

# HISTORY BYTES A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

Vol. 6 No. 6

November – December 2023

Rick Sedlisky, Editor



Image source: dreamstime.com





Sunday, December 10th The Electric City Trolley Museum Presents

# A Holiday Tea

Hosted by Deborah Peager owner of Fiddlesticks Tea Co. Odessa, AP

# Christmas Carols Sung by the Chorus of St. Mary's Assumption School

Beginning with a Trolley Excursion with Santa Claus at 12:45 p.m. Followed by the Afternoon Tea from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the museum. Featuring a sample of teas & delicacies while learning a bit about this enchanting English tradition.

A variety of teas will be available to purchase.

Reservation required—limited seating RSVP by calling 570.963.6590 or trolley@lackawannacounty.org

Santa Excursion & Tea \$ 48 per person



Tea only \$ 40 per person

Please allow time to vote for your favorite tree in our Trim-a-Tree Challenge.

Lackawanna County schools display their creativity by decorating trees
for the public and guests are invited to vote on their favorite.



## LHS 2024 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 bimonthly e-newsletter. Attached is a membership form 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 for membership payment:

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

### Lackawanna Past Times, Upcoming Events & Meetings

Our monthly Zoom and In-Person lecture series features famous local people and early regional history. Email us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. Catch up on past episodes on our YouTube channel.

#### Via Zoom.

Friday, January 26, 2pm: John Mitchell Monument Centennial with Sarah Piccini and Darlene Miller-Lanning

Friday, February 23, 2pm: Braids of Song Weaving Welsh Music into the

American Soul with author Mari Morgan

## Ghostly Gallery Link

http://www.lackawannahistory.org/aghostlygallery.html

### Dine Lackawanna

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

Wednesday, January 17, 2024: Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza 280 Main St. Dickson City 570-489-2627

**Abington** 

Clarks Summit Dalton Chinchilla

Camelot The New Cafe B&B Armetta's Restaurant & Pizza

Formosa State Street Grill

Upper Lackawanna

Carbondale Jermyn

KOL Steakhouse JW's Bar & Gtill

Pat's Pizza & Hoagies

**Eynon**Pasquale's Pizzeria and Family Restaurant

Simpson
Frank's Place

Tiffany's Tap & Grill

Mid Valley

Dickson City Olyphant Jessup

Texas Roundhouse OTown Bar & Grill Café Colarusso

Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza

Dooley's Pub & Eatery

Dunmore/North Pocono

Dunmore Moscow Springbrook Twp.

3 Jacks Burgers Delish on Main Olde Brook Inn

Scranton

Ale Mary's at the Bittenbender Market Street Bar & Grill

AV Scranton Pizza by Pappas Back Yard Ale House Sidel's Restaurant

Cafe Classico Stirna's Restaueant

Carmen's 2.0 Restaurant La Cucina

Chef Von & Mom Mansour's Market Café & Eatery

POSH at the Scranton Club Villa Maria Lola's Cabana

Lower Lackawanna

Old Forge Taylor

Cusumano Union Craft House

### Save the Date

**Saturday, December 9, 11 am to 2 pm Holiday Emporium** at the Catlin House with a lecture by author Phil Mosely on his latest work, "Telling of the Anthracite" at 1 pm. (See page 2.)

# Genealogy Forum: TBA

### All meetings will be held on Zoom beginning at 1 pm.

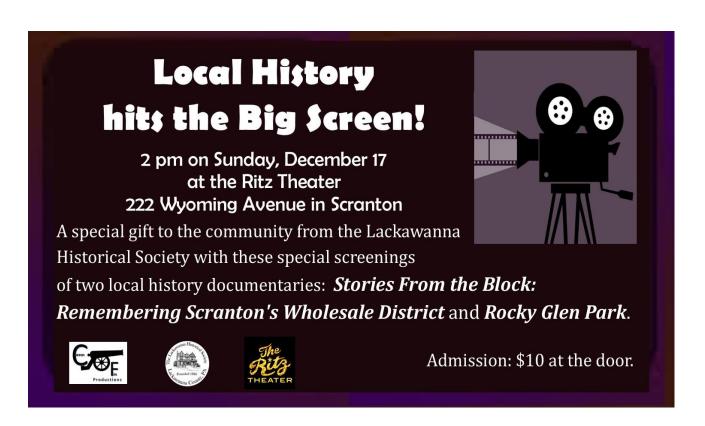
*Wednesday, January 17, Tom Price:* Revisiting and Updates on Lackawanna County Cemeteries

Wednesday, February 14, Barbara Shuta: Revisiting Lackawanna County Birth & Death Records and Carbondale & Scranton Board of Health Records

*Wednesday, March 13, Kate Bohan*. Navigating the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) site.

# Screenings at The Ritz

Screenings of documentaries about Scranton's Wholesale Block and Rocky Glen Park will be shown on Sunday, December 17 at 2pm, **not December 7**. Please see the flyer below for details.



## Anthracite Mining Heritage Month

Anthracite Mining Heritage Month takes place at various locations across Northeast Pennsylvania during January 2024. A full program listing will appear in the January – February 2024 issue of History Bytes. Below is a list of confirmed presentations.

Thursday, January 11, 6pm – 7:45pm: Anthracite Heritage Museum and Lackawanna Historical Society, Public Program: Four Regional Documentary Filmmakers—A Panel Discussion Speakers: Robert Savakinus ("Scranton's Championship Season"), Dave Brocca ("The Knox Mine Disaster"), David Heineman ("NEPADOC"), John Welsh ("The Huber Breaker") Moderator: Mary Ann Savakinus, LHS; Venue: Albright Memorial Library (500 Vine St., Scranton, PA); Time: 6:00-7:45 pm (The individual film screening dates, times, and venues will be included in the final schedule of events)

Saturday, January 20, 2pm – 4pm: Anthracite Heritage Museum, Public Program—The Annual Knox Mine Disaster Commemoration: After Knox—Legacies and Prospects, Speakers: Jerry Pollock, retired coal miner, "The Last Years of Mining"; Tom Supey, retired coal miner, "Flushing the Mines"; Robert Hughes, EPCAMR, "Mine Reclamation;" Elizabeth Hughes, Earth Conservancy, "Restoring the Land;" Chris Murley and Bill Best, Underground Miners, "Mine Restoration;" William Conolgue, "Environmental Implications;" Bode Morin, AHM, "Anthracite Heritage;" Moderator: Robert Wolensky; Music: Don Shappelle and the Pick-ups; Venue: AHM (22 Bald Mountain Road, Scranton, PA); Time: 2:00pm – 4:00 pm; refreshments.

*Sunday, January 21, 9am: Annual Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Mass*, St. John's Church, Pittston. Mass is followed by a *10:30am Public Commemoration at the PHMC and community historical markers*, Pittston. Commemoration is followed by the *11am Disaster Site Annual Walk* along the Susquehanna River, Port Griffith.

*Wednesday, January 24, The Powell Squibb Factory Explosion February 25, 1889.* Presented by the Plymouth Historical Society, the explosion took several lives in Plymouth. Speakers, venue, etc., TBA

*Thursday, January 25, 7pm: From the Potato Patch to the Mine Patch: The Irish of Northeastern Pennsylvania, c. 1820–1920.* Presented by Breandan Mac Suibhne, University of Ireland, Burke Auditorium, King's College, Wilkes-Barre.

*Monday, January 29, 7pm: Organized Crime in Northeastern Pennsylvania.* Presented by the Greater Pittston Historical Society. Speaker and details TBA.

An Evening of Anthracite Region Music: Organized by the Susquehanna Brewery, Pittston. Details TBA.

# Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society Celebrates 50 Years



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Railroad#/media/File:Laurelline.png

If there was ever the name of an entity that bonds Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and the surrounding communities, it was and still is the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railroad (L&WV), informally known by many as the Laurel Line.



Laurel Line Passenger Coaches at Cedar Ave. Station, Scranton Image source: North East Rails

A half century ago when a group of historians got together to form an organization to document Northeast Pennsylvania's rail history, the obvious choice for a name was that

of the long-defunct interurban L&WV. Officially known as the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapter, National Railway Historical Society (L&WV RHS), the organization was founded in 1973 and operates as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit society. Its stated mission is to "preserve, protect and promote the rich history of railroading in the surrounding counties." It certainly does that, beginning with its name and logo.

L&WV RHS has diligently worked over the last five decades to document Northeast Pennsylvania's rail history in many ways, including books such as The History and Railroads of North Pocono (by author and History Bytes contributor, Frank P. Adams), other printed publications and videos, as well as souvenirs and its popular calendar that features original color and black & white photographs of the region's railroads from the past and into the 21st century.

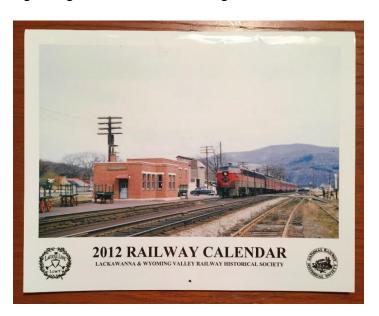


Image source: veryavail.club

One of the most visible and active projects is the renovation and preservation of the passenger and freight depots in Moscow, PA. Construction of the depots was completed in 1904 with Moscow operating until the 1960s as a station stop on the former Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad hauling passengers and freight from Hoboken, NJ via Scranton to Buffalo, NY.

Moscow became somewhat of a destination point when Steamtown USA began operating excursion trains in 1985, however, neither structure was in good enough shape to receive passengers. When Steamtown USA became the Steamtown National Historic Site and a part of the nation's park system, the National Park Service negotiated a lease with Moscow that resulted in the depots serving as a destination for its trains.

Following refurbishment of the structures and surrounding grounds, the depots returned to active duty in time for the 1993 excursion season. An agreement was made with L&WV RHS to provide refreshments at the depots during that season. The arrangement lasted until the end of the 2003 season. At that point, the National Park Service opted not to renew the lease.



Excursion train at Moscow Image source: Lackawanna County Visitors Bureau

The Society assumed the lease in time for the 2004 season and continues to maintain the depots and surrounding grounds. The Moscow depots are still a destination for the annual Steamtown-sponsored holiday trains that depart Steamtown's Scranton yards for Moscow during the Thanksgiving-Christmas season, as well as throughout the year.



Image source: National Railway Historical Society <a href="https://nrhs.com/chapters/pennsylvania/lackawanna-wyoming-valley/">https://nrhs.com/chapters/pennsylvania/lackawanna-wyoming-valley/</a>



Early photo of Moscow depots; date unknown Ott Historical Photograph Collection Image source: University of Idaho Library

For information on the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, please visit <a href="https://lwvrhs.org/">https://lwvrhs.org/</a>



*Image source: Facebook* 

### A Town Called Dorranceton

Imagine searching for a place to settle, establish roots, enjoy life and during your search, you came across the following few paragraphs. Wouldn't you strongly consider having a look at the town to see if it's a place that you'd like to call home?

Thie following *Town History* was donated by Ms. Cathy Ailstock, © 1997-2010 by Mary Ann Lubinsky for the PAGenWeb Project, and by Individual Contributors. It was transcribed verbatim. A New York City advertising agency couldn't have written it better.

### Dorranceton Borough

Of the many beautiful suburban residence boroughs that so surround Wilkes-Barre and are practically a part of the city by the intimate connection of electric and steam railways, there are none more beautiful and inviting than this. Its broad and elegant avenues and ornamental shade trees, the spacious lawns and the modern built mansions, and the healthy, clear, unvexed air that sings through the great old trees, as well as the quiet and orderly movements of the people, to one transported in a few moments from the thronging city, with its slums and odorous alleys, is a magical and refreshing change. At all hours you can go and come from Dorranceton to the city almost as you travel in dreams, where time and space are never reckoned. The lots and grounds about the handsome residences are trim and as well kept as on the proudest avenues of the great cities. And of the people, there are so many evidences here of refinement and a high order of culture as makes the stranger want to get out of the car and shake hands with every one.

It is hardly worth while to say the place gets its name from the Dorrance family – a name standing out as prominent as any of the first families that came and fought the long and desperate battles for the possession of these rich and beautiful lands. Col. Charles Dorrance, who died January 18, 1892, at an advanced age was the worthy representative of an illustrious ancestor.

The borough was incorporated June 20, 1887. First officers: Burgess, George H. Butler; council, Col. Charles Dorrance, president; Noah Pettebone, secretary; Jacob S. Pettebone, treasurer; Thomas Eley, B.F. Dorrance, J.F. Welton; high constable, A. Van Campen. There are about 1, 200 acres within the borough lines.

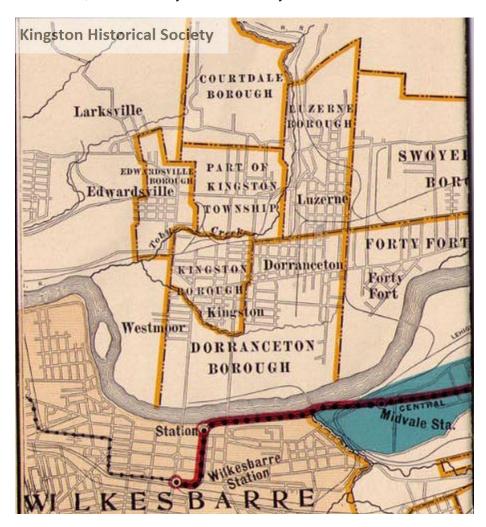
Present officers: Burgess, Henry M. Gordon; council, Robert Bye, president; H. Eley, Noah Pettebone, G.L. Marcy and S.B. Vaughan; assessor, Joseph F. Walter; collector, John King; constable, John Finney.

In the place are a planing mill, 2 general stores, 1 meat market.

A legal advertisement that announced plans to form the borough of Dorranceton was published in local newspapers in March 1887. It read as follows:

"To all whom it may concern, incorporation of Dorranceton Borough. Notice is hearby (sic.) given to all parties interested that an application will be made to the Court of Quarter Sessions of Luzerne County on Monday, March 28, 1887," the advertisements stated.

Dorranceton was to be created from portions of Kingston Township and extend from the Kingston boundary along the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad to the Susquehanna River, and from Plymouth to Forty Fort.



Map showing the creation of Dorraneton Image source: Kingston Historical Society

The borough originally consisted of 40 residents and was mostly farmland. In addition to those previously mentioned, also elected on July 7, 1887, were school directors, a tax collector, and a justice of the peace. Of the 40 original residents, only 23 cast votes. The remaining 17 were most likely either children or people that didn't vote.

Much of the milk and related dairy items consumed in the Wyoming Valley came from the Dorranceton Dairy that was formed in 1830 and located within the new borough's boundaries. The dairy farm was located on the site that became Pierce Street near the Veterans Memorial Bridge and Wyoming Avenue. Ice cream from the dairy farm was quite popular.

Forming a new jurisdiction requires more than incorporation by a grand jury and placing legal ads in local newspapers. A town cannot function without an infrastructure. Of those elected to public office, many of the day-to-day operations were handled by the council. The council members' responsibilities included, but were not limited to, road construction and repair, maintaining bridges, and of course, building a jail.

Education was a matter handled by the elected school directors. Dorranceton High School was an impressive structure for its time. Built in 1910, the school was officially opened February 21, 1911. Located at Rutter Avenue and Dorrance Street, according to the Wilkes-Barre Record issue dated February 23, 1911, the building had six classrooms, directors' and reception rooms, a principal's office and an auditorium that seated 500.



THE NEW DORRANCETON HIGH SCHOOL

Dorranceton High School when it was dedicated on Feb. 22, 1911. Picture published in the Wilkes-Barre Record Feb. 23, 1911.

Source: Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader October 10, 2023

Dorranceton, as an independent jurisdiction, had a short life,34 years to be exact. In 1920, calls to consolidate Dorranceton with either Kingston or Wilkes-Barre began to gather steam. The explanation given was Dorranceton's increasing municipal debt.

Active campaigns were launched by supporters of the respective municipal suitors. Newspapers supplied much of the publicity. Wilkes-Barre's apparent reason for wanting to annex Dorranceton was fueled by the belief that a population of 100,000 would make the city more attractive to businesses and manufacturing. However, the results of the vote taken 102 years ago on July 19, 1921, favored consolidation of Dorranceton and Kingston. Total Dorranceton votes were 2,241 in favor and 1,222 against.

The results are a bit misleading. The Dorranceton vote was much closer with those in favor winning by a mere 92 votes 1,031 in favor and 939 against. The Kingston in favor margin was much wider at 927, 1,210 in favor and 283 against.



Photo caption reads:

Dorranceton High School Class of 1922 was the last graduating class of the high school. Image source: Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader June 7, 1922.

The last class to graduate from Dorranceton High School was the class of 1922. The following semester saw Dorranceton students transfer to Kingston High School. The town names eventually disappeared when the Kingston district became a part of the Wyoming Valley West School District. The Dorranceton High School building lasted another 63 years and functioned at the Ritter Ave Grade School (later known as the Rutter Ave. Elementary School) until 1984. The building was torn down in 2005.



# Anthracite Ancestry



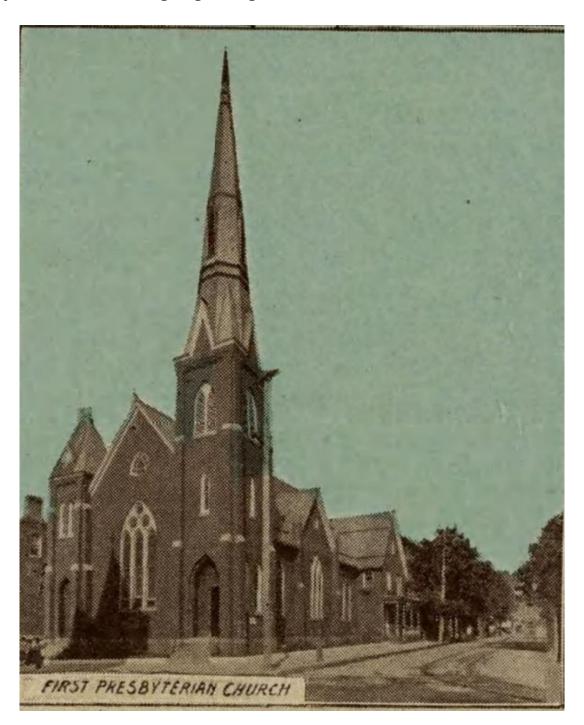
Editor's Note: The following article was originally published on the wynninghistory.com website on November 17, 2020. Our sincere thanks to Jake Wynn for granting the Lackawanna Historical Society permission to republish his work. In the article, we see the 1902 coal strike from a clergy member's point of view.

# A THANKSGIVING SERMON IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 1902 COAL STRIKE

Posted on November 17, 2020 by Jake Wynn



On Thanksgiving Day 1902, Reverend John Hensyl stood before an audience in Shenandoah's Presbyterian Church at Oak and White streets. Before him sat a large audience from numerous Protestant churches in the Schuylkill County mining community prepared to hear a Thanksgiving message.



The Presbyterian Church on Oak and White streets in Shenandoah, PA.

Hensyl, the minister at Shenandoah's United Evangelical Church, touched on numerous topics in his speech, but the heart of his message got down to the suffering he witnessed in the community he served. Thanksgiving 1902 came at the conclusion of a months-long, bitterly fought coal strike by members of the United Mine Workers of America.

The 1902 Coal Strike was the largest such strike by a workforce in the nation's history to that point. Thousands of mineworkers across Northeastern Pennsylvania walked out in May and did not return to their jobs until negotiations had begun between union leadership and the coal barons of the anthracite fields in October. The strike was so bitterly fought and had such far-reaching implications, that President Theodore Roosevelt became involved in negotiations.



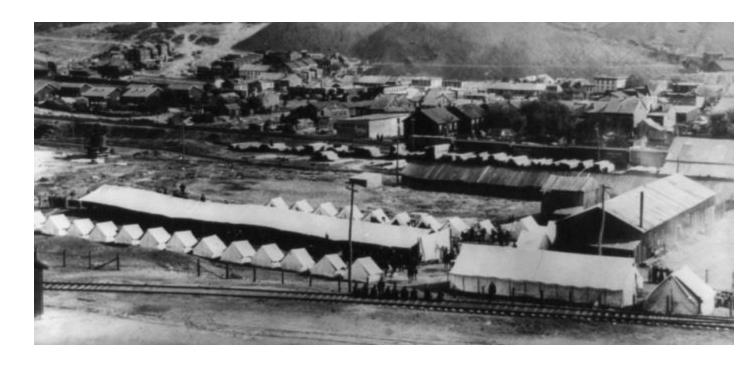
UMWA President John Mitchell in Shenandoah during the 1902 strike (LOC)

Hensyl spoke about the cycle of poverty that had settled over American workers as companies, corporations, and trusts grew stronger. He sought to bring attention to the need that institutions in the United States, including the church and the Federal government itself, needed to work to improve the lot of working Americans. In his speech comes key tenets of Progressive Era thought among reformers. Using the powers of government and institutions to make the country a better place. Hensyl sought not to blame workers and their families for their poverty, but instead indicted a system that had been designed to keep them on the edge of survival for the benefit of corporate interests, especially in the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania.



Breaker boys in Shenandoah in the 1890s (LOC)

It is no surprise that Shenandoah would be a hotbed of such thought in 1902 – the Schuylkill County community had been among the more radical during the coal strike, with violence and property destruction that inspired the governor of Pennsylvania to send state military forces to the community to keep the peace.



A military encampment in Shenandoah during the 1902 Coal Strike (LOC)

The sermon appeared in the *Shenandoah Evening Herald* on November 27, 1902:

The time has come when prosperous thanks-givers must consider the fact that a majority of the people feel that they have nothing to be thankful for. It will no longer do for the government and churches, on which is imposed the function of carrying out its thanksgiving proclamation in their places of worship, to ignore the wrongs and sufferings of the poor, or simply read them lessons of patience and resignation.

This course is defensible only on the supposition that the poor have only themselves to blame for their poverty, or that the government and the churches can do nothing to improve their condition materially. Obviously neither of these suppositions is correct. Millions of people in this land of ours are suffering from social evils, for which they are not responsible, and which it is the duty of both church and government to assist in correcting; their failure to perform this duty is certain to alienate the masses from the one, and cause grave distrust and disloyalty toward the other.

The control of all the industries of the country by gigantic trusts is rapidly crowding out small tradesmen and reducing the great mass of the people to the class of wage-workers who can only live by being servants of rich men and corporations. The object of these combinations is, confessedly, to make money at the expense of consumers, but they also have the power to fix rates of production and wages at will.

The result is that the average annual incomes of the millions of wage-workers in this country are barely sufficient to enable them to live. The majority of them have no margins at Thanksgiving time. Nothing laid by for sickness or old age, to start their children in life. Hence their theory and their cry, we have nothing to be thankful for.

"I have worked for thirty years," said an intelligent artisan, "everyday I could I never drink or use tobacco, and live as economically as I can, and yet I own practically nothing now, and my time and strength are nearly gone. What shall I do when I can work no more? My children will do their best to take care of me; but they are doomed to the same life of toil for only enough wages to support them."

This is the condition of millions of the people to whom the President issues his proclamation to assemble in places of worship and give thanks to God, who has prospered them on their way. Is it any wonder that they treat this call somewhat cynically?

Hensyl called his listeners to take action on their own to help – offerings were collected for the less fortunate in the community that November – but also made the case that the problem was much bigger than just what individuals themselves could fix.

Featured Image: Breaker boys in Luzerne County in the early 20th century, Library of Congress

# Meet Jake Wynn

Jake Wynn is currently working as a tourism marketing professional in Frederick, MD. He lives in Washington, DC.

He is formerly the Director of Interpretation at the <u>National Museum of Civil War</u> <u>Medicine</u> and <u>Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office</u>. He is a 2015 graduate of Hood College, with degrees in history and communications arts. He has formerly worked with Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, the Tourism Council of Frederick County, and the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area.

Jake's research has focused heavily on the history of the small Pennsylvania community where he grew up. The towns of Williams Valley were built upon the anthracite coal mining industry in the 19th century. That industry's collapse in the early 20th century left behind only a shadow of the region's former economic success.

Outside of industrial history, Jake has worked in the study of Civil War history with a focus on the era's medical practices, but also on the experience of the average soldier throughout the conflict. You can find more of his work at Pennsylvania in the Civil War blog where he is a founding contributor.

Blog link: <a href="https://wynninghistory.com/blog/">https://wynninghistory.com/blog/</a>

Website link: <a href="https://wynninghistory.com/subscribe/">https://wynninghistory.com/subscribe/</a>

# Spitting Reminiscences By Torry Watkins

I read and enjoyed the article entitled, *Spitting*, by Bob Wolensky, that appeared in a recent issue of History Bytes. I saw it as a very informative piece of urban-industrial anthropology. As a died-in-the-coal dust NEPA expatriate, I observed all the behaviors so aptly descried, and I have a few contributions of my own.

My paternal grandfather, William Wynn Watkins, was a spitter. He was the only member of his generation in our family I actually knew. He began his life in the USA as a 7-year-old. breaker boy, then went underground until his early 20s, when he apprenticed to his pharmacist brother. Following his apprenticeship, he started his own drug store.

I often wondered whether he kept a cuspidor (as those things were called in polite society) behind his prescription counter back in the days when druggists actually compounded various medicines.

He and my grandmother came to live with us during their declining years, and he kept a classic brass spittoon in his bedroom, where he spent much of his time. Of course, cleaning the vessel devolved on my poor mother, a job she truly detested. I'm sure that he was the only one she never complained to.





I did plenty of spitting in my late adolescent days of loading and unloading trucks. Dusty burlap sacks of potatoes were my specialty. A few years later, serving aboard ship with Uncle Sam, we learned the cardinal rule for a sailor: "Ya don't never spit into the wind!"

It's interesting how an article such as *Spitting* can revive other reminiscences. Back in the days (1910s-20s) before Harry Anslinger and others got the Federal Government into the narcotics regulation business, gum opium was widely available in pharmacies. My uncle's store on Washburn Street was one of them.

Uncle Bob told me how old farmers from around Scranton would come in and buy the stuff. Apparently, they chewed it when the pains of farm work, digging, riding on bumpy machinery, etc., got to be too much. Presumably they didn't spit, and I really don't know the extent to which any of them became physically addicted.



Badiraguato: Lots and lots of Opium Gum and Chemicals Image source: Borderland Beat

As I mentioned in the beginning, I enjoyed the Spitting article written by Bob Wolensky. In an email to Bob regarding the article, I wrote:

"And one more thing: since you've opened the Pandora's box/spittoon on the subject. Here's one more semi-painful memory from my childhood. When a kid wanted to taunt me about my name, He (always a he) would sing, to the music of Bizet's Toreador song, "Torry-a dor-a don't spit on the floor-a Use the cuspidor-a, that's what it's for-a!"

I'm sure I'm not the only one with spitting reminiscences. I hope mine are just the first of many such stories to come.

# In The Mines The Daily Diaries of Thomas J. Goblick By Carl Orechovsky

Thomas J. Goblick 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. Goblick lived in the Austin Heights section of Old Forge. A friend was removing items from Mr. Goblick'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.

### Jermyn Green Coal Co., No 6 Colliery, No. 11 Shaft. October 1943

- OCT 1. 4 places done early.
- OCT 2. 4 places swell shift.
- OCT 3. Sunday.
- OCT 4. No. 11 Shaft air fan broke down. Reported for Time &1/2. Colliery Idle.
- OCT 5. 3 pm. 4 places. Pulled rails from Back Branch. Done 8:30, home 10:30.
- OCT 6. Was to see Fred Jones. Done 7:30.
- OCT 7. Rope broke on Slope. Took trip of pipe to Red Ash. Ben on a Tare! Done 7:30.
- OCT 8. Swell night. New reel switch. Done 7:30.
- OCT 9. Was for Helen. Done 6 pm Time &1/2.
- OCT 10. Sunday. Drove Helen back to Hospital. \*\*\* Helen is a Nurse at Moses Taylor Hospital, Scranton. \*\*\*
- OCT 11. 7am. 5 places. Dogs not working on cages, many hurt. Done 12:30.
- OCT 12. Working a Double shift. 14 hrs. Received C Stamps 48.
- OCT 13. Worked a double shift. 14 hrs.
- OCT 14. 29 cars coal. Swell shift.
- OCT 15. Pay Day. Helen was home.
- OCT 16. "The dirty B Skunks". Riders paid. Swell shift. 1 hrTime&1/2.
- OCT 17. Sunday. Drove Helen to Hospital. Was to movies, Mell, Tom, and Me, How Round We Hail.
- OCT 18. Everything is OK.
- OCT 19. Loaded 3 cars coal in East Red Ash.
- OCT 20. Swell shift. Feel fine.
- OCT 21. Done early, swell day.
- OCT 22. Rain. Was in All's 2 beers.
- OCT 23. Rain. Brought Helen home.
- OCT 24. Sunday. Was to see Helen at the Hospital with Hamburgers, Cookies and Pie.
- OCT 25. 7am. Rain. Joe Ulias, Krompaski, George, and Been were off. Was to Sibley School register Ration Book.
- OCT 26. Rain. Riding crew in today. Swell shift. Motor is OK.

- OCT 27. Rain. Sloppy weather. Swell day.
- OCT 28. Rain. Damp weather. Easy shift.
- OCT 29. John Mitchell Day. Almost everybody working in the mines.
- OCT 30. Pay Day. Helen was home. Shopping with Ed. Done early swell shift.

Note: October 10: Drove Helen back to hospital. This is the first entry in which we learn that Helen is a nurse and not an outpatient.

### Jermyn Green Coal Co, No. 6 Colliery, No. 11 Shaft. November 1943

- NOV 1. Labor God takes over the Mines. Colliery Idle. Men refused to work. No contract No work. Colliery Idle.
- NOV 2. No Work. Roosevelt takes decisive move. Government Takes Mines. No work
- NOV 3. Miners go back to the mines. No work
- NOV 4. WLB approved a raise to Anthracite. No Work.
- NOV 5. No Work.
- NOV 6. \$.70 per day increase
- NOV 7. Sunday
- NOV 8. Rain. 3 places. Finished pipe up. Time checkers at the Sand House.
- NOV 9. Rain. 4 places. 210 miner off. Edna sick.
- NOV 10. STRIKE. Mines Idle. Motormans Walk Out. Was to Moosic bought cabbage.
- NOV 11. Armistice Day. Colliery working.
- NOV 12. 5 places, swell shift. Wonderful.
- NOV 13. Pay Day. Helen came home.
- NOV 14. Sunday. Drove Helen to Hospital.
- NOV 15. 3 places swell shift. 48 hrs.
- NOV 16. Our self-made God of Democracy takes over the coal mine.
- NOV 17. 3 places swell shift.
- NOV 18. 7 hrs.
- NOV 19. My No is 78. Checks will work. Check system No 11 Shaft.
- NOV 20. 7 hrs.
- NOV 21. Sunday.

- NOV 22. Rain. 7 hrs.
- NOV 23. Snow Storm. Jack Molan was up with 3 ducks. 21 lbs. \$6.30. 7 hrs.
- NOV 24. 7 hrs.
- NOV 25. Thanksgiving Day. Colliery Working. 7hrs Time&1/2.
- NOV 26. 7 hrs.
- NOV 27. 7 hrs. Time&1/2
- NOV 28. Sunday
- NOV 29. 7 hrs.
- NOV 30. 7 hrs. Pay Day. 104

### Jermyn Green Coal Co., No. 6 Colliery, No. 11 Shaft. December 1943

- DEC 1 2. Double shift.
- DEC 3. Was to town with Nellie.
- DEC 4. Swell shift. 3 places. 210 shipped to Straight Road. 7 hrs time&1/2
- DEC 5. Sunday. Stayed home nice day.
- DEC 6. Swell shift.
- DEC 7. Cold Day.
- DEC 8. More work. East Straight 2 places, East Right 2 places, Shoestall 3 places.
- DEC 9 10. Mike Pirick brakeman. Hard day, cars off. Done late.
- DEC 11. Cold. Mike Pirick brakeman. Hard day, cars off. Done late. 7hrs time&1/2
- DEC 12. Sunday.
- DEC 13. 3 pm. All OK.
- DEC 14. Pulled rails for 208 Branch.
- DEC 15. Pay Day.
- DEC 16. Morley not working.
- DEC 17. Worked a double. Mart Cole our Boss. Pulled Jalopy in Simons place. 7hrs time&1/2.
- DEC 18. Done 8 pm. Home 10:30. 7 hrs time&1/2.
- DEC 19. Sunday. Stayed home. Drove to town to see Helen with Nellie.
- DEC 20. 7am. All Bosses Moving Shifts starting today.
- DEC 21. Freddie Jones was in East.

- DEC 22. Fair day. Was to Old Forge with Nellie.
- DEC 23. Swell day to work. \*\*\* Not sure if it was swell or he was being sarcastic\*\*\*
- DEC 24. Christmas Eve
- DEC 25. Cloudy. Merry Christmas.
- DEC 26. Rain. Sunday.
- DEC 27. 3 pm. Bill Burke and Dan Dougherty 2 Asst Foreman laid off.
- DEC 28. Fair shift. Done 8:30.
- DEC 29. Bulled all coal out for Branch.
- DEC 30. Swell day. Moved Office to the Foot Shanty. Done 8 Pm.
- DEC 31. Pay Day.

\*\*\* (Thomas: O.K. means everything in order, everybody all right.) \*\*\*

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History Bytes offers a look at our past, as well as a look at Lackawanna and Northeast Pennsylvania in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Who are we now? How do we embrace those who came before us and those who are newly arrived?

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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

#### Anthracite Research

Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field http://www.northernfield.info/ The North-East United States Historical Geographical Information System (NEHGIS) http://www.nehgis.org

#### **Historical Societies**

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Plymouth Historical Society www.plymouthistoricalsocietyluzernecopa.org
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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
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Phone: 570-344-3841 e-mail: lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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, at 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.



Image source: Freepik