



# *Remembering Knox*

*January 22, 1959*

*By Rick Sedlisky*

The photo on the front page is of the marker that contains the names of the 12 men who gave their lives on January 22, 1959, when the Susquehanna River broke through the roof of the Knox Mine that was in Port Griffith, Jenkins Twp.

Years before the Knox disaster, the Avondale Mine disaster in which 110 men and boys were killed resulted in the enactment of mine safety laws by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Other states followed suit. Laws, however, do not necessarily overcome greed and are often ignored in the desire to squeeze every possible nickel of profit from an operation.

## *"Stop Lines" Were Ignored*

To do exactly that, the operators of the Knox ignored "stop lines" and miners had no choice but to dig closer to the Susquehanna riverbed. The "stop lines" limit, which is the distance between the riverbed and where the miners worked, was originally 50 feet of rock. Company officials later requested the stop lines be reduced to 35 feet. The request was approved by government officials.

Commonwealth law, therefore, prohibits mining within 35 feet of a riverbed. The point of no return came when company officials ordered miners to dig upward to within 19 inches (less than two feet) below the riverbed. It was late morning on January 22, 1959, when that illegal order resulted in the Susquehanna River waters whirlpooling into the mine. Of the 74 trapped, 12 men were never found.

As water poured into the mine workings, men scrambled to an adjoining mine in search of the Eagle Shaft, which was an abandoned air shaft. When the shaft was located, the men cleared a patch of 30 feet to an opening that was about 50 feet below the surface. One of the men, Amedeo Pancotti, climbed the steep wall to reach the surface where he called for help. Ropes were then lowered to bring around 30 other men to safety.

According to the January 23, 1959, evening issue of the Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader newspaper, rescue attempts ended later that day when mine inspectors determined that it was impossible to enter any of the openings. On the following day, the paper stated that "There is little hope the missing mine workers will be found alive."

## *The End of Deep Mining in Northeast Pennsylvania*

In an attempt to fill the hole, approximately 50 coal hoppers and more than 550 mine cars were shunted from the Lehigh Valley Railroad tracks into the river only to disappear into the whirlpool like toys. Judging from the following photograph, it's difficult to imagine the horror the men that were less than two feet below the riverbed experienced when the icy waters gushed into the workings.



*Image source: undergroundminers.com*

The millions of gallons of Susquehanna River water that flooded the Knox workings in effect ended deep mining in the Wyoming Valley. The disaster brought unemployment to thousands who depended on coal mining for their livelihoods and was a series blow to the economy of the Wyoming and Lackawanna valleys.

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

For some who cared only about profit, Knox was business as usual. "Business as Usual" takes us to the present where each January, *Anthracite Mining Heritage Month* invites us to recall what happened at the Knox and why.

*Please copy and paste the link below to your browser to see a 5 ½ minute video that includes original footage of efforts to plug the breach. The title of the link is **Knox Mine Disaster Location and Footage - YouTube***

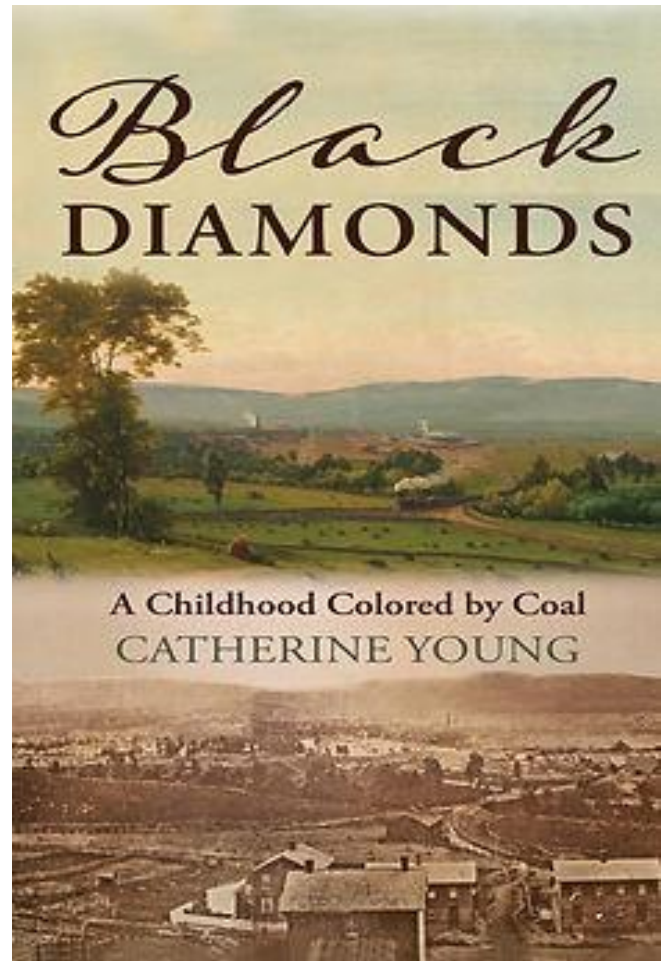
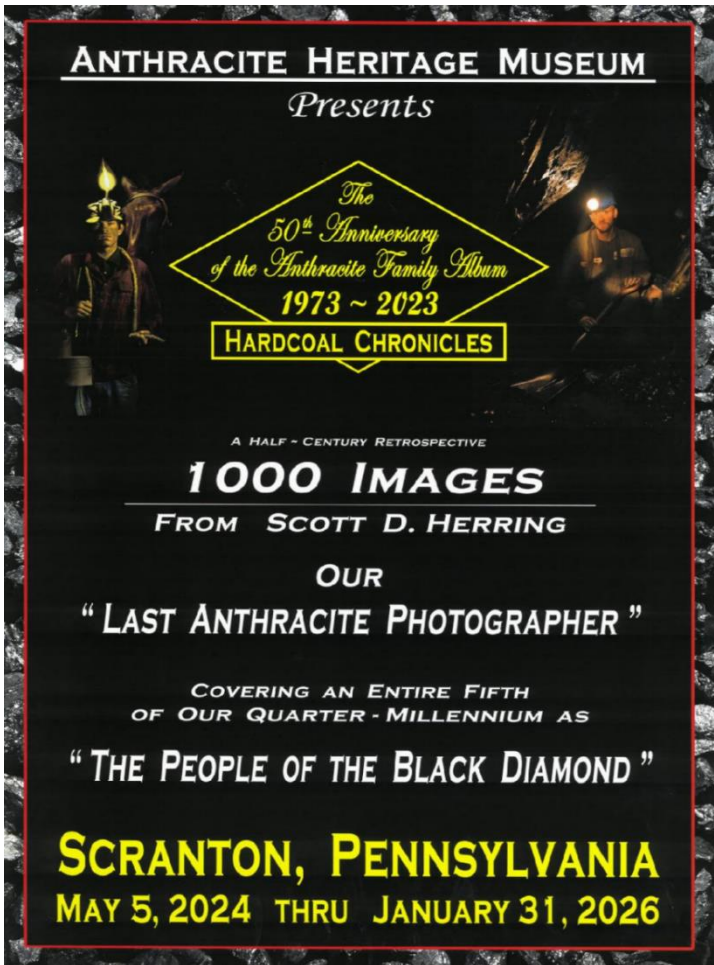
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4X-074T06s4>

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## *Anthracite Words & Images*



Huber, Ashley  
Image source: Wikipedia

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## *LHS 2025 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	\$40	
// Family	\$60	Address _____
// Contributing	\$100	_____
// Sustaining	\$150	
// Silver Corporate	\$250	Telephone _____
// Gold Corporate	\$500	
// Platinum	\$1000	Email _____

Following is a link for membership payment:

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

### *Lackawanna Past Times, Events & Virtual Happenings*

Our monthly Zoom and In-Person lecture series features famous local people and early regional history. Email us at [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link. Catch up on 70 past episodes on our YouTube channel.

#### *In-Person*

**Saturday, March 15, 11am: Pysanky Workshop** at the Catlin House. \$30 registration required.

#### *Via Zoom*

**Friday, February 28, 2pm: Ballina: Scranton's Sister City.** Michael Larkin joins LHS from County Mayo, Ireland, to discuss the historic links between Scranton and the Emerald Isle.

**Friday, March 28, 2pm: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Electric City Trolley Museum** with Dan Perry (rescheduled from November 22, 2024).

**Friday, April 25, 2pm: Electric Cars in the Electric City** with George Gula.

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## *Genealogy Forum*

### *Via Zoom*

**Wednesday, February 12, 1pm:** Mary Ann Savakinus discusses resources at LHS.

**Wednesday, March 12, 1pm:** Tom Price presents "Navigating Lackawanna County's Website."

## *Ghostly Gallery Link*

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



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

**Wednesday, February 19: Eves on Adams**, 1302 Adams Ave., Dunmore 570-229-9436

**Wednesday, March 19: Red Robin**, 1235 Commerce Bl., Dickson City 570-489-0060

**Wednesday, April 16: 3 Jacks Burger Bar**, 233 E. Drinker St., Dunmore 570-955-5137

**Wednesday, May 21: Rosaliano's**, 209 Main St., Carbondale 570-936-2668

## *My Love Letter to My Sister Soldiers*

On Sunday, February 16 at 2 pm, LHS will host a return visit from Janice Gavern when she presents *My Love Letter to My Sister Soldiers* at the Catlin House. Janice, a Scranton native and Air Force veteran, continues to serve our country as the deputy commander for Women Veterans Issues at the 15<sup>th</sup> District American Legion Department of Pennsylvania. She is also the historian for Gardner Warner American Legion Post 154 in Montrose, as well as the acting historian for the Gladys Watkins American Legion Post 550, which once existed in Scranton.

Janice is dedicated to documenting the service of her sister veterans. During her presentation, she will share their stories and honor the women currently serving, including an Air Force captain who was recently awarded the Silver Star for her performance during an enormous drone fight.





This is the sixth in a series of edited reprints from "The Laurel Northeastern Pennsylvania's 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](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com)

The anthracite region of Northeastern Pennsylvania has a long and distinguished history of excellent musical interest and talent. The genres included classical, pops, ethnic, country and western, folk, as well as compositions and performances by numerous faiths, presented in one of the strongest "melting pot" socio-economic-religious areas of the nation.

For many years the sister cities of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre had their own philharmonic orchestras and devoted subscribers. The following article dated 1954---70 years ago—relates the story of Dr. Frieder Weissmann, an internationally known conductor, directing the orchestra as guest soloist, Iris Burguet, from Havana, Cuba, renders a Cuban Negro song.

Over the ensuing years, financial support of both regional orchestras dwindled, due to the declining population associated with the lessening of the anthracite industry and related industries.

Eventually, the reality became clear that for "the music to play on", a formal merger of the two orchestras was necessary. Thus, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic was formed, and has continued the ensuing years, delighting and educating our society, from grade school kids to active adults.

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

We are blessed with the appointment of the Philharmonic's new Executive Director, Chason Goldschmitz , who on January 1st replaced the retiring Executive Director, Nancy Sanderson. Nancy's 10 years of solid leadership, community outreach and financial stabilization are applauded as the Philharmonic's saving grace for our musical future in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Enjoy your retirement, and we'll see you at the concerts!

Welcome, Chason!

---Richard Fitzsimmons, Ph.D.

Transcriber

### *The Scranton Philharmonic Orchestra*



A highlight in the social and cultural activities of Northeastern Pennsylvania is the Winter concerts of the Scranton Philharmonic Orchestra. The concerts are played before capacity audiences at Masonic Temple.

Here Dr. Frieder Weissmann, internationally known conductor, directs the orchestra as guest soloist Iris Burguet. lyric soprano of Havana. Cuba, renders a Cuban Negro song. The concerts are a community effort with the majority of the musicians amateurs who achieve professional status under the baton of Dr. Weissmann. An outline of the Philharmonic's activities follows.





FRIEDER WEISSMANN INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTOR LEADS ORCHESTRA  
COMPOSED OF AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS IN PRE-CONCERT REHEARSAL

***Concerts Attract Large Audience***  
***by Mrs. William Yevitz***

**T**he Scranton Philharmonic Orchestra, now in its sixteenth season, ended, is a group of 80 musicians under the direction of Dr. Frieder Weissmann. It provides a refreshing stimulus to the cultural life of Lackawanna County.

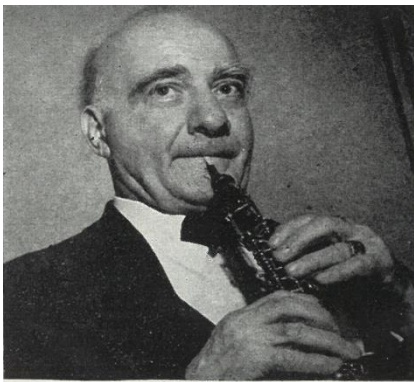
This season the orchestra played three youth concerts and three adult concerts. The concerts are held in the Masonic Temple and all seats are reserved. The Youth Concerts are held at 3 p.m. on the same day of the adult concerts which are held at 8:30 p.m.

The board of directors and the orchestra personnel hope that next year they will be able to give four concerts or, perhaps, even more, provided enough money is forthcoming to sponsor these additional concerts.

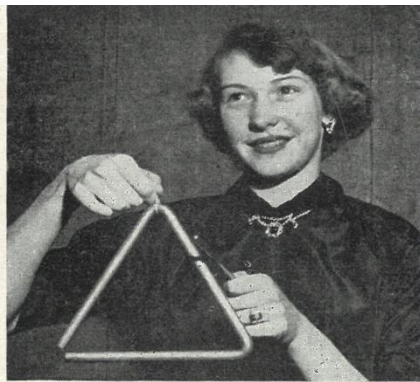
The concerts are for everyone who enjoys fine music, either as a vocation or an avocation, or who desires to become acquainted with it. The privilege of listening to this fine music in a pleasant, dignified, comfortable atmosphere, is enhanced by the opportunity for neighbor to meet neighbor; for old friend to meet old friend (and stranger to meet stranger, thus offering each the opportunity to make new friends); music lover to meet music lover; amateur critic to argue with amateur critic. Intermission-time is traditional for renewing acquaintances; trading the latest gossip, examining the art works on exhibition, and-of-course - comparing impressions of the first half of the concert and anticipating what is to come.

Dr. Frieder Weissmann, conductor of the Scranton Philharmonic for the past twelve years, has done much to bring the symphony to its present high position in the scale of cultural assets of Scranton. His enthusiasm, vitality and brilliant directing of the Philharmonic have won the esteem and confidence of the orchestra as well as a host of friends in our community.

Dr. Weissmann's fame as a conductor, however, reaches far beyond this community. During the past twelve years as he has been directing the Scranton Philharmonic he has also appeared with the New York Philharmonic Symphony, the Toronto Philharmonic, Les Concerts Symphoniques in Montreal, the Havana, Cuba, Philharmonic, the Mexico City Symphony, the National Symphony Orchestra of Guatemala and during the past year at the Royal Opera in London and in Berlin and Munich. When Dr. Weissmann finishes the concert season in Scranton this month, he will go to California to conduct the San Francisco Art Commission. All this points up that Dr. Frieder Weissmann is not only a distinguished conductor, but a versatile musical leader who is also thoroughly at home in the lyric theater. Having earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree in both law and music at Munich University, Dr. Weissmann is, indeed, a capable conductor and has helped the Scranton Philharmonic grow in stature through the past dozen years.



TILLO MARCHETTI...OBOE



CAROLEE DECKER...TRIANGLE



ROBERT MERRIMAN...THE TROMBONE

Comprised mainly of area residents, the Scranton Philharmonic orchestra's players represent musicians of diversified occupations, but they all share one common interest - the love of good music. There are the professional musicians whose only income is earned by playing musical instruments, and there are the music students who are capable musicians, though still learning; there are the businessmen who divide their time between their work and their music, and the housewives who manage both house and children and still find time to play a musical instrument and play it well.

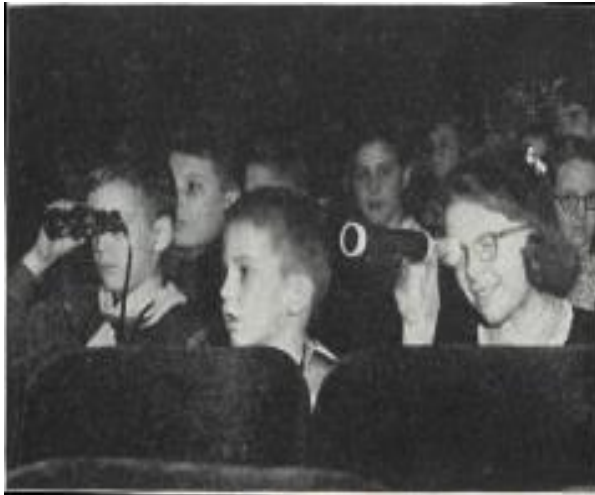
In the class of the professional musician is Josiah Thomas who plays first flute with the orchestra. Music is his whole life. He was a student at Royal Academy in London and played first flute in the London Symphony. He came to the United States from Wales in 1923 and has played in bands and orchestras here ever since. He is the father of Elwyn Thomas, who has had wide experience in radio and concert work, and Thomas L. Thomas, who is one of our nationally known concert and radio artists, and of Mrs. David Boston who has delighted many local audiences with her lovely voice and fine musicianship.

Under the category of those who divide their time between music and other fields, comes Emanuel Horowitz, who plays first violin with the Scranton Philharmonic. He is also an author of fiction and drama. On January 10th of this year one of his plays was produced over N. B. C. and broadcast coast to coast. He writes under the name of Emanuel Winters.



FRANK AND GILBERT CLARK, FATHER AND SON    HAROLD KAPLAN...FIRST VIOLIN    MICHAEL LEONARD...TUBA

The all-important, very popular Youth Concerts of the Scranton Philharmonic are designed to bring good music to the youngsters - to give them, in attractively conceived programming, an opportunity to enjoy one of the finer things of life. Carefully supervised and offering many novelties (such as music especially written for young people from age five to the early



KIDS USE OPERA GLASSES TO CHECK ON MUSICIANS

'teens), these concerts also include selected excerpts – and occasionally complete renderings of works planned for the evening performance, plus appearance of the guest artists. The concert technique is such that the youngsters are being educated without realizing it. Accomplished high school student instrumentalists are given an opportunity to rehearse with the orchestra and play in the afternoon concerts.

The Scranton Philharmonic Orchestra has always cooperated with other local groups to combine cultural interests.

The Scranton Artists Group have water colors and oil paintings by their members on exhibit in the concert hall lobby at each concert. The Maennerchor, the Organist Guild Chorus, the Constance Reynolds Ballet Group, the Marywood A Cappella Choir and the Singers Guild have all appeared with the orchestra.





STEVEN FOSTER'S GAY MUSIC ENCHANTS YOUNGER SET.



VOLUNTEER USHERS ADD CHARM TO EVENING CONCERTS.

Many famous guest artists have appeared with the orchestra including Richard Crooks, Eleanor Steber, Norman Cordon, Jean Tennyson, Jan Peerce, Leonard Warren, Byron Janis, Kurt Baum, Eugene Istomin, Norman Scott, Camilla Williams, Dorothea Powers, Richard Farrell, Victor Clarke, James Buckley and Gyorgy Sandor.

Some Scranton artists who have appeared with the orchestra as guest soloists are: Dolores Quinn, John Duro, Barbara Ann Nuttall, Joan Netter, Lillian Raymondi, and Marie Terrotta.

Financing a symphony orchestra is an expensive matter. Each concert involves musicians, a conductor, at least one

guest artist, music rental, auditorium rental and special services such as policeman and fireman, a ticket collector, stagehands, programs, a piano when needed, plus a narrator and public address system for the Youth Concerts.

In addition, a permanent office must be maintained, requiring a full-time aide, so that the public may be served, either in person or by 'phone. There are numerous office operations that require expenditures, such as ticket printing, preparation and mailing of bulletins. The average cost of

each concert is \$4,300. If the orchestra were to collect \$25,000 during its campaign, it would then be in a position to give six concerts during a season.

A new and exceptionally popular pre-concert feature inaugurated during the 1953 season are the reasonably priced "Dutch Treat" buffet suppers held at either the Hotel Casey or the Hotel Jermyn. These affairs offer the concert-goer several hours of relaxation amid comfortable surroundings, among fellow music-lovers – plus fine food. Private tables are



taboo at the buffet suppers-community spirit being enhanced by round table groupings and the chance to meet new people and to demonstrate that Scranton is "The Friendly City."

One of the reasons the Scranton Philharmonic has gained its recognition and high standing in the community is the untiring efforts of the officers of the Philharmonic and the board of directors whose persistence in the face of many odds has brought the Philharmonic to its present high rank in the nation's list of Philharmonic orchestras. Many board members have spent countless hours making the orchestra what it is today and what it will become in the years ahead.

The present officers and executive committee are the first to be elected under the orchestra's incorporation as a non-profit organization dedicated to provide and maintain a symphony orchestra for the enjoyment of local area music lovers. They make up the orchestra's operating body and include carefully chosen individuals from all walks of life, each one chosen for certain abilities and each concerned with the orchestra's welfare and its perpetuation.

If it were not for the generous giving and loyal encouragement of- the orchestra's supporters (audience, advertisers, and special donors), plus the full-hearted cooperation of the musicians and their conductor, the concert season could not be the financial and artistic success that it is.

The Scranton Philharmonic audience hears the wonderful masterworks of renowned composers-musical entertainment for its personal enjoyment performed by a competent symphonic ensemble under the baton of an internationally famed conductor and by accomplished guest artists.

Each person who supports the Scranton Philharmonic Orchestra has an investment in a cultural function of distinct value to the community, one whose impact spreads beyond the confines of Lackawanna Valley. Their dividend is a strengthening of civic pride, which has made itself known by each supporter's desire not only to hear fine music, but to insure that others may hear it, and to further emphasize Scranton's nationally recognized status as a city of music.



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## *Shady Lane Resident: Christine Dickson Teasdale (1895-1933)*

*By Carol Wilkerson*

Christine Dickson Teasdale was born in Scranton on January 1, 1895, as a New Year baby. She was the daughter of Finley F. Dickson and Anne Anneman Dickson. Finley had been born and raised in New York but came to Scranton as a young man and established himself as a cabinet maker. He married Anne Anneman on April 16th, 1884.

DICKSON-ANNEMANS—On Wednesday, April 16, 1884, by Rev. W. I. Steans, Finley T. Dickson and Annie Annemans, both of Scranton.

*Scranton Republican, April 1884*

Anne seems to have been the daughter of John Anneman and Christine Stine Anneman. John was born in Belgium in 1826. As an adult, he served for four years in the French Navy, followed by seven years in the French merchant service. He then immigrated to the U.S., where he served in the military during the Civil War. After settling at 325 12th Avenue in West Scranton, "Uncle John" as he was called, was in charge of firing the cannon at veteran events until his death in 1900.

Besides Christine, Finley and Anne had at least three other children, Edna (1887), George Finley (1890), and Gladys (1906). After John Anneman's death, Finley and Anne moved into his home on 12th Avenue, where they hosted a party for Christine's 6<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1901. The family seems to have been well off. Christine had private music lessons and appeared in a recital in 1906. Her older sister Edna lost a gold, jeweled belt buckle on the way to the theater in 1908 and advertised for its return.



*Scranton Tribune, October 22, 1892*

## OBITUARY

John Anneman, one of the best known Grand Army men in the city, died yesterday morning at his home, 325 Twelfth street, after an illness of some months with cancer of the stomach. The deceased was born in Belgium on September 21, 1826, and after attaining young manhood served for four years in the French navy and then for seven years in the French merchant service. He later came to this country and enlisted for a three months' term in the United States artillery at the beginning of the war. He later enlisted for three years and served in Company G, Eleventh regiment, Pennsylvania cavalry, under Lieutenant L. L. Carriers. He was honorably discharged from the service on August 13, 1865, at Richmond, Va. Mr. Anneman was a member of Ezra Griffin post, No. 139, Grand Army of the Republic, and always had charge of the cannon belonging to that organization. At all encampments which the Thirteenth regiment attended, he was always on hand acting as general utility man around headquarters. He was also a frequent visitor to the Soldiers' Orphans' home at Harford and was a great favorite with the children. The funeral will be held on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Services will be held in the Washburn street Presbyterian church and interment will be made in the Dunmore cemetery.

*Scranton Tribune, January 30, 1900*

In 1909, Finley and Anne celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by hosting a party at their 12th Avenue home. By 1910, however, the Dickson family had moved to 226 Franklin Avenue. That's where they were living when tragedy struck in the form of Anne's death at the age of 49. She was laid to rest at Dunmore Cemetery.

After Anne's death, many of her duties probably fell on Christine. Finley was working as a cabinet maker, while Edna worked as a bookkeeper for a hardware business and George as a meter inspector for the gas and water company. Christine, only 15, was presumably left to keep house and tend to

## PIANO RECITAL.

Prof. Silas Rosser's junior pupils will give their recital this evening in his studio on South Main avenue. They will be assisted by Miss Tydvil Jones, soprano; Miss Edith May, elocutionist; Prof. E. H. Schuler and his violin pupils. The programme will be as follows:

Muzurka, Miss Dora Frances Manners.

Humpty, Dumpty, William Scott.

Violin, Master Julius Baldwin.

Ever So Glad, Miss Christine Dickson.

Little Drum Major, Willard Boston.

Duet, violin, Miss Kullberg and Master Cluces.

Hunting Song, Miss Anna Armstrong.

Brier Roue Walse, Otto Bolts.

Recitation, Miss Edith May.

Haymakers March, Miss Myrtle Woodward.

Seether Rose, Miss Edith Bryant.

Duet, mandolin and violin, Master Baldwin and Miss Baldwin.

Playing Tag, Miss Rachel Williams.

Pleasant Voyage, Miss Bessie Beever.

Moorish Dance, Miss Beatrice Evans.

Soprano solo, Love Lies Bleeding, Miss Tydvil Jones.

*Scranton Truth, June 7, 1906*

## Twenty-fifth Anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Dickson celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage at their home, 325 Twelfth avenue, on Friday evening. Among the features of the evening were card playing, piano solos by Mr. Charles Seamons and a duet by Willard and Percy Thomas. Mr. and Mrs. Dickson received a number of beautiful presents. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Dickson.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Anneman, of Shinglehouse, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. William Gaul, Mr. and Mrs. William Anneman, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lentz, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gaul, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Jabez Cadwgan, Mr. and Mrs. John Anneman, Misses Elizabeth An-

neman, Edna Dickson, Christine Dickson, Gladys Dickson, Messrs. John Anneman, Jr., Curtis Rogers, Charles Seamons, Percy Thomas, Willard Jones, Mathew Anneman, Fred Lentz and George Dickson.

*Scranton Times-Tribune, April 20, 1909*



5-year-old Gladys. Things were probably even more difficult when she had to navigate a family move to South Hyde Park Avenue.

Despite her duties, Christine had an active social life. In 1911, she attended a 16<sup>th</sup> birthday party for a friend. That same year, she participated in the festivities surrounding the marriage of her brother George to Ruth Reese. In 1912, she attended another friend's party, and in 1913, helped give a party for her Sunday School teacher, who was moving to Clarks Green. She got to celebrate again in 1915, when her sister Edna married George Borthwick.

*Scranton Times-Tribune, November 3, 1911*

**Dickson-Reese Nuptials.**  
Miss Ruth Reese, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David E. Reese, of 329 North Hyde Park avenue, and George F. Dickson, of 110 South Hyde Park avenue, were married yesterday morning at the parsonage of the Washburn Street Presbyterian church, the pastor, Rev. Dr. Flack, officiating. The couple were attended by Harry L. Reese and Miss Marion Hall. Following a wedding breakfast at the bride's home, the couple left on the noon Lackawanna train on a honeymoon trip to New York city. On their return they will reside at 363 North Garfield avenue.

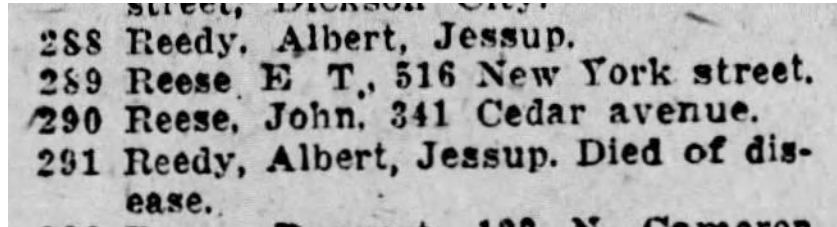
After 1915, we enter a mysterious period of time for Christine. In 1917, she attended a shower for the new wife of an Anneman relative. The next record of Christine comes from the death certificate of her daughter, Shirley May Reese. Shirley was born on April 29, 1918, in Connecticut. Her father is listed as E. T. Reese and her mother as Christine Dickson, though misspelled as Dixon. Mother and child were living at 516 New York Street in Scranton, where Shirley died of bronchitis on October 4, 1918. She was laid to rest at Dunmore Cemetery, probably with her grandmother, Anne Dickson.

Form V, B. No. 5-2085-1-10-25.		COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS	
1. PLACE OF DEATH County of <u>Lack</u> Township of <u>Scranton</u> or Borough of <u>Scranton</u> City of <u>Scranton</u>		CERTIFICATE OF DEATH Registration District No. <u>4</u> Primary Registration District No. <u>576</u> No. <u>710</u> St. <u>New York</u> Ward. <u>9</u>	
2. FULL NAME <u>Shirley May Reese</u>		File No. <u>131433</u> Registered No. <u>1898</u> (If death occurred in a Hospital, give location and in NAME of ward and number.)	
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3. SEX <u>F</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>W</u>	5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED <u>Single</u>	
6. DATE OF BIRTH <u>Apr. 29 1918</u>		16. DATE OF DEATH <u>10 4 1918</u>	
7. AGE <u>4</u> yrs. <u>4</u> mos. <u>4</u> ds.		17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>7/10/18</u> to <u>10/3/18</u> that I last saw her alive on <u>10/3/18</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>1:30 P.</u> M. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>44-54</u> <u>Bronchitis</u>	
8. OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <u>None</u> (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)		(Duration) <u>3</u> yrs. <u>3</u> mos. <u>3</u> ds.	
9. BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) <u>Conn.</u>		(Duration) <u>3</u> yrs. <u>3</u> mos. <u>3</u> ds.	
10. NAME OF FATHER <u>E. T. Reese</u>		(Signed) <u>E. T. Reese</u> M. D. <u>9</u>	
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country) <u>Pa.</u>		10. (Address) <u>192 1/2 Main Ave</u>	
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Christine Dickson</u>		18. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents). At Place of death <u>3</u> yrs. <u>3</u> mos. <u>3</u> ds. In the State <u>Pa.</u> yrs. <u>3</u> mos. <u>3</u> ds. Where was disease contracted? If not at place of death? Former or usual residence.	
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country) <u>Pa.</u>		19. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Dunmore Cem.</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>Oct 13 1918</u>	
14. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. (Informant) <u>George Dixon</u> (Address) <u>553 N. York St. Scranton</u>		20. UNDERTAKER <u>Robert B. Phillips</u> ADDRESS <u>Scranton, Pa.</u>	
15. Filed <u>OCT 12 1918</u> Local Registrar <u>Chas. M. Carr</u>			

*Shirley Reese Death Certificate, 1918*



We have no records of Christine's marriage to E. T. Reese, but it seems possible he was a casualty of WW1. After the war ended, the community scoured their records to compile a list of all the Lackawanna County residents who died because of the war. That list included E. T. Reese, listed as living at 516 New York Street, which was the address where Shirley died, and the address listed for Christine and her father in the 1920 Census. Reese's name was included as a casualty on the official memorial plaque established at Nay Aug Park in 1920. His name can be seen there today.



*Scranton Tribune, May 6, 1919*

In 1920, Christine attended a wedding and was referred to as Mrs. Christine Dickson Reese. However, that seems to be the last official use of her married name. By 1927, she was once again Miss Christine Dickson. This might have been to facilitate her work as a forelady at the Miller Casket Company. But she was just as social as ever, hosting parties, singing in a glee club, and participating in the Patriotic Order of America.

By 1930, the Dickson family had moved to 1426 Green Ridge Street in Dunmore. Finley was still working, and Gladys was now employed as a stenographer. The census also reflects another daughter, Mildred, 22 years old and working as a file clerk. There are also three Reese children listed as Finley's grandchildren, so either he and Anne had additional children or, more likely, this is simply a census error.

At some point, Christine met Rowland Sidney Teasdale, a salesman who was divorced from his first wife in July 1932. On December 31, 1932, Christine married Rowland in a ceremony that was kept secret for the next five months, a decision possibly intended to allow Christine to keep her job. On the marriage license application, Christine listed herself as never having been married before. Rowland moved in with Christine and her father at 1362 Capouse Avenue.

Announcement is made of the marriage of Christine E. Dickson, daughter of Finley F. Dickson, 1362 Causpouse avenue, to Rowland S. Teasdale, son of the late Rev. and Mrs. John S. Teasdale, of Vineland, N. J. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Charles Tudor Leber in the Green Ridge Presbyterian Church on Dec. 31, 1932.

*Scranton Times-Tribune, June 1, 1933*

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK. THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH. If the cause of death is not known, state that it is not known. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See Instructions on back of certificate.

Form HV-8-6

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

1. PLACE OF DEATH  
County of Lacka  
Township of \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
Borough of \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
City of Scranton Pa.

Registration  
District No. 234

Primary Registration  
District No. 4

File No. 9767

Registered No. 1484

[If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution give its NAME instead of street and number.]

2. FULL NAME Infant Teasdale

(a) Residence, No. Wahnenmann Hospital

St. \_\_\_\_\_ Ward. \_\_\_\_\_

(If nonresident give city or town and State)

Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX male 4. COLOR OR RACE white 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word) single

5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of \_\_\_\_\_

6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year)

7. AGE Years \_\_\_\_\_ Months \_\_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_\_ If LESS than 1 day \_\_\_\_\_ hrs. or \_\_\_\_\_ min. New Born

8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED

(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer) none  
(c) Name of employer \_\_\_\_\_

9. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Scranton Pa.  
(State or Country)

10. NAME OF FATHER R. S. Teasdale

11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) Pa.  
(State or Country)

MAIDEN

12. NAME OF MOTHER Christine E. Dickson

13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) Scranton Pa.  
(State or Country)

14. Informant R. S. Teasdale  
(Address) 1362 Capone Ave

15. Filed 9-21-1935  
Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16. DATE OF DEATH 9/20/1935  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

17. 9/20/1935 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from 10:30 to 9/20/1935  
that I last saw him alive on 9/20/1935  
and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 8 p. m.

The CAUSE OF DEATH\* was as follows:

Pre-natal death  
7 months  
4 hours (duration) yrs. mos. days

CONTRIBUTORY  
(Secondary)

(duration) yrs. mos. days  
18. Where was disease contracted  
if not at place of death? \_\_\_\_\_

Did an operation precede death? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of \_\_\_\_\_

Was there an autopsy? No

What test confirmed diagnosis? Pathological

(Signed) 9/21/1935 (Address) Scranton Pa. M.D.

\* State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS AND NATURE OF INJURY, and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. (See reverse side for additional space.)

19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL Shady Lane DATE OF BURIAL Sept. 22nd 1935

20. UNDERTAKER Howard M. Davis ADDRESS Scranton Pa.

(OVER)

*Infant Death Certificate, 1933*

Unfortunately, the tragedy was not over. Christine was apparently suffering from mitral Stenosis, a narrowing of the mitral valve, and pregnancy had placed a significant strain on her heart. Christine died just two days after her son, on September 22, 1933. She was only 38 years old.



Faced with the death of a daughter and grandson, Finley purchased a family plot in the Hemlock Section of Shady Lane Cemetery. Christine and her infant son were laid to rest there together. Finley himself died in 1937 and joined them in the plot. At that point, the family apparently decided to reunite their loved ones. Anne Anneman Dickson and Shirley Mae Reese were moved from Dunmore Cemetery to Shady Lane.

Christine's siblings lived far longer than she did. George died in 1950 and was buried at Dunmore Cemetery. Edna died in 1961 and was the last person to be buried in the family plot at Shady Lane. Gladys died in Illinois in 1982 but was buried at Abington Hills Cemetery.

Christine, Shirley, Baby Boy Teasdale, Finley, Anne and Edna all now reside at Shady Lane Cemetery—may they rest in peace!

## Brief Illness Fatal To Mrs. Teasdale

### Funeral Will Be Held on Monday Afternoon

Mrs. Christine Dickson Teasdale, 1362 Capouse avenue, well known local young woman, died last night at 8 o'clock in the Hahnemann hospital after a brief illness.

Born in West Scranton, she was the daughter of F. F. Dickson. She was a member of the Green Ridge Presbyterian church. Besides her husband, she leaves her father, two sisters, Gladys, at home, and Mrs. Edna Borthwick, and a brother, George Dickson.

The body was removed to the Howard M. Davies funeral home, 120 South Main avenue, and prepared for burial and will be taken to the family home, 1362 Capouse avenue, this afternoon.

The funeral will be held from the late home on Monday afternoon with the Rev. Charles T. Leber officiating.

Scranton Tribune  
September 23, 1933

Form HVS-5				CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS	
1. PLACE OF DEATH County of <u>Lacka</u>				Registration District No. <u>234</u>		File No. <u>79764</u>	
Towship of <u>Scranton</u>				Primary Registration District No. <u>4</u>		Registered No. <u>1499</u>	
2. FULL NAME <u>Christine Dickson Teasdale</u>				St. <u>Scranton</u>		Ward <u>1</u>	
(a) Residence, No. <u>1362 Capouse Ave</u>				(Usual Place of Abode)		(If nonresident give city or town and State)	
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. da.				How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. da.			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS							
3. SEX <u>Female</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>White</u>	5. <del>Single</del> MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED <u>Married</u>					
6a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of <u>Roland S. Teasdale</u>							
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year) <u>June 1 1895</u>							
7. AGE		Years <u>38</u>	Months <u>8</u>	Days <u>21</u>	IF LESS than 1 day hrs. or min.		
8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED							
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <u>House wife</u>							
(b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer)							
(c) Name of employer							
9. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or Country) <u>Scranton Pa.</u>							
10. NAME OF FATHER <u>F. F. Dickson</u>							
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) (State or Country) <u>N.Y.</u>							
12. NAME OF MOTHER <u>Annis Annemann</u>							
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) (State or Country) <u>N.Y.</u>							
14. Informant <u>Roland S. Teasdale</u> (Address) <u>1362 Capouse Ave</u>							
15. Filed <u>9-25-33</u> 1933 <u>Howard M. Davies</u> Registrar							
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH							
16. DATE OF DEATH <u>Sept. 22 1933</u>							
17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>9/20/33</u> to <u>9/22/33</u> that I last saw <u>her</u> alive on <u>9/22/33</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at <u>8:00</u> m. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Myocardial Infarction</u>							
18. Where was disease contracted If not at place of death? <u>Scranton Pa.</u>							
19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION OR REMOVAL <u>Shady Lane</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>Sept 25 1933</u>							
20. UNDERTAKER <u>Howard M. Davies</u> ADDRESS <u>Scranton</u>							

Christine Dickson Teasdale  
Death Certificate 1933

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Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority  
Steamtown National Historic Site  
Anthracite Museum and Iron Furnaces  
Electric City Trolley Museum  
Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour

### ***Cultural Partners***

Albright Memorial Library and the Lackawanna County Library System  
The Everhart Museum  
Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple

### ***Anthracite Research***

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

### ***Historical Societies***

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

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



Luzerne County Historical Society  
Wayne County Historical Society  
Susquehanna County Historical Society  
Monroe County Historical Society  
Wyoming County Historical Society  
Archbald Historical Society: Contact Ed Casey 570-614-3628  
Scott Township Historical Society: Contact Robert Vail 570-254-9536  
Taylor Historical Society: Contact Christine Schaefer 570-562-1225

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## *Business Hours*

Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 5pm

Saturday, 12pm – 3pm

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Phone: 570-344-3841

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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.*