



HISTORY BYTES
A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

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July - August 2025

Rick Sedliski, Editor



Source: Carter-White Collection, 2003

Lt. Ezra S. Griffin

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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Lt. Ezra S. Griffin's Sword Successfully Returned to Scranton

The following is the press release issued by The GAR Memorial Association and the Sons of Union Veterans Griffin Post #8

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Griffin's Sword is Back Home

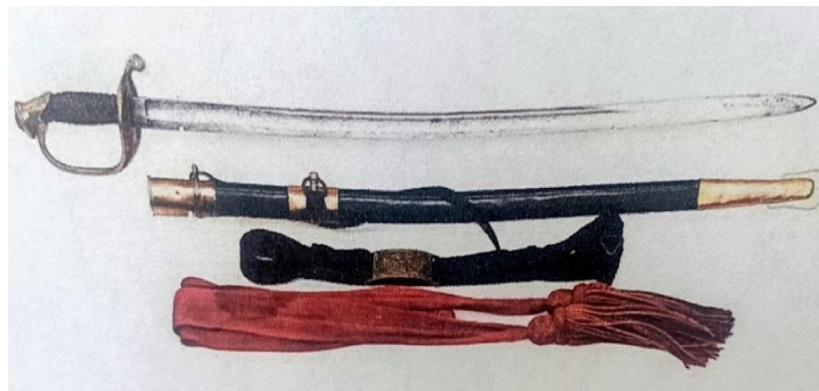
The GAR Memorial Association and the Sons of Union Veterans Griffin Post #8 are pleased to announce the return to Scranton of the sword worn by Lt. Ezra S. Griffin of Providence (now North Scranton) during the Civil War 1861-1865. The public is invited. Admission is free.

Lt. Griffin, after whom the SUVs Post 8 is named, volunteered for service in answer to the call by President Abraham Lincoln in 1861. The Civil War began with the bombardment of Fort Sumter in the harbor of Charleston, SC early on the morning of April 12, 1861.

Griffin joined the 143rd Pennsylvania Infantry in 1862. He fought through many of the major battles but was wounded at the siege of Petersburg, Virginia in 1864. He passed away from his injuries at a hospital in Annapolis, MD.

The official presentation ceremony for the return of the sword and sash he wore will be held on Sunday, July 20th at 2 pm in front of the GAR Museum, second floor, Marketplace at Steamtown, Lackawanna Ave, Scranton. A four-month effort by the GAR successfully raised the funds needed to return the sword from an auctioneer in Arizona.

Prayers, music by the Mark Montella Project and Mark Myers of Post 8 will be on hand. Light refreshments will be offered, Nick Petula, author of *Forgotten Hero: Life, Letters and Diaries of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin* will offer remarks.



Lt. Ezra S. Griffin's Sword and Sash

Looking Back



July 4th, 1919 Celebration: Location: Possibly Washington, DC

Two women dressed as Columbia and Lady Liberty

Image source: reddit.com

July 4th 1919

1919 was one of the most tumultuous years in American history. Not only did the country suffer from post-World War I economic inflation, but Americans also experienced labor unrest, the “Red Scare,” anarchist bombings, race riots, the end of the Progressive Era and the beginning of anti-immigration laws.

July 4th, 1919 was unique for another reason. It was the last July 4th when Americans could legally consume alcohol. On January 16th of that year, the 18th Amendment of the Constitution, more commonly known as Prohibition, was ratified and scheduled to take effect on January 17, 1920. One can imagine that on July 4th, 1919, the popular toasts might have been, “drink up” and/or “last call.” That “last call” stood for 13 years until repealed by the 21st Amendment on December 5, 1933.



*July 4th, 1919, Washington Monument, Washington, DC
Image source: ghostsofdc.org*



July 4th Fireworks, Scranton
Image source: valvanopix.com



July 4th Fireworks, Wilkes-Barre
Image source: pahomepage.com

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LHS 2025 Membership Information

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 Takes July Off

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>

Friday, August 29, at 2 pm: Heerman's Family with Gayle Williams. Link will be sent during the week of the event.

Save the Date

Saturday, September 20, 10 am – 2 pm: Local History Fair, Viewmont Mall, Details TBA

Sunday, October 12, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Night of Amusements, Details TBA

Thursday, October 23: LHS Annual Dinner, Details TBA

Ghostly Gallery Link

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

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Genealogy Forum European Tour IN-PERSON Sessions

Saturday, August 9, 10 am to Noon: Researching Germany with Tom Price at the Valley Community Library

Saturday, August 16, 10 am to Noon: Researching Czech Republic Records, with Michele Hokien at the Valley Community Library. Note: In the previous issue of History Bytes, Michele was mistakenly listed as Michael. We apologize for the error.

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

To register for European Tour sessions, please visit:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfaXp3wYsgRPQ7IA29lcix0Xyk0-8K7EfXpW8LInAHZXoNvw/viewform>

Genealogy for Beginners

The Genealogy for Beginners workshop takes place at the Albright Memorial Library, 500 Vine Street in the Henkelman Room on the Second Floor on Saturdays, October 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 9:30 am to noon. Participants must commit to all four sessions. The class size is limited to 10 people. **Registration closes Friday, September 26, 2024**, \$25.00 for LHS Members or \$35.00 for Non-Members (non-refundable)

Required: Laptop (NOT a tablet) / 3-ring binder / Notepaper

If you would like to register for the Beginners Course, go to:

<https://forms.gle/QCwMRbxj2CYqF82w5>

Download That Raw DNA File!

Take Charge of Your Genetic Data

Downloading your raw DNA file from any commercial testing company—like 23andMe, AncestryDNA, or MyHeritage—is a must.

Thinking about deleting your 23andMe account? The raw DNA file provided by 23andMe contains unprocessed genetic data from your saliva sample, detailing specific genetic markers. This file is distinct from the interpreted health, ancestry, or trait reports you see on their platform. Here's why downloading it is essential:

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

- **You Own It:** You paid for the kit, the testing, and the data generated. The raw DNA file is part of what you've invested in, and downloading it ensures you retain access to your genetic information.
- **Future Use:** Raw DNA files can be uploaded to third-party platforms (e.g., GEDmatch, MyHeritage, or health-focused tools) for additional ancestry insights, health analysis, or research purposes.
- **Data Preservation:** If you delete your 23andMe kit or account, you may lose access to your results and raw data permanently. Downloading the file safeguards your information before it's gone.
- **Privacy Control:** Storing your raw DNA file offline (e.g., on a secure hard drive) gives you full control over your sensitive genetic information, especially if you're concerned about 23andMe's data storage practices.

Quick Tips for Any Testing Company

- **Locate the Download Option:** Most companies (e.g., AncestryDNA under "DNA Settings," MyHeritage under "Manage DNA Kits") offer a raw data download in your account settings. Check their help or FAQ pages for specific steps.
- **Act Before Deleting:** Always download your raw DNA file and any reports before deleting a kit or account to avoid permanent loss.
- **Verify and Store Securely:** Ensure the file (usually a .txt or .zip) downloads correctly and store it in an encrypted, offline location.
- **Check Compatibility:** Different companies may format files slightly differently, but most third-party tools accept raw data from major providers.

Disclaimer: This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal or medical advice. Always review the testing company's privacy policies and terms of service before downloading or deleting your data. For the latest instructions, visit official websites.

R.T. Kebles
DNA Genealogist

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Dear Sir: How I Found My Civil War Veteran, Michael Gilbride

By Nancy Gilbride Casey

I have often wondered if our family had any Civil War veterans. Compared to some, ours is not the most deeply rooted American family. Among my earliest ancestors who came to the United States were James Gilbride and his wife Mary Hart Gilbride, who arrived in the U.S. in April 1850, on their way to Pennsylvania. They brought with them several children: Sons James (my 3x great-grandfather), Owen, and Francis, and daughter Rose.¹ But they also had two older sons, Michael and Martin, who must have emigrated at an earlier time.²

My first clue that we might have a Union soldier in our family history was a note in the book *History of Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties, Pennsylvania*. Here, a man named Michael Gilbride was noted as serving in the 52nd Pennsylvania, Company H.³ But was he part of our family?

Then, I found a second clue: Michael Gilbride, aged 37, registered for the Civil War draft in June 1863. He was an Irish-born miner then living in Jenkins Township, Luzerne, Pennsylvania.⁴ This also meshed with the known occupations of many of our Scranton-area male ancestors. Jenkins Township was located just to the southwest of the Borough of Scranton, so possibly some of the Gilbride men made their way to other area mines for work.

This Michael Gilbride had also applied for a Civil War invalid pension on 2 October 1884, while living in Sacramento, California.⁵ Pension files contain all the correspondences from a veteran to the pension office, outlining not only his war service, but also injuries or diseases that he sustained then or developed since, attributable to his service. A man's service had to be verified with the War Bureau. He also had to submit medical examinations certifying his disability, and affidavits from his commander or fellow soldiers attesting to his service before any action was taken to provide him with a pension. Sometimes the process could take years...such was the case for Michael.

Knowing that these pension files can be chock-full of genealogical information, I requested a copy of Michael Gilbride's file from the National Archives, to determine if I could connect him to our family.

The file did not disappoint—and held a few surprises.

Chief among the surprises was a letter from Michael's son, John A. Gilbride, of Lowell, Massachusetts, dated 7 December 1901.⁶

Ed. Note: The letter transcription on the following page is verbatim.

Transcription:

17 Gates St.

S. Boston,

Mass.

Commissioner of Pensions

Washington

D.C.

Dear Sir

Could you inform

me if Michael Gilbride is
drawing a pension or if he ever
did. He enlisted in Scranton
Penna in August 1864 and
discharged in June 1865. A
private in the 52 Penna.

infantry. This information I
would like if you could give it -
as his is my father and I have not
heard from him since 1872 and I
thought that this may might be able
to Locate him.

Thanking you for whatever
information you might be able to give I

I Remain

Yours Truly

John A. Gilbride

17. Gates St. ^{9th}
So Boston
Mass
Commissioner of Pensions
Washington
H. C.

Dear Sir

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me if Michael Gilbride is
drawing a pension or if he ever
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And I thought that this
way might be able to
Locate him. Thanking you
for whatever information you
my be able to give

I Remain
Yours Truly
John A. Gilbride
Dec 7. 1901.

P.S. the information in regard
to his enlisting and discharge
the dates are as near as I can
remember but the years are correct -
I think called the Regiment

Dec. 7, 1901.

*P.S. The information in regard
to his Enlisting and discharge
the dates are as near as I can
remember but - the years are correct -*

I think also the Regiment

*Antietam
Photograph by David Mark on Pixabay
Courtesy of Nancy Gilbride Casey*



Here was a man, identifying himself as Michael's son, living in a locality unknown to date in the Gilbride line—Lowell, Massachusetts. And that for whatever reason, his father had left the family back in 1872—nearly 30 years prior—never to be heard from again. John Gilbride clearly had the correct man: a Michael Gilbride who enlisted in Pennsylvania with the correct regiment. What a smart idea John had to track his father down by writing to the Pension Bureau!

Unfortunately, the news was not at all good. Correspondence in Michael Gilbride's file between his lawyer and the Pension Bureau revealed that Michael had died in Sacramento on 24 September 1886, years prior to his son John's inquiry. It must have been a devastating blow.

While I had previously pieced together the lives of the younger children of James and Mary Gilbride, the eldest sons, Michael and Martin, had proven more elusive. John's letter changed that. It helped me begin to build Michael's family tree and illuminate some of the family's circumstances.

Since uncovering this Lowell connection as well as Michael's residence, I have been able to track the family back into Pennsylvania and connect them to the family of our immigrant Gilbride ancestors who settled in Palmyra, Wayne County, Pennsylvania in 1850. Soldier Michael was the brother of my great-great-great-grandfather James Gilbride, and uncle to my great-great-grandfather, also named Michael.

Michael appears to have worked then in nearby Texas Borough, also in Wayne County, as a laborer.⁷ He may have lived in Seely Mills, and possibly worked on the Delaware & Hudson Gravity Railroad, a major employer in the area at the time, and part of the coal transportation route connected to the Delaware & Hudson Canal.⁸

Michael married Sarah Ruddy on 29 December 1850 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Honesdale.⁹ Seely Mills was about 2.5 miles from Prompton, where it appears Sarah lived at the time.¹⁰

The couple welcomed two sons into their family while living near Honesdale—John, our letter-writer, born about 1852—and Michael, born about 1855.¹¹

By 1860 the family was living in Jenkins Twp., Pittston Borough, Luzerne County, where Michael was "an early pioneer of coal mining."¹² There, the family grew to include two more children:

- Mary A., born December 1856
- Sarah J., born April 1859¹³

The family moved to nearby Pittston, Luzerne County, sometime between 1860-1870; during that time the couple's last two children were born:

- Rosa E., born July 1861
- James, born September 1863¹⁴

In August 1864, Michael voluntarily enlisted in the Union Army.¹⁵ Though he only served from August 1864 - July 1865, his duty resulted in injuries which cost him dearly in the years to come.

Stay tuned for more of the story in the next issue of *History Bytes*.

Nancy Gilbride Casey is a genealogical researcher and writer who has been researching her family roots since the early 2000s. She began her award-winning blog [Leaves on the Tree](#) in 2018 to share her discoveries. Nancy's writing has also been featured in genealogical publications in Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Ontario, Canada. She is a member of the National Genealogical Society, state societies in Texas, Pennsylvania, and Utah, and several local societies in her research localities. A proud Ohio native, she has lived in Texas for the past 27 years and currently lives in Tioga, Texas, with her husband. Reach her at ngcintx@gmail.com.

All websites accessed 1 June 2025.

¹ District of New York, Port of New York, Manifest of the Ship Liverpool, 3 April 1850, lines 212-217, family of Jas. Kilbride; digital image, "New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1891," *FamilySearch*, (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939V-559C-54>), citing NARA microfilm publication M237, "Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York 1820-1897," Roll 86; FHL 00467741, image 607.

² Wayne County, Pennsylvania, probate file 1383, James Gilbride; Register of Wills Office, Honesdale.

³ *History of Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Wyoming Counties, Pa, With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Their Prominent Men and Pioneers* (New York: W.W. Munsell & Co, 1880), p. 123; digital image, *Google Books* (https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_Luzerne_Lackawanna_and_Wyomin/IMosAQAAQAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0)

⁴ Provost Marshall General's Bureau, Consolidated List of Enrollments, No. 103, 13th Congressional District, Luzerne and Susquehanna Counties, Pennsylvania, Schedule II, Class II enrollments, Jenkins Twp., line 15, Michael Gilbride, 37, June 1863; database and images, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1666/images/32178_620305173_0173-00212), image 208; citing "Consolidated Lists of Civil War Draft Registrations, 1863-1865, Vol. 3," National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

⁵ Michael Gilbride (Pvt., Co. H, 52nd Pennsylvania Infantry, Civil War), Invalid Application file, I.O. 523.651; Case Files of Approved Pension Applications; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Record Group 15; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁶ John A. Gilbride, letter to Commissioner of Pensions, 7 December 1901; combined with Michael Gilbride (Pvt., Co. H, 52nd Pennsylvania Infantry, Civil War), Invalid Application file, I.O. 523.651; Case Files of Approved Pension Applications; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Record Group 15; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁷ 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Wayne, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Texas Twp., p. 231B (stamped), line 30, dwelling 345, family 375, Michael Kilbride, age 30; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/5519046:8054>).

⁸ Nancy Gilbride Casey, "Wayne County PA Genealogy Plus," *Facebook* (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/95109304109>), posting "What would a man have been working at in Texas, Wayne County in 1850 as a laborer..." 27 October 2022. "Based on the name of the owner of the boarding house (Mathias Keen) and other names on the page, I think that Michael Gilbride was living in Seelyville, which was not on the canal. The D&H Gravity Railroad ran through it however and is a likely candidate for his employer."

⁹ Barbara Spellman Shuta, Dickson City, Pa. [e-address for private use,] to Nancy Gilbride Casey, email, 31 August 2022, "Fwd. Marriage Record"; St. John the Evangelist Church, Honesdale, Wayne, Pennsylvania, Marriage Book 1, entry 96, marriage of Michael Kilbride and Sarah Ruddy, 29 December 1850; digital image obtained from Dorothy Kieff, church staff, 20 August 2022.

¹⁰ 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Wayne, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Borough of Prompton., p. 240A (stamped), line 28, dwelling 39, family 39, Sarah Roudy, age 19; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/5519734:8054>).

¹¹ 1860 United States Federal Census, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Jenkins Twp., p. 302 (stamped), 176 (penned), dwelling 1369, family 1389, household of Michael Gilbride (32); database/image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7667/images/4292152_00319).

¹² Ibid. Also, "John A. Gilbride is Buried in Lowell," *The Boston Globe*, 3 March 1925, p. 28, col. 8; image, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/111317378/john-a-gilbride-buried-in-lowell/#>). "Mr. Gilbride was born in Scranton, Penn., his father having been an early pioneer in the coal mining region."

¹³ Barbara Spellman Shuta, Dickson City, Pa. [e-address for private use,] to Nancy Gilbride Casey, email, 30 Nov. 2022, "Resend"; St. John the Evangelist Church, Honesdale, Wayne, Pennsylvania, Baptismal Register, Combined Baptism/Marriage Register 1, 1853-1883, Mary Gilbride, 29 Dec. 1856, and Sarah Gilbride, 17 April 1859. Also, 1870 United States Federal Census, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Pittston Twp., p., 25 (penned), dwelling 169, family 191, household of Michael Gilbride (40); database/image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4278598_00684).

¹⁴ 1870 United States Federal Census, Luzerne, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Pittston Twp., p., 25 (penned), dwelling 169, family 191, household of Michael Gilbride (40); database/image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4278598_00684). Also, B. S. Shuta, Dickson City, [(E-address for private use)] to Nancy Gilbride Casey, email, 1 November 2022, "Marriage Record; Personal email file, "Barbara Reports and Correspondence; privately held by Gilbride Casey [(E-address for private use)], Tioga, Texas.

¹⁵ Compiled Service Record, Michael Gilbride, Pvt., Co. H, 52nd Pennsylvania Inf.; Carded Service Records of Volunteer Organizations: Civil War (Union), 1861-1865, Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1762-1984, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.



A Brief History of Abington Hills Cemetery and Introduction to the Friends of Abington Hills Cemetery

By Crystal Armideo

In 1929 Leland and Elizabeth Green transferred the ownership of 107 acres to Abington Hills Cemetery Association, Inc. This land became what we know as Abington Hills Cemetery. It was advertised as a magnificently conceived architectural endeavor in the rolling hills of South Abington with contributions from engineers and landscaping artists who have worked on burial parks throughout the United States. The original plans included a mausoleum site, administration buildings and a chapel. Simplicity and dignity are features of this modern burial plot the brochure touts.

**Charter Granted to
Cemetery Association**

Papers recording the granting of a charter to the Abington Hills Cemetery association by Governor Fisher were received yesterday at the recorder of deeds office. The purpose of the association as outlined in the charter request are "the owning, operating and maintaining of a cemetery with chapel, receiving vault and mausoleum."

The subscribers are: Willard M. Bunnell, Edwin S. Williams, G. J. Hensel, G. D. Stoehr, Herbert S. Jones, Frank P. Benjamin, G. S. White, L. E. Greene, G. E. Haak, R. T. Wall and T. B. Rodham.

Scranton Tribune

January 25, 1929

Article courtesy of Crystal Armideo

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Abington Hills Cemetery --- The Cemetery Beautiful



In this busy world today a person must make all kinds of plans for the future. Plan a home - Plans for the children's education - Insurance for Health and Accidents - Annuities and Pensions for old age - and - the thoughtful person also plans a burial place - the thoughtful person buys at **Abington Hills Cemetery** in advance. It's better to have a cemetery plot and not need it than need it and not have it.

There is no expense in buying a cemetery plot in advance when you buy at **Abington Hills Cemetery**. The price of perpetual care is included in the purchase price and there is no additional expense - no taxes - no assessments - no upkeep - no interest. The Abington Hills Cemetery Association cuts the grass, maintains the roads and keeps them in good repair and open in the Wintertime.

You, too, can experience the comfort - security and peace of mind that comes from having made this provision in advance of need. Buy now - small down payments - and monthly payments within the reach of every family. Come visit with us.

At **Abington Hills Cemetery** the Office-Chapel Building provides a homelike atmosphere when you prefer to have the usual cemetery services inside instead of at the grave. Adjacent to the chapel is an impressive modern receiving vault with crypts - always available should the need arise.

Abington Hills Cemetery offers many different plans on burial areas for your selection.



The Gardens of Devotion, such as the "Garden of the Open Bible" or the "Garden of the Four Apostles" provide memorials as a sanctuary where you can visit and pray. In these areas, as well as in the Memorial Park areas, individual graves are identified by permanent Bronze Memorials.



Abington Hills Cemetery is a place of beauty and serenity where you can bring your loved ones with a feeling of security and confidence. The monument areas are most attractive with woodside settings or with plots overlooking the beautiful Thompson Lake. Areas with a character of their own are also available.



It is in the "Garden of the Open Bible" where sunrise services are conducted on Easter Sunday. Special services are also presented on Memorial Day to honor our loved ones who served their country. The Association also provides bus service on Memorial Day, Easter Sunday, or when the foliage is so beautiful in the Fall, for those who have no way to get to the cemetery.

The Abington Hills Cemetery Association, Inc.
Office: on the Morgan Highway
R.D. #1, Scranton, Pa.
Phone - Clarks Summit JU 6-7026
Mr. L. E. Greene, Superintendent

*Brochure introducing "The Cemetery Beautiful"
Courtesy of Crystal Armideo*

That was in the early 1900's. At that time Abington Hills Cemetery was a place of beauty and serenity. In the early 1980's Abington Hills Cemetery Association, Inc. sold the burial grounds. The successive ownerships did not uphold the high aspirations of the previous Association. The once pristine grounds, which held the headstones bearing the names of our loved ones, became choked with undergrowth, lost in the brush.

In June of 2022, Bill Davis, a retired banker, went to the cemetery and had trouble finding his parents' gravestone as the grass was taller than the stone. Bill recognized the need for volunteers to clean up the cemetery and enlisted the help of neighbors. Richard and Jennie Yarmey made a sign asking for volunteers, listing Bill's phone number. Friends and family

members came to the cemetery armed with mowers and weedwhackers to clear the graves of family members.

During the summer of 2024 Crystal Armideo stopped by the cemetery to visit her grandparents' grave. Frustrated with the unkempt condition she reached out to Bill Davis. Bill expressed he wanted to start a 501c3. Crystal agreed it would be beneficial. Mr. Davis's idea served as the catalyst for our nonprofit's innovation.

In August of 2024 Bill and Crystal met with Carol Wilkerson and Louise McDonnell of Shady Lane Cemetery, who had previously formed a successful 501c3, to discuss the details of forming a nonprofit. Following Carol's guidelines and submitting the necessary paperwork, FOAHC became official in January 2025.

The purpose of forming our nonprofit is to maintain the grounds that had been long neglected. Though we are making great progress we have so much more to do. This summer will bring the continued improvement to the grounds and reconditioning of our storage garage.

Many veterans have been laid to rest throughout the cemetery. We have a few famous residents: Willard "Bud" Jenkins who was a member of the 82nd Airborne. Several movies were made about these brave men; Charles "Chick" Shorten a great local baseball player inducted into the Hall of Fame, and others we have yet to discover. You can read their stories on our Facebook page, Friends of Abington Hills Cemetery.

Right>The Goldenrod Section is dedicated to members of the Masonic Fraternity and their families.

Photo courtesy of Crystal Armideo



The ad on the right contains two signs of the times.

- 1- Abington Hills is located on the "new" Morgan Highway
- 2- Far removed from the "mining zone"



The Abington Hills Cemetery, founded in 1929, has some 125 acres along the Morgan Highway - 30 acres fully developed with 10 acres under development. It is less than 2 miles from the city limits on a hillside overlooking the beautiful Abington Hills. An increasing income from an ever growing substantial Trust Fund guarantees PERPETUAL CARE to maintain the Cemetery.

Abington Hills Cemetery
On The Morgan Highway
R. D. #1, SCRANTON, PA.



The Cemetery Beautiful • Perpetual Care • Non-Denominational

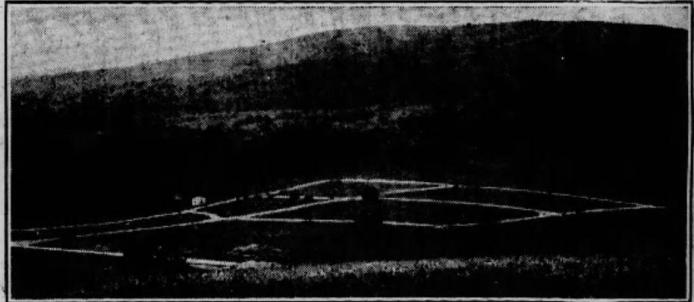
Above: Ad showing the layout of Abington Hills from the air with information on the new cemetery that includes acreage size, location in proximity to Scranton, etc. and Thompson Lake.

Images courtesy of Crystal Armideo

A note from the President: We owe a great deal of gratitude to Atty. Carol Wilkerson of Shady Lane Cemetery and our Secretary, Crystal Armideo, who led us through the organizational process. -Thank you, Bill Davis.

ABINGTON HILLS CEMETERY

On the Morgan Highway



Scranton's New Modern Burial Park

*

Payment Plans

THE prices of lots will be the same as for any purchase. A partial payment plan for advance purchasers, makes it exceptionally easy for you to buy in beautiful Abington Hills Cemetery.

Thinking men and women make arrangements for their final resting place as naturally as they take out insurance or make their wills.

*

Perpetual Care

First, for individual plots; second, for Cemetery as a whole, secured by Trust Funds with two Trust Companies.

*

Non Sectarian

*

AWAY from the noise of the city, amid rolling hills and verdure green, Abington Hills Cemetery combines all those elements of beauty, safety and sanctity which make the modern burial park, a resting place of peace and quiet for your loved ones.

Abington Hills Cemetery is situated on the new Morgan Highway, far removed from the mining zone. It consists of one hundred and seven acres of land, divided in plots ranging from one to twenty graves, mausoleum sites and spacious reservations for a beautiful chapel that is planned for the future. Simplicity and dignity are distinguishing features of this modern burial park.

You seek for yourself and your family the best in life, why not choose a final resting place with the same thoughtful care. Beautiful Abington Hills Cemetery has the appearance of a picturesque park or some well nourished estate, its serenity is impressive, its charm and restful peace hold out a comforting hand that will be most felt when urgent need presents itself and finds you prepared.

A map clearly descriptive of plots, mausoleum sites and approaches may be seen at the office of the company, 608 Mears Building, Scranton, Pennsylvania, or a representative will gladly call at your home or place of business at your convenience.

Abington Hills Cemetery Association, Inc.

608 MEARS BUILDING SCRANTON, PENNA.

OFFICERS

W. M. BUNNELL, President
E. S. WILLIAMS, Secretary
DAN J. REESE, Superintendent

F. P. BENJAMIN, Vice-President
G. J. KENNEL, Treasurer

W. M. BUNNELL
G. D. STOKE
G. E. KAAS

G. J. KENNEL
L. E. GREENE
E. S. WILLIAMS

DIRECTORS

H. T. WALL
H. S. JONES

ABINGTON HILLS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

608 MEARS BUILDING, SCRANTON, PENNA.

I am interested in Abington Hills Cemetery. Please supply me with further particulars.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Architectural Walking Tours Return!

Start your weekend off with some history! These free Friday and Saturday guided tours provide local residents and visitors with a chance to learn more about Downtown Scranton's magnificent architecture and the stories about buildings and neighborhoods you pass every day! Call the Society at 570-344-3841 to make a reservation.



Each tour focuses on a different thematic region of the city. Tours will spotlight the Gothic District and former "Clubhouse Row," the Lackawanna Avenue Commercial District, the lower portion of the Hill Section, as well as Courthouse Square.

The popular Architectural Walking Tours are limited to ten people. For more information, contact LHS by email at lackawannahistory@gmail.com



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

Wednesday, July 16: La Cucina Restaurant 600 S Blakely St., Dunmore 570-341-8747

Wednesday, August 20: Sidel's Restaurant 1202 N Main Ave., Scranton 570-343-6544

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

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

21st Annual
Plymouth Alive Kielbasa Festival 2025



Image source: allevents.in

If you are a kielbasa connoisseur, mark your calendar and make your way to Plymouth, PA the weekend of Friday, August 8 and Saturday, August 9. From 11am to 11pm both days, you can treat your taste buds to some of the finest kielbasa from across Northeast Pennsylvania extending from the Delaware River to the Lackawanna River to the Susquehanna River and beyond.

On both days in addition to local vendors and other attractions, live music featuring local bands will be at the Sue Gryziek Memorial Band Shell in the municipal parking lot. The highly anticipated Annual Kielbasa Tasting Competition will take place on Saturday at 2pm

at the American Legion on Center Ave. This event offers visitors the opportunity to taste and decide who offers the region's finest kielbasa.

There are two categories, fresh and smoked.



<https://www.visitluzernecounty.com>

Plymouth Alive is a non-profit Downtown Business Association designed to organize events to bring people to Plymouth and to give back to the many community and civic groups that help Plymouth prosper.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Pittston Tomato Festival 2025

The 2025 Pittston Tomato Festival, which has been called one of Northeast Pennsylvania's best festivals, takes place beginning 5pm, Thursday, August 18 through Sunday, August 21 at the Tomato Festival Grounds, South Main St., Pittston.

The four-day event, which attracts tomato connoisseurs from across the region offers live music, a 5k run, arts & crafts, games, bingo, carnival rides, including a large Ferris wheel, and home-grown Pittston tomatoes. The emphasis is on food, which includes pizza, pasta, and many other Italian dishes.



Image source: wne.com

Thursday, August 18th

5 p.m. Festival Opens
6 p.m. Opening Ceremony
6:30-7:00 p.m. Windfall
7:30-8:30 p.m. AM Radio
9:00-10:00 p.m. Fake Uncle Jack

Friday, August 19th

5:30-6:30 p.m. Phyllis Hopkins Trio
7:00-8:30 p.m. Fab 3
9:00-11:00 p.m. Sweet Pepper & Long Hots

Saturday, August 20th

(Streets are blocked for the race and parade at 9:30 a.m.)
10 a.m. 5K Race and Fun Walk
10:30 a.m. Parade
11:30 a.m. Race Awards Ceremony
1:00-2:00 p.m. Queen Scholarship Pageant
1:30 p.m. Tomato Fights at Cooper's Waterfront Restaurant parking lot (304 Kennedy Boulevard)
2:30-3:15 p.m. Danny Argo and Friends
4:00-4:45 p.m. Jump the Train Featuring Billy Knowles
5:30-6:15 p.m. 3 Imaginary Boys
7:00 p.m. Tomato Contest at the Committee stand: Largest, Smallest, Most Perfect and Ugliest Tomato
6:45-7:45 p.m. Banana Hammocks
8:00-8:30 p.m. Eddie Appnel
8:45-11:00 p.m. Flaxy Morgan

All are invited to participate in the annual Pittston Tomato Festival Parade, Saturday, August 20th, 10:30 a.m. in downtown Pittston.

2:30-3:15 p.m. Danny Argo and Friends
4:00-4:45 p.m. Jump the Train
Featuring Billy Knowles
5:30-6:15 p.m. 3 Imaginary Boys
7:00 p.m. Tomato Contest at the Committee stand: Largest, Smallest, Most Perfect and Ugliest Tomato
6:45-7:45 p.m. Banana Hammocks
8:00-8:30 p.m. Eddie Appnel
8:45-11:00 p.m. Flaxy Morgan

Sunday, August 21st

10:45 a.m. – Noon Little Miss and Little Mr. Tomato Contest
1:00 – 1:45 p.m. Perfect Harmony for the Arts
2:15 – 3:15 p.m. Strawberry Jam
4:00 – 5:30 p.m. The Poets
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Picture Perfect Band
8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Jeanne Zano Band

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Scranton JAZZ FESTIVAL 2025

Celebrates 20 Years



Image source:
<https://www.visitnepa.org/event/scranton-jazz-festival/16579/>

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

From August 1 through August 3, Downtown Scranton will be alive with the sounds of more than 80 artists offering their finest jazz at upwards of 20 venues. The New Orleans-style festival delivers performances from national, regional and local musicians and vocalists. On Friday and Saturday, a trolley will be available to take people to the various venues across downtown.



Image source:

<https://www.visitnepa.org/events/major-events-and-festivals/scranton-jazz-festival/>

Scranton Jazz coincides with *First Friday Scranton* and this year introduces the Interactive Arts Marketplace at Courthouse Square. The venue features artisan vendors, children's activities, live music, as well as special performances.



Image source:

<https://www.visitnepa.org/events/major-events-and-festivals/scranton-jazz-festival/>

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The music began in 2005 at Hanlon's Grove Amphitheatre at Nay Aug Park. Two years later, after a major snowstorm damaged the amphitheater, the fledgling Scranton Jazz Festival found new digs in the more sedate Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in downtown Scranton.

The festival has grown to become a mainstay on the Northeast Pennsylvania arts and culture scene providing a good mix of jazz, blues and world beat music performed by some of the best international, national and regional artists and musicians.



Image source:

<https://www.visitnepa.org/events/major-events-and-festivals/scranton-jazz-festival/>

For ticket information and schedule of events, visit <https://scrantonjazzfestival.org/> and as they say in New Orleans, ***Laissez les bon temps rouler (Let the good times roll)***. Copy and paste the link below for a trip back to the beginning and the Scranton Sirens performing Common Street Blues (recorded in New Orleans in 1925).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP0-_7s9egU

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Throwback Thursdays

at the Circle Drive-In, Scranton Carbondale Hwy.

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

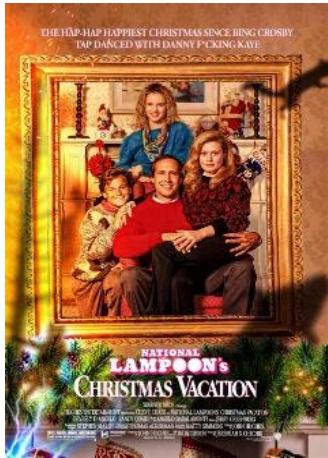


Image source: deviantart.com

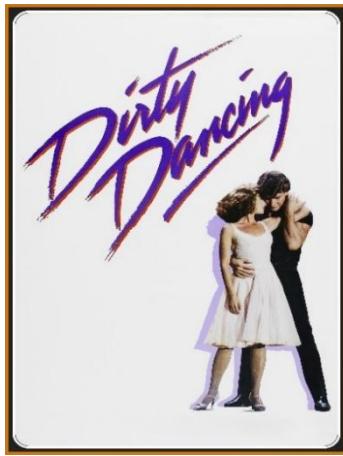
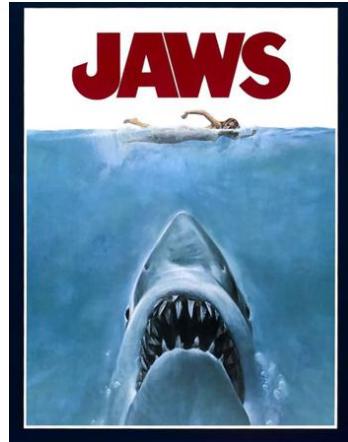


Image source: themoviedb.org



July 24 Christmas in July

July 31 (Rescheduled from June) JAWS returns in August!

An advertisement for NET Credit Union. The background is a gradient from orange to blue, with abstract geometric shapes. The main text 'Unlike Your Bank' is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, a subtext reads: 'If you're a member of the Lackawanna Historical Society, then you can Bank on NET!' There are six icons arranged in a 2x3 grid: a heart with '#netcares', a location pin with 'All Local', a person icon with 'Not for Profit', a switch with 'Diverse Products & Services', a house with 'Personalized Mortgage Services', and a credit card with 'No Annual Fee on Credit Cards'. At the bottom, the website 'netcreditunion.com' is listed, followed by the NET Credit Union logo.

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How Long Have the Trains Been Gone?



Delaware Lackawanna & Western 0-6-0 No. 40, along with crew members and others, pose for a photo along Green Ridge Street in Scranton in this early 1900's photo. The location is a short distance from the Lackawanna River and North Main Avenue, located to the left and from the D&H's Green Ridge Yard, located to the right. The steeple of St. Joseph's Catholic Church on N. Main Ave. and Theodore St is faintly visible near the far left side, behind one of the telegraph poles. Behind these buildings was trackage that connected the NYO&W Scranton Branch with Green Ridge Yard and the nearby Von Storch breaker. The locomotive was a Camelback type, because its cab was located in the center of the locomotive rather than at the rear end. This special design permitted the construction of a wider firebox needed to burn anthracite coal, but also meant that the engineer and the fireman were separated from each other. Today this area has one or two small manufacturing companies, but most of the scene is the location of a shopping center. None of the tracks occupied by the train or crossing the street still exist.

The location of the train and warehouses in the above photograph are where the Green Ridge Shopping Center now stands. Train is pointed in the direction of the former Delaware & Hudson Railway Green Ridge Street Underpass

Image source: Unknown. To date, efforts to locate the image source in order to provide proper credit have been unsuccessful.



This is the eighth in a series of edited reprints from "The Laurel Northeastern Pennsylvania's Magazine." It is planned to republish 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

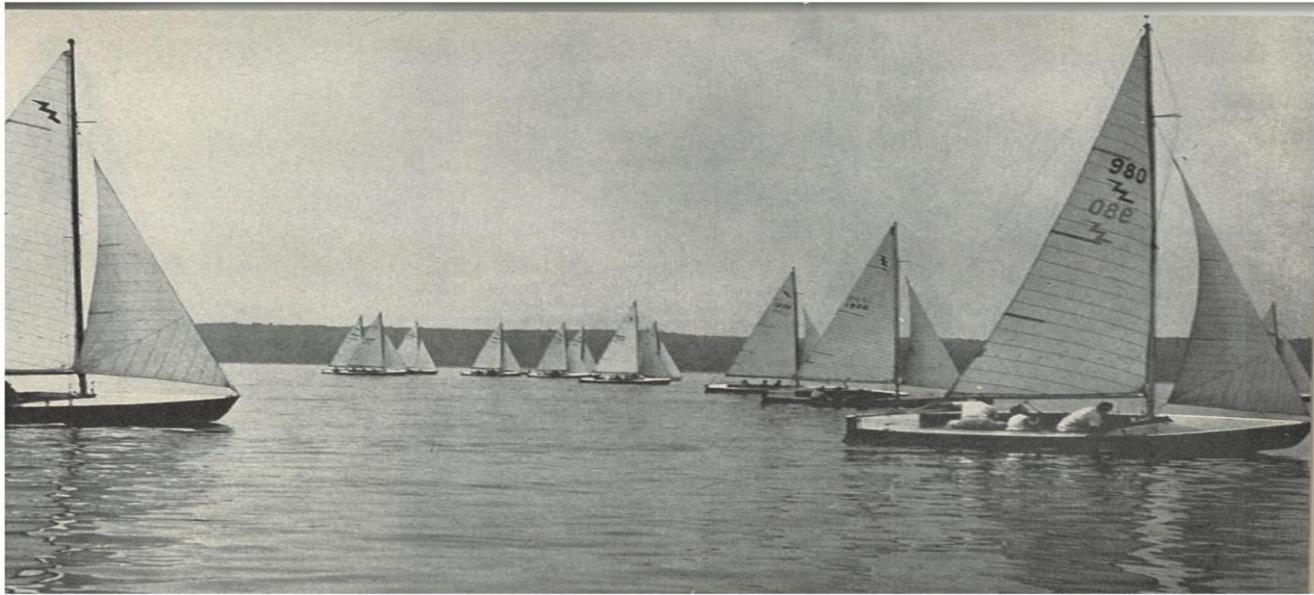
Lake Wallenpaupack was created in 1924-26 by the Pennsylvania Power & Light Company when it built a 70-foot-tall dam on Wallenpaupack Creek. The northeastern Pennsylvania lake, has a maximum depth of 60 feet, is near the Borough of Hawley and forms part of the boundary between Pike and Wayne counties. From 1926 until 1973 it was the largest lake—5,700 acres with a 52-mile shoreline-- contained entirely in Pennsylvania. In 1973 it was surpassed in size by Raystown Lake—8,300 acres, with a shoreline of 118 miles--entirely in Huntington County, Pennsylvania.

"Wallenpaupack" is an indigenous Lenape word which means "the stream of swift and slow water." Lake Wallenpaupack was designed for hydroelectric power and flood control. However, it is best known as an outstanding all-seasons destination in the Pocono Mountain area. Sailing and racing "Lightnings" have a long history and popularity as a recreational and competitive sport at Lake Wallenpaupack, evidenced by this reprint article from 1953.

Richard Fitzsimmons, Ph.D.

Transcriber

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JOE NEINER OF FLEET 980, RARITAN BAY, is the first over the line in the initial race for the Metropolitan District Championship at Lake Wallenpaupack.

Racing Lightnings at Wallenpaupack

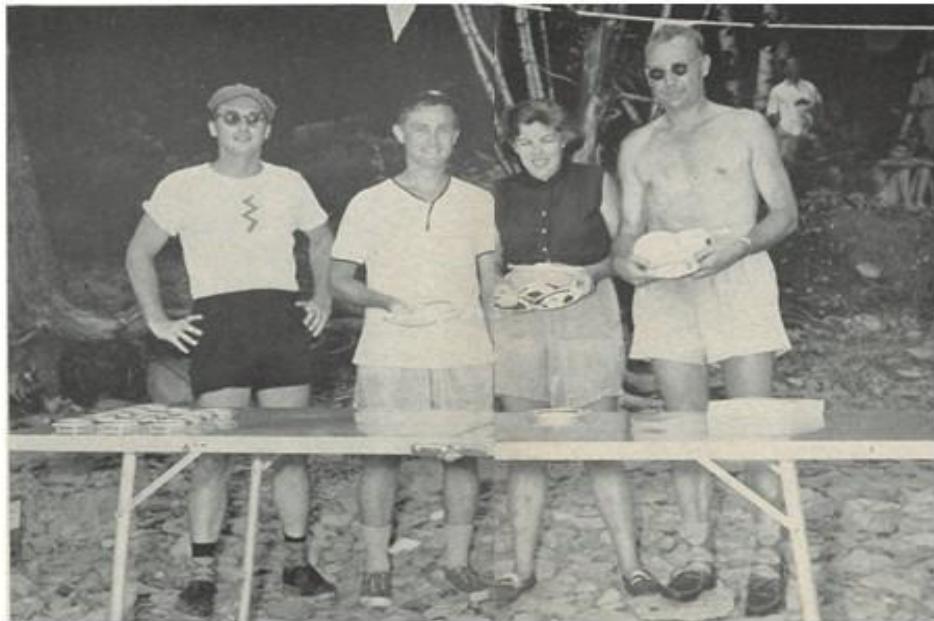
The small lightning class sailboats, which a wind can pick up and clip along through the water when they have plenty of space ahead of them, had a field day on massive Lake Wallenpaupack this Summer in the largest sailboat race ever held in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Thousands attended the three day regatta.

Lake Wallenpaupack's Fleet 16, under Commodore H. T. Axford, of Scranton, was host to Lightning Class Skippers from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania for Metropolitan District Championship. The winners competed in the International regatta at Buffalo last weekend

Easily handled, the small lightning class sailboat is usually manned by a crew comprised of a skipper and two sail handlers. Standards set for building of all lightnings are rigid so that the competition is between the contestants and does not involve the skill of designers and boat builders. Paupack sailing fleet 16 is an early fleet charted in 1940 by W. T. Lindsay, P. A. Hutchinson, R. B. Edgar and H. T. Axford.

Photo above right: JUDGE BILL SCHUMACHER, of Paupack Fleet, head of race committee, instructs skippers in opening races.





PHIL SCHUMACHER congratulates the skippers who won the first three places, right, Ed Water, second place, June Methot, first place, and Joseph Hoffee, third place.

Pictorial Highlights Lightning Craft Regatta

THIS was the first district Championship to be held on a man made lake. Lake Wallenpaupack, thirteen miles long and with 52 miles of shoreline, was created by Pennsylvania Power and Light Company in 1925. The largest lake wholly within the commonwealth, Wallenpaupack is used to store water for the 40,000 kilowatt peak load hydro electric plant at the site. Open to the public, it is one of the best fishing, hunting and camping locations in Pennsylvania.



BOATS PASSING before committee boat to receive instructions on conduct of race.



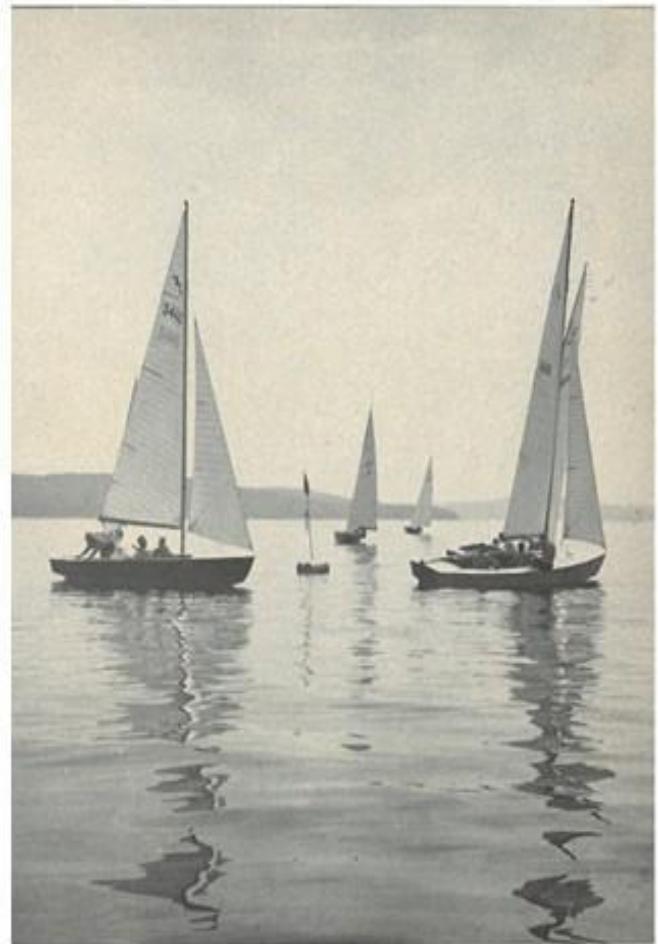
SCRANTON CONTESTANTS, members of the Paupack Fleet, Commodore Axford, his daughter Elsie, and Tina Schultz, off to the races.



COMMODORE HENRY ABREU, right, Chelsea Fleet, congratulates Phil Schumacher and his wife, Barbara, on their election as commodore and secretary of Metropolitan District for 1954 season.



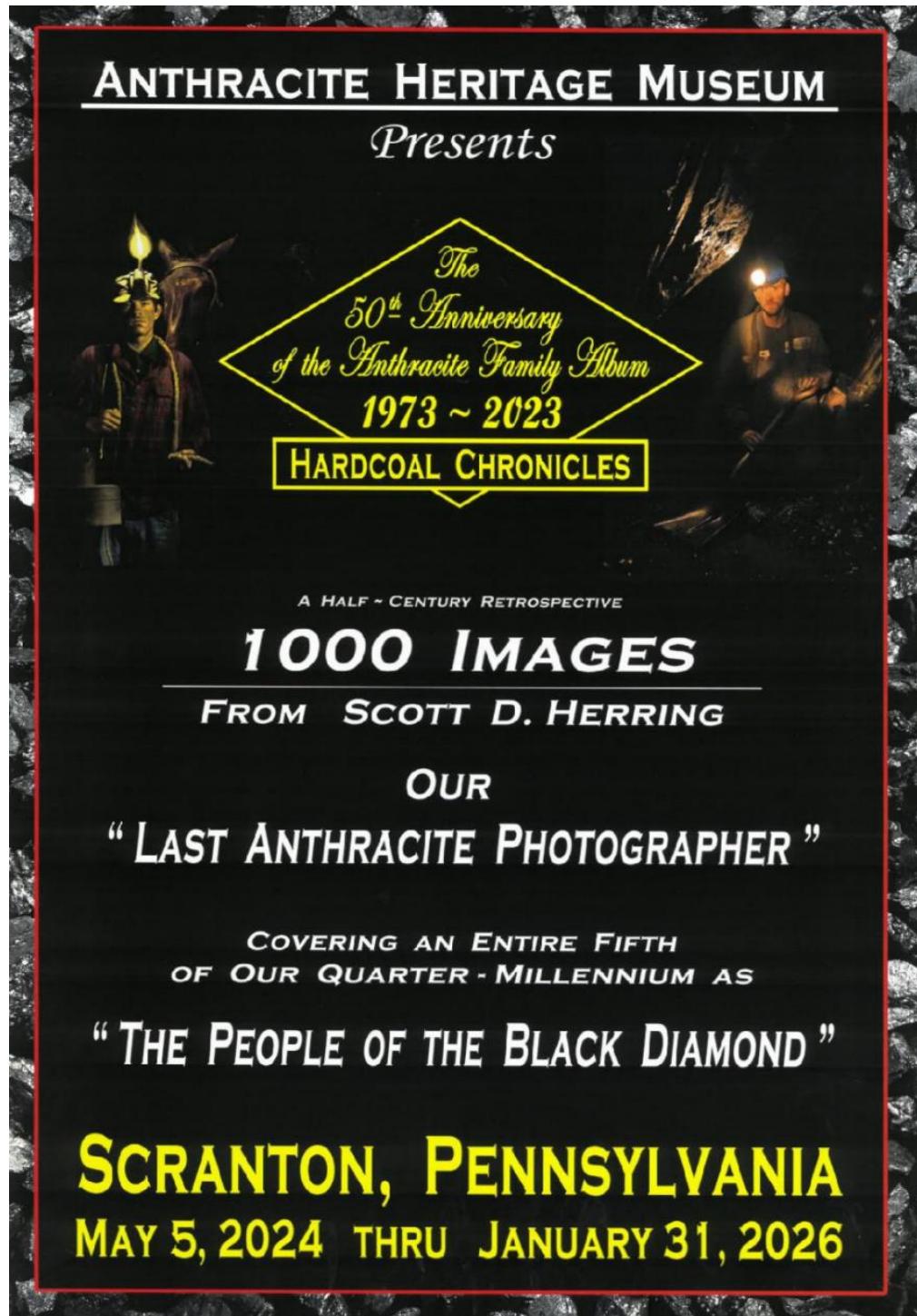
MESSRS. BROE and WATSON, members of the race committee, from Nyack Fleet and Judge Schumacher and Dick Davis in preparation of the races.



FORMER CHAMP BILLY SOOSE, discusses arrangements with Claren Hoch, an official of the Pennsylvania Power and Light Co., who is Captain of Lightning 884 Paupack Fleet.

CALM SETS IN AS RACERS PASS AROUND BUOY, but in following races a strong wind picked up the sails and hurried the boats along in record speed.

Anthracite Ancestry



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Subscribe to History Bytes

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

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

If you have any Northeast Pennsylvania-related stories to include in History Bytes, please contact the Society at the above email address. Please include your name, email address and a brief description of your story.

Internet Links

Historical Attractions

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority
Anthracite Museum and Iron Furnaces
Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour

Steamtown National Historic Site
Electric City Trolley Museum

Cultural Partners

Albright Memorial Library and the Lackawanna County Library System
The Everhart Museum
Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple
Scranton's Annual Civil War Weekend Events
Scranton Times-Tribune's Pages from the Past

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	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	
<u>Plymouth Historical Society</u> www.plymouthhistoricalsocietyluzernecopa.org	
Scott Township Historical Society: Contact Robert Vail 570-254-9536	
Taylor Historical Society: Contact Christine Schaefer 570-562-1225	

County and Educational Partners

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Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau
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Business Hours

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

Founded in 1886 as the Lackawanna Institute of History and Science, the Lackawanna Historical Society provides the community with a record of local history through its museum and library collections, exhibits and programs. In 1942, from 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 Lackawanna Historical Society is 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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