



LHS

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Historical Society
Journal

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Winter 2025

The Best Politician in the Family: Cornelia Bryce Pinchot

By: Gary Ryman

Cornelia Bryce Pinchot is chiefly known as the former first lady of Pennsylvania, wife of Governor Gifford Pinchot. She was, though, much more than that, and a superb politician in her own right. She made multiple runs for political office herself and during Gifford's second term as governor, ran the state for him while he was hospitalized with a severe case of shingles. As part of Theodore Roosevelt's inner circle of supporters and advisers early on, he noted that Cornelia had the best political mind of the women he knew. Her identity as a politician was independent of her husband, she said, noting "You must remember that I was a politician...before I ever met Mr. Pinchot..."

Cornelia Elizabeth Bryce was born on August 20, 1881, in Newport, Rhode Island, the daughter of Lloyd Bryce and Edith (Cooper) Bryce. She was far from the conventional socialite of the day, abhorring the debutante lifestyle. "I was hopelessly maladjusted to the butterfly existence my parents wanted for me," she was reported to say. Instead, she enjoyed outdoor activities such as horseback riding, polo, hunting, and competitive sports.

She was tall for the time at five feet, ten inches, and preferred bright red clothes, a



In the 1917 Suffragette parade, New York City

complement to her red hair and the red car she drove. Instead of writing with the common black or blue, she filled her fountain pen with green ink. These bold choices were juxtaposed by her enjoyment of knitting; whatever project she was working on, knitting needles and yarn accompanying her everywhere.

Cornelia was the great granddaughter of Peter Cooper, founder of the Cooper Union, a free New York City school of science and engineering. Politics were a way of life in her family. Her father Lloyd served one term in Con-

gress and subsequently was appointed an envoy to the Netherlands. She had two siblings; a sister Edith Clare Bryce Cram who became a pacifist, and a brother Peter Cooper Bryce, a stateside army officer during the first World War. Cornelia too had pacifist views, differing from her more bellicose husband.

She was a vigorous supporter of the women's suffrage movement from her teenage years, and also spoke out on birth control, sweat shops, child labor, and education reform. Cornelia financially promoted civil rights, donating over \$100,000 to the NAACP. With her adventuresome nature, she took a ride in an airplane, unusual for a female at

Cont. on pg.6

A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

As I prepared to write this letter, I took some time to scan the draft copy of the LHS Winter 2025 Journal and could not help feeling confident that you will find it both enjoyable and informative. As I read the cover story, I remembered visiting "Grey Towers" and was struck by how it directly benefited from Cornelia Pinchot's determined nature and how it reflects her creative spirit.

I was pleased to see the profiles of our two newest Trustees on page 4 and know you will be impressed by what they will bring to the Society. As I read the planned giving advice offered by our treasurer, Doug Forrer in the History Makers section, I could actually hear his voice cautioning us to plan carefully to avoid unwanted inheritance taxes

Reading "It started in Scranton" in Nancy's Corner on page 8 made me smile, and I so enjoyed the images of both new programs featured on page 9!

I could go on, but will leave it to you to browse the following pages and take in all that Volume 55 No. 1 brings to the table. I am sure that you will find much to enjoy, and like me, feel the spirit of Spring when you see the ad for our March Pysanky workshop.

Stay well, be involved and treasure our history.

Sincerely,

Michael Gilmartin, President

2025 Membership is due NOW!

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	\$40		
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$60	ADDRESS	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$100		
<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 2025

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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 \$40 and up for Individuals, \$60 for Families, and \$150 for Sustaining levels. Special Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels of memberships are also available.

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Thanks for your Support...

History Makers Some thoughts from LHS Trustee and Treasurer Doug Forrer, CPA:



If the only sure things in life are death and taxes, that does not mean that that your death must lead to taxes. For those lucky enough to pass on as a legal resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the value of your assets bequeathed to others could be subject to an Inheritance Tax as high as 15%. At one point the Commonwealth even taxed money transferred to a spouse!

Here is the good news, charitable bequests made in your will are not subject to the Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax. Let us be honest, a charitable organization of your choosing will probably do better in honoring your legacy than the bureaucrats in Harrisburg!

Rest in eternal peace knowing that your money didn't end up helping to build a sports stadium in Philadelphia or Pittsburgh, and talk to your estate planner today about planned giving.

In 2024, the Lackawanna Historical Society received more than \$117,000 from planned giving efforts of our members. In addition, we continue to hear from other members who are including us in their plans. One long time member and volunteer has updated her will to include LHS, and another friend has named LHS as a beneficiary for an IRA annuity that he recently inherited. We are so grateful to all of our History Makers and know that this support will ensure our continued success in inspiring the exploration of Lackawanna County history!

DINE LACKAWANNA

February 19: **Eves on Adams**

1302 Adams Ave., Dunmore (570) 229-9436

March 19: **Red Robin**

1235 Commerce Blvd., Dickson City (570) 489-0060



Thanks to Lamar Advertising for its ongoing support of this program.

April 16: **3 Jacks Burger Bar**

233 E. Drinker St., Dunmore (570) 955-5137

May 21: **Rosaliano's**

209 Main St., Carbondale (570) 936-2668



Enjoy a night out & help support the Society by dining out at supporting locations!

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Marty Dowling

Karen & Art Trivelpiece

In Memory of Richard Leonori

Linda Lynett

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. W.K. Moffat

Ken Snowden

In Memory of Jack Carling

Ella Rayburn

Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

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



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Individual

Martha Butler, Ransom Twp.
Jim Murez, Eugene OR

Debra Skripkunis, Exeter
Joshua Walker, Scranton

Family

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Kevin Hayes, Scranton Cynthia Straub, Scott Twp.

Sustaining

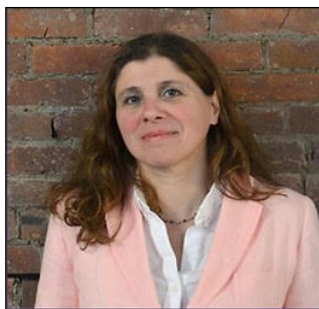
Robert Sayers, Fleetville

Gold

Drew Kearney, Scranton

Welcome to our New Trustees

At our January 16th “Winter Blues” event members voted to elect **Michael Gilmartin, Leni Piasky, Ella Rayburn, William Rinaldi**, and newly elected trustees **Martina Bacarella and Jack Shean**, to the **Trustee Class of 2027**. We’re excited to work with all of our trustees and pleased to welcome Martina and Jack to the Board.



Martina Bacarella is an AIA, and NCARB member, and is the founding principal of Martina Bacarella Architect, a firm she founded in Brooklyn, NY in 2001. She has lived and practiced in northeast Pennsylvania since 2004 and serves as the president of the board of the Architectural Heritage Association of NEPA, as a trustee of the Waverly Community House and as board member of the NEPA American Institute of Architects.

Martina was born in Italy and immigrated to the United States when she was 6 years old. She grew up in Queens and Long Island, New York. Her father was a general contractor and mason by trade in Italy and New York and she worked for him writing his proposals when she was a teenager. She has lived in 3 of the 5 boroughs of New York City (Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn), and now lives in Northeastern Pennsylvania with her husband and 2 cats in a home that they restored. Martina is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Architecture, and she has a true appreciation and love for classical details, proportion and order and this informs her own approach to design and technical detailing. She has extensive experience specializing in historic preservation and high-end residential design that focuses on traditional and classical detailing.



Jack Shean is a fifth generation Scrantonian. Born and raised in the Hill Section, he started volunteering at the Catlin House when he was 10 years old. His volunteer work ultimately inspired him to author the book *Scranton’s Hill Section* when he was 17. Jack’s childhood love of local history was cultivated by late Historical Society President Alan Sweeney to whom *Scranton’s Hill Section* is dedicated.

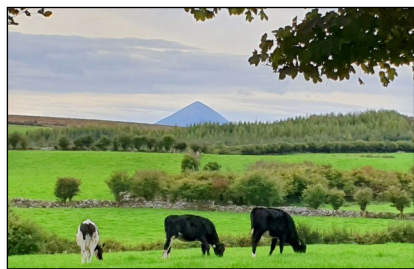
After graduating from Holy Cross High School, Jack attended and graduated from the Penn State Schreyer Honors College where he majored in philosophy, political science, and of course history. He then continued his education at the UCLA School of Law. Following law school, he returned home to Northeastern Pennsylvania to serve as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Malachy E. Mannion of the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Jack is now an associate at Fox Rothschild LLP, where he specializes in commercial litigation, labor and employment disputes, and criminal defense. In addition to the Historical Society, Jack is a member of the Lackawanna Bar Association and volunteer with Lackawanna Pro Bono. He is honored to join the Historical Society’s Board of Trustees and excited to lead a new generation in celebrating their local history.

LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES

Our monthly Lackawanna Past Times virtual lecture series presents local history programs via Zoom; email us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com for the link. Catch up on 70 past episodes on our YouTube channel at: <https://tinyurl.com/y5hbsufx>

Friday, February 28 at 2 pm ***Ballina: Scranton's Sister City***

We're going international! Michael Larkin will join us from County Mayo, Ireland, to talk about the historic links between the city of Scranton and the Emerald Isle.



Image, provided by Michael Larkin, shows a spectacular view of Croagh Patrick looking west from the Larkin farm. Croagh Patrick, Ireland's sacred mountain, is a pilgrimage site closely associated with St. Patrick.

Friday, March 28 at 2pm ***25th Anniversary***

of the Electric City Trolley Museum
with Dan Perry (*Rescheduled from November 22*)

Friday, April 25 at 2pm ***Electric Cars in the Electric City*** with George Gula

Friday, May 30 at 2pm ***History of Scranton's Jewish Community*** with Seymour and Kathy Brotman

Genealogy Forum European Tour

The Lackawanna Historical Society's Genealogy Forum is an opportunity to learn more about specific topics in family history research and discuss particular research tactics to uncover your family story. These sessions are geared to those who are not new to genealogy research and who have a strong knowledge of their U.S. family history. In taking this course, registrants should have an idea as to which places their ancestors are from in Europe.

Please email us at lackawannahistory@gmail.com to register.



Saturday, April 12 from 10 am to Noon:

Researching Ireland and Scots-Irish Records with Barbara Spellman Shuta, Kate Bohan and Madonna Munley at the Lackawanna County Children's Library Community Room

Saturday, May 10 from 10 am to Noon:

Researching Poland with Tony Paddock at the North Pocono Library

Saturday, June 14 from 10 am to Noon:

Researching Italy with Ann Marie Castelgrande at Council Chambers, 2nd floor of Carbondale City Hall

Saturday, July 12 from 10 am to Noon:

Researching Carpatho-Rusyn Records with Natalie Asikainen at the Albright Memorial Library, Henkelman Room

August (date TBA)

Researching Germany with Tom Price at the Valley Community Library

Saturday, September 13 from 10 am to Noon:

Researching England and Wales with Tom Price at the Abington Community Library

Cont. from pg. 1

that time. She took part in Cooper Union programs working to increase opportunities for women, and also served as a fire inspector for the New York City Committee of Safety following the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist fire with its tragic loss of life.

Gifford became enamored with Cornelia, or "Leila" as he called her after the two met working for Theodore Roosevelt. Their "dates" included fishing at Grey Towers. Cornelia and Gifford wed in 1914 in a small ceremony at her parents' home due to Gifford's mother being ill. She was 33 and Gifford 49 years old. Their mutual friend Theodore Roosevelt was among the attendees. The couple lost Gifford's mother a few days following the wedding, and both of Cornelia's parents died just a few years later in 1916 and 1917.

Even on her honeymoon, politics was at the forefront as Cornelia campaigned with Gifford across Pennsylvania during his unsuccessful campaign for a U.S. Senate seat. She also took over the Pinchot family home at Grey Towers in Milford, PA which initially struck her as a dreary castle standing naked on a hill. The changes she made were both interior and exterior and her passion for gardening became evident. Her visitors often had to grab a rake and head outside if they had any hope for conversation.

Uncommon for the period, Cornelia held a permit to carry a gun due to kidnap threats against young Gifford, the Pinchot's son. Her positions on most issues and political constituency unsurprisingly paralleled those of Gifford, especially early on. She was a strong supporter of farmers and farm relief, arguing for tariff protection for farm products. Cornelia supported tax reform and reducing the tax burden for those in lower income brackets while increasing taxes on the wealthy, both on income and inheritances. Like Gifford, she believed that the federal government was controlled by the utilities, railroads, banks, and special interests. She was the first woman to represent her county on the Republican state committee. "Politics is the best of all indoor sports," she said in a 1924 speech in Chicago. Cornelia came late to the Prohibition movement, convinced to support it when she recognized the "wets" were on the op-

posite side of the issues she cared dearly about such as suffrage and child labor.

Cornelia involved herself in the detail work of governing and not only on those issues typically considered of interest to women alone. She wrote to one northeastern Pennsylvania constituent regarding the plan to pave 20,000 miles of roads during the second term: "I am especially anxious to find out just what Township roads in Susquehanna County you and our other friends there think ought to be done first." This and other correspondence demonstrates her involvement not only with the nuts and bolts but with the patronage of state government. "You say you want to look at it from the sheer brutal political point of view—so I am going to answer you in that vein, and tell you it would be extremely difficult to give one of the best jobs in the state to a County such as Susquehanna, where the independents make such a very little showing," she wrote to supporter Corvia Christian.

Cornelia made her first try at seeking elective office herself in 1928 as a candidate for Congress in the Fifteenth district of Pennsylvania. In those days, the Fifteenth consisted of most of northeastern Pennsylvania from Milford out through Susquehanna and Bradford County to Towanda. The incumbent, Louis T. McFadden, had seniority and the chairmanship of the House Committee on Banking, making him a formidable opponent. Cornelia believed she could better serve the farmers and rural population of the district than a congressman with so many New York banking associates. She ran on the Prohibition ticket and lost by a wide margin.

After Gifford's first term as governor, the family set sail on a seven-month journey to the south seas including the Galapagos, Tahiti, and many other islands. There were 25 people on board including Gifford, Cornelia, and their son young Gifford. Much of the group was composed of scientists who used the voyage for research and discovered two new species of fish. To ensure the electorate did not forget Gifford during this period, Cornelia dispatched reports on the expedition for publication to keep his name in front of the public.

In 1932, Cornelia made another try in the

Fifteenth Congressional District which had grown larger and now protruded south from Towanda to include Bloomsburg. Running as a Republican this time, the battle was much closer; Cornelia lost in the primary to the incumbent McFadden by only 1190 votes. After this attempt, she stated: "People did not seem as anxious to send me to Congress as I was to go" which neatly summarized most of her elective political career.

During both of Gifford's terms, Cornelia maintained her involvement in the machinery of state government. She handled regular inquiries from the public, prodding state agencies for help and answers to problems. Her day-to-day correspondence rivaled Gifford's.

Toward the end of Gifford's second term, he was hospitalized with a serious case of shingles. He turned the governor's responsibilities over to Cornelia. This was not a secret Wilsonian-like transfer of power. Gifford boasted about the excellent work done by Cornelia running the state during this period. One wonders what Lieutenant Governor Edward Shannon thought of this situation.

Historian Nancy Miller argues Cornelia played an important role in the struggle for protective labor regulation, particularly for women, in Pennsylvania. Both Gifford and Cornelia supported maximum-hour legislation for working women which was introduced during the 1923 legislative session. The bill failed, in part due to the Supreme Court decision in *Adkins v Children's Hospital*, that overturned the minimum wage law in the District of Columbia on the premise of contract rights between employers and employees. During the 1933 coal strikes, Cornelia joined picketing miners and gave speeches supporting the un-

CORNELIA BRYCE PINCHOT, WIFE OF GOVERNOR, CHATS WITH MILL HANDS GATHERED FOR PROBE



Outside Lackawanna County Courthouse during a garment workers' strike, 1933

ion. When newspapers such as the *Philadelphia Record* editorialized against her, opining that she should remain in the home, Gifford proudly acknowledged her contributions to the administration and worker's causes.

After Gifford's second term as governor, Cornelia considered a run for the office herself. News reports from the day noted she would not "confirm or deny" her interest as any good politician would say. In the 1930s, Cornelia became even more outspoken and independent in her views, advocating for labor unions, and against child labor. In 1940, she took this to the next level for a long-standing Republican, campaigning for Franklin Roosevelt against Wendell Wilkie.

Her last try at elective office came in 1936 when she filed for the Republican nomination in the Fifth Congressional District in Philadelphia. Three others ran for the

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Republican nod and it is not known if she stayed in the race to the conclusion. The ultimate Republican nominee, James J. Connolly was defeated by Democrat Frank G. Dorsey 56.7% to 36.1%.

Cornelia served as the U.S. representative at the International Women's Conference in 1945. Gifford's passing the following year did not diminish her political endeavors, with her serving as president of the Americans United for World Organization and on the board of the Americans for Democratic Action. In 1949 she served as a delegate to the United Nations Scientific Conference on Conservation and Utilization of Resources.

Gifford and Cornelia's shared philosophy of governing differed from most Republicans of their times such as Taft, Coolidge, and Hoover. Those men viewed laws as the roadmaps of their authority to be closely followed. The Pinchot's progressive world view was different.

They looked at how they could accomplish the most good, not worrying if what they wanted to do was authorized by the law, but only that it was not specifically prohibited.

Cornelia's inherited wealth, and that of Gifford, arguably facilitated some of her independence and ability to be politically active. Both were devoted to public service even through their electoral defeats, which outnumbered the victories. After Gifford's passing, Cornelia resided in Washington where she hosted political and social figures until her death at 79 in 1960. Like Gifford, she is buried in Milford PA not far from Grey Towers.

About the author: Gary Ryman is the author of "Gifford Pinchot: The People's Governor" and five other books. He has a master's degree in American History, resides in Lackawanna County, and worked for almost 40 years as a fire protection engineer.



Nancy's Corner

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.

IT REALLY DID START IN SCRANTON!!

Now more commonly known as the hit show on local PBS station WVIA on Saturday nights, the term "Pennsylvania Polka" has a long local history dating back to the 1920s. The song itself, written by New York-native Lester Lee and California-native Zeke Manners, was an immediate hit for the swing trio, the Andrews Sisters, who introduced it in the 1942 film, *Give Out, Sisters*. Another version was also popularized by Frankie Yankovic. But Scranton holds the honor of having the only city-specific reference in the song, with the lyric boasting "It started in Scranton, it's now number one."



While Lee and Manners never publicly commented on the reason behind referencing Scranton in the now-legendary tune, a local bandleader claimed to know exactly why. In an interview with the *Scrantonian Tribune* in 1962, Paul Motiska, who led the Motiska Melodians in the 1920s and early '30s, claimed that the famous line referencing the Electric City was actually a nod to his orchestra's rendition of the similar-sounding "Laughing Polka." Entertaining Lackawanna County since the early 1920s, Motiska and his Melodians were often the featured performers on radio station

WQAN's concerts. The Melodians were known for playing long solo-heavy and request-heavy sets, and quickly rose to prominence in the wider Scranton area, also playing live performances around the county.

From the newspaper account:

During one broadcast, according to Paul, the Melodians played a polka - the Polish theme of which was lost on the station announcer. Paul rushed to the rescue and told the announcer to dub it "The Laughing Polka." In no time, Paul recalls, audiences all over the area were requesting renditions of this polka. In the "Pennsylvania Polka", Paul feels, the lyrical reference 'It started in Scranton, it's now number one' is a grateful nod to "the Laughing Polka."

The group included saxophone player Jack LeBahn, banjo player George Hoffman, Patsy DeLuca on accordion, Ernie Swek on trombone, Charles Bastis on trumpet, drummer Howard Owens, Steve Marsh and Howard White, who went on to national acclaim with the Landt trio, on piano and Elmer Chase on tuba with Motiska playing the violin and directing.

The band unfortunately folded in 1934, in the midst of the Great Depression, but the song it was rumored to influence is still widely known across the state and the country today.

New Programs engage new audiences...

In August, we received these kinds words from our sponsor about the new Sacred Sites and Sounds program:

Thank you for an amazing program 📧 Inbox x

Mary Ann,

On behalf of Toyota of Scranton, I would like to let you know how honored we are to have been a small part of the beautiful event last evening.

It was an extraordinary evening and I can't express how happy I am to have been able to share it with my son, Jack.

Music for most of us evokes much emotion and last night surely was evidence of that. Each group provided a glimpse of their diverse cultures through their exceptional musical talents but it was the way they each expressed their faith and community that brought me to tears more than once during the program.

At a time in the world where it is easier to see the differences between us in a negative light, I found it truly heartwarming to be a part of a group of people that not only opened their ears but also their hearts to each other. I have been to many events but I have to say this one will stay with me for some time to come.

To all that put this amazing program together and to the very talented musicians, it truly was an evening to remember and please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation.

Chris



**Thanks to all
who braved
a snowy night
to attend our
January Blues
party!**



**Mocktail contest winners
Eric Farrell and Nicole Curtis,
Elements, Rt. 6 Carbondale**

The Photo Archaeologist *Connecting Through Time: The Power of Family Photo Archives*

By Cheryl Kaiser, The Photo Archaeologist & Photographer

Have you ever held an old photograph and felt transported to another time? Perhaps it was a sepia-toned portrait of a great-grandparent whose life you've only heard about in stories. Or maybe it was an image of a bustling town square that looks familiar but long gone. Photographs are not just keepsakes; they are our powerful connectors to history, offering glimpses into the lives, struggles, and celebrations of those who came before us. As the Photo Archaeologist, I'm excited to explore in this article how uncovering, curating, and preserving family and community photographs as archives allow us to better understand our past, fit into the narrative of history, and be a legacy to share now and for future generations.

Photos as Powerful Connectors to History

As a long-time photographer, I've often thought of photographs as time machines. Photographs freeze moments and can allow us to travel back, not just to observe but to connect with the past (I mean, what history lover wouldn't want to go back in time to experience some point in history?). They reveal details of the era, the lifestyle, the places, the interests, and more, all of which help to paint a vivid picture of a single moment in time—recent or long ago.

Beyond the aesthetics, photos reveal stories of challenges and celebrations. A group portrait might


cheryl kaiser
The Photo Archaeologist
 Bringing Order to Chaos and Stories to Life - Let's Dig In!

Scanning & Digitizing
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 Restorations & Repair
 Archiving | Consulting
 Photo Organizing
 Seminars & Resources
*most services support LHS



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 Cheryl@CherylKaiser.com

show immigrant ancestors who braved a new land, while a wedding photo captures the joy and optimism of a young couple starting their life together. These images don't just tell us about indi-

vidual lives; they reflect their time's cultural and historical context, helping us see the bigger picture of how lives were lived, worked, and loved.

As you look at your own photographs, even those on your device or computer, what clues will they speak of to *your* descendants?

The Stories Hidden in Photographs

Every photo has a story to tell (remember the "1000 words" quote?), but often, those stories, those 1000 words, need to be uncovered or elicited from

the image. As a long-time portrait and event photographer, visual storytelling has always been important, and now I understand why, even more so as I build my family archive and help others understand the importance of doing the same.

Stories begin with curiosity, with asking questions. Who are the people in the image? What roles did they play in their families or communities? What does the setting tell us about their lives, the community, and the time period? These are questions that simply get you started.

Family photographs often reveal how individuals contributed to historical events. For example, a photo of a great-uncle in a military uniform during World War II connects to the broader story of the war and its impact on families and communities. A snapshot of children playing outside a factory might hint at a family's ties to local industry, such as our region's multi-faceted heritage around the coal mining, railroad, and lace-making industries and the many businesses and industries that supported every aspect of our community.

Understanding these stories allows us to see our ancestors not just as names and dates on a family tree but as real people who shaped and were shaped by history. It also helps us understand family dynamics, values, and traditions that may still influence us today.

Why Uncover and Curate Family Stories

Uncovering and curating family stories from photographs can fill historical gaps and ensure these stories aren't forgotten. As historians and genealogists know, photographs are invaluable primary sources that provide context and detail missing from written records. But beyond research value, these stories connect us to our heritage and community, offering us a sense of belonging and connection. Past and present photographs also provide

a way to see ourselves as part of the ongoing story around us, with (or even without) roots that stretch back through generations.

Curating these stories ensures they are not lost to time. Without context, photographs become meaningless images in a box. Identifying the people, places, and events depicted—and writing those details down—turns a simple photo collection into a rich archive. Digitizing and organizing these collections makes them accessible for future generations to explore and cherish.

The Importance of Family Archives

Creating a personal or family archive is about more than preserving photos; it's about maintaining and building a legacy. A well-curated archive serves as a time capsule, offering future generations a window into their ancestors' lives, values, and stories – and how WE lived. These archives also contribute to our community's shared history. For example, a photo of a family picnic might reveal a moment of the development of a local park, or a picture of a family on their front porch shows how that home and even the neighborhood has changed over time.

Preserving photos requires intention. Over time, images can fade, deteriorate, or be lost entirely. Taking steps to scan fragile photographs, videos, and movies, even audio tapes, accompanied with as much detail as possible, and stored in a proper, secure location and secured digital platform ensures the survival of time and allows the sharing of both the images and their stories.

Beyond Immediate Families: The Broader Value of Archives

Family archives are not just for immediate relatives; they have value beyond individual families. I often hear, "Why bother? The kids don't care." Trust me, they may not care until they do. At the very least, taking on building a family legacy is for our own peace of mind. Family archives also contribute to the larger historical narrative of community, region, and beyond. Photographs from personal collections often reveal details about local events, cultural practices, and economic changes that shaped regions like Lackawanna County.

By creating and sharing archives, we ensure that future historians and genealogists can continue piecing together the puzzle of the past. We also leave a meaningful legacy for descendants, who will see their heritage not as a distant concept but as a living, breathing story.

A Community Call to Action

The photos in your collection are more than personal treasures; they are pieces of history waiting to be uncovered. The Lackawanna Historical Society posts historic photos on its Facebook page daily, inviting you and the community to engage with our local history. Why not do the same with your family photos? By sharing, you just might uncover more of the stories, curate more depth to your archive, and preserve your family's story for the future. Your family history and your community history are alive in every photograph from then and now – how can your archive ensure that the past continues to inspire and inform?

What stories will your photographs tell?

How to Start Your Archive Journey

The idea of uncovering, curating, and preserving a family archive may feel overwhelming (ok, even paralyzing, ask me how I know), but it starts with small, simple steps and doesn't have to be complicated to get started. You can even begin with the photographs on your device. Here are a few simple steps:

1. **Gather and Sort:** Gather photos from various sources—attics, albums, and even relatives' collections. Sort them into categories by family branch, event, or time period. Your collection can be sorted however is right for you. There is no right or wrong way.
2. **Ask Questions:** Share photos with older family members to identify people and places and record their stories before they're lost. You can record those conversations with your phone's voice recorder or take detailed notes – but having someone's voice preserved is a fantastic addition.
3. **Preserve and Digitize:** Scan fragile photos and store originals in acid-free sleeves. Use a secure, private, archival digital platform to create an organized, accessible archive. If your images are fragile, please ask for help to ensure the item's safety.
4. **Share the Stories:** Don't let your archive sit unseen and unused. Share it with family, contribute to local historical societies, or create a photo book documenting your discoveries.

RONNIE GOES SHOPPING

“The Internet – the gift that keeps on giving”

In my last column, I talked about my many collecting passions. That column originally consisted of two distinct stories. But, as often happens in the publishing field, my column was simply too long for one issue. So, we split it in two parts – this is actually part two of that original article. As a bit of a refresher, the last column, and this column, have to do with interesting Lackawanna County items I found and purchased on the internet...

-Ronnie

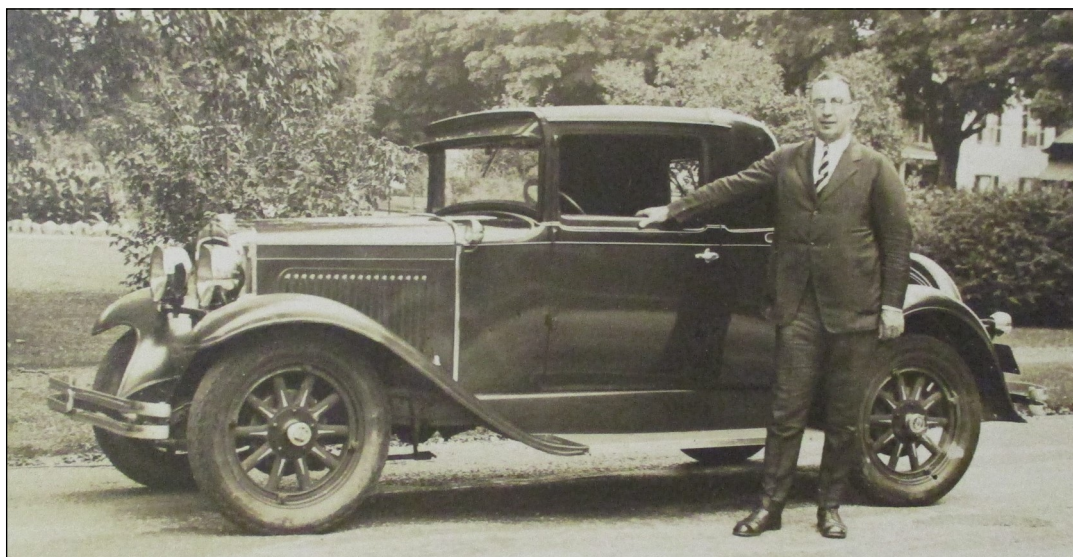
When I first saw this picture postcard I simply thought: “Oh, a man standing proudly next to his car.” When I looked at the inscription on the reverse side, I learned that this man was the Reverend Edward W. Morrison, Methodist Minister of Scranton, PA., formerly from Scotland. Ah ha, a tie to Scranton - that made me a lot more interested and so, along with my trusted expert

researcher, dear cousin Ann Marie, we started researching – to the internet we go!

The first thing that really got my attention (as a car collector myself) was the car itself. Although we are not able to definitively determine the exact year, we concluded it is a 1928/29 DeSoto business coupe. DeSotos certainly were not cheap cars at the time – pricier than average Ford and Chevrolet for example. And as you may know, business coupes have traditionally been thought of as cars for people who traveled around a lot – salesmen for example. In this case we found that Rev. Morrison did do a lot of traveling around to various churches.

I find it interesting that this Minister appears to be standing proudly in front of what appears to be his new car, and that he would have had postcards made of it. I can't help but wonder how many postcards he had made, who they were sent to, and if there was a particular reason.

Edward was born 12 Feb 1885 in Glasgow,



Scotland, son of William Morrison (1845- ?) and an unknown named mother, and came to the United States in 1895. Per the 1920 census he was naturalized in 1906. Some records in Scotland show that he lived there about 1901 though his passport application refutes this saying he was in the U.S. continuously from 1897-1924. (We speculate that his father may have passed away about that time and that William may have only returned to Scotland for his funeral service).

On April 26, 1911 Edward married Miss Carrie Mae Dickins (1888-1949), daughter of S. Eugene Dickins (1866-1908) and Lydia H. Powell Dickins (1863-1942). (The couple never had children). Carrie was often singled out for her outstanding singing voice. At the time of his marriage, Edward was Pastor of the South Caanan Methodist Episcopal Church in South Caanan, PA. When he was a young preacher, it was said that “when you once get a shake of his hand you always want a second one”. At age 24, in 1915, he is known to be living in Scranton, PA. His

1918 draft registration informs us he was living at Beach Lake, PA., was tall, had dark hair and blue eyes, and had a “weakness of eyes” (note he is wearing glasses in the picture).

Per his wife’s obituary, at various times he held pastorates at West Park and St. Paul’s Methodist churches in Scranton, PA., and other charges in Waverly, Moosic and Wayne County. It appears that, as a result of these pastoral duties, he moved from Scranton, to Wayne, PA., to Waymart and Hawley, PA., until 1943 at which time he moved to Sanataria Springs, NY., where he passed away at age 58. He is buried in Shady Lane Cemetery, Chinchilla, PA., (just outside of Scranton), along with his wife.

NOTE: This postcard, which came from an Ebay auction, does not bear a manufacturer’s name, indicating it was probably personally produced. Around the turn of the 20th century, sensitized 3 ½ x 5 ½” postcard paper became commercially available for anyone who had a camera, and access to a dark room. People could then print their own postcards. It apparently was a quite popular thing to do. Additionally, there were hundreds of itinerant photographers across the U.S. going around to small towns and rural areas (larger towns would have already had photography shops) who would take a picture for you and print off as many copies as you wanted. We cannot be certain by which method this card was produced, but we feel fortunate to have it.

Don't miss these programs!



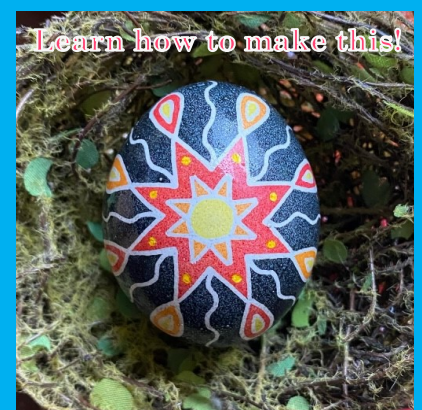
Migrant Workers in Lackawanna County

Join us at the Waverly Community House on Sunday, April 27 at 2 pm to learn the history of local migrant workers from LHS volunteer Jenny Gonzalez. Jenny is a Licensed Social Worker and Program Director of Marywood University’s S.T.A.R.S (Students Together Achieving Remarkable Success) Program, and has been working with and advocating for the civil and immigrants' rights of the growing immigrant and refugee populations in NEPA for over a decade. She has spent the last year researching the local Latino community and has compiled an informative history of local migrant workers which she will share at the program.

Pysanky Workshop Returns

Dating back to prehistoric Ukraine, folklore claims that these elaborate wax-decorated eggs can help ward off evil from overtaking the world. Let’s give it a try! Join us at the Catlin House for another Pysanky-making workshop on **Saturday, March 15 at 11 a.m.** The cost for the workshop is \$30 and includes all supplies; advance registration is required. Call (570) 344-3841.

Pysanky is a traditional Ukrainian craft in which patterns are drawn on the eggs with wax, which protects the egg when dye is applied. Each workshop is a two-hour beginner class teaching the basic steps of making pysanky, and will include all needed supplies including kistka, beeswax, egg, egg design, and additional designs to take home. Workshop leader Tammy Budnovitch is a member of S.S. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Church who has been teaching pysanky for several years. There will also be some of Tammy’s finished pysanky for sale as well as additional supplies for anyone who wants to continue the craft.



Learn how to make this!

Welcome NET Credit Union Members!

LHS is proud to be a NET Credit Union Preferred Partner Group, allowing credit union members to become LHS members and LHS members to become credit unions members. Welcome to these new members:



Francis Acker, Jermyn
Paul & Bernadette Ackourey, Dunmore
Jacques Amja, Moosic
Cohen Anderson, Susquehanna
Peter Andrews, Bear Creek Twp.
Heather Bealer, Spring Brook Twp.
Dorothy Berth-Canto, White Haven
Gregory Betti, Jessup
Kyleen Bird, Thornhurst
Eric Boylan, S. Abington Twp.
Trevor Branam, Jermyn
Clyde Brown, Archbald
David Carlo, Carbondale
Scott Carpenetti, Nicholson
John Christian, Scranton
L. Kent Combs, Scott Twp.
Kevin Comitz, Sugar Notch
Ronald Coskey, Plains
Cynthia Strada, Lake Ariel
Marlene DeFazio, Blakely
Brian Deschaine, S. Abington Twp.
Bertino DiGregorio, Old Forge
James Edmondson, Scranton
Jeffrey Esgro, Carbondale
Maria Evans, Dalton

Jenaleen Farrell, Avoca
Andrew Garbarino, Peckville
Stephanie Gatusky, Hanover Twp.
Hannah Gaydos, Swoyersville
Lori Ann & Peter Gogas, Scranton
David Hack, Susquehanna
Albert Hackel, Pittston
Samuel Hemkes, Hawley
Christian Himel, Tunkhannock
Donna Marie Hines, Wilkes-Barre
Kerry Ann Hummer, Wyoming
James Kellam, Equinunk
Justin Klee-Medici, Scranton
Marilyn Klotz, Covington Twp.
Jinwoo Kowal, S. Abington Twp.
Colleen Kramer, Duryea
Joshua Kronyak, Montrose
Mary Joan Labukas, Scranton
Charles Latona, Pittston
Brienne Legg, Scranton
Kathleen Lizbinski, Drums
Norine Lukasavage, Falls
Jordan Makarewicz, Swoyersville
John Maloney, Lake Ariel
Jasmine Manson, Dickson City
Fernando Marques, Lake Ariel
Denise Martin, Clarks Summit
Taylor McKeeby, Montrose
Richard Mojarino, Scranton
Doris Montalvo, Olyphant
Justin Myers, Tunkhannock
Julie Nickles, Tobyhanna
Christopher Nimick, Jessup
Molly Novicki, Wyoming
Amia Ortiz, Old Forge
Eugene Ostrowski, Pittston

Brenda Padden, Nicholson
Michael Piasecki, Old Forge
Sydney Pilcavage, Larksville
Dylan Pincus, Stroudsburg
Amanda Poceschi, Pittston Twp.
Brenda Polons, Dickson City
Donald Preate, Roaring Brook Twp.
Randall Price, Harvey's Lake
David Raciborski, Jermyn
William Ricci, Mountain Top
Arthur Richardson, Old Forge
Nicholas Rocco, Jefferson Twp.
Alvilda Rodriguez, Scranton
Raquel Rosado, Jenkins Twp.
Juan Sanchez, Wilkes-Barre
Savion Saunders, Larksville
Peter Scalici, Uniondale
Riana Schultz, Moscow
Suzanne Sebring, Clarks Summit
Brian Seward, Harvey's Lake
Brian Slaboda, Taylor
Joseph Solorzano, Waymart
Charlie Sosa, Wilkes Barre
James Steier, Scott Twp.
Matthew Steinberg, S. Abington Twp.
Earl Vinton, Waymart
Joseph & Jennifer Vitali, Archbald
Douglas Wagner, East Stroudsburg
Thomas Walsh, Jermyn
Katharine Waters, Dalton
Jeanine Weinreb, Milford
Colleen Wheadon, Wilkes-Barre
Naomi Woody, Simpson
Jennifer Zadeah, Springbrook Twp.
John Zierowicz, Wyoming



Pickled for Preservation

The Lackawanna Historical Society has joined our friends at Canned Classics for a tasty Spring Fundraiser. Members are invited to shop a variety of canned products lovingly created by local resident Gail Scaramuzzo. Her recipes include Sizzlin' Salsa, Chunky Chili Sauce, Classic Corn Relish, Perfectly Pickled Beets and her famous Bread and Butter *Zickles*! Cost is \$8.50 per jar, and the Society receives a portion of all proceeds. To shop now go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2025LHSFundraiser>

Orders must be received by March 14th for pick up at the Catlin House
on Friday, March 28 after 3pm or on Saturday, March 29 between Noon and 3pm.

LHS Fund for the Future

Thanks to your generous donations, our 2024 Fund for the Future has raised \$8,707
We are grateful to all who have contributed; your support helps us continue
to inspire the exploration of Lackawanna County history.

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

Dalida Walton

Benjamin H. Throop (\$500—\$999)

Peter & Sally Bohlin

Torry Watkins

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

James Earley

John & Jennifer Ochman

William Connell (\$175—\$274)

Bill Gershey
Isaac Tripp IV
Ellen Lodwick

David & Anita Lohin
Frank Milani
Gerald Ortell
Sarah Piccini

Elaine Shepard
Joanne Stetz
Deirdre Taylor

Alfred Hand (\$75—\$174)

Bob & Linda Altieri
Ellie Axford
Michael Bufalino
Joe Cimini
James Clark
Gay Clifford
Marleen Cloutier
Jim & Barb Colangelo
Bill & Bridget Conlogue
Mark Cruciani
John Farkas

Ann Gilmartin
Michael Gilmartin
Carol Hess
Tom Hoppel
Alan & Polly Hughes
Dom Keating
Judi Keller
Jack & Rosemary McGuigan
Ronnie Mead
Rosemary Morgan

Ron Moskalczak
Mike & Julia Mullen
Leni Piasky
Greg & Chris Posly
Ella Rayburn
Ruth Sando
Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
Ed Scahill
Jim & Barbara Spellman Shuta
Harry & Christine Zike
Harry & Kathy Zinskie

James A. Price (under \$75)

Linda Belack
Ann Marie Castelgrande
Tom Cipriano
Poppy Cumpson
Ruth Davis
Ellen Faliskie
Joyce Hatala
Chester Kulesa

Patty Lawler
Walter Malhoski
Torrie Mattes
Mark & Michelle McDade
Rya & Vee Pauli
Juliana Piccini
Terry Pidgeon

Tom Price
Silke Reddington
Paul Rudnick
Frank Walsh
Richard Weintraub
Jane Willchock
Alice Witkoski
Paula Yaggi

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EVENTS & VIRTUAL HAPPENINGS

Email lackawannahistory@gmail.com to receive History *BYTES*

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Wed., Feb. 19 | <i>DINE LACKAWANNA @ Eves on Adams</i> See page 3. |
| Fri., Feb. 28, 2 pm | <i>PAST TIMES</i> via Zoom <i>Ballina: Scranton's Sister City</i> See page 5. |
| Wed., Mar. 12, 1 pm | <i>GENEALOGY FORUM</i> via Zoom <i>Navigating Lackawanna County's Website</i> (Email us for link). |
| Sat., Mar. 15, 11 am | <i>PYSANKY WORKSHOP</i> at the Catlin House \$30 Fee. Registration required. See page 13. |
| Wed., Mar. 19 | <i>DINE LACKAWANNA @ Red Robin</i> See page 3. |
| Fri., Mar. 28, 2 pm | <i>PAST TIMES</i> via Zoom <i>Electric City Trolley Station & Museum Turns 25!</i> See page 5. |
| Sat., Apr. 12, 10 am | <i>GENEALOGY FORUM'S EUROPEAN TOUR</i> at the Lackawanna County Children's Library <i>Searching Ireland and Scots-Irish Records</i> Registration required. See page 5. |
| Wed., Apr. 16 | <i>DINE LACKAWANNA @ 3 Jacks Burger Bar</i> See page 3. |
| Fri., Apr. 25, 2 pm | <i>PAST TIMES</i> via Zoom <i>Electric Cars in the Electric City</i> See page 5. |
| Sun., Apr. 27, 2 pm | <i>MIGRANT WORKERS IN LACKAWANNA COUNTY</i> at the Waverly Community House. See page 13. |
| Sat., May. 3, Noon | <i>SCANNING DAY</i> at the Catlin House (Details TBA). |
| Sat., May. 3, 6 pm | <i>YOU LIVE HERE; YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS!</i> Local history game show at Art Haus (Details TBA). |
| Sat., May 10, 10 am | <i>GENEALOGY FORUM'S EUROPEAN TOUR</i> at the North Pocono Community Library <i>Searching Polish Records</i> Registration required. See page 5. |

SAVE THE DATE: Sun., June 22 - *Beyond the Hill House Tour* returns to the Abingtons.