



LHS

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal

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Winter 2021

Dr. Anna Clarke: A Pioneer Woman

By: Sarah Piccini

Respected physician, suffragist, educator, and activist. A revolutionary in her time, Anna Calista Clarke, the youngest of four children, was born April 30, 1869 on her parents' farm in Middlebury Township, Tioga County. She was educated in local schools in Wellesboro and Athens, PA before following her older sister Mary into medicine. Mary was a nurse; she had been one of the first graduates from the Philadelphia General Hospital and aided in establishing Philadelphia's Hahnemann Hospital School of Nursing in 1890. The practice of nursing had expanded after the Civil War, but female doctors were still a new concept. Women were believed to be too feeble-minded to succeed in the demanding arena of academic medicine and too delicate to endure the physical requirements of clinical practice.

Anna jumped into medicine with both feet. Although the Women's Medical College in Philadelphia had been incorporated in 1850, Anna went further afield to receive her medical training. She entered the University of Michigan in 1886 at age 16; when she graduated four years later she was too young to practice and had to wait another year until she was over 21. In 1890, while Anna was living in Allentown finishing her

internship at the Homeopathic Hospital, she was accepted as member of the Homeopathic Medical Society of Pennsylvania. She settled in Scranton in 1893 to establish a practice, and remained active with the Homeopathic Society, serving as secretary beginning in 1895. At the Society's annual convention in 1896, she presented a paper entitled, "As to the wheel," advocating for women to ride bicycles as a healthy exercise.

Dr. Clarke saw patients in her private practice in her home at 320 Jefferson Avenue while also maintaining an affiliation with area homes and hospitals. She was a staff physician at Hahnemann Hospital (the forerunner of CMC) when it opened in 1897, and acted as the attending physician at the Florence Crittenden Mission for "fallen and unfortunate girls and women." As a chair of the College Club, she helped establish the first "day nursery" in Scranton in 1910, an inexpensive daycare for infants and toddlers. For five cents a day, mothers could safely leave their children under the supervision of a nurse; the nursery featured a backyard and swing where older children could play. In 1911, Anna began teaching First Aid courses at the YWCA, teaching young



Dr. Anna Calista Clarke, 1920

Cont. on pg. 4

A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

On a cold and wind filled day in late January I write this to share with you. The recent holiday season was so adversely affected by the pandemic that it provided limited joy. Virtual is no substitute for in person no matter how hard we try to create a good background or adjust the lighting.

The new year arrived as scheduled, but with less hope and enthusiasm than others. Shortly thereafter, the political unrest that manifested itself on live television was remarkable indeed. Then history unfolded further with a presidential inauguration that was filled with first time facts and occurrences before the nation that will long be remembered.

As if all that wasn't enough, there was the shock and sadness of death. Far too many people close to me, close to friends, loved and admired have been lost but not forgotten. The history they all created and shared with others is what is left to us. What they did and said and accomplished is what is left to us. That is a gift.

Hope is the cure we look for, coupled with renewed enthusiasm, to see us through to the future and to meet what is next. What is missing now we must look for again. That is what volunteers do. Try again, don't stop or give up. Keep at it! Volunteers are our essential workers. Stay well and safe and be involved,

*Sincerely yours,
Michael Gilmartin*

It's time to renew your membership for 2021!

About Membership... *Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice, special discounts and invitations to all Society activities, 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	\$250	TELEPHONE	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold	\$500		
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum	\$1000	EMAIL	_____

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2021

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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 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, and membership dues. Regular hours are Tues. - Fri. 10 am to 5 pm and Saturdays noon to 3 pm.

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

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At the Catlin House...

Trustee News



By online vote in December 2020, Society members elected the following individuals to serve an additional three-year term on the Board of Trustees: Elizabeth

Boeth, Bill Conlogue, Don Frederickson, Jeff Kiefer, Linda Lynett, and Dalida Walton. At their January meeting, the following Trustees were elected to serve as this year's officers: Michael Gilmartin, President; Donald Frederickson, Esq., 1st Vice President; Laurie Cadden, 2nd Vice President; Bill Conlogue, Secretary; Doug Forrer, Treasurer; Dalida Walton, Assistant Treasurer. Thank you to all our Trustees for their continued dedication and service to the Society.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Student

Michael Keating, Dublin, Ireland

Individual

Michael Balgley, Trappe, MD

Gregg Betti, Jessup

Nancy Gilbride Casey, Tioga, TX

Dee Clark, Acton, MA

Michael DeFazio, Taylor

Helen Ryan, Alpharetta, GA

Bruce Smallacombe, Jermyn

Family

Dan Kosloski, Scranton

Sustaining

Matthew D. Mackie, Waverly

Alex Molfetas, Scranton

A Special Thanks to Our Office Assistants!

As the Catlin House we continue to operate partially remotely, just for fun please allow us to recognize our furry (or wet) friends who have helped us throughout the year! They assisted with many tasks - as paperweights, employee recreation managers, and even social media inspiration!



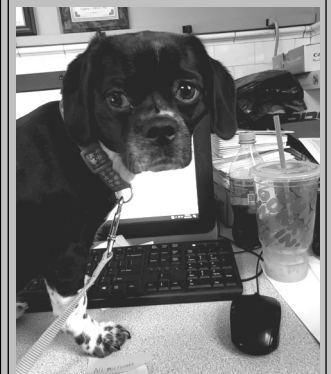
Assistant director Sarah's cat Steve McQueen is always eager to help write about the history of Scranton.



Historical archives and water don't always mix, but director Mary Ann's fish provided moral support during the summer on her "porch office."



Ruffian is always on hand to remind curator Ella that he is an excellent helper, and perhaps it's time for lunch!



Susie, our newest addition, sometimes visits with creative director Olivia to offer some much needed technical assistance!

Cont. from pg. 1

women to treat everything from burns and sprains to how to set a broken jaw or stanch the blood from a severed artery. At the end of the ten-part course participants were tested on their knowledge and (if they passed) received a Red Cross certification. When war broke out, she took an active role in the Red Cross as vice president of the Scranton chapter, chairing the Women's and Nurses Membership committee and working to teach more women basic nursing skills and to engage them in war relief efforts. As the director of the Red Cross department of hygiene, she worked with area hospitals to form a teaching partnership with the army and navy nurses' training schools, guiding trained nurses into wartime service. Finally, she saw her advocacy and expertise pay off—Dr. Clarke was appointed superintendent of nurses at the emergency hospital established at the Watres Armory in October 1918 for Spanish flu patients.

Dr. Clarke was not just an advocate for health care. In 1913, when the Lackawanna County branch of the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association and the Equal Franchise League were organized, Anna Clarke was one of the leaders of the movement. As a fiery member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, she had long experience speaking in public to various groups about moral character, and hoped that women's participation would improve the moral tone of politics, removing the voting booth from saloons and encouraging a higher caliber of candidate. She spoke at suffrage gatherings in the Abingtons and Mid-Valley, and even advocated for a new technology: when Edison Talking Pictures debuted at Scranton's Lyceum Theater in July 1913, Dr. Clarke spoke with theater manager G. Fred Sellman about getting her own Edison machine to "promulgate the doctrine of free suffrage," arguing that the "talking pictures reproducing the logic of the leading women speakers

for suffrage would give the best arguments, and in the picture show would give the speeches without fear of hoodlum interruptions." As the United States entered WWI, local leaders agreed to put aside suffrage agitation in support of the war effort, and Dr. Clarke was instrumental in turning suffragettes into Red Cross volunteers. The suffrage headquarters on Spruce Street was converted into one of the first Red Cross stations in town and members were tasked with rolling bandages and selling bonds.

After suffrage was successfully secured, Dr. Clarke did not abandon the new voters. She served as committee leader with the Women's League for Political Education, teaching women about the political process and giving lectures to explain the workings of various local government departments. She pushed women to be self-sufficient and capable of leading their own lives. In 1921 she was president of the local chapter of the National Women's Association of Commerce; the group taught women about banking and investment strategies, government, and business skills. Association members also joined with labor unions and other women's clubs to lobby Congress for child labor protections. In 1923, the organization merged with the National Association of Business and Professional Women's clubs, and Anna Clarke was elected to lead the new organization. She remained active with the League of Women Voters, the inheritors of the suffrage movement, and as president in 1926 she fought for transparency in government against a city hall administration that labelled the organization as "dangerous Socialists." In 1954, she was honored by Governor John S. Fine as a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania for her "outstanding efforts in the cause of clean politics."

Feisty and involved until the end, Anna was acting as the honorary chair of the Lackawanna County League of Women Voters.

ers in May 1957 when several candidates for Scranton mayor and city council declined to attend a "Candidates' Dinner" at the Hotel Jermyn to speak about their election platforms. When one candidate sent a telegram stating he couldn't make it since "it was my birthday and some of my friends plan to surprise me," Dr. Clarke replied that "we have experts in Lackawanna County who can make excuses," noting that another promi-

nent politician was out of town so often she only "saw him once, by accident, in his office." She still believed, strongly, in the power of the ballot to affect change. Urging women to get into politics and vote, she said "Any woman who is ashamed to do so isn't worthy to live in this country."

Dr. Anna Clarke died on August 19, 1958 after a long illness. She is buried in the Farmington Cemetery in Tioga County.



Nancy's Corner

J. Alfred Pennington "His Playing is a Delight"

In September 1895, Elm Park Church invited James Alfred Pennington to take a position as church organist. Professor Pennington was an accomplished musician who began studying piano at the age of 9 and was playing the church organ in his home state of Illinois, and leading a brass band, by age 14. In 1884 he attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston before traveling to Europe to study piano and voice under such masters as Alexandre Guilmant and Theodor Dubois in Paris, and Albert Becker, the royal professor at the Berlin Cathedral. When he returned to the states, he worked at the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio, where he met his future wife, Luella Folansbee, before choosing to take a position in Scranton rather than New York, preferring a small city where life would be less stressful. As organist at Elm Park he quickly found himself immersed in Scranton's music scene, offering regularly scheduled public concerts and receiving rave review. After his first concert, the Scranton Republican reported in the October 12, 1895 issue that:

He is a young man of distinguished appearance, cultured tone and accent and his fastidious choice of language added much to the pleasure afforded by the entertainment ... His playing is a delight.

He spent 15 years at Elm Park then took on a new position at Immanuel Baptist Church where he served for 14 years. But it was his drive to share his musical skills and talent where he truly made his mark in the city. Within one year of his arrival in Scranton he began offering music courses, first at a small studio on Linden Street, but then expanding to establish the Scranton Conservatory of Music in the Carter Building at Adams Avenue and Linden Street. In 1917, he resigned his position at Immanuel to devote his full attention to the conservatory. In 1923 he again expanded and purchased the property at 803 Mulberry Street at Madison Avenue. Professor Pennington is credited with producing some of the city's most successful musicians and making Scranton a musical center. He passed away on March 28, 1938 leaving his wife to take charge of the conservatory. She ran it until her death on June 29, 1942 and its operations ceased, but only briefly. Professor's Pennington's legacy lived on when in September of that same year, former teachers from the conservatory opened a new facility at 316 North Washington. They continued teaching music and sharing Pennington's mission into the 1980s with one final relocation in 1975 to the Brooks Building after a fire destroyed the Washington Avenue building.

NOTE: The Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to offer Nancy's Corner celebrating our musical history and dedicated in memory of LHS member and friend Nancy Farkas. Nancy was a true lover of the arts, especially music, and we hope that by sharing stories about our rich musical heritage, we will honor her memory and inspire others

SCHOOL for the		{ PIANO ORGAN VOICE
J. ALFRED PENNINGTON, Director. (Organist of Elm Park Church.)		
P UPIL of some of the most celebrated masters in Boston, Paris and Berlin.	BOSTON 1884-1889 PARIS AND BERLIN . 1889-1892 PARIS 1894-1895	
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT OF MISS KATHARINE TIMBERMAN, CONCERT CONTRALTO. Pupil of Mme. Marchesi, Paris, and Herr Georg Henschel, London, as Teacher of Singing		
Miss Timberman won high praise as a singer from some of the most noted musical celebrities in the world during her recent concert tour in Europe.		
Conservatory Class Lessons + Private Lessons		
FALL TERM OPENS Thursday, Sept. 10, 1896		
STUDIOS { 301 Madison Ave., Corner Linden St. Elm Park Church.		
Prospectus Sent Free on Application.		

Every Picture Tells a Story: An Illustrated Love Letter from our Younger Residents

In May 2020, the Society began a project with funding support from the Briggs Foundation to engage *The Times-Tribune* photojournalist Jake Danna Stevens and a group of local high school students to document our communities in quarantine. The goal of the project, “Every Picture Tells a Story,” was to boost the students’ photography skills while giving them a chance to document this historic period and create a visual archive of the pandemic.

To showcase the photos from the project, we have created an online gallery and will host a virtual party to introduce the students and view their work. Join us on **Sunday, February 14 (Valentine’s Day) at 1 pm** to meet some of the students, see their photos and view a short video documenting our project. To register, please email lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Participating students are: Zachary Allen from Abington Heights ~ Julia Kosarev from Mid-Valley ~ Ashtyn Mecca and Alyssa Slocum from Lackawanna Trail ~ Luke Pica and Nora Collins from Scranton Prep ~ Abigail Tirva, Paige McConlogue, Dev Patel, Kathryn Wozniak and Sarah Williams from Scranton High School ~ and Hollis Hoban from Keystone College.



Lackawanna Past Times

Our popular biweekly “Lackawanna Past Times” Zoom lectures on local history topics will continue in 2021! See last page 12 for upcoming program and stay tuned to our Facebook page or be sure you’re on our email list to receive the Zoom links. If you miss an episode, don’t worry – past programs are posted on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/lackawannahistory/videos>


Genealogy Forum

Thanks to everyone who participated in our virtual Genealogy Forum meetings. We kicked things off in April with a general meeting to ask for input from our members. Then we presented a variety of topics including Revolutionary War records, local cemeteries, resources at the Albright Memorial Library and Anthracite Heritage Museum, an overview of local civil birth and death records and a discussion of how to search county deeds. Monthly Zoom meetings will continue in March with a program on the US Census. Call or email the LHS to register or request the link for a previous program. See page 12 for more dates.

A Special Thank You to our Restaurants

In November 2020, we hosted a virtual annual dinner instead of our traditional in-person celebration. While we missed seeing all of you, we were grateful that you supported our endeavors and embraced the spirit of our “take-out Dine Lackawanna” to assist the Society and support our local restaurant partners. The evening raised more than \$800 for the Society, and we are thankful for generous donations from **La Cucina, Stirna’s, Pasquale’s, Camelot, Sidel’s Restaurant, and Formosa**. Restaurants provide a sense of community (and yummy snacks!), and we encourage you to continue to support these vital partners! Please also remember to support our other Dine Lackawanna venues including **The New Café at Greystone Gardens, Café Classico, POSH at the Scranton Club, Frank’s Place, Camelot, Mansour’s Market, State Street Grill, Armetta’s Restaurant & Pizza, Cafe Colarusso’s, Tiffany’s Tap & Grill** and our January venue **Harvest Grill**. We received the following note from Antonio Sacco, owner at Pasquale’s:

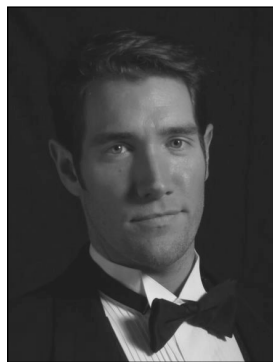




Thanks also to Lamar Advertising, our generous media partner for its ongoing support of this program and congratulations to Kathleen Donahue for her recent 15th anniversary of working with Lamar. Kathleen has been instrumental in continuing our partnership to provide Dine Lackawanna promotional billboards.

“We want to thank your association for the opportunity to take part in this fundraiser. As a proud Scrantonian and lifetime Lackawanna County resident it makes me beyond happy to help in any way we can. Our love for local history is immense. If there is anything we can do in the future please feel free to contact us. ... Thank you so much for considering us and we look forward to hearing from your for future events.”

Next up: *Pizza by Pappas* on March 17
303 North Washington Ave., Scranton (570) 346-2290
(dine in or take out)



2020 LHS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

At the Society’s virtual annual dinner in November we announced that Tom Cipriano was the 2020 LHS Volunteer of the Year, Tom Cipriano. Tom has been a member of the Society since 2016 but has volunteered for more than 15 years. He first came to the Catlin House when he was a student at the University of Scranton and was interested in learning about the history of the Hotel Casey. Although he is not a native to Northeast Pennsylvania, he has most definitely set down roots here and is a proud resident of Scranton’s plot section. In 2019, Tom joined the LHS Board of Trustees. In that role, he has continued to work hard for the Society and recently accepted the role as co-chair of our Building and Grounds committee with Richard Leonori. Tom continues to go above and beyond for the Society, doing anything and everything that we ask of him. Some recent examples include: sharing his voice-over talent for the Ghostly Gallery project; providing weeding assistance and refuge removal during our routinely scheduled clean up days; and accompanying LHS Assistant Director Sarah Piccini on a late summer road trip to Gettysburg to deliver several pieces of artwork to a conservation. Tom has truly earned our deep appreciation for his continuing interest, service and dedication and we are pleased to name him the 2020 Volunteer of the Year. Thanks to all of our volunteers who continue to support our programs and activities.

Remembering Two Dear Friends

By: Mary Ann Moran Savakinus

The year 2020 is one that we will not soon forget. For me, it will be one that I remember not for the global pandemic, protests and riots, or political unrest, but it will be the year I lost two very dear friends who I was fortunate enough to know through the Lackawanna Historical Society.

I met Mary Ann Gavern in September of 1991, when I started my first day of work at the Catlin House. It was her first day too. She was taking on a position as Receptionist and I was going to be working in the library as an assistant to Maryellen Calemme, the Executive Director at the time. We quickly found ourselves working side by side to plan programs, conduct research, offer tours, assist visitors and maintain the collections. The three of us were sometimes called *the staff of Marys*. But Mary Ann Gavern was so much more than a co-worker. She and her husband Jim, who joined us at the Catlin House in 1998 as caretaker, became like second parents to me and often shared their advice and experience, of which they had plenty, raising six children of their own. Mary Ann's love of family carried over to her work. She welcomed all visitors with real warmth and always went out of her way to help, whether it was a student seeking new knowledge about local history, a volunteer who wanted to talk, or a tourist who need some directions.



Mary Ann gave up her position in 2005 to care for Jim but returned in 2008 to work as a research assistant until officially retiring in 2012. She passed away on December 6, 2020. I spent the first 21 years of my career at the Lackawanna Historical Society with Mary Ann and was truly fortunate to have her guidance, support and love. I will forever value the time we spent together and cherish my memories of her.

It was in the Spring of 2011 that John Anthony Farkas first came to the Catlin House. He had earned a History degree from George Washington University and traveled to Poland and Israel on scholarship but returning to his home in NEPA. He signed on as a volunteer in order to learn more about our local history. John quickly became instrumental in assisting me with planning some that year's major programs including our local history game show and the Historic Hill House Tour. He was especially gifted in securing donations from local businesses for fundraising raffles and game show prizes. John would eventually take a position with WVIA but he continued volunteering for LHS and also encouraged his parents, John and Nancy, to support the Society. His father joined our board and led the effort to complete our recent Strategic Plan, and when Nancy passed away in 2018, he worked with us to established Nancy's Corner in her honor. Like Mary Ann Gavern, John also became a close personal friend. He often joked that my husband Bob and I were like his second parents. We would often meet him for dinner to talk about our work, celebrate our accomplishments, and just let off some steam. I was so proud of his success as a fundraiser at WVIA and was sure he would achieve great things. John died on November 24, 2020. I will miss him dearly but will always remember his unending enthusiasm and his friendship which brought so much joy.



MEMORIALS

In Memory of Joan Caffrey

Sarah Piccini
Ella Rayburn
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
Barbara Spott

In Memory of Jane Conlogue

Joe Cimini
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
Dalida Walton

In Memory of John Anthony Farkas

Patricia Arvonio & John Billiard
Dorrance & Susan Belin
Joe Cimini
Sarah Farkas
Lindsay Fiegelman
Richard Fitzsimmons
Michael & Nada Gilmartin
Clayton & Theresa Karambelas
Lois Kretsch
Chester & Deilsie Kulesa
Gerald & Fran Langan
Linda Lynett
Chris & Barbara Norton
Sarah Piccini
Ella Rayburn
Silke Reddington
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
Dalida Walton

In Memory of Mary Ann Gavern

Joe Cimini
Jim & Gay Clifford
Michael & Nada Gilmartin
Ella Rayburn
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

In Memory of Bill Hastie

Sarah Piccini
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

In Memory of Edward Kiefer

Winston & Debra Cannon
Joe Cimini
City Limits Hair Studio
Robyn Dicksonson & Jeffrey Charles
Michael, Nada, & Katie Gilmartin
Amy Griffiths
Chester & Deilsie Kulesa
Mary Jane Memolo
Leni Piasky
Juliana & Sarah Piccini
Ella Rayburn
Patrick & Rosemary Sandone
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
Dalida Walton

In Memory of Maureen Pesavento

Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

In Memory of Michael Sr. and Phyllis Passero

Mike Passero

In Memory of Julia Savakinus

Mike Passero

Contributions to the Lackawanna Historical Society in the name of individuals are placed in a Memorial Fund and are not used for general operations. To contribute in the name of an individual, please send check payable to the Society with the name and address of person(s) for whom memorial is made. All contributions to the Lackawanna Historical Society are tax deductible to the fullest extent that the law provides.

LHS Fund for the Future

Thanks to your generous donations, our 2020 Fund for the Future has raised \$11,500, just \$500 short of our goal. We are grateful to all who have contributed and invite others to consider a donation to help us reach our goal. Your support helps us continue to preserve and present Lackawanna County history.

George H. Catlin (\$1,000 and over)

Linda Lynett

Dalida Walton

Benjamin H. Throop (\$500—\$999)

Bill & Bridget Conlogue

Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

Alexander W. Dickson (\$275- \$499)

Richard Leonori

John & Jennifer Ochman

William Connell (\$175—\$274)

Dorrance & Susan Belin
Conrad & Dottie Bosley
Marquis Art & Frame

Ellen Lodwick
Gerald Ortell
John Revak

Bill Rinaldi
People's Security Bank
Isaac Tripp, IV

Alfred Hand (\$75—\$174)

Kay Barrett
Warren Breig
Dunmore Cemetery
Joe Cimini
Jim & Gay Clifford
Barb Colangelo
Jeremiah Eagen
John Farkas
Esther Friedmann
Joe Garvey
Bill Gershey
Michael Gilmartin
Joyce Hatala
Frank Homer
Marla Hoskins
Mary Ann Jacquinet

Rich Jenkins
Dominic & Fran Keating
Vi Kelly
Jeff Kiefer
Sally Marquardt
Elaine Mazzoni
Suzie McCabe
Jack & Rosemary McGuigan
Maryjane Memolo
Sondra Myers
Jim & Alice Noone
Don O'Hara
Nick & Sue Petula
Leni Piaskey
Greg & Chris Posly

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Bill & Maryla Scranton
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Elaine Shepard
Barbara Shuta
Richard Stanislaus
Joanne Stetz
Bernie Strenecky
Mary Anne Thompson
Frank Walsh
Torry Watkins
Tim Welby
Shelley White
Jeanne Yarmey
Christine Zike

James A. Price (under \$75)

Ellie Axford
Norm Barrett
Jane Bovard
Michael Bufalino
Ann Marie Castlegrande
Carol Chisdak
Mike Chmiola
Tom Cipriano
Jim & Gay Clifford
Carole DiNonno
Marty & Mariellen Dowling
Angela Flannery

Charles Fleischmann
Carol Hess
Paula Horlacher
John Horvath
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Judi Keller
Chester Kulesa
Charlie Kumpas
Virginia Marker
Torrie Mattes
Michele McDade
Barbara O'Malley
Ed Osman

Vera Pace
Juliana Piccini
Paul Rudnick
Doug Smith
Barbara Spott
Barbara Taylor
Olivia Tizzoni
Liana Walsh
Rick Wilson
Alice Witkoski
Gwen Wozniak
Paula Yaggi

From the LHS Collection

The Society is constantly adding new accessions our collection, and we often find pieces that are interesting or timely. This letter, part of a Walker family archive currently being cataloged by volunteer Dennis Martin, highlights the beginning of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidency in 1933. FDR precluded his March inauguration ceremonies with a mass at St. John's Church in Washington's Lafayette Square, and then observed a service of thanksgiving each year in early March. The letter below invites Frank Walker to attend the service in 1938.

Frank Comerford Walker, who was born in Plymouth, PA and was a nephew of Michael Comerford. He served as general counsel to the Comerford Theaters company in the 1920s. He was a strong backer of FDR and supported his gubernatorial and presidential campaigns. In 1932, he was named treasurer of the Democratic National Committee; the following year FDR appointed him executive secretary of an executive committee to coordinate the activities of the government, and he was later chairman of the National Emergency Council, established to coordinate the work of the many new government agencies created as part of the Roosevelt's New Deal. Walker served as Postmaster General from 1940-1945, and in 1946 was a delegate to the first meeting of the United Nations. Loyal to Roosevelt, he later served as treasurer of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library, the first presidential library in the United States. Frank Walker died in 1959 in New York City.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 28, 1938

My dear Frank:

I believe we all began our work with greater confluence on March 4, 1933, as a result of the private service which a group of us attended at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, on the morning of that day.

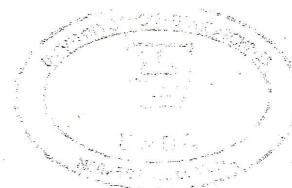
We have, as you know, continued to keep the anniversary with a short service in each recurring year since the Administration assumed responsibility.

I think this is a custom that should be kept up and I hope you and Mrs. Walker can be with us at St. John's next Friday morning at 10:30 o'clock.

Very sincerely yours,



Honorable Frank Walker,
1035 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.



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LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT #56
SCRANTON, PA

UPCOMING EVENTS & VIRTUAL HAPPENINGS

We're excited to see you!

The Catlin House continues to be open for small group tours and research by appointment only.

Facemasks must be worn and social distancing is required. Thank you.

LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES Bimonthly Fridays at 2 pm via Zoom meetings

- February 12: *Destination Freedom* E.J. Murphy examines Waverly's connection to the Underground Railroad.
- February 26: *Mrs. Thomas Jefferson* Gina Aleo Gordon presents a more personal side of presidential history.
- March 12: *Scranton Broadcasters & the Women Who Ran It* WBRE WYOU Creative Services Director Rebecca Stitzer spotlights WYOU founder Madge Megargee Holcomb and her sisters.
- March 26: *Beyond the Society Page* Tina Leshner, Ed. D. shares some stories about her experience as a woman working for newspapers in Scranton in the 1960s.
- April 9: *Early Jermyn* Former borough Mayor Bruce Smallacombe delves into the early history of Jermyn.
- April 23: *Jefferson Township* Society member Ted Baird discusses the history of his hometown.

GENEALOGY FORUM Second Wednesday of the Month at 1 pm via Zoom meetings

Local genealogists are invited to share ideas, research tips, and local resources. Please call or email to register.

- March 10: *The U.S. Census: What to Know & What to Look For* with Barbara Spellman Shuta and Tom Price
- April 14: *Navigating through Immigration and Naturalization Records* with Barbara Spellman Shuta and Tom Price
- May 12: *Finding Military Records* with Barbara Spellman Shuta and Tom Price

DINE LACKAWANNA Explore our local eateries and support the LHS

- March 17: *Pizza by Pappas*, 303 North Washington Ave., Scranton (570) 346-2290 (Dine in or take out.)

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