



HISTORY BYTES
A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

Vol. 7 No. 3

May – June 2024

Rick Sedlisky, Editor



Image source: freepik.com

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

A Memorial Day Story That Began With Mystery Photographs circa. 1945-46

Since its first national observance on May 30, 1868, Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, is observed in virtually every city and town across the United States. Photographs were and are a must when it comes to documenting the day's events.

Following the end of World War II, a well-known photographer, Alwyn T. Davies, took a series of photographs depicting a parade somewhere in the Mid Valley. The photographs belonged to Andrew R. Hricko who found them while cleaning out some of his parents' old files. Rather than throw them away, Mr. Hricko contacted the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, that existed until November 2017, in the hopes of finding where the parade took place.

The photographs were published in the March – April 2016 issue of e-Zine, which was the society's online bi-monthly e-newsletter. A follow-up article appeared in the subsequent issue of e-Zine that tells how the photographs mystery was solved.

The photographs were not only correctly documented but provided a look at how a town with a population of 7,382, according to the 1940 census, "pulled out all the stops" when it honored returning service members and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Following are the articles as they appeared in e-Zine in 2016. A few changes were made to fit the *History Bytes* format.

GRSNP eZine: Treasures, Tidbits and Tales

March - April 2016

Editor: Rick Sedlisky

History Mystery

Mid Valley Parade Photographs circa. 1945 – 1946

All parade photos courtesy of Andrew R. Hricko

While cleaning out some of his parents' old files, Andrew R. Hricko came across photos of a parade that took place somewhere in the Mid Valley after World War II in either 1945 or 1946. Mr. Hricko said that if some of the pictures are enlarged, the faces are recognizable. He also added that on the back of the pictures is the name of the photographer and his business information: Alwyn T. Davies Photographs, 816 River Street, Peckville, PA. Phone: OLY. 224M. Research shows that Mr. Davies was a well-known photographer and held memberships in a number of influential organizations across Northeast Pennsylvania.

One of the photographs shows a fire truck from the Throop Fire Department, but that doesn't mean that the parade was held in Throop, although that is a possibility. In the

background of that photo is a bakery truck with part of the name obstructed by a man standing nearby. All that can be seen is ...lansky BAKERS.





If anyone can determine the parade location, please contact the editor and place Mid Valley Parade Photographs in the subject matter. We thank Andrew R. Hricko for sharing the photographs with us.



History Mystery Solved

By Joe Rudzinski

When I received the March-April GRSNP eZine, the article "History Mystery, *Mid Valley Parade Photographs circa. 1945 – 1946*" immediately caught my attention. Being a collector of old photos, I thought the parade photos were amazing. At about the same time, I also received an email from Rick Sedlisky, editor of the GRSNP eZine regarding the History Mystery, asking a few questions and calling on my recollection of Throop history regarding the photos. He also included an email he received from Joe Klapatch who was of the opinion that the parade was in Throop. What follows is great example of old friendships, networking, collaboration, and using the Internet to tie it all together.

My initial look at the photos left me unsure of where the photos were taken, however, a much closer examination of them yielded several clues that led me to the conclusion that the parade indeed took place in Throop. The most telling clue for me was the fence in several of the photos and as shown in the portion of one of the pictures. That fence surrounding Glinsky's Funeral Home is unique and is still there today.

I received another email from Rick, forwarding a response he received from Jim Sovaiko who lives in Throop. He also came to the conclusion that the photos were taken in Throop. He cited several reasons and is quoted as follows:

"The parade pics are interesting. Judging from the banners and the fire truck, I'm pretty sure that it took place in Throop, as "Throop" is missing from all of the marchers' banners. Throop ID would have been added if this was in any other town. What finally put the mystery to rest were the the newspaper articles Joe Klapatch had in his files and forwarded to Rick describing and dating the



Throop Welcomes 1,300 War Heroes At Big Celebration

Throop welcomed its 1,300 war heroes home Saturday—and the Navy was on hand to make it official.

An alert bomber pilot, flying in a group of planes here for Navy day, apparently spotted the parade and decided to lend his services. He was joined by other pilots and they zoomed over the zone of march for several minutes.

The parade and impromptu aerial circus were but two features of the day-long celebration arranged for the veterans.

Memorial services were conducted in the Borough's churches and an additional program was held at the Memorial Plaque. Those participating were the Rev. Martin K. Schell, Throop Methodist Church; the Rev. Joseph S. Tomicek, St. Mary's Church; State Senator Edward J. Coleman, Attorney Stephen E. Gombar, John A. Kevasko, commander, Herbert Clark Post, American Legion, and members of Throop VFW.

9 GOLD STAR MOTHERS RIDE

More than 900 veterans, representing all branches of the service, marched in the parade. The Borough's 36 Gold Star Mothers rode in special cars. Burgess Stephen Dembrosky headed a delegation of Borough officials.

Also in line were Andrew Chezik, commander of the VFW, Boy Scouts, school children, volunteer firemen, police, musical units, Army vehicles and floats.

Prize winners were: bands, Raymond Henry Post Victory Band, Olyphant; drum corps, Koch-Conley, American Legion, this city; floats, Throop Volunteer Hose Co.; Warsaw Sportsmen's Club, and Herbert Clark Legion Auxiliary. Fire company awards were won by Taylor, Dickson City and Dalton Hose Companies.

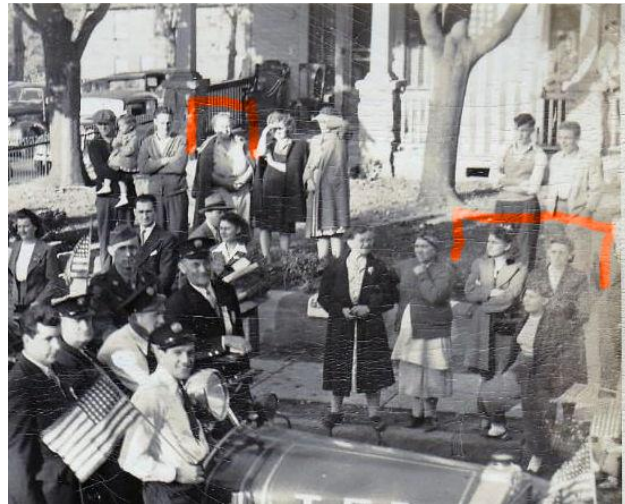
Boxing bouts were presented at the Lincoln School after the parade with Mickey Barron, Dickson City, in charge. A banquet and dance Saturday night climaxed the celebration.

Banquet speakers included the Revs. J. J. Ritter, Joseph Tomicek, Joseph Galambos and Thomas Gildea, Burgess Dembrosky, Anthony Matuszewski, Dickson City; Attorney John Sirotnak, and Tom X. Reilly.

Members of the Herbert Clark Auxiliary presented emblems to the Gold Star Mothers and veterans received attractive souvenir programs.

parade as occurring in Throop, on 26 October 1946. One article is shown on the preceding page.

With the knowledge that the pictures were taken in Throop, I emailed copies to former classmates of Throop High School, friends and family, hoping someone would be identified in the photos. I quickly received a response from Gene Gretzula Kaminski, indicating that her aunt and cousin were in the fire truck photo, in the bottom right corner. The house in the background is on the corner of Sanderson and Charles streets and owned by the Kiesel family; the next house to the right was owned by the Gretzula family. It would seem a logical place for them to view the parade. After another examination of the photo, I am very confident that Mrs. Elizabeth Kiesel, owner of the house in the background, is also in the photo, standing on the sidewalk in the front yard.



Another Throop acquaintance, Dorothy Liesniesky Cherochak is confident that her father, Edward Liesniesky, is driving the fire truck. Additionally, several people have identified Edmund “Butch” Kallay in the Junior Police Association photo. He is one of the boys holding the banner and is located right behind the letter “A” in Association. Gaspar Barone was identified as the person (not in uniform) on the running board of the fire truck.

In addition to using the Internet to contact friends, there are some who don’t use computers so I resorted to the good old telephone. My first call was to Mrs. Betty Davis Chimock, a friend and longtime Throop resident. Betty is the glue that holds the Throop Alumni Association together and if you need to know something about Throop, Betty is the person to talk to. I told her about the GRSNP article, the pictures found by Andrew Hricko and that the parade took place in Throop. Her reply was, “Oh! You mean the veterans welcome home parade. I have a picture of the parade with me standing in front of Kubasko’s house across from Throop



High School”. She went on to describe a float that was passing on a flatbed truck; it included a wounded GI on a bed attended by an Army nurse. She said the Army nurse was Josephine Gretzula. Gene Gretzula Kaminski confirmed it was her Aunt Josephine and that she had been an Army nurse and had served at the Battle of the Bulge. This photograph was also taken by Alwyn T. Davies. Betty was kind enough to allow me to copy the photo. She said that she was supposed

to march in the parade but was not feeling well that day and her mom did not allow her to participate.

This was all an interesting exercise and identifying people participating in the parade has made the photos more meaningful. As the photos are passed around, I am sure additional interesting stories will surface. It now appears that Alwyn T. Davies took many more photos as the parade passed and they may be still out there in family memorabilia collections.

One of the newspaper articles about the parade mentioned the fact that after the parade, Gold Star Mothers and veterans who marched in the parade received “attractive souvenir programs”. I have been in contact with several people who have talked to Throop residents who have copies of the program, however, there was not enough time to attempt to get a copy for this article. The souvenir program to accompany the newspaper articles, parade photos and stories that go along with the pictures will make a very nice historical package. I will volunteer to collect, assemble and share this historical information. If anyone knows of someone who has a program, additional photos or any memorabilia associated with this event, please contact the editor.

For myself, researching the photos and the parade has been a fun experience and has brought an important piece of history back to life. What follows are two more personal reflections on the photos and parade. The first is from Eugene Purvin, a classmate from the class of 1957, who lived on Mary Street in 1946. Here is a paraphrasing taken from the communications Gene and I exchanged about the parade and photos.

In October 1946, I was seven years old. We lived on Mary Street. There was a Navy vet who lived on our street next to Marge Orlevitch and she has confirmed to me that his name was Johnny Swenton. I'm not sure exactly if the first time I met Johnny was the week of the parade or the day before. What I do remember and will never forget was one day passing by his house, he called me to his front yard. We talked a while and then he gave me a nickel.

I was able to forward to Gene a document that verified that Johnny Swenton served in the Navy and that he was discharged in August 1946. After reviewing this information, Gene was absolutely certain he was at the parade and he remembered he was standing on George Street near Veltri's clothing store watching the parade. He remembers seeing Johnny Swenton, who was on this open top truck and shouting, “Johnny, Johnny”, to him as he passed.

Finally, the photos have a very special meaning for me. While reviewing them and the newspaper articles, a memory from my childhood was rekindled. At the time the photos were taken I was seven years old and we lived at 174 Boulevard Avenue. The assembly point for veterans marching in the parade was right behind us on Brick Street. I don't remember any of the parade gathering on Brick Street; but what I do remember is that on that day, my grandfather, who was the sexton at St. Anthony's Church, took me along with him to the church. As the parade passed in front of the church my grandfather and I rang the church bells. I can remember this vividly as there was only one bell that I could ring. My grandfather had modified it, extending the rope with a loop at the end so that I could use my foot to pull down and ring the bell. I also remember my grandfather having

me look out the window in the choir area of the church and report on the progress of the parade. I remember seeing the people standing along Rebecca Street viewing the parade as it passed in front of the church. Mr. Hricko, we would like to thank you for bringing these memories alive again.

Additionally, I would like to thank all of my Throop friends (too many to mention individually) for taking the time to review the photos and provide me with their input. It appears there may be enough information available for a follow-up article.

The story doesn't end there. Betty also sent photographs of what was the "Throop Honor Roll" sign. The first sign, which was built in 1942 and located at the corner of Sanderson and George streets, contained the names of 498 Throop "Greatest Generation" residents who were in military service. The sign contained the "V" for Victory symbol.



*Throop Honor Roll sign containing the "V" for Victory
Image source: Throop Centennial Commemorative Newspaper – Page 16*



*Throop Honor Roll Sign
Boy Scout Troop 73 Paper Drive
Photo source: Betty Davis Chimock
Photo courtesy of Joe Rudzinski*

As World War II dragged on, the number of residents serving in the military grew substantially. A second "Honor Roll" sign was constructed in November 1944 and by the end of the war in 1945, it contained 1,065 names. Dedicated on Armistice Day (as Memorial Day was called in 1945), the sign was formally presented to the Herbert Clark American Legion Post 180. Herbert Clark was killed during World War I.



*Second Throop Honor Roll Sign
Photo source: Betty Davis Chimock
Photo courtesy of Joe Rudzinski*

Because the sign was made of wood, the passing of time brought about its deterioration. The sign was eventually dismantled.

.....

"A special thank you to the late Elizabeth "Betty" Davis Chimock for sharing the VFW honor roll pictures. Betty was active in Throop community activities, especially the Throop High School Alumni Association.

Her knowledge of all things Throop was well known and if you had a question on Throop history, she was the go-to person.

Betty was a primary source for information in the above History Mystery article and was also a witness to the veterans' welcome home parade and provided one of the pictures that included her watching the parade."

-Joe Rudzinski

.....

Elizabeth M. Chimock

October 15, 2022

Elizabeth M. "Betty" Chimock, 85, a lifelong resident of Throop, passed away Saturday morning at Regional Hospital of Scranton after an illness. Her husband of 51 years, John Chimock, died in 2011.

Born and raised in Throop, daughter of the late Robert and Elizabeth L. Zilla Davis, she was a graduate of Throop High School, class of 1954, and was a devoted member of Blessed Sacrament Parish at St. Anthony's Church in Throop. Prior to her retirement, she worked for many years in the local garment industry. She was an active member of the Blessed Sacrament Altar & Rosary Society, the Throop Alumni Association, the Over 55 Senior Club, the "Adorable's" Chapter of the local Red Hat Society, and was an officer with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

Betty was a loving wife, homemaker, mother, grandmother and friend to many who will be greatly missed by those who knew her.

The family is deeply grateful to the doctors and nurses of the ICU Unit at Regional Hospital of Scranton for their care and compassion shown to Betty during this difficult time.

She is survived by two daughters, Jackie and husband, Rick Hunt, of Blakeley; and Betsy and husband, BJ Sarneso, of Indiana, Pa.;



granddaughter, Libby Sarneso; three stepgrandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, John, she was preceded in death by her brother, A. Robert Davis.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial Monday at 9:30 a.m. in St. Anthony's Church, Rebecca Street, Throop, to be celebrated by the Rev. Scott P. Sterowski, pastor. Those attending are asked to go directly to the church the morning of the funeral. Interment will be private.

The family will receive friends Sunday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the John J. Turko & Sons Funeral Home, 402 Boulevard Ave., Dickson City. The Altar & Rosary Society will recite the rosary at 6:30 p.m. The family requests that masks be worn at the funeral home and in church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton.



Image Source: Throop Centennial Commemorative Newspaper - Page 16

Remembering The Greatest Generation

By Robert P. Wolensky

When it appeared in 1998, Tom Brokaw's book, *The Greatest Generation*, struck a chord with so many people who felt a debt of gratitude to those who lived through the Great Depression, fought in World War II and maintained the home front, and went on to build the economy and a middle-class life for most Americans. It's quite an extraordinary list of accomplishments.

I was very close to members of this generation, as it included my parents, uncles and aunts, as well as many friends, neighbors, teachers, workmates, and coaches. Hard workers and good people. How much we learned from them, and how much we cherish their memory.

I would like to add two often unappreciated items to their achievements. As I read U.S. and Northeastern Pennsylvania history, they were the first generation to have married in large numbers *outside* their ethnic group. Recall that our area—like the U.S. in general—experienced massive immigration between 1880 and 1920. The U.S. Census indicates that over 20 million people came here during this 40-year period. Most arrived from Eastern and Southern Europe, but many were from northern Europe, the British Isles, and elsewhere.

The coal region's population numbers reflected the influx. For example, Lackawanna County grew from 89,269 residents in 1880 to 285,311 in 1920; while Luzerne County went from 133,065 to 390,991 during the same time span. We certainly were an immigrant destination largely because of job opportunities in coal-related occupations.

Unfortunately, newcomers here and elsewhere have always experienced discrimination with work, housing, and other matters. The first major wave of "foreigners" to arrive on these shores were the Irish and the Germans in the 1840s and 1850s, and both groups—but especially the Irish—faced considerable prejudice. The Irish faced two main problems: first, they were overwhelmingly Catholic in a largely Protestant region and country; and second, they were considered racially inferior and not "white," as the book, *How the Irish Became White* (2009) by Noel Ignatiev, demonstrates. A sizable literature written over the past thirty years has shown that the same pattern held true for other groups such as the Poles, Italians, Jews, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Slovaks, and so forth.

It seems hard to believe that, at one time, these Europeans were not considered white. They were viewed by the dominant society in the same way that many citizens currently view Mexican, Chinese, Nepalese, and other recent immigrants. Indeed, the research shows that the term "whites" only emerged in the 1960s largely in response to the European groups' feeling left behind and unacknowledged by the Civil Rights movement. Before the 1950s, every ethnic group was considered a "race" (e.g., the Welsh race, the Italian race, the Slovenian race, etc.). Of course, we now know that there's just *one* race—The Human Race—as we all have the same genetic and evolutionary history.

My grandparents arrived in the U.S. between 1902 and 1912, with one side from Eastern Ukraine and the other from Sicily. As I think back, I could understand why they might be considered foreign. They had old country ways and spoke broken English. Yet while they married within their own group, one beauty of their offspring (my parents and other members of the Greatest Generation) was that large numbers married *outside* their group, *across* ethnic lines. True, they mainly wedded other Europeans of the same religion. But I believe that intermarriage was one unrecognized accomplishment of the Greatest Generation. As such, they provided a wonderful example of America as a “melting pot.” For this reason, so many residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania are part this and part that, and their children are *part this, part that, and part the other!* Such large-scale mixing was unimaginable before the Greatest Generation.

The second item relates to *ethnic bias*. Because their spouses came from other groups, and because they worked alongside a multiplicity of people, the Greatest Generation taught some lessons about ethnic bias. I recall talking to an uncle about a very good opposing pitcher who had just beaten our baseball team. I said that his name was Welch. My Italian American uncle thought that I was criticizing this player because his ethnicity. “You shouldn’t criticize the guy because he’s Welsh, Bob.” I proceeded to clarify my comments.

I recall few instances of my parents or anyone else in the family expressing ethnic prejudice or superiority. When we’d shop at Feldman’s grocery market on the Back Road in Swoyersville or Schectman’s Army and Navy store on Main Street in Luzerne, my parents would talk wonderfully with the Jewish owners and show not a hint of bias. Students of anthracite history know well that the credit offered by Jewish shopkeepers was vital to family survival during the long strikes that once characterized our area.

True, we had virtually no interactions with Black, Hispanic, or Asian families when I grew up because they were so few in number. Would there have been racial prejudices toward these groups had they been here? Perhaps. I do know that another generation—some of my fellow Baby Boomers—have expressed prejudicial views toward recent immigrants to the area. On more than a few occasions I have reminded my colleagues that their grandparents suffered discrimination because they were not viewed as whites when they arrived. That it was their parents who first married outside the national group. That their grandparents and parents lived, worked, and got along with people from various different backgrounds.

Of course, no one is perfect, but at least ethnic prejudices against European groups are nowhere near what they were 100 years ago. Can we learn from our forebearers and continue the march toward a less biased and more accepting community when it comes to other nationalities?

There are few members of the Greatest Generation left. Three years ago, our family lost Uncle Joe Wolensky, age 94, a World War II veteran, blue collar worker, and the last of six children born to my grandparents who resided for many years in the Harry E mine patch in Swoyersville. Like other members of his cohort, Joe taught us valuable life lessons that have not been forgotten. I believe that an appropriate way to commemorate

all members of this generation is to add these two items—acceptance of diversity and dismissal of bias—to an already remarkable list of accomplishments.

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

// 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

Friday, May 31 at 2pm Join us for **Lackawanna Past Times** to learn more about the men who (really) built Scranton! LHS director Mary Ann Savakinus will spotlight early Scranton architects, including Joel Amsden, Edward Langley, Lansing Holden, George M.D. Lewis, and more-- so tune in to put a face to your favorite Scranton structure!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88172116472?pwd=YUZhdDVTenXaHRBU2RwbFIWbC9RZz09>

Friday, June 28 at 2pm **Lackawanna Past Times** continues as we explore Pennsylvania's environmental history with Shippensburg University professor Allen Dietrich-Ward!

This program was originally scheduled for April but rescheduled.) Tune in to learn more about the birth of environmental conservation with cameos from local favorite Gifford Pinchot and more!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82602044936?pwd=WGloWDAvZlhFQlVrNWxkOVFxdVpsdz09>

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.**

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

NEW EXHIBIT: Jim Howard's Pencils: We were pleased to be featured in a Scranton Times - Tribune article by Chris Kelly about an interesting collection of pencils that were donated to us a few years back by James Howard of Scranton. Jim started collecting pencils when he was 8 years old and often sent letters to celebrities to ask if they might share one of their pencils with him. His collection numbers in the thousands with more than 300 from Lackawanna County. Our Collection Chair, Trustee Ella Rayburn worked with Collection Volunteer Joanne Stetz this week to prepare an exhibit of some of the pencils. They are very interesting, and we hope you'll stop in to view them over the summer.

Summer Walking Tours: Our summer downtown Scranton walking tours kick off on June 1st and will be offered on select Saturdays throughout the summer. *See flyer on Page 19.*

Coming this summer: Sacred Sites and Sounds: On August 22/24, the LHS will present "Sacred Sites and Sounds" including a place of worship tour in Carbondale on Saturday and a special pre-event reception on Thursday featuring a selection of local church choir performances. *Details TBA*

Anthracite Family Album: One of our members, Scott Herring, is excited to mark his 50th anniversary this summer as our region's Last Anthracite Photographer with a special exhibit at the Anthracite Heritage Museum of more than 1000 images of our region. The exhibit runs through January 2025, so don't miss it! *See flyer on Page 43.*



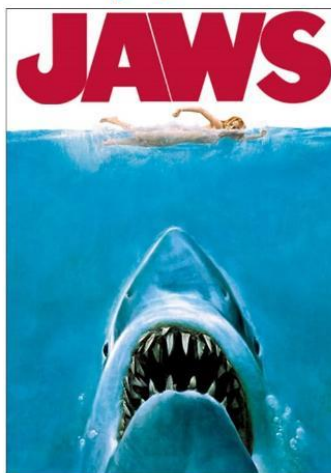
Celebrate Summer with the Lackawanna Historical Society!!



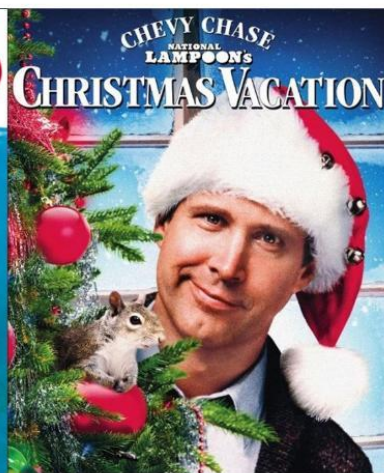
Throwback Thursdays

at the Circle Drive-In, Scranton Carbondale Hwy.

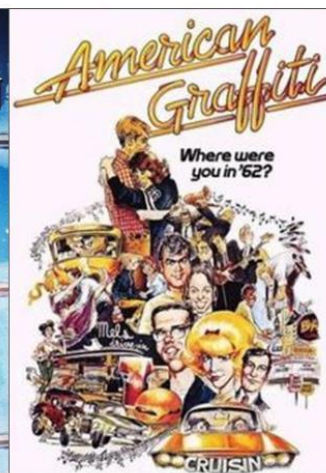
Starts at Dusk - Call 570-344-3841 for details.



JUNE 20



JULY 25



AUGUST 22

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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

Wednesday, July 17: Camelot Restaurant, 17 Johnson Rd., Clarks Summit 570-585-1430

Wednesday, August 21: Sidel's Restaurant, 1202 N Main Ave., Scranton 570-343-6544

Wednesday, September 18: State Street Grill, 114 S State St, Clarks Summit 570-585-5590

Wednesday, October 16: Noir Dark Spirits, 222 Wyoming Ave., Scranton 570-871-4387

Wednesday, November 20: Bartari, 101 Adams Ave., Scranton 570-800-7109

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 & 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
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.

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. *For Details, see You Might Be Rusyn If... See below.*

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.

To register go to [LHS Forum Registration](#)

For more information email lackawannahistory@gmail.com or call (570) 344-3841.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

You Might Be Rusyn if...

This year, the LHS Genealogy Forum is pleased to announce a new addition to its "European Tour" summer line-up—Tracing Records in Carpatho-Rusyn Ancestry. If your ancestors hail from Eastern Europe and you've been unable to find records in the Galicia region of Poland, Ukraine, eastern Slovakia, and eastern Romania, it is possible that you are Ruthenian or Rusyn, which is its own ethnic group.

According to the National Carpatho-Rusyn Society, Carpatho-Rusyns are a distinct Eastern Slavic people who lived for more than a thousand years in remote villages scattered along the foothills and valleys of the Carpathian Mountains of East Central Europe. Their villages were located mostly among those of Western Slavs (Slovaks and Poles), Hungarians (Magyars), Jews, and Vlachs.

The name Rusyn identifies them as descendants, in part, of a people from the vast lands of ancient Rus' who were converted to the Eastern Christian Church in the 9th century.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

This nation's legacy carries on today in the form of the Belarusian, Russian, Ukrainian, and Carpatho-Rusyn peoples.

Over the years, Rusyns have also been known by a variety of other names—Carpatho-Russians, Carpatho-Ukrainians, Rusnaks, Ruthenes, Ruthenians, Uhro-Rusyns and Podkarpats'ki Rusyny, to name a few. Rusyns typically referred to themselves as Rusnaks or Lemko for those who settled on the northern slopes of the Carpathians.

You Might Be Rusyn if . . . Some Examples

- You called your grandmother Baba
- You can be no more specific about your origins than to say that your ancestors came from Austria-Hungary or Galicia
- Your ancestors immigrated from Eastern Europe to the northeastern US and found work in the coal mines and steel mills of Pennsylvania and Ohio, or the factories of New Jersey and Connecticut
- Your ancestors spoke a language that they didn't really have a term for—perhaps they called it “hillbilly Russian” or simply “ponashomu” (our way of speaking)
- Your ancestors worshipped at a Byzantine Catholic church—the priest would have called you “Ruthernian,” the Latin-based western term used for Rusyn.
- Your ancestors might have used other terms for the group, which included, but are not limited to, Rusnaks, Carpatho-Russians, Carpatho-Ukrainians, Uhro-Rusyns, Lemkos, or a derogatory name that's okay when used by the people themselves to refer to one another, Hunkies.
- Your ancestors immigrated between 1890 and World War I and called themselves Russians.
- You ate Bobal'ki and pyrohy at Christmas and paska and hurdka at Easter.

If you believe that this ethnic group is part of your heritage and you've done family research that has taken you back as far as you can go in the United States but have gotten nowhere researching Polish/Slovak/Ukrainian records, this session may allow you to knock down those roadblocks you've been encountering.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

FREE Session: *Tracing Records in Carpatho-Rusyn Ancestry*
When: *10 July 2024*
Where: *Valley Community Library*
739 River St.
Peckville, PA 18452
Host: *Natalie Asikainen*
Registration: [LHS Forum Registration](#)



Above: Flag of the Rusyns
Image source: Wikipedia

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. The 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>

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

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Architectural Walking Tours Return!

Start your weekend off with some history! These free Saturday guided tours provide local residents and visitors with a chance to learn more about Downtown Scranton's magnificent architecture and the stories about buildings and neighborhoods you pass every day!

Call the Society at 570-344-3841 to make a reservation.

Sat., June 1 at 11 am: Commercial and "Red Light" District; meet at Radisson Lackawanna Station,

Sat., June 15 at 11am: Gothic District; meet at Lackawanna College, corner N. Washington and Vine

Sat., June 29 at 11am: Courthouse Square; meet at cor. N. Washington & Linden

Sat., July 23 at 11am: Lower Hill section; meet Elm Park Church, cor. Linden and Jefferson

Sat., July 27 at 11am: Commercial and "Red Light" District; meet at Radisson Lackawanna Station

Sat. August 10 at 11am: Lower Hill section; meet Elm Park Church, cor. Linden and Jefferson

Sat., August 24 at 11am: Lower Hill section; meet Elm Park Church, cor. Linden and Jefferson

Sat., Sept. 7 at 11 am: Courthouse Square; meet at cor. N. Washington & Linden



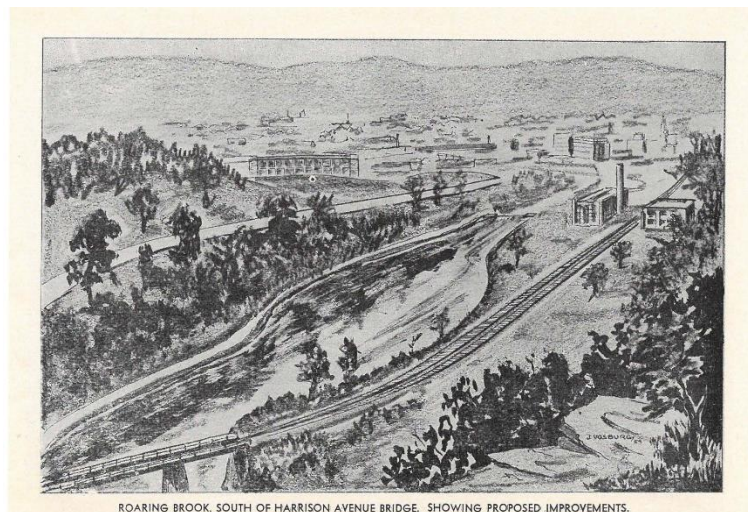
This is the second in a series of edited reprints from "The Laurel; Northeastern Pennsylvania Magazine." It is planned to republish this and subsequent articles in their entirety as a special feature of History Bytes. All reprints will center on economic development, local history, culture, social programs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

In the early 1950s, Scranton's "City Beautiful Association" presented a proposal to, first, solve the city's acute traffic problem, secondly, provide a swift passage through the city, and thirdly, to restore the community to its natural beauty. The Association's ideas and plans were extremely practical to people of vision. The proposal was not made without careful consideration of the methods to finance it. The cost to the city's taxpayers was infinitesimal in relation to the benefits to be realized.

--Richard Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., Transcriber

PLAN SOLVES PARKING and BEAUTIFIES CITY ---71 Years ago



ROARING BROOK, SOUTH OF HARRISON AVENUE BRIDGE, SHOWING PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS.

Plan Solves Parking and Beautifies City

A necklace of parks, bright with sparkling lagoons, threaded on a through highway, could be strung around the neck of Scranton, thus restoring her to her natural beauty.

This, considering the present appearance of the 'community, may seem as unwarranted mayhem on the poetic. But beneath the debris of an untidy century rests sylvan waterways which once were a delight to the artistic eye.

Roaring Brook, which the Indians called the Nay Aug, its waters crystal clear, tumbled, roared and twisted through its scenic gorge, leaping over ledges, rushing through rapids, until suddenly it was subdued by the gentle flowing Lackawanna at their confluence in lower South Scranton. The quiet Lackawanna, moving southward, flowed through rich forest and meadowlands.

A noted park planner, once viewing the meeting place of these two streams, sighed that he had not found them before civilization had turned their beds into sewers and their banks into garbage dumps. He would have turned them into parklands of beauty.

Today, although late, these natural parklands could with little trouble be restored to their sylvan beauty. Scranton, after a century or more of throwing its waste out the door, could be redesigned, recovering its inherent beauty.

This sounds like The City Beautiful, which it is. Unfortunately, the work of the City Beautiful Association has been too little publicized.

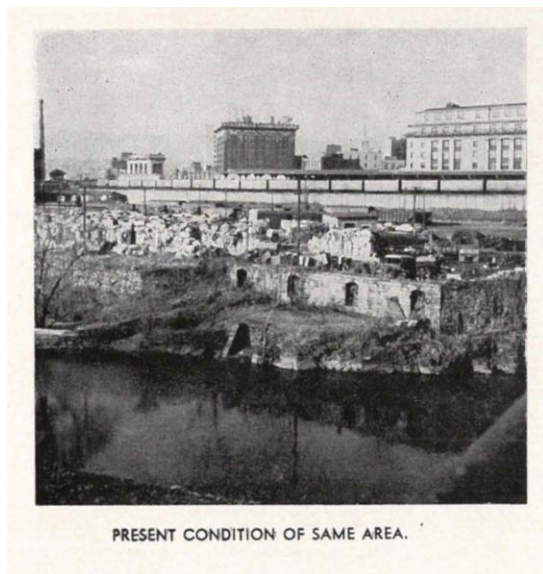
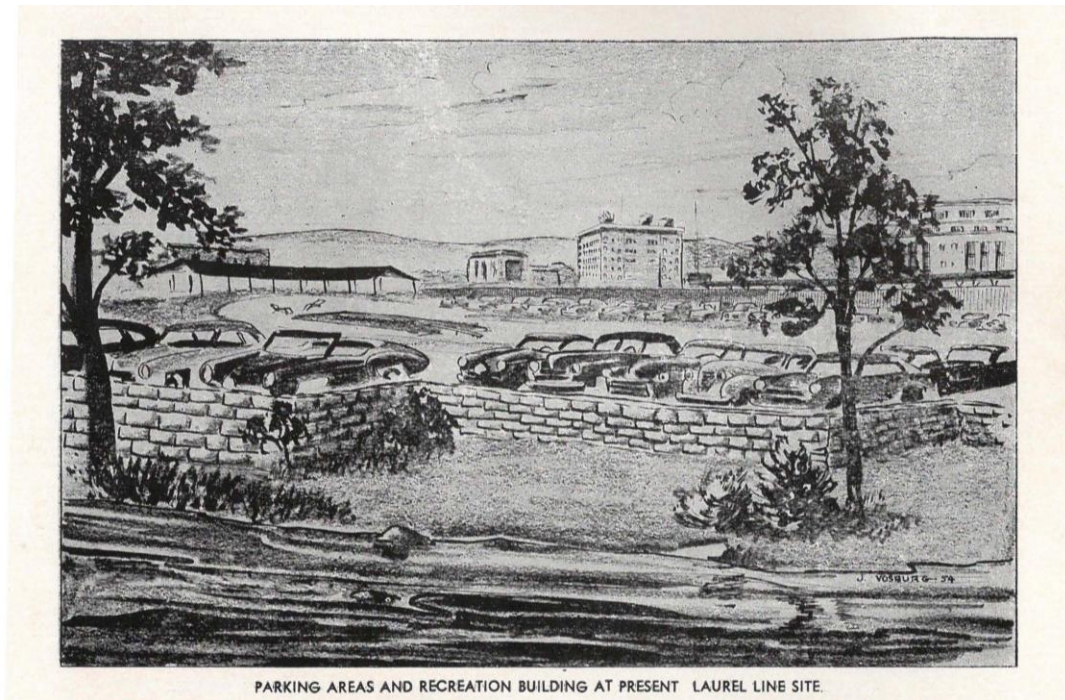
The City Beautiful Association, composed of substantial residents of the community, has taken a long range view of the area. It envisions a city, taking advantage of its natural scenic resources, which is a place of beauty.

The members of the association, however, are practical people. They are not starry-eyed dreamers. They know that there must be a reason other than aesthetic for their proposed city improvements.

They have, consequently, outlined a plan, which combines the practical with the aesthetic and, at the same time, provides answers to serious problems which are pressing the city.

Basically, their proposal would immediately solve the city's acute parking problem. This solution would lead directly to an easement of traffic through the city and pave the way for the establishment of parks and recreation areas in the heart of the city by restoring the natural attributes of the Roaring Brook and the Lackawanna River.

Dr. George A. Clark, president of the association, points out that lack of adequate parking space in the central city is actually strangling business. An immediate solution must be found.



The parking problem is acute in every city, but doubly acute in Scranton where the business district is confined in a relatively restricted area. Several commissions are now working to find some way to alleviate the acute shortage of parking space in central Scranton.

The effects of this parking problem are far reaching. Central city business houses are suffering serious financial losses and must find some way to stop the trend of shopping in less congested suburban areas. They have the alternative to decentralize, as some businesses are doing in larger cities, and moving their businesses to suburban districts. This results in a drastic tax loss to the city.

A proposal has been made to build a subterranean garage beneath the Court House Square which could accommodate 2,000 cars at a cost of between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000. This has been proposed by Chris Colovos and is patterned after an underground garage in Los Angeles.

Dr. Clark explains that his association has no argument with this proposal. It is one solution. But his association's plan provides for the outdoor accommodation of 6,000 cars within a short distance of the city's business district.

The City Beautiful Association's proposal is not new. Both the Scranton Tribune and the Scranton Times have published its developments.

The group on several occasions in the past year has urged that the city acquire "such parcels of land along the brook for a permanent city recreation park so as to insure for posterity the following results:

"The restitution to its original beauty of the valley of Roaring Brook and its enhancement in beauty and usefulness by a series of lagoons ending in a public swimming pool in the vicinity of the Laurel Line station; the elimination for all time of fire hazards by reason of the presence of junkyards under the Spruce Street bridge and also the elimination of the unsightly and disgraceful appearance that these yards and surroundings present at a main highway entrance to Scranton, and the proper improvement and landscaping of the banks of the stream and lands adjacent thereto to provide parking facilities for the accommodation of 5,000 cars within one or two blocks of the Central City shopping district."

The communication to city council was signed by Dr. George A. Clark, president, City Beautiful Association; Arthur R. Knight, president, Rotary Club; Mrs. George A. Clark, chairman, city improvement committee of the Century Club; Frances M. Reardon, president, Quota Club; John F. Barry, chairman, City Improvement Council; Attorney Robert G. Coglizer, Lackawanna River Valley Committee, and Robert H. Shulenberger, president, Lions Club.

First, the association turns the public's attention to the area from the Cedar Avenue Bridge to the Harrison Avenue Bridge through which flows the Roaring Brook. Parking provisions for 3,000 cars could be established on the west bank of the brook in an area now occupied by junk yards. Additional parking accommodations could be arranged on the east side of the stream.

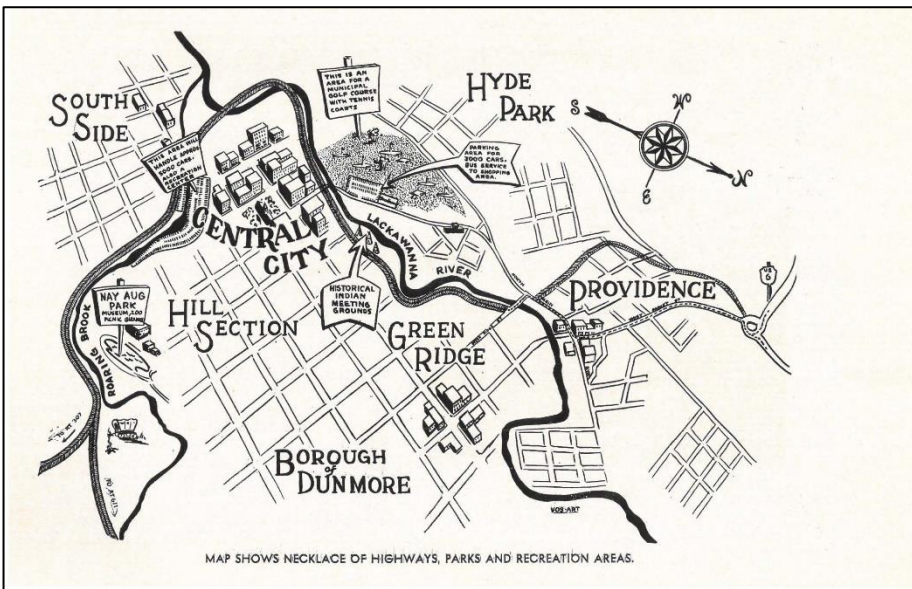
This is the first step in the overall plan. The land in the valley stretching to the Harrison Avenue Bridge would be used as recreational and park lands. The lands would be terraced, lagoons built and a community swimming pool constructed near the present Laurel Line Station, which, itself, would be converted into a recreation building.

The abandoned Laurel Line power house, located below the Harrison Avenue Bridge, would be turned over to the University of Scranton for an engineering building or for other purposes. The grounds in this area would be terraced, trees planted, hiking and bridle paths built and the brook cleared and controlled in pools and lagoons.

The cost of maintaining these parking lots could be underwritten by local merchants or by the collection of a small fee. The area is only one block and a half from the city's business district.

The brook would be cleaned and tidied down to its meeting with the Lackawanna River.

The second parking area, part of the master plan, would be located between the northern end of the Mulberry Street Viaduct and the river in the space now occupied by Transit Company car yards. This would accommodate another 3,000 cars. Objection might be raised to this because the area is too distant from the Central City.



The association proposes that a bus shuttle service be instituted on a ten minute schedule. The buses would carry parkers from the area and circle through the central city. This, too, could be underwritten by the city's merchants or

by a small fare.

This entire area, from top of West Linden Street, down through the Municipal Stadium grounds, swinging through Weston Field, along both sides of the river, up to Green Ridge Street, would be developed into recreational and parklands.

A public golf course would be built from West Linden Street down towards Providence Road in the area from which an immense culm dump is now being removed. This could be accomplished with comparative ease by placing top soil over the coal lands and landscaping the area. The area around the Municipal

Stadium would be landscaped to match the golf course and the parkland extended through Weston Field to the river.

Both sides of the river would be developed and restored as far as possible to their original state. On the easterly side of the river, the land sweeping south from the present city incinerator plant, was once pleasant meadow lands which was the meeting place of the Monsey Indians.

In the early days of Scranton, these meadows were picnic grounds along the then clear river, and later a racing course was built there. Then generations dumped ashes and garbage there, and it is now a desolate place.

A person, standing at the incinerator plant, can easily visualize how beautiful these meadows once were with the tree lined river winding its way through them.

The association proposes to restore the meadows to their original state and build a memorial park on the Indian meeting grounds.

How would this be accomplished? Simply by stringing a highway along the river, around and below the plateau on which Scranton's business district stands, up along the Roaring Brook and out of the city in three directions. Motorists now traveling through the city must follow devious and complicated routes, crawl through traffic bottlenecks and mazes of intersections.

The proposed highway would connect with south and west traffic at Keyser Avenue, run down Ferdinand Street, to the Lackawanna, string down the west side of the river, running through the river parklands, past the second parking lot, loop around the plateau and follow the Roaring Brook up to a division point with one section swinging to connect with the Drinker Turnpike and the second rising gradually to join the Daleville Highway near Lake Scranton. This latter branch would eliminate the steep and dangerous Moosic Street hill.

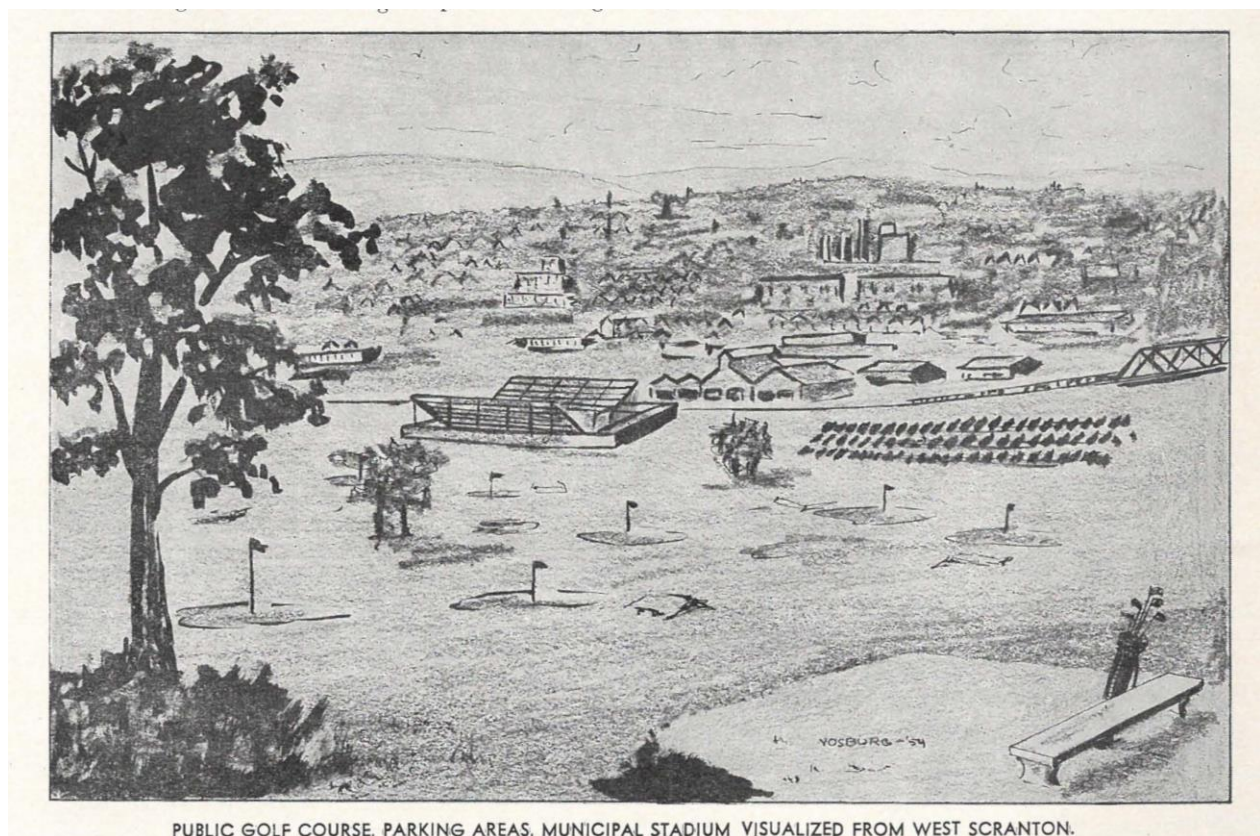
A third branch could be diverted through the old Laurel Line Tunnel to join the extension of the Pennsylvania Highway near Moosic. This would necessitate enlarging the tunnel for automobile traffic which would be no great problem to present day highway engineering.



The map contained in this article enables the reader to visualize this highway ribboned through the city with parking lots, recreation areas and parklands on either side of it. Along its right of way there would be ample room for additional parking areas as the need for them arose.

From an aesthetic and recreational point, the lands along the Lackawanna and Roaring Brook would be much larger than Nay Aug Park and their facilities would be more available to the residents of all sections of the city. The Lackawanna would be cleared, dams built for swimming and even canoeing, and picnic grounds established along its banks.

This, briefly, is an outline of the City Beautiful Association's proposal to, first, solve the city's acute traffic problem, secondly, to provide a swift passage through the city, and, thirdly, to restore the community to its normal beauty.



PUBLIC GOLF COURSE, PARKING AREAS, MUNICIPAL STADIUM VISUALIZED FROM WEST SCRANTON.

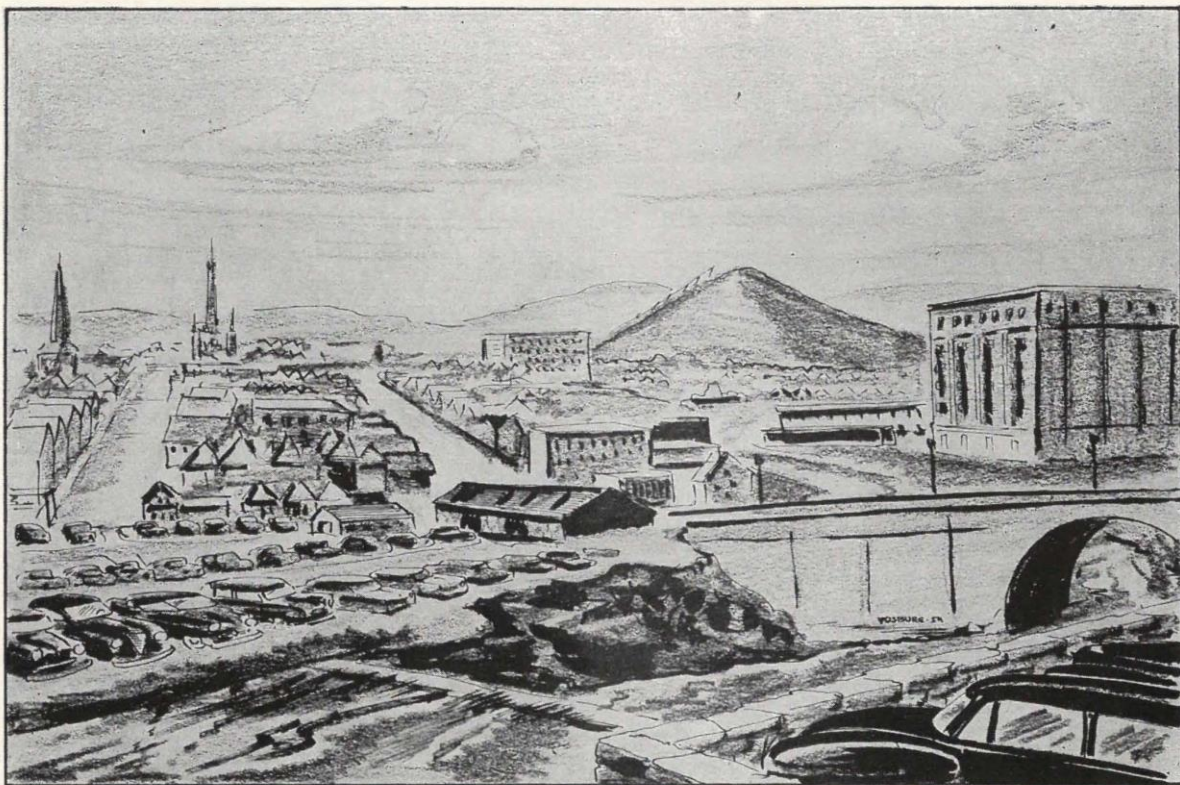
The idea is extremely practical to people of vision. The old cities of Europe, built on rivers, have long ago made the streams running through them attractive with parklands. In this country Philadelphia has strung one of the most beautiful parks in the world along Wissahickon Creek, a stream much smaller than the Lackawanna or the Roaring Brook.

The proposal is not made without careful consideration of the methods to finance it. The cost to the city's taxpayers would be infinitesimal in relation to the benefits gained.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in its program to clear streams and rivers of pollution has provided funds to be used for the dredging, cleaning and landscaping of the state's waterways. A portion of these funds would be available for improvement of the Lackawanna River and the Roaring Brook.

The newly appointed Scranton Redevelopment Authority, designed to rid the city of slums and eyesores, has the power to use government grants to replace these blighted areas with parks and other improvements. The majority of these funds are federal grants.

Finally, the highway through the city, would be built by the federal government to link up with other federal highways. The cost would be born by the federal government. The federal highway would sweep through the city and the other agencies would string the parklands along it. The clean stream commission would take care of the waterways.



PROPOSED PARKING AREAS ON EASTERLY SIDE OF ROARING BROOK.

The improvement and beautification of these strips of land would attract additional improvements along their courses. Industrial plants, without great costs, would improve the appearance of their buildings and lands. Home owners would perk up and blend their homes into the surrounding landscape.

Briefly, according to Dr. Clark, the people of Scranton, with a minimum of expense can have a city in which they can take great pride by restoring the natural beauty of its brook, river and ancient meadows.

The proposal is one of vision and courage and should be quickly accepted by a people who have already shown that they are determined to stay in their once beautiful valley.

*Shady Lane Cemetery Residents:
Richard Thomas (1888-1979)
By Carol Wilkerson*



*Photo source: Ups and Downs Magazine, 1903
Photo courtesy of Carol Wilkerson*

Researching Richard Thomas revealed a fascinating story that might affect any family with ancestors who are originally from England, but who subsequently immigrated to the United States from Canada. Richard was one of the British Home Children, who became the ancestors of approximately 10% of Canada's current population, as well as an untold

number of U.S. citizens. For those interested in learning about this topic, the website, *Home Children Canada*, has numerous resources for research.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Britain was dealing with large numbers of orphaned or indigent children living on the streets in terrible conditions. One approach to dealing with the issue was to create institutional children's homes, not just for orphans but also for children whose parents could not support them. Dr. Thomas Barnardo was the founder of many of these homes. Starting in 1869, his homes and many others began to send children to Canada to be placed with families as indentured workers.

Between 1869 and 1948, 118,888 British children of all ages were placed as indentured farm workers and domestics in Canada. The program was very popular, with seven applicants for each child made available. Canadians believed that the children were orphans, but unfortunately, only 2% had actually lost both parents. Most of the children came from families with one or both parents alive, but who had fallen on hard times. Because there were no social services in place, the only option for such families was to surrender their offspring to charitable organizations, who agreed to house, feed, and educate them.

Once such a surrender happened, parents lost all control, even if they had intended the surrender to be temporary. Some families returned for their children, only to find they had been sent to Canada. Other parents received official notice of the emigration, but only after the child had left the country. Dr. Barnardo, whose homes sent the largest number of children to Canada, was sued many times for kidnapping, but he always managed to maintain his reputation as a saintly philanthropist.

Some of the children sent to Canada were well treated and thrived in their new environments. Others were mistreated, neglected, or abused. The "Home Children," as they were known, also faced discrimination. These children had been subjected to malnourishment, disease, and appalling living conditions in England, which took a toll on their physical and mental condition. Many Canadians, however, simply regarded the children as genetically inferior and therefore taunted and stigmatized them. It's not surprising that many Home Children chose to hide their backgrounds for the rest of their lives.

Richard Thomas, fated to become a Home Boy, was born in Cardiff, Wales on March 29, 1888. We know nothing about his parents or what happened to them, but at some point, Richard and his three brothers were placed in one of the Barnardo Homes for Boys. On March 27, 1902, two days before his 14th birthday, Richard and his brothers, George (17), John (12), and William (10), sailed from Liverpool on the *Dominion*. The four brothers arrived in Toronto in April and were given different farm placements in Ontario.

The Barnardo's Homes maintained a magazine, *Ups and Downs*, to publicize the success of their program and to demonstrate that the children were being monitored. Thanks to the magazine, we have a picture of Richard that was published in 1903. We also have this account of Richard shortly after his placement on a farm: "Richard is engaged with our old friend, Samuel Snow, who 12 years ago was himself a Barnardo


boy emigrant, but now a prosperous and successful farmer, and at the present time the employer of two of our lads, Richard and Henry Hallday. Richard has a comfortable home that he thoroughly appreciates and a kind and good man for his master. He is, so far, doing admirably well and giving entire satisfaction."

Hopefully this was an accurate account of Richard's time working for Mr. Snow. We don't know how he felt about being separated from his brothers, but we know that at least one of them must have been nearby. The *Ups and Downs* account mentions that Richard was trying to learn to ride a bicycle so that he could visit one of his brothers on his day off.

We know nothing more about Richard's time as a child immigrant, nor do we know the eventual fate of his three brothers. Richard reached adulthood and was freed from his indentured servitude. He eventually ended up in Kingston, where at some point, he met Ethel Rhodes. Ethel was born in England, the daughter of Arthur Rhodes and Emily Bryant Rhodes. The Rhodes family immigrated to Ontario around 1906.

In April 1909, Ethel's sister Emily married George Cuthbertson, a Scottish immigrant. Richard and Ethel were the attendants at their wedding, so the two either knew one another already or met through the wedding festivities. Richard courted Ethel, and the couple married sometime in 1913 or 1914. Their only child, Irene Thomas, was born on June 7, 1915. In 1922, the Thomas and the Cuthbertson families immigrated from Canada to the U.S., settling in Scranton. It's possible that Richard's feelings about being a Home Boy were partially behind the move. Richard immediately filed a Declaration of Intent to become a citizen, followed by a Naturalization Petition in 1928. He was employed as a coal miner and the family lived at various addresses in Scranton and Dickson City.

Couple to Mark Golden Anniversary



GEORGE CUTHBERTSON MRS. GEORGE CUTHBERTSON

Mr. and Mrs. George Cuthbertson, 330 Spring St., will observe their 50th wedding anniversary, Sunday at an open house party in the home of their daughter, Mrs. Robert Pollish, 3209 North Main Ave.

They were married April 24, 1909, in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, by the late Rev. Dr. J. Mackie. The attendants were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thomas, 602 East Market St.

Mrs. Cuthbertson is the former Miss Emily Mary Rhodes, London, England, and Mr. Cuthbertson, who has retired as a fireman at Colonial Togs, is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Adam Cuthbertson, Greenwich, Scotland.

They have four other children, Mrs. Ernest Bodansky, Croydon, Pa., Mrs. James Morgan, George and Leonard, all of this city, 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

*Cuthbertson 50th Wedding Anniversary
Scranton Times - Tribune, April 21, 1959
Courtesy of Carol Wilkerson*

240

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

ORIGINAL

No. 24740

11785

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

State of Pennsylvania,
Middle District of Pennsylvania, ss:

In the District Court of the United States.

I, Richard Thomas, aged 37 years,
 occupation Laborer, do declare on oath that my personal
 description is: Color white, complexion fair, height 5 feet 3 inches,
 weight 143 pounds, color of hair brown, color of eyes blue
 other visible distinctive marks none
 I was born in Cardiff South Wales
 on the 29th day of March, anno Domini 1888; I now reside
 at 225 Main st., Dickson City, Pennsylvania.
 (Give number, street, and city or town)
 I emigrated to the United States of America from Toronto Canada
 on the vessel Michigan R.R.
 (If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given)
 foreign residence was Toronto Canada; I am married; the name
 of my wife is Ethel; she was born at England
 and now resides at with me
 It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
 prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to _____
 _____, of whom I am now a subject;
 I arrived at the port of Buffalo, in the
 State of N.Y., on or about the 6 day
 of Jan., anno Domini 1922; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
 polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
 to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
 SO HELP ME GOD.

Richard Thomas
 (Original signature of declarant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court
 at Scranton, Pa., this _____ day of _____
 anno Domini 19

[SEAL]

John Lohmann
 Deputy Clerk of the District Court of the United States.
 14-1258

Richard Thomas Declaration of Intent Circa. 1922

Image source: Ancestry.com

Image courtesy of Carol Wilkerson

Irene attended Technical High School in Scranton and was very sociable. She joined a local sorority and enjoyed entertaining her friends. After graduation, Irene went to work as a seamstress. She continued to enjoy social gatherings, especially with her five Cuthbertson cousins and with family and friends who visited from Canada.

The Rommi Phi Sorority held a meeting Friday evening at the home of Miss Irene Thomas, 223 Main Street, Dickson City. Cards and dancing were enjoyed. Refreshments were served by the hostess. Prizes for pinochle were awarded to Misses Marjorie Walsh and Betty Webber.

*Irene entertaining her sorority: Scranton Tribune, June 25, 1934
Courtesy of Carol Wilkerson*

At some point, Irene met handsome Francis Merrill Gray, who had grown up in Nebraska but then relocated to Scranton with his parents, John Taylor Gray and Martha Brink Gray. Francis worked for the Peck Lumber Company. Francis and Irene became engaged in 1940 and the couple married in November 1941, in Wilmington, Delaware.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thomas, 223 Main street, Dickson City, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Irene Thomas, to Francis Gray, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gray, 621 Bates street, this city. Miss Thomas is a graduate of Technical High School. Mr. Gray is affiliated with the Peck Lumber Company. No definite date has been set for the wedding.

*Scranton Times-Tribune, June 24, 1940
Courtesy of Carol Wilkerson*



Francis Gray

After WW2 started, Francis enlisted in the Marines. and served until 1946, when he returned to Scranton and to Irene. By 1947, he was elected as an officer of the Green Ridge Knights of Malta Club. However, he and Irene eventually moved to Connecticut, leaving Richard and Ethel in Scranton.

*Scranton Tribune, January 13, 1938
Photo courtesy of Carol Wilkerson*

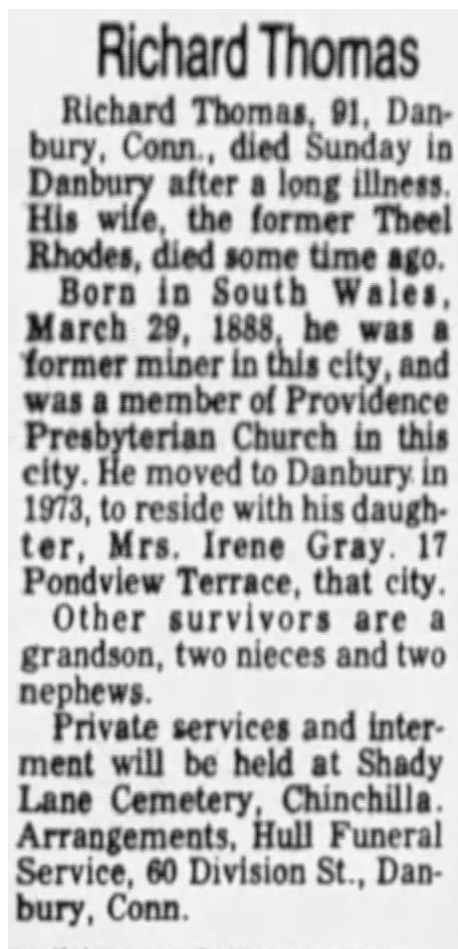
By 1950, Richard was 62 and was no longer working in the mines. Instead, he was employed as a maintenance man for the Scranton Masonic Auditorium, a much less

stressful and dangerous job. Eventually Richard retired from this occupation, and he and Ethel enjoyed life together, especially visits with Irene, Francis, and their son, Bruce. In 1959, Ethel and Richard were happy to celebrate the Cuthbertson's 50th wedding anniversary, followed by their own golden celebration a few years later.

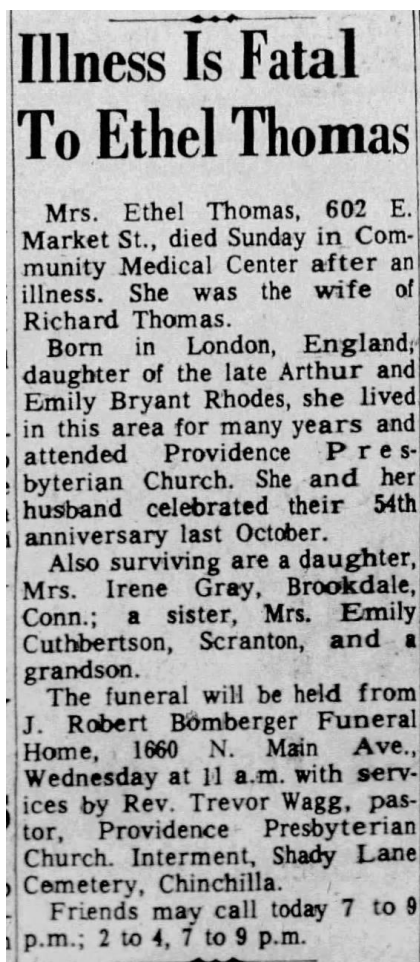
In 1970, Ethel became ill and died, and the family had her buried in a plot at Shady Lane. In 1973, Richard moved from Scranton to Connecticut, to live with Irene and Francis. Richard himself died in 1979, at the age of 91, and was laid to rest with Ethel. There was no indication in his obituary of any connection to the three brothers he left behind in Canada or to anyone back in Wales, so his background as a Home Boy may have been unknown to his family.

In 1982, Irene and Francis moved to California, where Francis died in 1984. Irene survived until 2002, when she died at the age of 87.

Richard and Ethel now reside together at Shady Lane Cemetery—may they rest in peace!



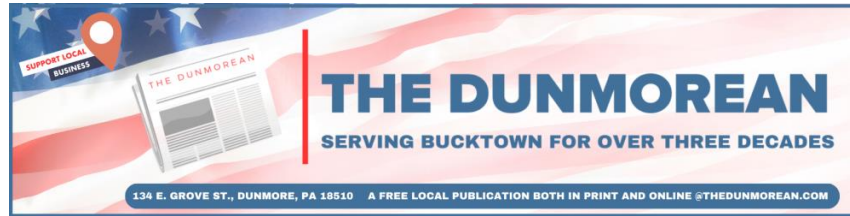
Scranton Times-Tribune, November 19, 1979



Scranton Tribune, February 2, 1970

Obituaries Courtesy of Carol Wilkerson

Town Newspapers



<https://dunmoreannews.wpcomstaging.com/>

By Maureen Hart

At one time, there were quite a few hometown newspapers in Lackawanna County, including the *Carbondale News*, *Mid Valley News*, *Triboro Banner*, and *Moscow Villager*. These papers focused on their unique communities and thrived by publishing stories and photos that the Sunday and daily newspapers in their heyday could not find space to print.

Today, *The Dunmorean* is one of the few remaining community newspapers. *The Dunmorean* was first published in February 1912, and continued until it ceased publication in 1965. Founded as a weekly newspaper, it was published every Saturday morning by its founder and long-time editor and publisher, the late Paul A. Barrett of the Barrett Publishing Company, who died on May 9, 1947. He was survived by his widow, Mildred Padden Barrett and their four children, who included Attorney Paul A. Barrett, Gerard J. Barrett, Marie D. Barrett, and Sister M. Adrian Barrett, IHM.

Barrett Publishing also owned the *Olyphant Gazette* from 1887 to 1965 and *The Gazette* (based in Olyphant) from 1965 through 1974 with Paul Sr.'s son Gerard J. Barrett as editor.

The newest incarnation of *The Dunmorean* was founded 36 years ago by the late John Martin Hart Jr. and continues publishing local news for the residents of the Borough of Dunmore, including sports, church and community events, and school honor rolls.

Hart, a former editor and reporter with the *Scrantonian-Tribune* newspapers and a native of Carbondale, left the *Tribune* to serve as General Manager of Steamtown in the City of Scranton. He served on the board to help to raise monies for the establishment of the railroad museum, and after being appointed as General Manager of Steamtown, worked with government officials in Washington, DC, to have the site turned into a national park.

His success in bringing in the National Park Service put him out of job, so he opened a printing business and--missing his old newsroom--re-established *The Dunmorean*, which has been published ever since. He served as publisher until his death on August 23, 2023, and directed advertising sales from the beginning. Early on, Hart also worked as editor, and then brought various other journalists on board through the years.

The longest-serving editor has been John's second wife, the former Maureen Garcia-Pons, who had also worked at the *Scrantonian-Tribune* as an editor, feature writer, drama critic, and entertainment columnist.

Maureen came onboard *The Dunmorean* in 1992, two years after the demise of the Trib, working until 1997 when her first husband, Jorge, retired. After Jorge, and then John's wife, the former Meg Holland, died months apart in 2005, Maureen returned to help Hart with *The Dunmorean* while he was recuperating from a back injury. She has served as editor since the December 2005 edition (The Harts were married in 2007, with John joking that he married her to get an editor who would work for free.)

After Hart's passing last year, his son, Attorney John M. Hart III, decided to honor his father's legacy by continuing publication of *The Dunmorean* and serving as its publisher. His stepmother remains as editor of the 32-page tabloid newspaper, which is distributed free at approximately 50 sites, including stores, banks, restaurants, and other places throughout the borough, and parts of Scranton and the Mid Valley.

Printing costs and employee stipends are covered by the sale of advertising to local businesses, many of whom have supported *The Dunmorean* for decades, even though the recession and COVID pandemic. The newspaper has never missed an issue, even publishing its annual High School Football Preview on the day of its founder's death, as well as the regular September issue two weeks later.

The Dunmorean has seen changes through the decades, having started out as a biweekly publication until it changed to a monthly paper. In the past, when it was published every other week, the paper covered Dunmore Borough Council, School Board, and the police and fire departments.

But founder Hart decided that the monthly paper did not lend itself to up-to-date news reports and changed the format to what he liked to call "good news," focusing on the positive things happening within the borough. He liked to feature people and organizations who were making a difference in the community.

Hart instituted a *Dunmorean of the Month* feature which runs on the front page. Readers can nominate interesting and worthy people of this honor. Through the years, those selected have included businesspersons, educators, people in the arts, community leaders and volunteers, and even deserving children.

The monthly tribute is usually written by Steve Svetovich, a Dunmore resident, who also covers high school sports and writes a personal column titled "Well Dun," as well as "Dishin the Dirt," which focuses on people involved with sports.

Svetovich, another former reporter at the *Scrantonian-Tribune*, has been with the paper since 1990. Also honored in the sports pages every month is an Athlete of the Month, chosen by Svetovich from both Dunmore and Holy Cross high schools, and reflecting a variety of sports including football, soccer, basketball, baseball, and more.

Running 32 pages each month, *The Dunmorean* also includes special interest columns. Yeraldi Pacheco-Miguel pens the *Bucktown Business Beat* highlighting local

businesses. Julie Esty, who spearheads the popular Dunmore Cemetery Tours which draw thousands of visitors each October, writes a fascinating column called *Cemetery Chronicles*, giving the history of interesting people buried in the cemeteries in Dunmore. Longtime food editor, Cheryl Radkiewicz, yet another who originally wrote for the defunct Scrantonian-Tribune newspaper where her father, Frank Sempa, was City Editor, contributes a food column called *Cheryl's Cuisine*, which is sponsored by Riccardo's Market in Dunmore.

Current Dunmore Mayor Max Conway provides a column entitled *The Mayor's Message*, which updates residents on developments in the borough. Even the busy *Dunmorean* publisher, finds time to write *The Hart of the Issue*, an informative column featuring a multitude of legal topics.

To keep up with the times, *The Dunmorean* added an online edition several years ago, which is edited by Dunmore native, Emily Fedor Gerchman. Emily also handles *The Dunmorean* Facebook Page, which has 3,400 followers.

Editor Maureen Hart reflects on the long history of the publication, saying, "We have the most loyal readers and staff and advertisers. It is amazing that we have continued to find a way to remain relevant for so long. "Journalism has changed so drastically through the years, both print and television, and social media has really been a factor," she notes. "Maureen added, "But I think *The Dunmorean* fills a gap. We do try to show that there is good news. We love featuring a new Eagle Scout or a school honor roll, or Christmas at the Corners or the Bucktown Music Fest. We'd like people to send us even more photos and information."

Regarding her late husband, she says, "John was one-of-a-kind. He was driven by his father's last request, which was to leave the world a better place than he found it. That inspired his good news approach to local journalism. He wanted to give recognition to the people who do try to make the community a better place. And now his son, John III, is working to continue that legacy."

Personal Insight *By Steve Svetovich*

I started writing for *The Dunmorean* in early 1990. It was quite an easy transition. I had been the Dunmore correspondent before the *Scranton Tribune* folded. I then joined *The Sunday Sun* with fellow staffers of the defunct *Scranton Tribune*.

Again, I was covering Dunmore, writing a Dunmore column, *Doin' Dunmore*, and covering sports, including the Scranton Wilkes Barre Red Barons and minor league football. When the *Sunday Sun* folded, I wanted to continue covering Dunmore Borough, so I immediately joined the staff of *The Dunmorean*, writing for my friends John Hart and Bob McCarthy and continuing with the *Doin' Dunmore* human interest column which recently was renamed *Well Dun*.

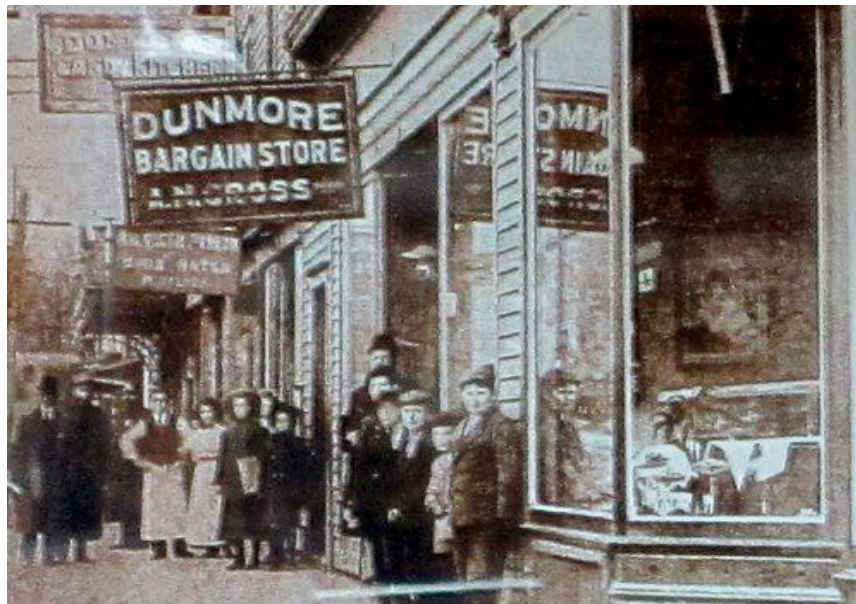


Early on, I also started writing a sports column which was named *Dishin' the Dirt*, a sports column brought back to life from the old *Scranton Tribune*. And I've continued writing for *The Dunmorean*--as well as other newspapers owned by the late John Hart--to this day. Thus, it was an easy transition.

And I am, now, in my 35th year writing for *The Dunmorean*. I thoroughly enjoy being a part of a community newspaper that recognizes the accomplishments of fellow Dunmoreans such as we do with our "Dunmorean of the Month."

It is a great pleasure recognizing the young student-athletes from Dunmore and Holy Cross High Schools and those who attend Scranton Prep, as we do with our 'Athlete of the Month' and other sports features and the *Dishin' the Dirt* column which focuses on all sports. It is very gratifying to write about these well-deserving student athletes and the townspeople.

We made a promise to the late John Hart to continue serving the community with *The Dunmorean*. Thanks to his son, Atty. John Hart, our new publisher, and John's wife Maureen, our long-time editor, we are carrying on that promise.



*Undated Dunmore Photograph
Image source: pinterest.es*

The Running of the Saints La Corse del Ceri



Image source: discovernepa.org

St. Ubaldo Day and its “Corsa dei Ceri” or “Running of the Saints” takes place in Jessup, Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 25.

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

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

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

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

For details, please visit: <https://www.saintubaldosociety.org/>



Attire colors represent St. Ubaldo, St. George and St. Anthony

<https://www.visitnepa.org/events/major-events-festivals/saint-ubaldo-day/>



500-pound statues navigate the streets and hills of Jessup

<https://www.visitnepa.org/events/major-events-festivals/saint-ubaldo-day/>

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Jessup Hose Company No. 2 Carnival

In addition to St. Ubaldo festivities, the Jessup Hose Company No. 2 will host its 32nd annual carnival beginning Wednesday, May 22 through Sunday, May 27. The annual Fireman's Parade takes place on Friday, May 24 at 6:30pm with the festivities culminating with fireworks on Sunday, May 26 at 9:30pm. For details, please visit:

<https://www.pa-carnivals.com/2024/jessup-hose-company-carnival-2024-in-jessup-pa/>



JESSUP HOSE CO. NO. 2 **25**
and it's Ambulance Association
• 333 Hill St., Jessup, PA 18434 • Station Phone # (570) 489-1141 • JessupNo2.com •

32nd ANNUAL CARNIVAL
May 22nd thru May 27th

PAY ONE PRICE RIDE SPECIALS

WED. & THURS.	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
6-10PM \$20.00	6-MIDNIGHT \$30	1-5PM \$20 6-11PM \$25	1-5PM \$20 6PM-MIDNIGHT \$30	2-7PM \$15.00

NO COVER, NO ENTRANCE FEE ANY NIGHT!

WEDNESDAY
TALK OF THE TOWN PRODUCTION 7 PM-11 PM

THURSDAY
LIGHT WEIGHT 7 PM-11 PM

FRIDAY
 **FIREMAN'S PARADE - 6:30 PM** 
UNTIL SUNRISE 9 PM-1 AM

SATURDAY
Saint Ubaldo Festivities
NOWHERE SLOW 8 PM-MIDNIGHT

SUNDAY
AC/DC Tribute Band
HALFWAY TO HELL 8 PM-MIDNIGHT
SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS 9:30 PM

 Find us on facebook
• DEEDS, NOT WORDS •

<https://www.pa-carnivals.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/jessup-hose-co-carnival2024.webp>

Edwardsville Pierogi Festival 2024
10th Anniversary Celebration
June 7th 12pm to 10pm/June 8th 10am to 10pm



Image source: <https://unsplash.com/s/photos/pierogi>

The summer food festival season has arrived and with it the annual Edwardsville Pierogi Festival. The two-day event began in June 2014 and was initially held on Main Street. In 2017, the festival moved to John Hopkins Park.

This year's festival takes place on Friday, June 7th from 12pm to 10pm and Saturday, June 8th from 10am to 10pm. Festivities on Friday begin at 6pm with the Pierogi Celebration followed by fireworks. The Pierogi Parade takes place on Saturday beginning at 11am and is followed at 2pm by the anticipated 9th Annual Pierogi Cookoff.

There will be live musical entertainment on both days as well as rides and games. Approximately 30 food vendors will offer plenty of tastebud pleasers, including barbeque, tacos, potato pancakes, pizza, soft drinks and of course, pierogis. A similar number of non-food vendors will also have a variety of items available, such as wine, hard cider, clothing, handbags, toys, wood carvings and jewelry.

Parking is available on the streets surrounding the festival. The festival committee asks drivers to be mindful of handicap parking signs and driveways. Violators will be towed.

Parking is also available at the Edwardsville Municipal Parking Lot, 480 Main St., the Kingston Municipal Parking Lot, 485 Main St. as well as private lots.

The Edwardsville Hometown Committee is a 501 (C)(3) non-profit corporation. The committee's goal is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Edwardsville through sponsorship of family-friendly events throughout the year.

For additional information, contact the committee at edwpierogi@gmail.com



Image source: <https://edwpierogi.com/>



Pierogi Parade

Image source: <https://edwardsvilleborough.com/events>



Cheddar Pierogies with Sage Butter Sauce

Image source: Bite House

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Anthracite Ancestry



ANTHRACITE HERITAGE MUSEUM
Presents

The
50th Anniversary
of the Anthracite Family Album
1973 ~ 2023

HARDCOAL CHRONICLES

A HALF - CENTURY RETROSPECTIVE

1000 IMAGES

FROM SCOTT D. HERRING

OUR
"LAST ANTHRACITE PHOTOGRAPHER"

COVERING AN ENTIRE FIFTH
OF OUR QUARTER - MILLENNIUM AS

"THE PEOPLE OF THE BLACK DIAMOND"

SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
MAY 5, 2024 THRU JANUARY 31, 2026

Remembering Twin Shaft June 28, 1896



Image source: usminedisasters.miningquiz.com

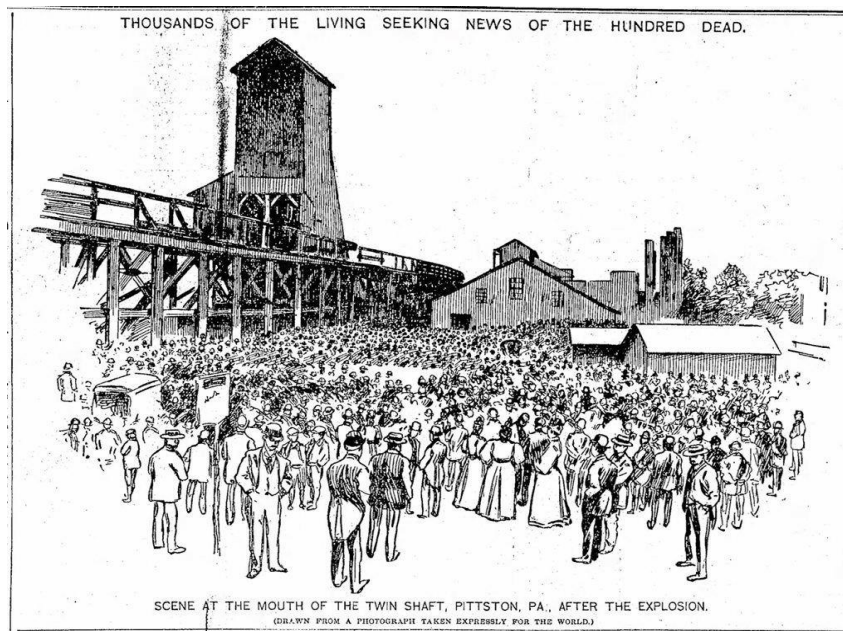
Ninety men and boys were working the Red Ash Vein of the Newton Coal Company's Twin Shaft Mine in Pittston on Sunday, June 28, 1896. Fifty-eight would never again see the light of day. Most of the 58 were either Lithuanian or Irish immigrants.

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

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

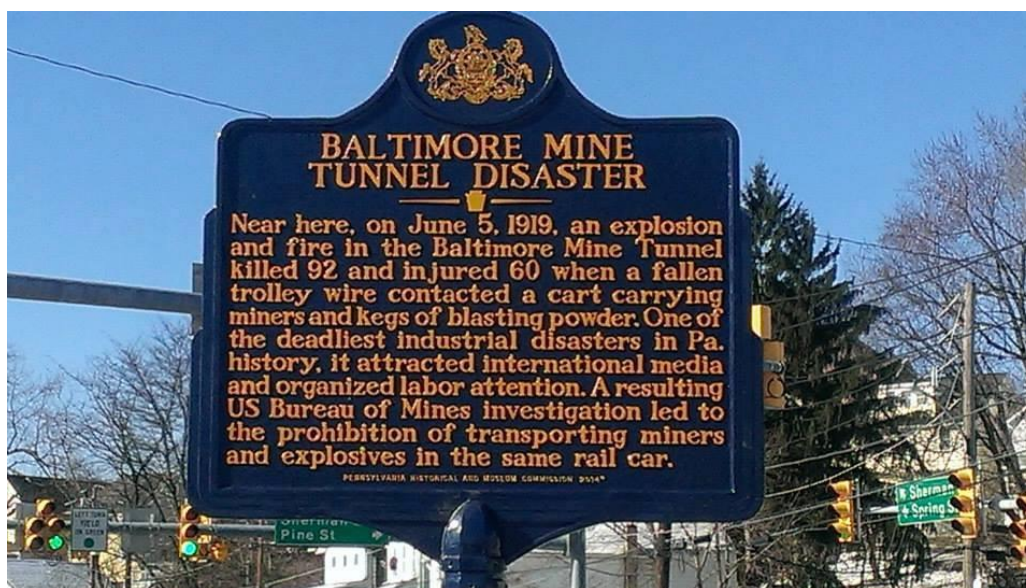
An investigating committee was formed by then Governor Hastings to determine the cause of the disaster. The committee *suggested* that coal pillars should not be "robbed" of their coal and left standing for safety reasons. The committee also suggested that maps of mine workings and air tunnels be made available to mine inspectors. Such maps were not provided, resulting in a slowing of the rescue efforts. The committee

issued safety recommendations on September 25, 1896, and although the recommendations would often be ignored by company management, the Twin Shaft disaster would play a major role in unionization efforts led by John Mitchell.



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

Remembering Baltimore Tunnel June 5, 1919



*Baltimore Tunnel Breaker
Image source: citizensvoice.com*

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

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

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



*Baltimore Tunnel Breaker
Image source: citizensvoice.com*



*1919 Baltimore Tunnel Mine Explosion
Image source: citizensvoice.com*

Subscribe to History Bytes

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

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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

Officers

Michael Gilmartin, President
Donald Frederickson, Jr., Esq., 1st Vice President
Laurie Cadden, 2nd Vice President
Douglas Forrer, CPA, Treasurer
Dalida Walton, Assistant Treasurer
William Conlogue, Secretary

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Trustees

Joseph F. Cimini, Esq.
Thomas J. Cipriano
Jeffrey R. Kiefer, Assoc. AIA
Richard Leonori, AIA
Linda Lynett
Mary Jane Memolo

Christine Posly
Leni Plasky
Ella S. Rayburn
William J. Rinaldi, Esq
Elaine Shepard

Staff

Mary Ann Moran Savakinus, Executive Director
Sarah Piccini, Associate Director Olivia Bernardi, Creative Director
Gay Clifford, Caretaker

Business Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 5pm Saturday, 12pm – 3pm
Address: The Catlin House, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510
Phone: 570-344-3841 e-mail: lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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.