



**HISTORY BYTES**  
***A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication***

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*Rick Sedliski, Editor*

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*Image source: totalreporter.com*

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This is the 10th 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](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com)

### **General John Sullivan's March: Pennsylvania, 1779**

Colonel George Washington, of the Virginia Militia, was appointed General and Commander-in Chief of the Continental Army on June 14, 1775, by the action of the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, three days before the famed Battle of Bunker Hill. Other generals were also appointed, including John Sullivan, as Brigadier General.

The Battle of Wyoming (actually in Exeter, Pennsylvania), aka the Wyoming Massacre, was on July 3, 1778. It was planned in 1778 by the Iroquois and British Tories in Athens, Pennsylvania. This battle was a massive defeat of American colonists at the hands of the Iroquois and Tories, with an estimated 340 deaths, 20 persons captured, many American scalpings, along with the kidnapping of Frances Slocum, a 5-year-old Quaker child, later known as "The Lost Child of Wyoming." In retaliation, in 1779, General and Commander-in-Chief George Washington, ordered Brigadier General John Sullivan to lead a major expedition of the Revolutionary War against the Iroquois and British Tories. This "scorched-earth" campaign destroyed 40 Indian villages, devastated the Indians' fields, burned their food supplies, and forever eliminated the Indian-Tory frontier menace from the Susquehanna River Valley of northeastern Pennsylvania and the southern tier of New York.

Sullivan assembled his troops----estimated at 5,000 men, and 1,200 packhorses, 700 head of cattle, 134 flatboats, artillery of cannons, howitzers, and a coehorn----in Easton, Pennsylvania, leaving that area on June 18, 1779, after a month's preparation. Five days later Sullivan and his men and materiel arrived in Wilkes-Barre on June 23, camping on the River Common, an area near South River and South streets, presently the location of Wilkes University's Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts. This was its mobilization base from June 23 to July 31 in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The march from Wyoming to Tioga Point (Teaaga) and the establishment of Fort Sullivan, a site near Athens, Pennsylvania, began on August 1, 1779.

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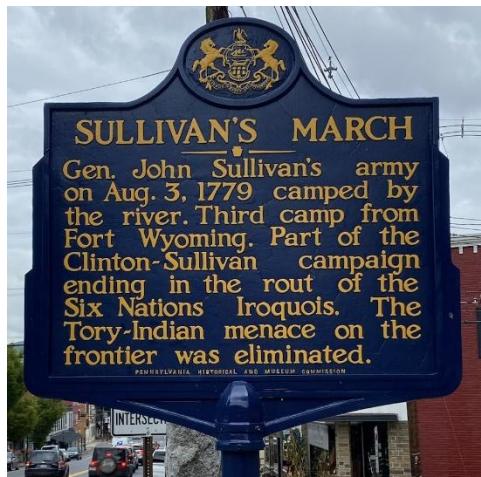
Subsequent encampments listed in order in Pennsylvania were all on the eastern shore side lowlands of the Susquehanna River (North Branch), as follows: #1 at Lackawany, Luzerne County, an area approximately 7 miles north of Wilkes-Barre, at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Lackawanna rivers, July 31; #2, 10 miles, at Quialutimack, in Falls Township, Wyoming County, August 1-2; #3, 12 miles, at Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, August 3; #4, 14 miles, on the Vanderlip Farm, at Black Walnut, Wyoming County, August 4; #5, 10 miles, Wyalusing Township, Bradford County, August 5-7- including the Battle of Lime Hill; #6, 13 miles, Tuscarora Township, near Wysox and opposite Standing Stone, Bradford County, August 8-9; #7, 15 miles, at Sheshecunnuck (Sheshequin) Flats, Bradford County, August 9-10, the last over-night encampment previous to arrival on August 11 at Tioga Point (Teaoga).

It was on August 11, 1779, that the troops marched approximately 8 miles from Sheshecunnuck (Sheshequin) Flats to Tioga Point (Teaoga), Bradford County, where General Sullivan established Fort Sullivan, in what is now Athens, Pennsylvania (2 miles south of the Pennsylvania/New York border, on the Susquehanna and Chemung rivers). Tioga Point (Teaoga) was the southern door of the Iroquois Confederacy. With a camp at Tioga Point (Teaoga), it was the base for General Sullivan's subsequent Central New York campaign and defeat of the Indian-Tory alliance. The fort had four block houses, curtains, and abatis, and housed 5,000 men. The area of the fort was opposite the present Tioga Point Museum, and it was occupied by the American Revolution's Continental Army from August 11-26, 1779.

General John Sullivan's Expedition was the march that destroyed savagery and opened the Keystone and Empire states to civilization.

--Richard Fitzsimmons, Ph.D.

## THE KILROY OF THE REVOLUTION



Few generals in American history have had their tracks so well posted with roadside markers than was Major General John Sullivan of the Continental Army. Starting in the Poconos, into Wilkes-Barre, and along the Susquehanna River up to the New York line, where that state takes over, historical markers acclaim his fame.

Male motorists, unless they stop and scan the skimpy information on the markers, can't answer their kids' question "Who's Sullivan?" unless they pass it off with a recount of the victories of the Boston Bully Boy, John L. Sullivan.

Until he took his trip through the mountains in 1779, General Sullivan's score had been pretty bad, although he had the complete confidence of General Washington. A New Hampshire lawyer, a delegate to the first Continental Congress, Sullivan was one of the first eight major generals named to aid Washington. He was placed in charge of the Army in Canada, beaten at the Battle of Three Rivers and his command given to

General Horatio Gates. Sullivan commanded a few regiments in the battle of Long Island and after a three-hour fight was forced to surrender.

He was exchanged for British General Prescott. He led a division at Hanover, NJ, from whence he launched an unsuccessful attack on Staten Island. For this expedition, he was much blamed, but a court of inquiry gave him an honorable acquittal. He commanded the right wing at the Battle of Brandywine, where his horse was shot from under him, and he chalked up another loss. He was blamed, justly or unjustly, for the loss of this battle which enabled British General Howe to enter Philadelphia. His division and that of General Mad Anthony Wayne bore the brunt of the battle, and they both could have been charged with the loss.

Washington, however, never lost faith in Sullivan. Again, while he displayed great personal valor, Sullivan's troops took to their heels at the Battle of Germantown. He went through the terrible Winter at Valley Forge and, although the war had rendered him financially destitute, he remained with the Army and was placed in charge of troops in Rhode Island.

General Washington, in his overall strategy, realized that to win the war it was necessary to destroy the alliance between the British and the Iroquois. This he deemed an essential blow against England.

The Iroquois, contrary to popular belief, was not one tribe of Indians, but a confederation, known as the Six Nations, composed of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas. The sixth tribe, the Tuscaroras, was from North Carolina and had no part in this story. The Oneidas remained friendly with the Continental Army and did a great deal of spying on their Indian friends.

Washington was not motivated by the Wyoming Massacre, the year previous, when 700 Iroquois, aided by 400 British regulars and Tories, under Tory Leader John Butler and Mohawk Chief John Brandt, came down the Susquehanna, defeated Col. Zebulon Butler, and massacred most of the settlers in Wyoming Valley.

Instead, the expedition was not a mere punitive force, as is commonly considered, but a major campaign of the American Revolution to which Washington assigned a third of the strength of the Continental Army.

He offered the command to General Gates with the proviso that, if he were unwilling, it was to be passed on to Sullivan. Gates declined because he believed he was physically unable to stand the hardships involved.

General Sullivan grabbed it up. His orders read: "The immediate objectives' are the total destruction and devastation of their settlements (the Iroquois) and the capture of as many prisoners of every age and sex as possible."

General Sullivan mobilized his army in April at Easton, marched across the Poconos to the Wyoming Valley where he experienced a long and aggravating delay because of the failure of provisions, equipment and troops to arrive. Plans called for General James

Clinton, with 1500 troops, to leave the Mohawk Valley, traveling the Susquehanna from Otsego Lake, and meet Sullivan at Tioga Point, now Athens, Pa.

Sullivan, impatient with the long delay, dashed off a complaining letter to Congress, and on July 31 started his army up the river. His provisions were scant; his troops poorly equipped and clothed. They numbered about 4,000 plus 800 cattle and 1,200 horses. To move this cumbersome array of manpower through the wilderness seemed next to impossible. Heavy baggage, including 10 cannon, was poled up the river in bateaux, while the men and animals pushed through the woods and swamps bordering the river.

They were continually harassed by small bands of Indians who retreated before them. Sullivan sent troops to destroy all the deserted Indian villages, and to burn their fields and stored grain, on both sides of the river as he traveled north.

Eleven days later he arrived at Tioga Point where he established his main base. While waiting for Clinton, he sent small units of his troops to lay waste to all Indian villages in the area.

General Clinton arrived on August 22 and four days later. Sullivan pushed into the Iroquois country. Three days later his army was approaching Newton, near Elmira, New York, where Col. Butler and an undetermined number of British, Tories and Iroquois were waiting in ambush. Their number varied, according to reports, from 1500 to 3000.

Fortunately, one of the scouts with Major James Parr, who headed a battalion of Morgan's Riflemen, climbed a tree to study the terrain and discovered the movements of several Indians, who were conspicuous by the quantity of paint they had on them, as they were lying behind an extensive breastwork.

His warning saved Sullivan from walking into the ambush. The general was able to array all his forces, including cannon, in correct battle formation and to send Generals Poor and Clinton in flanking attacks. The battle lasted three hours.

The British and their savage allies were routed so completely that from then on they were unable to stop Sullivan from moving at will through the country of the Six Nations, burning villages and destroying forever their power as a fighting people, thus making the Susquehanna safe from the Indian, and dealing the English a decisive blow by not only removing the Indians from the scene but also shutting off the rich granary of Iroquois supply.



How well he did his job is revealed in his report to the Congress. He said he destroyed 40 Indian towns, besides the uncounted number of smaller settlements, and all the grounds under cultivation, all supplies in storage, and every fruit tree nurtured by the Indians.

"I am persuaded," he said, "that there is not a single town left in the Iroquois Nation." He returned to Wyoming on October 8th. His expedition was a major chapter in the American Revolution.

General Sullivan retired from the army the same year and was at once elected to Congress. He served two terms as governor of New Hampshire and one term as attorney general of the same state and later as a United States Judge in the district of New Hampshire.

During the last fifteen years of his life he was hounded by creditors who on his death on January 23, 1795, under a statute of that day, attached his body and held it from burial until Col. Joseph Cilley, who served under him in the wilderness, drew his pistols and held officers of the law at bay while the old general was interred

### *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>

### *LHS 2025 Membership Information*

Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notices, 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 Past Times, Upcoming Events & Meetings*

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

### *On Zoom*

**Friday, November 21, at 2pm:** Scranton Architects part 2 with Mary Ann Savakinus

**Friday, January 30, at 2 pm:** Our Common Home: Scranton and the Environment with Bill Conlogue

**Friday, February 27, at 2 pm:** Carpatho Rusyn Sports with George Pawlush

Join us Friday, November 21 at 2pm for a tour through Scranton's elegant architecture from the 1920s through the 1960s! Learn more about the men and women who designed some of our favorite structures. This program, presented by LHS director Mary Ann Savakinus, is part two of the series. If you missed the earlier session about the city's first architects, you can watch it on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmGMoJyF4BU>.

### *In Person*

#### *UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT THE CATLIN HOUSE*

**Saturday, November 22, 11 am:** *Pysanky Making Workshop* at the Catlin House (fee \$30)  
Registration required: [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com)

**Sunday, December 7, 2 pm:** *Scranton's Bygone Department Stores* book signing, Catlin House

**Sunday, January 25, 2 pm:** *Murder in Old Forge* book signing, Catlin House

**Saturday, January 31, 2 pm:** *Anthracite Mining Heritage Month Program:*  
Anthracite Breaker Boys lecture by Charlie Kumpas, Catlin House

### *Save the Date*

**Thursday, January 22, TBA.** January Blues, Catlin House

**Friday, July 12, 11 am:** *Brunch with Thomas Jefferson* (Details TBA)

### *Ghostly Gallery Link*

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

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

To ensure our program's success, please consider purchasing an advertisement. For information, please contact LHS at [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com) or 570-344-3841.

*Wednesday, November 19: Dine Lackawanna at Stima's, 120 W Market St, Scranton 570-343-5742*

*Wednesday, January 21: Dine Lackawanna at Mangia, 127 W. Market St., Scranton 570-800-5116*

*Wednesday, February 18: Dine Lackawanna at Abbioccoo, 639 Northern Blvd., Clarks Summit 570-319-9633*

### *Genealogy Forum*

*2026 Zoom Program Schedule Coming Soon*

### *From Pittston to Sacramento: Michael Gilbride Moves West*

*By Nancy Gilbride Casey*



*Along the Sacramento River, 1870s. Michael Gilbride lived just blocks away from these docks by 1884.  
Image courtesy of Nancy Gilbride Casey*

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Marital discord and a loss of fortunes could have played a role in the disintegration of Michael and Sarah Gilbride's family. While the exact causes may never be known, it was clear that around 1872 Michael Gilbride left Pittston, Pennsylvania, and moved west, while Sarah and their children moved to the Lowell, Massachusetts, area.<sup>1</sup>

While in Pennsylvania after the war, it appeared that his injuries from the Civil War did not impact Michael's ability to earn a good living. If he had not lost his home in 1872 due to a debt, who knows how far he might have gone. But by the time he applied to the Pension Bureau in 1884, his injuries had significantly affected his ability to earn a living.

Michael wrote to the Bureau many different times to pursue his claim. In turn, they requested more information to verify it. With each affidavit he wrote, his memory of events seemed to become clearer, and more details of his service emerged—while he also appeared to become more desperate. Poignantly, in one he notes that, "...being a poor scholar he did not keep dates of the several events..." and "...That he is unable to write and consequently has to depend on his memory for dates and circumstances." Since he was illiterate, all of his affidavits were dictated to lawyers for transcription.

*September 25, 1884*

*State of California }*

*County of Sacramento }*

*On this Twenty-fifth day of*

*September A.D. one Thousand Eight*

*Hundred and Eighty-four personally*

*appeared before one Chas. H. Coglan*

*clerk of the Superior Court, a court*

*of record within and for the County*

*and State aforesaid Mike Gilbride*

*aged 53 years, a resident of the City of*

*Sacramento, County of Sacramento,*

*State of California, who being duly*

*Sworn according to law, declares that*

*he is the identical Mike Gilbride*

*who was enrolled on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of*

*August in the year 1864 as a private*

*in company H of the 52nd Pennsylvania*

*Volunteers and was honorably discharged*

at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on the  
month day of August 1865, that his  
personal description is as follows

Age 53 years, height 5 feet 2 1/2 inches  
complexion Fair hair - Brown tinged gray -  
eyes Gray - . That while a member  
of the organization aforesaid in the service  
and in the line of his duty he re-  
ceived a bullet-wound in his left  
hand wrist, in a skirmish near  
the Santee River, South Carolina,  
about February 21st 1865.

That furthermore he has had the mis-  
fortune of loosing his right eye, altho' he  
did not loose it while in actual service, still  
he firmly believes that the exposures and hardships  
he underwent in the army, helped toward the loss of the same.

That he has never been employed  
in the military or naval service other  
wise than as stated above. That since  
leaving the service this applicant  
has resided in Idaho Territory and  
California and his occupation has  
been that of a laborer. That prior  
to his entry into the service above named  
he was a man of good sound, physical  
health, being where enrolled a coal-miner.

That he is now 2/3 dis-abled from ob-  
taining his subsistence by manual  
labor, by reason of his injuries above-

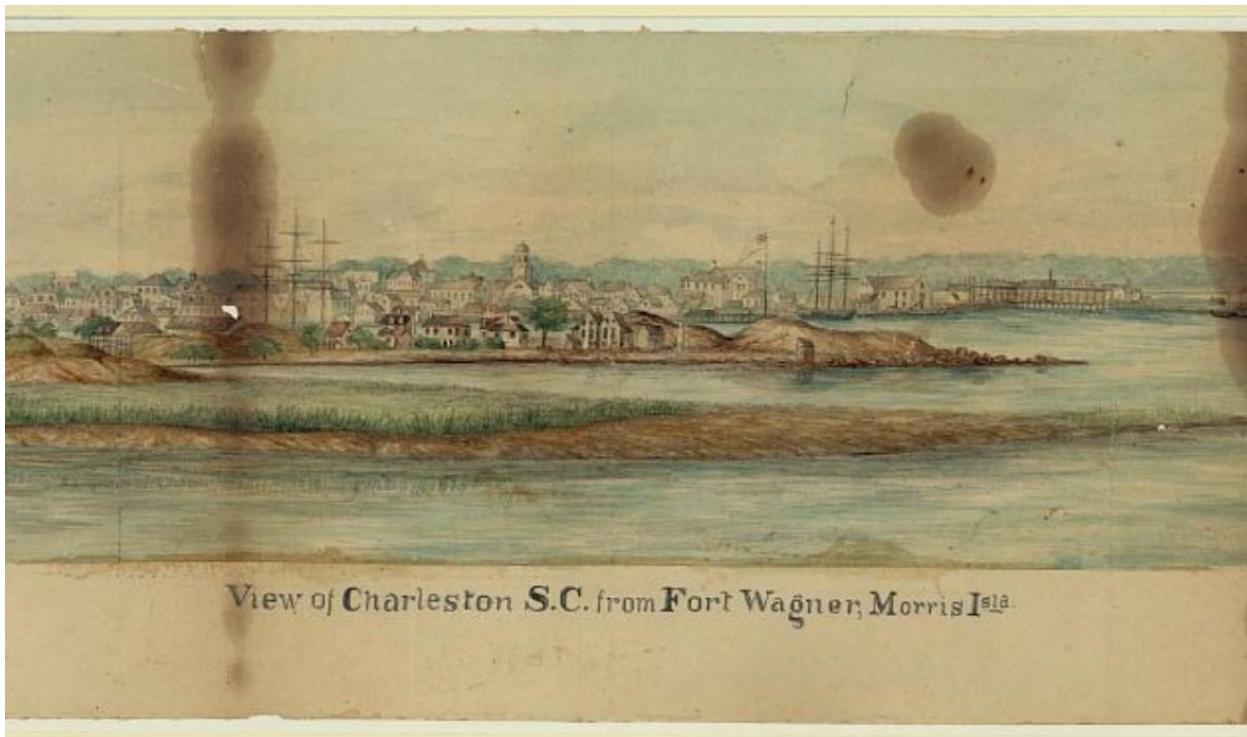
*described received in the service of the United  
States and he therefore makes this declara-  
tion for the purpose of being placed on the  
invalid pension roll of the United States  
That he has never received nor applied  
for a pension. That his Post Office add-  
ress is 1011 4th Street, Sacramento  
City, Sacramento County, State of California.*

*15 November 1884*

*Michael Gilbride, being duly sworn  
according to law deposes and says:  
the while in the line of duty he received  
a bullet-wound in his left wrist, in a  
skirmish near the Santee River, South Carolina  
about February 21<sup>st</sup> 1865, which disabled  
his left hand.*

*That furthermore when making his or-  
iginal application for pension he  
omitted to state that his right eye was  
powder burned, by the explosion of a gun  
at Fort Wagner, Morris Island in front  
of Charleston, South Carolina, about  
1 week before the evacuation of Charleston.*

*That the aforesaid wound in his  
wrist was dressed in the field, by some  
one he cannot say who, and that the  
only hospital treatment he received was  
that received about one week later  
when his wound was attended to in a  
field hospital near Newburn, North Carolina.<sup>2</sup>*



*View of Charleston S.C. from Fort Wagner, Morris Isla*

*Watercolor view of Charleston, S.C. from Fort Wagner, Morris Island. Michael referenced his presence here several times in his pension application.<sup>3</sup>*

*6 March 1886*

*Michael Gilbride*

*being duly sworn according to law doth depose  
and say that he is the identical Michael  
Gilbride who was a Private in Co. "H." 52nd Regt.  
Penna. Infantry; that while in the line of  
his duty at Fort Wagner, Morris Island in front  
of Charleston, South Carolina, about one week  
fore the Evacuation of Charleston, his  
eye right eye was injured and powder burned  
by the explosion of a gun, by reason of which  
he has since had to have the eye taken  
out and That afterwards and while in the  
line of duty he receive a bullet wound  
in his left wrist in a skirmish near the*

Santee River, South Carolina, on or about  
the 21st day of February 1865, which  
disabled his left hand, which wound  
was dressed first near Charleston by  
some person unknown to deponent,  
Deponent was then place on a boat for  
Moorhead City, and arriving there  
was marched to Newbern, North Carolina  
when his wound was dressed by some  
person unknown to deponent.

That Sergt. Roberts had command of the  
charge on "Hampton's Cavalary" when  
deponent's hand was disabled, and although  
he has made inquires and written to  
Said Sergeant he has been unable to  
find his whereabouts, and he now  
firmly believes said Roberts is dead.

Deponent is also informed and believes  
that the records of the Regiment to which  
he belonged were lost and therefore  
cannot obtain any information from  
them or of them. Deponent further  
says that it would be impossible for him  
to give dates and times of treatment to  
his injuries as when he went back to Penna.  
he was treated by Drs. Townley and Durkan  
both of whom are dead; Deponent further  
says that he left Pennsylvania and came  
to Sacramento, California, and was treated  
by Dr. Morris who has since disappeared-

Deponent further says that he went to San Francisco and had his eye taken out by Dr. Wyler, who has also disappeared having written to him on different occasions the letters being returned to the writer~Deponent solemnly avers the the above statements are true and correct that his memory is clear as to said transactions but being a poor scholar he did not keep dates of the several events. That Deponent is not not now able to perform any heavy Manual labor by reason of the loss of his eye and use of his left wrist but that he is sound in body otherwise and does not desire to be consigned a poor house during the balance of his life.

9 August 1886

....That he has written letters to Joseph R. Roberts, his sergt. at Falls, Wyoming Co. Pa. but has been unable to receive any answer thereto= That he has stated fully and correctly to your department how his eye was injured (of which he is now blind) having had to have it taken out on account of having It powder burned at Morris Island (in Fort Wagner) South Carolina, by the bursting of a cannon while firing at

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the steamboat "Fox" a blockade runner~  
That he deponent got shot through the  
Left wrist near the Santee River, which  
has almost disabled him from having  
any use of it-That deponent has  
wrote letters of inquiry to his officers  
and doctors of his regiment but  
has been unable to receive any  
reply and now supposes they are  
dead~That he has used his very best  
Endeavors to find them but without  
avail~Deponent further says that in  
regard to the Effection of his left eye he  
was advised by the Doctor who performed  
the operation of removing his right eye  
that if it was not removed he deponent  
would become blind Entirely~Deponent  
further states that he is now near fifty-  
six years of age and not capable of  
Doing a days work~That all the papers  
on file in this his application are true  
and correct~That he is unable to write  
and consequently has to depend on his  
memory for dates and circumstances-  
and that unless some relief is grants  
he will be compelled to become a charge  
on the public~Deponent further says  
that the doctor who removed is Eye is  
now deceased...<sup>4</sup>

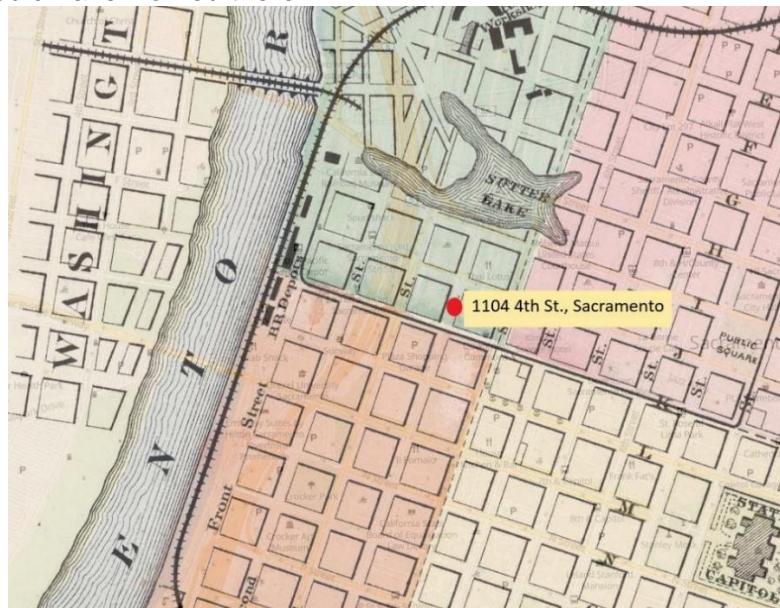
Though the Pension Bureau had every right to verify his claims to avoid fraud, how frustrated Michael must have been to continually have them questioned. To slowly feel his abilities lessen, and with every undelivered letter, to realize that those who could back up his injury claim could either not be located or were likely dead. The specter of the poorhouse loomed.

Michael appeared to have some friends around him. Of particular interest was James Morgan who swore out an affidavit in support of Michael's claim, stating that he, too, had been a resident of Luzerne, Pennsylvania and knew Michael to be a coal miner in good health before the war.<sup>5</sup> Morgan's presence in Sacramento at the same time as Michael suggests that they may have come west together. It is also possible that he was related to Elizabeth Morgan—another Luzerne County native—who married Michael's son John in 1879 in Lowell, Massachusetts.<sup>6</sup>

There is also an intriguing statement in Michael's deposition that he spent time in Idaho Territory.<sup>7</sup> No specific timeline was given, but since Idaho was known as a territory from March 3, 1863, to July 3, 1890, it narrows Michael's potential residence there from sometime in 1872 to late 1884, when he is documented in Sacramento.<sup>8</sup>

It would not be surprising that Idaho could claim the attention of a successful miner, such as Michael had been. Gold had been discovered in Idaho in 1860 and spurred growth in the territory throughout the 1860s and 1870s. Silver was discovered in the early 1870s, with the first silver lode claim registered in 1873. In 1877 one of the richest lodes of lead-free silver was discovered, leading to the establishment of the Ramshorn Mine. In turn, this sparked a major silver rush to the area, drawing thousands of miners. Michael could have been one such miner, seeking to reverse his fortunes with gold or silver.<sup>9</sup>

Whatever transpired in Idaho, by the time he filed his application in 1884, Michael was living at 1104 4th Street, Sacramento.<sup>10</sup> In 1873, that location was very near to the Sacramento River and the adjacent railroad depot. It's not impossible to imagine that as a laborer—even a less-than-fully-able one—could have worked there.



*Michael's Sacramento residence at the time of his pension application.<sup>11</sup>*

Michael's time in Sacramento as he awaited a decision on his pension was all too brief. Within weeks of his last deposition, he died of peritonitis at the county hospital on 23 September 1886.

He was buried at Saint Joseph Cemetery ("St. Joe"), the first Catholic cemetery in Sacramento, established in 1865.<sup>12</sup>

✓23 Jft of W.W. Connor 262	"	Co. Kosk Ireland
✓23 Michael Gilbride 263	"	56

*Portion of death register with Michael's info.*

Michael's family had no knowledge of his death until 1902 when the Pension Bureau's replied to John's inquiry. By then, Sarah Gilbride and all but two of her and Michael's children had passed away, leaving John and remaining sister Sarah no doubt wondering if they had any family left at all.<sup>13</sup>

In the concluding segment of this story, we'll look at what became of the rest of Michael's family.

*All websites were accessed on 30 October 2025.*

**MAIN IMAGE:** Augustus Koch, *Bird's eye view of the city of Sacramento, state capitol of California, 1870* (San Francisco : Britton & Rey, 1870); digital image, *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~370317~90137697:Birds-Eye-View-of-the-City-of-Sacra>); citing David Rumsey Map Collection, David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford Libraries. Image is licensed under a [Creative Commons License](#).

#### **NOTES**

<sup>1</sup> Nancy Gilbride Casey, *Leaves on the Tree*, "How I Found My Civil War Veteran Michael Gilbride," 2 November 2022 (<https://myleavesonthetree.blogspot.com/2022/11/michael-gilbride-civil-war-veteran.html>), and "A Letter, A Notice, A Deed: What Happened to Michael Gilbride," 10 November 2022 (<https://myleavesonthetree.blogspot.com/2022/11/a-letter-notice-deed-what-happened-to.html>).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Unknown artist, *View of Charleston S.C. from Fort Wagner, Morris Isla*, 18??; digital image, *Library of Congress* (<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/ppmsca.23093/>); citing Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington. In the public domain.

<sup>4</sup> Michael Gilbride (Pvt., Co. H, 52nd Pennsylvania Infantry, Civil War), Invalid Application file, I.O. 523.651.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. James Morgan statement, 9 August 1886.

<sup>6</sup> City of Lowell, Massachusetts, Marriage, vol. G, 1860-1867, p. 205, #283, marriage of John A. Gilbride to Elizabeth A. Morgan, 12 May 1879; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-997M-3RY9>); citing Town Clerk, Lowell.

<sup>7</sup> Michael Gilbride (Pvt., Co. H, 52nd Pennsylvania Infantry, Civil War), Invalid Application file, I.O. 523.651.

<sup>8</sup> *Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho\\_Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idaho_Territory)), "Idaho Territory," last updated 4 Sept. 2025 at 3:37 (UTC). Also, *Great Register of the County of Sacramento For the Year 1884*, p. 48, #3262, Michael Gilbride, age 53; digital image, *Ancestry* ([https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2221/images/32421\\_230587-00188](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2221/images/32421_230587-00188)); citing Great Registers, 1866-1898, Collection Number: 4-2A, CSL Roll 35, California State Library, Sacramento.

<sup>9</sup> *Western Mining History* (<https://westernmininghistory.com/state/idaho/>), "Idaho Mining Towns." Also, *RareGoldNuggets.com* (<https://raregoldnuggets.com/?p=5729>), "Bayhorse, Idaho—One of the Finest Old Mining Towns in the State."

<sup>10</sup> Michael Gilbride (Pvt., Co. H, 52nd Pennsylvania Infantry, Civil War), Invalid Application file, I.O. 523.651.

<sup>11</sup> J. R. Ray, *Gray's Atlas Map of the City of Sacramento The Capital of California* (Philadelphia : Stedman, Brown & Lynch, 1873); digital image, *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~264544~5524882:Sacramento->); citing David Rumsey Map Collection, David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford Libraries. Image is licensed under a [Creative Commons License](#).

<sup>12</sup> *Daily Record 1884-1900, City Cemetery, Sacramento*, "Record of Deaths and Interments In and From the City of Sacramento, n.p., #263, Michael Gilbride, age 56, 23 September 1886; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99V4-MSHH>); citing County Recorder, Sacramento.

<sup>13</sup> Samuel A. McPherties, *Deaths, Vol. G., City of Lowell, Massachusetts*, p. 84, #190, Sarah Gilbride, 16 March 1875; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9Q1-L3SM>); citing Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth, Boston. Also, *City of Lowell, Massachusetts, Deaths, 1876-1884*, p. 119, no number, Michael Gilbride, 1 August 1880; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89Q1-LSLZ>); citing Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth, Boston. Also, *City of Lowell, Massachusetts, Deaths, 1884-1887*, p. 97, #1362, Mary A. Gilbride, 29 November 1886; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9Q1-L9PJ>); citing Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth, Boston. Also, *City of Lowell, Massachusetts, Deaths, 1888-1892*, p. 32, #1391, James H. Gilbride, 6 October 1888; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89Q1-1WWD>); citing Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth, Boston. Also, *City of Lowell, Massachusetts, 46th Registration 1887 Deaths, Vol. 383, Hampshire - Plymouth*, p. 150, #1619, Rose E. Handley, 1 November 1887; digital image, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-XX67-4X>); citing Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth, Boston.

**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. Nancy Gilbride Casey can be reached at [ngcintx@gmail.com](mailto:ngcintx@gmail.com).

*St. Luke's Episcopal Church Added to  
The National Register of Historic Places*



*St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Scranton  
Image source: <https://stlukescranton.org/>*

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Scranton has been accepted on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service.

St. Luke's joins 65 federally recognized properties in Lackawanna County as an enduring example of the nation's heritage for events, people and achievements. Nationwide, the National Register recognizes about 100,000 properties worthy of historic preservation.

Completed in 1871, the church is a product of architect Richard Upjohn, followed with later changes by Louis C. Tiffany. The altar, high altar and Accession-stained glass window, plus a mosaic of Christ and John the Baptist are Tiffany Studio additions.

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*Sanctuary, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Scranton*

*Image source: <https://stlukescranton.org/>*

The Throop Memorial Parish House, opened in 1899, is included in the National Register recognition. Scranton architect Frederick Brown designed the Parish House. Both buildings are in Gothic architectural style. For additional information about St. Luke's, please visit <http://stlukesscranton@verizon.net/>

*Our thanks to Ella Rayburn for providing the information.*

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## *The Copper Steeple*

*By Rick Sedlisky*

Until about a year ago, there was an interesting store on the Upper West Side of Manhattan that I frequently passed on my way to and from my home nearby. Known as Olde Good Things, the store, antique shop, whatever you wish to call it, offered a lot of period pieces and other eye-catching things.



*Image source: ilovetheupperwestside.com*

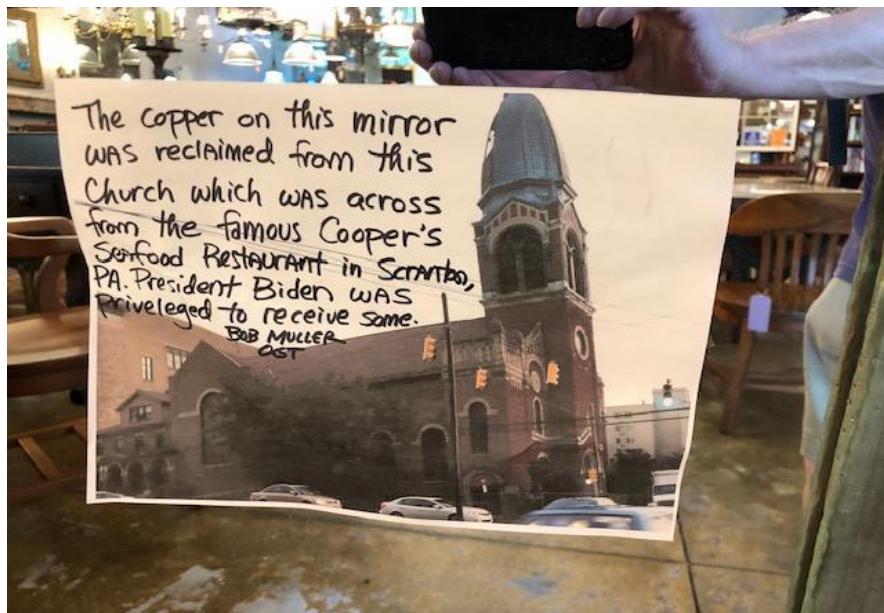
On my way home one evening, I saw a book in the window called, "Long Time Coming: A Photographic Portrait of America 1938 – 1943." I'm fascinated with that period because it had so many life-changing events that took place in our country. For example, the end of the Great Depression and the beginning of World War II were two events from that era that shaped the future of the country and the world we live in today.

One Saturday afternoon, I decided to go into the store and find out about the thick, hard cover, coffee table book, particularly the sale price. I thought that I'd give myself an early birthday present even though my birthday was months away. I was disappointed to learn that the book was not for sale.

While in the store, I spotted a mirror with a photograph of a church taped on it that mentioned Scranton. I said to myself, "That church looks awfully familiar. I've seen it before." Within a nanosecond my memory said, "That's Holy Family Church that stood at the corner of North Washington Avenue and Gibson Street behind your alma mater, Scranton Technical High School." I thought, "Of course it is. I've been in that church many times before it was torn down to make way for yet another parking lot."



*Holy Family Copper Mirror*  
Photo courtesy of Rick Sedlisky

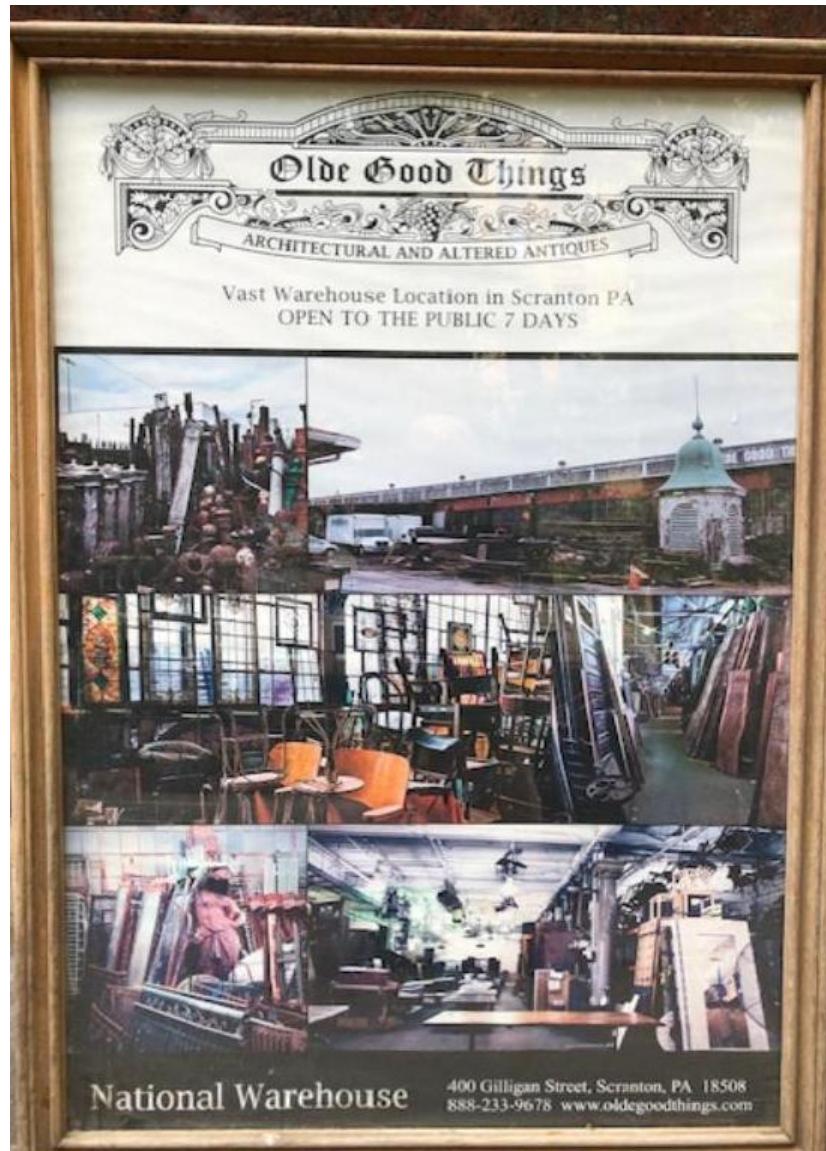


*Mirror with description note attached*  
Photo courtesy of Rick Sedlisky

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But what did Holy Family Church have to do with a mirror in a store on the Upper West Side of Manhattan? I spoke with a man named Bob Muller who told me that the mirror frame is made of copper tiles that were part of the church's steeple. Ok, but of all the antique artifacts stores in the country, how did it wind up at Olde Good Things? The answer to that question was at the bottom of a framed poster located near the entrance to the store. It read, *National Warehouse, 400 Gilligan Street, Scranton, PA.*



*Framed Poster  
Photo courtesy of Rick Sedlisk*

A portion of the warehouse can be seen in the upper part of the poster. The 200,000 sq. ft. warehouse might look familiar to some old enough to remember when that was the "storage barn" for the former Scranton Transit Co. buses. It was also where the transit buses' predecessor, the electric trolley cars were stored. The electric trolley cars are

how Scranton received its nickname, *The Electric City*. Scranton was the first city in the country to have electric trolley or street cars as they were once called.



*Holy Family Church*  
Image source: Scranton Times – Tribune

When the cornerstone of the new church structure was laid in 1925, many of the thousands of church members most likely rode the electric trolleys to the ceremony. Following is the article covering the occasion that originally appeared on August 24, 1925, and was republished by the Scranton Times – Tribune on August 23, 2020.

*The Most Rev. M.J. Hoban, Bishop of Scranton, laid the cornerstone for the new Holy Family Church at North Washington Street and Gibson Street on Sunday, Aug. 23.*

*On hand for the ceremony were several thousand members of the church, along with scores of clergy from the area's Slovak Catholic churches.*

*The impressive ceremony started with a parade from the old church on Capouse Avenue to the site of the new church. Before laying the cornerstone, Hoban placed inside it a copper-lined vessel that contained a history of the church, names of the individuals who raised funds for the church's construction, copies of newspapers from Aug. 22 and a copy of the history of Scranton.*

*Following the ceremony, several people gave speeches, including Mrs. J. Jacobin, Scranton native and president of the First Slovak Women's Union; and the Rev. Stephen Kollar, pastor of Holy Family Church.*

*In his speech, Kollar said the new church would be completed by May 1926 at a cost of \$200,000 (about \$3.6 million in 2025 dollars <https://www.amortizationtable.org>).*

Approximately a century later, the Diocese of Scranton began a major restructuring program. Many churches that appealed to specific immigrant groups, churches that were near each other and yet others whose congregations declined in number (many because of assimilation) were a few reasons for the restructuring. Holy Family was one of them. In 2010, the 119-year-old former Slovak parish was consolidated with St. Peter's Cathedral Parish based in downtown Scranton.

When any house of worship closes, what happens to the artifacts that are considered sacred by so many? In the case of Holy Family, a former chapel in the cathedral was reconstructed and renamed Holy Family Prayer Chapel. The chapel houses the statue grouping of the Holy Family, the statues of Saints Cyril and Methodius and Saint Anne, the mother of Mary. Other artifacts were relocated to Holy Family Cemetery in Throop.



*Center: Statue grouping of the Holy Family  
Left and right: Statues of Saints Cyril and Methodius*



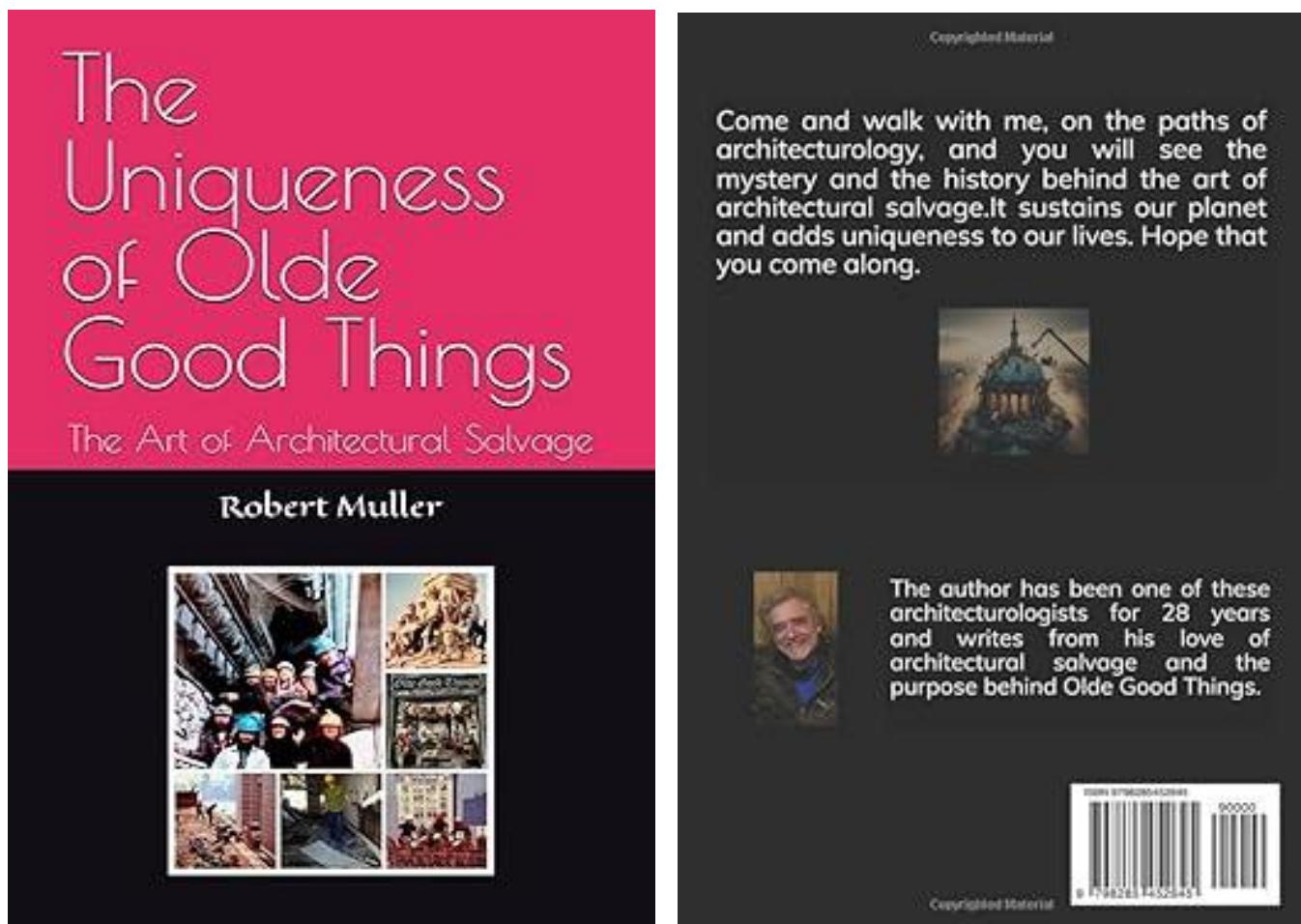
*Statue of Saint Anne, mother of Mary*

*Images sources: <https://www.stpeterscathedral.org/holy-faIn>*

It might be difficult to believe that the Holy Family steeple falls under the terms, architectural salvage and architecturology, but it does. Because it was made of copper, the steeple was reclaimed, and its components were given a new life.

In his book, *The Uniqueness of Olde Good Things*, author Bob Muller (who was mentioned in the beginning of the article), shares his personal experiences and journeys in the unique world of architecturology. He talks about how he and a group of fellow Architecturologists began traveling to different places to painstakingly salvage architectural treasures from structures or famous buildings, including the Vanderbilt Hotel and the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. Many of those artifacts, such as the Holy Family steeple, are now repurposed or have become collectors' items.

In addition to the Gilligan St. warehouse, Olde Good Things operates a six-story warehouse at 300 Brook St. The location is the former Capitol Records building. Hours are by appointment only. For information, call 570-341-7668. For a detailed description of the company's operations, please visit their website at <https://ogtstore.com/antique-warehouses-scranton-pennsylvania/>



*The Uniqueness of Olde Good Things* is available at [amazon.com](https://amazon.com)



## *Garage Renovation*

*By Crystal Armideo*



*Garage doors and vents after renovation*

Todd Campbell and his class from Johnson College removed the old doors, built and hung new doors, covered the large hole above the door and placed vents. Todd also installed five vents on the roof of the garage.

The waterproofing of the garage roof and painting of the front and doors will be done in the spring.

*Appearing in the January – February 2026  
Issue of History Bytes*

*Abington Hills “Resident” Charles “Chick” Shorten*

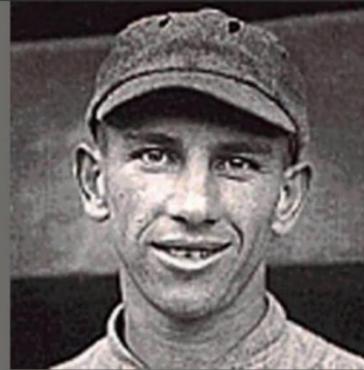


Photo added by Anthony S

## Charles “Chick” Shorten

**BIRTH** 19 Apr 1892

Scranton, Lackawanna County,  
Pennsylvania, USA

**DEATH** 23 Nov 1965 (aged 73)

Scranton, Lackawanna County,  
Pennsylvania, USA

**BURIAL** Abington Hills Cemetery

*Image courtesy of Crystal Armideo*

## *Dunmore Cemetery Tour Completes Another Successful Run*

The 2025 Dunmore Cemetery Tour completed another successful October two-weekend run. This year marked 27 years since the Dunmore Cemetery Tour began with original Dearly Departed Players cast members, Julie Esty, Megan Esty and Nelson Wood.

Since then, the annual tour has continued non-stop, attracting visitors from Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey to meet “residents” who return to tell their sides of the story. This year, the Dearly Departed Players were joined by masons from five Masonic lodges who portrayed “residents” significant to their history.

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The Wind Phone, which has been placed in the cemetery each year, was used by numerous people. The Wind Phone concept for this grief coping tool originated in Japan. Although the phone is not physically connected to a phone line, people speak into the phone allowing the wind to carry their messages to loved ones.

Over the years, the event has also attracted support from various companies and organizations. Prior to the beginning of the tour, artists from the group known as Scranton Rocks hid their rock creations around the cemetery for visitors to find and enjoy. Members of Scranton Films were on hand for promos and operating sound equipment. Mausoleums were decorated in a harvest theme by the participating Masonic lodges, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Scranton Films, Dunmore Senior Center, Lackawanna Historical Society, Carlucci Golden DeSantis Funeral Home, Katherine Williams Mullin and Kim Rosar Bochicchio.

The Dunmore Cemetery Tour is a recipient of a Lackawanna County Arts and Culture Grant, which helps bring this production to the public at no charge. Visit the tour's Facebook page at the Dunmore Cemetery Tour for updates on the group's activities and plans. The tour page is now currently featuring a daily countdown to July 4, 2026, for the United States' 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Revolutionary War history, Colonial America trivia and words of wisdom from Poor Richard's Almanack are featured daily.



*The*

*Dearly Departed Players and Friends*

*Front Row Left to Right - Laura Doyle, Jon Snow, Chrissy Grunza, Carissima Hodovanec, Julie Esty, Roger Mattes, S. Robert Powell, Joseph Ziemba, Robert Dommes, Nelson Wood*

*Top Row Left to Right - Charlie Siebert, Christine McGeachie, Luz Cabrales, Dave Byers and Meggie Roche*

*Anthracite Ancestry  
Keeping Watch at Washburn*



*Unexpected visitor at the Avondale Section of the  
Washburn Street Cemetery, Scranton  
Photo by David Hartley, courtesy of Torry Watkins*

In September, David Hartley of Bristol, CT was visiting Scranton. During his stay, he decided to visit the Avondale Section of the Washburn Street Cemetery. To his surprise, he wasn't the only one at the Avondale Section. Perhaps Mother Nature sent one of her creatures to keep watch over the resting places of the Avondale men and boys who were casualties of the Avondale Mine Disaster that took place in Plymouth on September 6, 1869.

David Hartley is a relative of frequent History Bytes contributor, Torry Watkins. We thank David and Torry for sharing this unique photo.

# ANTHRACITE MINING HERITAGE MONTH

## JANUARY 2026

Now accepting program proposals at  
[www.anthracitemuseum.org/amhm](http://www.anthracitemuseum.org/amhm)

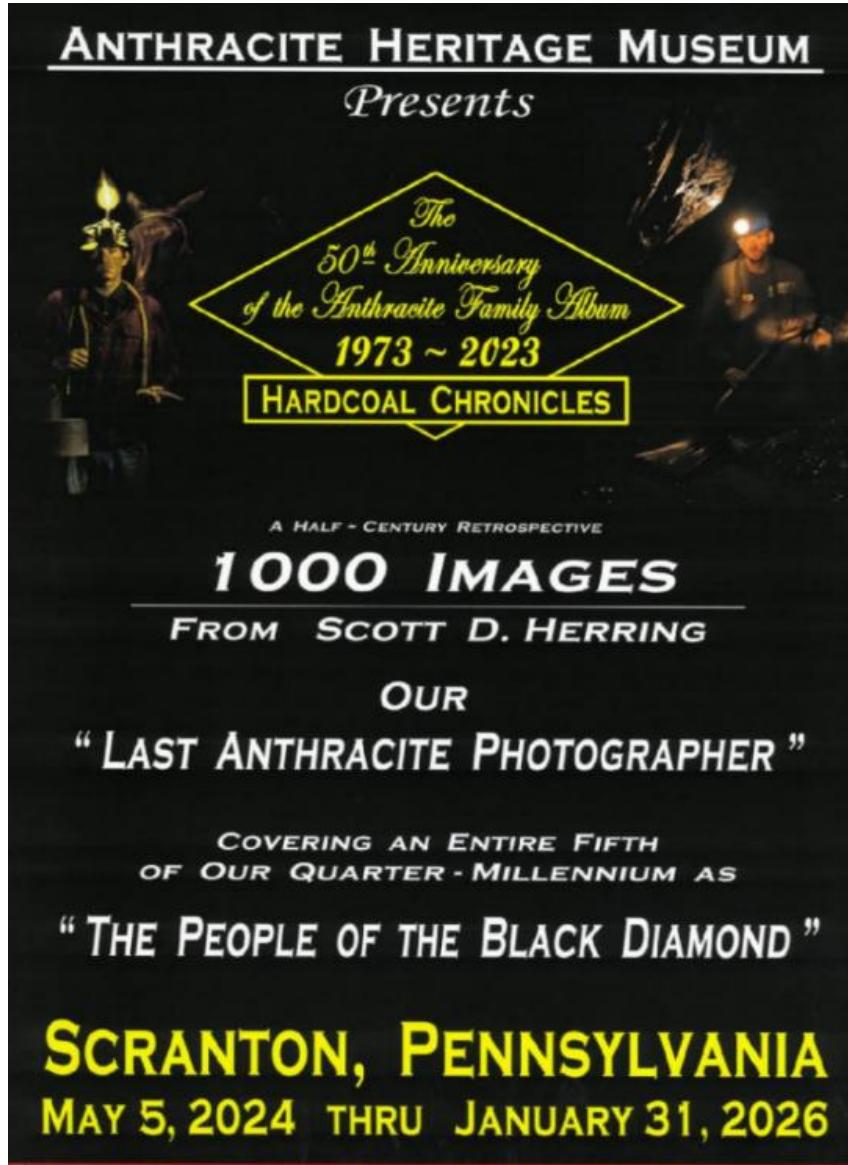


Anthracite Mining Heritage Month returns with a variety of programs that will take place across Northeast Pennsylvania during January 2026. A full schedule will appear in the January – February 2026 issue of History Bytes.

2026 also marks the 25th Anniversary of AMHM and with the anniversary year comes a new method of organizing the schedule of events. The Anthracite Heritage Museum will now be the main convener. The museum can be reached at [www.anthracitemuseum.org/amhm](http://www.anthracitemuseum.org/amhm)

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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 21<sup>st</sup> century. Who are we now? How do we embrace those who came before us and those who have newly arrived? If you have any Northeast Pennsylvania-related stories to include in History Bytes, please contact the Society at [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto:lackawannahistory@gmail.com) Please include your name, email address and a brief description of your story.

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## *Internet Links*

### *Historical Attractions*

Anthracite Museum and Iron Furnaces  
Brooks Mine  
Electric City Trolley Museum  
Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour  
Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority  
Steamtown National Historic Site  
Waverly Community House and Destination Freedom

### *Cultural Partners*

Albright Memorial Library and the Lackawanna County Library System  
Black Scranton  
Century Club  
Circle Drive In  
Everhart Museum  
Garden of Cedar  
Ritz Theatre  
Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple  
Scranton's Annual Civil War Weekend Events  
Scranton Times-Tribune's Pages from the Past  
United Neighborhoods Centers  
Valley In Motion

### *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*

Archbald Historical Society: Contact Ed Casey 570-614-3628  
Carbondale Historical Society  
Luzerne County Historical Society  
Monroe County Historical Society  
Plymouth Historical Society [www.plymouthhistoricalsocietyluzernecopa.org](http://www.plymouthhistoricalsocietyluzernecopa.org)  
Scott Township Historical Society: Contact Robert Vail 570-254-9536  
Susquehanna County Historical Society  
Taylor Historical Society: Contact Christine Schaefer 570-562-1225  
Wayne County Historical Society  
Wyoming County Historical Society

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## *County and Educational Partners*

Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce  
Lackawanna County  
Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Lackawanna River Conservation Association  
Leadership Lackawanna  
Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit

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Donald Frederickson, Jr., Esq., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
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*Founded in 1886 as the Lackawanna Institute of History and Science, the Lackawanna Historical Society provides the community with a record of local history through its museum and library collections, exhibits and programs. In 1942, at the bequest of George H. Catlin, the Society established its permanent home at Catlin's 1912 residence, located at 232 Monroe Avenue in Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1965, it was designated as the official county historical society by Lackawanna County and continues to serve the county as a center for local history resources. The Society, a 501 ©3 nonprofit organization, is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County and memberships.*

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*From Everyone At the  
Lackawanna Historical Society*



*Image source: clipart-library.com*

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