



## HISTORY BYTES

*A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication*

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*Rick Sedlisky, Editor*

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Soldiers' Section, Shady Lane Cemetery, South Abington Twp.  
Photo courtesy of Louise Brennan

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## ***Memorial Day 2022***

The tradition of honoring war dead dates back centuries. The ancient Romans and Greeks were known to hold annual days of remembering loved ones each year by placing flowers at graves and holding public events in their honor.

In May 1868, Union Army General John A. Logan decreed that May 30 should be a National Day of Commemoration for all soldiers killed in the Civil War. He chose May 30 because it was a date that didn't fall on the day of a Civil War battle.

He called it Decoration Day and said that on that day, Americans should place flowers and decorate the graves of soldiers. It wasn't until the country's involvement in World War I that Decoration Day included fallen Americans from all wars.

Although the day was called Memorial Day in the 1880s, it remained known as Decoration Day until it was changed to Memorial Day by federal law. The Uniform Holiday Act of 1968 moved the date from May 30 to the last Monday in May.

There are some formal traditions still in effect. On Memorial Day, the flag must be flown at half-staff and then raised to full staff at noon. In 2000, when Congress passed additional legislation, Americans are asked to pause for a National Moment of Remembrance at 3pm local time.

### ***95 Years to the Day and Hour Officially Remembered Once Again***



Soldiers' Section, Shady Lane Cemetery, South Abington Twp.  
Photos courtesy of Louise Brennan



Beginning in approximately 1986, conditions at Shay Lane Cemetery began a long and steady decline because of lack of maintenance by the owner. Following complete abandonment by the second owner around 2009, any maintenance since then has been courtesy of relatives of people interred there and community volunteers.

As the Friends of Shady Lane continue their efforts to clean up the years of neglect and provide the cemetery with long overdue care, it's not surprising that historical aspects of the graveyard would also be uncovered.

One such part of Shady Lane's history is the *Soldier's Section*. In 1927, that part of the cemetery provided free burial plots for all veterans. The dedication ceremony was held on Sunday, May 29 of that year. Shady Lane was only five years old at the time of the dedication and over the subsequent decades, there were most likely many Memorial Day ceremonies held.

Although Friends of Shady Lane and others do not know exactly when the last Memorial Day ceremony was held, on Sunday, May 29, 2022, at 1pm, 95 years to the day and hour of the initial dedication, a ceremony honoring those laid to rest in the *Soldiers' Section* will take place, renewing the tradition hopefully for generations to come.

A poster for a Memorial Program at Shady Lane Cemetery. The background features a close-up of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The text is overlaid on the right side of the flag. A dark red rectangular box on the left side of the poster contains the text "Bring folding chairs or blankets".

Join us for a

**MEMORIAL  
PROGRAM AT  
SHADY LANE  
CEMETERY**

Sunday, May 29  
1:00 PM

Flag pole, Soldiers' Section

*remember & honor*

Bring folding  
chairs or  
blankets

## ***Memorial Day Ceremonies at the Scranton Veterans Memorial Monument***



Scranton Veterans Memorial Monument  
Photo courtesy of Pat Ahern

Memorial Day ceremonies will be held at the Scranton Veterans Memorial Monument on Monday, May 30, 2022, at 12pm. The monument is located off Providence Road adjacent to Memorial Stadium. Inscribed on the monument are the names of 982 people who served the country during WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, as well as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The program will consist of an honor guard that will fire a salute, playing of Taps, Pledge of Allegiance, wreath placement and guest speakers. Master of Ceremonies is Jim Kuchwara, Commander. VFW Post 25.

Speaker Pat Ahearn will share the story of one of the 982 whose names are included on the monument. Maj. Edward J. Poch Sr. was a Scranton man who enlisted in the Army in 1913. After serving in WWI, he returned to civilian life to become a member of the Scranton Fire Department. He was called back to active duty to serve during WWII and as others, he endured some of the worst that war has to offer.



Focusing on one veteran's story allows people to hear in detail what some experienced as they served our country, and in many cases, made the ultimate sacrifice. The story of Maj. Edward J. Poch Sr. is one of many that underscores the meaning of Memorial Day.

Major Edward J. Poch Sr. American Legion Post 948, located in South Scranton, is named in his honor.



Scranton Veterans Memorial Monument  
Photo courtesy of Pat Ahern



Image source: clipartix.com/Memorial Day

## ***Shady Lane Cemetery Receives Long-awaited, Well-deserved TLC***



Shady Lane Cemetery Clean-up: It Begins with One.  
Photo courtesy of Carol Wilkerson

Following more than three decades of neglect and deterioration because of lack of maintenance, subsequent abandonment, and years of negative press, Shady Lane Cemetery, South Abington Twp., is the recipient of long-awaited and well-deserved TLC, tender loving care.

Mid-June brings a special edition of History Bytes in which we'll cover what is known about the resting place of an estimated 6,000+ from its establishment in 1922 to 2022 and the beginning of once again becoming a valued community asset.

Readers will learn how the efforts of one woman, Louise Brennan, and her lawn mower resulted in the formation of a nonprofit organization called Friends of Shady Lane Cemetery. Its members are dedicated to rescuing the cemetery from nature's attempts at reclamation, as well as human vandalism.

Also discussed is how, early on, some rather savvy advertising made Shady Lane the resting place of numerous Scrantonians who would literally "rest in peace" and why. We'll also learn of a section that was apparently set aside by an immigrant group for internment of indigent women.

In the meantime, to learn more about Shady Lane and efforts underway, please visit the Friends of Shady Lane Cemetery Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Shady-Lane-Cemetery>

## ***In Memoriam***

James Clifford, who with his wife Gay served in the position of Caretaker, passed away recently. Jim was a wonderful person whose passing is a great loss for all who knew him. Gay Clifford continues as Caretaker.

## ***LHS 2022 Membership Information***

**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, 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: 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.

<http://www.lackawannahistory.org/benefits.html>

## ***Upcoming Events***

**Wednesday, June 1 – Sunday, June 5: Lackawanna County Fair.** See Page 12

**Thursday, June 2, 6 pm: You Live Here; You Should Know This!** See Page 12

**Saturday, June 11, 6pm – 8pm: Members' Mixer, Catlin House.** Meet staff, volunteers, and trustees, tour the Catlin House, and see behind-the-scenes spaces not usually open to the public. To RSVP by June 7, call 570-344-3841

**Tuesday, June 14, 7pm:** Underground Railroad Connections, Sherman & Cindy Wooden

**Saturday, June 18: 7:30pm: Forest Hill Cemetery Ghost Tour,** Wyoming Valley Ghost Tours

**Friday, June 24, 6pm: Meet the Generals** & documentary screening of **Confederation of Civil War Generals** at the Waverly Community House

**Saturday, June 25, 6pm – 10pm: Annual Grand Civil War Ball,** Waverly Community House

**Sunday, June 26: Beyond the Hill A Tour of Our Favorite Places and Things.** See Page 13

## ***Ghostly Gallery Link:***

<http://www.lackawannahistory.org/ghostlygallery.html>

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***lackawannahistory@gmail.com***

## ***Dine Lackawanna***

Numerous restaurants support LHS through participation in Dine Lackawanna. Have an evening away from the kitchen and help support these establishments and LHS.

**Wednesday, June 15: Camelot**, 17 Johnson Rd., Clarks Summit, 570-585-1430

**Wednesday, July 20: Delish on Main**, 254 N. Main St., Moscow 570-848-2204

### **Abingtons**

#### **Clarks Summit**

Camelot  
Formosa

The New Cafe  
State Street Grill

#### **Chinchilla**

Armetta's Restaurant & Pizza

### **Upvalley**

#### **Carbondale**

KOL Steakhouse  
Pat's Pizza & Hoagies

#### **Jermyn**

JW's Bar & Grill

#### **Eynon**

Pasquale's Pizzeria and Family Restaurant  
Tiffany's Tap & Grill

#### **Simpson**

Frank's Place

### **Mid Valley**

#### **Dickson City**

Texas Roundhouse  
Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza

#### **Olyphant**

OTown Bar & Grill

#### **Jessup**

Café Colarusso

### **Scranton**

Ale Mary's at the Bittenbender  
AV Scranton  
Back Yard Ale House  
Cafe Classico  
Carmen's 2.0 Restaurant  
Mansour's Market Café & Eatery  
POSH at the Scranton Club

Market Street Bar & Grill  
Pizza by Pappas  
Sidel's Restaurant  
Stirna's Restaueant  
La Cucina  
Villa Maria Lola's Cabana

### **Downvalley**

#### **Old Forge**

Dooley's Pub & Eatery

### **Dunmore/North Pocono**

#### **Dunmore**

3 Jacks Burgers

#### **Moscow**

Delish on Main

#### **Springbrook Twp.**

Olde Brook Inn



## ***Genealogy Forum***

**Saturday, June 18 & 25 and July 9 & 16, 9:30am – Noon:** Genealogy for Beginners workshop at the Albright Memorial Library. Participants must commit to all four sessions. Cost \$35 Members / \$50 Non-Members. Please call to register.

To register, please email [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com) or call 570-344-3841.

### ***The Running of the Saints Returns***



Image source: [discovernepa.org](http://discovernepa.org)

Following a two-year hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Ubaldo Day and its “Corsa dei Ceri” or “Running of the Saints” returns to Jessup, Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 28.

The tradition was brought by Italian immigrants to Jessup in 1909 from the town of Gubbio, Italy, as a way for the newly arrived people to retain a connection to Gubbio and their heritage.

Ubaldo Baldassini was born in 1084 and was appointed Bishop of Gubbio in 1128. In 1155, German Emperor Barbarossa began his invasion of the province of Umbria. Ubaldo Baldassini quietly left Gubbio to find the emperor and convince him not to attack the town.

When Baldassini was seen returning down the mountainside alive and well, the residents placed him on an H-shaped platform and raced him through Gubbio’s streets in celebration. Subsequently, St. George and St. Anthony were included in the festival to represent different social classes. St. Ubaldo represents the stonemasons, St. George, the merchants, and St. Anthony, the farmers. Statues of the three are raced through the streets of Jessup, and St. Ubaldo, of course, always “wins” the race.

Ubaldo Baldassini was canonized by Pope Celestine III on March 4, 1192.

## NEPA Gives Day

Friday, June 3 from 12am to 11:59:59pm is *NEPA Gives Day*, a 24-hour period when donors contribute to their favorite local nonprofit organizations via the online NEPA Gives platform. Donations to participating nonprofits will be enhanced with funds provided by NEPA Gives sponsors, enabling contributions to go further.

Consider getting creative by organizing your own event where friends can gather for socializing and support LHS at the same time. Possibilities include hosting a 50/50 raffle, a chili cookoff, a fundraiser picnic, or something totally unique. Following your event, on June 3, go to <https://www.nepagives.org/organizations/lackawanna-historical-society-the-catlin-house> and make your donation. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Architectural Walking Tours

June brings the return of Architectural Walking Tours, free guided walking tours that offer a look at and a chance to learn about Downtown Scranton's building architecture. A new addition to the tour list meets at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel to discuss the Lackawanna Avenue Business District and the former *red-light district*. Tours meet on Saturday mornings at 11am and are limited to ten people. Please call 570-344-3841 for reservations.

**June 11:** Lackawanna College, N. Washington Ave. & Vine St.

**June 25:** Lackawanna Radisson Station Hotel, 700 Lackawanna Ave.

**July 9:** Courthouse Square, N. Washington Ave. & Linden St.

**July 23:** Elm Park Church, Linden St. & Jefferson Ave.

**August 6:** Lackawanna Radisson Station Hotel, 700 Lackawanna Ave.

**August 20:** Lackawanna College, N. Washington Ave. & Vine St.

**September 10:** Courthouse Square, N. Washington Ave. & Linden St.

## Throwback Thursdays at the



Image source: circledrive-in.com

Spend a few summer evenings viewing classic movies at the Circle Drive In, located on Business Rte. 6, Dickson City. Movies begin at dusk. Tickets are \$8 with proceeds benefitting LHS.

**June 16, *Jaws*:** Take a chance on winning a themed basket raffle.

**July 28, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*:** Celebrate Christmas in July and come dressed as your favorite character for a special costume contest.

**August 18, *That Championship Season*:** The evening's presentation is the premier of a new documentary on the making of the movie, followed by a screening of the film.

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

## ***The Lackawanna County Heritage Fair Returns***

Another event sidelined for two years by the COVID-19 pandemic returns in June. The Lackawanna County Heritage Fair takes place at Montage Mountain Resorts from Wednesday, June 1 through Sunday, June 5.

Event offerings include carnival rides, musical entertainment, hands-on demonstrations, as well as about 100 vendors of various types. An array of music genre such as a Slavic polka band and a Latino band will be on hand, as well as local bands that cover music from different time periods.

LHS has joined with other organizations and individuals to present a variety of programs that are interactive and hands-on. Examples include lessons on mural painting, how to make Lithuanian straw art, and pysanky, which is decorating Ukrainian Easter eggs with traditional folk designs.

Also returning this year is the popular, Jeopardy-style game called, "You Live Here: You Should Know This!" The contest challenges eight teams to answer questions on local history. It's not as easy as it sounds. The event will take place at the Montage Lodge, Thursday, June 2, at 6pm, and will be accessible live on Facebook.

Admission price is \$10. The cost includes access to all carnival rides, entrance to Montage Water Park, and all musical entertainment. For additional information, please visit the fair's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Lackawannacountyfair](https://www.facebook.com/Lackawannacountyfair) or send an email to [countryfair@visitnepa.com](mailto:countryfair@visitnepa.com)







# Heritage Fair

LOCAL HISTORY PROGRAMS



Local History Programs will take place in the Slocum Hollow Lounge  
or in the lower tent adjacent to the Merchant Village

## Wednesday: Explore the LAND

- 4 pm: Join Jan Lokuta for a community art project to complete a mural of West Mountain.
- 5 pm: Play the Scranton Map Game to discover some of the downtown Scranton's historic architecture.
- 6 pm: Meet Ted Baird and members of the Frances Dorrance Chapter of PA Archaeology Society.
- 7 pm: Explore our local ecology with LRCA Director Bernie McGurl.

## Thursday: Know your HISTORY

- 4 pm: Join Laureen M. O'Handley for a *PopUp Story Walk®: In the Woods: Who's Been Here?* scavenger hunt
- 6 pm: Watch the local history game show live . (full details below)



## **“You Live Here; You Should Know This!” Returns LIVE!**

Can you identify Scranton architectural landmarks?  
Do you know what natural feature originally covered Courthouse Square?  
Do you know when Lackawanna County was founded?

*Play along with the Society's 13th annual “You Live Here; You Should Know This!” local history game show and find out! The games will be played LIVE on Thursday, June 2 at 6 pm at the Lackawanna County Heritage Fair at Montage Mountain and streamed on ECTV's YouTube channel. Created and hosted by Valley View and Riverside High School students, the games are played on eight teams answering fast-paced Jeopardy-style questions about people, places, and events in Lackawanna County. This year, contestants include administrators and faculty from Riverside School District, Evie McNulty, Laurie Cadden, Judge Margie Moyle, Rep. Bridget Kosierowski, Lackawanna County Heritage Fair planners, and more. Winners will receive bragging rights for one year as “Local History Legends of Lore!”*

## Friday, Celebrate our PEOPLE

- Noon: Join Jan Lokuta for a community art project to complete a mural of West Mountain.
- 1 pm: Learn about Lithuanian hanging garden ornaments “kabantys dangaus sodai” one from Carol Gargan.
- 2 pm: Discover “Kids Around the World” with Leigh-Ann Puchalski .
- 3 pm: Watch Tammy Budnovitch make pysanky .
- 5 pm: Visit with Stephanie Longo as she explains how traditional Italian ricotta cheese is made.
- 6 pm: Sample some of Edna Burgette's sweet potato pie (and get a copy of the recipe!).
- 6 pm: Watch scenes from Sandra Burgette Miller's “Tell ‘em” inspired local Underground Railroad

## Saturday, Experience early INDUSTRY

- 1 pm: See how a rag rug loom worked when the Anthracite Museum offers demonstration.

## Sunday, TRAVEL through Time

- Noon: Learn how railroad workers changed a train wheel when Steamtown NHS presents the Ring of Fire
- 1 pm: Meet Rosie the Riveter as portrayed by LHS volunteer Caroline Dann
- 2 pm: Visit Electric City Trolley Museum volunteers Dave Biles and John Seedorf for a trolley show & tell.

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

## ***Beyond the Hill: A Tour of our Favorite Places and Things***

On Sunday, June 26, from 10am to 4pm, LHS in partnership with The Greenhouse Project will present *Beyond the Hill: A Tour of our Favorite Places and Things*.

The tour is an expanded version of the popular bi-annual Historic Hill House Tour. This year, the tour offers a look at ongoing redevelopment projects, little-known gems, and the chance to visit private green spaces.

Neighborhoods on the tour are East Mountain, Nay Aug Park, North Scranton and Downtown. In addition, tour participants will have a sneak peek at two of the city's revitalization projects: Lace Village (The site of the former Scranton Lace Company; see Page 14 for Scranton Lace Exhibit details) and the Parodi Cigar Company building. Self-guided tour ticket prices are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door on the day of the tour (available only at LHS until 1pm), \$45 per seat (in advance) on the guided tour trolley bus (seating is limited). Tickets on tour day are available only at LHS.

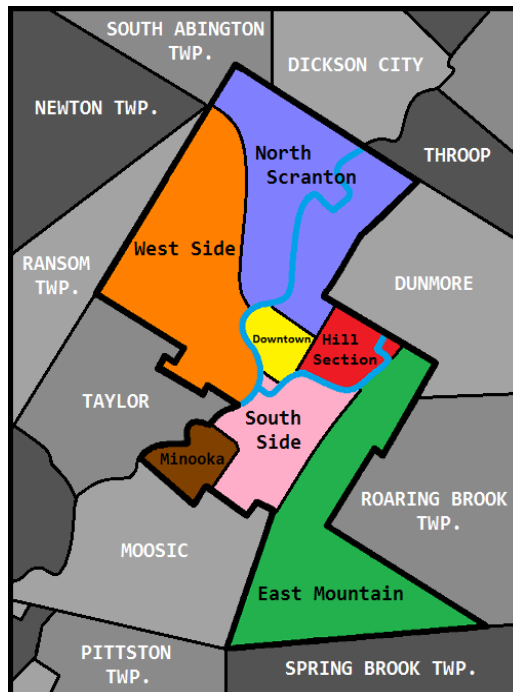


Image source:  
Scranton Neighborhoods.png

Advance ticket purchases can be made at Nada & Co., 1440 Capouse Ave., Mansour's Market, 969 Prescott Ave., the Greenhouse Project, 200 Arthur Ave., and the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Ave.

Online purchases: <http://www.lackawannahistory.org/BeyondtheHill.html>

For more information about the program or to purchase tickets, contact the Lackawanna Historical Society at 570-344-3841 or via email at: [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com).

"Beyond the Hill" is sponsored by Sidel's Restaurant, Toyota Scranton and People's Security Bank and Happenings Magazine.

## Scranton Lace Company Exhibit



Scranton Laceworks Clocktower  
Image source: Facebook.com/LaceVillage/

Later this summer, an exhibit about the Scranton Lace Company will be held at the Hope Horn Gallery located on the University of Scranton campus.

Examples of what will be included in the exhibit are photographs of early workers, a Scranton Lace *furnishing guide for the home* from 1923, photographs of the complex taken within and outside, photographs of the factory after it was abandoned, as well as other artifacts.



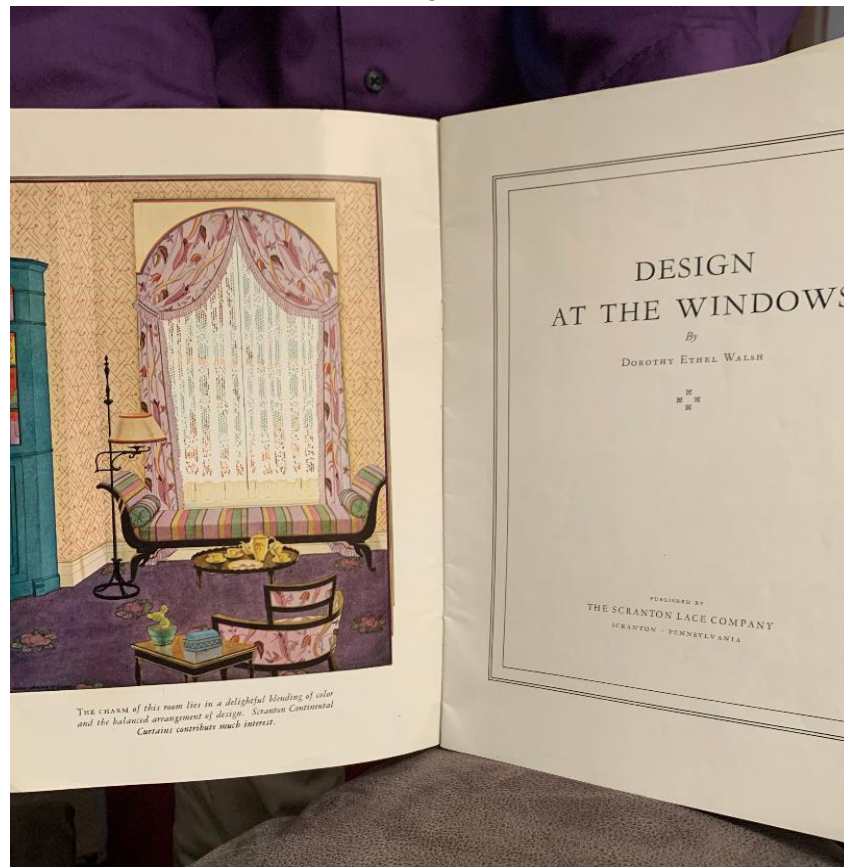
Ten Years of Service Recognition Medal  
Photo courtesy of Roman Golebiowski



The Scranton Lace Company was established by the Scranton Board of Trade in 1890 as the Scranton Lace Curtain Manufacturing Company and was incorporated On June 15, 1897. Upon consolidation of operations with a subsidiary in 1916, the company became known as the Scranton Lace Company. The clock tower is the home to an historic bell that was manufactured in 1927 by the famous Meenley Bell Foundry, West Troy, NY.

The company was the world leader in the production of Nottingham lace and at one point employed 1,600 men and women who worked in various capacities in its 34 buildings that totaled more than 600,000 square feet. The Scranton Lace Company closed in 2002.

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Scranton Lace Company 1930 Home Décor Windows Design Book  
Photo courtesy of Roman Golebiowski

Upcoming issues of History Bytes will provide updates on the Scranton Lace exhibit, its contents, as well as the opening date.

Please contact either Roman Golebiowski at [romangolebiowski757@gmail.com](mailto:romangolebiowski757@gmail.com) or Dr. Miller-Lanning at [darlene.miller-lanning@scranton.edu](mailto:darlene.miller-lanning@scranton.edu) for additional information. Dr. Miller-Lanning is the director of Hope Horn Gallery.

## ***Anthracite Heritage Museum Is Open***



Image source: visitnepa.org

Also open to receive visitors is the Anthracite Heritage Museum. Located at 22 Bald Mountain Road, McDade Park, Scranton, the museum interprets, collects, and presents the story of hard coal mining, its related industries, the immigrant culture and values of Northeast Pennsylvania's many ethnic groups.

The museum is open from Friday through Sunday, 10am to 5pm. The facility is closed on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after, as well as Christmas Day.

Although The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) has eliminated mask wearing and social distancing, the museum's website states that these practices are strongly recommended. For updates, please visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/anthraciteheritagemuseum>

### ***Dickson City-Priceburg/Olyphant/Throop Fire Companies Information Request***

Joseph M. Klapatch continues work on his fourth book in a series that compiles the histories of Lackawanna County fire companies. The next edition will include the six companies that served Dickson City/Priceburg, the three that covered Throop and the eleven that served Olyphant. Currently, Dickson City/Priceburg is written, but needs additional photographs. Olyphant is being edited, and Throop is in the writing stage.

Joe is looking for anyone who has copies of the Olyphant Gazette and Olyphant Record newspapers dating from approximately 1926 forward. He'd also very much appreciate hearing from anyone who has information, photos, minute books or memorabilia on

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these companies. All materials will be copied, and originals returned as soon as possible. Contributors will be acknowledged in the book.

Current books in the series include *The History of the Carbondale, PA Fire Department 1843-2015* (24 companies), *The Scranton Fire Department 1854-Present Including Minooka Hose Company* (67 companies + Minooka) and *The Boys from Bucktown, The History of the Dunmore Fire Department* (13 companies).

Joe can be contacted at [sendem39@aol.com](mailto:sendem39@aol.com). Release is planned for early 2023.

## ***Dunmore Historical Society Ends 15-year Run***



Image source: <http://www.dunmorehistoy.org>

Established in 2007, the Dunmore Historical Society will close its doors on June 1, ending a 15-year run. The decision to cease operations was based on several factors, including decreased membership, the loss of board members, as well as serious financial problems.

Dunmore Historical Society's headquarters is the former Tripp Ave. Christian Church located on Barton St. The society's press release said that estimates to repair and maintain the structure for the next five years range between \$300,000 and \$500,000. Attempts to finance the work included securing grants, membership drives and volunteer requests. All have been exhausted leaving the nonprofit with no alternative other than to cease operation in accordance with its by-laws.

The Lackawanna Historical Society will assume and preserve the collection, as well as the borough's history as part of LHS' overall mission. LHS will also receive any proceeds from the sale of the Tripp Ave. building, as well as monetary assets. In addition, the society's 120 current members will become members of LHS for the duration of their current Dunmore Historical Society memberships.

Transfer of the collection to LHS will begin after June 1. Anyone with artifacts on loan to the society should call 570-558-1060 to arrange a time to reclaim them or to sign a waiver enabling the organization to either transfer or dispose of them.

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## **Movie Houses in Scranton: Family Theatre(s?)**

**By Mike Kashmer**

*Family Theatres* was a name used at a few locations over the years. One location was 230 Penn Ave., in business from 1941 to 1950. It was a single screen with 900 seats. This location was described as “just down the block from the Capital Theater”. That address kept it in the traditional Scranton theater district.



Family Theatre, 230 Penn Ave., Scranton

Source: <http://cinematreaasures.org/theaters/14423>

The earliest mention of a *Family Theatre* in Scranton was 1892, but they weren't showing films. It was a vaudeville house featuring stage productions. There are no details about what type or title of stage shows played there. They were probably adult-themed live shows which were popular at the time, especially among the many single working men that came to that neighborhood after work for entertainment.

According to one source, there was another *Family Theatre* at 330 Adams Ave. in 1906, probably another live stage show venue, which may have lasted until the arrival of talking pictures.

In the mid-1920's there was a Comerford-owned theater at 402 S. Main Ave. named *Family*. One reference shows it in business in 1915. It was near Luzerne St. in the Hyde Park neighborhood.

Something to keep in mind about theaters operating “in the good old days.” Many theaters were simple structures with basic conveniences. Before expensive projection equipment, sound systems, Cinemascope and changes to the comfort level, which included refreshments, themed decorations, etc., theaters were able to move to a new

and better location without sacrificing their investments. These expenses would be needed later to compete with radio, television and other forms of entertainment.

The main draw was the content and the ability to schedule as many shows as possible, especially during the weekends. If a suitable spot was available at a cheaper price, they would move, and the crowd would follow them to the new nearby location.

Following is a list of showings at Scranton theaters on May 14, 1932. Included is a showing at *Family Theatre* called, *It's Tough to be Famous*. The film is a 1932 American pre-Code comedy starring Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Mary Brian, Emma Dunn, Walter Catlett and David Landau. The film was released on April 2, 1932.

### ***At the Theaters***

"Let Us Be Gay," a comedy of manners presented by the Publix Players at the Ritz, the film "Symphony of Six Million" with an appearance by WGBI's Radio Astrologist Dr. Korda Ramayne at the Capitol, ***"It's Tough to be Famous" at the Family***, "Man Wanted" (not recommended for innocent young girls) at the Riviera, and "Letty Lynton" with a Mickey Mouse short, "Mickey Cuts Up," at the Strand.

Source: Scranton Times-Tribune

## ***Anthracite Ancestry***

*Anthracite Ancestry* covers various aspects of Northeast Pennsylvania's coal legacy, including coal companies, coal barons, labor and labor unions, individuals, families, immigrant groups, disasters, subsidence and railroads.

Does anthracite tie into your family history? Did one or more of your ancestors "work the mines" as they used to say? If your ancestors left behind anthracite stories of any kind, please contact us at [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com) and insert *Anthracite* in the subject matter.

### ***Anthracite Reading***

Following are some of the books related to the anthracite industry.

***Mining Disasters of the Wyoming Valley*** – Bryan Glahn

***Tragedy at Avondale: The Causes, Consequences and Legacy***: Joseph M. Keating and Robert P. Wolensky

***Anthracite Labor Wars: Tenancy, Italians and Organized Crime in the Northern Coal Field of Pennsylvania – 1895 – 1959*** – Robert P. Wolensky and William A. Hastie, Sr.

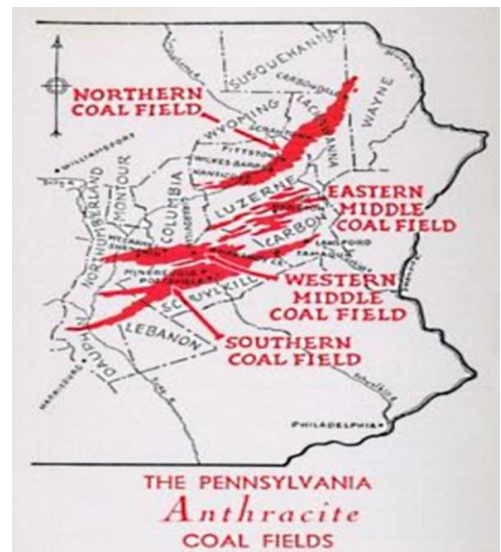


Image source: Pinterest

***The Kelayres: Massacre: Politics & Murder in Pennsylvania's Anthracite Coal Country*** –  
Stephanie Hoover

***Death in the Mines: Disasters and Rescues in the Anthracite Coal Fields of Pennsylvania***  
– J. Stuart Richards

***Remembering Lattimer: Labor, Migration, and Race in Pennsylvania Anthracite Country***  
– Paul A. Shackel



### ***Three-Part Northern Field Tour***

**Saturday, May 28, 2022**

The Underground Miners recently announced the *Three-Part Northern Field Tour*, which is the group's first event of the 2022 season. The event begins at the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour and culminates with summer food at the group's restoration shop.

***8:30am- Meet at Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour, McDade Park, for briefing***

***9:00am – 11:00am- Descend and tour Continental Slope 190***

***\*Continental Slope 190 tour includes a visit to the tippie***

The tour continues at Nay Aug Park for a discussion on how the Underground Miners plan to rehabilitate the Brooks Drift Mine. Gates will be open for a look inside from the entrance (The mine is not currently open for a walk through).

The final stop is the Underground Miners' restoration shop in Factoryville. Visitors will have the opportunity to inspect work being done on two historic locomotives, as well as mine cars and artifacts. In addition, the Whitcomb battery locomotive will be operational for demonstrations.

Included in the tour is lunch at the restoration shop consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and sides, as well as water and soda.

Tickets are \$75 per person plus a \$4.22 service fee. For details, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-part-northern-field-tour-tickets-318019243117> or the group's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/132362554122256> or email to [ugmanthracite@gmail.com](mailto:ugmanthracite@gmail.com)

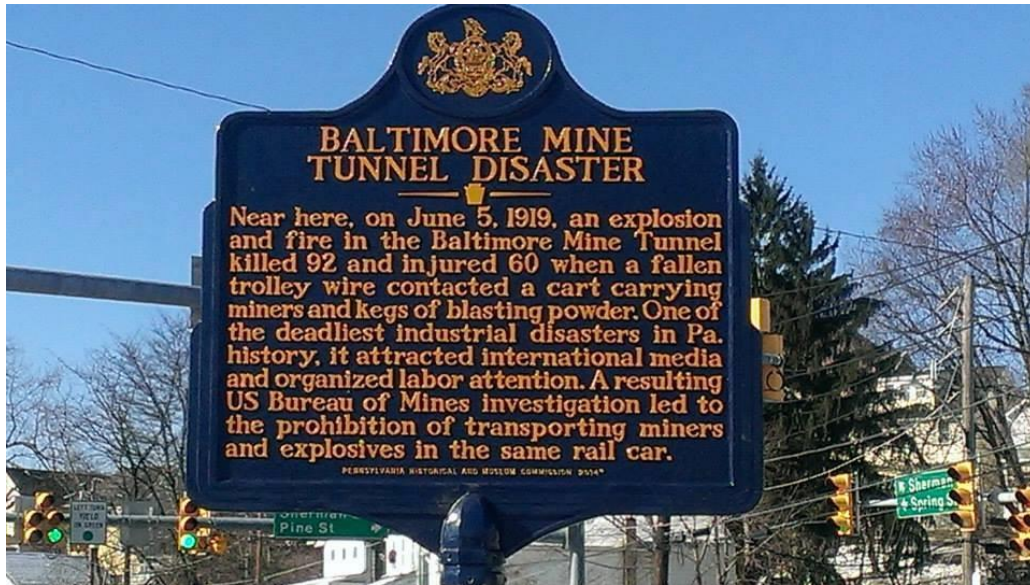
Founded in 2002, Underground Miners is a 501©3 nonprofit organization, dedicated to preserving Pennsylvania's anthracite coal mining heritage through an historical online archive, equipment restoration and educational public events. For information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/undergroundminers>

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## ***Remembering Baltimore Tunnel June 5, 1919***



Baltimore Tunnel Breaker  
Image source: citizensvoice.com

On the morning of June 5, 1919, an explosion occurred inside the entrance to the Delaware & Hudson Coal Company's Baltimore Mine No. 2 Tunnel in Wilkes-Barre. Within minutes, a raging fire drawn by the ventilation system was pulled through the tunnel towards the surface. The human toll was 92 dead with 44 injured. In terms of number of fatalities, Baltimore Tunnel was Northeast Pennsylvania's second worst mining disaster following Avondale in Plymouth (110 dead). Most of those killed suffered from severe burns and smoke inhalation, with some burned beyond recognition. Some were able to think quickly enough to jump into pools of water adjacent to the tracks to douse the flames.

The formal investigation proposed three possibilities for what might have caused the blasting powder to ignite. One was either a drill or crowbar touching a live power cable. This was ruled out because no drills or crowbars were found in the debris and there were no signs of arcing from electricity. Arcing happens when electricity jumps from one connection to another. Another possibility was that a can of powder might have been placed at the edge of a mine car where if placed correctly could touch the power cable. That possibility was ruled out because it would have had to be placed deliberately. A more probable theory was either a lantern or sparks from a tobacco pipe caused the powder to ignite.

The exact cause of the disaster was never determined; however, it was most likely caused by a shorted electrical wire contacting blasting powder that was on the miners' train. As with some other disasters it did result in commonwealth legislation, in this case legislation prohibiting transporting blasting powder and miners on the same train.



Baltimore Tunnel Breaker  
Image source: citizensvoice.com

## ***Remembering Twin Shaft June 28, 1896***



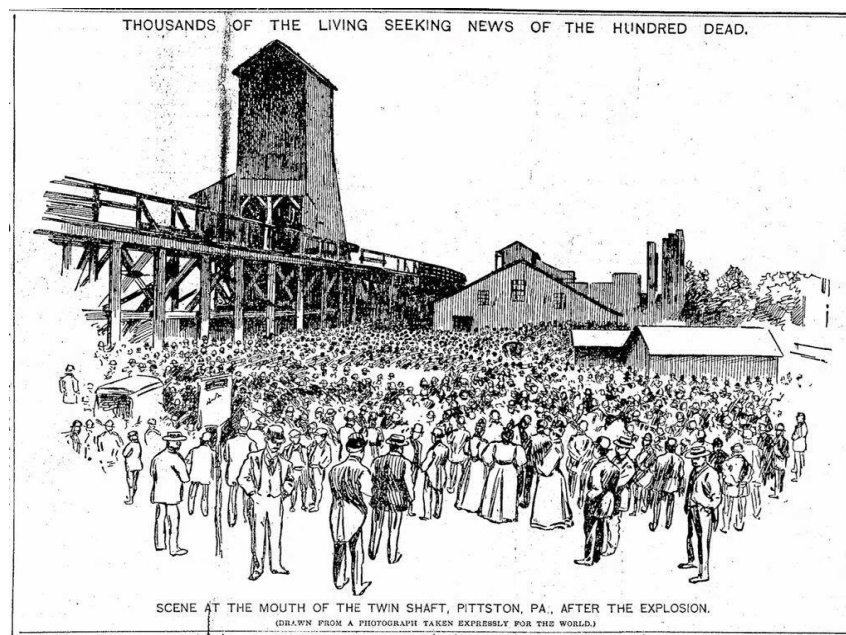
Image source: usminedisasters.miningquiz.com

Ninety men and boys were working the Red Ash Vein of the Newton Coal Company's Twin Shaft Mine in Pittston on Sunday, June 28, 1896. Fifty-eight would never again see the light of day. Most of the 58 were either Lithuanian or Irish immigrants.

For about two weeks before the fatal roof cave-in at 3am that Sunday, miners reported hearing a squeezing sound. That sound was a sign of the coal pillars being squeezed, the result of which means either a wall or a shaft crumble was imminent. Miners knew squeezing sound, and one miner, Edward Hughes, left early because as he said, "the crackling grew worse."

Extra props had been put in place for additional support, but they were apparently not placed correctly. Once a portion of the wall gave way, the rest collapsed like an overloaded bookshelf. Rescue efforts were attempted through two tunnels, but because about 200 acres had caved in, rescuers' progress was sometimes limited to just 20 feet per day. At that pace, hope of finding the victims alive quickly faded. Bodies of the 58 men and boys would remain entombed 434 feet below the surface.

An investigating committee was formed by then Governor Hastings to determine the cause of the disaster. The committee *suggested* that coal pillars should not be "robbed" of their coal and left standing for safety reasons. The committee also suggested that maps of mine workings and air tunnels be made available to mine inspectors. Such maps were not provided, resulting in a slowing of the rescue efforts. The committee issued safety recommendations on September 25, 1896, and although the recommendations would often be ignored by company management, the Twin Shaft disaster would play a major role in unionization efforts led by John Mitchell.



Twin Shaft Site After News of Explosion  
Image source: Greater Pittston Progress



***In The Mines***  
***The Daily Diaries of Thomas J. Gobllick***  
***By Carl Orechovsky***

Thomas J. Gobllick worked in the mines as a motorman. A motorman operates an electric or battery-powered mine motorcar to haul trips (trains) of cars, loaded with timbers, rails, explosives and other supplies, into a mine.

Mr. Gobllick lived in the Austin Heights section of Old Forge. A friend was removing items from Mr. Gobllick's house and came upon his work diaries that cover six years, extending from 1938 to 1944. The owner of the house didn't want the diaries, which are smaller sized, spiral bound notebooks. They were scanned and enlarged, and subsequently donated to the Old Forge Historical Society. Most entries pertain to Old Forge, and I have permission to share the contents.

**Volpe Coal Co, No 6 Colliery, No 11 Shaft, Babylon Section.**

**October 1941**

October 1. Was to Taylor for paint. Full coal. "2 ½% RAISE." Done 8:30, out at 10pm.

October 2. Everybody on coal, full coal. Done 8:30, out at 10pm.

October 3. Full coal. Cave in 105, everyone ok. Done 8pm, out at 10pm.

October 4. Idle 3 pm shift.

October 5. Sunday Stayed home.

October 6. Everybody working. Done 4:30am.

October 7. All miners in. Done 4:45 am.

October 8. All men down shaft. All miners in. Sammy out today, went home.

October 9 – 10. All miners in. Sammy out today, went home.

October 11. Stayed at home all day.

October 12. Sunday. Company from Hazleton.

October 13. Swamp full of water. Alic & Strab berry meas. 7 places. Done 2:30.

October 14. Full coal, 39 coal, 2 rock. Everybody working. Done early. New rate: \$6.02 per day, \$.86 per hr.

October 15. Full coal. All in. Pay Day. Done 12:30. Big Joe paid me \$5.75. 77 hrs, paid for 87. \$74.82

October 16. Haircut Sonny & M. \$.45. Full Coal. Main door broke by loaded cars.

October 17. Was to see Puzio. Up the road for carmels. Full coal, done 2:35.

October 18. Day shift only. 8 places, done 2pm. Full coal, 49 coal, 4 rock. To Old Forge with Edna.

October 19. Sunday. Spent the evening with Sam Cichy.

October 20. Mailed package for Nell. Everything ok, full coal, done 8:30.

October 21. Armature on pump burned out day shift. Full coal, done 7pm.

October 22. 101 Shaker out of order. Went down No 5 Shaft. Done 7:30.

October 23. Worked a double. Pulling coal on Heading Road. Rope broke.

October 24. Road broke at Back Branch. Water up. Full coal, done 9:30.

October 25. Stayed at home. Was for the papers.

October 26. Sunday. Helen & Ed Shulesky was here.

October 27. 4 places, full coal. Done 4:30.

October 28. Was to Chickys. Done 3:45.

October 29. Stayed home. Mitchell Day. Colliery Idle.

October 30. Everybody in. Done 4:30.

October 31. Pay Day. 11 o'clock not working. Worked 84 hrs, paid for 91. \$78.26.

### **November 1941**

#### **Volpe Coal Co, No 6 Colliery, No 11 Shaft, Babylon Section.**

November 1. All Saints Day. First day of rabbit season. Colliery Idle.

November 2. Sunday. Stayed home.

November 3 – 4. Worked double shift. Big Joe not in.

November 5. Brought some oil for motor. All working. Done 2 pm.

November 6. Dandy day at work. Done 1:30 pm

November 7. EDMUND BUTANOVITCH killed at No 14. Done 1:30 pm.

November 8. 3 & 11 o'clock shifts idle. Done 1:30 pm. In Chinchilla in evening.

November 9. First Snow. Sunday. Stayed home. Experimented with electric coils.

November 10. Received Popular Education Library I ordered. Done 8:30.

November 11. Armistice Day. Stayed home. Colliery Idle.

November 12. Full coal. Rudys Y. car in collision. Done 9 pm.

November 13. Full coal. 105 airway flooded. Done 8:30.

November 14. Full coal. Airway working. Done 8:30.

November 15. Pay Day. 115 shift working. 3 o'clock idle. 84 hrs, \$72.24.

November 16. Sunday. Stayed home.

November 17. 123 miner not in. Plenty of water around the doors. Done 4:30.

November 18. Finished painting in the house. Nellie got a coat. Done 3:30.

November 19. Tommy haircut. Annie Born was visiting Nellie. Done 4:30.

November 20. Was to town for battery. Bore hole blocked. 4 places, full coal. Done 4 am.

November 21. Bad road up the hill. 3 places, full coal. Done 5:30.

November 22. Changed oil. Was up the road, Steves, Sat. night.

November 23. Sunday. Stayed home. Tommy had bad cough.

November 24. Sam the coat man was here. 5 places, full coal, 30 coal, 1 rock. Done 1 pm.

November 25. Paulko Lacommy was to see us. Sawed wood today. Done 1 pm.

November 26. Was to town with Nellie and Tommy for coat. Done 1:10 pm.

November 27. Thanksgiving Day. Stayed home. Sawed wood. Colliery Idle.

November 28. Due bills. Started at 9:30. Motor was down, loose pinion. Done 2:10.

November 29. Tooth pulled. Saturday No 6 Idle. Pay Day. Paid for 63 hrs, \$54.18.

November 30. Sunday. Stayed home.

### **Volpe Coal Co, No 6 Colliery, No 11 Shaft, Babylon Section.**

#### **December 1941**

December 1. Cool. 5 places. 30 coal 1 rock. Saw job. Done 9:15.

December 2. Rain. I saw Stanley Tamoc. Early shift. Done 10 pm.

December 3. To dentist. 123 no coal. 113 Jim was in. Montgomery order came. Done 9 pm.

December 4. All men working. Everything ok. Done 8:30 pm.

December 5. To dentist. Mickas, Joe, Lib & Leo started in Was Bab. Very foggy. Done 9:30 pm.

December 6. Was to see Santor. Saturday. Was to town. Radio out of order. Spent evening with John P. Colliery idle.

December 7. WAR. Sunday. Japan Wars on U.S. Stayed home.

December 8. 4 places. WAR DECLARED on JAPAN. Done 5 am, home 6 am.

December 9. 5 places. 32 coal, 3 rock. 101 was working on 11. Done 5am, home 6:30.

December 10. Dandy shift. Ins. Connelly was on D shift. Done 4am, home 6:20.

December 11. Full coal. Cold. Done 5am, home 6:30.

December 12. Full coal. Cold. Done 4:30, home 6:30.

December 13. Pay Day. Snowing & raining. Stayed at home. Colliery Idle.



December 14. Sunday. Stayed home.

December 15. Was to dentist. New Boss Dave Evans. 77 hrs, \$66.22.

December 16. Waiting for empties. B cars off the road. Full coal.

December 17. Full coal. 42 coal. Was up the road for Tobbacco. Done 1:30.

December 18. Full coal. 44 coal, 3 rock. Done 2:15.

December 19. To dentist. Nell, Tom & Me to A&P. Rain evening. Done 2 pm.

December 20. All Co. Men Idle. No 3 or 11 o'clock. Full Coal. Stayed at home.

December 21. Sunday. Stayed at home.

December 22. Dandy shift, 122 Jalopy broke down. Done 9:50.

December 23. Worked a double shift. Art Cooper not in.

December 24. Christmas Eve. Vacation Money Paid.

December 25. Christmas Day. Colliery Idle.

December 26 – 27. Stayed home. Colliery Idle.

December 28. Sunday. Stayed Home.

December 29. 123 went home. Water. Cold evening. Dr to see Tom. Done 4:15.

December 30. 14 cars coal. Early shift. Done 4:30.

December 31. Pay Day. Stayed home. Paid \$60.20 plus \$20.00 vacation pay.

*Treasury Dept. Internal Revenue Notice information return for calendar year 1941*

Hours worked in the mines	\$1,898.00 (How it appears in Thomas' entries)
7 Hour shifts	271 1/7
Salary (Supply Deducted)	\$1,521.54
Average per 365 days	\$4.16
Battery Lamp	\$16.14
F.O.A.B. Social Security	\$15.74
Personal Supply	\$4.95
Community Chest	\$5.00
Benefit	\$4.00
Assessments (Union)	\$3.00
United Mine Workers Union Dues	\$12.00
Salary (Supply Deducted)	\$1,521.54
Deductions	\$60.83
Salary for 1941 Total	\$1,582.37

Wages \$1,564.18.

## Notes

**October 29. Stayed home. Mitchell Day. Colliery Idle.** Mitchell Day honors John Mitchell, miners' union organizer.

**November 7. EDMUND BUTANOVITCH killed at No 14. Done 1:30 pm.**

**November 10. Received Popular Education Library I ordered. Done 8:30.**

**December 7. WAR. Sunday. Japan Wars on U.S. Stayed home.**

**December 8. 4 places. WAR DECLARED on JAPAN. Done 5 am, home 6 am.**

*Popular Educator* was an American magazine on education published in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It began around 1880 as "Good Times and Popular Educator", becoming "Popular Educator" in 1885. All content of this serial is in the public domain in the US. In 1926, it merged with Primary Education; the combined title, "Primary Education, Popular Educator", published for a few more years



The Popular Educator Library Complete 10 Volume Set, 1940

**National Educational Alliance**

Published by National Education Alliance

***Preserving the 2011 and 2012  
Huber Colliery  
Underground Chemical Firefighting Cars  
By Carl Orechovsky***

The underground chemical firefighting cars were originally custom-built, assembled from parts from other cars by the Car Shop at the Huber Colliery, Ashley. It was built to provide fire protection in the coal mines. The Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour acquired the cars when the Slope 190 was reconstructed for the tours. The cars remained outside ever since and were badly neglected.

The tank contained a baking soda or similar dry power and would produce a foaming solution when a gallon jug of acid was added. Turning the handle would mix the solution and the foam was applied through a hose and nozzle.

The first car, a single tank unit, had to be carefully moved and loaded onto my trailer for the trip to my home in Old Forge. There, using planks as rails, it was wheeled into my back yard for measurements, photos and deconstruction.

The carriage was similar on both with Mortis and Tendent construction of the side and cross beams. The draw rods, springs and buttress plates were repaired and reinstalled. A coating of wood sealer was applied to the beams and all metal was greased for preservation. The oak planks installed formed the carriage deck. I refurbished and painted the tank and piping then using a backhoe, lifted and placed the tank on the new carriage. Reconstructing the acid and equipment boxes along with two 55-gallon drums completed the project.

The second car, completed in 2012, had a carriage identical to the 2011. However, this car had a dual tank system with pressure gauges and was a lot heavier. Both cars were moved from my house using a rented U-Haul trailer and returned to the mine where both are on display near the mine portal. A section of rail was added at the display site as the wheel spacing at Huber was greater than the rail at the mine.

Following is a visual walk through of the restoration process from beginning to end. All photos are courtesy of Carl Orechovsky.

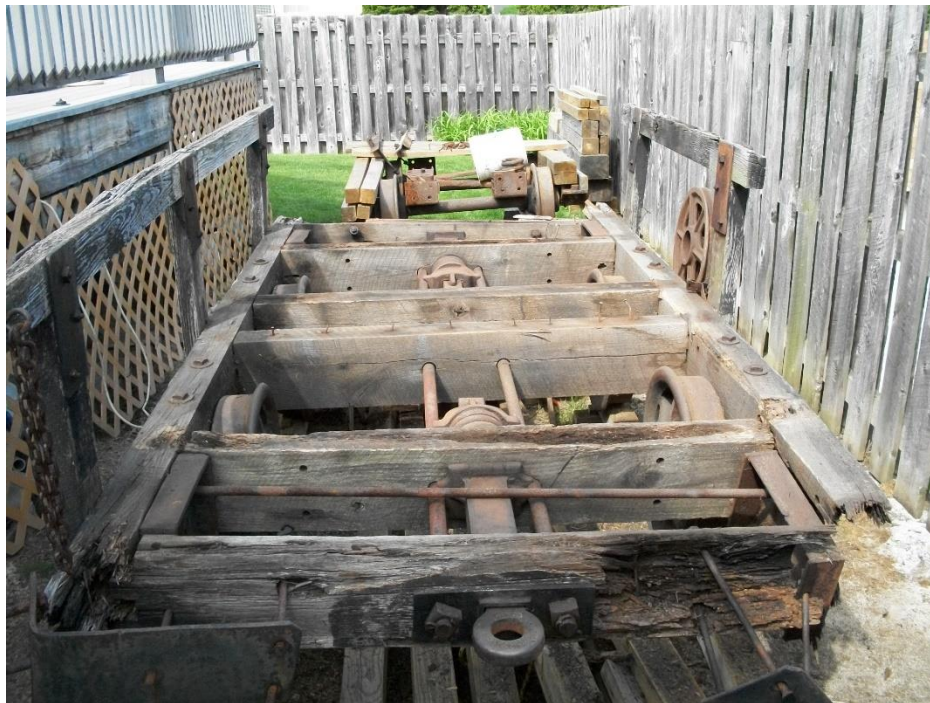


1- Badly neglected cars prior to removal





2- Loading the 2011 on my trailer



3- Dismantling the carriage





4- Cutting Mortis and Tendent joints on the beams



5- Bolting side beams to journals



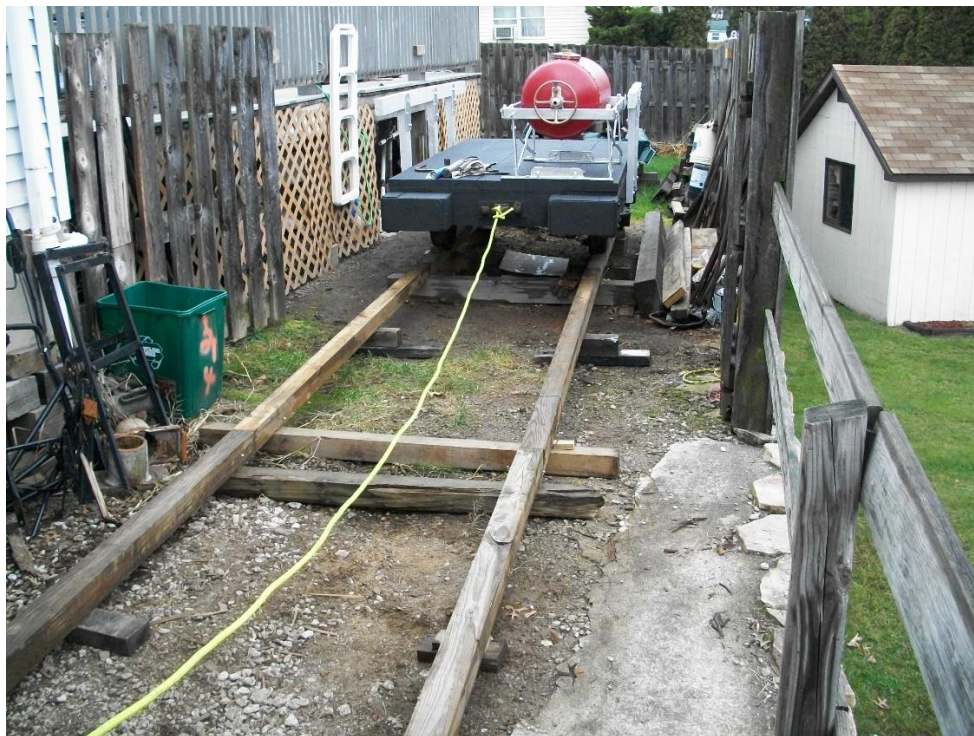


6- Completed carriage



7- Completed tank restoration





8- Moving carriage up to the road



9- Equipment and acid storage boxes





10- Loading on the U-Haul



11- On display at the mine

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## ***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](#)

### ***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](#)

### ***Anthracite Research***

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

### ***Historical Societies***

- [Carbondale Historical Society](#)
- [Plymouth Historical Society](#) [www.plymouthhistoricalsocietyluzernecopa.org](http://www.plymouthhistoricalsocietyluzernecopa.org)
- [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](#)

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*Founded in 1886 as the Lackawanna Institute of History and Science, the Lackawanna Historical Society provides the community with a record of local history through its museum and library collections, exhibits and programs. In 1942, from the bequest of George H. Catlin, the Society established its permanent home at Catlin's 1912 residence, located at 232 Monroe Avenue in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1965, it was designated as the official county historical society by Lackawanna County and continues to serve the county as a center for local history resources. The Society, a 501 ©3 nonprofit organization, is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County and memberships.*