

I Dig History

By: Denis A. Yanashot

Much has been written as far as history goes in regard to the major railroads that ran through the Scranton, Pennsylvania area. Road names such as the Delaware Lackawanna & Western, Pennsylvania, Erie Lackawanna and Delaware & Hudson all come to mind. As a child I remember seeing all these names on locomotives and rolling stock that passed through my North Scranton neighborhood. These were all the big railroads known to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

There were other less known railroads that existed during the early part of the 19th century in Northeastern Pennsylvania. These railroads provided passenger and freight service. The lucrative commodity of deep mined, clean and slow burning anthracite coal from Scranton and other locations all over Northeastern Pennsylvania were carried to different markets outside the area by these railroads. Unless you are a real train buff, you probably would have never heard of any of these railroads. As for myself, only the big guys mentioned above come to mind.

There were small railroads that existed before and along with some of the big railroads. Eventually all these railroads were bought out by the bigger ones who were always in competition with them.

Last summer I got back into a hobby I did back in the 1980's. I enjoy the hobby of metal detecting

along with my wife. With every signal you get you have a chance to dig up a bit of history. Sometimes the history is not that interesting. You do dig much trash; but when you find something really cool it's like opening a present on Christmas morning. You never know what you will get and sometimes you are very surprised!

Sometimes you find some really old coins or relics. Real silver coins that had an intrinsic value are always a joy to pluck from eternity. Silver coins usually come up from the ground in shining glory! Beautiful designs of eras past.

Some relics are unique and reveal history. Sometimes the history is international, at other times national and sometimes it is local. It's always fun to research the items you find in the ground on the internet. Sometimes there are words inscribed on an object dug up to give you clues for your research. You can usually find out the history of the object you find in the ground somewhere on the internet.

This spring I was metal detecting a neighbor's yard a few doors down from my home. I found six silver coins in that front yard. A Standing Liberty quarter, Mercury dime, silver alloy war nickel, Roosevelt dime, Washington quarter and a 1912 Liberty Head

Barber dime.

Aside from the coins I found in that front yard; the most interesting object I dug out of the ground there was not the silver coins. It was a local histori-



Left: *Scranton and Bloomsburg / 209 / L&B R.R.*

Right: *In Consideration of Freight Carriage of Bag 3AGR N&V Is Agreed to be Limited to One Hundred Dollars*

**The Lackawanna
Historical Society 2021**

A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

I am very pleased to inform you that thirty years ago this past September, Mary Ann Moran Savakinus joined the staff of the Lackawanna Historical Society as an administrative assistant. Her work skills and applicable knowledge of historic conservation and presentation led to her appointment as Executive Director when the position became available in 1997. Over the last thirty years, Mary Ann has become the "go to" person when it relates to the history of our area. Always accessible, she has shared her knowledge and skills with countless individuals and organizations. She has indeed become an institution.

In honor of Mary Ann's anniversary, the staff and board of trustees "celebrated safely" at the September meeting with a "porch party" at the Catlin House. While enjoying champagne and chocolate covered strawberries, Mary Ann was presented with a proclamation from the Lackawanna County Commissioners as well as flowers and gifts from the trustees. In addition, the staff and trustees made financial contributions to the operating fund of the society in honor of Mary Ann's many years of dedicated service. I would encourage your donations in her honor should you wish.

I feel confident that the trustees, as well as my predecessors, would agree with me that it is a pleasure and privilege to work with Mary Ann. I am sure Alan Sweeney in particular, who together with Mary Ann, worked diligently to bring the Lackawanna Historical Society forward, would be most pleased.

*Stay well, safe and involved.
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 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.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is printed in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Entire contents copyrighted © 2021 by the Lackawanna Historical Society. Visit www.lackawannahistory.org and like us on Facebook for up-to-date listings of all activities!



Did you renew your membership for 2021!

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		
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<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$75		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150		
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver	\$250	TELEPHONE	_____
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At the Catlin House...

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Individual

Anne Armezzani, Scott Twp.
 Georgiann Cherinchak, Dunmore
 Gary Collarini, Carbondale
 Emily Cheri, Archbald
 Susan Hennemuth, Lake Ariel
 Sharon Jarrow, Nazareth
 Liz Mirarchi, Babylon, NY
 Barbara Powell, Clarks Summit
 Ruth Sando, Washington, DC
 Constance Rodski, Clarks Summit
 Frank Walsh, Moscow
 Richard Weintraub, Needham, MA



Family

Jim Bell, Lakeville, CT
 Christine Hill, Endicott, NY
 Richard Powell, Scranton

Contributing

Space Time Mead & Cider Work, Dunmore

Sustaining

Edward Leone, Scranton

Corporate

Joseph Hollander, Scranton Primary
 Health Care Center, Scranton

Welcome also to our new intern, Emma Gaughan from Marywood University, and volunteers Joanne Stetz, Edward Gregorowicz, and Maura Gladys! We appreciate your help, and are excited to be working with you!

Praise for Sarah's Daily Diversions

On July, 20th. we received this lovely message via Facebook from Jill Griner:

I want to say thank you. I've been living in south west Florida for a few years now and seeing and reading your page is beautiful. I miss my hometown of Scranton. I was born on the 500 block of Fillmore Ave. in 1981. We moved a block away to the corner of Everett and Pettibone in May of 1990. Our area in West Scranton was beyond beautiful and our neighbors weren't just there, they were our friends and family whom also watched out for us. I love your page!"

DINE LACKAWANNA

Enjoy a night out and help support the Society by dining out at these locations!

November 18: **Posh at the Scranton Club**
 404 North Washington Ave, Scranton
 (570) 955-5890

January 19: **Stirna's Restaurant**
 120 W Market St, Scranton
 (570) 343-5742



Thanks also to Lamar Advertising, our generous media partner for its ongoing support of this program



Cont. from pg. 1

cal relic. When I dug it up I did not know what it was. I thought it was a watch fob because of the elongated rectangular opening at the top. There was indeed writing inscribed on it. After brushing it a bit and giving it a preliminary cleaning it revealed itself to me.

I could make out "Scranton and Bloomsburg" on the front. Also on the front was the number 209 and under that large number was "L&B R.R." Wow! I found an old railroad baggage check! The most interesting part of it was the fact that I never heard of the L&B railroad. I figured it had to be a local because "Scranton and Bloomsburg" were inscribed on it.

The reverse side was just as interesting. There were some small lettered sentences written on it. I could not make-out what these said until I further cleaned the tag. On the reverse side it says:

*In Consideration of Freight
Carriage of Bag 3AGR N&V
Is Agreed to be Limited to
One Hundred Dollars*

Obviously, this was the railroad's disclaimer for the limited insurance value of one hundred dollars per bag.

I researched the L & B Railroad online and was surprised to find the history of this railroad that I never knew existed in our area. It was the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg Railroad. It was incorporated in 1852. Its

construction began in Scranton in 1854.

The initial line ran from Scranton to Kingston, a distance of 17 miles and opened on the morning of June 24, 1856.

It was a local passenger and coal hauling railroad. The first time the train ran it carried 300 passengers. The train ran three times a day. It continued to expand over the years to Northumberland that ended up as its terminus.

The Lackawanna and Bloomsburg Railroad continued its operation until 1873 when it was bought out by its competitor the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. One of the big guys who gobbled it up.

It's always nice for someone who appreciates history to find out something new. Especially something that was local and started before the Civil War. I really enjoyed finding out about the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg Railroad. I would have never known about it or its history if I did not dig up that baggage tag!

Metal detecting is just one way of discovering history. You never know what bits of history lie beneath our feet. Millions of interesting objects of history wait beneath the ground to be dug up. That Lackawanna and Bloomsburg R.R. baggage tag was just one of them dug up by a metal detectorist to see the light of day again!

MEMORIALS

In October, the Society lost a good friend when former Trustee Eileen Pocius pass away. Eileen joined the Society in 1988 and became a Trustee in 1993. She served as 2nd Vice President from 1999 until retiring from the board in 2006. Eileen chaired many LHS fundraisers including a wine tasting dinner in 2000 and our Taste of History program in 2001, but her greatest contribution to the Society came in her role as the Chair of the Education Committee, establishing student projects and programs that resulted in exhibits on the 1902 Anthracite Coal Miners Strike and Civil War Prison Survivor and Scranton Mayor Ezra Ripple. Eileen's enthusiasm for teaching was contagious and the Society truly benefitted from her leadership and support.

In Memory of Eileen Pocius

Bill Burnell & Kate Holod
Joe Cimini
Denise Cremard
James Earley
Dino & Angela Galli

Michael & Nada Gilmartin
Hemmler + Camayd
Geraldine Henwood
Nancy McDonald
Richard & Nancy Post

Marian & Michael Poveromo
Ella Rayburn
Richard Lenori & Eddie Smith
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
Matt & Stefanie Sordoni

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.

Catch Up With “Lackawanna Past Times” Features

Take a break from the upcoming hectic Fall/Winter Season and learn about local history!

The Lackawanna Historical Society continues the *Lackawanna Past Times* lecture series on the “Final Friday” of each month.

Tune in **Friday, November 19 at 2 pm** for an *Overview of the Steamtown NHS Archives* with Pat McKnight. Email us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com to register or check our Facebook page for the Zoom login.

If you miss any of our lectures, or want to see previous programs, videos can be found on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/lackawannahistory/videos> Recent programs include “the Wyoming Valley’s Native Past” with University of Scranton student Peter Burke, a photo tour of the Northern Electric trolley route with George Gula, and some dramatic tales uncovered in family genealogy!



Holiday Emporium at the Circle

We picked our pumpkins, so now we’re ready for Christmas— are you?!?

We’re bringing back our Holiday Emporium on **December 4 & 5** from **11 am - 1 pm** in partnership with “Christmas at the Circle” at the Circle Drive-in! The Circle will have fresh-cut Christmas trees available, so stop by for one-stop holiday shopping! Local authors Barbara Taylor, Joe Klapatch, Nick Petula, Gary Ryman, Jay Luke, and Nancy McDonald will be on hand with copies of their books; pick up art prints from Austin Burke, handmade items from Juliana Piccini or make your own ornaments with Arlene O’Malley! Check your email or watch our Facebook page for complete schedule and vendor list!



We are grateful to our friends at the **Circle Drive-in** for once again hosting our “Throwback Thursday” summer movie series with *Jaws*, *Christmas Vacation*, and *Caddyshack*! The movies raised more than \$2,700 for the Society. Thanks also to **Chris DiMattio, Juliana Piccini, Homestead Golf Course, Bob Savakinus, Montage Mountain, Zuppa Del Giorno, and Live With It** who donated items for basket raffles during the movies. Thank you for your continued support, and we hope to see you next summer at the movies!

Thanks also to our amazing tour guides **Leni Piasky, Juliana Piccini, Dalida Walton, Tom Cipriano** and **Joyce Hatala**, who continue to go above and beyond in leading tours of the city’s downtown offering architectural tours throughout the summer and haunted tours in October.

A final word of gratitude must be offered to our wedding crew: **Chris Ewasko, Jeff Kiefer, Michael Gilmartin, John Ochman, Dalida Walton, Tom Cipriano, Juliana Piccini, Frank Walsh, Leni Piasky, the Conlogues, the Forrers** and **Ella Rayburn** who keep the grounds looking good all year.

RECENT ACQUISITION

By: Ronnie Mead

It can be safely said that the people who work here at the Lackawanna Historical Society have an interest in the history, both of this area, and of our country's past. In that regard, we are often truly excited when the Society is able to acquire an exciting piece of history that is new to us, and we get to research it. The item pictured below, a recent donation, is just such an item.



At first glance this might appear to be nothing more than a “romanticized” 19th century Victorian era print of three cats – quite typical of the thousands of 19th century prints made by Currier and Ives, Kellogg, and others, that served as a cheap form of decorative art for the average American home. But, upon closer examination we find that it is oh so much more!

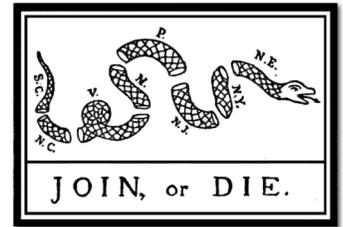
What we actually have here is an 1865-era political cartoon that speaks to the resolution of what was the single most important event in 19th century American History – the American Civil War and the issue of slavery.

A political cartoon is a drawing, expressing the artist's opinion, of an ongoing political issue, often including cartoon type caricatures of public figures. They typically combine artistic skill, hyperbole, and satire, to raise concern, and draw attention to corruption, question authority and point out other social and political ills.

Political cartoons are today, and have been for over two centuries, a significant part of the American political process. They were born out of political dissent, originally being developed in England in the latter part of the 18th century. The title of “father of the political cartoon” is generally bestowed on James Gillray, a British caricaturist and printmaker working between 1792 and 1820.

In the United States, a similar honor is bestowed on

Benjamin Franklin, who started things off with his 1753 political cartoon “Join or Die”, depicting a snake whose severed parts represent the fractured American Colonies. His drawing clearly shows how an artist can



distill a complex political issue into a single, potent image. It was not lost on the American people that Franklin was showing that the colonies, unless joined together, would surely perish, as would a cut-up snake. His cartoon helped create a sense of nationhood, and ultimately fueled the fight for American Independence.

Originally, during the late 18th and early 19th century, these political cartoons were often printed as a single sheet and passed from person to person, posted on walls, put in shop windows, etc. But, during the period of the American Civil War they gained in popularity when artist Thomas Nast's work was widely disseminated in the periodicals of the day. It was he who created some of the most instantly recognizable images in U.S. politics, including Uncle Sam, the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey – symbols that dominate American politics to this day. The provocative nature of these cartoons was an important part of the growing popularity of newspapers and magazines and served as a valuable selling point in the intense competition for readership. It is during this time of Thomas Nast – the time of the American Civil War – that our print was published – 1865.

Our print, a chromolithograph entitled “The Question Settled”, was published by the firm of E.C. Kellogg of Hartford, CT., in 1865. It features three cats. In the center is a white cat (white often is used to denote the “good guy”) with a full color U.S. shield and patriotically colored r/w/b ribbon that reads “OLD ABE” (for the victorious Abraham Lincoln) standing in a milk dish bearing the Great Seal of the United States and representing a united America. Abe the cat, in a dominant stance, stares menacingly over a cowering gray striped cat wearing a simple rope around its neck that reads “JEFF” (for the defeated Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy). A black cat on the left wears a ribbon that reads “CONTRABAND” is just climbing into the milk dish of America. (During this period this term was used to denote escaped slaves and their capture by Union troops in order not to have them returned to their owners under the terms of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850).

The milk dish sits on a map of the United States clearly showing the Confederate States Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South/Carolina, and their major cities: Mobile, Pensacola, Beaufort, St. Augustine, Savannah, Port Royal and Charleston. The map is resting on an American flag.

The actual print we have is in its original frame, and comes with the addition of a fancy cut out border of flowers, leaves and vines, a common type decorative embellishment used in Victorian times. It is shown as framed to the right.

NOTE: *Our research indicates that this is a rather scarce print. There are documented copies in the Library of Congress, and several other museums. In addition, there are records of but two of these prints having sold at auction in the past 20 years. We feel quite fortunate to have this print in our collection.*



New Acquisitions

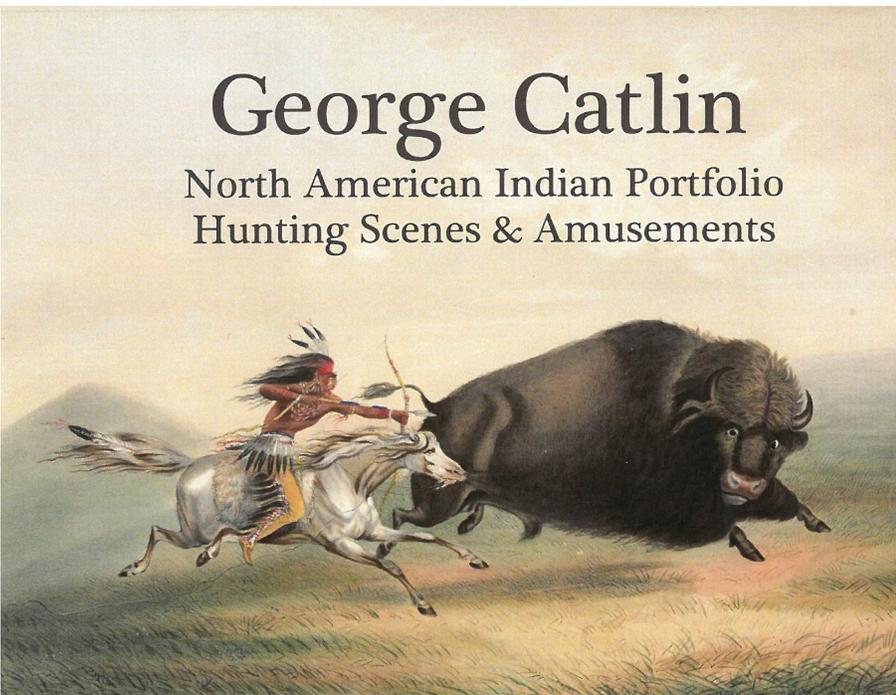
As with this item, there are times when an item is donated to the Society. There are other times, however, when we need to purchase an item. Our budget for such acquisitions is finite, and as such, monetary donations to our Collections Fund are greatly appreciated. Should you wish to donate to our Collections Fund, send your check payable to the Lackawanna Historical Society, with the word "Collections" on the memo line, to:

Lackawanna Historical Society , 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

If you prefer to donate online, use the *Donate Button* on our website at lackawannahistory.org and enter the word "Collections" in "Notes to Seller" box. Upon receipt we will send you an acknowledgement for your donation and note your contribution in our newsletter (unless you prefer to be anonymous). Any amount is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use.

George Catlin

North American Indian Portfolio Hunting Scenes & Amusements



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George Catlin

North American Indian Portfolio
Hunting Scenes & Amusements
November 6–December 11

Opening Reception: November 6, 2-4 pm

Gallery Talk: Wednesday November 17, 3pm
Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus, Executive Director,
Lackawanna Historical Society

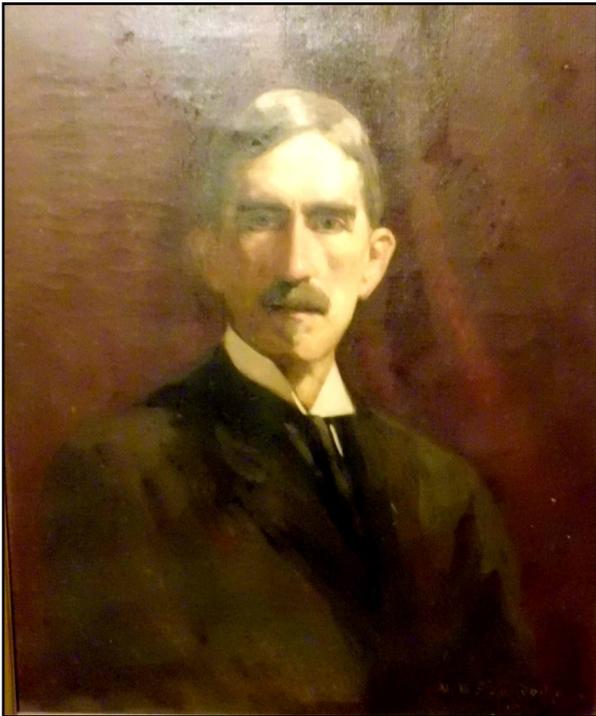
This exhibition was made possible by the generous support of the Lackawanna Historical Society.
www.lackawannahistory.org

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 stores beyond the canvas.

—Ronnie Mead

Mr. Mayor? Madame Mayor?



Hey, its 1906 and women can't vote or run for office, hmmm

Above is our portrait of Scranton's 13th Mayor, Joseph Benjamin Dimmick. It's a nice piece, but one that has a couple backstories that we find far more interesting than the portrait, or even the Mayor himself! This is one of those stories - the story of the woman pictured on the next page - Mrs. Anna Machette (Machett) Branda. But first let us give the Mayor his just due.

Joseph Benjamin Dimmick (R) was born in Honesdale and relocated to Scranton in 1883. In 1906 he ran for the office of Mayor of Scranton

and succeeded, in a bitterly contested race, in defeating “Honest” John Gibbons (D), by less than 1,000 votes. Less of an opponent, though a much more interesting story, was that Anna also ran!

On January 6, 2020, Scranton inaugurated its first female Mayor – Paige Cagnetti (D). I wonder how many Scrantonians can tell you the name of the first female to run for that office, or the year she ran? I doubt there are more than a few. Our current Mayor, and the early pioneer we are going to discuss may be separated by more than a century, but they are forever connected by history.

It is a gross understatement to say that Anna Machette Branda was simply a town character! She was an early active socialist with very strong views, was politically focused, spoke her mind often and freely, understood the power of the press and how to use it, made her presence known all over town, and was sometimes homeless, and often in trouble with the law, sometimes to the point of incarceration. In May 1898 she was confined to the Hillside Home for the mentally ill, and resided there for over a year. She followed that up in 1900 by being evicted from her rental unit, along with her mother, for non-payment of rent. And then she shocked everyone in 1906.

In that year, state law forbid women from running for office. In fact, it would be 14 more years before women were even allowed to vote! Yet run Anna did, as an Independent Socialist, vigorously proclaiming her socialist

beliefs. On Jan 3, 1906, the Wilkes-Barre Record reported “The mayoralty fight in Scranton is to be enlivened by the candidacy of a woman as Mrs. Anna Machetta (sic) Branda has announced herself to the voters on a unique platform”. Her platform promised hiring based on “honest, ability and diligence”, schools where recent immigrants could learn English, lights in parts of town that lacked them, paving of streets “where workers dwell” etc. In a January 5, 1906 newspaper article she is quoted as comparing herself to General Andrew Jackson, saying “I never surrender!” On election day, 1906, the Scranton Republican ran a story saying: “It is a question whether she can become a candidate for the place, legally, but inasmuch as there is not the remotest possibility of her receiving an election no one has cared to test the matter”. They were right – yet she did receive either 10 or 17 votes (depending on the source documents) by the male-only voters. Later that year, in August 1906, she was sentenced to 6 months for vagrancy. A magistrate recommended 60 days in jail and the institution of “lunacy proceedings”. In 1910, then living in Philadelphia, she announced she would run for Governor – she did not. A 1917 newspaper column had her “institutionalized” someplace. That place became the Philadelphia State Hospital for the Insane where she lived out her life.

Anna’s story is an interesting one but sadly there is very little known about her life before and after her time in Scranton. From Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com, we have determined that she was one of several children born to James B. and Olivia (Meiere) Machette in Philadelphia around 1850. James died in 1886 and Olivia lived until



1918. In 1872, Anna’s son, Frank Branda was born, but it is not clear if she was married to his father, also Frank Branda. However, Frank Sr. was found in the 1860 census living with Julius Meiere, Anna’s grandfather, so there was an early connection.

In the 1880 Census Anna Branda and Frank Jr. are living with her aunt and uncle, Edward and Lottie Coffee, in Philadelphia. She is listed as the married niece of the Coffees, and Frank as a nephew.

By the early 1880’s it seems that much of the Machette family have moved to Scranton following Anna’s brother James Jr. who is listed in city directories as an artist who runs a photography business with his brother Frank. James Sr. is also in Scranton working as a druggist. When he dies, his wife is listed on Lincoln Avenue as his widow. Anna and her son Frank show up in Scranton in the early 1890s living at different locations around the city, sometimes with her mother Olivia. Olivia is often mentioned in the newspaper articles about Anna’s troubles during this period, sometimes as an advocate asking for her release and at other times as a partner-in-crime as when they were forcibly removed from a room they let on Olive Street for not paying the rent. The last evidence we find of Anna is the 1920 Census listing her as a patient at the Philadelphia Hospital for the Insane. Her son Frank married Alice Jones of Ohio in 1894 then moved first to NYC then to Darien, CT where he died in 1933. It is not clear if he kept in touch with his mother.

It can be said that Anna Machette Branda was motivated to do good, and led an interesting, yet tragic life. She certainly made her mark on Scranton.



Nancy's Corner

This is (not) a bunch of Malarkey!

By: Maura Gladys

When T.J. Malarkey was celebrated for bringing Duke Yellman and his Irene Castle Orchestra to the area in 1923, it was just one of many contributions that Malarkey made to the area's arts community over the course of his lifetime.

An Irish immigrant whose family settled in the Pine Brook area of Scranton, Malarkey began advertising for

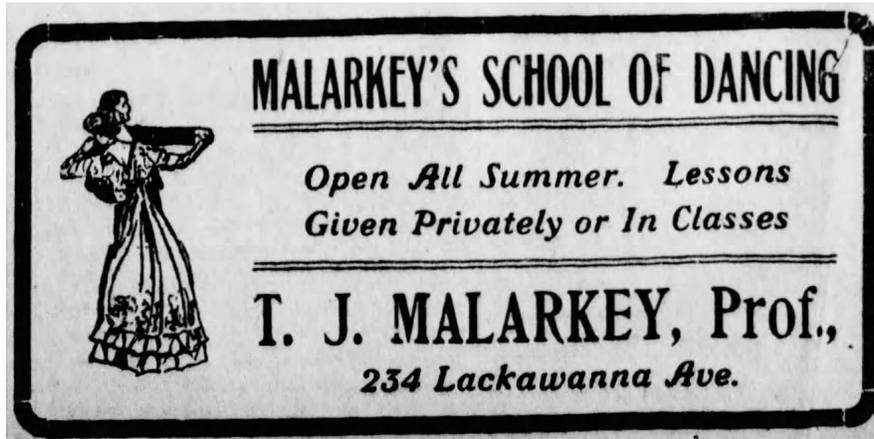
his dance academy as early as 1907, offering instruction in "every branch of dancing." Originally located at 234 Lackawanna Avenue, Malarkey's Academy soon grew in scope and renown, and by 1916 it occupied an entire floor at 311 Lackawanna Avenue, above W.T. Grant's department store.

Malarkey was a member of the American National College of Dancing, and the Inner Circle, at the time the largest organization of dance teachers in the country. In 1917, he travelled to New York City for with the group, where he learned all of the latest dances of the day and incorporated them into his classes.

A report in the September 20th, 1917 edition

of the Tribune characterized Malarkey as a passionate and dedicated educator: "*The modern and progressive teacher of dancing is animated by a sincere responsibility, the consequence of an intense love of his art, a respect for his pupils, and a sense of duty to the community.*"

He was responsible for many weeknight and weekend socials throughout the 1910s and '20s



and also conducted his own orchestra, a nine-piece enlarged jazz orchestra which often performed at the Northern Electric Park in Clarks Summit. By the mid-1930s he was in charge of dancing instruction under the WPA.

Malarkey passed away in 1936 after an operation. His obituary lauded him as "one of the county's leading dance instructors for the past 30 years." It went on to say:

— *Thousands learned their steps from the old fashioned waltz to the modern foxtrot under Professor Malarkey's tutelage...Back in the days when ballroom dancing was considered a necessary adjunct to the education of girls and boys —*

NOTE:

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

Marking John Farkas' Birthday

Thanks to the following who made donations to the LHS to mark the August birthday of the late John Farkas.

Sarah Piccini

Ella Rayburn

Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

In Appreciation ...from the Director

Dear Members,

September proved to be a whirlwind of celebration activities marking my 30 years with the LHS. I am so grateful to everyone who helped mark the occasion in a variety of ways. The month kicked off with our History Bytes editor, Rick Sedlisky, inviting me to provide a look back to share some of my fondest memories and discuss my accomplishments. Then on September 22, the Trustees honored me with a champagne toast and photo keepsake of the group by Cheryl Kaiser during our regular Trustee meeting. Things really fired up on September 30th

when my husband Bob, worked with our good friend Scott and other Society members to host a surprise party with greetings and honors from many past and present community leaders. It was truly wonderful to see so many volunteers, partners, and friends come out to mark the milestone, and I am especially grateful to Bob, Scott, Sarah, Olivia & Elaine for their work to make the evening so special. Thank you to everyone for their donations to the LHS, personal notes, beautiful flowers and generous gifts. I cannot express how appreciative I am to all of you for your continued dedication, support and friendship.

As I reflect on these last thirty years, I am so proud of the many projects and programs that were implemented and the improvements that were made to the Catlin House but what has impressed me the most are the many wonderful people I have come to know who have truly enriched my life. These include personal relationships, most obviously my husband, but also a very long list of individuals who have supported me and the Society because we share the same vision. Sharing is what makes the Society a great place to work. On any given day, I will reach out to someone who I know will help: Have a question about local breweries or baseball, call Nick Petula; need information on a person buried in Forest Hills Cemetery, call Norma Reese; stuck on a genealogy trail, ask Cecile Champagne, Don McKeon, Barbara Shuta or Tom Price; need to identify a coal breaker, call Charlie Kumpas; want to find out something about the river, call Bernie McGurl; have a question about Moscow, Daleville of Covington Township, ask Ted Baird, can't find a date for a Clarks Summit event, ask Dennis Martin or Charlie Kumpas; wondering about a portrait in the LHS collection, check with Ronnie Mead; have a question about local labor activities, call Bob Wolensky; have a question about an old Scranton building, call Richard Leonori; need to check a fact about a famous person who graced a Scranton stage, check with Nancy McDonald; want to learn more about John Willard Raught, ask Richard Stanislaus.... and the list goes on. I say it often but it is worth repeating: without these local history experts, there would not be a Lackawanna Historical Society. Because of their willingness to share their time, knowledge and research, we can all be inspired to explore Lackawanna County History. I know I am. - Mary Ann



IN MARY ANN'S HONOR

Thanks to the following who made donations to the LHS
in honor of Mary Ann's 30th anniversary

The LHS Trustees

Elaine Carroll

Jim & Gay Clifford

Joyce Hatala

Maria Wilson, Director of the Waverly Comm

—Photographs by Cheryl Kaiser

A 2021 Retrospective

As everyone knows, the last two years have presented many challenges to all of us as we survived the Covid-19 shut down and then tried to figure out how best to reopen. The Society met these challenges head on and worked hard to connect with members, researchers, partners, and the community at large. It seemed that things moved even faster after the shut down ended, and because of that, we thought it might be a good idea to take a moment to review the last year to share our accomplishments, recognize our supporters, and thank the many individuals who assisted us in so many ways.

Passing Time

In 2020, the Society began offering virtual programs on Zoom as a way to engage the public and continue to interpret the county's rich history. Since April 2020, we have

presented 44 programs covering a range of topics from Sarah Piccini's history of the 1918 Spanish

Flu to George Gula's photo tours of long vanished trolley routes. Special Thanks to Stephanie Longo for her early guidance to us in virtual programming.



It's All Relative

Our Genealogy Forum was only just getting started in 2020 when we had to transition to a virtual program. The monthly Zoom meetings offered participants a variety of informative guides on using public records to search for ancestors. This July, the forum was finally able to meet on person offering a Q/A session to assist researchers who were stuck. This led to our decision to offer a four week workshop in September at the Albright Library. Thanks to Barbara Spellman Shuta, Tom Price and Kate Bohan for leading the workshop. Ten individuals participated. Thanks also to Barb, Tom and Kate, plus Forum member Don McKeon for offering one-on-one assistance as needed. Stay tuned for upcoming 2022 Forum meetings to be announced soon.

A Few of our Favorite Haunts!

On August 13 the Society joined Wyoming Valley Ghost Tours and Forest Hills Cemetery for a guided

tour and ghost hunt. The event sold out quickly but we hope to plan a second event in the Spring. Thanks to Izzy DeFlice, the Bernardi family, Joyce Hatala, Bridget Conlogue and



Jenn Ochman for volunteering to help direct guests and to Norma Reese for guiding the tour and opening the cemetery for such a unique event.

We also joined Wyoming Valley Ghost Tours for two craft fairs at the Forty Forty Cemetery in May and October and look forward to continuing this exciting new partnership. Thanks to Joyce Hatala, Jim & Gay Clifford, Alice Witkowski, Jenn Ochman, Rich Jenkins and Bridget Conlogue for staffing our table.

What a Great Idea!

On August 15, LHS hosted a book signing with Cliff Melberger and Ed Ackerman for Cliff's memoir "I Have an Idea" on the Catlin House front porch. It was a wonderful afternoon with some light refreshments prepared by Reception Chair Dalida Walton. The book details Cliff's entrepreneurship and founding of Diversified Records including its Scranton branch. Former Mayor Jim Connors was in attendance and shared some of his favorite stories of working with Cliff. Copies can be purchased for \$15.95 at the Catlin House with a portion of its proceeds benefiting the Society. Thanks to Cliff and Ed for sharing their story and for their continued support.





The Hunt is On!

Valley Quest: Showcasing Culture, our second installment of our new annual scavenger hunt program, kicked off on October 6 with 14 registered teams. The program received sponsorship support from Toyota of Scranton, PPL Foundation and the Briggs Foundation with promotional support from media partners WNEP and Lamar Advertising.

The Quest took place during the month of October with weekly clues released inviting participants to journey throughout the county in search of symbols and sites that represent our cultural diversity. The program concluded with a November 4th reception featuring a local ethnic food sampling at Lackawanna College's *409 on Adams*. Thanks to our planning committee Chris Posly, Liz Boeth, Joyce Hatala, Olivia Bernardi and Sarah Piccini and to the businesses who donated prizes for participating teams. Questers included representatives from

Valley in Motion, Neighborworks of NEPA, The Authority on Heritage (LHVA), The Fountainhead (Scranton Cultural Center), Jermyn Historical Society, Library Sleuths (Albright Library), Lackawanna County Visitor's Bureau, the Scooby Gang (the Bernardi Family), History Quest (Bernie Maopolski), Kobal Frederickson Outlaws, History Hunters (Lamar Advertising), Arc of NEPA, Turbo Team Posture, and the Lackawanna County Fair Committee. Thanks to everyone for joining us. We cannot wait to do it again next year!



We Asked,
You Answered

Thanks to everyone who donated to the LHS during NEPA Gives on June 4th. We were ranked 28th out of more than 240 nonprofits who participated and raised more than \$8000 to help us continue our mission to inspire the exploration of Lackawanna County's history.

Local History Legends of Lore

You Live Here; You Should Know This! our local history game show continued last spring virtually through Zoom with live streaming on ECTV. Thanks to our education partners Kathleen Myers, Cindy Cerminaro, Shawn Murphy and Bill Gershey for another excellent program. We are so grateful to them, their students and all of the contestants who joined us for the 2021 games which can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/lackawannahistory/playlists>

Now We're Cooking

Thanks to Tammy Budnovitch for running the Pampered Chef virtual fundraiser last spring raising more than \$300.

Tea for Two (Make that 42!)

The Society's *Afternoon Tea* on July 31 sold out before we could send invitations or a press release! The 42 people who attended enjoyed a tea served by Deborah Yeager of Fiddlesticks Tea Company and were entertained by Melissa McKamie from the Scranton Shakespeare Festival's cast of *Ragtime*. Thanks to Carson Bushta, Izzy DeFlice and Ayman Mounota who assisted in serving the tea; to Michael Gilmartin and Juliana Piccini for assisting with set up and break down; to Michael Flynn for setting up the Shakespeare Festival partnership; to NET Credit Union for sponsoring the program; and to the individuals who contributed additional financial support. We are also most grateful to Dalida Walton, Leni Piasky and Tom Cipriano for setting all the program details and look forward to what they plan for us in 2022!



A 2021 Retrospective continued...

In the last year, the Society also worked to seek new grant opportunities, increase our outreach efforts to attract a broader audience, and enhance established partnerships while creating new ones.

Eye on History



The Scranton Area Community Foundation approved the Society's application for a 2021 Fall Innovative Impact Grant of \$3,000 to support our *Eye on History* project for the purchase of news computers and software that will allow us to add images and finding aids of our special collections to our website.

Remembering the Wholesale Block

This summer, the Society received funding support from the Robert H. Spitz Foundation and the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority in addition to private contributions to support a documentary about Scranton's Wholesale Block. *Remembering the Wholesale Block* will tell the story of how the unit block of Lackawanna Avenue served as Northeastern Pennsylvania's main produce supplier for more than 70 years with particular attention to the family businesses that populated the block and contributed to the city's commercial development. The unit block of Lackawanna Avenue is often noted for the many vendors who once filled the streets to supply local grocery stores with their inventory for the week. The families who operated here represent an interesting cross section of the region's demographics, including Lebanese, Jewish and Italian immigrants and their descendants. The completed project will tell the stories of how these families and their businesses evolved and reflect the region's rich and diverse cultural heritage. The Society is working with Cannon Fire Productions to complete the project for a Spring premiere.



The Robert H. Spitz Foundation

Using the Arts to Make History



In October, the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts informed the Society that we were approved for Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program Stream funding in the amount of \$3,000 to be used for arts-related programming.



Col. John Jenkins Archive

In September, the Society received a Historical Archives Records Grant for \$4,250 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to support Phase 1 of the Col. John Jenkins archive project. An archival consultant will survey, inventory and assess the collection of more than 3,000 letters, maps, invoices, land deeds, surveys, and journal entries dating from the 1770s through 1810 to help us gauge the scope of the archive, plan for its proper preservation and provide accessibility for future researchers. John Jenkins Sr. was a surveyor and conveyancer for the Susquehanna Company of Connecticut. His son, Col. John Jenkins, also an agent of the Company, served in the 24th regiment, Connecticut militia and later acted as chief guide for the Sullivan Campaign in 1779. The archive provides a unique glimpse into the disputed Yankee-Pennamite period of colonial settlement in Pennsylvania with references to noted Revolutionary figures including Ethan Allen, Timothy Pickering, and John Franklin.



General Support

We also received a Cultural and Historical Support Grant of \$4000 from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in April.



A Picture is Worth...

This summer, the Society received word from Lackawanna County that funding will be available to us in January for a Covid Creative project to work with West Scranton High School art teacher and graphic artist Anne McNally for the creation of new rack cards focused on the portraits displayed in the Catlin House to facilitate self-guided tours. Marywood Intern Emma Gaughan has signed on to act as the project's manager and West Scranton Intermediate teacher Cheryl Spager joins us to include her students in the project which we hope to complete by Spring.

Partnerships, Old and New



Telling our Story

In August, we received word from Julie Schumacher Cohen, University of Scranton's Assistant Vice President of Community Engagement & Government Affairs that the University received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for "Scranton's Story, Our Nation's Story" as part of NEH's "A More Perfect Union" theme leading up to the 250th anniversary of the United States. Through a two-year series of humanities-based lectures, dialogues, story exchanges, community tours, youth writing workshops and oral history collection, the University and its partners (including LHS) will explore the aspirational journey to fulfill our national ideals through the lens of Scranton – including industrial era growth and decline, waves of immigration past and present, religious tapestry, and Black and Indigenous experiences – with a focus on civic engagement, considering how the Scranton, and American, story may be understood anew 250 years later and the roles and responsibilities we have as citizens. More details will be shared as plans come together.



What's Next?

While 2021 was an exciting year, we know 2022 is going to be even better and are looking forward to completing many of the projects mentioned in the previous pages and continuing some of our favorite programs that were halted during the pandemic.

- Anthracite Mining Heritage Month is scheduled for January and the Society is planning a very special program to mark the month. Details will be announced soon.
- In the Spring our trustees will be working with our friends at POSH to reboot the Dinner by Design program to create a unique fundraiser centered on dining.
- In June we will bring back the very popular Historic House Tour once again joining our friends at the Greenhouse Project to include gardens, which was so successful in 2019.
- In the Fall and Winter of 2022, we hope to return to more in-person activities including the Annual Dinner and Holiday Open House, but in the meantime will continue to offer virtual programming including a sampling of some of our previous annual dinners. The link to watch the programs and more details will be

Dine Lackawanna

Thanks to the restaurants who participated in *Dine Lackawanna* during 2021 to raise more than \$2000 so far this year. Pizza by Pappas, AV Restaurant, Coopers Seafood House, Harvest Seasonal Grill & Wine Bar, 3 Jacks Burgers, Pat's Pizza and Hoagies, Villa Maria's Lola's Cabana, Pasquale's Pizzeria and Family Restaurant, and Sidel's Reastaurant. See page 3 for upcoming venues.



Preferential Treatment

In August the Society became a Preferred Partner Group of NET Credit Union. This new partnership will offer LHS members an opportunity to join NET Credit Union and also encourage current credit union members to join the Society.

Focus on Scranton

In April, the Society teamed up with the Pennsylvania Cable Network (PCN) for *Pennsylvania Neighborhood: Scranton*. PCN aired interviews with prominent Scrantonians, tours of popular restaurants, and virtual tours through the Lackawanna Historical Society's headquarters, the Catlin House! We also conducted downtown walking tours for an additional piece featuring Richard Lenori, Leni Piasky, Juliana Piccini and Joyce Hatala.

Old Friends

Partnerships with the Albright Memorial Library, Waverly Community House, Electric City Television and LCCVB continue to thrive.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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UPCOMING EVENTS & VIRTUAL HAPPENINGS

We're excited to see you!

*The Catlin House continues to be open for small group tours and research by appointment only.
Facemasks must be worn and social distancing is required. Thank you.*

- Wed., Nov. 17, 3 pm: ***GALLERY TALK ON ARTIST GEORGE CATLIN*** (see pg. 7)
Wed., Nov. 17: ***DINE LACKAWANNA*** at Posh (see pg. 3)
Fri., Nov. 19, 2 pm: ***LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES*** via Zoom, *Overview of Steamtown Archives* (see pg. 5)
Sat/Sun, Dec. 4-5, 11 am ***HOLIDAY EMPORIUM AT THE CIRCLE DRIVE-IN*** (see pg. 5)
Wed., Jan. 19: ***DINE LACKAWANNA*** at Stirna's (see pg. 3)
Fri., Jan. 28, 2 pm: ***LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES*** via Zoom, *Scranton Lace* (details TBA)
Sun., Jan. 30, 2 pm: ***ANTHRACITE MINING HERITAGE MONTH PROGRAM*** (details TBA)

**Please note that in December we will also be emailing our members
the slate of candidates for the Lackawanna Historical Society
Trustees Class of 2024 with instructions on how you can vote.**

Are you receiving History *BYTES*?

Please send your email address to lackawannahistory@gmail.com to make sure you are on the list.