



## HISTORY BYTES

*A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication*

Vol. 7 No. 1

January – February 2024

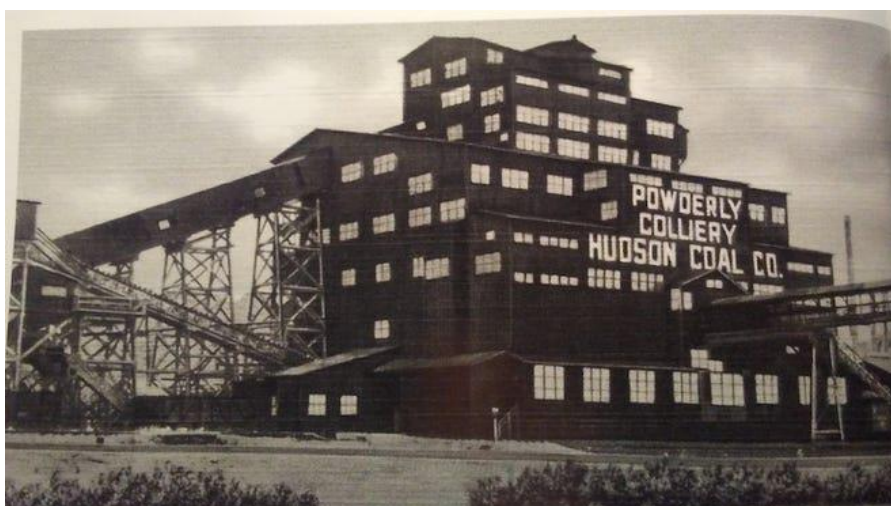
Rick Sedlisky, Editor

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### *Anthracite Mining Heritage Month*



*Huber, Ashley Image source: Wikipedia*



*Powderly, Carbondale. Image source: Tri-County Independent*

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

## *Anthracite Mining Heritage Month*

**Contact: Prof. Bob Wolensky, Anthracite Heritage Foundation and King's College**

**Contact Phone: 715-252-6742; email: [rwolensk@gmail.com](mailto:rwolensk@gmail.com)**

A regional observance of **Anthracite Mining Heritage Month** will take place during January 2024. A variety of programs will be featured in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Hazle Township, Ashley, Plymouth, Pittston, Nanticoke, Bethlehem, Barnesville, and Pottsville.

The annual event focuses on the history and culture of the anthracite region of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The programs are sponsored by the Anthracite Heritage Foundation, Anthracite Heritage Museum, King's College, Lackawanna Historical Society, Luzerne County Historical Society, WVIA-Public Broadcasting, Eckley Miners Village, Plymouth Historical Society, Nanticoke Historical Society, Greater Pittston Historical Society, Penn State University-Scranton; No. 9 Mine Tour and Museum, Underground Miners, National Museum of Industrial History, Anthracite Chapter-Society of Mining Engineers, Earth Conservancy, Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR), Susquehanna Brewing Company, Baloga Funeral Home, and Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Committee.

***The public is cordially invited to attend the events, which are open free of charge (except the NMIH program on Jan. 18; and the Knox Mine Disaster documentary screening on Jan. 22).***

***Throughout January 2024, [WVIA Public Radio & Television in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania](http://www.wvia.org) will offer programs on the WVIA website, <https://www.wvia.org>, including "Songs and Stories of the Mines," and entries from ARTScene.***

## *Schedule of Events 2024*

**Throughout January 2024, [WVIA—Public Radio & Television in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania](http://www.wvia.org)—will offer programs on the WVIA website, <https://www.wvia.org>, including "Songs and Stories of the Mines," and entries from ARTScene.**

**Jan. 6 [Penn State University-Scranton; Anthracite Heritage Foundation, Public Program: Studies in Anthracite Region History; Speakers: Richard Healey](http://www.wvia.org), University of Portsmouth, UK; "The Scranton 1870 City Directory;" [Philip Mosely](http://www.wvia.org), Penn State University-Scranton, "The Telling of the Anthracite;"**

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**Bryan Glahn**, Independent Scholar, “Mining Disasters in Northeastern Pennsylvania;” **Mitch Troutman**, Independent Scholar, “Bootleg Coal Mining in the 1920s and 1930s;” Moderator: **Chester Kulesa**, retired administrator, **Anthracite Heritage Museum**; Venue: Penn State University-Scranton [tentative]; Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm; Refreshments.

**Jan. 7 EPCAMR and Earth Conservancy, Public Program**: *Coal Breakers, Glen Alden Company Records, and EPCAMR's New Website*; Speakers: **Eric Bella**, Mining Engineer, “Studying Northeastern PA Coal Breakers;” **Sue Hand**, Artist, “Artistic Representations of Northeastern PA Coal Breakers;” **Nicholas Zmijewski**, Industrial Archives & Library, “Curating the Glen Alden Coal Company Records;” Moderator and Speaker: **Robert Hughes**, EPCMR, “EPCAMR's Release of New Environmental Education Resources;” Venue: Earth Conservancy (101 S. Main Street, Ashley, PA); Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm; Refreshments.

**Jan. 11 Anthracite Heritage Museum and Lackawanna Historical Society, Public Program**: *Five Regional Documentary Filmmakers—A Panel Discussion*; Speakers: **Robert Savakinus** (“Scranton’s Championship Season”), **Dave Brocca** (“The Knox Mine Disaster”), **David Heineman** (“NEPADOC”), **John Welsh** and **Alana Mauger**, (“*Beyond the Huber Breaker*”); Moderator: **Mary Ann Savakinus**, LHS; Venue: Albright Memorial Library (500 Vine St., Scranton, PA); Time: 6:00-8:00 pm; Refreshments. (See the individual film screening dates, times, and venues below)

**Jan. 12 Nanticoke Historical Society, Public Program**: *A Documentary Film Screening of “Beyond the Huber Breaker”* (2019); Presenters: **John Welsh** and **Alana Mauger**, documentary filmmakers; Moderator: **Chester Zaremba**, Vice President, NHS; Venue: Cultural Centre of St. Faustina (38 West Church Street, Nanticoke, PA); Time: 6 – 7:30 pm; Refreshments. (See Jan. 11 above for the Panel Discussion by *Five Regional Documentary Filmmakers*, including John Welsh and Alana Mauger).

**Jan. 13 Underground Miners, Public Program**: *Guided tours of the (newly restored) Brooks Mine in Scranton*; Guides: **Chris Murley**, **Banks Ries**, **Dan Shurtleff**, **Bill Best**, **Mark Izak**, **Gerry Babinski**, **Scott Kerkowski**, **Isaac Walker**, **Adam Zuroski**, **Greg Bock**, **Justin Ballard**, **Devin Purcell**, **Nick Bonk** and **Mike Borzell**; Venue: (Brooks Mine, Nay Aug Park, Scranton); Time: Tours start on the half-hour between 11 am – 3:30 pm; Theme: In addition to highlighting the mine’s restoration, the tour will focus on how the Knox Mine Disaster of 1959 occurred.

**Jan. 14 Underground Miners, Public Program**: *Guided tours of the (newly restored) Brooks Mine in Scranton*; Guides: **Chris Murley**, **Banks Ries**, **Dan Shurtleff**, **Bill Best**, **Mark Izak**, **Gerry Babinski**, **Scott Kerkowski**, **Isaac Walker**, **Adam Zuroski**, **Greg Bock**, **Justin Ballard**, **Devin Purcell**, **Nick Bonk** and **Mike Borzell**; Venue: (Brooks Mine, Nay Aug Park, Scranton); Time: Tours start on the half hour between 11 am – 3:30 pm; Theme: In addition to

highlighting the mine's restoration, the tour will focus on how the Knox Mine Disaster of 1959 occurred.

**Jan. 14    Susquehanna Brewing Company, Public Program:** *An Afternoon of Anthracite Region Music*; Musicians: **Don Shappelle and the Pick-ups; Jim Waltich and Doug Smith; John Stankey, Frank Westowski, Mark Steinkirshner, and the Coal Miners**; Master of Ceremonies: **Don Shappelle**; Time: 4 – 6 pm; Venue: SBC (635 S. Main St., Pittston, PA); food and drink available.

**Jan. 17    Luzerne County Historical Society and the Eckley Miners Village Museum, Public Program:** Speaker: **Justin W. Emershaw**, Mining Engineer, Atlantic Carbon Group, Inc.; Topic: “Current Anthracite Mining Operations in Northeastern Pennsylvania;” Venue: Eckley Miners Village Museum Auditorium (2 Eckley Main Street, Weatherly, PA); Time: 7-8:30 pm; Refreshments.

**Jan. 18    Penn-Anthracite Society of Mining Engineers, Public Program:** “*The History of Anthracite: Past, Present and Future*,” Speakers: to be announced; Venue: Mountain Valley Club House (1021 Brockton Mountain Drive, Barnesville, PA 18214); Time: 6:30 pm; Refreshments.

**Jan. 19    Anthracite Heritage Museum and Lackawanna Historical Society, Public Program:** *A Documentary Film Screening of “NEPADOC”* (2023), a documentary on Northeastern Pennsylvania history; Presenter: **David Heineman**, Bloomsburg University; Venue: Snyder Room (Third Floor), Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center, King’s College (133 N. River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA); Time: 6:30 -8 pm. (See Jan. 11 above for the Panel Discussion by *Five Regional Documentary Filmmakers*, including David Heineman).

**Jan. 20    Anthracite Heritage Museum, Public Program—*The Annual Knox Mine Disaster Commemoration*:** *After Knox—Legacies and Prospects*; Speakers: **Tom Supey**, retired coal miner, “Flushing the Mines”; **Robert Hughes**, EPCAMR, “Mine Reclamation;” **Elizabeth Hughes**, Earth Conservancy, “Restoring the Land;” **Bill Best**, Underground Miners, “Mine Restoration;” **William Conlogue**, Marywood University, “Environmental Implications;” **Bode Morin**, AHM, “Anthracite Heritage;” Moderator: **Robert Wolensky**; Music: **Don Shappelle and Don Sennett**; Mining Artifacts Display: **Mike and Linda Mostardi**, Wayne, PA, Venue: AHM (22 Bald Mountain Road, Scranton, PA); Time: 2 – 4:00 pm; Refreshments.

**Jan. 21    Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Mass;** Venue: St. John the Evangelist Church (36 William St., Pittston), Time: 9 am.

**Jan. 21    Knox Disaster Commemoration;** Venue: The Knox Disaster Monument, Baloga Funeral Home (1201 Main St., Pittston); Time: 10:30—11 am.



**Jan. 21 Annual Walk to the Knox Mine Disaster Break-in Site;** Venue: Susquehanna River, Port Griffith (weather permitting); Meet: Baloga Funeral Home; Time: 11 am; Leaders: **Bill Best** and **Bill Landmesser**.

**Jan 21 Anthracite Heritage Museum and Lackawanna Historical Society, Public Program:** *A Documentary Film Screening of “Scranton’s Championship Season”* (2022); Presenter: **Robert Savakinus**, documentary filmmaker; Venue: The Ritz Theatre (222 Wyoming Ave, Scranton, PA); Time: 2 – 3:30 pm. (See Jan. 11 above for the Panel Discussion by *Five Regional Documentary Filmmakers*, including Bob Savakinus)

**Jan. 22 Anthracite Heritage Museum and Lackawanna Historical Society, Public Program:** A Documentary Film Screening of “*The Knox Mine Disaster*” (2019); Presenters: **David and Al Brocca**, documentary filmmakers; Venue: Snyder Room (Third Floor), Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center, King’s College (133 N. River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA); Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm; *to purchase a ticket* (\$10) please go to [www.knoxminedisaster.com](http://www.knoxminedisaster.com). (See Jan. 11 above for the Panel Discussion by *Five Regional Documentary Filmmakers*, including David Brocca).

**Jan. 24 Plymouth Historical Society, Public Program:** *The Powell Squibb Factory Explosion, February 25, 1889, Plymouth, PA;* Speakers: **Joe Slusser** (“Narrative of the Disaster”) and **Heather Ruseskas** (“The Victims and the Families”); Moderator: **Steve Kondrad**, President, PHS; Venue: First Welsh Baptist Church (168 West Shawnee Ave., Plymouth, PA); Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm; Music: **Don Shappelle** and **Don Sennett**; Refreshments.

**Jan. 25 King’s College and the Anthracite Heritage Foundation, Public Program—The Annual Msgr. John J. Curran Lecture,** Speaker: **Breandan MacSuibhne**, University of Galway, Ireland; Topic: “*From The Potato Patch to the Mine Patch: The Irish of Northeastern Pennsylvania, c. 1820–1920,*” Welcome: **Fr. Thomas Looney**, President, King’s College; Moderator: **Thomas Mackaman**, King’s College; *Anthracite Book Award Presentation* to **Philip Mosley**, Penn State University-Scranton; Venue: Burke Auditorium, McGowan Business School (133 N. River Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA); Time: 7-8:30 pm; Refreshments.

**Jan. 25 Anthracite Heritage Foundation, Book Award for 2024;** Presenter: **Robert P. Wolensky**, King’s College; Recipient: **Philip Mosley**, Penn State University-Scranton, for *The Telling of the Anthracite* (2023); Venue: King’s College, Burke Auditorium; Time: immediately preceding the Annual Curran Lecture (see above).

**Jan. 25 Reading Anthracite Public Program:** Speaker: **Eric Bella**, Mining Engineer; Topic: *History of Philadelphia and Readin, Coal & Iron Company and Reading Anthracite;* Venue: The Reading Anthracite Building (200 Mahantongo St., Pottsville, PA; Parking—Use Mahantongo Parking Garage, 201 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville, PA, across the street from the building, entrance is on South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street); Time: 6:30-7 PM; Refreshments.

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

**Jan. 26 Lackawanna Historical Society, Public Program:** *Lackawanna Past Times*; Hosts: **Sarah Piccini**, LHS and **Darlene Miller-Lanning**, University of Scranton Hope Horn Gallery; Topic: *The Centennial of the John Mitchell Monument in Scranton*; Time: 2 - 3 pm; Venue: Zoom—  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88686396901?pwd=VVp6engyRERSbDhrOWFrSHlR0NrZz09>; Meeting ID: 886 8639 6901; Passcode: 975417.

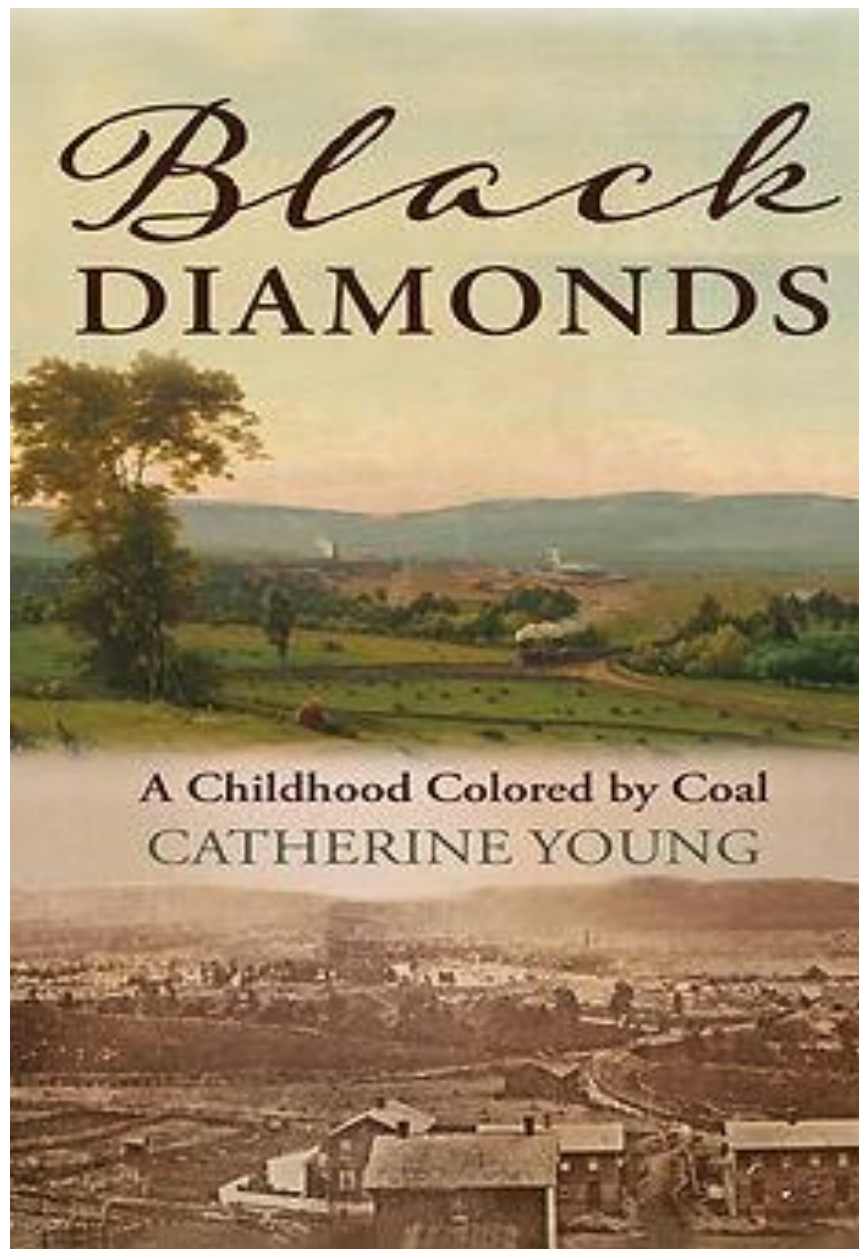
**Jan. 27 Lansford No. 9 Mine Tour and Museum, Public Program:** Mine Tour Leader: **Zach Petroski**, President; Venue: No. 9 Mine Tour (9 Dock St, Lansford, PA); Time: 11:30 am – 1 pm; **AND Lecture and book signing:** **Mitch Troutman**, Author of *The Bootleg Coal Rebellion* (2022); Venue: The No. 9 Museum; Time: 1:30-3 pm; Refreshments.

**Jan. 28 Anthracite Heritage Museum, Public Information Session:** *A Travel Adventure Tour—Industrial History of the United Kingdom (Scotland, England, and Wales), September 17-27, 2024*; Tour Leaders: **Beth Landmesser**, **Bode Morin**, and **Bob Wolensky**, who will provide a PowerPoint presentation on the itinerary, lodgings, cost, and other aspects of the trip; Time: 2:30 – 4:00 pm; Venue: AHM (22 Bald Mountain Road, Scranton, PA); Refreshments.

**Jan. 28 National Museum of Industrial History, Public Program:** Speaker: **Andrea Krupp**, artist and independent researcher; Topic: *Seeing Coal: An Artist's Perspective*; Introduction: **Andria Zaia**, NMIH; Venue: NMIH (602 E. 2nd St., Bethlehem, PA); Time: 2 – 3:00 pm; Light Refreshments. Entry is included with a paid Museum admission. (NOTE: Andrea Krupp's art exhibit will be on display at the NMIH during all of January)

**Jan. 29 Greater Pittston Historical Society, Public Program,** Topic: *Organized Crime in Northeastern Pennsylvania*; Speakers: **Dave Janoski**, *Citizens' Voice*, "Historical Overview of Organized Crime in the Local Area;" **Ken Wolensky**, Rutgers University; "Organized Crime in the Ladies' Garment Industry;" **Robert Wolensky**, King's College, "Organized Crime in Anthracite Mining;" Moderator: **Julio Caprari**, GPHS; Venue: St. Joseph Morello Hall (237 William St., Pittston); Time: 6:30 – 8 pm; Refreshments.

**Jan. 31 Pennsylvania Anthracite Society of Mining Engineers, Public Program:** Speaker: **David Williams**, PA-SME; Topic: *The Sheppton Mine Disaster of 1963*; Venue: Hazle Township Municipal Building (101 W. 27th St., Hazle Township); Time: 7 -8:30 pm; Refreshments.



Please join Ms. Young as she discusses her works at ***Lackawanna Past Times*** via Zoom on ***Friday, March 22, at 2pm.***

### *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 bi-monthly 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.

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

## *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](mailto: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. Please see page 25.

**Friday, February 23, 2pm: Braids of Song Weaving Welsh Music into the American Soul** with author Mari Morgan

**Friday, March 22, 2pm: Black Diamonds** with author Catherine Young

## *Ghostly Gallery Link*

<http://www.lackawannahistory.org/ghostlygallery.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: Colarusso's Coal Fired Pizza** 280 Main St. Dickson City 570-489-2627

**Wednesday, February 21: Stirna's Restaurant**, 120 W. Market Sr., Scranton 570-343-5742

### *Abingtons*

#### **Clarks Summit**

Camelot      The New Cafe  
Formosa      State Street Grill

#### **Dalton**

B&B

#### **Chinchilla**

Armetta's Restaurant & Pizza

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## *Upper Lackawanna*

### **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

## *Dunmore/North Pocono*

### **Dunmore**

3 Jacks Burgers

### **Moscow**

Delish on Main

### **Springbrook Twp.**

Olde Brook Inn

## *Scranton*

Ale Mary's at the Bittenbender  
AV Scranton  
Back Yard Ale House  
Cafe Classico  
Carmen's 2.0 Restaurant  
Chef Von & Mom  
POSH at the Scranton Club

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

## *Lower Lackawanna*

### **Old Forge**

Cusumano  
Dooley's Pub & Eatery

### **Taylor**

Union Craft House

## *Genealogy Forum Virtual Sessions*

**Wednesday, January 17, 1 pm, Tom Price:** Revisiting and Updates on Lackawanna County Cemeteries

**Wednesday, February 14, 1 pm, Barbara Shuta:** Revisiting Lackawanna County Birth & Death Records and Carbondale & Scranton Board of Health Records

**Wednesday, March 13, 1 pm, Kate Bohan:** Navigating the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) site.

The forum is an opportunity to learn more about specific topics in family history research and discuss research tactics to uncover your family story. Sessions are free and open to those at all levels of genealogy research, from beginners to longtime genealogists with specific questions. ***The sessions will be held virtually via Zoom.***

For more information or to register for these sessions, contact the Lackawanna Historical Society at 570-344-3841 or email [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com).

A vertical rectangular graphic with a blue-to-orange gradient background. It features various icons and text promoting NET Credit Union. At the top, the title 'Unlike Your Bank' is in large white bold font. Below it, a subtitle reads 'If you're a member of the Lackawanna Historical Society, then you can Bank on NET!'. The main body contains six icons with corresponding text: a heart for '#netcares', a location pin for 'All Local', two people for 'Not for Profit', a slider for 'Diverse Products & Services', a house for 'Personalized Mortgage Services', and a crossed-out credit card for 'No Annual Fee on Credit Cards'. The website 'netcreditunion.com' is listed below these. At the bottom right is the 'NET CREDIT UNION' logo.

**Unlike Your Bank**

If you're a member of the Lackawanna Historical Society, then you can Bank on NET!

- #netcares
- All Local
- Not for Profit
- Diverse Products & Services
- Personalized Mortgage Services
- No Annual Fee on Credit Cards

netcreditunion.com

**NET**  
CREDIT UNION

## *Remembering the Eastern Professional Basketball League*

The Lackawanna Historical Society is hoping to assist two former Scranton natives who are working on a documentary about the Eastern Professional Basketball League. The EBL was the top minor league for pro basketball in the 1950s, '60s and '70s and had a huge presence in Scranton. Other teams were in Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Sunbury, Williamsport, and several other small cities in Eastern Pennsylvania, plus teams in New Jersey, Delaware, and Connecticut, among others.

Syl Sobel and Jay Rosenstein have done extensive research on the league and its players for their 2021 book "Boxed Out of the NBA," and now their goal is to adapt the book into a documentary film.

The film-in-progress tells an important but overlooked story about race and pro sports and portrays a bygone chapter of the social and cultural history of Scranton and Northeastern Pennsylvania.

"Our book tells the story of the many great basketball players who never got the opportunity they deserved in large part because of the racism that permeated professional sports," Sobel said. "It also paints a picture of Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and other Eastern League cities during that time, and how the mostly blue-collar, predominantly white fans in those towns grew to admire the players who represented their teams, a love affair with the league that for many former fans remains to this day."

But most people don't know that up until the late 1960s, African Americans faced unwritten quotas that restricted them to only a few spots on NBA teams. Thus, the Eastern League was the best professional league available to most Black basketball players for almost two decades, and it became a predominantly Black league while the NBA was predominantly white.

The two authors had a strong personal connection with the league while growing up in Scranton. Sobel and Rosenstein fondly remember attending games with their fathers, starting when they were seven years old. Art Pachter, who lived up the block from Rosenstein, was the owner of the Scranton Miners and Apollos. Fans may remember this colorful man sitting on the bench with his players and yelling at the referees at the Catholic Youth Center. Rosenstein was also the statistician for the Apollos during his high school years.

The authors feel that this story needs to be told soon, in order to give the players, now mostly in their 80s, the recognition they deserve.

If anyone would like to donate to help make this documentary a reality, they can do so through the International Documentary Association. The link to the donation page is <https://www.documentary.org/project/boxed-out-nba-remembering-eastern-professional-basketball-league>.

# *The Anthracite League*

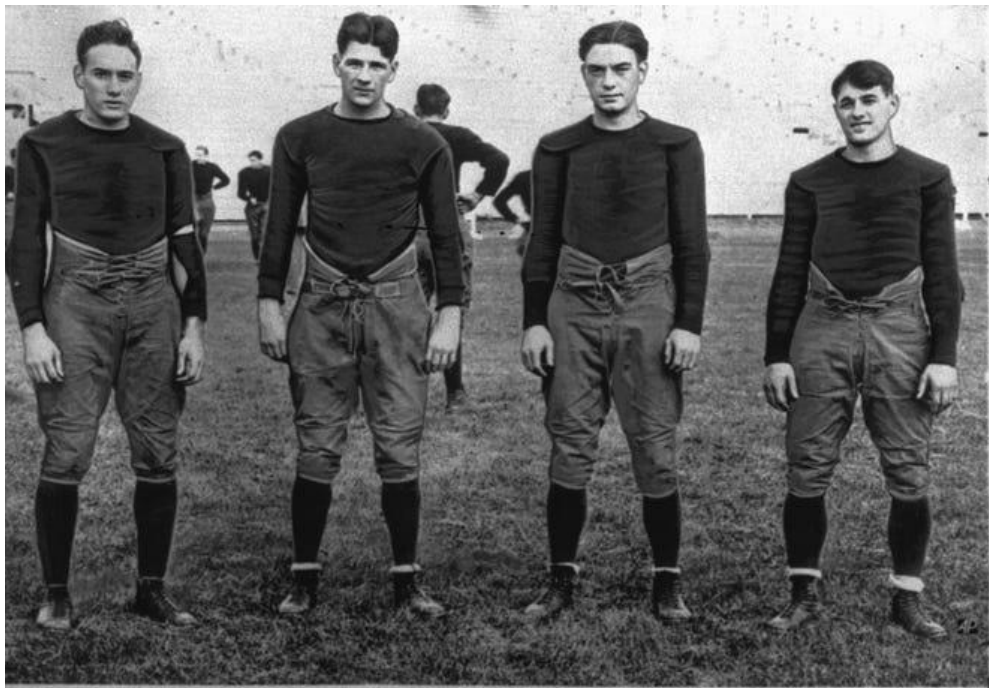
## *How NEPA Influenced the Early Days of Professional Football*

*By Frank P. Adams*

### South Bend, Indiana. Summer 1925

Coach Knute Rockne is enjoying some time off. Last year, his seventh season as head coach, the Fighting Irish compiled a perfect 10–0 record then defeated Stanford 27-10 in the 1925 Rose Bowl. The win earned Notre Dame the 1924 national championship.

Soon practice begins for the new season but without his fabled Four Horsemen, now widely considered the greatest backfields in college football history, this year will be challenging. The Four Horsemen nicknamed because they represented “The Apocalypse” to the opposing team, have joined other former Notre Dame players in a non-league team called the Notre Dame All-Stars. So it is with mixed emotions that Coach Rockne forwards them the letter he’s just received from Philadelphia, challenging his All-Stars to an exhibition game with the best National Football League team in the East.



*Notre Dame's famous backfield, "The Four Horsemen," from left to right halfback Don Miller, fullback Elmer Layden, left halfback Jim Crowley and quarterback Harry Stuhldreher*



## **Coaldale, Pennsylvania ... One year earlier**

The years following World War I were formative for professional football. In eastern Pennsylvania, independent professional teams were without a doubt the equals of any team in the fledgling five-year-old, 20-member National Football League.

Organizationally, it was a different story; the coal mining towns could use some help.

In late August 1924, James H. Gildea, manager of the Coaldale Big Green, invited the managers and owners of the Wilkes-Barre Barons, Shenandoah Yellow Jackets, Gilberton Catamounts and Pottsville Maroons to a meeting in Coaldale's town hall. Fortunately for history, local sports writers were also invited.

Although the Anthracite Football League founded that day would only last one season, it provided something different for the fans and the game.

The coal region team owners needed a league mainly to put an end to teams raiding their opponents' rosters for big-name players. Money was being handed over in record amounts, as team managers fought to lure the finest talent available. Right up to the start of and sometimes during a game, managers would steal players from other teams with the offer of higher salaries. As a result of Gildea's meeting, all agreed that league teams had to secure all their players prior to the start of the season. A list of eligible players had to be filed and all teams would be required to finish the season with the same players they started with. Finally, a monetary forfeit of \$500<sup>1</sup> had to be posted by each team to guarantee that they would stick to its preseason roster during league play.

The second reason for establishing a league was scheduling. Finding open dates when teams could play each other was often difficult. The main reason was the inability of some clubs to draw enough people into the ballpark. Spending a lot of money signing talented players, the managers and owners relied heavily on ticket sales for both home and road games. This was, after all, a for-profit enterprise! A schedule was agreed upon of twelve set dates from the beginning of October until the end of November.

The schedule also allowed non-league contests with natural rivals from nearby towns like Reading, Tamaqua and Minersville to take place at different intervals during and after the league's scheduled games.

This was the agreement for the Anthracite League.

Unfortunately, it didn't last very long.

The day after the big meeting in Coaldale, Dr. Striegel of the Pottsville Maroons began to stockpile as much talent as he could in an effort to provide the Pottsville fans with a winning team. In doing so, his list of ringers topped that of any other club in Schuylkill County.

In less than a week, several other league teams followed Pottsville's lead and began to sign available big-name players (local or otherwise). The agreement to unify the coal

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<sup>1</sup> About \$9,000 today

region teams with an eligible player list was suddenly just an afterthought to the drive to win games.

Gildea had had enough. He withdrew the Coaldale Big Green from the Anthracite League but said he would keep the schedule arranged with all the region's teams. With Gildea's withdrawal, the Anthracite League was left with four teams, three of which proved to be no match for the Pottsville Maroons.

<b>Anthracite League Team</b>	<b>Games</b>	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Losses</b>	<b>Ties</b>
Pottsville Maroons	14	12	1	1
Gilberton Catamounts	13	4	3	1
Shenandoah Yellow Jackets	8	4	4	0
Coaldale Big Green	10	4	6	0
Wilkes-Barre Barons <sup>2</sup>	1	0	1	0

*1924 Anthracite League Results*

### **The Pottsville Maroons**

Like other coal towns in eastern Pennsylvania, Pottsville had been fielding football teams from the 1910s. The team that became the Maroons was established in 1920 as the "Pottsville Eleven" with a roster mostly made up of firemen from the Yorkville Hose Company. The team initially played on the independent circuit against other teams from nearby coal mining towns. In 1922 the team attracted the sponsorship of area businessmen who brought in professional players. Still, the team maintained a strong local presence by recruiting many Pottsville natives to its roster. The result was a team with consistent winning records and strong crowds at their "high school" stadium, Minersville Park.

In 1924 local surgeon John G. "Doc" Striegel purchased the Pottsville Eleven for \$1,500. John Striegel decided they needed new uniforms and a nickname, so he reached out to a local shop to create jerseys and told them to use whatever color they wanted. The shop sent maroon-colored jerseys, creating the Pottsville Maroons.

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<sup>2</sup> Only one of the Wilkes-Barre Barons league games was recorded in the Anthracite League standings. That game was a 34–0 loss to the Maroons. The team's remaining league games are a mystery. Some historians speculate that Wilkes-Barre followed Coaldale's decision and quit the league. However, others say that the team disbanded, or that they rescheduled the rest of their games with closer regional opponents.



*Pottsville Maroons memorabilia on display in Canton.*

Immediately after winning the 1924 Anthracite League title, the Maroons issued challenges to both the NFL champion Cleveland Bulldogs and the Philadelphia Frankford Yellow Jackets, who claimed the Eastern professional championship. When neither team accepted, Striegel scheduled a game with the NFL's Rochester Jeffersons who had not beaten an NFL opponent since 1921. These two teams met in the season finale on the last Sunday of November. Rochester managed to defeat Pottsville 10–7, giving the Maroons their only loss of the season.

The Anthracite League was history, but within a matter of months, the Maroons would be accepted into the National Football League for a season for the ages.

### **1925 National Football League**

In 1925, Pottsville city residents helped raise the money to purchase the NFL franchise.

Since many Maroons players had left after their 1924 championship, the team recruited several talented players to replace them. These included former Army great Walter French and Jack Ernst, a quarterback from Lafayette College. Another Army recruit, tight end Eddie Doyle, later served in World War II and was the first American killed in the landings in North Africa. Topping this collection of stars was Charlie Berry, possibly the best athlete on the team; after a spectacular athletic career at Lafayette College, he signed both pro baseball and pro football contracts. However, this strong talent was expensive; to recoup their investment, the team needed sellout crowds at little Minersville Park.

The Maroons insisted that their players live in the Pottsville area. In the 1920s most players traveled some distance from their homes and only joined their teams on game day. By having the players live in Pottsville, coach and former Colgate University assistant Dick Rauch instituted (the first ever) regular practices for his players. Practice helped the Maroons beat the Buffalo Bisons in their first NFL game 28–0. When not practicing, the Maroons spent their days hanging around the fire house drinking Yuengling, playing cards and tossing footballs in the street. As the 1925 season neared its end, the Maroons held an impressive 9–1–1 record.

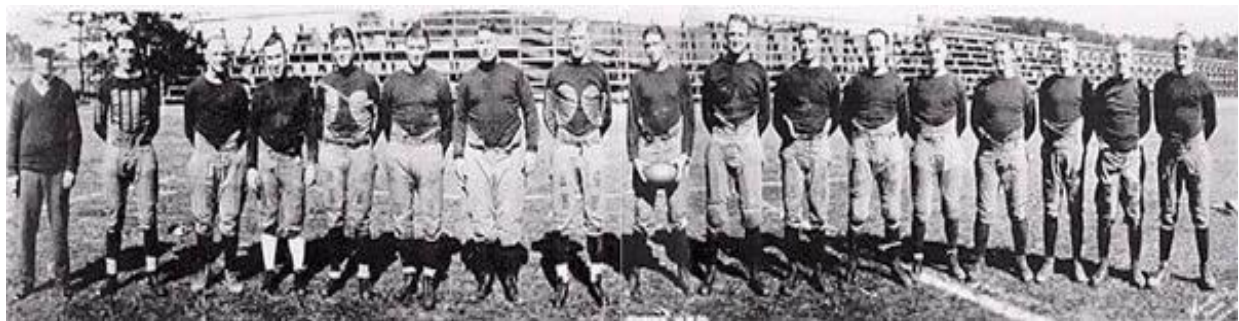
Pennsylvania's blue laws, which prohibited football on Sundays, were treated as guidelines rather than actual rules in Pottsville. Traveling teams could play the Philadelphia Frankford Yellow Jackets on a Saturday and then head to Pottsville on Sunday. Having visiting teams play in Philadelphia the day before obviously benefited the Maroons. Pottsville was 5–1–0 in their six games against teams that played the Yellow Jackets the previous day.

By this point in the season, Pottsville and the Chicago Cardinals (before they were the Arizona Cardinals, Phoenix Cardinals or St. Louis Cardinals) were the two top teams in the league, having comparable records. At the time, the NFL Championship<sup>3</sup> went to the team with the best record against other NFL teams. As such, the match-up between the two was of great importance. The Maroons met the Cardinals in late November for a game at Chicago's Comiskey Park. The Maroons won the game 21–7, putting them ahead of the Cardinals in the championship race.

“As far as the Chicago Cardinals are concerned, Pottsville is the champion of the league,” wrote the Chicago Tribune. “In the face of a driving attack by the Eastern eleven, the Cardinals curled up and were smeared in the snow on the gridiron at Comiskey Park yesterday, 21 to 7.”

The Philadelphia Frankford Yellow Jackets, whose franchise later became the Eagles,<sup>4</sup> finished with a decent 13-7 record that season, but it included a 49-0 loss to Pottsville.

The Pottsville Maroons were declared the NFL World Champions in 1925 after they finished the season with a 10-2 record.



*The Pottsville Maroons, NFL World Champions in 1925.*

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<sup>3</sup> The NFL did not have an official title game until 1932.

<sup>4</sup> The Frankford Athletic Association fell on hard times and returned their franchise to the NFL in 1931. Two years later, the NFL granted an expansion franchise to Bert Bell and Lud Wray and awarded them the assets of the failed Yellow Jackets organization. The new team was named the Philadelphia Eagles after the symbol of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.



## **Controversies**

After their loss to the Maroons, Chicago Cardinals owner Chris O'Brien hastily scheduled two games against the Hammond Pros and the Milwaukee Badgers, both of whom had already disbanded for the 1925 season. O'Brien's intention appears not to have been to secure the NFL championship, but to improve their record to entice the Chicago Bears and their star Red Grange into one last game. The game against the Badgers created a scandal when the Badgers completed their roster with four high school players, a violation of NFL rules.

A few weeks later, when NFL President Joseph Carr learned high school players had been used, he told reporters the 58-0 Cardinals win would be stricken from the record. However, the league never got around to removing it. The game is still a part of the NFL records. Chris O'Brien was also fined \$1,000 by Carr for allowing his team play a game against high schoolers, even though he claimed that he was unaware of the players' status. Ambrose McGuirk was ordered to sell his Milwaukee franchise within 90 days.

By the summer of 1926, Carr toned down his punishment for each party involved in the scandal. The \$1,000 fine against O'Brien was rescinded, probably since the amount would have put the Cardinals out of business. The reprieve came too late for McGuirk. He had already sold his Badgers franchise. The Englewood High School players were also forgiven; The game was deemed a "practice game" and as such would not affect their amateur status.

In early December 1925, at the same time as the Hammond-Chicago game, the Maroons scheduled a game against a team of Notre Dame all-stars.

Earlier in the year, as we know, the Philadelphia Frankford Yellow Jackets had scheduled an exhibition game between the former University of Notre Dame stars and the best NFL team in the east. As the NFL's dominant eastern team at the time, they believed they themselves would get to play the potentially financially lucrative match. However, when Pottsville later pulled ahead in the standings, they won the right to play the game. Pottsville's Minersville Park was a high school stadium with a capacity of only around 6,000, far too small to host Notre Dame, especially with Knute Rockne expected to attend! So, team owner John Striegel booked the much larger Shibe Park in Philadelphia for the big game.

However, by playing in Philadelphia, the Maroons were violating NFL territory agreements. Philadelphia was the domain of the Yellow Jackets. After hearing of the planned Notre Dame contest, Philadelphia Frankford filed a protest with the NFL.

Commissioner Joe Carr warned Striegel three times not to play the game. Unlike the Anthracite League, NFL rules would be enforced! Pottsville's franchise would be suspended if they played in Philadelphia. Not wanting to give up on a potential financial windfall, Striegel went ahead with the game. He would later claim he had received verbal permission from the NFL by telephone, though he gave inconsistent responses

about which official had authorized the game. *Pottsville won, 9-7, with a last-minute field goal.*<sup>5</sup>

*The Pottsville Maroons beat the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame*  
JOHN P. O'DONNELL The Philadelphia Record, December 13, 1925.

Displaying a superb line-cracking ability reminiscent of the days of Ted Coy, Tony Latone, product of the Wilkes-Barre sandlots, aided and abetted by Barney Wentz, former Penn State fullback, led the Pottsville football team to a thrilling victory over the Notre Dame eleven of 1924, before a crowd of 10,000 at Shibe Park yesterday afternoon.

The contest was without doubt the finest professional football game ever staged in this city, and completely confounded the critics, who had asserted that the collegian stars could not cope with their more mature rivals.

Throughout the first half the Notre Dame backfield completely outplayed the professional champions, to the great delight of the crowd...

With Knute Rockne's most famous pupils, the famous "Four Horsemen," in the backfield the South Bend warriors proved that as a team they were well fitted to live up to their reputation.

**[Halftime Notre Dame has a 7-0 lead.]**

Perhaps the tongue lashing administered by Dr. Striegel weighed a little on their consciences, but certainly it was a different team that trotted on the grid iron. The players exhibited the gentle demeanor of Hyrcanian tigers during Lent, and Notre Dame, a trifle confident owing to their fine showing in the first half, soon found that they had a bunch of wildcats to contend with.

**[3<sup>rd</sup> quarter]** Tony Latone carried across the line for the first Pottsville score. But Berry's kick hit the crossbar of the goal posts and bounced back, and [behind by 1 point] gloom again descended on the Pottsville stands.

**[4<sup>th</sup> quarter]** Berry Kicks Field Goal in Final Minute of Contest to Give Maroons Victory Over Former Stars of Notre Dame University.

Pottsville had won the game, but at what cost? The Maroons were fined \$500, tossed from the league, and stripped of their title. The NFL voted to give their 1925 title to the Chicago Cardinals.

Pottsville fans demanded to know why Chicago was awarded the title even though they, too, were found by Carr to have violated the NFL's rules. According to Bob Carroll of the

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<sup>5</sup> Sportswriter David Fleming is the leading historian on this game, having covered it extensively for ESPN. He wrote a book in 2007 about the Pottsville Maroons, "Breaker Boys: The NFL's Greatest Team and the Stolen 1925 Championship," published by ESPN Books.

Professional Football Researchers Association, “The Cardinals didn’t defy the league, Pottsville did. It was a great team, but the owner made a mistake.”

Detroit, Feb. 7, 1926 --The Chicago Cardinals were voted the league championship of 1925 but declined to accept the honor. With Pottsville, Pa., which had tied the Cardinals for first place honors, now out of the circuit, Chris O’Brien, head of the Chicago club, refused the title, unanimously voted the Cardinals, because he said he wanted a title clearly won on the field of play.

### **Aftermath**

Seven years later, the Bidwill family bought the Cardinals and decided they wanted the 1925 title. Just like that, Pottsville’s only claim to NFL fame was gone. Although their franchise was reinstated in July 1926 (the NFL did not want to lose Pottsville’s skilled group of players to the upstart American Football League), the Maroons, one of the most dominant, influential and controversial teams in NFL history, never recovered. The town and the players lost interest, the Maroons management struggled to meet its financial obligations, and there were published reports of a strike among the team’s players.

In 1928 Striegel sold the Maroons during the offseason to a New England–based partnership that included the club’s standout, George Kenneally. The new owners relocated the franchise to Boston prior to the 1929 season, where it was renamed the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs would be the first of a string of unsuccessful attempts at establishing an NFL team in Massachusetts that would finally end in 1970 with the addition of the American Football League’s New England Patriots.

In 1967, the NFL appointed a special commission to examine the Maroons’ case but voted 12–2 in favor of continuing to recognize the Cardinals as champions. The lone dissenters were Art Rooney and George Halas, then-owners of the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Chicago Bears, respectively.

As recently as 2003, at the NFL owners’ meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell tried to have the title returned to the Maroons in time for Pottsville’s bicentennial celebration in 2006. Rendell, who kept his job as a TV commentator for the Philadelphia Eagles even after he became governor, also recruited others to ask the NFL to turn the title over to the long-defunct pro team.

Rendell wrote a letter after the NFL owners failed to recognize the Maroons as the rightful 1925 NFL champions -- a controversy the Journal of Sports History has called “one of the greatest injustices in NFL history.” The Philadelphia Inquirer calling the Maroons “The Perfect Football Machine” reported at the time “In 1925, Pottsville, a small coal-mining town 90 miles northwest of Philadelphia, did the unthinkable and dominated the NFL in its inaugural season.”

In the candid letter, Rendell calls the NFL owners “cowardly barons” and suggests that the vast majority of owners lack “cojones.”

“However, since [Eagles owner] Jeff Lurie and [Steelers owner] Dan Rooney were the only two NFL owners with cojones, I am taking care of their problem... I am closing with the wish that every NFL franchise except for the Eagles and the Steelers lose large quantities of money.”

Even President George W. Bush chimed in on the subject. According to the article in ESPN the Magazine, Bush sent a handwritten note to ESPN calling the Maroons’ case “illuminating.”

However, the NFL owners, on the behest of current Cardinals owner Bill Bidwill, shot down the request by a 30-2 vote. The only two votes in favor of awarding the Maroons the title were by Steelers owner Dan Rooney and Eagles Chairman/CEO Jeffrey Lurie. Paul Tagliabue, the NFL commissioner at the time, said he believed Pottsville “was a championship caliber team that ran into an unfortunate conflict with the league’s rules.” He said that it would be impossible to award the Maroons the championship at this late date.

### **Cursed?**

According to David Fleming, talk of a curse originated in the early 1960s with the formation of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Football historians reached out to Pottsville leaders, asking for memorabilia to add to the collection. The reply, was blunt: “If you want our artifacts, give us our title back.” The demand was denied, and the curse was born.

“We don’t know exactly who placed the curse,” Fleming said. It could have been the team’s unofficial historian, Nick Barbetta, who died in 2013 at age 98.

It could have been Barney Wentz or his descendants. Wentz was a fullback who scored two touchdowns in the 1925 win over the Cardinals. He died months before the Hall of Fame opened in 1963 in Canton, Ohio, with an inaugural class that didn’t include any representatives from the championship team.

And it could have been Tony Latone, a bruising runner known as the Human Howitzer, who never got his due.

Latone entered the coal mines at 11 to provide for his mother and five brothers and sisters after his father drank himself to death. George “Papa Bear” Halas, according to the Pro Football Researchers Association, said that “If Latone had gone to college and played college ball, he would certainly have been one of the greatest pro players of all time.”

Red Grange, the Hall of Fame Bears halfback known as the “Gallopig Ghost,” didn’t care that Latone had never played college ball. “Tony was one hell broth of a rugged coal miner, and for my money, he was the most football player I had ever seen. I simply cannot imagine anyone who could equal that power-play fullback whose leg drive was so unbelievably potent he simply knocked the linemen kicking.”

Latone died in 1975. He was never inducted into the Hall of Fame.



Fleming thinks Latone haunts the Cardinals to this day.

In 2009, the Cardinals lost the Super Bowl to a Pennsylvania team, the Steelers, and everyone knows that the Cardinals were blatantly, boldly and brazenly cheated. Except Fleming has another theory. "I think it was the Ghost of Tony Latone that pushed his toe down in the end zone."<sup>6</sup>

The curse could be fading. It's been nearly 100 years, and there aren't many people left with direct connections to the team.

## **Epilogue**

The 1925 Maroons have been immortalized in Pottsville, where there are establishments bearing the team's name, including a section of U.S. Route 209 between Pottsville and Minersville named "Pottsville Maroons Highway." An inspirational picture of the 1925 "World Champion" team is displayed in the high school football team's locker room. There was also a bar named after the team, but it closed during the Covid pandemic.



*In 1967, surviving members of the Maroons carved their own championship trophy out of anthracite coal and presented it to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, where it can be seen today.*

Today, the people of Pottsville still embrace the legacy of the Maroons. The town hosts the headquarters of the Pottsville Maroons Memorial Committee, whose job it is to keep

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.azcentral.com/story/sports/nfl/cardinals/2022/01/14/moore-kliff-kingsbury-isnt-taking-chances-pottsville-curse/9192531002/>

alive the spirit of Pottsville's only big-league sports franchise. The owner of a local embroidery shop still makes and markets Maroons T-shirts, also available from the Schuylkill County Historical Society. [www.schuylkillhistory.org](http://www.schuylkillhistory.org)

Another aftermath of the curse?

The 1925 Rose Bowl was Notre Dame's last bowl appearance until 1969.

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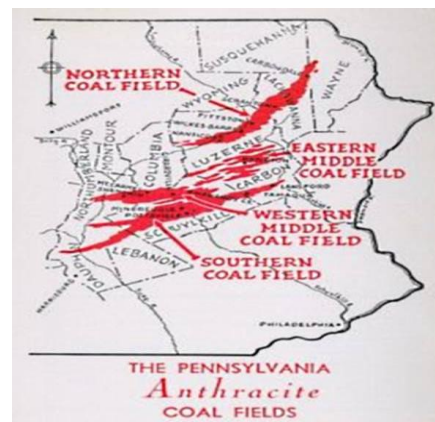
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<https://pabook.libraries.psu.edu/literary-cultural-heritage-map-pa/feature-articles/stolen-glory-pottsville-maroons>

## ***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 include, *Anthracite* in the subject matter.



*Image source: Pinterest*

## ***In The Mines: The Daily Diaries of Thomas J. Goblick 1944: Thomas' Final Year of Entries By Carl Orechovsky***

The first three issues of History Bytes 2024 document the final diary entries made in 1944 by Thomas J. Goblick. His diary entries began in 1938.

This project was started in April of 2019 by scanning the two 6" X 8" spiral bound small notebooks, which were enlarged and reprinted to 8 1/2" X 10" size". File #1 started in September of 2019. Most files took about an hour to decipher, determine what Thomas was referring to and convert that month into a file. Some months took up to three hours to do as handwriting or copying were poor.

My thanks to Mine Forman, Tom Supey, my friend, and boss when I worked at the McDade Mine Tour 190 Slope. From the start, Tom was my sounding board to figure

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

out what Thomas was talking about or what he meant. Please see pages 27, 28 and 29 below for the January and February 1944 entries

## *Remembering Knox*

On the marker below are the names of the 12 men who gave their lives on January 22, 1959, when the Susquehanna River broke through the roof of the Knox Mine.

Years before the Knox disaster, the Avondale Mine disaster in which 110 men and boys were killed, resulted in the enactment of mine safety laws by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Other states followed suit. Laws, however, do not necessarily overcome greed and are often ignored in the desire to squeeze every possible nickel of profit from an operation. In an effort to do exactly that, the operators of the Knox ignored “stop lines” and miners had no choice but to dig closer to the Susquehanna Riverbed. Commonwealth law prohibits mining within 35 feet of a riverbed. The Knox men were roughly two feet from the Susquehanna when the roof caved in, trapping 74 men, 12 of whom were never found. Millions of gallons of Susquehanna River water flooded the Knox workings and in effect ended deep mining in the Wyoming Valley and brought unemployment to



*Image source: waymarking.com/gallery*



thousands. The Knox disaster brought to light the corrupt coal company officials, corrupt United Mine Workers officials, as well as Mafia connections within the industry. Seven men were convicted of involuntary manslaughter and three also of conspiracy. Many were not surprised when all convictions were later overturned.

For some who cared only about profit, the Knox was business as usual. “Business as Usual” takes us to the present where across Northeast Pennsylvania, Anthracite Mining Heritage Month invites us to recall what happened at the Knox and why. The month-long event also allows us to appreciate and learn from those who have studied and documented our anthracite legacy.

## *Wall of Honor*

A polished piece of black granite on which the face of an anthracite miner is etched stands in place at the Anthracite Miners’ Memorial Garden located at King’s on the Square, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre. Next to the black granite are kiosks containing plaques related to anthracite mining history. This is the home of the Wall of Honor.



*Image source: The Anthracite Heritage Foundation*

The Anthracite Heritage Foundation can list 6,000 names of miners on the Wall of Honor. If you had a coal miner in your family, please either email at <http://ahfdn.org/> or call the foundation at 570-820-0917. The foundation is located at 67 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

***Centennial of the John Mitchell Monument  
Zoom Broadcast  
With Sarah Piccini and Darlene Miller-Lanning***

A special *Lackawanna Past Times* program will be presented for Anthracite Mining Heritage Month via Zoom on **January 26 at 2 pm**. Please join Sarah Piccini and Darlene Miller-Lanning, for the discussion of The Centennial of the John Mitchell Monument, located at Courthouse Square, Scranton.

To watch live on Zoom, please go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88686396901?pwd=Vp6engyRERSbDhrOWFrSHllR0NrZz09;>

Meeting ID: 886 8639 6901; Passcode: 975417.

*The following article originally appeared in the  
September – October 2022 issue of History Bytes.*

***John Mitchell***



*John Mitchell circa. 1903  
Image source: ExplorePAHistory.com*

In addition to President Theodore Roosevelt and other notables present in Courtroom 3 that day in 1902 was John Mitchell, President of the United Mine Workers of America.

Twenty-two years later May 30, 1924, thousands of union mine workers from across the anthracite region marched in a Downtown Scranton parade in tribute to John Mitchell, recalling his leading them to victory in the events of 1900 and 1902. Following the parade, a monument and statue of Mitchell made of granite and bronze was unveiled.

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***lackawannahistory@gmail.com***





*John Mitchell Monument & Statue, Courthouse Square, Scranton  
 Photograph by William Ficher, Jr.  
 Image source: hmdb.org*

The monument/statue stands on the grounds of the site of the 1902 Anthracite Strike negotiations that were conducted in Courtroom 3. The importance of the negotiations resulted in the monument/statue and Courthouse being added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

John Mitchell was born in 1870 in Braidwood, IL, a second-generation Irish immigrant. He was 47 years old when he died on September 9, 1919, from pneumonia in New York City. He was laid to rest in Cathedral Cemetery, Scranton.

The United Mine Workers of America honors him every October 29 with the celebration of "Mitchell Day."



*Breaker Boys in #9 Brealer, Hughestown/Pennsylvania Coal Co.  
 Image source: Library of Congress*

*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.

***January 1944***

***Jermyn Green Coal Co., No. 6 Colliery, No. 11 Shaft, January 1944***

- JAN 1. New Years Day. Colliery Idle.
- JAN 2. Sunday. Johnnie got a new car.
- JAN 3. Sleet. Fair day at work.
- JAN 4. Warmer. Charlie Buff cut for pendicks. Done 12:30.
- JAN 5. Snowing. 208 on rock. Wreck in Red Ash. Pulled air shaker with rope. Done 1:45 pm.
- JAN 6. Snowing. Wight washing in Marley's office. (Attempted to white wash).
- JAN 7. White washing the Office.
- JAN 8. OK Swell. 7hrs time & 1/2
- JAN 9. Sunday.
- JAN 10. 3pm. Painting the Office. Was to town for paint.
- JAN 11. Cold. Everything OK.
- JAN 12. Cold. Was to town with Nellie.
- JAN 13. Working on Office table.
- JAN 14. Working on Office table.
- JAN 15. Pay Day.       \$85.25.
- JAN 16. Sunday. Helen was home.
- JAN 17. 7 am. Swell day. Done early.
- JAN 18. Swell. Done early. Bought a small radio \$15.00.

JAN 19. Fan Broke Colliery Idle. Stayed home.  
JAN 20. Was to Movies with Tom and Nell. Lassie Come Home.  
JAN 21. Bought sign boards from Locket Lumber Co. \$6.00  
JAN 22. Swell Shift.  
JAN 23. Sunday. Drove Helen to Hospital. Was to Movies with Nell and Tom.  
JAN 24. 3 pm. Swell Shift.  
JAN 25. Delivered Safety Signs to No 6. Helen and Martha came for a visit.  
JAN 26. OK.  
JAN 27. OK.  
JAN 28. Heavy Fog. Rockey Glen worked with me.  
JAN 29. Pay Day. Done 7 pm. John Witt got married today.  
JAN 30. Sunday.  
JAN 31. 7 am.

### *February 1944*

#### *Jermyn Green Coal Co., No. 6. Colliery, No. 11 Shaft. Shoe Stall & East Red Ash.*

FEB 1. ALL MINERS to work on Sundays in February. Today was very cold.  
FEB 2. Not so cold. Spoke to Fred J. about signs. Was to Taylor Lumber Yard.  
FEB 3. Sand dryer is being constructed.  
FEB 4. Carpenter crew repairing valve in Shaft. Lost 2 hrs. waiting.  
FEB 5. Tom James not working. Was shopping with Nellie. 7 hrs. time & 1/2.  
FEB 6. Sunday. Swell Shift. Spoke to Jones. All men in. 7 hrs. Double time.  
FEB 7. 3pm. 6 places. Was in office spoke to Jones.  
FEB 8. Loaded pipe in East. Baby fell in hole in Pittston.  
FEB 9. Drove Marley home. Saw Joe Condon. Changed letters.  
FEB 10. Stayed home painted signs. 7 hrs.  
FEB 11. Was to town to file Income Tax.  
FEB 12. Was to town to file Income Tax. 7 hrs. time & 1/2.  
FEB 13. Sunday. 2 places swell shift. 7 hrs. double time.  
FEB 14. Jimmy Heffern fired.? all headmen and footmen? \*\*\*  
FEB 15. Pay Day. Bought Bond in Taylor P. O.

FEB 16. Was to Old Forge shopping with Nell.

FEB 17. Drillers moved out. 3 places Top East. 2 places Bottom East.

FEB 18. Fred Jones and Hiram gone to Safety Meeting with model signs.

FEB 19. Delivered a safety sign to No. 6 with Tom. Drove for Helen and took her back. 7 hrs. time & 1/2.

FEB 20. Sunday. Swell at work. Was to movies with Tom and Nell. Gang's all Here. Double Time.

FEB 21. Rain. Done early.

FEB 22. Washington Birthday. Colliery worked.

FEB 23. Was to town for paint. Paid Income Tax. Was to Taylor Lumber Yard.

FEB 24. Warm. Done early.

FEB 25. Nice weather. Warm. Done early.

FEB 26. Snowing freezing bad weather. Done early. 7 hrs. time & 1/2

FEB 27. Sunday. 4 places in East. 18 cars coal, 1 rock. 7 hrs Double Time.

FEB 28. Cloudy. Cable broke in Horse Shoe place. Tough day. Last day for tire ins. At midnight.

FEB 29. Pay day. Was to town, drug store.

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



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If you have any Northeast Pennsylvania-related stories to include 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.

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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***

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

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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, 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.*