



HISTORY BYTES

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

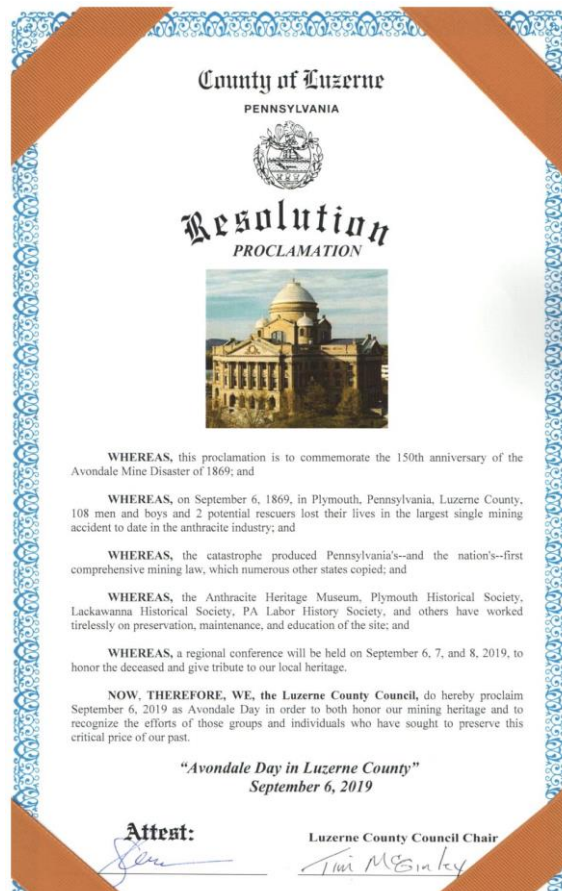
Vol. 2 No. 5

September - October 2019

Rick Sedlisky, Editor

Remembering Avondale: 150 Years Later

The September – October 2019 issue of History Bytes is dedicated to:
The men and boys of Avondale and their descendants



Proclamation Issued by the Luzerne County Council

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

***The Proclamation reads:
Resolution Proclamation***

Whereas, this proclamation is to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Avondale Mine Disaster of 1869; and

Whereas, the catastrophe produced Pennsylvania's and the nation's first comprehensive mining law, which numerous states copied; and

Whereas, the Anthracite Heritage Museum, Plymouth Historical Society, Lackawanna Historical Society, PA Labor History Society and others have worked tirelessly on preservation, maintenance and education of the site; and

Whereas, a regional conference will be held on September 6, 7, and 8, 2019, to honor the deceased and give tribute to our local heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Luzerne County Council, do hereby proclaim September 6, 2019 as Avondale Day in order to both honor our mining heritage and to recognize the efforts of those groups and individuals who sought to preserve this critical piece of our past.

"AVONDALE DAY IN LUZERNE COUNTY"
SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

Luzerne County Council Chair --Tim McGinley



L-R: Steve Kondrad, President PHS; Mary Beth Kondrad, PHS Board Member; Scott Cannon, Plymouth resident; Joseph Slusser, PHS Board Membe; Harry Haas, Luzerne County Councilman



Commonwealth Road Marker, Plymouth

Washburn Cemetery Marker, Scranton

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Avondale Mine Disaster

By Bob Wolensky

Anthracite's worst mining tragedy occurred on September 6, 1869, at the Avondale Colliery in Plymouth Township where 110 men and boys lost their lives to asphyxiation following a below-ground fire. An investigative committee called the disaster an "accident", but many contemporary observers and subsequent historians have pointed to the suspicious nature of the blaze. Whatever the cause, Avondale still stands as the deadliest mining disaster in anthracite history.

The 150th Anniversary of the Avondale Disaster is commemorated with three events during the weekend of September 6, 7, and 8, 2019. The first is an educational program at the Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton on the evening of September 6 and continuing during the day of September 7.

Featured speakers will include Prof. William Jones of the University of Cardiff, Wales, and Prof. Richard Healey of the University of Portsmouth, England. Both have done extensive research on the disaster anthracite mining history and culture.

The second is a commemorative ceremony at mid-day on September 7 at the Washburn Street Cemetery in West Scranton where 58 of the Welsh-ancestry victims were buried. The third event takes place in the late morning of Sunday, September 8 at the disaster site in Plymouth Township. The ceremony follows a 10am service at the First Welsh Baptist Church, Plymouth.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

The Avondale Mine Site Story

By Steve Kondrad

The Plymouth Historical Society had an interest in the Avondale Mine Site as far back as the mid 1990's. Helping to secure the Pennsylvania State Historical Commission Marker along Rt. 11 was one of the first projects. At that time, we partnered with the Anthracite Living History Group (ALHG) and local historian, Joseph Keating.

In the early 2000's, AHLG, Wilkes-Barre Vo-Tech, Future Farmers of America, Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR)) and Plymouth Township began work on clearing the wooded area below the stone block retaining wall of the Avondale Coal Breaker. After clearing the land for a Memorial Garden, wood rail fencing and an information kiosk were installed. Trees were also planted.

The groups mentioned, plus possibly others, did a fantastic job at the mine site. The problem was that the trail (former Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad right-of-way) that passes by the mine site was used by people who were illegally dumping trash in the area. The cycle of dumping, clean up and dumping again went on for years. Trying to catch or prosecute dumpers proved almost impossible.



Memorial Garden Entrance 2013
Photo courtesy of Steve Kondrad

Eventually, further improvements to the mine site were put on hold until something could be done about the dumping. As time passed, Mother Nature began reclaiming the land, sumac trees, vines, poison ivy and all means of invasive plants soon began to take over the cleared land. At that point, the site became a regular dumping site. It looked terrible.

In 2011, several Board members from the Plymouth Historical Society, in particular Amy Kirkpatrick and myself, took on the project of trying to clean the site and stop the

dumping. We searched through the mountain of trash and found personal documents and even the Social Security card of a person from Jim Thorpe, PA.

Since the Plymouth Township Police Department had been disbanded, we contacted the Pennsylvania State Police. We also came up with the idea that the only way to permanently stop the dumping was to have gates installed on the trail at both ends of the Avondale Mine Site. We contacted the newspapers and ended up having a front page article in Citizens Voice titled, *Disaster Zone*.



Citizens' Voice Newspaper Article Caption March 28, 2011

Prosecution of dumpers never came, but we did get the attention of the property owner, Earth Conservancy and the trail owners, UGI Utilities and Sun Oil Co. It took two years of let's say, *persuasion*, and in 2013, UGI Utilities installed swing gates on the trail at both ends of the Avondale site.



Avondale North Gate
Photo courtesy of Steve Kondrad

Meanwhile, in late 2012, Mike Dziak, CEO of Earth Conservancy, called the historical society to report that there was an opening into the mine tunnel near the Avondale

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Shaft. The normal procedure would be to have the Office of Surface Mining and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permanently seal the opening.

Mike suggested that we contact the agencies to inform them of the historical importance of the tunnel. I contacted Mike Korb at DEP and pitched the idea of installing a bat grate over the tunnel opening, rather than sealing it. Thank goodness he's interested in history, because they agreed on the bat grate. The grate was constructed and installed in January 2014.



Bat Grate
Photo courtesy of Steve Kondrad

In August 2013, Mike Dziak contacted the Plymouth Historical Society (PHS) and offered to donate the former Avondale Mine Site to us. The property needed to be subdivided from a much larger lot, so, it took a while to complete the transaction. In January 2014, we received the deed to 4.3 acres land at Avondale.

In 2014, PHS took part in the Great American Clean Up. We partnered with EPCAMR and on January 22, 2014, we received a \$500 grant through WPCAMR. We enlisted the help of volunteers and had a great turn out, including students from Coughlin High School and people throughout the community.



Clean Up Partners and Volunteers
Photos courtesy of Steve Kondrad

When the PHS took ownership of the Avondale Site, the path was cleared for us to reclaim the land. PHS now has the legal right to prosecute anyone who vandalizes the property in any way. As far as dumping, the site has remained virtually trash free since the gates were installed. Occasionally, someone leaves trash on the other side of the gates, but nothing at the mine site.

Other improvements included a second kiosk that we built and installed near the entrance to the Memorial Garden and a section of railroad track in an area that was once a siding.



Avondale Kiosk
Photo courtesy of Steve Kondrad

With 2019 being the 150th anniversary of the disaster, we've been concentrating on improving the look of the area above and below the mine shaft. This past spring, I began clearing the foundation site of the engine house above the mine shaft. It was completely covered with overgrowth, so it was a bit of a task. Keeping it weed free is also a bit of work, but nothing we can't handle.

Our future plans for the Avondale Mine Site are continuing the level of maintenance, expanding the cleared area to possibly include the former lamp house building, which is located above the Memorial Garden.

Education and promotion of the Avondale Mine Disaster is always a goal of the Plymouth Historical Society. Another of our goals is to see the trail become a part of the Susquehanna Warrior Trail System. Inclusion in the system will ease access to the mine site and increase foot traffic. Hopefully, that will eventually become a reality.



Memorial Garden entrance April 26, 2014
Photo courtesy of Steve Kondrad



Memorial Garden Today
Photo courtesy of Steve Kondrad

Steve Kondrad is President of the Plymouth Historical Society

A Foreign Field That Is Forever Wales

By Bill Jones

It could so easily be a cemetery in Wales. Thirty-nine acres full of Welsh history, the final resting place of people who created what was once one of the most distinctive Welsh communities that has ever existed. Here rest in peace Welsh people of all ages and callings. All around are gravestones marked with familiar Welsh surnames like Davies, Edwards, Evans, Jones, Thomas and Williams. Many of the inscriptions on the stones are in Welsh. Apparently, over a hundred men and boys named John Jones and Williams Evans are buried here.



Photo courtesy of Bill Jones

Here, too, are powerful reminders of the conflicts and tragedies of a turbulent Welsh industrial past. In one historic section lie the graves of 58 men and boys. They died from suffocation underground as a result of a fire in the shaft of the Avondale colliery on 6 September 1869 (the mine only had one shaft and those trapped underground had no means of escape; in all, 110 died, including two rescuers). All were buried on 9 September and all the local stores and business were ordered to close for the day. The final cortege -- 12 coffins and mourners -- made its way up to the cemetery at 7 in the evening as dusk fell. The tragedy made international news, the *Western Mail* carrying several reports including lists of the deceased.

In this cemetery, too, are the graves of Benjamin Davies and Daniel Jones, two miners shot dead by soldiers on 17 May 1871 during a disturbance in a nearby street as a long coal strike reached its violent climax. Davies and Jones were buried two days later. Davies's infant son, Taliesin, had died the morning of the funeral and was buried in the same coffin as his father. A Welsh newspaper estimated that up to 10,000 people were

in the cemetery attending the graveside services, which were exclusively in Welsh. Looking on were the soldiers who ringed the graveyard's boundary fence, keeping a nervous eye on the stunned and grieving Welsh community.

A Global History

But this hallowed ground isn't in Wales. It's reputedly the largest Welsh cemetery to be found anywhere in the USA, and it's possibly the largest anywhere in the world outside Wales. This is the Washburn or 'Welsh' Cemetery in Hyde Park, in the city of Scranton in the north-east Pennsylvania anthracite coalfield.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Scranton was 'the anthracite capital of the world' and was in the top 40 largest cities in the USA. Like so many places in Wales during the same period, Scranton was the child of booming iron and coal industries. No wonder newly arrived Welsh wrote home to say that the place was exactly like Merthyr or Aberdare or Tredegar, to name but three of many obvious counterparts. Scranton, and especially Hyde Park, where the bulk of the city's Welsh lived, was also the epicentre of Welsh America during the years when Welsh migration overseas was at its greatest.

It may seem far-fetched to suggest that Scranton's Washburn Street Cemetery is the most important place in Welsh History. Probably not many of today's readers of the *Western Mail* have even heard of it, let alone been there. But this foreign field that is forever Wales needs to be remembered and treasured. It ought to be considered as one of the most important Welsh historical sites for several reasons.

First, it symbolises an often ignored important element in the history of Wales. Welsh history isn't just about the Welsh in Wales, or the Welsh in England. Large numbers of Welsh people have become parts of the histories of Argentina, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and, of course, the USA, by far the most popular of Welsh emigrant destinations.

Because of a frustrating combination of absence of statistical records and the unreliability of those that were kept, we don't know how many Welsh people in total settled overseas. Possibly as many as a quarter of a million people born in Wales were living overseas at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The Welsh have a tradition of settling overseas that goes back centuries and still continues today. In some places they settled in sufficient numbers to make a major economic and cultural impact and give those locations an unmistakeable Welsh flavour: the Chubut Valley in Patagonia, the former goldfield towns of Victoria, Australia; the farming areas in Upper New York State, Wisconsin or Southern Ohio, and the coal and steel towns of Pennsylvania.

The Washburn Street Cemetery represents the global history of the Welsh. It's also a fitting memorial to those ordinary Welsh people who made up the bulk of the migrants. Much of what has been written on the Welsh overseas has inevitably concentrated on the ones who became famous in their adoptive societies. But, Welsh emigration is also a rich human tale of hopes and triumphs and failures and tragedies. The kind of stories that finally came to rest in the Washburn Street Cemetery.

The Largest Real Welsh Community in the World

The Washburn Street Cemetery also deserves to figure prominently in any list of the most important places in Welsh history because it is a memorial to what was the largest and arguably the most important Welsh community outside Wales and England during the Victorian and Edwardian era.

A century ago Scranton was a 'household word' in Wales, as the historian David Williams described it. It was probably the most powerful magnet of all those that attracted people out of Wales during those years. In 1890, nearly 5,000 people who were born in Wales were living in Scranton. Another 5,000 were American-born children of these native Welsh. Nowhere outside England and Wales had so many Welsh inhabitants. They also formed a substantial proportion of the city's total population, forming nearly 15% of the city's diverse ethnic mix.

Scranton was also a very important cultural centre in Welsh-American life and its Welsh inhabitants took that role very seriously. In the late nineteenth century the city was known as '*Athen Cymry America*' (the Welsh Athens of America) because of the richness of its Welsh cultural life.

Some of the biggest Welsh chapels in America were located there (some of the buildings still stand). Some of the largest and most prestigious *eisteddfodau* in America were held there, including the National American Eisteddfodau of 1875, 1880, 1885, 1902, 1905 and 1908, which absorbed the attention of Scranton inhabitants, whatever their nationality, and most of the Welsh in America.

According to the *Western Mail*, the 1880 *eisteddfod* pavilion 'presented a very brilliant scene at the opening'. Several Welsh-language newspapers and magazines were published in Scranton in the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s, as were English-language ones in later decades. In the great four-day-long World's Fair International Eisteddfod held in Chicago in September 1893, the Scranton Welsh fielded not merely one but two choirs (460 choristers in all) in the Chief Choral for Mixed Voices competition. The Scranton Choral Union, led by the Aberaman-born Haydn Evans, won the contest.

So strong was Scranton's Welshness during its Welsh golden era that in June 1910, the locally-published Welsh-American newspaper, the *Druid*, threw down a remarkable gauntlet. It demanded that the forthcoming Investiture Ceremony of the Prince of Wales, to be held in 1911, ought to take place not in Caernarfon or Cardiff but in Scranton.

Scranton was the best place to host the event, it declared, because 'we are the largest real Welsh community in the world'. And when Caernarfon was chosen as the venue, the newspaper snootily riposted (in September 1910) that Caernarfon should reciprocate by sending David Lloyd George to Scranton so that he could be proclaimed as the 'uncrowned king of the Welsh people' at the following year's 'Big Welsh Day'.

The Scranton Welsh would much prefer the latter to 'the investing of a dozen princes', it said. Hardly surprisingly perhaps, the Scranton Welsh community was widely regarded as being top in almost everything but bottom in modesty. And David Lloyd George did come, eventually, on a rainy evening in November 1923.

Buried In His Own Graveyard

The graveyard's official name is the Hyde Park Cemetery although it is most often known as the Washburn Street Cemetery. But for generations it has been known as the 'Welsh Cemetery' or, as it appears in innumerable death notices and reports of funerals in Welsh-language Welsh American newspapers, *Mynwent y Cymry* or *Claddfa'r Cymry*. Even the Scranton City Directories of the late nineteenth century called it the 'Welsh Cemetery'.

During its early years it was a small public burial ground for the residents of Hyde Park Borough. The cemetery's first 'resident' was Margaret Lynch, who died in 1832 and who had no Welsh connections as far as I'm aware. But from the 1840s onwards, as the Welsh presence in Scranton began to grow, so too did the cemetery increasingly bear an indelible stamp of Welshness.

Fittingly, one important strand in the cemetery's history is the benevolence of a Welshman, Thomas Phillips, a leader among the Welsh and one of the most generous philanthropists of his day.

In 1862 the original cemetery was expanded when Phillips purchased additional land for a burial ground. At the time of his death in May 1886, the city's *Sunday Free Press* insisted that 'few men are better known or more respected in Hyde Park ... To him we are indebted for the pretty Washburn Street Cemetery'.

Born in Nantyglo in 1824, Phillips emigrated to America with his parents when he was eight years old, and came to Hyde Park in 1854. A fine example of the crucial part Welsh industrial skills played in Scranton's spectacular economic development, Phillips became general manager of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, the largest coal mining company in the area.

His life also epitomises the vibrancy of Scranton's Welsh cultural life and the impact the Welsh made in many other walks of Scranton's life. Among many things he was one of the owners and editors of the Scranton-published *Baner America* (Banner of America) newspaper, a founder of the Welsh Philosophical Society, and Republican representative in the Pennsylvania State Legislature in the early 1880s. He was laid to rest on 5 May

1886, 'in his own graveyard' as a Welsh-American newspaper put it. His funeral was one of the largest that has ever taken place in West Scranton.

The Final Resting Place of Scranton's Welsh

Welshness burnt brightly in Scranton but relatively briefly. Eventually the Welsh language and Welsh religious and cultural institutions declined as the processes of cultural change and the adopting of new identities gathered momentum. First generation Welsh migrants passed away and subsequent generations regarded themselves far more as American than Welsh *and* American. And the stream of new Welsh migrants in search of a better life that had constantly replenished the city's Welshness for over half a century dried up in the inter-war years when Scranton, like Wales, experienced a savage economic depression.

In many ways, then, the Washburn Street Cemetery is a striking metaphor for the rise and decline of the city's Welshness. In 1983 a Scranton resident described the cemetery as 'the final resting place of the city's Welsh'. When I spent time in Scranton in 1981 doing research for my PhD thesis on the Welsh in America, I often asked people I met 'where did all the Welsh go?' I vividly remember the answer I invariably got: 'they're in Washburn Street'.

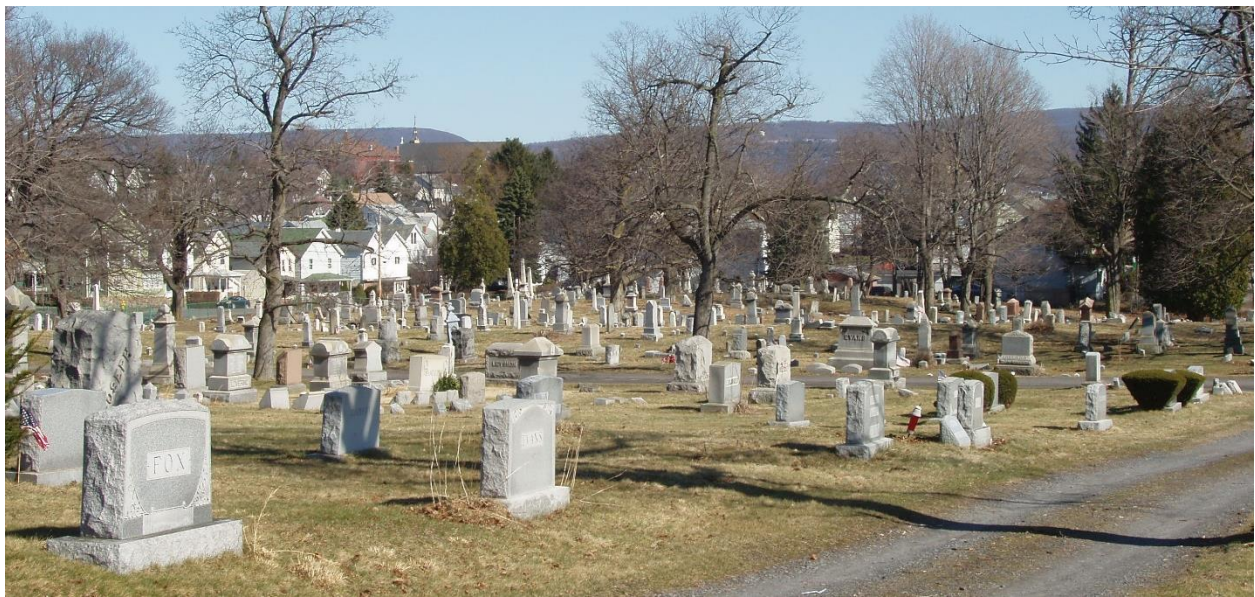


Photo courtesy of Bill Jones

But the history of the Washburn Street Cemetery is not just a history from below, a history that is now dead and buried. A sense of Welshness and pride in Welsh heritage still lives on in many parts of the world, as the large number of active Welsh societies overseas today shows. Scranton still has a Welsh profile through the efforts of local Welsh societies like the St David's Society of Lackawanna County and the Scranton Welsh Male Chorus.

Preserving for the Future

The Washburn Street Cemetery has itself been one of the focal points of present-day Welsh activity in Scranton. Over the years, it has had a troubled history as a result of neglect, poor maintenance and vandalism. Gravestones have been broken or have sunk into the ground and the cemetery is often used as a dumping ground.

In the past twenty years local enthusiasts and organisations have worked hard to clean up the cemetery and draw attention to its historic importance because of its links with the 1869 Avondale Mine Disaster. This was the worst disaster in the history of coal mining in north-east Pennsylvania. In its aftermath the state enacted America's first mine safety legislation.

Avondale was also a very Welsh mining disaster. Sixty-nine of the 110 victims were Welsh, as were all of the ones buried in Washburn Street Cemetery. In 1994 the National Welsh American Foundation, working with local groups and heritage organisations, sponsored a plaque commemorating the disaster, which was erected at the entrance to the cemetery. In 2009 a plaque was also erected adjacent to the graves. The local enthusiasts who are determinedly striving to clean up the cemetery, repair headstones and draw attention to its historic significance deserve support from Wales. Because many of the markers are becoming illegible, in 2017, funds were raised to have a bronze marker encased in granite placed at Washburn for the 58 laid to rest there.



Bronze marker with names of the 58 Avondale men and boys laid to rest at Washburn Street Cemetery

Photo courtesy of Rick Sedlisky

The Washburn Street Cemetery's 39 acres are a perfect memorial for us to remember and pay tribute to the story of Welsh people outside Wales in the nineteenth and early

twentieth centuries. This evocative field far away from Wales is not 'foreign'; it's part of the history of Wales. But it's also part of the history of America. What happens to Welshness when it is transplanted in different cultures, languages and nations is a central feature of the complex and diverse history of the Welsh people.

Finally, the Washburn Street Cemetery also lives on as a tribute to ongoing efforts all over the world to keep Welsh heritage and links with Wales alive. Perhaps Hillary Rodham Clinton, former New York Senator, First Lady of the USA and US Secretary of State, would agree with me.

Unlike David Lloyd George nearly seventy years earlier, on 10 April 1993 she and husband Bill visited the cemetery. They were there to attend the graveside service of its most well known occupant: Hillary's father, Hugh E. Rodham, who was brought up in Scranton. His mortal remains lie alongside those of Hillary's paternal grandfather and grandmother, Hannah Jones (1882-1952), from Wales. Fittingly perhaps for a Welsh cemetery, it rained heavily the day of the burial.

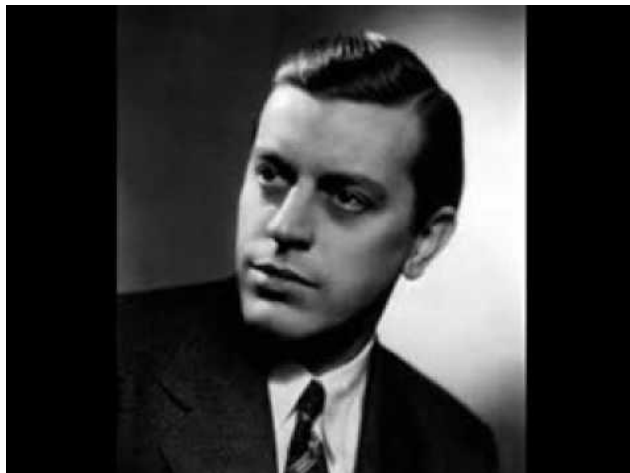
A Foreign Field That Is Forever Wales originally appeared in the Western Mail on Tuesday April 10th 2012.

William D. (Bill) Jones is Emeritus Professor at Welsh History at Cardiff University, where he taught the history of Wales in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries between 1994 and 2017. Before that he was curator of the coal mining collections at the National Museum of Wales. He is originally from Carmarthenshire and now lives in Cardiff. He specialises in the history of the Welsh outside Wales and is the author of *Wales in America: Scranton and the Welsh 1860-1920*.



Marker located at entrance to Washburn Street Cemetery

Person of Interest



Thomas, Thomas Llyfnwy (1911-1983) ***Concert Singer, Welsh*** ***By Bill Jones***

Through his concert appearances and radio and television broadcasts, Thomas Llyfnwy Thomas became one of the most well-known and popular singers in mid-twentieth-century America and acquired an international reputation. His fame brought his ethnicity to the attention of a wider audience and reinforced mainstream American society's identification of Welshness with music and singing.

Thomas was born in the coalmining town of Maesteg, South Wales, into a mining family rich in musical talent. In 1923 the family emigrated to Scranton, Pennsylvania, a city whose large Welsh contingent and flourishing Welsh cultural life sustained their ethnic identity and their interest in music. Thomas first trained as a technical draftsman but at the age of 22 decided to take up singing full-time. "God had given me a good set of vocal chords," he later recalled, "and I decided to use them instead of a slide rule."

Over the next thirty years Thomas's mellow yet haunting baritone voice would be heard by millions and it rewarded him with great wealth. Level-headed as well as naturally talented, he also benefited from the relaxed, easy-going rapport he struck with his audiences. He had the qualities, therefore, that could exploit to the full the opportunities presented by America's booming concert circuit and expanding radio network. In 1933, on the advice of Nelson Eddy, he moved to New York and began to appear on radio broadcasts and in concerts. His breakthrough came in 1936, when, at the age of 25, he became the youngest-ever winner--and the first Welsh winner--of the New York Metropolitan Opera House competition.

Although Thomas made his debut at the "Met" in 1937, it was through public concerts, radio and television, not in opera, that his name became a household word. In 1942 he joined "The Voice of Firestone" radio programme and sang on its television premiere;

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many would remember him primarily as “The Voice of Firestone,” so frequent were his appearances over a period of nearly twenty years. There were also regular contributions to other radio and television programmes, and he began to acquire an international reputation as a solo concert artist, performing with major symphony orchestras throughout the United States, Canada, Australia and British Isles. In the 1950s, when his career was at its zenith and he was averaging 60 concerts a year, he was one of the highest paid concert artists in America and was regarded as one of the top concert soloists in the world. However, during the 1960s he withdrew from the public eye but still taught voice culture in several colleges and universities in Arizona and at his private studio in Scottsdale.

Throughout his life, Thomas's Welshness remained important to him. He continued to speak his native language and he regularly took advantage of his public platforms to publicize his love of Wales. Apparently he never gave a concert without including a selection of Welsh songs and always sang in Welsh during his appearances on television and radio on 1 March, St David's Day (Wales's Patron Saint's Day). The acclaim he earned in his adopted country was matched by recognition by his homeland. Fittingly, his last public appearance was in a film marking the inauguration of the Welsh-language television channel in Wales in November 1982.

SOURCES:

“A Singer Talks”, *Y Drych* [The Mirror] 15 December 1956; “Famed Singer Dies”, *Y Drych* [The Mirror]: *The American Organ of the Welsh People*, May 1983; “A Great Voice is Silent,” *Ninnau* [Ourselves]: *The North American Welsh Newspaper*, 1 May 1983; Edward and Barbara Thomas, “Thomas Llyfnwy Thomas (1911-1983): Portrait of a Professional,” *Welsh Music*, 8.3 (Autumn 1986): 7-12, and 8.4 (Winter 1987): 28-39; and Thomas L. Thomas file, BBC Wales Music Library, Cardiff.

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“A Great Voice is Silent,” *Ninnau* [Ourselves]: *The North American Welsh Newspaper*, 1 May 1983: 3

Thomas, Edward and Barbara. “Thomas Llyfnwy Thomas (1911-1983): Portrait of a Professional,” *Welsh Music*, 8.3 (Autumn 1986): 7-12, and 8.4 (Winter 1987): 28-39.

Thomas L. Thomas file, BBC Wales Music Library, Cardiff, Wales.

Thomas L. Thomas Collection, containing his musical repertoire, Welsh Music Information Centre, Cardiff, Wales.

Wilson, Maggie. "Baritone Thomas voices love for world of song," *Arizona Republic*, 26 December 1971.

William D. (Bill) Jones is Emeritus Professor at Welsh History at Cardiff University, where he taught the history of Wales in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries between 1994 and 2017. Before that he was curator of the coal mining collections at the National Museum of Wales. He is originally from Carmarthenshire and now lives in Cardiff. He specialises in the history of the Welsh outside Wales and is the author of *Wales in America: Scranton and the Welsh 1860-1920*.

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If you have any Northeast Pennsylvania-related stories you'd like to see included in History Bytes, please contact the Society at the above email address. Please include your name, email address and a brief description of your story.

Upcoming LHS Events

Friday - Sunday, September 6-8: Avondale 150th Commemoration, various sites

Wednesday, September 18: Dine Lackawanna at Strina's

Sunday, September 22, 2 pm: Through the Photographer's Lens at the Catlin House

Friday, September 27, 7 pm: Say Yes to the Dress, "Rehearsal Dinner" at POSH, \$40

Saturday, September 28, 1:30 pm: Say Yes to the Dress, "Meet the Curators" Q&A at POSH

Sunday, September 29, 11 am: Say Yes to the Dress, "Postnuptial Brunch" at POSH, \$30

Friday, October 4, Scranton After Dark: Haunted walking tours begin every Friday through Halloween and Saturday, October 26.

Wednesday, October 16: Dine Lackawanna, TBA

Saturday, October 19: Genealogy Workshop at the Overlook

Wednesday, November 20: Dine Lackawanna at Tiffany's

LHS Membership Information

2019 Membership Reminder

About Membership: Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice, special discounts and invitations

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to all Society activities, members-only programs, the quarterly newsletter and the bi-monthly e-newsletter.

Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend who is interested in joining. Please return it to:

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

Lackawanna Historical Society Membership Form

// Student	\$10	Name _____
// Individual	\$35	
// Family	\$45	Address _____
// Contributing	\$75	_____
// Sustaining	\$150	
// Silver Corporate	\$250	Telephone _____
// Gold Corporate	\$500	Email _____

Following is a link to complete for membership payment if you chose to use it.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSep8tRxXJUut7McTh4g4StczVjC4HRJAXMDE-ztxEDCzLncvA/viewform>

Internet Links

Historical Attractions

- [Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority](#)
- [Steamtown National Historic Site](#)
- [Anthracite Museum and Iron Furnaces](#)
- [Electric City Trolley Museum](#)
- [Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour](#)
- G.A.R. Memorial Association Museum: Contact Joseph Long, Jr. 570-457-8438

Cultural Partners

- [Albright Memorial Library](#) and the Lackawanna County Library System
- [The Everhart Museum](#)
- [Scranton Cultural Center](#) at the Masonic Temple
- Scranton's Annual [Civil War Weekend](#) Events
- Scranton Times-Tribune's [Pages from the Past](#)
- [Pocono Arts: Where Culture Builds Community](#)

Anthracite Research

- [Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field](#) <http://www.northernfield.info/>

Historical Societies

- [Carbondale Historical Society](#)

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- [Dunmore Historical Society](#)
- [Luzerne County Historical Society](#)
- [Wayne County Historical Society](#)
- [Susquehanna County Historical Society](#)
- [Monroe County Historical Society](#)
- [Wyoming County Historical Society](#)
- Archbald Historical Society: Contact Ed Casey (570) 614-3628
- Scott Township Historical Society: Contact Robert Vail (570) 254-9536
- Taylor Historical Society: Contact Christine Schaefer (570) 562-1225

County and Educational Partners

- [Lackawanna County](#)
- [Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit](#)

Lineage Societies

Provided by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

If you can trace one of your ancestral lines far enough back in time, and if you have acceptable proof, you might be able to join a lineage society. Here are links to the most popular ones. (You can find links to others by doing internet searches for descriptive words.) Links below include those for the organization's national headquarters web page, their Pennsylvania page, pages for selected local components, locating individual chapters, information about joining, and contacting the organization.

- The General Society of Mayflower Descendants:
National <https://www.themayflowersociety.org/>
Pennsylvania valcullen@comcast.net
- The Daughters of the American Revolution:
National <http://www.dar.org/>
Joining <http://www.dar.org/national-society/become-member/how-join>
Locations <http://www.dar.org/national-society/become-member/chapter-locations>
- The Sons of the American Revolution:
National <https://www.sar.org/>
Pennsylvania <http://www.passar.org/> and ehtroutman13@gmail.com
- First Families of Pennsylvania:
Pennsylvania <https://genpa.org/first-families-of-pennsylvania/>
- The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution:
Pennsylvania <http://amrev.org/>
Lancaster <http://amrev.org/about-the-society/lancaster-chapter/>
Joining <http://amrev.org/becoming-a-member/overview-instructions/>

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

- The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War:
National <http://www.suvcw.org/>
Pennsylvania <http://pasuvcw.org/>
- The Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Inc. (NEPGS):
Local NEPA <http://www.nepgs.org/>

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2019

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Dalida O'Malley, Assistant Treasurer
William Cologue, Secretary

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Sarah Piccini, Assistant Director Olivia Bernardi, Creative Director
James and Gay Clifford, Caretakers

Business Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 5pm

Saturday, 12pm – 3pm

Address: The Catlin House, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510

Phone: 570-344-3841

e-mail: lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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===== [***lackawannahistory@gmail.com***](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com)