



HISTORY BYTES

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

Vol. 7 No. 2

March – April 2024

Rick Sedlisky, Editor



For those of us who've been involved with History Bytes since its inception, it's hard to believe that six years have passed. The first issue appeared in March 2018 with information about the Society's day-to-day operations, including news and events that took place during March and April of that year.

We sincerely thank all who have contributed to History Bytes during the last six years. You who wrote and continue to write stories, offer photographs that show who and what we were and are, authors whose books we've reviewed, personal family recollections that we've been able to document for posterity, and especially you who have emailed us offering suggestions. You are the ones who keep History Bytes successful and moving forward.

In this issue, we take a look back at the *Incident at Sterrick Creek* that appeared in the first issue. The story makes us wonder if the mystery was ever solved.

--Rick Sedlisky, Editor

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Introduction to Incident at Sterrick Creek

Originally published in the March – April 2018 Issue of History Bytes

According to the Wilkes-Barre Evening News in an article published June 18, 1910, the body of a woman was found at the bottom of the Sterrick Creek mine shaft in the Peckville section of Blakely, PA. The shaft, according to the engineer, was not a place where anyone could enter. If that's the case, why was she found at the bottom of the shaft? Did someone throw her into the shaft, or did she decide to end her life for whatever her reasons?

Read the newspaper report including words from an "Italian" as the media at that time called him. Was Mrs. Michael Bolovics demented, was she murdered or both?

The report is transcribed verbatim from the newspaper article to fit *History Bytes*' format. The original report is available at *Newspapers.com*

Incident at Sterrick Creek

BODY WAS FOUND

IN A SHAFT SUMP

Mutilated Remains of Peckville Woman

Found by Workman

May Be Suicide.

WOMAN WAS DEMENTED

Battered and broken the body of Mrs. Michael Bolovics was found yesterday at the bottom of the Sterrick Creek mine shaft at Peckville. Considerable mystery surrounds the case and the mine officials are at a loss to explain how the woman got into the shaft opening as the gates have been locked since the breaker burned. Murder is also suspected, owing to the fact that an unknown Italian informed the husband of the missing woman that a woman had jumped down the shaft.

The finding of the body was accidental as owing to the destruction of the breaker some time ago by fire only pump runners are employed in that section of

the mine. Yesterday morning Thomas Cowley, while walking through a portion of the mine where he seldom visited, came across the body. The shaft is 515 feet deep and the fall had resulted in the breaking of the woman's back, tearing off the rear portion of her head and the fracture of a number of other bones.

From all indications she fell into the opening at a time when the carriage was at the bottom of the shaft, and struck on the top of the cage after which the body rebounded to a loaded mine car and from that point to the ground.

An element of crime enters in to the case by reason of the fact that sometime on Thursday, when Billovics (spelled as appeared in the article) was searching for his wife, an unknown Italian who he accidentally ran across, told him that a woman had jumped down the Sterrick Creek shaft. How this unknown Italian knew of such a happening is not explained. Billovics, following this clue, had gone to the engineer of the shaft and had been told that there was nothing in the unknown Italian's story and that, as a matter of fact, it was impossible for anyone to jump down the shaft, owing to safeguards placed over the opening.

The police will investigate this phase of the tragedy. It is possible, they say, that a crime may have been committed and the body afterward thrown into the shaft. Mrs. Bilovics had acted strange lately, and was thought to be demented. She may have committed suicide..

History Bytes Introduces Three New Series

Installments of three new series begin with this issue.

Laurel Magazine

Laurel Magazine was a short-lived magazine, The first issue, published in 1953, was called the "Summer Issue"; the final issue was the "Spring Issue", which was published in 1954.

The *Laurel* was designed to bring the reader interesting and feature articles concerning northeastern Pennsylvania communities and people. The *Laurel* was dedicated to the promotion of worthwhile civic projects and at the same time to bring picture and feature articles for leisurely enjoyment about places and people in our area. *The Laurel* was designed primarily for reading pleasure. The magazine had no political connections, nor did it publish anything other than entertaining and informative articles. It was edited to give a picture of the advantages of living in our region of Pennsylvania.

Richard Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., is the series' Transcriber.

Shady Lane Cemetery Residents

The revitalization of Shady Lane Cemetery, located in Chinchilla, brings the rediscovery of many persons of interest who are laid to rest there. As a part of reconstructing cemetery records, Friends of Shady Lane Cemetery continues to compile details about those departed and put many of them into profile form. Written by Carol Wilkerson, the series is called *Shady Lane Cemetery Residents*. Additional stories also appear on the group's Facebook page.

Town Newspapers

Town Newspapers offers a look at community newspapers that are either still in existence or no longer published. Unlike larger newspapers such as those published in the larger cities of Northeast Pennsylvania that mainly focus on international, national, city and regional stories, town newspapers are geared towards residents of individual towns and, in many cases, adjacent communities. Items covered range from school board meetings to community-wide events such as firemen's picnics, little leagues, real estate development and environmental issues, to name a few. Many were published on a weekly basis. Those that still exist are available either in print or online.

Town newspapers, for the most part, trace their roots back to the single sheet of paper brought by immigrants to inform others of events taking place in the old country.

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.

Lackawanna Historical Society Membership Form

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// Sustaining	\$150	
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// Gold Corporate	\$500	Email _____

Following is a link for membership payment:

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

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Lackawanna Past Times, Upcoming Events & Meetings

Our monthly 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. **The following are via Zoom.**

Friday, April 26, 2pm: Celebrate Earth Day as Allen Dietrich-Ward, professor of history, Shippensburg University, examines Pennsylvania's environmental history and role as "The Cradle of Conservation."

Friday, May 31, 2pm: Author Amy Walsh discusses "Scranton During the Great Depression."

Eleanor Roosevelt: The Story Is Over... The Adventure Begins...

Historical interpreter Meg Gefken will return to the Catlin House on **Sunday, April 14 at 2 pm** to continue the story of Eleanor Roosevelt's amazing life. The program will focus on the last 18 years of Eleanor's life, when she was engrossed in her work with the United Nations, continued to travel the world, and was "even more feisty!"

Watres Armory Evening Tours Return

Watres Armory Tours, made possible through our partnership with Neo-Expressionist artist Hunt Slonem, will return this Spring. Tours will be offered on **Friday evenings on April 26, May 24 & June 21 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm**. A tour fee of \$20 per person will benefit LHS. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, please call 570-344-3841.

Throwback Thursdays



June 20, Dusk: Screening of Jaws, Circle Drive-In, Business Rte. 6, Dickson City.

Dine Lackawanna

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

Wednesday, April 17: Chef Von & Mom, 501 Linden St., Scranton 570-955-0368

Wednesday, May 15: Café Colarusso, 233 Bridge St., Jessup 580-489-2456

Wednesday, June 19: PJ's 1910 Pub at the Hilton, 100 Adams Ave., Scranton 570-558-7301

Abingtons

Clarks Summit

Camelot The New Cafe
Formosa State Street Grill

Dalton

B&B

Chinchilla

Armetta's Restaurant & Pizza

Upper Lackawanna

Carbondale

KOL Steakhouse
Pat's Pizza & Hoagies

Jermyn

JW's Bar & Gtill

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
Jack's Draft House
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: The European Tour

The Genealogy 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.

In-person sessions begin in the Spring when participants will receive guidance in searching for European records. All sessions are held on Wednesdays from 10am to noon.

April 24: Searching Polish Records: Taylor Community Library. Host: Tony Paddock.

May 15: Searching Irish Records: City Line, Carbondale. Hosts: Barbars Spellman Shula, Kate Bolan, Madonna Munley.

June 12: Searching English/Welsh Records: Abington Community Library, Clarks Summit, Host: Tom Price.

July 10: Searching Carpatho Rusyn Records: Valley Community Library, Blakely. Host: Natalie Asikainen.

August 14: Searching Italian Records: North Pocono Library, Moscow. Host: Ann Marie Castelgrande.

September 18: Searching German Records: Abington Community Library, Clarks Summit. Host: Tom Price.

Sunday, April 21, TBA: You Live Here! You Should Know This! Local History Game Show, Ritz Theater, Scranton.

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

Genealogy Forum for Beginners

Beginning in October, the forum will offer the Genealogy for Beginners Workshop Saturdays from 9:30am to noon at the Abington Memorial Library. Cost is \$25 for members and \$35 for non-members.

To register for a session or the workshop, email to lackawannahistory@gmail.com or call 570-344-3841.

Ghostly Gallery Link

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

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How Long Have the Trains Been Gone?

By Rick Sedlisky



It's been more than 50 years since the last intercity passenger train left Scranton. The train was operated by the Erie Lackawanna Railway that offered train travel from Jersey City to Chicago via Scranton. A half century later, and after many false starts, restoration of passenger service is on track to becoming a reality once again.

Northeast Pennsylvania has been included in the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Corridor Identification Program. The agency will provide \$500,000 for development of the scope, schedule and cost estimate of the project. The second step is a service development plan that includes schedule, ridership, stations and route options. The third stage is the preliminary engineering and environmental review. Those capital projects will receive federal construction funding as a part of the FRA Federal – State Partnership program.

Pennsylvania stations along the route are Scranton, Mt. Pocono and East Stroudsburg. New Jersey stops include Blairstown, Dover, Morristown and Newark before arriving at Penn Station, New York. Ridership on the round trips per day are estimated to total 470,000 annually. Travel time is approximately two hours and 50 minutes with speeds of up to 110 miles per hour along the Lackawanna Cut-Off Corridor in New Jersey.

Amtrak's economic impact study shows that rail service will generate an estimated \$84million in revenue per year, including an estimated \$73 million in the Poconos alone.



Map source: Amtrak



"THE SCRANTON STORY," - Industrial Recovery Plan of 78+ Years Ago

This is the first in a series of edited reprints from "The Laurel; Northeastern Pennsylvania Magazine." It is planned to republish this and subsequent articles in their entirety as a special feature of History Bytes. All reprints will center on economic development, local history, culture, social programs and initiatives, and recreation in the Greater Scranton region.

As best as can be determined, "The Laurel" magazine had a short life. Four (4) issues, thought to be the total production, are in a private collection (Volume 1, Numbers 1-3, and Volume 2, Number 1). If anyone can supply additional issues, please contact the Lackawanna Historical Society at lackawannahistory@gmail.com

We begin the series with the birth of "The Scranton Story," a plan designed to bring in responsible outside industries to northeastern Pennsylvania. This post World War II industrial development idea began in 1946 --78 years ago. At the same time, "SLIBCO," the Scranton-Lackawanna Industrial Benefits Company was formed. It was followed by "The Scranton Bank Pool," in which various Scranton banks took first mortgages. In 1950, "LIFE" (the Lackawanna Industrial Fund Enterprises) was organized, soliciting funds from the people of Lackawanna County as an outright gift in support of new economic ventures. Thus began an acclaimed and successful program of economic rebirth.

--Richard Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., Transcriber

THE SCRANTON STORY

An alert businessman recently flew over the Scranton area.

"There is something going on there that isn't evident when you pass through the region on a train," he wrote in a report to his company. "There are numerous manufacturing plants, easily distinguishable by their newness against the dark background of the area's basic industry; there is industrial and housing construction going on in the city itself; not too far distant the top of a mountain has been literally sliced off to hold an immense military installation; and, more important, bright, new suburban settlements are springing up in all directions.

"The thought occurred to me 'a new prosperity is beginning to blossom down there'."

The business man didn't realize how right he was until he had visited Scranton business and civic leaders.

From his lofty position in the plant, he got a striking impression of how the faith and determination of the people of the region is beginning to balance a waning basic industry with the stability of a new, diversified industrial development program.

The Scranton Story, in all its drama, unfolded in the panorama beneath his fleeing plane.

"Perhaps, I got a clearer picture up there than you people who are playing a part in this transition," he told Ted Rodgers, president, and Major Lee White, industrial commissioner, of the Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

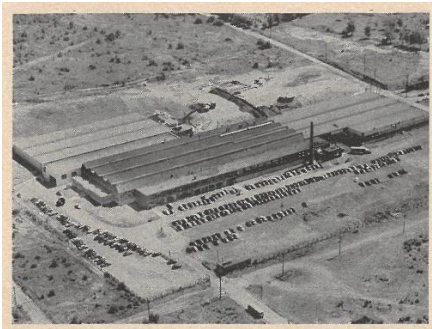
His observation, in part, may be true because many of the people who have lived the past decade close to the development of the Scranton Story have not been entirely aware of the impact it is having on their everyday life.



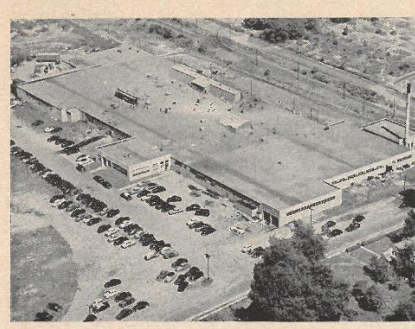
QUICK RUNDOWN.

Visitor hears how the industrial miracle of Scranton was accomplished. Left to right: M. J. Kosik, of the United Mine Workers, representing labor; Roy Stauffer, Chevrolet dealer; Major Lee White, industrial commissioner; and Ted V. Rodgers, president of the Chamber of Commerce; H. T. Axford; F. C. Pierce, architect; and E. W. Osborne. Mr. Axford and Mr. Osborne represent the Scranton Electric Company.

They do not have the whole picture in focus. Nor do they realize that slowly but surely a new, but diversified, industrial empire is rising along side a diminishing single industrial realm. Within a year, however, when an additional number of enterprises now abuilding began to pump more payrolls through the financial arteries of the region, everyone will have full realization that the long, difficult campaign to save an entire regional economy is nearing fruition.



General Electric



Harris Hub



Harris Hub

The industrial blossoming that the business man saw from the air was spaded less than ten years ago by men of vision and determination, abetted by a stable people who had a deep attachment to their home communities.

"It is something akin to the diversification of crops when the land will no longer nurture a specialized single crop," the business man, who had a farm background, suggested.

His comparison was, with limitations, exact. But here there was no dependency on government hand, outs or semi-socialistic experiments. The entire program was locally conceived, financed, propelled and executed. It was done without a line of national advertising. The progress of the plan, however, because of its intrinsic news and human interest value, received nation-wide newspaper and magazine publicity.

The problem was simple. The basic industry was drying up. Something new had to be found to fill in the regional economy. The solution was long and difficult.

Business men, bankers, industrial, labor and civic leaders got together, not to find a temporary stopgap, but to evolve a long range plan which would eventually preserve the assets of the entire region.

They took inventory. The region was ideally located, approximately 125 miles from both New York and Philadelphia, with five railroads and good highways connecting it with the eastern seaboard and the transportation networks to the west. The climate was satisfactory. Adequate utilities were available at rates less costly than in most other areas.

But they soon realized that the greatest asset they had to offer was a unique manpower reservoir. It was made up of families which had deep civic and social roots in the region. The families were headed by sturdy, stable men, not easily led into panic, who were home owners with firm determination to save, if they could, the investment of their labors in this region.

The uniqueness and value of this pool was not fully realized until later in the rehabilitation program when certain types of skilled labor were in demand by some of the new industries established in the region. The need was filled by area men, who had become skilled elsewhere, and were anxious to return to their home and friends. This condition still prevails and this reservoir is sufficient to meet the needs of any industry locating in the region.



THE BUSINESSMAN was impressed with this sweeping view of one section of the city where the ground broken for new industries had not yet returned to its normal coloring. These new plants boosted employment and sent new blood flowing through the financial arteries of the city. Scranton is ready to give all possible aid to other industries wishing to locate in the region.

More than this, these people were willing to invest their savings in any program which would keep them employed in their own communities.

Thus the Scranton Plan was born. Briefly, it is a program to bring in responsible outside industries to use plants which Scranton citizens themselves will finance and build to suit individual requirements. It isn't a give-away program. Although they are low, rents are charged and the industries are urged to buy the facilities on a rental purchase plan.

The first step in 1946 was to sell \$1,200,000 first mortgage bonds to the people of the region to acquire the Murray Plant, a war baby, that had cost over \$6,000,000 to build. The plant was then leased to the Murray Co., of Chicago; the rent to pay during the life of the lease on an amortized basis, the debenture bonds in full.

The ball was rolling. At the same time another organization was formed, known as "Slibco" (Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Benefits Co.). This company sold \$1,300,000 4% debenture bonds to the people of the community and the money was used to build a number of plants in the Scranton area which were leased on a basis of the rental amortizing the bond issue completely during the life of the lease.

In addition to these organizations, the "Scranton Bank Pool" of \$1,000,000 was formed and more plants were erected and the Scranton banks took first mortgages of 50% of the cost, which gave additional money for the new ventures.

A third organization was set up in 1950. This is known as "LIFE" (Lackawanna Industrial Fund Enterprises) and funds for it were solicited from the people of Lackawanna County as an outright gift and contributions reached \$2,000,000. LIFE completed the region's industrial rehabilitation formula.

Realizing the potential opportunities of the region and attracted by the spirit and cooperation of the residents of the area, private capital financed 29 new plants.

The results so far? Fifty new plants have been built and sixty-five plants have been expanded. This is what gave the region a new look to the businessman in the air.

Figures?

New Building Financed by Private Capital

29—New Plants Financed by Private Capital in the Area—29

Estimated Cost of These Plants	\$9,139,000.00
Square Footage Totalling	1,205,900 sq. ft.
Estimated Potential Employment	5,290 men and women
Estimated Potential Payroll	\$18,667,380.00

Expansion In Established Industries

65—Expansions in Established Industries—65

Estimated Cost of these Expansions	\$11,570,900.00
Square Footage Added	1,288,550 sq. ft.
Estimated Potential Employment	20,201 men and women
Estimated Potential Payroll	\$70,570,500.00
Total Present Appraised Value of 21 Community Plants	\$15,184,410.00
Total Industrial Space Added by 21 Community Plants	2,162,236 sq. ft.
Total Employed by 21 Community Plants	Approx. 6,600
Estimated Potential Employment	Approx. 13,850
Estimated Annual Payroll—21 Community Plants .	\$23,053,000.00
Estimated Potential Payroll—21 Community Plants	\$48,405,000.00



U. S. Hoffman Company



Suburban housing . . . Oakmont Park



Maxson Corporation



Trane Company

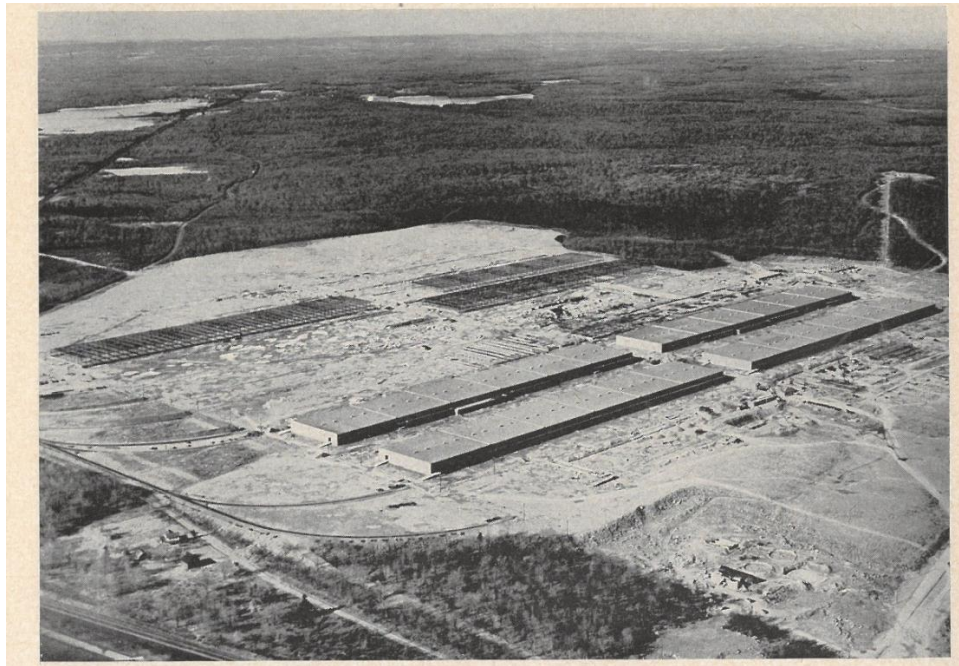
The leaders in the Scranton Story have not confined the program to Scranton alone. They work on the conviction that what benefits one section, benefits the entire area. That is why they were in the forefront in the campaign to locate a \$35,000,000 Signal Corp Depot at Tobyhanna, less than a 30 minute drive from the city, which will draw a great deal of its labor supply from the area and return substantial spending power to it.

The overall plan is based on the principle of diversification. The goal is to have a wide variety of manufacturing and, if possible, one of each so that the tendency will not develop of a particular type of skilled labor shifting from one plant to another in the same line and, at the same time, to prevent a slackening in one field to impair the regional economy.

How well this is working out is shown in the fact that at present such diversified plants as sheet metal, electronic, forging, home appliances, weaving, plastic, garment, among others, are in full operation where once only a single industry dominated the economy.

And the business man was told that if he was in a hurry a plant would be put up for him in ninety days to demonstrate the complete cooperation between civic, financial, labor leaders and the public of the Scranton area.

"The Scranton Story sounds even better than it looks from the air," he replied.



THE TOBYHANNA SIGNAL CORP DEPOT. This immense military installation, only three-quarters of an hour drive from Scranton, is nearing completion. Eventually it will employ 5000 workers most of whom will be drawn from the Scranton labor reservoir with the resultant benefits to the city. The depot will contain seven warehouses, 1200 feet long, and other related buildings.

The Laurel

Northeastern Pennsylvania's
Magazine

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Scranton DI 4-1495

SPRING ISSUE, 1954

CHARLES P. O'MALLEY
Editor & Publisher
EUGENE DEVINE
Business Manager

OUR COVER GIRL
is Miss Ellen Hanahue, daughter of Attorney
and Mrs. J. Charles Hanahue, of Scranton. Miss
Ellen is a quarter to two and all dolled up for
her second Spring.

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In the next issue: Scranton's "City Beautiful Association"

Shady Lane Cemetery Update

By Carol Wilkerson



Photo courtesy of Carol Wilkerson

Friends of Shady Lane Cemetery is gearing up for a new growing season! We will be hosting Community Workdays on the following Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. until noon:

April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 14, and October 19.

We invite community members to help mow, trim, and maintain the 23-acre property and then to use the cemetery as beautiful community green space. We welcome teens and supervised children and are happy to verify community service hours. We are a 501(c)(3) organization.

To raise funds to maintain the cemetery, we have two major fundraisers planned for this year. Our first annual *Maintain the Lane 5K Run/Walk* event will take place on Saturday, June 22, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Scranton Half Marathon Pavilion. Our second annual *FOSLC Golf Tournament* will take place on Saturday, September 21, at Rock Creek Golf Course, Nicholson.

For information about sponsoring or participating in these events, email Carol Wilkerson at friendsofshadylane@gmail.com.

We look forward to dedicating our Clover Memorial monument in May or June. Funds for this monument were raised through our 2023 golf tournament. The monument will be placed in the Clover Section of the cemetery, where around 300 babies and toddlers are buried, most with no marker of any kind.



*Clover Memorial Monument Renderings
Photos courtesy of Carol Wilkerson*

We will once again sponsor a Memorial Service at the cemetery to mark Memorial Day and to honor those who fell in the line of duty. The ceremony will be on Sunday, May 26, 2024, starting at 1:00 pm. Modeled on the first Memorial Day service at Shady Lane Cemetery in 1927, our ceremony features a flag raising, music, a patriotic speaker, and inspirational readings.

We are working with Lackawanna County's Office of Veteran Affairs to obtain veteran markers for a pair of brothers who were poisoned by their mother in 1940. Both brothers were World War I veterans, but their graves have no marker of any kind. Hopefully we will be able to honor these veterans appropriately.

Finally, we continue our mission of researching and publicizing the fascinating life-stories of those buried at Shady Lane Cemetery. Residents are profiled at least once a week on our Facebook page and in our Facebook group. These profiles are carefully researched and include supporting documents.

We recently started a special series focusing on residents buried in the least expensive graves or the pauper graves provided by the county. While these residents are much more challenging to research, it is gratifying to give them back their stories after so many years of lying in unmarked graves.

Donations to Friends of Shady Lane Cemetery are always welcome! Our mailing address is P.O. Box 632, 555 Northern Blvd., Chinchilla, PA 18410.

Shady Lane Cemetery Residents:
Joseph and Eva Gudishkis
Simon and Ignatz Brown
By Carol Wilkerson

This profile is an unusually tragic one and features both murder and suicide. If these are sensitive subjects for you, please be warned.

Joseph Gudishkis was born in Lithuania in October 1862. While the area he was from was historically Lithuania, it was classified at various times as either Russia or Poland. Joseph came to the United States in approximately 1888, as part of an enormous wave of Lithuanian emigrants who left their native land in search of better opportunities. Approximately 350,000 Lithuanians came to the US between 1865 and 1915, when few immigration restrictions existed for Eastern Europeans. The largest magnets for this migration were Chicagoland and the Pennsylvania Coal Region, which explains how Joseph ended up in the Scranton area.

We know that Joseph married a woman who records designate as Eva Semkinzno in 1890. She was listed as being born in 1863 and as residing in Plymouth, Luzerne County. This name would seem to indicate that she was also Lithuanian. However, enormous confusion surrounds the correct surname or surnames for Eva.

Though the marriage record lists Eva's name as Semkinzno, her brother was named Matthew Bakewicius. Eva was also apparently married at least once prior to her marriage to Joseph, as she had two sons named John Samuel Brown (known as Simon) and Ignatz Anthony Brown. Birthdates on these men are varied but military records seem to place their births between 1887 and 1889, prior to the marriage to Joseph. However, at various times her sons were known by the name Gudishkis and apparently sometimes by the name Senecka. And one of Simon's military forms lists his mother as Eva Backus Brown, though Backus might be a simplified form of Bakewicius.

Regardless of Eva's former names, when she married Joseph, he seems to have accepted her sons as his own. The Gudishkis family settled in North Scranton, where they attended St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church on North Main Avenue. In 1896, Joseph was involved in a controversy at the church, where he helped to nail boards across the church doors to keep the priest from saying Mass. The Bishop had appointed a Polish priest to serve the primarily Lithuanian congregation, which reignited old hostilities. Thirty-five police officers were eventually placed on duty around the church until tensions eased.

Joseph became a naturalized citizen in 1899. By 1900, the family was living at 1123 Allbright Avenue and Joseph was working as a coal miner. By 1910, they had moved to 951 Johler Street, but Joseph was still working in the mines.



*Photograph source: Scranton Tribune
Courtesy of Carol Wilkerson*

Simon and Ignatz were now reaching adulthood, and both ended up serving in the military. Simon signed up in 1916 to serve in the emergency declared at the Mexican Border. He initially entered the Pennsylvania 13th Infantry in July, then entered regular Army service in September. His service continued through the first part of WWI, and he was honorably discharged in February 1918, without ever having served overseas.

Ignatz, who was working as a meat cutter, entered the military in May 1918, and by July, he was in France. He stayed overseas until May 1919, when he returned to the US and was honorably discharged in June. At that point, both Simon and Ignatz returned home to live with Eva and Joseph. Neither of them ever married. Both were apparently active in veteran organizations and Simon apparently had some form of service-related disability, as he was a member of a disabled veteran group.

By the early 1920s, Joseph was in his late 50s, and apparently wanted to leave the grueling work of mining. He and Eva moved to 602 Court Street and established a small grocery store on the first floor and an apartment for the family on the second floor. The store was in a good position, convenient to the large neighborhoods of North Scranton. It also offered employment for Simon and Ignatz. Since Simon had some form of disability, and Ignatz apparently suffered from a drinking problem, this offered important security for the family.

Unfortunately, Joseph did not get to enjoy his merchant career for long. On July 25, 1925, in the early morning hours, he suffered a heart attack and died before medical help arrived. Eva purchased a family plot at Shady Lane Cemetery and had Joseph laid to rest there.



*Source: Scranton Times-Tribune
Image courtesy of Carol Wilkerson*

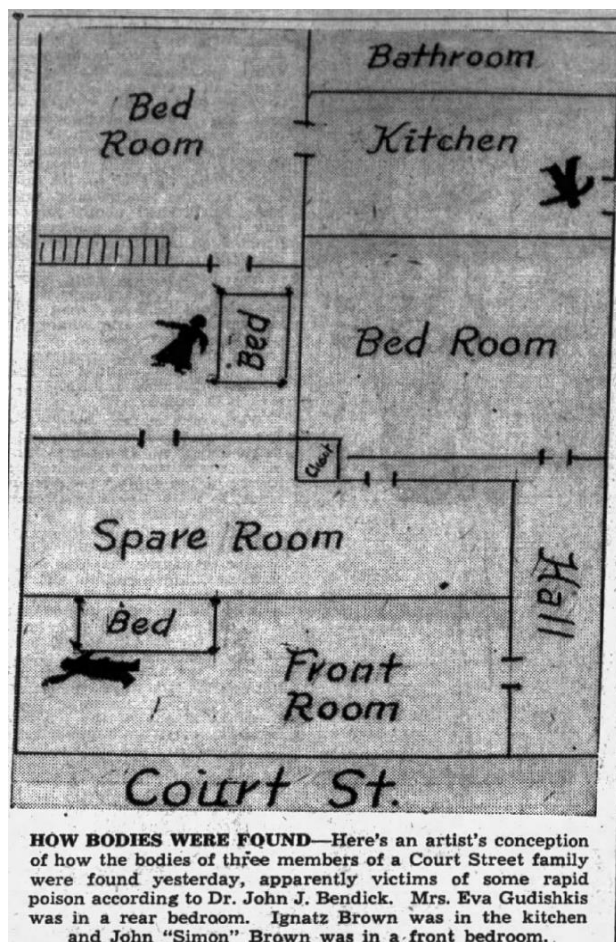
Following the loss of Joseph, Eva and Simon continued to operate their family grocery store. They made it through the Great Depression and by 1940, Eva was 75 years old, and her sons were in their 50s. Then, on the morning of Monday, December 16, 1940, neighbors alerted police to the fact that the Gudishkis grocery store had not been open for the past two days and that two days of milk deliveries had been left outside on the

stoop. Police entered the building and found the dead bodies of Eva, Simon, and Ignatz upstairs in their apartment.

The house was completely locked up, so no outsider was suspected. There was no smell of gas, so that was not believed to be the culprit. In the absence of these possible causes of death, officials suspected poison. The medical examiner confirmed the use of cyanide, though the actual source of the poison was never discovered. However, officials did develop a theory as to how the poisoning occurred.

After an investigation, police came to the tragic conclusion that the poison was administered by Eva herself. According to a neighbor, she had commented about her sons that "when I have to go, they will go with me." This conclusion was reinforced when neighbors reported that, four days prior to the deaths, Eva had fed something to the family dog that killed it immediately. When the dog's body was examined, it also bore signs of cyanide poisoning.

Eva was presumably suffering from mental illness or dementia that made her convinced that her sons could not survive without her. For that reason, she apparently planned to murder them both and then commit suicide. Ironically, when their three estates were administered, it turned out that Simon and Ignatz were actually worth far more than Eva. The original valuation of the estates was \$1500 for Eva, \$500 for Simon, and \$300 for Ignatz. Ultimately, however, Simon's estate was worth over \$3,000, Ignatz's estate over \$6,000, and Eva's estate less than \$600. Eva's brother, Michael, and a female cousin of the brothers from Chicago, both made claims to the estates. These claims were resolved in court in 1942.



*Diagram source: Scranton Times - Tribune
Courtesy of Carol Wilkerson*

Eva, Simon, and Ignatz were laid to rest with Joseph at Shady Lane Cemetery. Local military organizations ensured that the two brothers were given full military honors at their burial. The plot has a central monument with the name "Gudishkis" engraved on it, and Joseph has a footstone with his name, dates, and the inscription "Father" on it. But there is no marker designating the graves of the other three family members.

Friends of Shady Lane Cemetery is working with the Lackawanna County Department of Veteran Affairs to obtain appropriate veteran markers for both Simon and Ignatz. In the meantime, two veteran flags are at the central monument to honor their service.

Military Records of Ignatz and John (Simon) Brown

S-9-1916-50M.

Regt. 13th Inf., Co. B.

Mexican Emergency, Call of President June 18, 1916

Name, Brown, John S. Rank, Private,
 Age, 28 Height, 5-6-1/2 Complexion, Dark Eyes, Brown Hair, DBrown
 Born, Plymouth, Pa. Occupation, Cook.
 Married or single, Single Residence, Scranton, Pa.
 Emergency notification, Mrs. Eva Brown, Mother,
951 Johler Avenue, Scranton, Pa.
 Date commission or enlistment State Service, 7-10-16
 Home Station and date of rendezvous, Scranton, Pa. (No date recorded)
 Acceptance into U. S. Service, 9-26-16
 Remarks, Enl. Ex. 7-9-1922.

2

Brown, John S. * White * ~~Colored~~ 1835

(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: 951 Johler Ave Scranton LACKAWANNA PENNSYLVANIA
 (Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* Enlisted * ~~R. A.~~ * N. G. * ~~E. R. C.~~ * Inducted at N. G. at Scranton Pa on July 1, 1916
 Place of birth: Plymouth Pa Age or date of birth: 28 yrs.
 Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: Hq 13 Inf ra N G. (Hq 109 Inf) to Nov 16/17: Co B
108 M G Bn to disch.
 Grades, with date of appointment: Cook May 10/17.
 Engagements: _____
 Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.
 Served overseas from † None to †, from † to †
 Honorably discharged: Feb 27, 1918 S C D
 (Date) (Cause)
 In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 10 per cent disabled.
 Remarks: _____

APPLICATION No. 332429 APPROVED

AUD. GEN. JAN 31 1935

Form No. 724-2, A. G. O. Nov. 22, 1919. * Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S. 3-7383

197535 APPROVED

Application No. 197535

Brown Ignatz A (Surname) 2,595,175 (Army serial number) * White * Colored: 881 1

Residence: 951 Johler St (Street and house number) Scranton (Town or city) LACKAWANNA (County) PENNSYLVANIA (State)

* Enlisted * R. A. * N. C. * E. R. C. * Inducted at #2 Scranton Pa on May 28 1918

Place of birth: Plymouth Pa Age or date of birth: 30-4/12 Yrs

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers Btry C 16 Bn Repl Dep
Camp Jackson S C to July 8/18; Camp Jackson July Repl
Draft 17 Btry FA to Aug 31/18; Btry C 112 FA to Disch

Grades, with date of appointment: Pvt

Engagements:

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None

Served overseas from July 22/18 to May 21/19, from June 4 1919

Honorably discharged on demobilization June 4 1919

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 per cent disabled.

Remarks:

Form No. 724-1, A. G. O. Nov. 22, 1919. * Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S. 3-7362

Military service cards source: Ancestry.com
Courtesy of Carol Wilkerson.

(Ed. Note): For comparison purposes, below are the original and final valuations of Eva's, Ignatz' and Simon's estates in 1940 and 2024 dollars, respectively.

Original Valuation

	1940	2024
Eva	\$1,500	\$33,200
Simon	\$500	\$11,100
Ignatz	\$300	\$6,700

Final Valuation

Eva	\$600	\$13,300
Simon	\$3,000	\$66,500
Ignatz	\$6,000	\$133,000

Source: <https://www.in2013dollars.com/us/inflation/1940?amount=600>

Town Newspapers

The Olyphant Gazette

Sometimes locating issues of defunct town newspapers can be tedious if not almost impossible. One could say that back then, very few thought that in the future there would be others looking for copies of the paper for research and other purposes.

The Olyphant Gazette was a weekly newspaper that was published on Saturdays beginning in 1887. In addition to Olyphant, the Gazette covered Dickson City, Throop, Jessup and Blakely/Peckville. Publishers were William J. Schubmehl (1893), the Jones Brothers (1903), and Barrett Publishing Co. (1923 – mid-1960s). Barrett was also the publisher of the Dunmorean, which is still in business.

In 1938, the Olyphant Gazette joined forces with the Olyphant Record. The Record was a weekly that was also published on Saturdays. It began operations in 1892. Publishers were James W. Kennedy (To date, no records showing Mr. Kennedy's length of time in that capacity have been found) and William A. Pish (approximately 1926 -1935). The surviving entity, The Olyphant Gazette, continued to publish until the mid-1960s.

In an attempt to locate existing copies of the paper, two sources were helpful. Mary Ann Savakinus, Executive Director at LHS, provided a list of what the Society has in its possession:

Olyphant Gazette, Jan.-Dec. 1941 bound set, approx. 8 pages per issue

2021.32.02: Beckage Collection includes two issues of the Olyphant Gazette, Nov. 30, 1962 and December 10, 1969, 6 pages each

2020.15.01 A&B: Olyphant Gazette, Sept. 5, 1908 - second section of Semi Centennial edition Semi Centennial of Coal Mining 1858-1908, 2 double sheets (map case B, drawer 6)

2008.101.03: Olyphant Gazette, supplement Special 2002 Quasiquicentennial issue, 56 pages (3rd floor left, Range 1, Shelf E)

Joseph M. Klapatch, who is with the Carbondale Public Library, was able to provide information on existing copies of the newspaper. Joe's research uncovered some interesting leads, not all of which are accessible for various reasons.

Joe said that the Albright Memorial Library in Scranton has some copies of the Gazette on microfilm. They were obtained from the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania when its doors were closed in November 2017.

Marie Barrett, a woman in Dunmore, who was related to Barrett Publishing, had two bound editions that are from 1965 and 1966. She passed away in 2016 and it's not known what happened to her collection. Her family published both the Gazette and the

Dunmorean, the latter of which is still in existence. A man in Throop is said to have bound editions of both the Olyphant Gazette and the Dunmorean in his collection.

Joe also found that the late Walter Sawchak of Olyphant was owner of a large collection of Gazette issues as he worked for the newspaper. He covered fire department news and activities, was extremely active in firefighting causes and was a member of numerous firemen's organizations. He passed away in 1990 and it's unknown what happened to the collection. Joe also checked with the gentleman that owns a print shop in the old Gazette building in Olyphant to see if he knew of anything. Unfortunately, he does not.

Joe is specifically looking for copies of the 1926 Olyphant Gazette and the Olyphant Record. He was informed by Penn State University, who compiled the research site, Chronicling America, that the 1926 issue is included in a private collection in Dunmore. Chronicling America is a very good source for town newspaper information history.

The years in which the aforementioned publishers were involved with the Gazette are approximate. The source for much of the information gathered for this article is from the Chronicling America website at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

In the next issue: The Dunmorean

Anthracite Ancestry

Another Coal Company's Records Soon Available for Research Purposes



*Glen Alden Stock Certificate
Image source: eBay*

In March 2024, Earth Conservancy (EC) of Ashley and Industrial Archives & Library (IAL) of Bethlehem entered into an agreement that allows IAL to assume ownership of the Glen Alden Coal Company records.

IAL will make the Glen Alden records available for research by historians, scholars and the general public. The records are considered to be an intact collection of the histories of Glen Alden, Blue Coal, predecessors and subsidiaries, including Delaware, Lackawanna & Western-list content. For the official press release, please see <https://www.industrialarchives.org/ial-announces-partnership-with-earth-conservancy/>

Mine Records Question

By Anthony Paddock

I am a guide on the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour in Scranton. As guides, we're always asked by visitors where they can find records of their ancestors who worked in the anthracite coal mines of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Through research I found that in 1889, Pennsylvania enacted legislation that required any person employed as a miner in the anthracite region to obtain a certificate of competency and qualification from the Miners' Examining Board. Collieries were required to hire as miners only men who had an Anthracite Miners Certificate.

Miners' examining boards were established in Luzerne, Lackawanna, Carbon, Schuylkill and Northumberland counties. Each of the county boards was required to keep a "Registration Book" in which was recorded the name, place of residence, nationality, and other facts of the person qualified to be a miner.

Below is a summary of the laws enacted:

ANTHRACITE COAL MINING LAWS OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR UNDERGROUND MINES "ACT 346" (P.L.142)

Section 207. Certification of Miners

"No person whosoever shall be employed or engaged in the anthracite coal region of this Commonwealth, as a miner in any anthracite coal mine, without having obtained a certificate of competency and qualification so to do from the miners' examining board of the proper district and having been duly registered as herein provided."

Section 208. Boards of Examiners

"There shall be established in each of the Counties of Luzerne, Lackawanna, Carbon, Schuylkill and Northumberland a board to be known as the "Miners' Examining Board" to consist of three miners, who shall be appointed by the judges of the court of common pleas of the county from among the most skillful miners actually engaged in said business in their respective counties who must have had five years' practical experience

in the same. The said persons so appointed shall each serve for a term of two years from the date on which their appointment takes effect.”

Section 211. Registration Books of Miners' Examining Boards

“Each of said boards shall open at the designated place of meeting a book of registration, in which shall be registered the name and address of each and every person duly qualified under this act to be employed as a miner in an anthracite coal mine. And it shall be the duty of all persons employed as miners to be properly registered, and in case of a removal from the district in which a miner is registered it shall be his duty to be registered in the district to which he removes.”

County Registration Books

The Registration Books of the Miners' Examining Board of Luzerne County are held by the Anthracite Heritage Museum at McDade Park, Scranton. The Schuylkill County books are at the Pottsville Office of the Department of Environmental Protection. Visitors to the mine tour are referred to either of these resources, depending on where their ancestor lived.

Lackawanna County Registration Books

In my conversations with John Fielding, Curator, at the Anthracite Heritage Museum, John stated that all the county registration books are on the State Records Retention List. However, he does not know what organization currently has possession of the Lackawanna County Registration Books.

In addition to the museum, another possibility was the Lackawanna Historical Society. LHS Executive Director, Mary Ann Savakinus, replied, “Unfortunately, the Lackawanna County registration books are not in our collection, and I have not heard of anyone else holding them.”

So, the question is: Does anyone know where the registration books of the Miners' Examining Board for Lackawanna County are currently held? If you or someone you know has any information regarding where the Lackawanna County Registration Books are held or know of where they may have been held in the past, please contact lackawannahistory@gmail.com and place Mine Records in the subject matter.

Following are examples of miners' information entries from the Luzerne County Registration Books.

MINERS EXAMINING COMMITTEE <i>Sept 2^d 1920</i>					
NO.	NAME	RESIDENCE	AGE	Height	Weight
1	Frank J. Olinnell	Larksville	26	5-11	185
2	William L. Rutledge	Wilkes Barre	24	5-10	160
3	Shephiler Lamanowicz	Glen Lyon	23	5-11	177
4	Ross Shandra	Pittston	29	5-10	155
5	Arthur Gensel	Larksville	31	5-8	160
6	Harry R. Smith	Wilkes Barre	31	5-8	180
7	Lewis Pirris	Nanticoke	24	5-10	170
8	August Ferrando	—	22	5-10	160
9	Russell Shields	W. Pittston	29	5-6	150
10	George E. Koriakich	Glen Lyon	24	5-5	135
11	Jacob Miller	Larksville	36	5-6	210
12	Frank Jacobs	Wilkes Barre	28	5-6	154

TIMM 21 REGISTRATION BOOK					
Color of Hair	Color of Eyes	NATIONALITY	REMARKS	WITNESS	
Dark	Blue	American	✓	Elliott Miller	DH 66
LBrown	—	—	✓	Fred Redick	—
—	Brown	—	✓	Fred Houch	LTV 66
Black	D	Italian	✓	Karman Farbitch	Rmoyl
Light	Blue	American	✓	Elliott Miller	DH 66
DBrown	DBrown	Russian	✓	Luke Morris	Glen Allen
Dark	—	Spaniard	✓	Frank Repoll	LTV 66
—	—	—	✓	James Mas	—
DBrown	Blue	American	✓	Karman Farbitch	Rmoyl
L	Brown	Cheko Slov	✓	Andrew E. Koriakich	—
Dark	—	Russian	✓	Walter Fondrich	Glen Allen
—	Blue	American	✓	Jacob Butler	DH 66

Book entries courtesy of Anthony Paddock

Remembering Pancoast

April 7, 1911

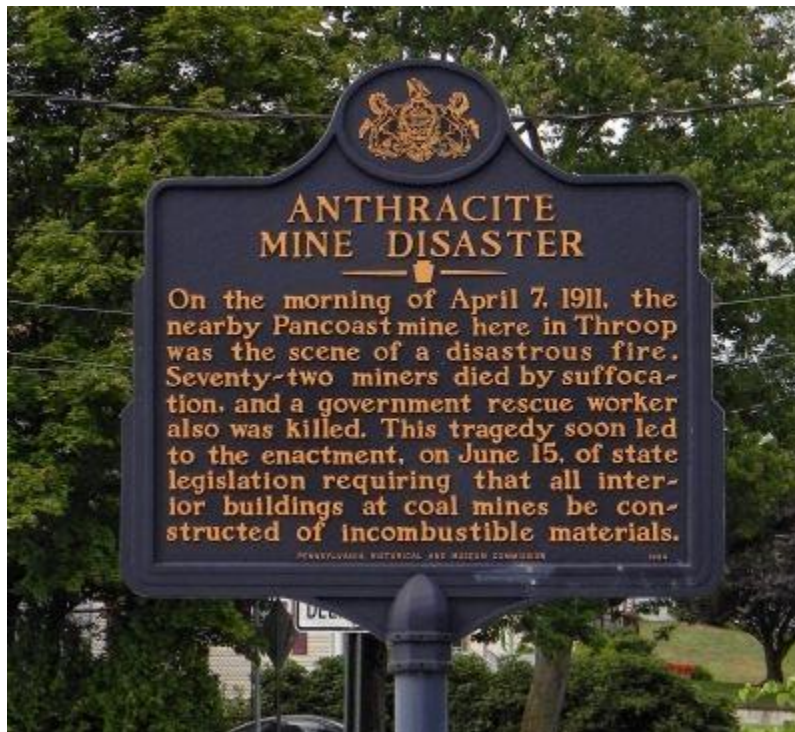


Image source: HMdb.org

Around 8:30 am on April 7, 1911, in Throop, a fire began in the Pancoast Mine's engine house that was not constructed of non-combustible materials, but of wood supported by a flooring made of yellow pine plank. The fire was initially considered to be a nuisance and it wasn't until two hours later that the men were told to evacuate. It was too late as the fire took the lives of 72 immigrant miners and one government rescue worker.

The Pancoast Mine, also known as Price-Pancoast, was Northeast Pennsylvania's third major anthracite mining disaster in terms of lives lost (1911; 73 dead) that took its place with Avondale (1869; 110) and Baltimore Tunnel (1919; 92). The operation was served by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad, the New York, Ontario & Western Railway and the Delaware & Hudson Railway.

A visual remembrance of Pancoast is a Commonwealth road sign (see above), located on Olyphant Avenue near Sanderson Street, not far from the mine site. Although it was one of the region's smaller operations, Pancoast takes its place in Northeast Pennsylvania's anthracite legacy. Those who worked Pancoast and those who lost loved ones and friends are recognized as all are remembered in 2024.



*Resting places of seven killed at Pancoast
Photo courtesy of Joe Rudzinski*

The lunar landscape that existed across much of Lackawanna and Luzerne for decades is virtually non-existent. The land on which pyramid-like culm dumps, tall breakers and other mine-related structures once stood is now occupied by shopping centers, industrial parks, distribution warehouses, upscale housing developments and schools. Trees now cover much of the currently reclaimed, unused mine sites.



*Pancoast Breaker
John Stellwagen Collection
Photo courtesy of Frank P. Adams*

The former Pancoast Mine site is one that is, as of now, still unused. Located between Oleckna and Pancoast streets, the mine operated from 1881 to 1936. In 1972, a large tract of that land was acquired by real estate developer, Anthony J. Rinaldi. As of March 2024, the property remains untouched.

Remembering St. Clair No. 1 Slope Extension

April 27, 1938



St. Clair Surface Buildings - Image source: Alamy

The Morning Herald of Uniontown, Fayette County, reported that on Wednesday, April 27, 1938, an explosion in the St. Clair No. 1 Slope Extension took place resulting in the deaths of seven men with ten seriously burned. The mine was recently inspected by mine fire boss, Andrew Potts, and declared safe to enter. Such inspections were routine.

The explosion was attributed to gas and occurred an hour after 600 men had begun the day's work. There were 19 men working on the level where the explosion occurred. The level was about 500 feet below the surface. Motor operator, Peter Horna and Joseph Stepanoski, a miner, were working at the slope entrance and sounded the alarm.



St. Clair Surface Buildings - Image source: RootsWeb

Of the seven pronounced dead were two brothers, Michael and John Terris (no age given), who commuted daily from Port Carbon to the mine, which was about four miles from Pottsville. In addition to the Terris brothers, the others who died were:

Frank Montgomery, 40 years old, Paul Sikra (40), Wasil Holovak (45), Luke Chuckran (40) and Richard Barney (42). Wasil Holovak was the father of 13 children, Luke Chuckran (3) and Paul Sirka (1). Richard Barney did not have children.

In the Mines:
The Daily Diaries of Thomas J. Goblick
The Final Entries
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.

Following are the final diary entries written by Thomas J. Goblick.

March 1944

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

MAR 1. Cold Windy. Helen came home for a visit. I drove her back. Stayed in Shoeing Stall, 3 places 16 cars coal.

MAR 2. Marley not working.

MAR 3. Drillers at the Terminal. Was to down drug store. Geo. Mistice to go to High Marcy.

MAR 4. Snowing. Worked in Shoe Stall only. 4 places. 20 cars coal. Was shopping with Tom.

MAR 5. Sunday. Drove for Helen 3 pm.

MAR 6. Snowing. East and Shoe Stall. Kompaski not working.

MAR 7. Water & Soda froze. Man hurt in Babylon. Drove Helen back to Hospital. 10:30 am.

MAR 8. Cold. Belt line in Shoe Stall. Jalopy in East. Home 10:30.

MAR 9. Swell day Sunshine.

MAR 10. Joe Puzio moved to Zielenskies.

MAR 11. Drug store Nellie and I shopping.
MAR 12. Rain. Sunday. Was in Ednas.
MAR 13. Rain. 31 cars coal. Was to A&P.
MAR 14. Warm. Drug store, Nellie and I. Was in Ednas.
MAR 15. Pay Day. Orders to cave 221 place. 91 hrs. *** No time &1/2 or Double time listed only 7 hrs. each day***
MAR 16. Rain. Pulled 4 rails to East Heading. 1 flat tire today. Montgomery catalogue today.
MAR 17. I stayed in the East Road. Swell Job.
MAR 18. Ulias not working. Joe Witt burned leg on motor. Rain ruts in Shoe Stall.
MAR 19. Sunday. Was to the movies, Madam Curie.
MAR 20. Snow. 3 places in East. George Ketsko my Brakeman.
MAR 21 - 23. 2 places in East. Swell shift.
MAR 24. One shift working. Enrolled in ICS Sign and Poster course.
MAR 25. Was to town with Nell and Helen.
MAR 26. Sunday. Stayed home.
MAR 27. 7 am. 3 o'clock stopped hoisting. Done 11:30.
MAR 28. Joe Puzio arm broke. Changed from East to Shoe Stall.
MAR 29. Changed Jones.
MAR 30. All OK.
MAR 31. Pay Day. 14 hrs. O.T.

April 1944

Jermyn Green Coal Co., No. 6 Colliery, No. 11 Shaft

APR 1. Snow. One shift Hoisting. Worked Shoe Stall and Main Road.
APR 2. Sunday. Was to the movies with Nell and Tom.
APR 3. Shoe Stall and Main Road. Busy.
APR 4 - 5. Cold, Snowing. Charlie not in. Busy.
APR 6. Warm. New Brake region. Busy.
APR 7. Rain. Tom bought a hat \$6.
APR 8. Warmer. Slope 1 place. Done 4:30. Home 7:30. 7 hrs. time &1/2.
APR 9. Sunday. Easter Sunday. Colliery Idle.
APR 10. Easter Monday. Colliery Idle.

APR 11. Rain. John Marley in High. Marley on Pillar work.
APR 12. Cold. Empties slow. *** job taking empties lowered down Shaft & Slope moving them to the places of work.
APR 13. Road broke. *** Track needed broken rail replaced.
APR 14. Cummings our Boss.
APR 15. Pay Day to day.
APR 16. Sunday. Changing Air Course (direction) in the East Red Ash. 7 hrs. Double time.
APR 17. 3 pm. Russian Easter Monday. 218 miner off.
APR 18 - 21. Ok Swell Shift.
APR 22. Ok Swell Shift. Swell Day.
APR 23. Rain. Sunday. Helen on vacation for 3 weeks.
APR 24. 7 am. 2 tires and 2 tubes from Sears.
APR 25 - 27. Swell day. 3 places.
APR 28. Put on tires. 1 tire bad.
APR 29. Shopping with Nell.
APR 30. Sunday. 105 hrs.

May 1944

Jermyn Green Coal Co., No. 6 Colliery, No. 11 Shaft. Shoe Stall Road

MAY 1. Susman Mark died. Done 7:30.
MAY 2. Done 8:15.
MAY 3. George Millanarski Died in Explosion. Done 7:30.
MAY 4. Done 7:00.
MAY 5. Worked a Double Shift on Jalopy. Done 5 am.
MAY 6. Swell shift. Done 6 pm.
MAY 7. Sunday. Stayed home. Haircut and Tonic.
MAY 8. Rain. Spitko in Red Ash. Done 12:30.
MAY 9 - 10. Swell Day. Done 12:30.
MAY 11. Helen to leave for New York Hospital after 3 weeks' vacation.
MAY 12. White washing the Hospital. *** underground Hospital, more likely a First Aid Room***
MAY 13. Pay Day. Planting tomatoes.
MAY 14. Sunday. Bobby sick. Drove Helen to town.

MAY 15. Rain. Charlie was my Brakeman. 114 hrs.
MAY 16. Swell shift. Done 6:30. Riders paid.
MAY 17. Painting the Hospital Black.
MAY 18. Painting the Hospital chair and table Brown.
MAY 19. Cleaned floor in Hospital.
MAY 20. 2 places. Niggy not in. Swell day. Done 4:30. Home 7:30.
MAY 21. Sunday. Was in Ednas.
MAY 22. Swell day at work.
MAY 23. Busy on Heading Road. Worked 1 hr. extra pulling coal. Cut the grass. Mailed Helen's letter.
MAY 24. Busy on Heading Road. New Replaces on Heading Road.
MAY 25 - 26. Swell Day.
MAY 27. Pay Day.
MAY 28. Sunday.
MAY 29. Done. Home 8 pm.
MAY 30. Decoration Day. Colliery Idle.
MAY 31. Swell Day. Done Early. *** Last entry in Book 2*****

IN THE MINES:

FROM THE DAILY DIARY OF THOMAS J. GOBLICK

December 11, 1942

Important Organizations and People

PA Petroleum Administrator, Harold L. Ickes.
WPB War Production Board.
Commander in Chief, Franklin D. Roosevelt.
WLB War Labor Board.
WFA War Food Administrator, Clande R. Wickord.
Navy Secretary, Frank Knox.
CDD Civilian Defense Director, James Landis.
Secretary of War, Henry Stimson.
Army Air Force. Lt. General Henry H Arnold

Price Administrator, Leon Handerson.

Secretary of Agriculture, Paul Wickard.

WPC War Production Chief, Donald M. Nelson.

Undersecretary of War, Robert P. Patterson.

Undersecretary of the Navy, James V. Forrestal.

Date of Birth- Unknown Died- June 8, 1985



Source: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112147752/thomas-j.-goblick>

(Ed. Note): Documenting the diary entries of Thomas J. Goblick began January 16, 2019, with an email from Carl Orehovsky that reads as follows:

Rick, I attached 2 months from the books I have, January and March 1938, no February. Colliery may have been idle.

January is right out of the book as he wrote it. February, I expanded the info so people would have a better understanding of what he (Thomas) wrote... Which way do you prefer? Let me know if they open ok. I can do this every month if you need material.

Carl

From that point forward, Carl diligently transcribed Mr. Goblick's daily handwritten entries from small, wire bound notebooks. It was a daunting endeavor to say the least.

Thanks to Carl's detailed and time-consuming work, three things took place. 1- We've been able to read Mr. Goblick's notes as to what working underground was like. 2- Thomas J. Goblick's writings are documented for posterity. 3- Mr. Goblick's diaries are now safely stored, courtesy of Carl and the Old Forge Historical Society.

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

A subscription to History Bytes is free. If you would like future issues of our bi-monthly, e-newsletter sent to your inbox, please contact the Lackawanna Historical Society at lackawannahistory@gmail.com and place *History Bytes* in the subject matter.

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.

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

Carbondale Historical Society

Plymouth Historical Society www.plymouthhistoricalsocietyluzernecopa.org

Luzerne County Historical Society

Wayne County Historical Society

Susquehanna County Historical Society

Monroe County Historical Society

Wyoming County Historical Society

Archbald Historical Society: Contact Ed Casey 570-614-3628

Scott Township Historical Society: Contact Robert Vail 570-254-9536

Taylor Historical Society: Contact Christine Schaefer 570-562-1225

County and Educational Partners

Lackawanna County

Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2024

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Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 5pm

Saturday, 12pm – 3pm

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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.