



LHIS

**The Lackawanna
Historical Society
Journal**

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Fall 2011



Celebrating 20 Years of the LHVA *LHS Annual Dinner Recognizes Milestone Anniversary*

The Lackawanna Historical Society is proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley State and National Heritage Area during its 2011 annual dinner on September 14th. Established in 1991, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority is the managing entity for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley.

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley was designated as a National Heritage Area by Congress and includes the Lackawanna River watershed in parts of Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties.

Preserving the rich history of the Lackawanna Valley has become a central tenant of the LHVA. As a result, the LHVA tells the story of immigrants who came here to build a new life and ended up building a new nation through the development of mining, textiles, steel manufacturing, printing, trolleys, and railroad building.

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority is focused on renewal of the environment, of the economic

The Lackawanna Historical

base, and of pride and a sense of place. As part of its mission, the LHVA supports various environmental organizations, students, educators, municipal governments, residents, visitors, and historic and cultural sites - including the Lackawanna Historical Society.

The Society participates in the LHVA's monthly roundtable, which provides various groups the opportunity to network and collaborate on activities and projects. Additionally, the Society receives financial support for many preservation and interpretive projects and programs from the LHVA.

To mark this milestone, the Society is pleased to welcome Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, Vice President for University Mission and Ministry at Fordham University, New York City. Monsignor Quinn, the founding chairman of LHVA and former pastor at Scranton's St. Peter's Cathedral and St. Rose of Lima Church in Carbondale, as our special guest for this year's Annual Dinner. At the dinner, he will introduce the world premiere of a WVIA documentary "Legacy: The Story of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley."

Don't Miss "Brunch in the City" Downtown Walking Tours!

On Saturday, September 24th, the Society will offer a 10:00 am guided walking tour of downtown Scranton starting at Lackawanna College which will conclude with a brunch at the Colonnade at 11:30 am.

On Sunday, October 9th, a second downtown walking tour will be offered at 10:00 am starting at Courthouse Square, corner of Spruce and Adams, and end with a brunch at the Society's Catlin House at 11:30 am.

On Saturday, October 22nd, the Society will present a third walking tour starting at 10:00

am at 434 Lackawanna Ave, the former Bosak Bank building, followed by brunch at Posh @ the Scranton Club at 11:30 am. Each tour will focus on a different section of the city and provide historical background, architectural details and interesting stories from the past. Brunch will include a selection of traditional breakfast favorites and seasonal treats. Reservations are required and the cost of each tour & brunch is \$32.50 which includes tax and tip. Call the Society at 570-344-3841 to reserve your place today.

*The Lackawanna
Historical Society 2011-12*

A Word from the President...

Hello everyone,

One of the reasons I enjoy living in Northeastern Pennsylvania, aside from its interesting and diverse history of course, is the change of seasons we see unfold each year. Love it or hate it, the changing of the seasons is an ongoing, beautiful, motivating and sometimes challenging part of life here. At the present time we are beginning to see that fact occur again as summer ends and fall begins. Putting it in terms related to the Lackawanna Historical Society, we all enjoyed a successful Historic House Tour in the Hill, several First Friday walking tours of the downtown and celebrated at the annual Volunteer Thank You Party during the summer. Now that we are approaching the fall season, we look forward to our Annual Dinner, new versions of the downtown walking tour with brunch and later paranormal activity investigations as the leaves start to fall.

As you read through this issue of the LHS newsletter, all of these activities and much more are discussed. Summarily, these events would not take place as well as they do without our many dedicated volunteers and staff. They make it happen and I truly believe that! Consequently, I would be remiss if I did not mention one in particular, Bob Booth. Bob passed away in July and had been for many years a devoted volunteer, research assistant and financial supporter of the Lackawanna Historical Society. While he was with us we benefited greatly in many ways. I can only hope he felt the same way in return.

*Enjoy the change of seasons. Best regards,
Michael Gilmartin*

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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 Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and membership dues.

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 Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus at lackawannahistory@gmail.com.

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$25 and up for Individuals, \$35 for Families, and \$125 for Organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

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About Membership... *Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice and invitations to all Society activities, special 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

Student \$10 NAME _____
 Individual \$25 _____
 Family \$35 ADDRESS _____
 Contributing \$75 _____
 Sustaining \$150 _____
 Silver Corporate \$250 TELEPHONE _____
 Gold Corporate \$500 EMAIL _____

In the Catlin House...



In Memoriam

On July 7, the Lackawanna Historical Society lost a dear friend and a dedicated volunteer when Robert E. Booth passed away. Bob was a wonderful volunteer who spent hours at the Catlin House every day assisting with

research, preparing "Then and Now" pieces for The Scranton Times, guiding tours, or simply sharing his knowledge. His love of the Society and interest in local history was obvious not only in his work as a volunteer but in all of his activities. He attended every program offered by the LHS as well as participating in many other community events. If anyone had a question about a local history topic, Bob would be happy to share what he knew and did not mind digging a little deeper into local library collections to find the answer if he did not know it!

In 2006, the Society named Bob its Volunteer of the Year, but he could have been named Volunteer of the Decade simply from the fact that he alone dedicated more than 900 hours of volunteer service to the LHS every year since 2005. Many members have expressed their sympathy to us on his loss and commented on how it will be hard to replace him. The fact is, he cannot be replaced and we will miss

him not only for the work he accomplished, but because he was such a dear friend to all of the LHS staff and to his fellow volunteers. But we are comforted in the fact that he has left his mark on the Society in the volumes of research work he completed and friendships he made. Cheers to Bob!

*Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus
LHS Executive Director*

Dear Bob,

*If you really must go,
We'll suffer the loss
so you can find peace
and relinquish your cross.*

*The memories you've left us
will have to suffice:*

*We'll never forget
how you've paid the price*

*You'll live on in memory
for all you have done,
so rest now in peace
in the glory you've won.*

Mary Ann Gavern, LHS Assistant

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Robert E. Booth

Irwin and Donna Adler
Joan Caffrey
Arlene Devereaux O'Hara
Steve and Joanne Kavulich
Judith M. Keller
Chester and Deilsie Kulesa
Richard J. Leonori
Linda Lynett
Dennis and Sharleen Martin

Ann Marie O'Hara
Leni Piasky
Sarah Piccini
Ella Rayburn
Robert and Mary Ann Savakinus
Linda M. Scott
Barbara Spott
Rev. Lester E. Stephenson
Pat Tobin

About Your Town

Scranton Draft Riots

By Dennis Martin

The Lackawanna Historical Society receives a lot of interesting questions and in researching them we discover some very fascinating aspects of local history. One recent question was about three members of the 21st Pennsylvania Calvary who died near Scranton just after the Battle of Gettysburg. Remembering that the New York City Draft Riots were put down by Federal soldiers fresh from the battle of the Gettysburg (New York, Michigan and Indiana units) and knowing that Scranton also had Draft Riots, we thought we had the framework for starting but discovered an even more exciting story.

The first Pennsylvania draft was in October 1862, well before the Gettysburg battle. On October 23, 1862 Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin sent Secretary of War Edward M. Stanton the following message:

Notwithstanding the usual exaggerations, I think the organization to resist the draft in Schuylkill, Luzerne, and Carbon Counties is very formidable. There are several thousands in arms, and the people who will not join have been driven from the county. They will not permit the drafted men, who are willing, to leave, and yesterday forced them to get out of the cars. I wish to crush the resistance so effectually that the like will not occur again. One thousand regulars would be most efficient, and I suggest that one [regiment?] be ordered from the army. General A. Porter, who is here, and fully informed, agrees with me, and advises the employment of such a force.

Troops were dispatched and the problem was solved for the time. Scranton was part of Luzerne County and was one of the places with problems. We believe it can be assumed that troops were kept ready to return if more problems occurred, possibly even stationed nearby.

After the Battle of Chancellorsville, Lee started north to Pennsylvania in early June of 1863. The 21st Cavalry (182nd Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers) was organized after President Lincoln's call of June 15 for cavalry for six months service. Many of the officers and men were veterans. Six of the companies were sent to Pottsville and Scranton for duty. In January 1864 many of the men rejoined the reorganized regiment for three years service. Company D was assigned to Scranton for a year while the rest of the Regiment went on to Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and other battles.

With this information, we then looked into *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-5; prepared in compliance with acts of the legislature*, by Samuel P. Bates, Volume 5, pp. 77-127. The following deaths in the regiment are recorded:

- ◆ John Beesecker died near Scranton, Sep. 26, 1863, Co. L
- ◆ John Ausherman died near Scranton, Oct. 9, 1863, Co. L
- ◆ Aaron B. Meckley died at Scranton, Nov. 4, 1863, Co. C

In addition, Bates also notes that

- ◆ Henry Lane accidentally killed near Scranton, Sep 20, 1863, Co. L
- ◆ Jeff M'Clintock accidentally killed near Scranton, Dec 25, 1863, Co. M

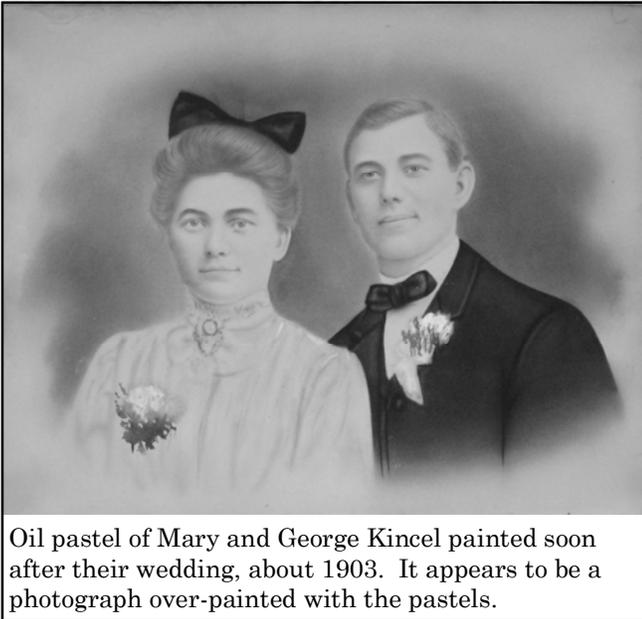
Send the Society a piece about your town or neighborhood, and we'll be happy to include it in a future issue as we relate and preserve the vital history of Lackawanna County.

Gift to LHS Brings a Surprise and a Story

By Ella S. Rayburn

All of us have read about a lucky garage sale find or a lab X-raying a mundane painting and discovering lost artwork by a famous Renaissance painter. None of that quite happened at the Lackawanna Historical Society a few weeks back, but it was an interesting week anyway.

Robert Bowen, Jr., living in Clarks Summit, do-



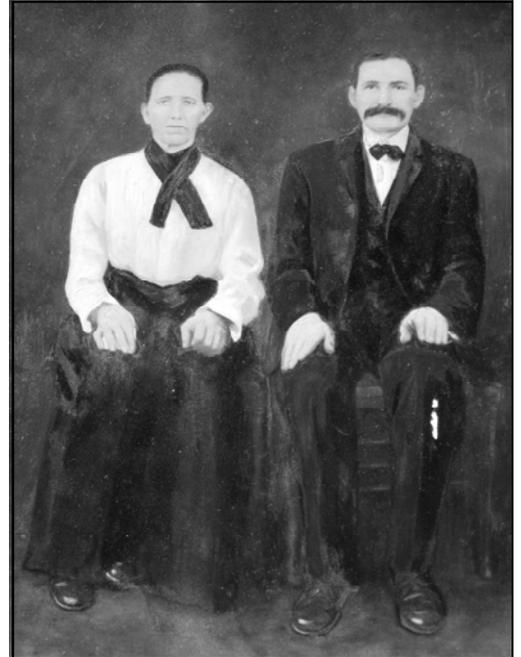
Oil pastel of Mary and George Kincel painted soon after their wedding, about 1903. It appears to be a photograph over-painted with the pastels.

nated an oil pastel image of his grandparents. Mr. Bowen believes the painting of George and Mary Baraga Kincel is their wedding portrait from about 1903. The image was nicely framed but the backing board was acidic. The common museum treatment is to remove the brittle, acid laden spacer board and replace it with an acid free board. We removed the back board and found, to our astonishment, on the front of this board was an oil painting. We contacted Mr. Bowen who had no knowledge of the second painting. He arrived with faded photographs of his great grandparents with five of their children. Although the great grandparents are at opposite ends of the photograph, the newly discovered oil painting is an exact replica of their poses except they are seated side-by-side.

Mr. Bowen had conducted some genealogical research to accompany the first portrait and after the recent discovery has a renewed desire to find out more about his ancestors. He reports that a young George Kincel arrived from Germany with his family about 1893, lived in Minnesota, and then returned to Ger-

many after the death of his father. George and his brother, escaping ill treatment by a stepfather, returned to Minnesota in 1897.

Mary Baraga came from Austria-Hungary with her parents and six siblings. She met George while he was serving as best man at a wedding in Scranton and, as evidenced by the pastel portrait, they were married about 1903 and settled in Taylor. He worked as a miner and saved enough money to bring over the rest of his family including the stepfather.



The *surprise* oil painting of Mary Kincel's parents, Anton and Franceska Baraga.

George and Mary became naturalized citizens and raised 11 children in a home at the corner of Oak and Fourth in Taylor. "Felts Patch" attracted immigrants from Eastern Europe, which produced neighbors with an easy familiarity with several languages. The Kincels moved to 1129 1/2 Rundle Street, Scranton in time for the birth of the 12th and final child, Emilie. Eight of the twelve survived. George placed great importance on education. All the children graduated from Scranton Technical High School. George suffered a stroke and died in 1939; Mary died of a stroke in 1945.

The surprise painting was of Mary's parents, Anton and Franceska Baraga, who died in 1923. Mr. Bowen said Anton was a baron in his native land but found work as a coal miner. Franceska was a doctor whose credentials were not recognized. She served as a midwife. They resided in "Felts Patch" in Taylor. Both sets of Mr. Bowen's great grandparents, and George and Mary Kencil, and the four children who died young are buried in St. John's Cemetery, Taylor.



Community Calendar

Family Day at the Scranton Iron Furnaces Saturday, September 17, 2011 Noon to 5:00 pm

The day will include games and storytelling for children and ethnic foods and beverages will be available for purchase. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to spend the day at one of the city's most significant historic sites.

Community partners will also be on site to talk about their activities and up-coming events. The Lackawanna Historical Society will host additional "hands-on" activities for children and conduct a fund raising sale of President Michael Gilmartin's homemade Gazpacho!

**For more information:
visit www.anthracitemuseum.org
or call 570-963-4804**

68th Annual Waverly Antiques Show and Sale

at the Waverly Community House

September 17 & 18

Saturday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Sunday: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Proudly featuring dealers in fine furniture and collectibles.

**Luncheon by Chef's Table at
Keystone College
Afternoon Tea Garden
Almost Antiques
Admission \$6**



Show Sponsor



Proceeds benefit the Waverly Community House
1115 North Abington Road
Waverly PA • www.waverlycomm.org
570-586-8191



Events scheduled to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the First Electric Streetcar

On October 1, 2011, the Electric City Trolley Museum Associates will host *Edward B. Sturges Day* at the Trolley Museum. Sturges' granddaughter Louise DeDera will be on hand to do a book signing for "Scranton Road," the story of Sturges life.

On November 30, 2011, will mark the official anniversary date of the first electric trolley run in Scranton. Ceremonies will kick off at Franklin Avenue near Lackawanna Avenue at 1:00 pm, to be followed by a trip along the original route of the Scranton Suburban Railway.

Additional details will be announced.
Call 570-963-6590 for more information.

Century Club Plans New York Bus Trip

New York Public Library, New York Historical Society and Eataly
Saturday, November 12, 2011

SCHEDULE

- 7:30 am - Bus leaves from Viewmont Mall, near Sears Auto
- 10:00 am - Tour of New York Public Library
- 12:00 pm - Bus leaves for New York Historical Society
- 2:00 pm - Tour of New York Historical Society
- 4:00 pm - *Eataly*, an emporium of all things Italian and food.
- 6:30 pm - Bus leaves NY for Viewmont Mall

For Further Information and Reservations, please call:
THE CENTURY CLUB OF SCRANTON
570-342-0204

COST: \$80.00 for CC and LHS Members
\$85.00 for Non-Members

Meals are NOT included.
Sorry, no refunds.

Lackawanna Historical Society Marketplace

In the last issue, we announced that duplicate copies of atlases will be offered for sale. In addition to the volumes that were listed, there are several loose plates from the 1873 Atlas of Luzerne Co. (Lackawanna Co. was carved from Luzerne in 1878) and 1877 Scranton Atlas. These are listed below. There are number of additional plates available that are not listed. Call the Society at 570-344-3841 to make a purchase.

1873 Atlas of Luzerne Co. (plates are approximately 14.5" x 12"):

• Carbondale w/ business notices	\$15.00
• Borough of Dunmore w/ business notices	\$15.00
• Old Forge and Lackawanna Twp. w/ business notices	\$15.00
• Newton /Newton Center w/ business notices	\$15.00
• Ransom Milwaukie w/ business notices	\$15.00
• Blakely/ Archibald/Jessup/Peckville /Olyphant w/ business notices	\$15.00
• Madison /Moscow w/ business notices	\$15.00
• Fell/Franklin w/ business notices	\$15.00
• Peckville	\$15.00
• Roaring Brook w/ business notices	\$15.00
• Gouldsboro /Buck w/ business notices	\$15.00
• Pittston	\$10.00
• Kingston	\$10.00
• Bear Creek	\$10.00
• Exeter w/ Business Notices	\$10.00
• West Pittston	\$10.00
• Wilkes-Barre	\$10.00
• Plymouth (approx. 15.5" x23.5") w/ Business Notices	\$10.00
• Kingston Borough & Vicinity w/ Business Notices	\$10.00

Scranton Atlas of 1877 (Plate sizes vary from 13.5" x 17.5" to 17.5" x 26.5"):

• Parts of Wards 4 & 5 Scranton	\$15.00
• Parts of Ward 20 Scranton w/Pine Brook Breaker	\$15.00
• Parts of Wards 19 & 20 Scranton	\$15.00
• Parts of Wards 10, 12, 17 & 19	\$15.00
• Parts of Wards 7, 9, 16, 17 w/ Pine Brook Breaker	\$15.00
• Illustrated Plate with View of The Works of Dickson Manufacturing & Locomotive Works	\$15.00



NEW MEMBERS

Individual

Danielle Capoccio, Edison, NJ
 Edwin Greenfield, Springbrook Twp.
 Jonathon Grill, Gouldsboro
 Diana Hoffman, Scranton
 Linda O'Leary, Waverly
 Ed Petroski, Jr., Scranton
 Sally J. Barrett Venesky, Lake Ariel

Student

Brandon Castellano, Scranton
 Andrew Cutillo, Clarks Summit

Family

Larry and Andrea Mulrine, Scranton
 Kenneth and Kerrie Symonies, Archbald

Contributing

Pamela Osbourne, Clarks Green

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- WED., SEPT. 14, 5:30 PM** **LHS ANNUAL DINNER** (SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS)
*Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Lackawanna Heritage Valley
at the Scranton Cultural Center *Reservations & Fee (\$40) Required**
- SUN., SEPT. 18, 2:00 PM** **MEMBERS-ONLY TOUR OF MARINE CORPS MUSEUM**
1340 Alder Street, Scranton. RSVP required. Call 570-344-3841 to register.
- SAT., SEPT. 24, 10:00 AM** **BRUNCH IN THE CITY** (SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS)
*With brunch at the Colonnade.*Reservations & Fee (\$32.50) Required**
- SUN., SEPT. 25, 2:00 PM** **HISTORY OF CARBONDALE**
Presented by James J. Racht at the Catlin House.
- SUN., OCT. 9, 10:00 AM** **BRUNCH IN THE CITY** (SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS)
*With brunch at the Catlin House. *Reservations & Fee (\$32.50) Required**
- SAT., OCT. 22, 10:00 AM** **BRUNCH IN THE CITY** (SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS)
*With brunch at Posh @ The Scranton Club. *Reservations & Fee (\$32.50) Required**
- FRI./SAT./SUN.,
OCT. 28-30, 6:00 PM & 8:00 PM** **SCRANTON AFTER DARK AND THE TROLLEY OF TERROR**
*Paranormal walking tours through downtown Scranton
followed by a haunted trolley ride. *Reservations and Fee (TBA) Required*
Details to be announced.*
- WEEKENDS IN NOVEMBER:** **MODEL TRAINS THROUGH THE AGES**
At Steamtown National Historic Site. Details to be announced.
- SUN., NOV. 20, 2:00 PM** **DELAWARE AND HUDSON GRAVITY PROGRAM**
Presented by John Revak at the Catlin House.
- THUR./FRI.
DEC. 8/9, 7:00 PM** **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT THE CATLIN HOUSE**
Details to be announced.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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