Northernfield Website Celebrates 15 Years

Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field
1870 - 1970

Site updated on 03/08/2024. Database version 7.22.0

Related Sites

- Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Anthracite Heritage Museum
- Carbondale Historical Society
- Coal Region
- Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
- Duryea PA
- Lackawanna Heritage
- Lackawanna County HS
- Luzerne County HS
- Mining eBook
- Penn Pilot
- Pennsylvania Historical Mining Reports
- Plymouth HS
- Registers of Mine Accidents
- Steamtown NHS
- Steamtown Digital Collection
- Underground Miners
- Wayne County HS
- West Pittston HS
- Wyoming County HS

Use one of the selections below to generate a tabular report of mining activities of the Northern Field. Tables are based on data transcribed from the annual mine inspections published by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1. Report by Operation Name

(Many operations have additional information including maps, articles and photos.)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W * Y Z

2. Report by Company Name

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W * Y Z

3. Location List

This option will generate a report of municipalities from which operations can be selected. Please be aware that the inspection data is incomplete and many of the municipality names have changed over the years, so an operation may appear in multiple listings.

4. Photo Gallery

View all available photographs grouped by operation name.

5. Database Search

[   ] search

6. Report by Year and District

[1870 ▾] select year

7. Help Identify "Mystery" Operations

8. Review Correlated Operations and Companies

Over time, names of the operations, owners, and towns have changed. I've attempted to correlate this data to provide an accurate overall picture of all the mining operations. Your assistance with improving Operation or Company correlations would be appreciated.

Other Features

Your assistance with improving this site is appreciated. Contact us with comments, suggestions, errors or omissions.

See what's new! View the change history here.

Scans of original documents are available here.

Anthracite Railroads Schedules

Official Railway Equipment Registers

Breaker Screens and Coal Sizes

Shameless Book Plugs

In Memoriam

About this site

HTML 5

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field

(1870 – 1970)

By Frank P. Adams

If you want to understand a railroad, you first have to understand its customers. That was the advice proffered me by noted anthracite industry historian and friend, Jim Guthrie, who left us in 2016. It echoed what many model railroading experts repeatedly say: "Don't just slap down a bunch of track with scenic elements like bridges and tunnels. A railroad needs a purpose."

For me the railroad is the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western (DL&W) and the industry, anthracite coal.

Fortunately, the DL&W was well documented by Thomas Taber in his three-volume set and by other fine authors. But the railroad traversed three states and each author either purposely or unconsciously has what I'll politely call a "local bias." Although I now live in Colorado, my local bias is in and around Scranton, Pennsylvania. Understand the customers, understand the purpose, understand the anthracite coal industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Surely someone has a list.

How does one begin with an industry that lasted for over 100 years, not to mention the number of railroads competing for the "black diamonds?" So many operations: individually named or numbered mines[1] (shafts, slopes, drifts, tunnels); coal processing plants called breakers; industrial complexes called collieries; railroad and independent operators; and the most challenging, everything changed over time!

I discussed this with Chuck Yungkurth (who also left us in 2016) during a visit to the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, CO. Chuck and I were "former southside [Scranton] neighbors" as he gleefully told everyone, never mentioning that our time there was separated by 20 years! He was a lifelong railroad enthusiast and historian, a good friend and mentor. Chuck had deep and unique knowledge of northeastern railroads, authoring six highly sought-after Morning Sun books.

Chuck suggested a good place to start might be the library at the nearby Colorado School of Mines which has an extensive collection of annual inspection reports issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Mines. A $35 annual membership to their Arthur

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[1] John Jermyn would prove to be my nemesis in that regard. Like today's Amazon, he branded everything he touched with his name and wasn't afraid to reuse numbers! The Jermyn No. 1 in (where else?) Jermyn is a different operation than the Jermyn No. 1 in Old Forge.

Lakes Library gave me access to half of the 100 reports I would eventually need.[2] The library even generously allowed me to check out the books, some 150 years old, which I scanned at home over the course of nine months.

Vacation visits to Lehigh University in Bethlehem and Lafayette College in Easton, PA completed my scans from 1870 through 1945. Then with the help of the Pikes Peak Library District (Colorado) inter-library loans from Slippery Rock University, Clarion University and California University of Pennsylvania, additional reports through 1970 were borrowed and scanned.

Another friend and History Bytes contributor, Carl Orechovsky, commented that I was now the only person with a complete set of the reports![3] Flattering, but I only scanned pages for the anthracite industry (not bituminous) and only those districts encompassing the Northern Field. Today many of the reports have been digitized by Google and other libraries such as the University of Scranton. They are available from the NF site.

The next question was what to do with the data? The scans (PDF files) were fine to look at but an electronic version, like a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet would be even better. Yes, a monumental task, but with the proofreading help of History Bytes editor, Rick Sedlisky, a year later we had them all transcribed.

While a spreadsheet is searchable and can be sorted, data correlation can be challenging. A mine, being a hole in the ground, obviously has a physical location. But what is it called? [4] Remember Mr. Jermyn? (see footnote 1) Professor Richard Healey of the University of Portsmouth in England advised me that he gave each location a "serial number" in a database to track the mine's development over the years. Database, that's what I was missing! There's a reason he's a professor.[5]

Not only did the names of the operations, owners and companies change over time, but also municipal names and boundaries. A database can track these changes. For example, the Murray Colliery in Dunmore, purchased by the Carney and Brown Coal Co. in 1901 was renamed in the inspectors' reports three years later. The same thing happened again in 1925 when the Meadowside Coal Co. took over. All three have the same ID or serial number in the database effectively combining them into a single operation.

The Microsoft Office product suite includes a database called Access. Converting from a spreadsheet to Access tables is not difficult but sharing the data is a different story. It

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[2] Eventually I would end up paying The Colorado School of Mines 1,000 times that amount when my daughter earned a Civil Engineering degree, Magna cum laude, in 2023.

[3] A list of libraries with mine reports is now available from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources at https://www.coalmininghistorypa.org Many of the reports have since been digitized.

[4] The PA mine inspectors faced the same predicament. In their reports they used a combination of mine names and operating companies. Unfortunately, they did not always include locations other than the reporting district and the home office of the mining company. The mining district boundaries changed over time and servicing railroads were only recorded between 1898 and 1920.

[5] Links to Professor Healey's e-book The Breakers of the Northern Anthracite Coalfield of Pennsylvania Volume 1 : Major Breakers Prior to 1902 are included on the NF site.

turns out that the Access files are so commonly associated with malicious software that e-mail services, including Microsoft, routinely block their transmission.

How frustrating! I had the "list" and more that I had been looking for but couldn't effectively collaborate with colleagues' questions and discussions. A friend and coworker, Mitch Logue, suggested a website. Hmm, I never thought of that. It would involve more work, but there was technology available to help.

MySQL is an open-source relational database management system that can be combined with a powerful general-purpose scripting language called PHP to build websites. Converting the database from Access to MySQL is easy, it takes about five minutes.

Websites use what is called Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) to tell a browser how to display text, images and other forms of multimedia on a webpage. The advantage of PHP is it creates, on the fly, the HTML necessary to display information from the MySQL database. So, while the NF website can display thousands of different webpages (depending on the selection), they're all created on demand by only a dozen actual program files. Mitch got me started (he's a smart guy) and I was easily able to expand on his framework. I purchased the Northernfield name with the .info domain extension.

The NF website is divided into three left to right sections with the middle containing eight different ways to display information. Although navigating the site is hopefully intuitive, below is a brief description of each option.

1. Report by Operation Name
    The 1325 named operations are grouped alphabetically. Selecting a letter generates a webpage listing those starting with that letter. Selecting the operation name generates a tabular report of mining statistics. Some operations have additional documents (such as photos, maps, and news articles) other than the mining statistics, indicated by a "paper" icon to the right of the operation name. You may sort any column using the up and down arrow heads in the column headings. Selecting items in blue will open another page with that specific information. On the top of the page there is also an Export feature to download the table to your computer as a comma separated values (csv) spreadsheet for further analysis. If there are additional documents available, a second way to view that page is by using the "More Info" selection at the top of the page. Finally, as a visual aid all operation reports use a blue header.

2. Report by Company Name
    Works the same as the operation reports, except that there are currently no options for additional documents. Company reports use a green header. There are currently over 1600 companies listed.

3. Location List
    Opens a list of municipalities found in the inspection reports and then by selecting a location the list of operations from that area. As previously discussed, the site advises, "Please be aware that the inspection data is incomplete and many of the municipality names have changed over the years, so an operation may appear in multiple listings." Location generated reports are purple.

4. Photo Gallery
    There are photographs of approximately 150 of the operations available to display on your browser. Most photos are in the public domain, however, over the years, a number of people have graciously contributed photos for the site and credit is displayed below the images.

5. Database Search
    Allows you to search the database for proper names. Type your query in the text box and press "search". This is an advanced feature and spelling counts!

6. Report by Year and District
    Works in two steps. First select the year of interest from the drop-down menu, then press the "select" button to open a page for district selection. Checking the "All" box at the top will generate a report for the entire year. Select "view report" to generate the results. Year based reports are brown. Finally selecting "View the

original [year] document" at the bottom will open a pdf of the mine inspection report digitized by Google and other libraries or my original scans.

7. Help Identify "Mystery" Operations
Opens a page of things I have not been able to fully understand. It includes a comment box for users to post their ideas. Items actively being researched are in grey while those that have been solved are in green.

8. Review Correlated Operations and Companies
The final selection allows the user to see how I have combined (yellow highlighted lines) different names reported by the mine inspectors into a single operation or company. As indicated on the site, any assistance with improving these correlations would be appreciated.

Finally, the left side "Related Sites" contains links to other websites I have found helpful. The right column contains "Other Features" of the site including scanned documents, railroad schedules and equipment registers.

The website has steadily grown over the past 15 years with the addition of over 6,000 documents to help complete the "picture" left us by the mining inspectors. Photographs, although a wonderful addition, present potential liabilities. Many are in the public domain, but others are copyrighted and highly valued by private collectors. I've attempted to strike a technological compromise; the site displays photos but disables the usual copy and paste Windows features. For anyone wishing to contribute photographs, this feature along with credit for the image will hopefully assuage any concerns about sharing their property with others via the site.

With the exception of improving my original programming when the PHP product makes updates enforcing stricter syntax (to improve security), maintenance of the site has thankfully been minimal. Finally, a number of authors have kindly acknowledged the site in their published works.

I hope you have enjoyed this history and explanation of the Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field (1870 -1970) website on its 15th anniversary and hope it can be a continued help for your understanding of our local history.

A Scranton native, Frank currently resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is the author of two railroad histories: "Rails Between Dunmore and Jessup: The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western's Winton Branch" and "The History and Railroads of North Pocono."

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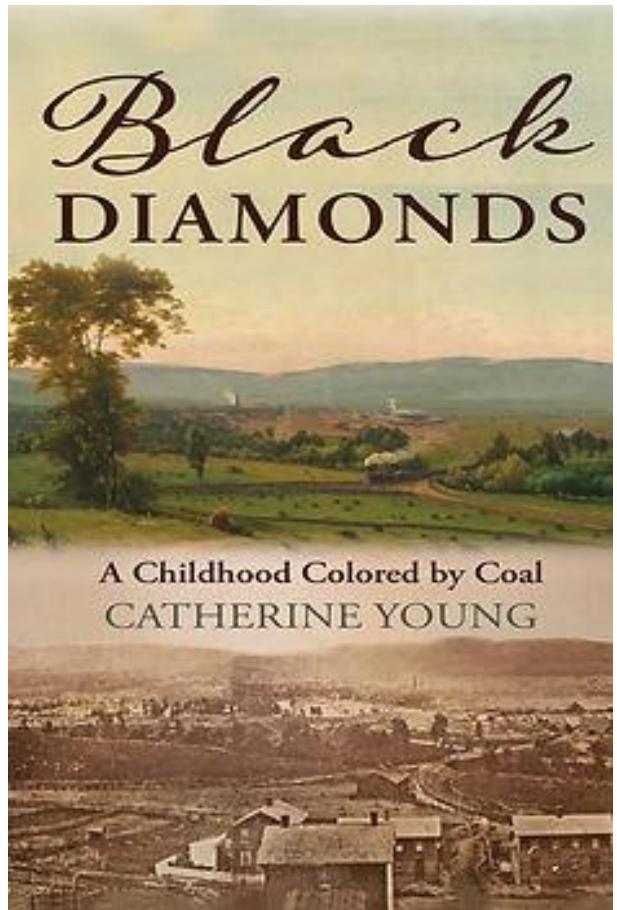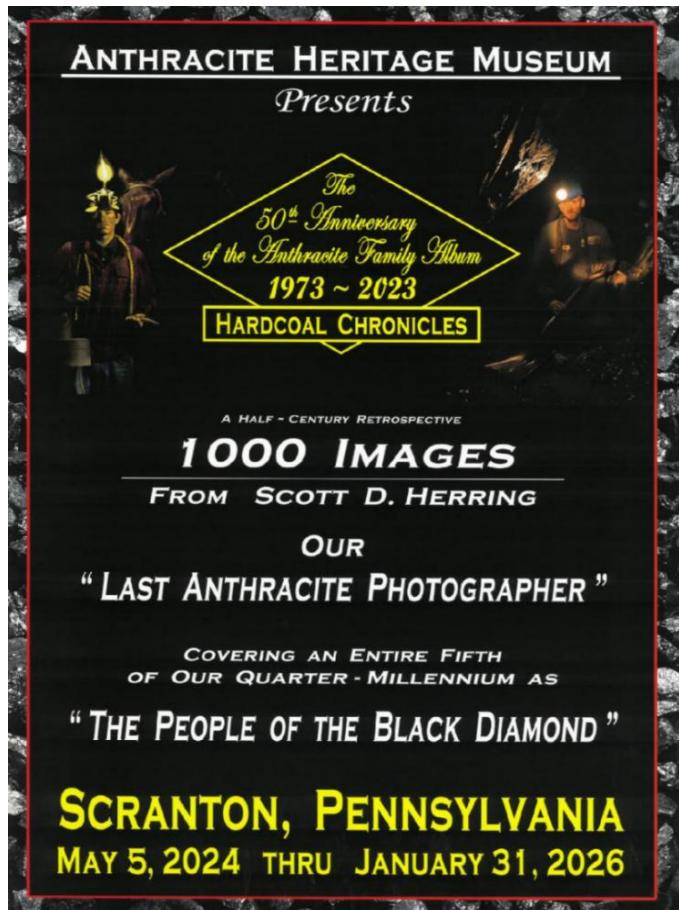
Image source: bahnbilder.de

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Image source: wikiclipart.com

Our sincere thanks to everyone who, individually and collectively, continues to help History Bytes document our Northeast Pennsylvania heritage.

Rick Sedlisky,
Editor

The following is an article that appeared in the first issue of History Bytes that was published in March 2018. Written by Tony Ranella, Jr., Peoples Street Railway discusses the small trolley system that connected Scranton and Dunmore in the mid-19th century.

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Peoples Street Railway
By Tony Ranella, Jr.

The story begins with the Pennsylvania Coal Company (PCC) and its Gravity Railroad and how it helped to form a connecting railroad about a mile in length. The Gravity Railroad operated from 1850 to 1885 with coal as its main revenue source, but also transported farm goods, construction materials, merchant goods, machinery and animals. On August 1, 1874, it was announced in local newspapers that the Gravity Railroad would officially begin passenger service from Dunmore to Hawley, PA and back with stops at Jones Lake (now known as Lake Ariel), a popular destination point for company employee picnics, fishing and other activities.

Above: Late 19th Century Erie & Wyoming Valley Railroad Station at Jones Lake, now known as Lake Ariel. Photo courtesy of: Tony Ranella, Jr. Collection

During my years of research, I've come across information stating that the Gravity did indeed have passenger service going back to the very early days of operation, but not on a large scale. The late Mary Theresa (TC) Connolly mentioned in her book about the Gravity having now and then passenger service in the 1850's and 1860's. My guess is that the service was for politicians and company executives wanting to get to Hawley, where at the time, the shops and offices were located, as well as the D&H Canal.

In 1865, the City of Scranton had a small trolley system that went from central Scranton and extended into Dunmore by way of Green Ridge St. Each trolley was pulled by horses. It was named the Peoples Street Railway. Many years later the system was greatly expanded, covering almost every section of Scranton and Dunmore as well. By the 1870's the trolleys made their way into Dunmore from another route. Leaving downtown Scranton, the tracks made their way across Quincy Ave. to Poplar St. to Clay Ave. and then to South Blakely St., where the track started to curve at the intersection of Cherry St. and continued up South Blakely St. to Dunmore Corners.

At the intersection of South Blakely St. and Cherry St., the Peoples Street Railway would let passengers off who would continue their journey on the Gravity Railroad either to Jones Lake or to Hawley. The only problem was that people who got off the trolley

had to walk almost a mile to the Gravity's #6 passenger station to continue their journey. After a few years of walking from the trolley line to the #6 station and back on the return trip, folks started to complain to the Peoples Street Railway and to the PCC that the walk was long and difficult especially in inclement weather, and if the trolley ran late, people would miss the passenger train leaving on the Gravity.

As more and more complaints came into the PCC, they responded by building a connecting rail line and station from the intersection of South Blakely St. and Cherry St. to the #6 Gravity station. The track line was at a 45-degree angle facing the Bunker Hill section of Dunmore until it reached Cross St. (Third St. in Dunmore and Wheeler Ave. in Scranton). It then it went straight up the middle of Butler St. to Chestnut St. where it crossed Mill St. to the #6 station. The line was built in the late 1860's or very early 1870's. The PCC supplied two Gravity passenger coaches pulled by horses to transport people from the trolley line station to the #6 station.
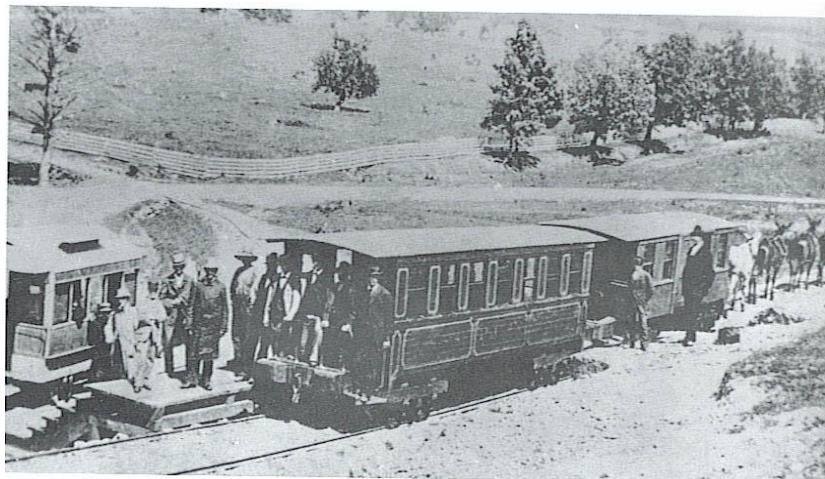
(Station at Cherry and South Blakely Sts., Dunmore
Note Peoples Street Railway Car on the left.
Photo courtesy of: Tony Ranella, Jr. Collection

The connecting line experienced a big change in 1880. John B. Smith, Superintendent of the PCC, designed and built a three-cylinder steam "Lokie" that was used in place of the team of horses to pull the two coaches from station to station. The original reason the "Lokies" were built was to shunt mine cars from the coal breakers to the mines and move freight in and around the yards.

It should be noted at this time that John B. Smith was not only the Superintendent of the PCC but was also a director of the Peoples Street Railway, which was charted in 1865. The rail line was built because John B. Smith listened to the people.
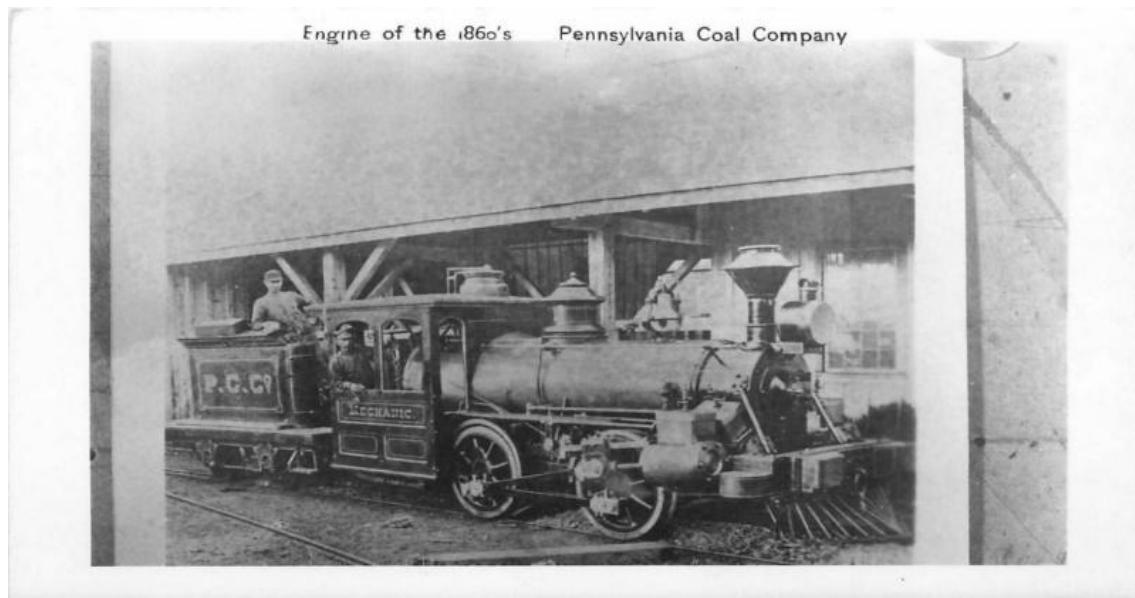
"Lokie" at the South Blakely St. and Cherry St. station, Dunmore.
Note the addition of a roof over the platform. Photo courtesy of: Tony Ranella, Jr. Collection

About eight years ago there was a mine subsidence caused by a water main break in front of 508 Butler St., the home of the late Tom Fidiam. The hole was near the side of the street and was about fifteen feet in diameter and about twenty-five feet deep. The next day I was talking to Tom as we both looked into the hole. By now the water had been turned off by the water company and the hole was roped off by the police, so Tom and I started talking about the Erie Railroad. He retired from the Erie's Susquehanna Depot Yard. I mentioned to him that under Butler St. there were railroad tracks of narrow gauge, the same as the tracks in the mines. He looked at me and said, "What are you talking about? I've lived in this home all my life and never heard of tracks on Butler St." I told him about the connecting rail line built by the PCC to transport people from one station to the other. I got the impression he didn't believe me.

A few days later the hole was filled in and the area re-paved. I went to the area to see how it looked, and Tom came out to greet me. He said as the water company started digging around the area of the cave-in to access the water pipes more towards the center of the street to repair them, the backhoe started to uncover rails and wooden ties as they were digging. Tom and the crew were in awe. He looked at me and smiled. He believed me. I asked how far down the tracks were. "About eight or ten inches below the pavement, he said and if I didn't see it with my own eyes, I would never have believed it."

The next day I was walking to my mom's house, which is one block up from my home and as I crossed Butler St. I looked to the right of me, and I saw something lying near the curb. I walked over to the spot, and I froze. I saw a rail spike in nearly perfect condition, rusty, but not bent or twisted. I bent over, picked it up and looked at it. The heavens for the train gods blessed me with a gift from a hundred plus years ago. One of the water company guys probably saw it in the dirt and just tossed it to the side of the road for me to find and what a find. I showed it to Tom. He smiled, looked at me and said, "Well you were right about the tracks on Butler St. and we both saw the proof."

Right: Railroad spike found at Butler St., Dunmore
Photo courtesy of Tony Ranella Jr. Collection

The connecting rail line was no more after the Gravity Railroad was abandoned in December 1885. The Erie Railroad constructed the Erie & Wyoming Railroad (Wyoming Division) in 1883 and after 1886, people would use the Erie & Wyoming Valley to travel to Lake Ariel or Hawley and beyond.

In addition to photos included in the article, I also have maps in my collection showing the tracks running on Butler St., however, the maps are too large to fit on my scanner to make a copy. I hope you've enjoyed this story about the connecting rail line, as it is another part of Dunmore's lost history.

Tony Rannella Jr. is a Northeast Pennsylvania historian who focuses include the Gravity Railroad, the Erie Railroad, the Pennsylvania Coal Company and the effects they had on his home city of Dunmore. The link below offers readers an insight to the degree of his dedication to document and preserve one more piece of our region's history.

http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/local-historians-preserve-gravity-railroad-history-1.2078238

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.

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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

Our monthly *Past Times* lecture series features famous local people and early regional history presented via Zoom. Email us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. Catch up on 70 past episodes on our YouTube channel at https://tinyurl.com/y5hbsufx

Via Zoom

Friday, March 28, 2pm: 25th 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.

Friday, May 30 at 2pm: History of Scranton's Jewish Community with Seymour and Kathy Brotman.

Genealogy Forum

Via Zoom

Genealogy Forum's **European Tour** offers participants guidance on where to find family records in other countries. **Registration is required.**

Saturday, April 12, 10 am to Noon: Searching Ireland and Scots Irish Records with Barbara Spellman Shuta, Kate Bohan and Madonna Munley at the Lackawanna County Children's Library.

Saturday, May 10, 10 am to Noon: Researching Poland with Tony Paddock at the North Pocono Community Library

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Saturday, June 14, 10 am to Noon: Researching Italy with Ann Marie Castelgrande at Council Chambers, Carbondale City Hall, 2nd floor

Saturday, July 12, 10 am to Noon: Researching Carpatho-Rusyn Records with Natalie Asikainen at the Albright Memorial Library, Henkelman Room

Saturday, August (DATE TBA), 10 am to Noon: Researching Germany with Tom Price at the Valley Community Library

Saturday, September 13, from 10 am to Noon: Researching England and Wales with Tom Price at the Abington Community Library

Program to Focus on Migrant Workers
In Lackawanna County

LHS volunteer Jenny Gonzalez presents the history of local migrant workers Sunday, April 27 at 2pm at the Waverly Community House. She has been working with and advocating for the civil and immigrants' rights of the growing immigrant and refugee populations in Northeast Pennsylvania for more than a decade.

Jenny is a Licensed Social Worker and Program Director of Marywood University's S.T.A.R.S (Students Together Achieving Remarkable Success) Program. She has spent the last year researching the local Latino community and has compiled an informative history of local migrant workers which she will share at the program.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 3: A Scanning Day will be offered at the Catlin House beginning at noon (Details TBA).

Saturday, May. 3: Our local history game show, *You Live Here; You Should Know This!* returns. The event will take place at Art Haus, 301 Lackawanna Ave., Downtown Scranton (Details TBA).

Sunday, June 22: Our *Beyond the Hill House Tour* returns to the Abingtons (Details TBA).

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.

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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

The Lackawanna River and Watershed:
Art and Interpretation
March 24 through April 11, 2025

The Hope Horn Gallery at the University of Scranton will host a special jury exhibit entitled, The Lackawanna River and Watershed: Art and Interpretation from March 24 through April 11, 2025.

Presented in cooperation with the Lackawanna River Conservation Association, the juried show will explore the cultural and aesthetic significance of the Lackawanna River through contemporary paintings, sculptures and photographs. The exhibit is sponsored by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area in partnership with the National Park Service. For additional information, please contact the Hope Horn Gallery at 570-941-4214.

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YOU'RE INVITED
to support the

RICHARD LEONORI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

with an exhibition and reception for the
2025 LEONORI COMPETITION WINNERS

Thursday, April 3, 2025—6:00PM–8:00PM
at The Colonnade
[401 Jefferson Avenue / Scranton]

EVENT REGISTRATION
$50/ person
RSVP required by 3/31

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS
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(inc. 2 registrations)

$100 TUSCAN
$250 DORIC
$500 IONIC
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Marywood University is a 501(c)3 organization; contributions are tax-deductible less the value of any goods and services received. If paying by check, please make checks payable to Marywood University, include Leonori Scholarship in memo, and return payment to Marywood University, attn. Office of University Advancement, Maria Hall, 2300 Adams Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509. Questions? jlacoe@marywood.edu

Please consider attending or sponsoring this special event supporting the Richard Leonori Memorial Scholarship on Thursday April 3, 2025, at 6 pm at the Colonnade in Scranton. Richard was an instructor in Marywood's School of Architecture and a dedicated member, volunteer and trustee of the LHS. We are pleased to know that Marywood will honor Richard's memory in this most appropriate way.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

This is another in our series of edited reprints from "The Laurel Northeastern Pennsylvania's Magazine." It is planned to republish these 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 this issue, History Bytes features a story originally published in the first issue of "The Laurel" during the summer of 1953 — 72 years ago. It varies from previous editions of History Bytes, which centered on industrial development, economic activities, and cultural offerings in northeastern Pennsylvania. It relates the story of a successful and unusual Scranton businessman, Orvie Stuck. In the period of 1927 through the late 1940s, Orvie was the proprietor of a respected book, stamp, and coin shop. The shop was founded by Orvie's father, Emil, in 1908 at 128 North Washington Avenue. In 1915 it moved to 312 North Washington Avenue where it operated until the late 1940s.*

Ever the individual (some would say 'character,' or 'free spirit'), Orvie took an early retirement from the bibliographic, philatelic, and numismatic businesses. He moved from a comfortable residence in Scranton's historic and upscale Hill Section and became known as 'The Hermit of Wayne County.' There he developed and for years operated 'Orvie Stuck's Wilderness Ranch.'

This interesting and fascinating story—some might mistakenly call it a tale or canard—is the true story of a man, a bohemian, who years later would be described as a 'hippie.' Orvie was a fellow who appreciated the freedom of nature, and living on, from, and with the land of northeastern Pennsylvania.

--Richard Fitzsimmons, Ph.D.

Transcriber

*Source: Polk's SCRANTON CITY DIRECTORY; various years

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Orvie Stuck . . . The Wayne County Hermit.
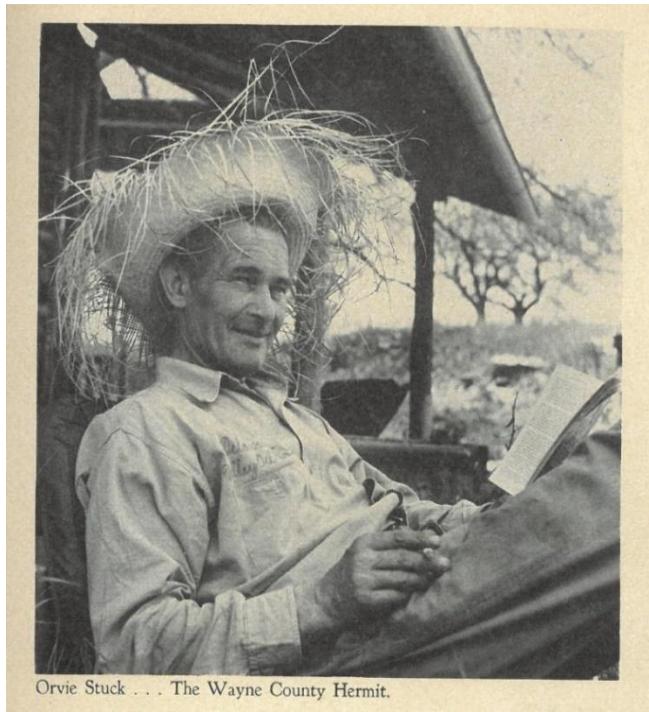
The Man Who Doesn't Care

An overly conscientious census taker, following the directions of the natives but relying more on a compass, fought his way through brush on an old lumbering road to the peak of a mountain top, near Angels, in the wilderness of Wayne County.

His target was Orvie Stuck, a man who takes the world lightly, but enjoys it immensely.

The census taker, after hours of struggle, broke into a clearing. There, resting in a cozy dent in the hillside, stood a three-room log chalet, tastily decorated in the Swiss manner with a trim of red. But the loyal government worker took another quick look.

"Either the strain has got me," he muttered to himself," and I am looking at a log cabin, or that's the damnedest moose I ever did see."

For sticking out from the front of the object before him was a moose's head. Focusing more carefully, he was certain that he was seeing two distinct things; a moose's head and a cabin; not a moose with a body like a cabin.

Careful examination revealed that a private roof extending from the cabin protected the moose from the weather. The mammoth Wayne County moths had dined for years on the moose's lower lip, revealing his piano like teeth, and twisting his ample mouth into a sardonic smile. The moose, or that portion of him stuck to the building, paid no heed to the head counter, but continued, as he has for years, to peer out through his somewhat weather faded eyes into nowhere in particular.

The visiting agent began to lower himself onto a comfortably pointed rock for a breather. He had not yet reached the point, when streaking towards him, under jet propulsion came a ball of feathers, yellow legs momentarily stroking the ground. It zoomed around him several times; then landed in a sputtering cloud of dust and feathers. The dust settled and the agent found himself

staring into the one good eye of the toughest chicken he ever encountered on a platter or in the field.

The bird, showing more scarred hide than feathers, began to move menacingly towards the visitor.

"That's the Artful Dodger," said a voice from a nearby apple tree. "He's the toughest bird in Wayne County. Just make believe you're aiming a gun at him."

The government man raised his arms in gun position. There was a zip, a little dust and then nothing.

"Where is he?" gasped the bewildered agent.

"Right now," the voice from the tree said, I'd judge he is passing through Pocono Summit."

The shaking agent glanced at the gnarled apple tree where he saw a ladder leading up to a platform in the branches.

"Come on up on the porch where you will be safe," the voice said.

The census man climbed the ladder and found his target comfortably reclining in a rustic chair. A volume of Gibbon's "Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire" was open on his lap.

"Are you Orvie Stuck?" he asked

"I'm your man," Orvie replied, studying his guest with humorous blue eyes. "If you're running away from your wife, stranger, you certainly made it."

The census taker explained his mission.

"The inhabitants of this ranch," Orvie recounted, "are myself, Ambrose the Moose, the Artful Dodger, both of whom you met, the Stourbridge Lion, a hound dog who currently is out walking after a rabbit, and Peter and Paul, twin black bears, caged, I hope, in a pen below."

"Your occupation?'"

"Hermit," insisted Orvie.

The government man left hurriedly, failing to list Orvie's other occupations, when he noticed that Peter and Paul's open door was ajar.

Orvie Stuck . . . The Wayne County Hermit Orvie believes that everyone should have their front porch in a tree, which provides four way ventilation.

If the census employee had not been allergic to black bears, especially loose ones, he could have enjoyed the view from the tree porch where Orvie keeps track of activities in his woodland realm of more than one hundred acres which he bought literally with postage stamps.

Orvie, despite the fact that he claims that he had an indolent Mohawk in his ancestry, is a philatelist, a bibliopolist and a numismatologist, He has, since his boyhood, dealt in rare stamps, books and coins. When he is interested, he can make any one of his three specialties add another acre to his woodland holdings.

Orvie surveys his baronage for poachers on his land . . . like characters and deer. Comfortable and shady Ambrose looks north to his lost homeland.
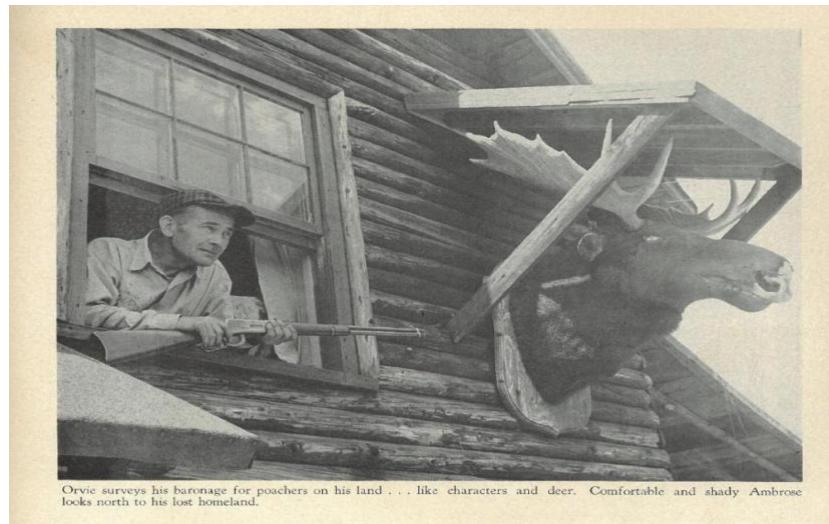
In his present retreat, however, he is a refugee from a bookstore and the browzing characters who congregate within such an establishment. Orvie, before he fled to the hills, ran a book mart in Scranton which was slightly unorthodox. It was filled with musty books, wide-eyed kid collectors and sleeping scholars. Orvie had thoughtfully provided an immense easy chair in the rear of the store where the shelves sagged with the classics. Just a cozy spot where the boys can nap with the best minds, Orvie would explain.

The store had an unusual method of operation. It might remain open all night and stay closed all day. A person might enter it to buy a book or stamp and find himself in complete possession for three or four days. Or one of the napping gentry might awaken to discover that he was entirely alone with the best minds and he would spend the night praying that Orvie would decide to open the store the following morning.

Actually, the store was a spot that Orvie visited between hunting and fishing trips, and it was not unusual for him to disappear for days at a time. Management responsibilities were divided between his friends who usually were dodging their own responsibilities and were not reluctant to turn the place over to any interested stranger.

One of his hunting expeditions led to Ambrose who, at the time, was an inhabitant of the Canadian woods and in possession of the rest of himself. Orvie couldn't cart Ambrose in his entirety back to the state, so he did the next best thing. He brought the Indian who put the finger on Ambrose back with him. It launched the good neighbor policy.

The Indian, named Lucius, mingled with the patrons of the bookstore and he wasn't noticed for six months.

Lucius, freed from the beverage control imposed by a kindly Canadian government on its Indian children, availed himself copiously of all liquids from which science had removed any trace of pure water. This kept him in a permanent sitting posture either on a stool or on the sidewalk in front of Orvie's store.

His life was a dewy and happy one until he acquired an obnoxious American habit. He heard a high school lad let forth a rasping, painful groan when a pretty girl passed. Thinking that the lad had been suddenly possessed by evil spirits, Lucius, calling on the lore of his primitive ancestors, broke into a menacing but wobbly dance around the lad to drive out the devils. After the frequenters of the bookstore collectively had gotten Lucius back on the sidewalk, prone this time, they explained that the lad had only been emitting a "wolf call" of admiration.

That was his downfall. Lucius had been raised and lived with wolves and was completely familiar with their vocalizations, collectively or as individuals, expressing their varying emotions. He expressed the opinion that the lad's love call was sickly indeed.

He accepted this American custom and rendered a longing call with the true tonal implication of a genuine love starved wolf. The wail, seemingly rising from a spot beneath the pavement on which Lucius was sitting and containing an untapped power from the molting center of the globe, rose well above the collective noises of a busy city and froze in her tracks every female within a four-block area.

It also brought the dog catcher who informed immigration authorities. Lucius was deposited on the other side of our Northern border.

Lucius was replaced from time to time with characters as interesting, but, perhaps, not as violently vocal, and the store went on its erratic way. Orvie bought and sold stamps, coins and books, occasionally turning a solid penny on a rare item.

One day, several years ago, while tracking a deer, he came upon his present haven. It had been abandoned by a farmer, who had given up the struggle with the forest, after raising a crop of thirteen children.

Orvie turned in a few of his rarer stamps and coins, and bought the property which, for the most part, had returned to its native state. He converted the farmhouse into a cabin, cleared the orchard and nursed the fruit trees back into production, uncovered a few plots of farmland and pasture to provide his needs and settled down to become a rustic recluse.

But his characters, braving the fresh air, sought him out. Naturally their visit turned to a clambake. Since most of them had developed sharp shooters' eyes from playing pinball devices, the idea came to Orvie that he might be able to capitalize on his rare characters by providing them with a wilderness retreat where they could rid themselves of all their inhibitions by clambaking themselves without restraint and exploding firearms at living targets, namely, the Artful Dodger.

While he is not certain, Orvie thinks that some Indian tribe which died out forgot this fellow.

He built a pavilion for clambakes with all the necessary appurtenances and laid out a trap shooting range. For his more stable visitors, he provided unexcelled trout fishing and, when the

season permitted, hunting of small game and deer which seemed to have the same inclination as the farmer who abandoned the place. The property is well populated.

He advertised Orvie Stuck's Wilderness Ranch far and wide and soon characters began to arrive for old-fashioned chicken shoots. This ancient American sport consists of tying a chicken behind a log, then scattering corn on the ground. As it pecks away at the corn, its head pops up and down and is visible momentarily to the rifleman who is stationed some distance away on the opposite side of the log.

If the sportsman fires and hits the chicken, it becomes his property. Orvie discovered that movie houses at the end of the week have a large amount of their major product, which has gone stale, to give to anyone who will haul it away. So, he tours the circuit and returns with Clara, his dump truck, loaded down with faded popcorn.

This results in an unusual wrinkle in this ancient sport. There is an explosion when the sportsman fires his rifle and a second explosion when the bullet strikes the popcorn filled chicken. The gunners claim that this borders on fraud since their prize disintegrates into a high drifting cloud of feathers.

The Artful Dodger, however, has survived three seasons. He has become so adept at gathering the corn while dodging the zipping bullets that structurally he is more substantial than his fellow targets. As a matter of fact, he has dispensed with the log.

The Stourbridge Lion, an indifferent beagle hound with a permanent cold in the nose, was named after the father of all locomotives, principally because when pursuing a rabbit he resembles in sound effect, wheezing and snorting, this antique vehicle on display in nearby Honesdale.

Orvie claims, and his story is affirmed by many of the characters, that the rabbits, when in need of excitement and exercise, taunt the Lion into chasing them. When he becomes exhausted, Orvie explains, the rabbits are thoughtful enough to carry him back and place him on the property so they can use him again.

Peter and Paul were young orphans when presented to Orvie. He built them a cage. Time increased their sizes, their appetites and their tempers. Orvie had a problem. Bread fed, they began to develop a definite inclination towards meat and the only sizable amount of this protein around, Orvie realized, was on himself.

Rather than have his friends visit the ranch and find only his shoes and the bears in the cage, Orvie decided to exile them to a swamp well populated by their kinfolk near Angels.

After dumping them from the truck, Orvie drove off at top speed. His conscience has bothered him since.

"I looked back," he said, "and Peter and Paul were sitting on their haunches bawling at the top of their lungs. I'll never be sure if they were crying because they were losing a friend or a meal."

However, Peter and Paul served a purpose. A heavy rainstorm once washed out the road leading to Orvie's ranch. He called the county commissioners and invoked an old Pennsylvania law which requires the county to keep open any road leading to a farm where livestock is kept.

"What livestock have you?" they demanded.

"A chicken and two bears," Orvie replied.

The county fixed the road.

Currently, Orvie, when the spirit moves him, is dropping stones in a brook. When he has dropped enough stones, the brook will back up and build him a forty-acre lake which, in time, he will stock with fish. Around the lake he will build cabins and collect the oddest characters of all, fishermen, who will contribute to the general support of his baronage.

A rabid stamp collector visited Orvie recently and lectured him for abandoning his specialties; reminding him of the money he was losing by not being active in the world of stamps, coins and books.

They were seated on the porch tree, which has the advantage of four-way ventilation, and Orvie suggested that the collector look in all four directions.

"What do you see?" Orvie asked. "Nothing but trees," the collector replied.

"Correct," said Orvie. "There is nothing quite as satisfying as setting up here on a Spring day watching my friend Nature push those trees up a little higher. Trees are timber and timber is money."

The process may be slow, but Orvie's philosophy is understandable when you know that he doesn't have a clock around because he doesn't care what time it is.

Shady Lane Cemetery
Community Work Days 2025

2025 COMMUNITY WORK DAYS

9:00 to Noon

| April 19 | July 19 |
May 17	Aug. 16
June 21	Sept. 13
Oct. 18	

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Shady Lane Cemetery Resident:
Dr. Gisela Von Poswik (1875 -1940)

By Carol Wilkerson

"As to their chiefest seat
Conspicuous and great."

Naumburg, on the Saale, Germany, is responsible for GISELA VON POSWIK. A private tutor laid the foundation; Höhere Töchter Schule, Naumburg, threw in the collaterals; and German Hospital, Philadelphia, turned her out—"von." She nursed a few incapacitated ones and then descended upon W. M. C.

From personally conducting all lectures and quizzes (from the front row—west end) to moving Meine about in spots, "Von" has been "on the job" since the days of Bones. Doors would still be unclosed—canes remain prone on the anatomical floor; college work suspended, had it not been for our ever present "Von."

A post-graduate course awaits her in Germany, and we see her now carrying off all the honors by force of her personality.

A kind heart and an observant eye for trouble and distress lurk beneath that rapacious exterior; and wherever she practices, because of these qualities of eye and heart, "Von" will always make good. She will get the front place or none; and the many who must perforce stand aside from before the sturdy, energetic stride, may feel compensation in seeing the needy cheered and uplifted by the touch of her strong, practical right hand. She is Senior Literary Editor of *The Æsculapian*.

GISELA VON POSWIK.

1911 Yearbook
*Women's College of Pennsylvania*

Dr. Gisela Von Poswik (or Poswick) was a truly extraordinary woman, and Shady Lane Cemetery is honored to be her final resting place. Gisela was born on June 19, 1875, in Naumburg, Germany. She was the oldest child of Count Napoleon Von Poswik and Countess Maria Lieskau Von Poswik. Through her mother's family, Gisela was a 13th generation direct descendant of Martin Luther.

Gisela had three younger siblings, Sophia Bronislawa Wanda Von Poswik (1877), Boleslaus Raymund Von Poswik (1878), and Cordula Philippine Von Poswik (1881). Wanda immigrated to the U.S., studied music in Detroit, and then became a professional singer. She married Alva Arthur Becker in 1916 and died in Michigan in 1943. The other two siblings stayed in Germany, where Boleslaus became an engineer and died in Dresden in 1923, and Cordula apparently died in Naumburg in 1957.

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We know little of Gisela's early years in Germany except that she apparently attended a school designed for daughters of the upper classes. She then attended Miss Taylor's Private School in London. Perhaps her parents intended this to be the end of her education, but Gisela had other ideas, sailing for the United States at the age of 20. Gisela was apparently highly intelligent and highly driven and was determined to receive training in the medical profession.

Once in the U.S., Gisela attended the nursing program of German Hospital in Philadelphia. After graduation, she first worked at a hospital in Baltimore. We know that in 1900, she was able to return to Germany for a visit, but she was apparently not tempted to stay in her home country.

In 1904, Gisela took the job of head nurse at Harrisburg Hospital, demonstrating her drive to advance in her field. In approximately 1907, she became superintendent of the tuberculosis sanitarium at White Haven, PA. She also produced scholarly work, publishing at least one article for the American Journal of Nursing.

New Nurse at Hospital

Miss Von Poswik, late of Dr. Kelley's Hospital, Baltimore, is the new head nurse of the medical and surgical wards at the Harrisburg Hospital. She is a graduate of the German Hospital, Philadelphia, and took charge of her work at the local institution, Saturday.

Harrisburg Telegraph
April 11, 1904

But ultimately, nursing was not enough for Gisela. In 1908, she enrolled in the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, determined to become a physician. Her classmates recognized her extraordinary drive, describing her in the school's 1911 yearbook like this: "She will get the first place or none; and the many who must perforce stand aside from before the sturdy, energetic stride, may feel compensation in seeing the needy cheered and uplifted by the touch of her strong, practical right hand."

After graduation in 1911, Gisela attended a post-graduate course in Germany. The subject matter was almost certainly the revolutionary new field of x-rays. At some point, she also worked as an assistant to Dr. John Deever, an x-ray expert in Philadelphia.

> Dr. Gisela Von Poswik has accepted an invitation to speak at the forty-first annual meeting of the alumnae of the Woman's Medical college, to be held June 1-2, in Philadelphia. Dr. Von Poswik's paper will be "The Value of the Roentgen Rays for Gastric and Intestinal Diseases," and its reading will be followed by a discussion opened by Dr. Willis Manges, professor of the Roentgenological department of Jefferson college.

Scranton Times – Tribune
May 31, 1916

By 1914, Gisela had settled into a medical practice in Scranton, where she specialized in x-ray technology. She became a recognized expert in this field and eventually became the first female physician in the country to own her own x-ray equipment.

> Two addresses that were thoroughly enjoyed were given last night at the meeting of the Lackawanna County Medical society. Dr. Reed Burns and Dr. G. Von Poswik, the latter a woman physician, were the speakers. Dr. Von Poswik discussed the X-Ray diagnosis on stomach disorders.

Scranton Times - Tribune, October 2, 1914

For the next 20+ years, Gisela practiced medicine in Scranton. She always maintained her academic focus, writing papers, attending conferences, speaking at meetings, and being an active part of professional organizations. She also testified in various court cases as an expert on the subject of x-rays.

Gisela was an active part of life in Scranton. She entertained, particularly when other medical experts came through town. She was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and was also a member of the College Club, a fraternal group for college women. In 1917, she taught a series of first aid classes for young women through the YWCA,

> Dr. G. Von Poswik, the local X-ray specialist, will conduct an examination of the first aid class she has been teaching all winter at the Y. W. C. A. this evening at the association building at 8 o'clock. She will be assisted in the practical examination work by Dr. Homer Snyder. Dr. Von Poswik's pupils are industrious young women and they have been quite faithful in attending the course of lessons.

Scranton Times - Tribune
April 30, 1916

possibly inspiring some of them to strive for a medical career.

While still in Philadelphia in 1913, Gisela declared her intention to become a U.S. citizen. She was granted naturalized citizen status five years later, in 1918. It was undoubtedly a welcome development, since WW1 brought a great deal of hostility directed at German citizens.

In 1925, well-known Dunmore artist, John Willard Raught, painted a portrait of Gisela, which was displayed in the window of the Kuck and Sellers art store. The newspaper praised the portrait, stating that "The serious, thoughtful expression of the face, is what we should naturally look for in one who has seen so much of human suffering."

In 1931, Gisela reached what was perhaps the pinnacle of her professional career when she was appointed as a member of the third international congress of radiology, held at the Sorbonne in Paris. Not only did she attend the conference, but she also presented a paper at one of the sessions.

After the congress was over, Gisela took six months to visit and study at x-ray laboratories in some of the biggest cities of Europe. She also made a visit home to Naumburg. Though her mother died in 1912 and her father in 1929, she was probably able to reconnect with her brother and sister, whom she had not seen for years.

Gisela returned to Scranton in 1932, resuming her busy practice and social life. Unfortunately, she became ill in the summer of 1938, developing heart and kidney problems. Her health forced her into retirement, something that must have been devastating for the busy doctor.

In February 1940, Gisela was hospitalized in Orlando, Florida. By April, she was back in Scranton, but instead of returning to her home, she stayed at the Jermyn Hotel. By June, she had moved in with a friend, Josephine Mayer, of West Mountain, where she was reported to be seriously ill in July. At some point, Gisela apparently returned to her home on Jefferson Avenue, where she died on October 2, 1940. Her family background was meticulously documented on her death certificate, as the document states that the information was provided by Dr. Von Poswik herself before her death.

Gisela's funeral was a large affair, attended by much of the medical community in Scranton. All of her pall bearers were fellow physicians, who bore her to her grave along the Walks of the Oak Section. Her estate was divided between her two sisters, one in Michigan and one in Germany.

Dr. Gisela Von Poswik, daughter of a count and countess, descendant of Martin Luther, author, researcher, expert, and healer, now resides at Shady Lane Cemetery—may she rest in peace!

Image source: poconosecrets.com

Remembering Pancoast
*April 7, 1911*
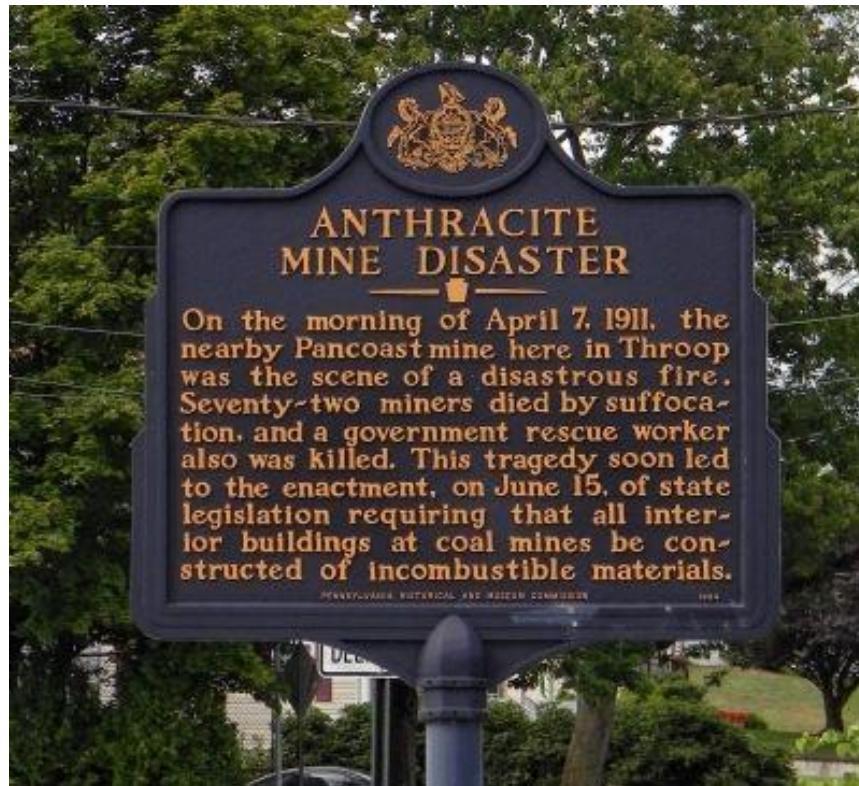
Image source: HMdb.org

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

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

A visual remembrance of Pancoast is a Commonwealth road sign (see above), located on Olyphant Avenue near Sanderson Street, not far from the mine site. Although it was one of the region's smaller operations, Pancoast takes its place in Northeast Pennsylvania's anthracite legacy. Those who worked Pancoast and those who lost loved ones and friends are recognized as all are remembered in 2025.

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

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

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

Ed. Note- Knowing the potential for injury and/or worse, the question remains: Why do men continue to work the mines? The following article, written by Robert P. Wolensky, sheds some light on the subject.

Why Do Men Mine Anthracite?
By Robert P. Wolensky

"My son will never work in the mines!"

Countless anthracite mineworkers made this pledge, especially after World War II. Their spouses, who well knew the hazards of a mining occupation, were equally determined to keep their sons out of the pits. After all, some 35,000 men and boys had died in these parts between approximately 1850 and 1960, countless others were maimed, and an even larger number contracted black lung (including my grandfather, father, and several uncles.

Why, then, did so many miners remain faithful to this dangerous calling? Why did they gamble with life and limb and lungs in the face of dusty conditions, roof falls (the main cause of deaths), and major disasters?

The editors of *The Scrantonian* published an article on February 8, 1959, two weeks after the infamous Knox Mine of January 22nd, which cost 12 lives. The piece was titled, *"Miners Always Vow to Keep Sons Out of Pits."* It was based on an interview with Thomas Kennedy, international vice president of the United Mine Workers of America and a native of the anthracite region, who had also served at the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania between 1935 and 1939. The editors made a number of important points.

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The article's title clearly stated the first point. Following World War II, very few young men sought work underground. Not only were mining jobs disappearing but unlike their fathers and grandfathers, they had a wide range of occupational choices.

But the question remains: why did (and do) so many go hundreds of feet underground to dig the black diamonds? Kennedy pointed out that there were economic as well as personal reasons, the former including a high local unemployment rate, the lack of alternative training, and the good wages (by the 1950s, mineworkers were among the highest paid industrial workers).

But there were personal reasons as well, said Kennedy. "Their roots are there, and they aren't always under supervision when they work. It's their life's work. They like it, even the danger. It's sort of a challenge." Mining was indeed one of the most dangerous occupations in the land. Yet large numbers not only appreciated the "freedom" that the job accorded (the foreman was rarely around, and you could go home early once your quota had been met), and many established personal identities as hard coal workers. This is to say that thousands really enjoyed (and some still do enjoy) the occupation.

In fact, working conditions had generally improved in the post-war years. Company houses, stores, and script were no longer present. Workers had been represented by the United Mine Workers union that, until the corruption of the 1950s, had fairly well protected them. And, as mentioned, wages were decent—up to $21 per day. However, it was a lucky miner who worked 190 days a year, as the "down time" caused by economic slumps, strikes, or falling demand, was ever present.

The main reason limiting work time became alternative fuels—bituminous, fuel oil, and natural gas. Hard coal could not well compete even in its main market of home and building heating. The industry went into a downward spiral, and it brought great distress to the region. "People" became one of our leading exports.

The glutinous practices of companies like Knox, to include illegal mining under the Susquehanna River, clearly reflected the desperate attempt to take chances, scavenge the coal, and keep the business going. The tragedy highlighted the story of an industry in decline and corrupt leaders conspiring to get what they could while they could. This greed and chance-taking marked the final chapter of the deep mining era. More important for twelve area families, the mischief led to the bodies of their beloved ones still being trapped somewhere out under the river near Pittston.

Although some underground and strip mining continued in the northern coalfield around Scranton and Wilkes-Barre until the 1970s, the relative handful of young men (called the *Underground Miners*) who recently rehabilitated the Brooks Mine in Scranton's Nay Aug Park are among the few who still mine for a living. They work at a small operation in the southern field producing thousands of tons each year. There is a strong demand for their product, mainly in steelmaking. So far, they have been safe, in part because they are good miners, and in part because of the regulations to which they comply. And they love being coal miners.

Yet, as one of the group's members, Justin Emershaw, recently observed at the Eckley Miners Village during an Anthracite Mining Heritage Month presentation: "That's one of the biggest challenges I foresee for the future of this industry. It's very difficult to find younger people who want to develop the traits and put their boots on and come to work."

Our distant relatives built and maintained one of the nation's earliest industries, but it took their sweat and blood to do it. The lessons were learned. "Get a good job," parents said, which meant a well-paying and *safe* job. Consequently, for more than a half century, avoiding mine work has become the norm in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

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Internet Links

Historical Attractions

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

Cultural Partners

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

Anthracite Research

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

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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 historical 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.

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