



HISTORY BYTES

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

Vol.8 No. 6

November – December 2025

Rick Sedlisky, Editor



Image source: totalreporter.com

lackawannahistory@gmail.com



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

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 scalplings, 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.

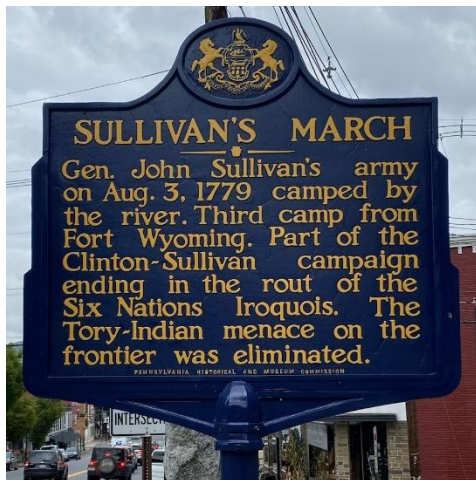
Subsequent encampments listed in order in Pennsylvania were all on the eastern shore side lowlands of the Susquehanna River (North Branch), as follows: #1 at Lackawany, Luzerne County, an area approximately 7 miles north of Wilkes-Barre, at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Lackawanna rivers, July 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.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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 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

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>

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.

To ensure our program's success, please consider purchasing an advertisement. For information, please contact LHS at 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 Abbiocco, 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

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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.¹

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. Cogan
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 ½ 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 ⅔ dis-abled from ob-
taining his subsistence by manual
labor, by reason of his injuries above-*

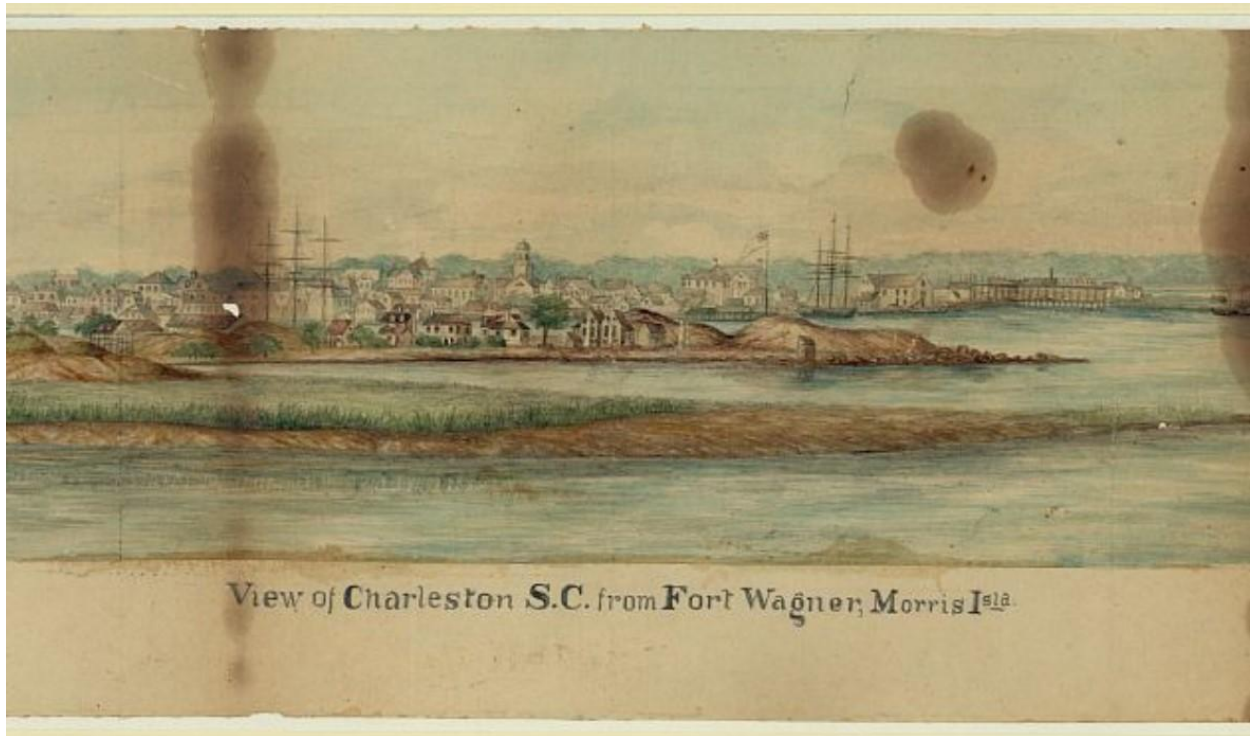
described received in the service of the United States and he therefore makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the invalid pension roll of the United States That he has never received nor applied for a pension. That his Post Office address is 1011 4th Street, Sacramento City, Sacramento 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 21st 1865, which disabled his left hand.

That furthermore when making his original 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.²



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

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

*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 Efection 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...⁴*

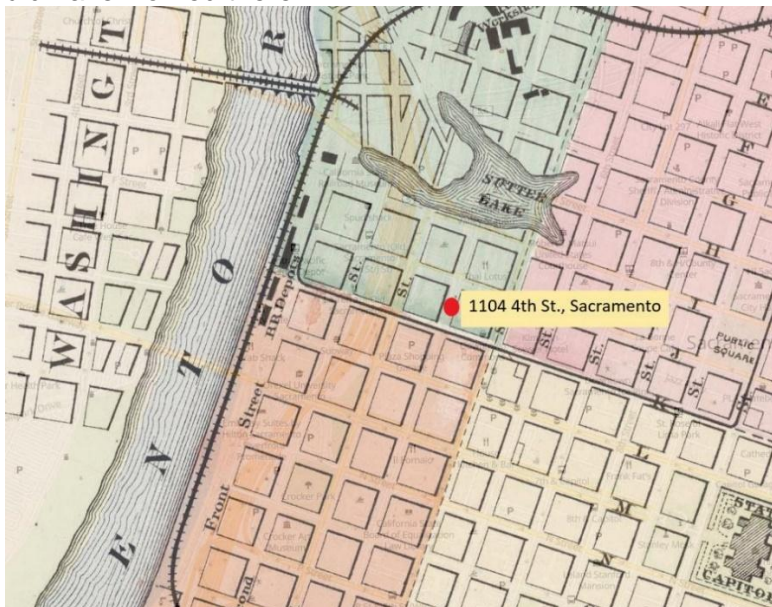
Though the Pension Bureau had every right to verify his claims to avoid fraud, how frustrated Michael must have been to continually have them questioned. To slowly feel his abilities lessen, and with every undelivered letter, to realize that those who could back up his injury claim could either not be 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.⁵ 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.⁶

There is also an intriguing statement in Michael's deposition that he spent time in Idaho Territory.⁷ 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.⁸

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.⁹

Whatever transpired in Idaho, by the time he filed his application in 1884, Michael was living at 1101 4th Street, Sacramento.¹⁰ 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.¹¹

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 1865.¹²



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.¹³

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

¹ 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>).

² 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.

³ 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.

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

⁵ Ibid. James Morgan statement, 9 August 1886.

⁶ 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:/61903/3:1:3Q57-997M-3RY9>); citing Town Clerk, Lowell.

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

⁸ Wikipedia (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); citing Great Registers, 1866-1898, Collection Number: 4-2A, CSL Roll 35, California State Library, Sacramento.

⁹ *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."

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

¹¹ 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](#).

¹² *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:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-99V4-MSHH>); citing County Recorder, Sacramento.

¹³ 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:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-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:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-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.

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.



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.

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

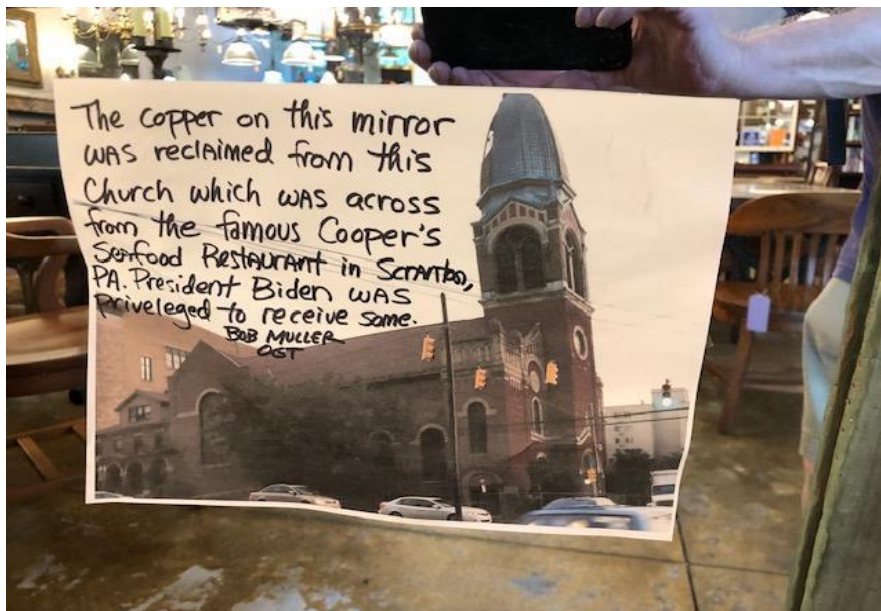
On my way home one evening, I saw a book in the window called, "Long Time Coming: A Photographic Portrait of America 1938 – 1943." I'm fascinated with that period because it had so many life-changing events that took place in our country. For example, the end of the Great Depression and the beginning 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*

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 Sedlisky

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 Methodious*



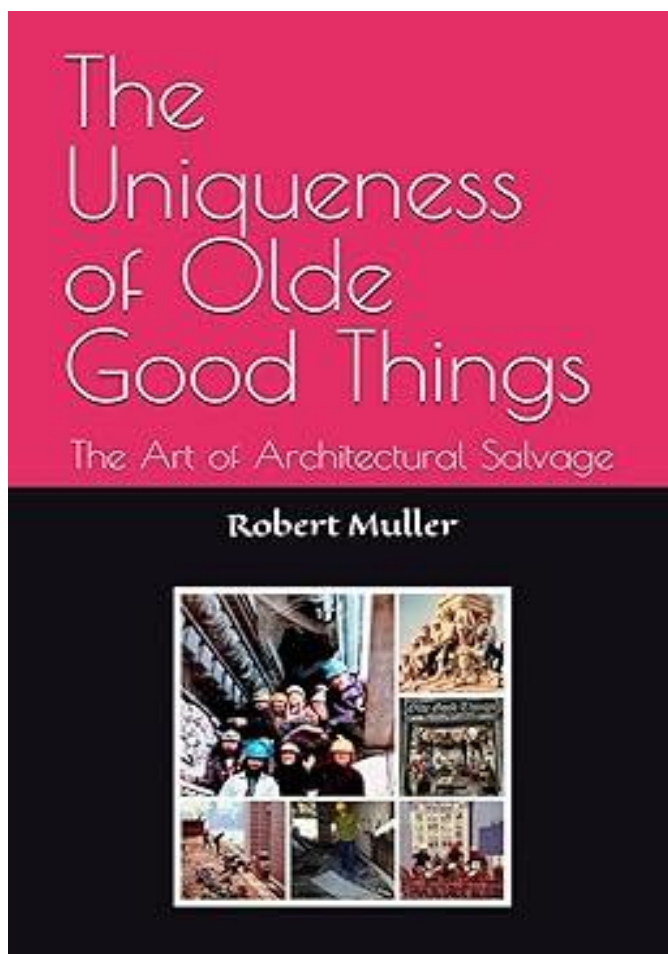
Statue of Saint Anne, mother of Mary

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

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://www.amazon.com)

lackawannahistory@gmail.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

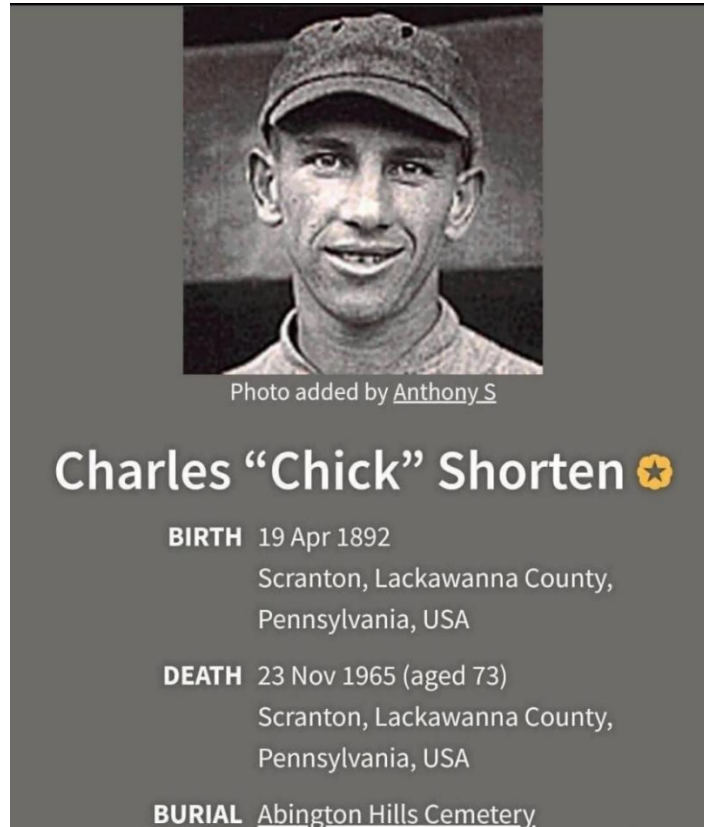


Image courtesy of Crystal Armideo

*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.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

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' 250th 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 Dommies, 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

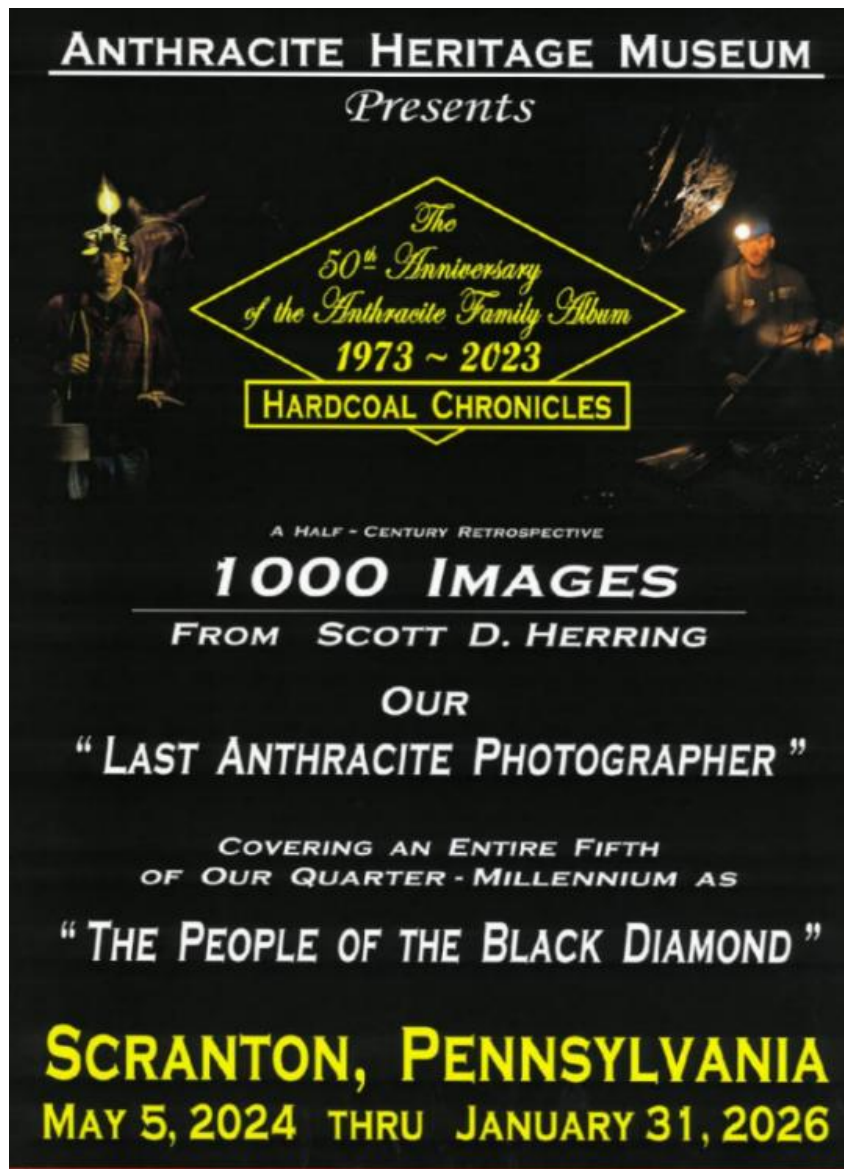
Now accepting program proposals at
www.anthracitemuseum.org/amhm



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

lackawannahistory@gmail.com



Subscribe to History Bytes

History Bytes offers a look at our past, as well as a look at Lackawanna and Northeast Pennsylvania in the 21st century. Who are we now? How do we embrace those who came before us and those who have newly arrived? If you have any Northeast Pennsylvania-related stories to include in History Bytes, please contact the Society at lackawannahistory@gmail.com Please include your name, email address and a brief description of your story.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Unlike Your Bank

If you're a member of the Lackawanna Historical Society, then you can Bank on NET!



#netcares



All Local



Not for
Profit



Diverse Products
& Services



Personalized
Mortgage Services



No Annual Fee
on Credit Cards

netcreditunion.com



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
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

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

The Lackawanna Historical Society ***Officers***

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

Trustees

Joseph F. Cimini, Esq.	Christine Posly
Thomas J. Cipriano	Leni Plasky
Jeffrey R. Kiefer, Assoc. AIA	Ella S. Rayburn
Linda Lynett	William J. Rinaldi, Esq
Mary Jane Memolo	Elaine Shepard

Staff

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

Business Hours

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

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

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

*From Everyone At the
Lackawanna Historical Society*



Image source: clipart-library.com

lackawannahistory@gmail.com