield tickets on first base side are also available for \$15* for those who want to be closer to the action. Proceeds from the evening benefit the Society.
***Infield tickets do not include catering or access to suite level.**

Sunday, September 16 at 2pm: At Our Own Pace, Love, Life & Legendary Lackawanna Politics book signing by Robert Pettinato at the Catlin House.

Author Pettinato, former Lackawanna County Commissioner, will share his recollections and discuss the book he released last year. "At Our Own Pace" recalls an important era in the county's development, and offers a unique perspective from someone who lived through it. A portion of the proceeds of the book will benefit "Peggy's Pathway," a foundation dedicated to funding endometrial and uterine cancer research.

Wednesday, September 19: Dine Lackawanna at Dooley's Pub and Eatery, 120 Oak St., Old Forge, 570-457-7922.

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*Summer Downtown Walking Tour Schedule, Saturdays at 11am

July 7: Meet at St. Peter's Cathedral, corner Linden St. & Wyoming Ave.

July 21: Meet at Elm Park Church, corner Jefferson Ave. & Linden St.

August 4: Meet at Nancy K. Holmes Library, Green Ridge St. & Wyoming Ave.

August 18: Meet at Elm Park Church, corner Jefferson Ave. & Linden St.

September 8: Meet at Nancy K. Holmes Library, Green Ridge St. & Wyoming Ave.

September 22: Meet at Lackawanna College, corner N. Washington Ave. & Vine St.

**Tours are free, but reservations are required by the Thursday prior to the tour date.
Call the Lackawanna Historical Society at 570-344-3841 for details and reservations.*

Two Annual Summer Events

Kielbasa Lovers: Mark Your Calendars!

Plymouth Kielbasa Festival 2018

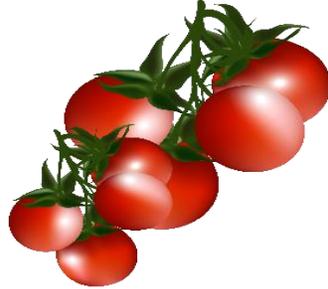
The annual Plymouth Kielbasa Festival takes place rain or shine on Friday, August 10, noon to 11pm and Saturday, August 11, 9am to 11pm, Main St., Plymouth. The event offers more than 100 vendors and attracts about 30,000 visitors.

This year, the street festival again offers music, entertainment, a parade, contests, crafts, a car show, a variety of food and of course, enough kielbasa to last through Spring Thaw 2019.

Of the many attractions is the Kielbasa Contest that brings kielbasa makers from across the region to see whose recipe stands up to the competition. At the 2017 festival, Bosak's Choice Meats of Olyphant swept the competition by taking first place in both the fresh and smoked categories. Can Bosak's repeat?



2018 Pittston Tomato Festival



The 2018 Pittston Tomato Festival takes place from Thursday, August 16 through Sunday, August 19 at the Tomato Festival Grounds, South Main St., Pittston. The four-day event, which attracts up to 50,000 people, includes a parade, live music, a 5k run, arts & crafts, games, bingo, rides and home-grown Pittston tomatoes.

One of the annual favorites is the Tomato Fight that takes place on Saturday, August 18 at 1:30pm. Located at Cooper's Waterfront Restaurant parking lot at 304 Kennedy Blvd., entry fee is \$10, which includes the use of safety protective goggles. All proceeds benefit local charities.

Another highlight is the Tomato Contest. Categories include largest, smallest, most perfect and ugliest tomato. The contest takes place at 7:00pm, Saturday, August 18 at the Committee Stand.

For additional information, please do a Google search on Pittston Tomato Festival or visit the Pittston Tomato Festival Facebook page.

Volunteer Firemen's Picnics

Volunteer firemen's picnics are a summer tradition in Northeast Pennsylvania as they are across the country. They continue the tradition begun in the 19th Century. Just as more than 100 ago, these summer picnics continue to be arranged by volunteer firefighters who look to those they serve throughout the year for support.

One of the many this season is the 70th Annual Firemen's Picnic that takes place in the North Pocono community of Covington Twp. from July 10 through July 14. The picnic is located at the Covington Twp. Carnival Grounds. For information, call 570-842-4130.

Fire companies, volunteer or paid, continue play a vital role in all communities. To learn about one Lackawanna County jurisdiction's fire company history, please see Editor's Book Review on Page 17.

100 Years of Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field By Frank P. Adams

Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field
1870 - 1970

Site updated on 03/03/2105, Database version 6.05

Related Sites

- Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Anthracite Heritage Museum
- Carbondale HS
- Coal Region
- Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
- Dunmore HS
- Duryea PA
- Lackawanna Heritage
- Lackawanna County HS
- Luzerne County HS
- Mining eBook
- Old Forge Coal Mining
- Penn Pilot
- Pennsylvania Geology
- Pennsylvania Historical Mining Reports
- Registers of Mine Accidents
- Steamtown NHS
- Susquehanna County HS
- Treat Minewater
- Underground Miners

Use one of the selections below to generate a tabular report of mining activities of the Northern Field. Tables are based on data transcribed from the annual mine inspections published by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1. Report by Operation Name
(Many operations have additional information including maps, articles and photos.)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W * Y Z

2. Report by Company Name

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W * Y Z

3. Location List
This option will generate a report of municipalities from which operations can be selected. Please be aware that the inspection data is incomplete and many of the municipality names have changed over the years, so an operation may appear in multiple listings.

4. Photo Gallery
View all available photographs grouped by operation name.

5. Database Search

6. Report by Year and District

1870

7. Help Identify "Mystery" Operations

8. Review Correlated Operations and Companies
Over time, names of the operations, owners, and towns have changed. I've attempted to correlate this data to provide an accurate overall picture of all the mining operations. Your assistance with improving [Operation](#) or [Company](#) correlations would be appreciated.

Other Features

- Your assistance with improving this site is appreciated. Contact us with comments, suggestions, errors or omissions.
- See what's new! View the change history here.
- Scans of original documents are available here.
- Anthracite Railroads Schedules
- Official Railway Equipment Registers
- About this site

HTML 5
W3C CSS

**Home page of Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field website
Courtesy of Frank P. Adams**

Celebrating its eighth year, the NORTHERNFIELD.INFO website is an offshoot of many years of historical research into the numerous railroads of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Railroads, like any other business, require a purpose and anthracite coal's black diamonds financed railroading on an immense, almost ludicrous scale. In fact, most of our region's history is directly related to the almost 100-year Kingdom of Coal. To understand the area's railroads, one must first understand the anthracite business where thousands of our ancestors labored to release anthracite from deep under their homes as the cities and towns above them grew.

Numerous attempts were made to locate an A-Z encyclopedic reference of Northeastern Pennsylvania's anthracite heritage. Although there are many wonderful books available, the only complete compilations are from the Pennsylvania Department of Mines annual reports. A number of these published volumes were available at the Colorado School of Mines.

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Several issues proved harder to locate, but visits to Lehigh University in Allentown and Lafayette College in Bethlehem completed the set from 1870 through 1945. Finally, the last sets of annual reports through 1970 were found with the help of the Pikes Peak Library District inter-library loans department. 100 years of reports were interesting but only shed a dim light on the railroads' operations and business decisions. A way to "mine" the data (if you will pardon the technological pun) was needed.

There are three major anthracite coalfields in Pennsylvania, Northern, Central and Southern, with the Northern encompassing the Wyoming Valley. The state reports separate them into mining districts. Over the years the borders of these districts were continually adjusted with the ebb and flow of the anthracite industry.

The first step was to identify the mining districts associated with the Northern Field. Then over a two-year span, data from each year was transcribed into a spreadsheet. What some might consider tedious work actually proved a most interesting and enjoyable exercise, watching operations as they grew, merged, were bought and sold and eventually declined and were finally abandoned.

Having a first of its kind encyclopedic reference of 100 years in a spreadsheet was an accomplishment, however, that format did not readily lend itself to detailed analysis or reporting, so it was converted to a database. Then in an effort to facilitate collaborative research and historical analysis, that database was presented on a website in 2010.

The website format enabled period photos, various maps, aerial photos, news articles and mine inspection narratives to be presented alongside the tabular mining statistics. The site is arranged to view the information in different ways. Production statistics are organized alphabetically by the name of the mine or colliery operation. Statistical reporting is also available by company name as well as yearly summaries for the different mining districts. Finally, important documents such as the mine inspection reports and various railroad timetables and equipment rosters are also included.

Because over time the names of the operations, owners' and even towns' names changed, considerable effort was made to correlate these and provide an accurate picture of the operations at each physical location.

For example, the Meadowside operation in Dunmore was originally called the Murray after one of its two owners. Three years later, Messrs. Carney & Brown replaced Mr. Murray's original partner and by 1904, it was known by their names. Finally, in 1925 having sold their interests to the Meadowside Coal Company, the name changed a third time. Unfortunately, the lineage of many of the Northern Field operations is not so clearly known.

Work on the website continues. It was recently upgraded to the latest Internet standard, HTML 5, ensuring compatibility with the slew of new tablets and smart phones.

Correlation of operation names remains an ongoing challenge. Many mines were later reworked by one or more companies and while the state inspectors recorded the new

company names, they often neglected to indicate where the mining was taking place. In fact, the state reports are surprisingly lax in reporting the city or town of the operation. Assistance with improving correlations or the operation locations would be appreciated. In addition, contributions of period or modern photos, maps, and other materials are always welcome. The website contains links for submitting comments and feedback.

Whether you are a researcher interested in railroads, mining, industrial archeology or just want greater appreciation of the anthracite industry's role in our history, I hope this website, www.northernfield.info will be of some value.

A Scranton native, Frank P. Adams is from Moscow, PA. After attending The Citadel, Charleston, SC, he served in the United States Air Force as a staff scientist at the Headquarters of The Strategic Air Command in Omaha, NE. Adams had a 25-year career in telecommunications with MCI and Verizon. He is currently employed by IBM as an Enterprise Architect working with the Transportation Security Administration on homeland security initiatives.

Mr. Adams' life-long interest in the railroads and anthracite industry of Northeast Pennsylvania developed at an early age. He is the author of *"Rails from Dunmore to Jessup: The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western's Winton Branch"* and *"The History and Railroads of North Pocono"*.

The author of six US patents, Mr. Adams also holds a master's degree in physics from Creighton, University. He currently resides in Colorado Springs, CO.

Recipes for July 4th through Labor Day

Welcome to summer, temperatures are rising and the lakes and beaches are inviting. It's the time of the year when the season's recipes are brought to the forefront.

Whether you're either cooking for a crowd or are invited to bring a dish to someone else's home, the thing that most do is to pull out the tried and true summer recipes.

You have your recipes that you know are the best, hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken that's either fried or baked, coleslaw, potato salad, guacamole, chili, cakes, pies, and of course, kielbasa with horseradish, either red or white, your choice. The list goes on.

You know that yours can beat the competition and while yours may be the best, consider making a few changes to your tried and true. Surprise those who are expecting your best by kicking things up a notch.

For recipe videos, visit the All Recipes website link below to see videos that show how to take your tried and true summer offerings to the next level.

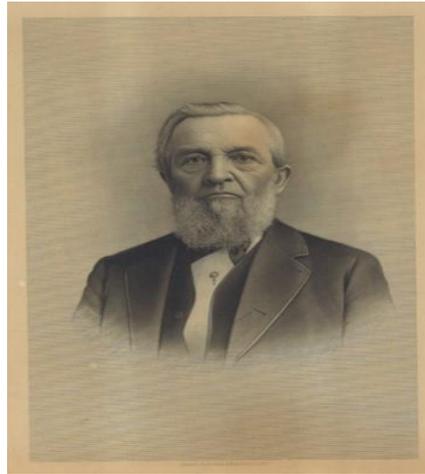
<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipes/191/holidays-and-events/4th-of-july/>



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Person of Interest

Dr. Benjamin H. Throop, MD How He Influenced the Development of The Lackawanna Valley By Michael A. Kashmer



Dr. Benjamin H. Throop
Photo courtesy of the Lackawanna Historical Society

We all can safely guess that the Borough of Throop, PA is named after this distinguished medical doctor, real estate speculator, anthracite visionary and author. Dr. Throop contributed articles to numerous publications that were not only serious medical works but covered more mundane subjects, including the lives of ordinary working class citizens. He wrote about the "middle and lower classes" during the mid-1800's, when very few historical transcribers wrote about this strong backbone of the Commonwealth.

There are many published versions of the "high class families" of Pennsylvania society and their fabulous parties, holiday gatherings and countless communions, marriages and other Christian theological events.

The rest of this article will look at the many contributions from the mine workers, shopkeepers, day laborers, stable hands, construction teams, horse and wagon delivery drivers, bookkeepers, store clerks, as well as a multitude of professions and workers at jobs yet to be defined. Their united effort in pursuit of the American Dream is what made the Lackawanna Valley a remarkable social and industrial melting pot.

I am sure that I missed mentioning a few dozen occupations that are worth memories of those who toiled serving others. For example, private bakers who drove up the block blowing a horn of some sort in old trucks that made their share of exhaust smoke and

smelled oily if you came nearby. If the kids didn't "act up" they might get some pieces of broken cookies or a fresh baked one. Jackpot!

Vegetable vendors followed and after them came rag and junk collectors. The collectors of scrap iron and used cloth of any kind blew horns that had a single note, a plaintive call that trailed off at the end signaling the driver simply ran out of breath.

There were soft drink purveyors like Schrader's Bottling Works in the Green Ridge section of Scranton who delivered an assortment of flavored carbonated sodas, plus the always potent elixir, Schrader's Own Ginger Ale.

Some of these home delivery services lasted well into the late 1940's. And now we say that the Amazon delivery system is so ahead of its time.

Let's get on with the Throop story.

Dr. Benjamin Henry Throop (1811 - 1897) came from Oxford, Chenango County, NY in 1840 and immediately spotted the potential of anthracite coal. He started a medical practice in Providence (then known as Razorville) and eventually, at the persuasion of the Scranton Brothers, George and Selden, moved to Slocum Hollow (later called Harrison and finally, Scranton), which was closer to the Scranton's iron furnace facility. The move made it easier to treat emergencies at the furnaces and turned out to be a good business relationship for both sides.

Razorville got its name from the clever Yankee horse traders who had set up shop near what is now called Bull's Head. The resident traders were said to be "sharp as a razor".

Throop acquired huge tracts of land in the Lackawanna Valley. He thought that coal and not iron was the biggest economic driver in the Valley. His beliefs proved correct. He amassed a small fortune and became an influential player up and down the Valley.

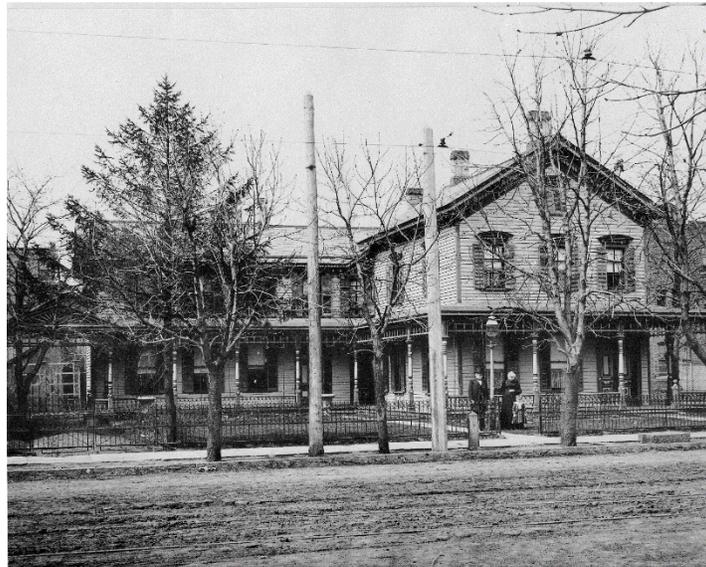
Among his main accomplishments were Scranton's first post office and pharmacy. He was instrumental in breaking Lackawanna County away from Luzerne County. He was rich, powerful and admired by the citizens of Scranton. He was among the first doctors to answer President Lincoln's call for physicians during the Civil War.

Dr. Throop founded Lackawanna Hospital, which became Scranton State Hospital that served residents through the 1960's. At first he ran the hospital with his own money until the State took over in 1874.

There are many stories about Dr. Throop and his generosity, friendship and business acumen. Here are a few short ones.

The Scranton Brothers, Colonel George was 29 and his brother Selden was just 26 years of age when they started making iron along the Roaring Brook. By 1843 the furnace facility was turning out nails, rails and an assortment of other iron products. The furnace complex needed new workers and infusions of cash to keep up with and grow their business.

One story about the Doctor and the Colonel goes like this. Colonel (a purely honorific title it appears) George Scranton came to Throop's city central home early one morning in March 1843 and asked for a loan of \$2,000 to meet payroll at the furnace. Scranton had already made an unsuccessful trip to Belvedere, NJ, where he was raised.



**The Throop Residence in Scranton with Dr. and Mrs. Throop in foreground
Photo courtesy of the Lackawanna Historical Society**

Dr. Throop harnessed his horses and the two of them drove to Carbondale to see a Mr. Knapp who advanced the Colonel \$1,000. Thank you -- but not quite enough. The Doctor had a friend in Honesdale where they were able to get an additional \$700. Great, but still \$300 short.

When the company didn't have enough cash on hand to meet payroll they issued what were called "shinplasters", which were pieces of paper that looked like a bill about 2 x 5 inches in size. It could be used to purchase goods at the company store. It would say "Pay to Bearer, eighty-five cents worth of goods" and was signed by Scranton's & Platt (owners). Once the goods were picked up the "shinplaster" would be marked as "PAID" and retained by the owners.

Another story is about Dr. Throop's physical fortitude and medical ingenuity.

Dr. Throop would easily cover fifty miles a day with his team of horses and wagon in the summer and by sleigh in the winter making house calls and treating emergencies. One time he was called to Bear Creek to treat a man in the forest whose feet had frozen and gangrene had set in. Throop drove within two miles of the man's hut, but because of the heavy snow the sleigh got bogged down. What to do?

Dr. Throop unharnessed one of the horses and rode bareback the remaining distance to the hut. He carried no surgical instruments, no anesthesia of any sort and no antiseptic

bandages. He had only a dull razor and an ordinary wood saw which were used to amputate both frozen feet. Dr. Throop used an ordinary needle and cotton thread, which he had in his pocket to sew up the wounds. The man survived.

As you can see, Dr. Benjamin Throop truly deserved having a town named after him and we are all grateful that he was both a true pioneer and patriot at a critical time in our nation's growth.

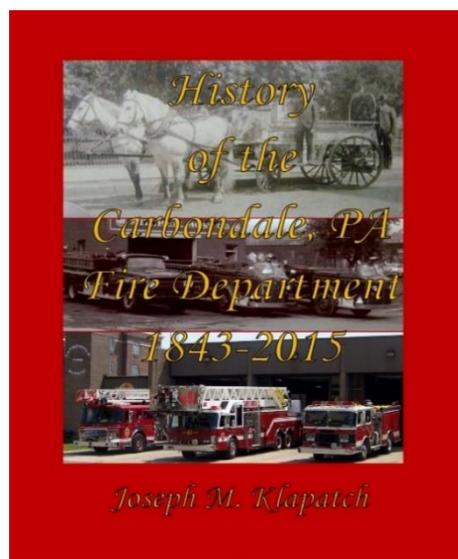
Michael A. Kashmer is originally from Scranton, currently living in Bergen County, NJ. He has worked in broadcast and cable TV for nearly thirty years in areas of distribution, finance and programming. His experience includes network start-ups and foreign language programs. A special interest is digital broadband and fiber. Mike can be reached at mikeshmer@aol.com

Editor's Book Review

By Rick Sedlisky

History of the Carbondale, PA Fire Department 1843 - 2015

By Joseph M. Klapatch



History of the Carbondale, PA Fire Department 1843 – 2015 is the first of two books about Lackawanna County fire departments written by Joseph M. Klapatch. The other is *The Scranton Fire Department 1854 – Present Including Minooka Hose Co.*

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Mr. Klapatch said that the books were not in his original plan, which was to combine all found information on Lackawanna County's fire departments into one book. However, as he began to put the historical information into a binder, he discovered that there were fire companies long forgotten. This discovery resulted in an eventual page by page search of newspapers dating back to the mid-19th Century and placement of information into numerous three-inch binders.

Carbondale is the oldest city in Lackawanna County and was home to the county's first five fire companies. According to the author, a total of 19 fire companies were found and are documented in the book beginning with the Rescue Hook and Ladder Company, which was organized in 1843. By 1850, four fire companies were organized, one for each ward of the city, however, without adequate support from the city, unhappiness over equipment quality and firehouse conditions, the four disbanded within a few years of organization.

As Mr. Klapatch explains, companies came along, companies ceased to exist and some were planned, but never materialized. No matter their life spans and whether or not they materialized, all 19 organizations are documented in Mr. Klapatch's work, regardless of the amount of available information.

Three of the early companies, The Columbia Hose Company, Andrew Mitchell Hose Company (The Mitchells) and The Cottage Hose Company have endured the test of time and are very well documented. A fourth company, although also very well documented, was not fortunate enough to endure.

Readers will learn that from its inception, The Hendrick Hook, Ladder and Chemical Company (The Hooks) for the most part, never had a good relationship with city council members. It's probably better to say that some city council members held disdain for The Hooks as many of The Hooks' requests were either put on the back burner so to speak or literally ignored. Even though Hendrick provided Carbondale with its first hook and ladder squad and received praise and support from citizens, the business community and the media for its fine service, the political cards were stacked against The Hooks.

Readers will find The Hooks' experience not just bittersweet. It was also an embarrassing episode in Carbondale politics, one in which political hacks ignored the will of the citizens and the business community for their own reasons, even if their actions or lack thereof threatened to increase the city's fire insurance rates.

For anyone who has attended firefighters' summer picnics, the author offers a look at what can be called the predecessors of such picnics. Those events were nothing less than spectacular. They offered everything from the parade that was made up of organizations from many different parts of Northeast Pennsylvania and Southern New York, marching bands, dances, food offerings and a show of firefighters' marching talents that bordered on military precision. The events showed the level of civic pride firefighters had and how that pride was embraced by the citizens.

Through the combination of the author's words and numerous photographs, including fire equipment, uniforms, ribbons, badges, and marching bands, readers will feel the emotion of the firemen of the time and those who supported them. Readers will also understand the pride of those who lived in Carbondale and experience Carbondale and its fire companies' evolutions over many decades.

Author Joseph M. Klapatch said that his books have been written for the fire buff, historian and genealogist. While this is certainly true, his work also allows readers to experience a civic pride that today appears to have been to a degree, forgotten.

Provide a space on your bookshelf for *History of the Carbondale, PA Fire Department 1843 – 2015* by Joseph M. Klapatch. It is an excellent research tool that documents yet another a part of Lackawanna County's history.

History of the Carbondale, PA Fire Department 1843 – 2015 has been added to the reference areas of the Lackawanna Historical Society, Albright Library, Scranton, and the Carbondale and Taylor libraries. The book is available for purchase at Library Express on the second floor of the Marketplace at Steamtown, Scranton, The Lackawanna Historical Society, Scranton, and the Carbondale Library and sells for \$22. The author can be contacted via email at sendem39@aol.com

(Joseph M. Klapatch is a researcher in the Reference Department of the Albright Library in Scranton, PA. He recently retired after over twenty years as a Supervisor and Trainer at Lackawanna County Emergency Services, located in Jessup, Pennsylvania. He was named a Supervisor in 2000 and a Trainer in 2005. In 2012, he was named Line Supervisor of the Year by Pennsylvania APCO and in 2015, he was named as a Life Member by the organization, an honor that only a dozen other members have attained in the statewide organization.

A 1983 graduate of King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA with a B.A. in Communications, he worked as a Television News Assignment Editor for 17-years with ABC affiliate, WNEP and CBS affiliate, WYOU. He also worked at a number of radio stations in Pennsylvania and New York and wrote a monthly column in the Polish-American Journal Newspaper in Buffalo, NY. For the last 20 years, Joe has also been a dual member of Pennsylvania and Atlantic Region APCO and was Communications Chair for the 77th Annual APCO International Conference in Philadelphia, PA in 2011. For the last four years, he has been the program chairperson for Pennsylvania's annual APCO Conference. He also has developed two courses which he has presented locally for area dispatchers and law enforcement, as well as at the 2011 APCO International Conference in Philadelphia and the 2010 Atlantic Region APCO Conference in Albany, NY.

Over the last six years, Mr. Klapatch has been conducting research to document the histories of all of Lackawanna County's fire departments dating back to 1843. He has published two books: "The History of the Carbondale, PA Fire Department 1843-2015" and The Scranton Fire Department 1854-Present Including Minooka Hose Company". He has also been called on to speak on the histories of various fire companies on their milestone anniversaries. He was a member of the Scranton Sesquicentennial Committee.)

Reflections



**Scranton Railway Company car #505 at Nay Aug Park, Scranton
Railways to Yesterday photo collection
Electric Trolley and Museum Association
<http://www.ectma.org/505html.html>**

There are perhaps many reading this issue of History Bytes who rode Scranton's electric trolleys such as the one depicted above. The photograph shows #505 nearing the end of the line at Nay Aug Park in East Scranton.

The Scranton Railway Co. operated the first electronic trolley system in the United States. During its time, it connected Scranton, Dunmore and the suburbs. Its life ended in 1954 when buses replaced trolleys. #505 was the one car that was not scrapped.

After more than 60 years of being moved from one place to another and experiencing the negative effects of nature, #505 returned to Scranton and, as the last of the ten "Electromobiles" purchased in 1929, is currently being restored to operating condition.

For information on the history and restoration of #505, please visit the Electric City Trolley and Museum Association's website at <http://www.ectma.org/> and click on Project 505 on the left side of the homepage.

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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. The society is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Catlin House Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County and membership dues.

Business Hours

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Saturday, 12pm – 3pm

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