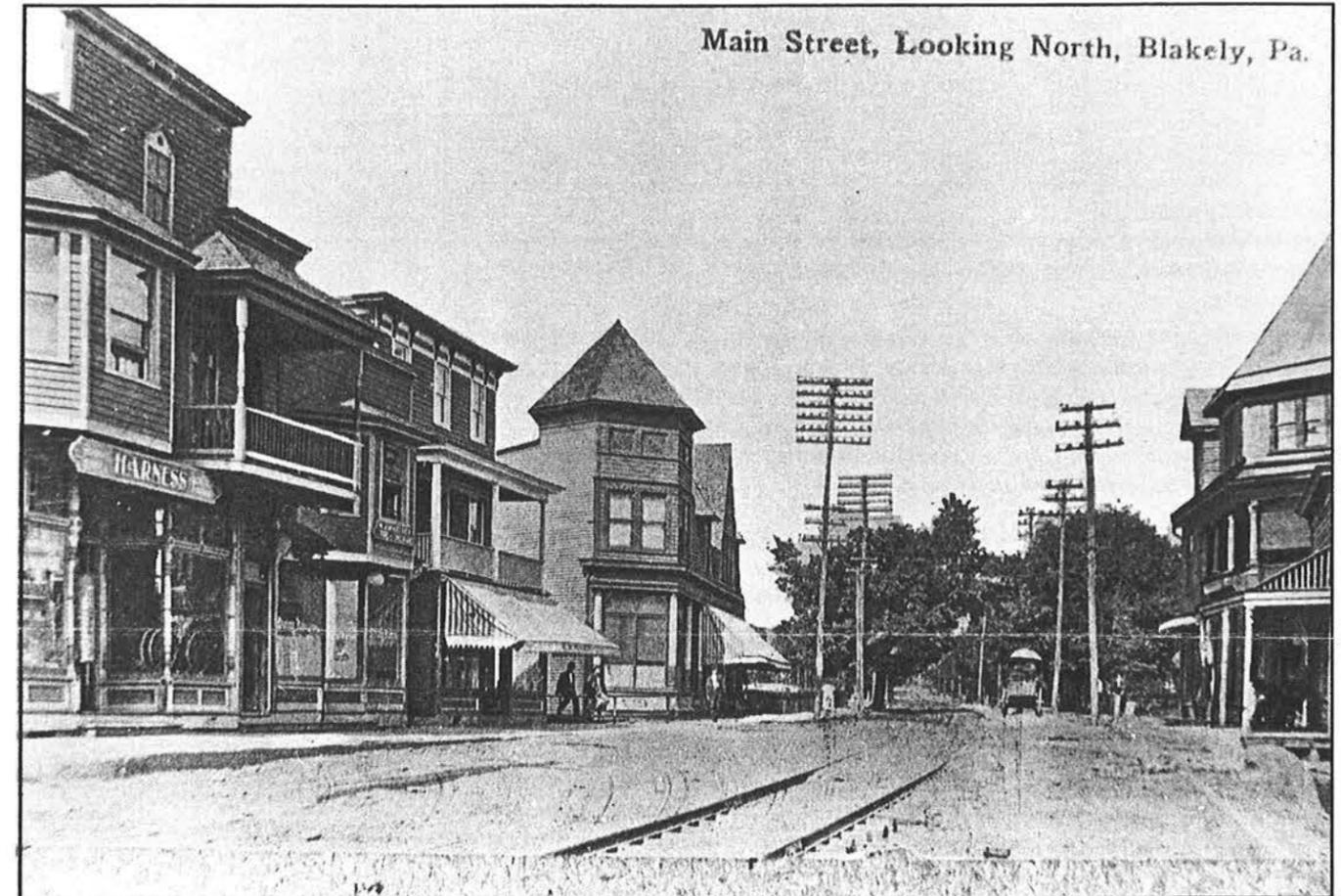


UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- MAR. 21** **Jacob Koehler, The Man behind the Marker**
Lecture by Dorothy Bambach, Ed.D. 2 p.m. Catlin House
- APR. 18** **The Last Dinner on the Titanic**
Invitations coming soon!
- APR. 21** **LHS Docent Training Program**
Call 344-3841 to register before April 14th. 7 p.m. Catlin House
- APR. 25** **Poetry Reading**
from *Part of a Geography* by John McGuigan 2 p.m. Catlin House
- APR. 30** **Doors of Scranton**
Exhibit and poster unveiling at the Official Opening of Marquis Art and Frame
Details to be announced.
- MAY 8** **Places of Worship Tour**
Details to be announced.
- MAY 14** **Anthracite Scrapyard**
Tim Butler Photographic Exhibit Opening 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Catlin House

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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Captain Johnston Blakely

By Alan Sweeney

Did you ever wonder how your town was named? This is something that never crossed my mind when I was growing up. But a few years ago, I became curious when I was asked to give a speech on my hometown to a local church group. The journey started there and has led me to North Carolina as well as to a friendship that continues today. My hometown is Blakely Borough, and the following is what I have learned about the origin of its name.

Blakely Borough was incorporated on August 27, 1867 as part of what was Blakely Township. Blakely Township was formed in 1818 from Greenfield and Providence Townships.

At that time it was part of Luzerne County. When county officials were choosing a name for the new township, they decided to recognize a War of 1812 naval hero, Captain Johnston Blakely.

Johnston Blakely was born in Seaford, County Down, Ireland in October 1781. When he was two years of age his family immigrated to Charleston, North Carolina. Shortly after arriving in the New World his mother and youngest brother died. Johnston's father then moved the family to Wilmington, North Carolina where his friend, Mr. Jones had settled and prospered.

At age nine Johnston was sent to New York

CORRECTIONS:

- ◆ In the last issue, the Scranton Public Library web site should have been *www.albright.org* - not com.
- ◆ The Ned Washington article in the Volume 33, No. 3 issue should have stated his date of death as 1979 not 1976. Thanks again to LHS member Juliana Jones for providing the information for this article.

Windsor Chair Raffle Winners

On December 5, 2003 winning Windsor Chair Raffle tickets were announced at the Annual Holiday Open House. Congratulations to LHS members Paul Wanas (3rd Prize), Marian Bates (2nd Prize) and Sharon Gallo (1st Prize). The winning ticket number 802490 for the Holiday Basket raffle was also announced.

Leave a Lasting Impression

The Lackawanna Historical Society truly appreciates its members' continuing support. We invite you to leave a lasting financial impression by contributing to the Society's long term financial health through estate planning.

Planned giving is most simply described as "charitable gift and estate planning." Bequests represent the most significant source of planned giving dollars for charitable organizations. Planned gifts have become increasingly popular because they can be tailored to an individual's financial situation. These gifts can be funded with cash, marketable securities, mutual funds, real estate, life insurance, and retirement plans. Because these gifts can be structured around each donor's circumstances, friends find they can do more than they otherwise thought possible.

Tax incentives for publicly supported charities are the most advantageous possible under the tax law. Currently, gifts of cash may be deducted up to 50% of your adjusted gross income, with a five-year carryover for unused portions. Gifts of appreciated assets may be deducted up to 30%, with the same carryover. Furthermore, bequests are fully deductible as charitable contributions.

If you would like to make a significant gift to the Lackawanna Historical Society but are concerned you may need the assets during your lifetime, a charitable bequest allows you to make a larger contribution while maintaining maximum flexibility. Charitable bequests are fully tax deductible as a charitable contribution, so your estate pays no federal estate tax or state inheritance tax. Estate gifts can be made via a bequest in a will or through a trust. You may also designate the Historical Society as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement plan. Your attorney or accountant can help design an estate plan that protects your family, preserves your property, and also benefits the LHS. Bequests can be a percentage of the estate, a dollar amount, specific property, or the remainder of the estate after gifts to other beneficiaries. The LHS will be happy to assist you in leaving a lasting impression by providing additional information or putting you in contact with a local financial planner. Contact the office if you would like more information.

About Membership... Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice and invitations to all Society activities, special members-only programs and the quarterly newsletter. Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend or neighbor who is interested in joining. Please return it to: The Lackawanna Historical Society at 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	NAME _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$22	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$30	ADDRESS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$75	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Corporate	\$500	

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2004-05

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The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization which is dedicated to keeping vital the history of Lackawanna County. It is supported in part by the Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and membership dues.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is published by the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510 Tel. (570) 344-3841.

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$22 and up for individuals, \$30 for Families, and \$125 for organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is printed in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Entire contents copyrighted © 2004 by the Lackawanna Historical Society. Questions or comments can be addressed in writing directly to the Society.

NEW IN THE BOOKSTORE

Now available in the bookstore *The Land No One Wanted* by Aileen Sallom Freeman, Copyright 2003, FOSI Ltd., \$14.95



Aileen Sallom Freeman presents copy of her latest publication, "The Land No One Wanted" to Society Director, Mary Ann Moran at book signing at the Catlin House on January 21, 2004. Society member and local author, Ann Lewis is also pictured.

Taking the British settlers back to Europe, Freeman delves into the physical and genealogical layout of Scotland and England. She then does the same thing when the British settlers land in the New World, providing detailed explanation of how land was divided, and who, eventually landed on the land no one wanted.

And in between the pages falls Joseph Fellows, and his son Joseph Fellows Jr. Joseph Fellows Sr., Freeman tells us, purchased a nine hundred and ninety nine year lease on a fifty acre tract of land in Hyde Park. Today there still exists a small park that covers "...a quarter city block on one of Scranton's busiest streets—South main Avenue. It is called 'Fellows Park.'"

While the writing structure is stunning, what is equally as stunning is the thorough research Freeman has compiled and recorded. The book acts as an excellent resource to all those interested in local history, but European history as well.

Reviewed by Mary Ann Krisa

THE PETERSBURG CHURCH CHRONICLES

The Lackawanna Historical Society has been working with members of the East Scranton Business Association to plan an exciting event in an effort to promote the Petersburg Project, a cooperation of East Scranton businesses and residents to revive their community.

The project, The Petersburg Church Chronicles, will recount the area's history through three dramatic presentations held in the churches of Petersburg. Paige Balitski, Diva Theater, is working closely with Society director Mary Ann Moran to prepare the script and plan production. The presentations will be held in May, July and September. And as planning continues, more details will be announced.

SPRING DOCENT TRAINING PROGRAM SCHEDULED

This Spring, the Society will conduct a Docent Training Program to train interested volunteers on conducting tours of the Catlin House. The program, which will be held on five consecutive Wednesday evenings, will begin on April 21st at 7 p.m. At each two hour session, participants will learn about the exhibits at the Catlin House and how to guide tours of the facility. Registrations are open until April 14th. For more information, please call the Catlin House at 344-3841.

 *
 * *Reluctance* *
 * *Winter came back today* *
 * *unwilling to give in to Spring,* *
 * *the skies darkened,* *
 * *the snow blew about* *
 * *and the birds decided not to sing.* *
 * *Even the daffodils bowed in the wind,* *
 * *keeping their bonnets close to the ground* *
 * *not able to realize my heart was sad,* *
 * *not seeing their gold: treasures I'd found.* *
 * *By Mary Ann Gavern* *



From time to time, the staff comes across an interesting piece in the collection but with no historical documentation. This photograph was discovered recently by staff member and former Bellevue section resident Marian Yevics who was working on the *Then and Now* for the *Scranton Sunday Times*, however she could only guess at its location. After much investigation and discussion with LHS volunteer Maurice MacNamara, another Bellevue-ite (also called Dodgetown), the staff decided to ask the LHS members for their assistance. "We think it's Bellevue, but are not exactly sure where." If you look closely, you can see the Hotel Casey in the distance, the DLEW shops, and possibly the #29 Horace Mann School with the four pointed roofline. If anyone can determine the exact location of this photograph or recognize a local landmark, please give us a call. We would love to use it as a *Then and Now* feature!

LHS WELCOMES UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON INTERNS

The Lackawanna Historical Society was fortunate to host two interns from the University of Scranton during the Winter Intersession. Under the supervision of the History Department's Dr. Willis Conover and Society Director Mary Ann Moran, Nadia Gougeon and Tanya Tompkins fulfilled certain class requirements to obtain credit towards their History Major. Through this on-site experience, they learned what a career in a historical resource setting would entail.

Tanya Tompkins, a History and Political Science major, will be graduating in May. She plans to attend Law School in the fall in California, with a focus on Intellectual Property Law. Ms. Tompkins resides in West Scranton.

Nadia Gougeon, also a History and Political Science major, will be graduating in May, 2005. She will then pursue a Ph.D. in American History and Government in Washington, D.C. Ms. Gougeon lives in Moscow.

These two young women spent much of December and January transcribing oral histories and researching and designing exhibits for the Historical Society to learn about local history and collections management. We are grateful to them for their hard work and continuing interest in local history.

Blakely continued from page 1
 City, where his father had arranged an apprenticeship with Mr. Hopper. Young Johnston learned quite a bit from Mr. Hopper who was pleased to note that "Johnston preferred books to outdoor sports."

In 1796, a fifteen-year-old Johnston entered the recently opened University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. When his father died before he completed his first year, young Johnston chose Mr. Jones to serve as his guardian. Mr. Jones wanted him to study law but Johnston, an astute mathematics student, had his mind set on the sea. He expanded his studies at the University to include astronomy and surveying and joined the school's Philanthropic and Dialectic societies; He became a leading debater.

Johnston remained at the University until 1799 when he ran out of funds he had inherited from his father. Because of Mr. Jones's prominence, Johnston was able to secure a warrant as a midshipman in the infant United States Navy.

His appointment arrived in the spring of 1800 and his first assignment was on the *USS President* with Captain Richard Dale as his commanding officer. He

weathered the storm with the seasoned veterans on the ship as they sailed the coast of the Barbary States protecting the interests of the United States. This cruise was uneventful. Johnston was very conscientious of his duties and had a strong sense of family as evidenced in his diary entry, "...I hope the last *Blakely* who exists, will lay down his life ere he tarnish the reputation of those who have gone before him. My blessed father's memory is very dear to me and I trust his son will never cast a reproach on it."

Upon his return to the United States, Johnston was transferred to the *USS John Adams* where he joined the crew of the *USS Enterprise* to defeat the Tripolitanian ship *Meshouda*.

His next duty was aboard the thirty-eight gun frigate *Congress*, but he was reassigned to the *Ad-*

ams when it was called back to help the navy in Tripoli. He was then transferred back to the *Congress* and remained in the Mediterranean until 1805 when he returned to the United States.

After a short duty on the *USS Horne*, Johnston was promoted to lieutenant to command a group of gunboats off the coast of the Chesapeake Bay. In 1811 he received his first command on the twelve-gun brig *Enterprise* in New Orleans. While the *Enterprise* was not in the best of shape, Johnston's crew made it effective. When war was declared in 1812, Johnston tried unsuccessfully, due to the slow pace of the *Enterprise*, to capture British ships in the Gulf of Mexico.

In July of 1813 Johnston was promoted to Master Commandant. The same year he married Jane Hopper, the daughter of his father's friend. He was then offered the command of the *USS Wasp*, a sloop-of-war being built at Newbury Port. When he resigned from the *Enterprise* to take his new command he wrote that "he regretted giving up his last ship but with his new sloop-of-war he would gain fame and prizes for the United States."

One such battle was against the British brig *Reindeer*, a twenty-four pounder, which the *Wasp* battled throughout the night. By daylight the *Wasp* had outgunned the *Reindeer* and claimed it as their prize. After being refitted, the *Wasp* returned to the English Channel and took many more prizes for the

Continued on page 5

New Members

Individual

Louise Brown	Scranton
Sandra L. Buzas	Scranton
Forrest Compton	Lake Ariel
Michele Hokien	Moscow
Helen Kaminski	Scranton
Carol M. Lizell	Factoryville
Joseph Mahon	Binghamton, NY
Larry Newman	Wilkes Barre
Denise Prowell	Clarks Summit
Rita Ryland	Belvedere, CA
Stephen Sarazin	Moscow
Andrew Smith	Pittsburgh
Gloria Tansits Wenze, Ph.D.	Moscow
James Weeks, Ph.D.	Dalton



Family

Mr./Mrs. Robert Cohee	Dunmore
Mr./Mrs. William L. Davis	Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Stephen Kavulich	Clarks Summit
Mr./Mrs. Gerard Jacquinet	Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Ken Knelley	Clarks Summit
Mr./Mrs. John McDonnell	Scranton
Mr./Mrs. Edward Scahill	Clarks Summit
Mr./Mrs. Richard Vail	Chinchilla

Student

Jennifer Cooney	Moscow
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We apologize for the spelling errors on the following new members names from the previous issue:

Gail Spudis, Mr./Mrs. Michael Meredith, and Lawrence Hauerstein.

Reminder! Membership renewals are due on March 1, 2004

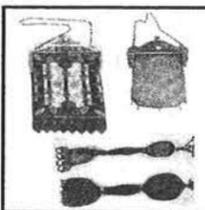
What's New at the Catlin House

EXHIBITS

Hats off to the Society's Fashion Collections Sub-Committee for a fabulous new exhibit at the Catlin House. The exhibit, an assortment of 1920's clothing and accessories, was completed in November by Arlene Devereaux O'Hara and Bridget Conlogue. Pieces include flapper era dresses in vibrant colors plus hats, purses and hair accessories. Many of these have not been exhibited before so be sure to stop in the Catlin House to take a glimpse back at the "Roaring Twenties."



In January, Society interns Tanya Tompkins and Nadia Gougeon installed two new exhibits. The Abraham Lincoln exhibit has been set up in the Catlin House library in honor of President's Day on February 22nd. Nadia and Tanya used artifacts and photographs from the LHS collection including two certificates to Scranton Deputy Postmaster Douglas Jay that were signed by President Lincoln and an actual Ford's Theater playbill from the night he was assassinated.



Tanya and Nadia also planned and designed an exhibit of the LHS fashion accessories for the Federal Courthouse Building in downtown Scranton, with guidance from the Fashion Collection Sub-

Committee. Samples from the Historical Society's collection of women's hats, gloves, fans and purses can be viewed in the cases at the Linden Street entrance, just outside the post office. The accessories range in time from the 1780's to the 1960's and are quite eye catching. Materials used were often beaded or intricately embroidered. There is even a purse made of silver mesh, resembling chain mail. The *miser's purse* is especially interesting. It is very small and made to hold coins only and clipped onto one's belt.

PROGRAMS

The LHS sponsored some exciting events in February. In addition to the February 22nd program, "Gettysburg: Memory, Market and an American Shrine" by James Weeks, the Historical Society joined forces with the Waverly Community House for a presentation by Kits' Kaboodle. This one woman show combined music, dance, history and improvisation to relate the experiences of Miss Charlotte Beauregard during the Civil War with special attention to the Underground Railroad. Following the program, which was held at the Waverly Community House on February 28th, LHS members Julie Esty, Megan Esty and Christine Schaefer were on hand to discuss the Civil War and its local impact. They wore period costume and also displayed toys from the era.

Our Spring program line up also promises to be very interesting. In March, the Historical Society will present "Jacob Koehler: the Man behind the Marker," a lecture by Dorothy Bambach on the life of Rev. Jacob Koehler, founder of the Scranton State School for the Deaf. And in April the Society will host a reading by local poet and author John E. McGuigan from his latest collection of works, "Part of a Geography." Mr. McGuigan will read selections dealing with his experiences of growing up in Scranton.

Also in April, we will be introducing a new poster on the *Doors of Scranton* at the grand opening of Marquis Art and Frame Gallery in downtown Scranton scheduled for April 30th. The poster will include images of doors in Scranton that represent the highest quality architecture and our rich heritage. The photographers who worked on this project, Ward Roe and Michael Thomas, will be featured artists at the Marquis Opening. Details will be announced in the near future.

Photography seems to be a theme this Spring. In addition to the *Doors of Scranton* poster, the LHS will also host an extraordinary exhibit by Scranton photographer and teacher Timothy Butler scheduled to open on May 14th. Mr. Butler has produced some ghostly images of local industrial sites combined with historic photographs. The exhibit, *Anthracite Scrapyard* will be shown at the Catlin House through May.

These are just a few of the wonderful events the LHS has planned for the future. Be sure to check the list of complete Events and Programs on page 8.

SOS! in Scranton

The Lackawanna Historical Society was a proud sponsor this past Summer of the *Preserving Memory* traveling exhibit at the Mall at Steamtown. The exhibit, which was developed by SOS! Save Outdoor Sculpture, a joint project of Heritage Preservation and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, was hosted in venues across the country to inform and educate the public on the importance of outdoor sculpture and its preservation.

The SOS! staff visited Scranton in July to check in on the project and were quite pleased with our venue. When they were here, they informed the Historical Society that Scranton was the first and only city in Pennsylvania to host the program! We are grateful to the Mall at Steamtown for their cooperation in presenting this project.

Blakely continued from page 3

United States.

On October 8, 1814 the *Wasp* met the Swedish brig *Adonis* off the Azores, transferring from her an American naval officer and a Masters Mate who escaped from the British. That was the last time the *Wasp* or Captain Johnston Blakely was ever seen. The fate of the *Wasp* is cloudy. In 1848 naval historian Thomas Wyatt attempted to explain what happened in his memoirs. He wrote: *...the most general impression is that she was lost by one of those casualties incident to the great deep, which have destroyed so many gallant vessels in a manner no one knows why; But whatever may have been the fate of the generous Blakely, this much is certain, that he will, to use his own expression, be classed among those names that stand so high.*

Blakely left one child, a daughter, as a survivor in addition to his wife. In December 1816, in recognition of his services and bravery, the North Carolina Legislature awarded a sword to his wife and daughter. The state also provided financial assistance towards his daughter's education. A gold medal by vote of Congress was presented to the family for the capture of the brig *Reindeer* and the fourteen other ships destroyed or captured by Blakely and the crew of the *Wasp*.

An 1813 painting of Captain Johnston Blakely

The Past Players at Dunmore Cemetery

In June the LHS will present a theatrical interpretation of local history at Dunmore Cemetery. This Spring we will be casting volunteer musicians and actors who wish to participate. The program will involve musical and dramatic presentations of some of the historical figures who are buried in the cemetery.

Anyone who is interested in joining us in this endeavor should contact the Catlin House at 344-3841 for additional information.

Special thanks to Nancy and Cyndie Hasty who prepared the script and will be in charge of the production and to The Scranton Area Foundation Partners in the Arts and the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority for their support of this project.



by D.R. Fairfax hangs in the Philanthropic Chamber on the campus of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. According to the University's minutes of 1819, an un-named artist repainted the portrait from the original when it was partially

destroyed by a fire on campus. Since that time, there have been two additional restorations on the painting in 1943 and 1990.

This ends my journey to learn the heroic story of the man whose name graces my hometown. It makes you wonder what exciting stories can be found behind the names of other Lackawanna towns.

References:

Archives, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Archives and correspondence, Brandon C. Briscoe, President Emeritus Joint Senate of Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. *My Country*, Author unknown, privately printed. *History of the Lackawanna Valley*, Hollister, H. MD, 1857 New York.