

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

NOV. 13 Regional Book Fair - 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lackawanna Visitor's Center

Presentation Schedule:

- 11:05 a.m. Nancy McDonald, author of *If You Can Play Scranton*
11:30 a.m. Aileen Sallom Freeman, author of several local histories including *The Land No One Wanted*, *Canadensis*, *Anthracite Trust* and *A.H. Winton*
11:55 a.m. Elizabeth Ferguson Brown, author of *Coal Country Christmas*
12:20 p.m. Patricia Gatto De Angelis & John DeAngelis, authors of *Milton's Dilemma*
12:45 p.m. Kitty Dye, author of *Maconaquah's Story*, *The Saga of Frances Slocum* and *Meet George Winter: Pioneer Artist, Journalist, Entrepreneur*
1:10 p.m. Mary Liz Donato, author of *Probable Cause*
1:35 p.m. Lucia Dailey, author of *Mine Seed*
2:00 p.m. Robert Janosov, author of *Cold and Gold from the Poconos: A History of the Stegmaier Brewing Company*
2:25 p.m. William Kashatus, author of *Past Present & Personal: A Guide for Doing Local History, Luzerne County*; *One Armed Wonder Peter Gray: Wartime Baseball and the American Dream*, and *Diamonds in the Coalfields*

DEC. 2 Members-Only Holiday Open House, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Music by Santa Ron & the Brass Elves

DEC. 3 General Holiday Open House, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Windsor Chair Raffle winner announced

Rudy Kunz
2923 Northwood Drive
Edwell, NY 13760

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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Fall 2004

Benjamin Crippen
by Alan Sweeney

Leaving home to begin his service in the Union Army, Benjamin Crippen handed his younger brother Martin a coin with the request that he keep it safe until Crippen's return from service.

Crippen had joined the military at Hyde Park on September 6, 1862 as part of the 143rd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, Company E. Under the command of Captain W. Lewis Blair, the Company was stationed at Camp Luzerne. In July of the following year, on the opening day of the Battle of Gettysburg, the 143rd and the rest of the Army of the Potomac fought to slow Confederate advances west of the town.

Delivering their volleys, reloading and turning to fire once more, the Union forces contested every inch of ground as they made their retreat. The men faced the Confederate onslaught with bravery and diligence.

Lieutenant Colonel Treemantle, an English army officer who rode at the side of Confederate General A.P. Hill, reported: "A Yankee color bearer floated his standard in the field and the regiment fought around it and when at last the troops were obliged to retreat, the color-bearer retreated last of all, turning around now and then to shake his fist in the face of the advancing Confederates."

The brave color-bearer was wounded in the retreat and dropped the regimental colors. Witnessing this, Sgt. Crippen turned back from his retreat, retrieved the colors, but was shot and killed. In his report of the first day's battle, Confederate General Hill noted Crippen's bravery and expressed his sorrow at the man's death.

Burial records at Gettysburg National Cemetery note that Sgt. Benjamin Crippen was killed in action on July 1, 1863. Crippen's body was never identified, but it is likely to have been buried by the Confederates in a mass grave of fifteen hundred Union dead.

Martin Crippen lived as a respected and successful citizen of the county until 1938, all the while keeping his brother's coin in his pocket. Upon Martin Crippen's death, the coin passed to Mrs. Ralph [Emma Crippen] Williams, who held it until 1958, when she presented it as a gift to J. Hayden Oliver, who had always treasured the story of Ben Crippen and the history of the coin. Oliver carried the coin in his pocket until his death in 1960.

The family of J. Hayden Oliver treasured the coin as a memento of the patriotism and family loyalty that its history represents.



Noteworthy: The Sons of Union Veterans Reserve has presented the Society with a print of Benjamin Crippen by military historical artist Mark Maritato. The print can be viewed at the Catlin House.



Windsor Chair Raffle

The Society is once again offering its members a chance to win a handcrafted Windsor Chair, but this year's chair offers a new twist. This year's Windsor Chair is a rocker!

Winners will be announced at the December 3rd Holiday Open House. 2nd prize is a Magnavox DVD Player, and 3rd prize is a \$25 Gift Certificate from the Olive Garden. *

*Please note the gift certificate expires on December 31, 2004.

Memorials

Memory of William I. Pentecost
From Atty. Mrs. Paul Price
Mrs. John O'Hara
Mr. and Mrs. Pete Axford

Memory of Thomas Bosak, Sr.
From Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Bosley

Society Loses a Dear Friend

On July 28th, the Society lost dedicated member William I. Pentecost. He was appointed a Trustee in 1977 and Trustee Emeritus in 1999. An enthusiastic participant in just about every event the Society held, he took the time to send regular notes of thanks and to contribute his knowledge whenever it was needed.

A graduate of Cornell University and an Army Veteran, Mr. Pentecost served the community in many ways. In 2002, he received the Distinguished Citizen Award of Forest City, a town founded by his great-grandfather.

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.

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The Lackawanna Historical Society Fund For the Future Contributions received as of November 3, 2004

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100 Years Ago/Fall 1904

8 November – Franklin D. Roosevelt sweeps the Presidential race. In Lackawanna County, Republicans elect the entire ticket by an overwhelming majority.

13 November – Nine inches of snow falls in the county, causing "the worst prostration of telegraphic and telephone wires ever known here."



24 November – The cornerstone is laid for the Myrtle Street Methodist Church.

8 December – An explosion in the Dunmore vein of the Oxford mine kills two men.

11 December – A third victim of the Oxford mine explosion dies. The Elm Park United Methodist Church celebrates its 12th anniversary. The Rev. C.M. Giffin resigns as pastor.



21 December – Nine Dunmore hotel keepers have their licenses revoked for selling alcohol on Sundays.

26 December – The Mortimer Snow company opens the Court Square theater.



With Appreciation...

Thanks to Julie Esty and Christine Schaefer for their great work in planning and leading the October 24th Dunmore Cemetery Walking Tour, and to all of the talented actors who participated:

Dominick Azzarelli	Matthew Melovitz
Margo Azzarelli	Jeff Moran
Marnie Azzarelli	Rich Mozeleski
Joanne Bogdanovicz	Jenn Ochman
John Bogdanovicz	John Ochman
Mary Bogdanovicz	Christine Schaefer
Jefferson Castanho	Jack Schaefer
Bridget Conlogue	Megan Schaefer
Bill Esty	Christopher Wood
Julie Esty	Jackie Wood
Megan Esty	Nelson Wood

Continued from page 6

Her career with the Regiment was not without its highlights. On one occasion, the men sponsored her in a race at the Munich-Reim Track where she was entered in a field of sixteen professional jumping horses. To everyone's surprise and astonishment, the old gal fared well. Under the prodding and urging of her jockey, Tony Hemmerick, she crossed the finish line in seventh place.

As word of this special mascot got around, the Old Gray Mare enjoyed worldwide notoriety in many newspapers and was even the subject of a ten-minute feature on the British Broadcasting Company's radio station.

The day eventually came when the mare and her loyal friends had to part. The Old Gray Mare could not join the men as they returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania. Their sad separation took place in the spring of 1953 when the Division was recalled from active duty and the mare was surrendered to the Lord Mayor of Augsburg, who promised green pastures for the beloved mascot.

It's unclear what happened to the Regimental Mascot after the 109th left Germany. Some speculated that she had returned to her former riding stable, others to her former job as a polo pony. All were pure supposition. Her fate remains unclear.

With or without their mascot, the Maresmen have enjoyed a long and notable history, serving admirably in peace and in war, and meriting many laurels and accolades. The legacy of the Regiment is symbolized in the red keystone patch, known to the Germans in World War II as the "bloody bucket" as a testament of respect for the blood and valor of the battlefield. The Regimental crest, another badge of honor, reflects the Regiment's past.

With all of the symbols that honor the Regiment and its glory, "The Old Gray Mare" perpetuates the image and reputation of the 109th. This honored symbol carries the beat for the marching feet of today's "Maresmen...today's Modern Minutemen" far into the future.



Election of Officers

Elections of Officers of the Lackawanna Historical Society's Board of Trustees will be conducted at the December 2nd Members-Only Open House. All active members are invited to participate. The 2005 slate includes:

OFFICERS:

Alan Sweeney, President
Richard Bovard, 1st Vice President
Eileen Pocius, 2nd Vice President
Douglas Forrer, Treasurer
Mark Cruciani, Assistant Treasurer
Arlene Devereaux O'Hara, Secretary



CLASS OF 2007:

Joseph Cimini, Esq.
Mark Cruciani
Laureen Cadden Foley
Douglas Forrer
Mary Jane Memolo*
Elaine Shepard

*Mary Jane Memolo has been nominated to fill a vacancy left by Barbara Mears.

In addition to the nominees listed above, Michael Gilmartin has been nominated to fill a slot vacated by Mark Fournier. Mark Fournier resigned his position in October due to an occupation relocation. We are grateful to him for his service and interest in the Society, and wish him much success in his future endeavors.

Volunteer Corner

The Society is pleased to welcome four new volunteers.

Stephanie Lehan is a Scranton native whose volunteer efforts include typing, working on mailings, and assisting with research. As a participant of the Yellow Wood program, Ms. Lehan is earning credits toward her high school graduation. A yearly visitor to San Francisco, she plans to pursue her nursing degree at the University of California, Davis. We thank Stephanie for her contributions to the Historical Society and wish her much success.

Ronald Krysiowski of Wilkes-Barre is a graduate student in History at the University of Scranton. Ron's work here will give him a better understanding of historic preservation, archiving, and collection's management. Toward that end, Ron will assist in the archiving of the Scranton Lace Company's documents. Ron hopes to obtain an archival/collection management position in a museum or in a state archives. We thank Ron for his help and wish him well in his future work as a historian.

Patrick TeDesco of Columbia, Maryland is a Senior History major at the University of Scranton. Patrick works as Ella Rayburn's assistant and has just completed a project classifying artifacts for de-accession. Patrick hopes to curate or direct a maritime museum. We thank Patrick and wish him future success.

Michael Scott, a Tunkhannock native, graduated among the top of his class at Tunkhannock High School. He is currently a Freshman at the University of Scranton, majoring in Secondary Education with an emphasis in History. Michael loves history and drama, and volunteers at the Historical Society to help with the preservation of local history. After graduation, Michael hopes to teach high school history at the honors level. We wish Michael success in his studies.

Cheryl Kashuba joins us to help out with our newsletter. A native of Scranton, Cheryl is a part-time college English instructor, writer, and editor. With a passion for the rich cultural history of our area, Cheryl is excited about her involvement with the Historical Society. We thank Cheryl for putting her talents to use on our behalf.

New Rugs

The Society would like to extend its thanks to new member Joseph Castellino for his assistance in locating four new Oriental rugs to replace existing rugs that were severely worn. Bought at auction, the new rugs compliment the period décor of the house. Thanks also to Richard Leonori, Wendell James, and Ella Rayburn for their help in placing the rugs and updating the first floor.

New Members

Individual

Austin Burke III	Scranton
Atty. Joseph Castellino	Pittston
Patricia Gatto De Angelis	Scranton
Marie Fricchione	Scranton
Regina Gelabert	Scranton
Allan Paul Goodling, Sr.	Scranton
J. Roger Kemple	Texas
Mary Ann Krisa	Scranton
Rudy Kunz	Endwell, NY
Maria Manzano	Scranton
Frank J. McDonnell	Dunmore
Wesley Mitchell	Clarks Summit
Atty. William Rinaldi	Scranton
Bernadette Wake	Scranton
Holly Williams	Scranton



Family

Dr. and Mrs. David Hazzouri Sr.	Clarks Summit
Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Hennemuth	Lake Ariel
Walter and Edna Moran	Lake Ariel
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Morgan	New York, NY
Emily and Tony Perry	Scranton
Debra G. Pfurr	Clarks Summit
Letha and Ken Reinheimer	Clarks Summit
James and Susan Rodway	Peckville
John and Maureen Walker	Waverly

Contributing

Mary Felley	Dalton
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Sustaining

Paul Cooper	Scranton
Laurie Cadden Foley	Scranton
Tom Musto	Wilkes-Barre

Silver

Penn Security	Scranton
United Gilsonite Labs	Scranton

Reminder! 2005 membership renewals will be due in January.



What's New at the Catlin House

Regional Book Fair Set for November 13th...

On November 13, 2003, the Lackawanna Historical Society and the Luzerne County Historical Society will sponsor a Regional Book Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lackawanna County Visitor's Center at Montage Mountain. The event is open to the public. We invite everyone to join us for an exciting opportunity to meet fifteen local authors, purchase their books and learn about local history. A presentation schedule follows on page 8. For additional details, please call 344-3841.

Selected Authors' Biographies and Books

Elizabeth Ferguson Brown (New Jersey) Children's Fiction

Born and raised in New Jersey and now living in Rhode Island, Elizabeth has close connections to the anthracite coal mining area of Pennsylvania. Her mother was born and raised in Carbondale. After retiring from teaching after 25 years, Elizabeth's first writing venture recalled a family story that had lived in her mind for years. She is delighted to share her story in this delightful children's book.

Coal Country Christmas

(Boyd's Mills Press, Honesdale, PA. Oct. 2003)

Experience this nostalgic story of holiday celebrations in a coal mining family. Historically accurate as well as poignant, the story brings us Christmas for a young child in the 1950s anthracite coal mining town of Carbondale, PA. In simple, poetic text, we see the warmth of a close-knit family who celebrates the holiday together at Grandma's house...together where they belong at Christmas, together in coal country.

Mary Liz Donato (Carbondale/Madison Township) Fiction

M.L. Donato was born and raised in Carbondale and has promoted Lackawanna County through her involvement with local government and regional planning for the past fifteen years. A graduate of Carbondale Area High School and East Stroudsburg University, she lives in Madison Township with her husband and son.

Probable Cause

(iUniverse, January 2002)

An unconventional whodunit – a real page-turner – *Probable Cause* is a bold, yet genuine, portrayal of rural Pennsylvania and small-town policing from a female officer's perspective.

-Chief Ivy Brenzel, Moscow Borough Police Department.

Jack Hiddlestone (Clarks Summit) Local History

Jack Hiddlestone was born in Throop, Pennsylvania and raised in Scranton. After serving two years in the U.S. Army, he was employed by Bell Atlantic for 36 years. He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Lackawanna Historical Society and has been a serious collector of post cards for almost 20 years. His collection, focusing on Lackawanna County, is considered to be one of the most comprehensive in the area. He resides in Clarks Summit with his wife of 49 years, Nancy Sanders Hiddlestone, and he is the father of Suzanne Shea and grandfather of Samantha. Mr. Hiddlestone's publications include:

Return to Luna Park, 2004

As Seen Through a Camera, 2001

Wish You Were Here: A Picture Postcard Book of Lackawanna County, PA, 1997

Scranton Luna Park, 1991

Greetings From Scranton, 1986

Arnine Cumsky Weiss (Scranton) Ethnic Heritage

Ms. Cumsky Weiss is a nationally certified sign language interpreter who has recently interpreted for both presidential candidates. She is the author of *Becoming a Bar Mitzvah: A Treasury of Stories*, and *Becoming a Bat Mitzvah: A Treasury of Stories*, published by the University of Scranton Press, and the upcoming *The Jews of Scranton*, published by Arcadia Press.

Becoming a Bar Mitzvah: A Treasury of Stories is a compilation of 50 interesting, unusual, and humorous stories. The book includes the story of the first Bar Mitzvah in Germany after WWII, the story of a Bar Mitzvah in the concentration camps, and the Bar Mitzvahs of celebrities Alan Dershowitz, Ed Asner, and Ron Rifkin.

See page 8 for complete Presentation Schedule.

NEW IN THE BOOKSTORE

Overbrook Town Shop Recipes

International Textbook Press

Reviewed by Cheryl Kashuba

Whether it's a hearty plate of meatloaf and mashed potatoes or a decadent dessert, food brings comfort, stirs memories, and makes us feel special.

Hungry appetites need look no further than *Overbrook Town Shop Recipes*. From soups and appetizers to cookies and desserts, this cookbook is a collection of nearly 200 favorite recipes enjoyed by patrons of the Overbrook Town Shop.

Once a popular eatery, especially among the ladies of our area, the North Washington Avenue restaurant overlooked Court House Square in Scranton.

This wonderful book is a reprint of the original edition by Ruth Kellogg McGurdy and Flora Sell Coan. It features nearly 200 recipes that will rekindle old food memories or help create new ones.

Whether you're nostalgic for family favorites such as roast turkey or beef stew, or craving comfort foods such as baked macaroni and cheese or homemade rice pudding, this book will satisfy.

Some of the dishes are surprisingly modern, like eggs stuffed with crab. The chapter on meat substitutes and the many vegetable dishes will appeal to the health conscious, discerning eater. Sandwiches and salads, seafood and steaks, this cookbook has it all.

Save room, because this cookbook offers no fewer than seven chapters devoted to the sweet tooth – cakes, pies, elegant desserts, dessert sauces and fruit. This book has a recipe to satisfy any taste.

Cookbook sales will help in our ongoing mission to preserve the history of Lackawanna County. So why not add a copy to your collection and a few copies to your holiday shopping list for great gifts.

Reminder...Doors of Scranton Poster

Make sure to add the *Doors of Scranton* poster to your holiday shopping list. The poster highlights some of the unique and ornate doors that grace our architecturally-rich community. Posters, both framed and unframed, are available at the Marquis Gallery and Framing shop in the former Casey Laundry building, Center Street, Scranton. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Historical Society.



Artist-in-Residence

On November 16th the Lackawanna Historical Society welcomes Artist in Residence Elizabeth Parry-Faist to the

Catlin House. Liz will conduct a four-week workshop with students from Northeast Intermediate School. A Rostered Artist with NEIU, she holds a BFA and an MFA with a focus in photography. Liz's work has evolved into image-based mixed media art, using found objects such as portrait photographs and even text. Her recent show at the Everhart Museum, *Archival Reflection*, showcases her work.

Students will begin by researching downtown Scranton architecture. Each student will compose a collage that depicts the layers of a particular building's history. Additionally, students will collaborate on a collage to leave with the Historical Society.

Completed projects will be displayed at the William Nealon Federal Courthouse and Post Office Building, with a public opening. The project is supported by the Scranton School District's BEST program and the NEIU 19.



Holiday Open House Scheduled at Catlin House

On December 2nd and 3rd The Lackawanna Historical Society will host its annual Holiday Open House. Thursday evening is Members-Only night and will include musical entertainment by *Santa Ron and the Brass Elves**, an eight piece Brass and Rhythm Ensemble performing jazzy arrangements of your holiday favorites. Please join us for this festive evening and good cheer.

*Available for private and corporate parties.





Grants Awarded

The Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to announce that it has been awarded the 2004-2005 General Operating Support for Official County Historical Societies grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

The \$10,000 grant, matched with County funds, will allow the Society to continue its mission of promoting and preserving local history.

The PHMC also awarded a 2004-2005 Archives and Records Management grant in the amount of \$6,125.00. Together with addition funds of \$3,000, provided by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, the grant will be used to organize, document, and preserve an important group of records from the Scranton Lace Company. The collection was donated by the Scranton Lace Company earlier this year and includes 75 boxes of business records, photographs, and pattern samples that represent the company's history from its founding in 1897 to its closing last year.

Many thanks to Bridget Conlogue for her work in obtaining the grant and managing the project. Bridget will be working with Society intern Ron Krysiwski on this project, with professional guidance from Ella Rayburn, Cultural Manager at Steamtown National Historic Site; Michael Knies, Archivist at the University of Scranton's Weinberg Library; Donna Adler, Scranton Public Library; and Dan Perry, Private Consultant and Historian.

In addition, the Society has obtained funds in the amount of \$3,444 from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) Program Stream. The PPA is the regional arts funding partnership of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency. The funding will be used to help the Society continue to build a strong partnerships with local artists to create new and exciting ways to teach the community about local history through the arts.

Under the Lackawanna Moon

Reviewed by Cheryl Kashuba, with Nelson Wood

The past came to life once again as the play *Under the Lackawanna Moon* made a repeat performance the weekend of October 9th and 10th at the Dunmore Cemetery. Under the direction of playwright Nancy Hasty, this unique drama recreates the history of the Lackawanna Valley by offering a glimpse into the lives of those who make their final resting place in the cemetery grounds.

A cemetery is a surprising venue for a theatre production. Yet as the play opened, with characters in Native American costume making their way down the hillside, the setting helped transport the audience to another time. The well-chosen and well-executed scenes offered a taste of life as it was lived by rich and poor, young and old, famous and obscure.

The little dale surrounding the Crawford mausoleum changed with the season. Under a steely sky, with foliage just beginning to take on its autumn hues, the play had a different feel from its summer debut. The chill and wind of Sunday's performance gave something of a sense of the hardship that the Civil War soldiers, in the sixth scene, endured. The stark black of the mourners' costumes combined with the promise of impending winter to infuse the funeral scene with a mood of despair.

The delightful and sometimes sorrowful musical score of Cindy Hasty told of the ups and downs, the joys and hardships of the people who made this Valley what it is. Native Americans walked the cemetery grounds as haunting shadows returned to the land that once was their home. The funeral of John B. Smith, Captain of Industry, reminded us that life in the 1800s offered the opportunity for great wealth and success, but could be cut short at any time.

The sweet voices in the scene "Dressed in Lace" contrasted poignantly with the harsh reality of the lives of the young girls whose long, hard hours of sacrifice made the Scranton lace industry the success that it was. The scene "Home of the Friendless" honored the lives of those who died in nameless obscurity. "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," a duet sung by Nancy MacDonald and Jackie Wood, epitomized the bittersweet feeling of that scene.

"Breaker Boy" wrenched at the heart as vocalists Cindy Hasty, Pat Angelin and Larry Hickernell recalled the danger of life in the coal mines with the lyrics, "I pray the whistle never blows for you." And the scene "The Second Mrs. Catlin" underscored the harsh line that divided the classes. The Historical Society cemetery tour scene brought the audience back to the reality that the play is set in a cemetery. As Gail Margan noted, the characters seemed to come out of the past to visit us for a time and then return. They paid tribute to the rich and complex history of our Valley that is alive around us.

The Old Gray Mare, Part II
by Sgt. Daniel Glodek (Retired), 109th Infantry and 103rd Armor
Pennsylvania Army National Guard
(continued from last issue)

On May 2, 1918, the 109th sailed from Hoboken and from New York harbor to France. Unaware of their destiny, the Maresmen were about to participate in a vicious and bloody war. In that first global struggle, their dogged determination in combat earned the men several battle honors and citations for their fighting in Champagne, Oisne-Aisne, Champagne-Marne, Lorraine, Aisne-Marne and the Muese-Argon.

Although the unfathomable carnage and immeasurable damage of the Great War was to have made it the war to end all wars, the 109th Regiment would participate in future conflicts. Through them all, the spirit of these Men of Iron, as this group of soldiers came to be known, stayed with the Regiment.

A generation or so after the Armistice of 1918 was signed, the men of the 109th returned to the old battlefields of Europe to pass the torch to a new generation of citizen soldiers. In 1941, the winds of war blew once again, and the new generation of men was sent to fight in Europe in 1943. As the regiment had in the past, the men of this 109th served with distinction, this time on the battlefields of Schmidt and the Hurtgen Forest, and in the Battle of the Bulge. They won honors at Normandy, the Rhineland, Northern France, Central Europe, the Ardennes and Alsace. After years of bitter fighting and millions of lost lives, World War II came to a welcome end. The 109th stayed on in Germany.

It was years later in Germany, during the Korean conflict, that an anonymous and enterprising sergeant suggested a living, breathing, old gray mare to serve as the Regimental mascot. Such an animal would be an ideal, highly visible representative of their unit and their marching song. The idea appealed to several ranking officers, and the search for a mascot began.

The regiment intended to acquire a horse as a surprise for the Regimental Commander. The story goes that a former German Army Officer from Augsburg agreed to sell a mare of Arabian

and Belgian blood that he claimed was eleven years old. The regiment was fortunate enough to have, among their officers, a veterinarian who examined the mare and found her to be at least 16 or 17 years old. After a bit of horse trading, a deal was struck and the mare was purchased for approximately \$285.00.

Before finding a home with the 109th, the mare had been a polo pony and had been part of a riding stable. She had also served in the German Army as an artillery horse and had been slightly wounded in her left leg during fighting on the Italian Front. After the war, she had been demoted to the lowly level of a plow horse, but the 109th liberated her from a life of hard labor.

Because of a lack of funds, the mascot had to be purchased on a basis of credit. According to an article written in "The Old Gray Mare" Newsletter (dated January 2002 - Issue #29), Harry Niece of Port Allegheny, Pennsylvania stated that "the 109th rallied together to buy the mare on a preferred stock basis with over 4,000 owners... making it one of the largest corporations in Germany at the time." The Old Gray Mare made her public debut on May 12, 1952 on a rain-soaked day that kicked off Organization Day for the 109th Infantry Combat Team. Despite the muddy parade area, the day went ahead as planned. Pfc. Anthony J Hemmerick, a former jockey, led the new mascot onto the field, handing the reins over to Regimental Commander Colonel McHugh. She was an instant hit!

When the resounding cheers of approval abated, Colonel McHugh boldly took possession of the reigns, confidently mounted the mare, and rode off and trooped the line.

Soon the mare became a popular celebrity, good will ambassador, and public relations agent for the Regiment. Her busy schedule included fairs and sporting events. More importantly, the mare became a source of morale and inspiration to the men of the unit.

Continued on page 8