



LHS

The Lackawanna
Historical Society
Journal

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Winter 2013

Politics Tracked One Celluloid Button at a Time

Ella S. Rayburn

An exhibit of political buttons and advertising focusing on Gov. William Scranton is on display at the Historical Society until March 4th. Fred Noye approached the Society about loaning a portion of his collection of pins, as this is the 50th anniversary of Mr. Scranton's successful run for Pennsylvania Governor. Since this is also an election year,

celebrating Halloween, a Kennedy pin, and several supporting Hillary Clinton for President. Tossed in a basket is evidence of my support for Lackawanna County campaigns for commissioner, judge, and a city mayor. Lately the buttons have been replaced by paper stickers which are throw-aways; therefore few will be saved. Too bad, we will lose celluloid representation of our passions.

Fred Noye, from Elliottsburg, Pa, carried the idea of throwing a few buttons into a drawer to an exponential proportion of several thousand in an advanced collection of political buttons and campaign advertising including the largest collection of Richard Nixon campaign materials in the nation. His mother gave him souvenirs from her attendance at Pres. Dwight Eisenhower's second inaugural. This innocent act triggered a life-long passion for political memorabilia collecting. Mr. Noye's particular interest is Pennsylvania political items. Buttons are the chief campaign advertisement; however there are lots of different campaign representations such as beanie caps, ribbons, posters, flyers, and boater hats, which are included in this exhibit and were issued by Gov. Scranton's campaigns.

Mr. Noye served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 86th district, parts of Franklin and all of Perry



Some of the Governor Scranton political buttons on display at the Catlin House.

Counties, from 1972 to 1992. He served 14 years as a member of Republican Leadership including time as Caucus Chairman. He is proud of being one of only two Pennsylvania legislators ever chosen to head a national organization of state legislators when he served as Chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council in 1992.

William Warren Scranton is a revered favorite son of Lackawanna County. Born in 1917 into a prominent local family, he entered politics after serving in the Army Air Corps, earning a law degree and working in the business

we asked Mr. Noye to loan political advertising from Mr. Scranton's run for the Republican presidential nominee in 1964. Most of us have a political button or two or three thrown in a desk drawer or the catch-all drawer of the dresser. The buttons run the gamut from supported causes, local political races, and state and national political races. For example, in my desk drawer I have an IKE tabbed shirt pocket metal piece, a Bicentennial button from Philadelphia, advocacy for a national park in Virginia, a privately-designed button

Continued on Page 9

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- SUN., FEB. 17, 2 PM **MRS. JEFFERSON TALKS ABOUT THOMAS JEFFERSON**
by Gina Aleo at the Catlin House
- FRI. - SUN., MAR. 1-3 **DINNER BY DESIGN**
at the Scranton Cultural Center, *details TBA*
- MON., APR. 1, 5 PM **APRIL FOOLS DAY TOUR & DINNER**, see page 6 for details
- SUN., APR. 6, 2 PM **RAILROAD PERSPECTIVES**
Gallery Talk and Print Making Workshop
by Claire Marcus at the Catlin House
- SAT., APR. 13, 7 PM **GRAND CIVIL WAR BALL** at the Century Club, see page 11 for details
Go to www.scrantoncivilwarday.com for more information
- SUN., APR. 14, 1 PM **VICTORIAN EDWARDIAN FASHION SHOW AND TEA**
WITH THE LADIES OF QUEEN VICTORIA'S COURT, see page 11 for details
at the Tripp House. Go to www.scrantoncivilwarday.com for more information
- SAT., APR. 27, 7 PM **YOU LIVE HERE, YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS!**, see page 11 for team requests
at the Scranton Cultural Center, *details TBA*
- SUN., APR. 28, 2 PM **BOOK SIGNING FOR FIRE MEN: STORIES FROM THREE GENERATIONS OF A FIRE FIGHTING FAMILY**
by Gary Ryman at the Catlin House
- SUN., MAY 12, 2 PM **AVANTI'S VERSUS PETRI'S OR SCRANTON VERSUS SAN FRANCISCO**
Part 2 of Avanti Cigar Company history by Dominic Keating at the Catlin House
- WED., MAY 15, 7 PM **BREWED IN SCRANTON AND BEER TASTING**, *details TBA*

A Word from the President...

Hello everyone,

First, let me begin by bidding good-bye to two wonderful and dedicated employees/volunteers of the Lackawanna Historical Society. Ann Marie O'Hara and Mary Ann Gavern have both given many years of hard work and support to our organization. The board of trustees and I are most grateful for that kind of service and dedication. Both ladies retired at the end of December and I am certain you join me in wishing them good health and happiness.

Next, I would like to say welcome to Sarah Piccini who joined the office staff as of January 2nd and is the new voice greeting you when you call. Sarah's credentials and the extended schedule of Olivia Bernardi will carry us forward, along with the continued support of volunteers. We wish Sarah well and many thanks for joining the LHS.

Last, I would like to direct attention to the current Capital Campaign, recently initiated by the Lackawanna Historical Society. This effort is very important to secure the safety and efficiency of the Catlin House and the collection materials we have in it. Our mission, which is to collect, preserve and present the history of Lackawanna County, would be greatly assisted by improved climate control, safety, lighting and energy savings. We have created a plan and a committee of people to direct it. Introduction of the campaign began in late November, with the first appeal going to the board of trustees. As of this letter, 90% have responded with pledges totaling \$25,000 collectively. I look forward to reaching 100% participation by the board soon. The second mailing of the Capital Campaign marketing materials was sent out to the society membership in December. Response in support of the project has been strong and we continue to look forward to hearing from LHS members who have not made a donation/pledge to date.

We are now into the third phase of our appeal. That is going to the general public with input provided by division chairs to reach out to specific individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations. Saving history for tomorrow by improving the Catlin House electrical system is a goal we can achieve with the help of many people who share our concerns. Stay well and know I appreciate all you do for the society.

Best Regards,
Michael Gilmartin

Renew Your 2013 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	\$35	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45	ADDRESS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$75	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Corporate	\$500	EMAIL _____

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2013

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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 Partners on the Arts and membership dues.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is published by the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510 Telephone (570) 344-3841. Address questions to Mary Ann Moran Savakinus at lackawannahistory@gmail.com.

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$35 and up for Individuals, \$45 for Families, and \$125 for Organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

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9th Annual Grand Civil War Ball & Downton Abbey Fashion Show and Tea

On Saturday April 13, 2013, the Lackawanna Historical Society will host its 9th Annual Civil War Ball at The Century Club, 612 Jefferson Ave, in Scranton. Dancing begins at 8 pm with prompting by Ball Preceptor Martha Griffin and music provided by *Spare Parts*. Period dress and dress blues or greys greatly admired, but not required. Modern formalwear is acceptable.

Cost: \$35 per person or \$60 per couple.*

On Sunday, April 14, 2013, the fun continues at the Historic Tripp House, 1011 North Main Avenue in Scranton with a *Downton Abbey Fashion Show & Tea* from 1 pm to 3 pm. See for yourself what fashionable ladies really wore during the time portrayed on the popular television show "Downton Abbey". Women's fashions from the early 20th century will be presented by the ladies of Queen Victoria's Court. An elegant tea luncheon will be provided and the vintage dance band *Spare Parts* will play period music to transport you to a more gracious time. There isn't a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon!

Cost: \$35 per person (Reservations deadline: April 10)*
 Seating for Sunday program is limited and advance registration is required.

For additional details go to www.scrantoncivilwarday.com

*Tickets are non-refundable.



Last year's winning team and true Legends of Lore
 David Wenzel, David DeCosmo, Dominic Keating and Jack Carling.

Show Us What You Know

The Lackawanna Historical Society is looking for teams for its fourth annual local history quiz show.

You Live Here; You Should Know This!

Teams should include three (or four) energetic, eager, vivacious people who represent your family, association, group, or organization.

To apply please send a list of your team members, organization affiliation, and short biography for each person. Completed information should be sent to the Society at 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510 no later than February 23, 2012.

Final teams will be selected by the planning committee of local students from Valley View and Riverside High Schools. Acceptance and notifications will be sent in March.

The games will be held on April 27 from 6:00 pm - 10:00 p.m. at Shopland Hall in the Scranton Cultural Center. Teams will compete in a NEW and IMPROVED *Family Feud/Jeopardy* style format, answering questions about people, events, and happenings in our county.

Winners will have the exclusive bragging rights for one whole year of holding the status of **Local Lackawanna History Legends of Lore!**



Community Calendar

The Heritage Room at the University of Scranton's Weinberg Memorial Library will be hosting

American Hands: A Visual Celebration of Traditional Tradespeople

a traveling exhibit of work by photographer Sally Wiener Grotta.

American Hands (www.AmHands.com) is Sally Wiener Grotta's ongoing narrative visual celebration of those individuals who are keeping alive the traditional trades that built our country's diverse culture. She is documenting the work of artisans including a spinner, weaver, blacksmith, bookbinder and others. Her narrative series of portraits capture both the fascinating craft processes and the individual personalities of the craftspeople.

Sally began the exhibit as *Pennsylvania Hands*. The constantly changing exhibit has been seen around the state and has now become a national project and renamed *American Hands*.

Sally is widely considered to be a pioneer of digital photography and was recently recognized as a Coloratti: "One of the top photographers in the world." She has served as chapter president for the American Society of Media Photographers and has traveled on assignment to every continent including Antarctica. Her photographs and articles have appeared in scores of magazines and books. Sally co-authored (with Daniel Grotta) the groundbreaking work, *Digital Imaging for Visual Artists* which is considered one of the first important works on the subject. In addition to her numerous other books on photography and imaging, she is also a fiction author; her novel *Jo Joe* was published in January 2013 by Pixel Hall Press.

There will be a reception featuring a talk by the artist on Wednesday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room. The reception is free and open to the public. The exhibit, lecture, and reception are cosponsored by the Friends of the Weinberg Memorial Library and the Schemel Forum, and supported by a Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and Pocono Arts Council.

The exhibit will run from January 31 through February 28, 2013.

American Hands is sponsored

by Artspire (a national program of the New York Foundation for the Arts), Hewlett-Packard Workstations, Pentax, HP Designjet, X-Rite and Smugmug.

A Recent Request to the Society

In December the Society received the following email from Scott Mecca requesting our assistance in recruiting members for a Civil War reenactment unit:

My name is Scott Mecca and a few guys and I are trying to establish a Civil War reenactment unit. The unit we want to portray is the 143rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Co. A, which was a local unit that was organized in Wilkes Barre in August of 1862. A majority of the men that served were from Luzerne county (which at the time included present day Lackawanna county) and some from Wyoming and Susquehanna counties. At the moment, there are not many of us so I was wondering if any of the local museums, libraries or historical societies can help us pass the word along to anyone that might show an interest in recreating a part of this nation's past. We plan on doing battle reenactments as well as living histories. Eventually once the soldier enlistment is increased we would like to form a civilian branch to accompany us. Attached is a recruitment poster that was designed to look period, with some contact information at the bottom. If you can please post or forward that would be great.

Thank you so much.

Mr. Mecca can be contacted at Scott.Mecca@vantagenllc.com


143rd Pennsylvania Volunteers.

THE CHANCE TO Serve YOUR COUNTRY!

RALLY! MEN!

RALLY!!

FOR



OUR COUNTRY CALLS FOR MORE MEN!!
PENNSYLVANIA CALLS FOR ONE MORE REGIMENT.
Good pay, good rations, good clothing. Bounties provided for thirty dollars a year bounty from the State; one hundred dollar bonus from the government; competent and deserving men will be promoted, irrespective of rank.

Colonel Edmund L. Dams, Commanding

143rd PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS

COMPENSATION.

\$25.00 per month with clothing and rations. To men having wife and two or more children.
\$23.50 " " " " " " " " " " " "
\$21.00 " " " " " " " " " " " "
\$19.00 " " " " " " " " " " " "


single
wife only.

Persons of 18 years or under are not eligible; those over 45 are ineligible. Pay and allowances commence at time of enlistment.

For further information, contact

Peter W. Cangemi, Sergt., Co. A

Loganwolf772@hotmail.com



In the Catlin House...

LHS SAYS FAREWELL & WELCOME AS THE STAFF TRANSITIONS.

The Society is pleased to welcome Sarah Piccini to our staff. We asked her to provide some background about herself as a way of introduction:



Hello! My name is Sarah Piccini, and I am the new assistant director of the Lackawanna Historical Society. You may have seen me at LHS programs in the past; I have been involved with the Scranton After Dark ghost tours and act as Vanna White for "You Live Here, You Should Know This!" I am an absolutely amazing person; really, truly spectacular! Let me tell you about myself.

I live in Greenfield Township, a rural community near Carbondale, where residents are often concerned about dairy cows standing in the middle of the road. I received a Bachelor's degree

in History and Communications from the University of Scranton in 2007, and returned to receive my Master's degree in History in 2010. I completed my thesis on the effects of the 1877 railroad and coal strike in Scranton; I am interested in the dramatic conflicts that come with labor struggles. I am the author of *Framing Faith: A Pictorial History of Communities of Faith*, a recent book outlining the histories of ten Diocese of Scranton churches that recently closed, and examining the importance of faith in the lives of the region's early immigrant populations. I have been on the board of the PA Anthracite Heritage Museum since 2009, and have served as Vice President of that esteemed organization for two years. I am a Girl Scout Gold Award Advisor and a member of the Main Street program in downtown Scranton. I have a kitten named Steve McQueen, who is adorable and very fun.

I'm looking forward to working with Mary Ann, Olivia, and the many volunteers at the Catlin House, and hope to meet you all at programs and events. See you around!

In December the Society said goodbye to two of its most dedicated staff members:

Ann Marie O'Hara and Mary Ann Gavern. Both women have served the organization for more than 2 decades!

Mary Ann Gavern first came to the Catlin House in 1991, under the Green Thumb Senior Worker's Program before being hired directly by the LHS. For 14 years she was an invaluable part of the staff, maintaining membership records, coordinating tours, and managing much of the organization's day to day activities. She left this position in 2005 to care for her husband, Jim, who she had also worked with at the Catlin House as caretakers during that time. In 2008, we were delighted to welcome Mary Ann back as research assistant. She worked for the next three years conducting research, assisting visitors and preparing the weekly "Then and Now" columns for the *Scranton Sunday Times*.

Ann Marie O'Hara joined the LHS staff in 2005 taking the position vacated by Mary Ann Gavern, but she had been involved with the Society since 1992 when she signed on as a volunteer tour guide. Ann Marie has led a variety of Catlin House tour groups and also guided our summer downtown walking tours. As the LHS office assistant she managed all daily activities, greeting visitors, fielding phone calls and maintaining membership and sales records. Both women have promised to return as volunteers and to assist our new staff members with this transition. We wish them well on their retirement and look forward to having them continue to share their talents and knowledge as LHS volunteers.

NEW MEMBERS

Individual

Jacqueline Barnett, Dillsburg
John Christie, Scranton
Barbara Dehaba, Scranton
Ann Gilmartin, Scranton
Terrence LaFrance, Spencerport, NY
Nancy McManamon, N. Abington Twp.
Curtis Potter, Windham, NH
Gerald Reilly, Berkley Heights, NJ
Bryan Trischette, Scranton



Family

Michael Brandon Baine, Scranton
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Burke, Hunlock Creek
Joseph & Penni Gaughan, Scranton
Joanne Gonzalez, S. Abington Twp.
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Nazar, Clarks Summit
Francis Tyson, Scranton
Kelly Valentine & Charles Kessler, Bridgewater, NJ
Kathleen Zinskie, Olyphant

Members listed as of January 23, 2013

Mountain Lake, Scranton

Donna Adler

Editor's Note: This is an abbreviated version of the author's article for space purposes. The full text of the article, as well as end notes, is available at the Catlin House.
- The Editor

On Scranton's East Mountain, there is a body of water called Mountain Lake. It's located in Robinson Park, across from the ARC building and playgrounds and can be reached either from East Elm Street via Derby Avenue or from the top of East Mountain Road. This three-acre lake seems small and unremarkable compared with Lake Scranton less than one mile away, but looks can be deceiving. For starters it's older than the water company reservoir, and it has a vibrant history. Nowadays when I pass Mountain Lake, I'm likely to imagine land surveyors from the 1700s, the Slocum settlers exploring their land, laborers around 1850 building the dam and laying water pipes, Girl Scouts swimming in the lake, Boy Scouts camping on the shore for a multi-day jamboree, crowds of happy ice skaters in winter, an elderly man fishing with a bamboo pole, city folks enjoying boat rides, clambakes at Fleischli's grove, miners working the coal beds nearby, and mules and horses treading the "bridle path/ mule path." I still have much to learn about this lake, but here's what I've discovered so far.

Pennsylvania Coal Company Reservoir

Mountain Lake is located on land that was part of Certified Providence Lot #38 and was sold July 19, 1852 by Joseph Slocum to the Pennsylvania Coal Company for \$175. The deed of 1852 mentions the dam and the reservoir so it was constructed prior to that date, perhaps when the gravity railroad was built in 1849. Both the Slocum and the Providence Lot connections were surprises to me. The Providence "lots" were parcels of land in the Connecticut Township of Providence in the days when the colonies of Pennsylvania and Connecticut both claimed this area. The Susquehanna Company of Connecticut surveyed the township in 1772 into 43 lots, which were sold that year. Lots 24 to 43 lay east of the Lackawanna River and were long and narrow, stretching out to the City limits. Lot #38 (386 acres) was first owned by Deacon Ichabod Hopkins of Stockbridge, Massachusetts. By 1798 it came into the possession of Ebenezer and Benjamin Slocum, and their title was officially "certified" when the Pennsylvania Connecticut land claims were settled. Joseph, who would sell the land in 1852, was a son of Ebenezer Slocum.

By 1885 the Pennsylvania Coal Company built a new locomotive railroad, the Erie and Wyoming Valley Rail-

road and scrapped its gravity line. In 1896 the company sold Mountain Lake to John H. Jordan.



Circa 1900, courtesy of Sally Robertson

1890-1910

Before 1890, the East Mountain section of South Side was sparsely settled. After 1890 more folks bought land and moved to the Mountain. The lake is approximately three miles from center city. This distance (and elevation) was an attraction for city folk in good weather. Many social outings to Mountain Lake are reported in the *Scranton Tribune*. Most of these gatherings were held at Eagle Park, Baldner's Park, Graf's Grove, or O'Kell's Grove.

July 4, 1897 was the formal opening of Eagle Park near Mountain Lake. The Knights of the Golden Eagle held a patriotic celebration and christened the park. The Casey brothers were reported to have secured an option on Mountain Lake and surrounding land on July 15, 1897 with the intent to erect a metropolitan hotel on the lake to make it a summer resort.

Despite this summer resort reputation, the lake's distance from the city and lack of public transportation presented some difficulties. In February 1898, A. F. Westpfahl, son of a grocer, and his friend William Hammen left on foot from Willow & Pittston in South Side to visit friends at Ore Mine Spring. Snow was falling, and by the time they reached the top of the mountain walking was a struggle. They had to travel over "an almost unbroken stretch of unsettled country." They finally reached their destination close to midnight, chilled and lame. They took Kodak pictures of the journey!

Continued from Page 1 arena. Active in Republican politics in the 1950s, he caught the attention of Pres. Eisenhower, who appointed Mr. Scranton as a special assistant to the Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles. He returned home to run for Congress, successfully unseating the Democratic incumbent Stanley Prokop in 1960. Mr. Scranton supported Pres. John Kennedy's agenda of civil rights and the Peace Corps. He did not stand for re-election, instead running a successful campaign for Governor of Pennsylvania, an office he held from 1963 – 1967. Pennsylvania law prevented its governor from serving a second term.

While governor, a "Draft Scranton" for President movement began as a centrist backlash against the projected fears of the conservatism of potential candidate Barry Goldwater. Gov. Scranton accepted "the draft" but was not successful. Lyndon Johnson (D) went on to defeat Barry Goldwater (R) in the 1964 election. At the end of his gubernatorial term, Gov. Scranton helped write a new state constitution which included a provision allowing the governor to seek a second term. He entered business, serving on the boards of a number of corporations. Gov. Scranton also served in a number of federal-level presidential appointments, with the last public appointment received from Pres. Gerald Ford, naming him as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations 1976 – 1977. After his return to his home in Lackawanna County, Gov. Scranton was active in many events and programs.

Like political yard signs, celluloid buttons are fast waning. The celluloid button was patented in 1894 and quickly adopted in the 1896 campaign of William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan. These buttons are inexpensive, so many variations can be printed for each candidate.

We chose March 4th as the final day of the exhibit in honor of the former date for swearing in the U.S. President every four years, until the 20th amendment to the Constitution changed the date to January 20th. Franklin D. Roosevelt's first inauguration on March 4, 1933 was the final inauguration on this date.



DO YOU KNOW THIS PERSON?

The LHS received an inquiry seeking to confirm the identity of the individual believed to be Allen Price or his father Jacob Price from the Mountainhome/Canadensis area. If you recognize him, please call the Catlin House at 344-3841.

GRANTS RECEIVED

The Society is pleased to announce that it has received \$2,794.00 in state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The grant is administered in this region by the Pocono Arts Council.

In January, the Society was also pleased to receive a Program Stream Grant in the amount of \$15,000 from Lackawanna County to support its continuing mission to promote local history.



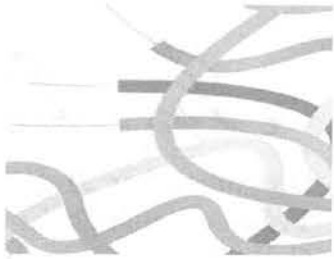
In Appreciation...

The Society is very grateful to the individuals who presented programs in 2012. In the Spring, LHS member Ted Baird presented a PowerPoint on the West Lackawanna Avenue Viaduct; Sherman Wooden did a book signing for *The Place I Call Home*; and Robert Harris discussed his Civil War research that inspired him to write *The Last Dispatch Rider*. Summer brought us the *Edgerton* program with local residents Joe Krenitsky and Dale Keklock and the Black Sage Band. In the Fall, we welcomed Tony Bernardi for a book signing of *Haunted Scranton*; LHS Volunteer Jim Frutche moderated a panel of William Kashatus, William Jenkinson, and William Levy to discuss Babe Ruth in Scranton; Presenter Nancy McDonald spoke about and signed her book *If You Can Play Scranton*, and marked the 100th anniversary of Avanti Cigar Company with a program by Dominic Keating on its history.

We are also very appreciative to all of our volunteers who have assisted us with these programs, as well as the many special events and activities that we have throughout the year. Special thanks to our friends at Steamtown and volunteers who set up the train displays, and to everyone who helped with all of this year's Holiday activities.

Let's Get Wired!!!

The Lackawanna Historical Society kicked off its Capital Campaign on October 12th with the Catlin House garden party. Thanks to everyone who supported the event and helped us celebrate the Catlin House's 100th year. *We are especially grateful to society member and volunteer Elaine Carroll for giving us the first official capital campaign donation of \$1,000 in memory of her mother and former LHS volunteer Birdie Carroll.* As of January 23, campaign pledges total \$43,153. We appreciate everyone's support and look forward to receiving additional donations soon!



Amps

Dr. John & Nancy Farkas
Dalida A. O'Malley

Arlene Devereaux O'Hara

Linda Lynett
Ella Rayburn

Ohms

Joseph F. Cimini
Elaine Carroll
Joe & Fran Garvey
Michael Gilmartin
Richard J. Leonori
Jane E. McGowty
Morey & Sondra Myers
Penn Security Bank & Trust

Joules

Bill & Bridget Conlogue
Doug & Shannon Forrer
Paul & Adrienne Horger
Dominic Keating
Mary Jane Memolo
Roswell S. Patterson
Nick & Sue Petula
Dennis Ruddy

Watts

William J. Antognoli
John Beck
Olivia & Tony Bernardi
Faye & Richard Bishop
F. Warren & Carol Breig
Maureen Brennan
Gerald Burns
Patrick A. Calvey
Carbondale Historical Society
Carpenter's Local Union 645
John G. Carling
Cemetery Association of Dunmore
Bonnie Ciero
Brian Clark
Jim & Gay Clifford
Lynn M. Conrad
Cruciani Family
FNCB
Ernest J. Gazda

Natalie Gelb
Natalie Henkelman
Hinerfield Commercial Realty
Dr. Frank X. J. Homer
Mary Ann Jacquinet
Jermyn Historical Society
Robert T. Kelly
Violet Kelly
Tom Kingsley
Lois Kretsch
John Krisa
Chester & Deilsie Kulesa
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Langan
Ellen Lodwick
George & Patti Lynett
Thomas J. McHugh
Thomas McLane
Matthew D. Mackie
Richard & Sally Marquardt
Sharleen & Dennis Martin

John & Jennifer Ochman
PNC Bank
Vera Jean Pace
Joseph Pascoe
Pesavento Monuments
Leni Piaskey
Raymond R. & Andrea J. Pilch
Hank & Barbara Platt
John & Silke Reddington
Mary Rhodes
James & Barbara Shuta
Erin & Joseph Speicher
Deirdre Taylor
Gene Turko
University of Scranton
Jack & Liana Walsh
Timothy D. Welby
David & Janet Wenzel
Kristen Yarmey

Volts

James Benetzky
Michael G. Bufalino
William & Susan Calpin
Carol Chisdak
Mike Chmiola
Shirley Cottrino
Robert & Sharon Cuff
Thomas Dailey
Bob Durkin
Robert N. Eckersley

Daniel Emick
John Anthony Farkas, Jr.
Rabbi Michael & Doris Fine
William H. Fritz
Beth Gallaghe
Eugene & Lois Gallaherr
Jack Horvath
Polly & Alan Hughes
Barbara Jean Jones
Steve and Janice Kavulich
Judi Keller

Delores & Edward Kownaski
Dennis & Mary Kryzanowski
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kumpas
David & Anita Lohin
Mark & Michele McDade
Mr. & Mrs. Richard MacGregor
Ralph J. Marino
Gail Morgan
Shawn Murphy
Ed Osman
Juliana Piccini

Alana Roberts
Paul Rudnick
Julia Savakinus
Elsie Schwartzar
Linda Scott
Douglas Smith
Peter Smith
Pat Tobin
Martin A. Toth
Sally Venesky

Robinson Park

Mina Robinson donated land to the city for a public park in memory of her sons in 1911. For a small fee she included Mountain Lake and access to East Elm Street. Her letter to the city council states in part, "the only condition imposed is that the land and lake shall be used for park purposes only and maintained by the city for such purpose, and as a memorial to my late sons, Edmund and Robert, the same shall be known and called officially Robinson Park."

Annual Reports of the Department of Public Works and Reports of the City Controller give us a glimpse of the early years of the park. The 1927 report states "Robinson Park lies in a part of the city far removed from the great center of population and is chiefly used by hikers, fishermen, and ice-skating in the winter months," the roads were kept in a fair state of repair, and small wooden comfort stations were built. Making water available at the Park would require the construction of an artesian well, but the appropriation was too small for such a project. An artesian well was finally added in 1942 and an electric pump and pump house in 1943.

Camp Laurel and Scouting

Girl Scouting started officially in Scranton about 1918. The local council established a camp at Mountain Lake called Camp Laurel named for the mountain laurel. Girl Scouts from many different troops and sections of the city used this camp during the summers, when they could swim in the lake. Three sections of different depths were roped off for swimming, and there was a floating dock. Camp Laurel functioned primarily as a day camp but sometimes was used for overnight camps. Ann Marie O'Hara recalls staying over in tents in August 1945. The next morning there was celebration and the adults were crying. It was VJ Day—World War II was over. Camp broke up early and everyone headed home. Camp Laurel was moved to Blue Shutters Road in Roaring Brook Township around 1950 where it continued to operate until 2010.

Fishing, Hunting, Sportsman's Club

The Mountain Lake Hunting and Fishing Club was chartered in 1901. On May 26, 1928 a shipment of 30,000 fish was expected from the state fish hatchery at Pleasant Mount including 13,000 wall-eyed pike and



Mina Robinson

15,000 yellow perch. Another 60,000 fish were expected during the year. In the previous year 83,000 pike, perch, blue fin, and catfish had been dumped in Mountain Lake. The sportsmen were busy erecting a clubhouse at the lake.

In August 1938, Scranton hosted a convention of the American Legion. A trapshooting event was planned at the Mountain Lake Gun Club.

There was great interest in hunting and fishing on East Mountain. Early residents hunted and fished with little regard for licenses or hunting seasons.

A large white building on the north shore of the lake was known as Harrison's House. Behind the house was a large field. The interior of this sportsman's club was very popular. Wedding receptions and other special events were held at this location, and there was also a clambake grove on the property. Carl Evans bought the building in later years after it had started to decline. It burned down in 1986.

Ice-skating

The topic of skating at Mountain Lake evokes fond memories for many folks, and it's a topic that almost always comes up when I mention East Mountain. This interest spans multiple generations and extends beyond the mountain. When Fred Bonnert was watchman for Robinson Park there was a small shack by the lake with wooden benches and a pot belly stove. Youngsters went into the shack during the winter to warm up when skating; as many as 15 or 20 could fit inside at the same time. Folks tell me that during the 1950s the entire lake was cleared for skating and so many people skated it was difficult sometimes to find space to get onto the ice. Skaters came from South Side, from the Petersburg area, and from the Hill Section too. Apparently refreshments, especially hot chocolate, were available some years. After the Park watchman closed the skating shed for the night, sometimes people built a fire on the shore and stayed longer at the lake. One young man who lived near the lake recalls skating alone on windless nights. During the 1970s East Scranton friends hiked to the lake on Sunday winter afternoons and met East Mountain friends to skate. Ice hockey teams were formed and a tradition of rivalry between the East Scranton and East Mountain teams began.

Recent History

Mountain Lake is no longer regarded as a summer resort. The clambake groves, sportsman's club, bars, dancehalls, community ice-skating, and scout camp are just memories. Private residences near the lake have increased in number. Non-residents come to the area to visit the ARC facilities and Friendship House campus. Lake Scranton is very popular with walkers—many of whom drive to get there. In

Continued on next page



Harrison House, North Shore Mountain Lake

earlier days, many folks who visited Mountain Lake got their exercise by walking to and from the lake. Numerous folks recall walking from South Side or even West Side and continuing on to Ore Mine Spring, and further still to Little Virginia or the No. 5 Reservoir in a big loop.

In 1977-78 new facilities were added to Robinson Park. This new camping area was funded by the city's Community Development program for the Lackawanna County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens Inc. The park continues to be utilized by the general public. In October 1994 the East Mountain Improvement Association received a \$10,000 award to purchase new playground equipment, including a new playground climber and padding. The city resurfaced the basketball court and installed new standards.

In 2006 vandalism was reported as a problem at Robinson Park, especially at night. Park benches, doors, roofing, and fencing had been damaged and drug paraphernalia found. The long-running day program

operated by ARC of Lackawanna County has been very successful, but the area is vacant at night. The Residents Association requested a stronger, more continuous police presence. The lake was drained in 1988 to locate a gun during the investigation of the murder of Deborah Lucke, an 18 year-old Marywood student who lived on East Mountain. Her body had been found in Robinson Park. Also in 1988 the Office of Surface Mining repaired the serious mine subsidence located under the dam.

Many East Mountaineers have positive memories of the lake and have supported the public nature of the park and efforts to maintain and restore it. There have been

complaints about the lack of funding for Robinson Park and the lake. In 1994 residents effectively argued against a request by Swinick Homes to relocate 960 feet of Mountain Lake Road to create seven lake-front properties as part of its subdivision. Residents wanted to maintain public access to the city lake. Water lilies multiplied in the lake and seriously damaged its health in the 1990s but this problem was finally overcome, partly through the donated services of Russell James, owner of Ecoscience of Moscow. Oxygen levels returned to levels where fish could thrive.

Mountain Lake remains a unique feature of East Mountain; still appreciated by many, although not as well-known as in the past. Its past is certainly rich. Please share your memories, photos, and memorabilia about this neighborhood with the Lackawanna Historical Society.

I would like to dedicate it in memory of Lowell Neu who was so willing to share his memories of East Mountain.
- Donna Adler

April Fools Day Tour & Dinner Planned

The Society is pleased to announce a unique fundraising event on April 1st.

- ◆ The adventure starts at 5 pm with cocktails at Sidel's Restaurant (cash bar)
- ◆ Then board the tour bus for a "never before in history" tour of Scranton as presented by special guest tour guides who will share some of the lesser known facts (or fantasy!) about the city.
- ◆ After the tour, the bus will return to Sidel's for a special dinner menu where guests will be asked to select items they do *not* like to eat to allow the chef to create a surprise entrée that he is sure they *will* like!

Tickets are \$50 for tour and dinner* or \$30 for dinner-only or tour-only *price includes salad and dessert

Reserve your place today by calling 344-3841 or sending your payment to the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue Scranton, PA 18510

Please be sure to include your name, email or telephone, number of reservations, and whether you will be doing the tour-only, dinner-only, or both.



In Memoriam

On November 21, 2012, long time Society Trustee Leola Collins passed away. Mrs. Collins was a valuable member of the LHS Board since 1981. During her years of service to the Society, she was active as Reception Committee Chair and attended almost every LHS program to act as a greeter and encourage new memberships. In 1999 she was elected by her fellow trustees to serve as an Emeritus Trustee. She was a dedicated volunteer and member. Those of us who were fortunate to know her will always remember her genuine warmth and contagious smile. We will miss her.



Mrs. Collins (center) helps LHS mark its 100th anniversary in 1986 with (l to r) fellow trustees Kathy Keating, Marie Smith, LHS Director Dorothy Silva and President Joseph Cimini.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Leola Collins

Pete & Ellie Axford, Charlotte, NC
Sherrell Wolver Kruggel & Family, Niskayuna, NY
Leni Piasky, Clarks Summit
Ella S. Rayburn, Scranton
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus, Carbondale
Charles & Kathleen Wilson, Clarks Summit

Memorial Donations
were also received

In Memory of Jane Dakin

Ella S. Rayburn, Scranton
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus, Carbondale

TRUSTEES ELECTIONS HELD IN DECEMBER

At the December 6th Members-Only Open House a short meeting was held to elect individuals to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees. Nominations Chair Arlene Devereaux O'Hara announced that Jeff Kiefer had been nominated to the Class of 2014 and William Rinaldi was nominated to the Class of 2015 joining existing class members Joseph X. Garvey, Michael Gilmartin, Richard Leonori, Arlene Devereaux O'Hara, and Ella S. Rayburn who were all unanimously elected by the membership to continue their service.

In addition, the Society was also pleased to elect Richard Bovard to Emeritus Trustee position beginning in January 2013 and to elect the following officers to serve in 2013:

2013 Officers

President: Michael Gilmartin
1st Vice President: Donald Frederickson, Jr., Esq.
2nd Vice President: Laurie Cadden
Treasurer: Douglas Forrer, CPA
Asst. Treasurer: Dalida O'Malley
Secretary: William Conlogue

Thanks to all of our volunteer Trustees
for their continued service and dedication to the Society.