



LHS

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal

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Spring 2025

Josephine

By: Olivia Bernardi

I was extremely excited to look through Nick Petula's new book "Faces of the Accused" when it was added to the LHS bookstore last month but my love of looking at old photographs really took me for a ride with this one. As I browsed the pages of old mugshots, appreciating the clothing, the hair, the hats and facial expressions, I would stop occasionally to read about the crimes committed and the other information included on the mugshot cards. Then one caught my eye, I am not sure why, there was nothing terribly unique about it. But something about it drew me to focus on the information recorded on the card. When I saw that the offense was murder, I had to catch my breath. Why? you might ask. Well, because the subject was a woman and the year was in 1900, and I NEEDED to know more.

At first I thought that it might have been self-defense or some sort of accident, so down a rabbit hole I went, and what a rabbit hole it was! A year's worth of articles spanning from November 1900 to October 1901 kept me enthralled with this woman and determined that her slice of history would not be forgotten. So I decided to share her story and also provide an example of how one image can spark an individual's interest to learn more. And while her story isn't the best way to make history, she does hold a significant place in our past as the first woman in Lackawanna County to be tried for Capital Murder!

Gunshots rang out on the morning of November 23, 1900 along Capouse Avenue in Scranton, but the trouble really started six months earlier on New York Street, where two families, the Roses and the Bevelacques, boarded at the same house. A feud had sprung up between them from what seemed to be a trivial incident. Mrs. Bevelacque, Josephine, was raising chickens on the property but they got loose and destroyed the tomato plants kept by Mrs. Mary Rose.

Josephine offered \$5, a hefty sum in 1900, to pay for the damages but Mary refused saying instead that she would get even. Several days later, Josephine found her chickens dead, with their necks broken, when Mary sauntered up, picked a chicken, and said "We fixed the chickens and we'll fix you!" Understandably, tensions worsened between the two families and their pettiness grew. The husbands, Antonio Rose and Pasquale Bevelacque, broke into arguments in their yard, on the street, or at local public establishments. Each family complained about the other to anyone who would listen. The Bevelacques decided to move across the street, to lessen contact between the families and try to cool down the situation but things worsened when each family filed suits against one another.



Image taken from Nick Petula's *Faces of the Accused*, 2025

On September 22, as the Bevelacques planned another move to get further away from the Rose's, Mary had both Pasquale and Josephine arrested for assault and battery for pointing a revolver and threatening to kill her with it. On the same day, an incident involving an ax led Josephine to have Mary arrested for assault, battery and malicious mischief. In October, a grand jury indicted Mary, but many people thought that the charges against her were bogus because they were filed after she had made her charges against the Bevelacques, and for some reason the Bevelacque case had been delayed and/or ignored by the courts to the point of Mary never having the opportunity to testify against them.

Then on September 28, just 4 days after the two arrests, when the Bevelacques returned from checking out a possible new place to live, they discovered that Mary had taken an ax to their property and sold their stove to a junk man. So they once again had her arrested, and shortly afterwards, moved to Capouse Avenue. They took the upstairs apartment and seemed to settle in nicely. Josephine was expecting her second child so it was a good move to get away from the chaos. However their solace was short lived when they learned that Mrs. Lucy Maresco, Mary's good friend and godmother

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A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

Well, it has happened! Since my last communication in this newsletter, we've opened the windows and doors a few times at home. It is so nice to turn the thermostat down and let fresh air in, especially when the sun is shining. The cats so enjoy it, too. The garden is waking up and spring trees have bloomed. Lets hope it continues to improve and here's my reasoning:

At this time you'll be pleased to know that we have several "Dine Lackawanna" dates set at venues with outdoor seating. Check the sites for warm weather months in this issue and make plans with friends or family to "Dine Lackawanna"! Enjoy a good meal and help support the LHS as a portion of the proceeds is donated back to us by the participating restaurants.

Want dinner and a show? Who doesn't like a drive-in movie? A summer night, the big screen, food and drinks...it doesn't get better than that! Check for Throwback Thursday dates and features on our calendar to come out to the Circle Drive-in, one of our favorite partners.

Lastly, another great way to support our organization and spend some time outside is by joining us for the June 22nd house tour. This year we are returning to the Abington area to visit unique and distinctive sites. Enjoy visiting these private homes which owners have opened up for one day only, to share their inspiration and interior designs as you visit their living quarters and also take in their lovely gardens and outdoor spaces. I cannot think of a better way to spend a summer day, can you?!?

Sincerely,

Michael Gilmartin, President

Invite a friend to join us!

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.

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

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 The summer season is great time to make your giving plans.



I recently came across an article from a community foundation in Nevada making a case on how Summer can be considered a good time for charitable gift planning. It pointed out that Summer is a prime time to make plans because most people have a good idea of what their annual income will be, how they might be affected by changes in the tax rules, and can determine their financial status for the remainder of the year. Summer is also a time when individuals can get out to community events and learn about the needs of local non-profits and how they can help. Because it is the middle of the year, there is also a reasonable timeframe to consider planned giving options without any year-end pressure.

With this in mind I wanted to offer a few suggestions on ways our members can plan gifts to support the Society in the future. Perhaps one of the most popular methods we have seen grow in the last few years are Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), which individuals designate all, or part of, to be donated to the LHS (or the nonprofit of their choice), and which can be tax free for the donor.

Another method worth investigating are Employer Matching Gifts when a company offers matching dollars to any personal contributions made by an individual. The company's Human Resources department can assist in providing information on whether a matching program exists and offer guidance about how a donation can be automatically deducted and matched as a one-time gift or as a recurring gift.

We are so grateful to all of our member and friends for your continued support and hope that as you enjoy these lazy hazy crazy days of summer, you take a moment to plan for future giving.

DINE LACKAWANNA



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

June 18: **The Union Craft House**
601 N. Main St., Taylor (570) 562-6496

July 16: **La Cucina Restaurant**
600 S. Blakely St., Dunmore (570) 341-8747

August 20: **Sidel's Restaurant**
1202 N. Main Ave., Scranton (570) 343-6544



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

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Raymond Rinaldi Esq.
Joe Cimini

In Memory of John Quentin Feller
Joe Cimini
Jane Crowther

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.

Continued from page 1

to her daughter, was living in the same house.

Mary visited Mrs. Lucy Maresco regularly leading up to November 8, the date of the last court hearing involving the two families. Alderman Millar heard the case involving the damaged furniture and related losses. During the case, the two women exchanged insults and made vile epithets at each other. Mary became even more violent and abusive as the hearing went on to the point Alderman Miller threatened to send her to jail for contempt if she did not settle down. He ruled in favor of the Bevelacques and order a sum of \$80 be paid by the Roses, who filed for an appeal which was still pending at time of the murder.

A few days later Josephine had her second baby but sadly, the child died within two weeks. During the same time, Mary continued her visits to Mrs. Maresco, often standing at the foot of the stairs leading to the Bevelacque's quarters to harass Josephine and threaten her. At one point, Mary even tried to venture up the stairs to carry out her threats, but Mrs. Maresco and a few other neighbors restrained her but not before she picked up one of Josephine's basins and threw it, breaking it into fragments.

On November 23, Mary once again paid a visit to her friend Lucy, Mrs. Maresco. Lucy's daughter Annie joined them and kept Mary company while Lucy ran some errands in town. After Lucy left, Annie went outside to get some coal for the fire and as she was heading back in, she saw Josephine coming through the yard towards the house to ask if she could borrow some potatoes. So she invited her in. Mary was sitting at the table as they entered and Josephine took the seat next to the stove across from her. Annie left them for a moment to get the potatoes for Josephine, then returned to join the conversation. This is when the trouble started. Josephine accused Mary of calling her out for not paying her for work she had done, and Mary rebuffed her saying "Yes I scrubbed the floor for you three or four times and baked for you and you didn't give me one cent!" Then Josephine sprang to her feet, pulled out the revolver from the folds of her dress, and holding it with both hands exclaimed "I'll pay you now!" Annie ran to the front room and latched the door, as she heard the shots fired. Josephine pulled the trigger twice, once hitting the wall and second hitting Mary. Mary ran for the front room and Annie heard a third shot fired, then silence.

Annie was crying in the locked front room, when

Josephine knocked and told her to open the door, assuring her no harm. Annie reluctantly opened the door and Josephine asked "Did I strike you?" Annie replied "No." Then Josephine dragged her past Mary's still body to the second floor cautioning her to tell no one what had happened. Josephine grabbed her baby and dashed out the door, leaving Annie crying in the upstairs apartment. Annie pulled herself together and ran into the yard telling the first person she saw what had happened.

Witnesses saw Josephine with her baby rushing toward the home of her landlady, Mrs. Sykes. When she arrived she asked Mrs. Sykes to "Come, come quick Mary lay like this!" When the confused Mrs. Sykes asked if Mary was ill, Josephine replied "Na, Mary lay like this." Mrs. Sykes eventually figured out what Josephine was saying with the help of an Italian laborer who was working nearby, she ordered Josephine to leave her home. Josephine next ran to another neighbor, Mrs. Prioli where she sought and found shelter. By then, the police had been notified. Officer Bloch and Chief Robling, arrived at the Prioli home and took Josephine into custody with her child in her arms. When she was placed in a cell at the central police station, her child remained with her.

Meanwhile, an investigation continued at the crime scene, including questioning witnesses and searching for the weapon. Josephine had told the officers she did not know what she did with the revolver but it was eventually found covered by cloth by a reporter. The coroner reported that Mrs. Mary Rose died from a fatal gunshot to her head which was fired at very close range as she laid on the floor.

The coroner's inquest found enough evidence to proceed to a full trial. Josephine was taken to the county jail to await trial and according to the Bertillon system was photographed and her physical description was recorded on a mug shot. Her child was taken to the foundling home. Thirteen days later Pasquale Bevelacque was arrested as an accessory to the murder for purchasing the gun and telling his wife to use it to kill Mary.

Seven months passed before the trial took place, due to an assortment of delay issues including a case of measles for the main witness Annie Maresco, who had become so wary of the situation, she even threatened to move back to Italy. The trial began on June 12, 1901. The prosecution had immense confidence in their case, and charged Josephine with murder in the first degree. Their witnesses and the existing evidence

supported that Josephine's act was premeditated: the revolver that was purchased days before; her seemingly innocent request to borrow potatoes; and the coroner's testimony that the final shot was a close and calculated one. However, the defense presented a case for self defense calling on character witnesses to speak to the sweet nature of Josephine and the violent temperament of Mary, and using Josephine's pitiful sight throughout the trial including fainting spells and regular appearances by her toddler sleeping at her side in the courtroom during the trial.

After closing arguments were presented on June 14, Judge Halsey instructed the jurors to not show

bias by the pathetic scenes they have witnessed; that the case should not be decided on by sympathy; and that the fact that the accused was a woman should not factor into their decision, since the law does not make that the distinction so they should not either. On June 15 at 11:20 am, the jury delivered their verdict of NOT GUILTY! With that verdict Pasquale was also released with a court date in the next session of court to officially acquit him as an accessory.

Josephine, with husband and child left the court together and after Pasquale's official acquittal on October 8, 1901, they resumed their ordinary lives leaving no traces of what happened to them from there.

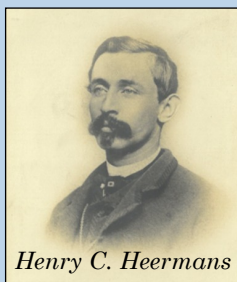
Nick Petula's ***Faces of the Accused*** is available for purchase in the LHS bookstore at the Catlin House or online at <https://lackawanna-historical-society.square.site/>

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>



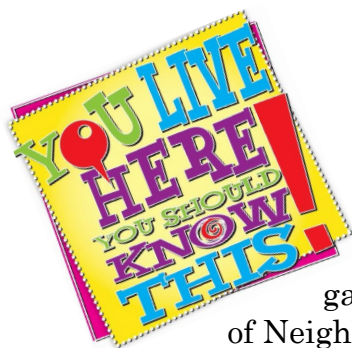
Friday, June 27 at 2 pm
Scranton Lace Archives and
the Waverly Community House
 with Delayne DiPietro



Henry C. Heermans

Friday, August 29 at 2pm
The Heerman's Family
Homestead
in Providence
 with Gayle Williams

Please note that there is no Past Times program in July.



Local History Legends of Lore!

Congratulations to 3X "You Live Here; You Should Know This!" local history game show Champions **Gerard Hetman** of NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania, and **Owen Worozbyt** from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area on their recent victory! On May 3, Owen and Gerard defeated Denis Yanashot and Charlie Spano in the gameshow finals. Thanks to our everyone who joined us, our hosts at Scranton Art Haus, all of our contestants, and our students hosts and planners! (If you missed it, find it on our YouTube channel!)



BEYOND THE CANVAS WITH RONNIE

Annie Oakley in Scranton - An imaginary interview

I am constantly surprised, and often delighted, with new things I learn about Scranton. I grew up in the 1950s, at a time when cowboys and Indians, western movies, and cap-pistols, were a MAJOR part of every young boy's life. So, imagine my utter joy when I recently found out that Scranton has a history with none other than Annie Oakley, the internationally acclaimed shoot-em-up cowgirl marksman of the old west, the cohort of none other than both Wild Bill Hickock and Sitting Bull (who considered her his adopted daughter), WOW! So I will ask your indulgence now as I imagine how Annie would tell her Scranton story. -Ronnie



Q: Thank you for this interview Ms. Oakley, It is exciting to have you here in Scranton, but we all wish it was under better circumstances. Can you tell us why you are here?

A: Thank you, and yes, I will. On Thursday afternoon, August 20, 1903, an article was published in the *Scranton Truth* newspaper stating that a woman, giving her

name as Elizabeth Cody, better known as Annie Oakley, had been arrested in Chicago. At a hearing before a Magistrate, she pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing the trousers from a negro named Charlie Curtis and said she was the victim of an uncontrollable appetite for opium and stole the trousers to sell them and get money to buy the drug. She claimed to be the daughter-in-law of my friend and former employer, Buffalo Bill. She was arrested and imprisoned.

That scandalous story had first appeared in one of William Randolph Hurst's many newspapers, and was then picked up and published by several newspapers throughout the country, including the *Scranton Truth*. Some people felt the article was interesting, but I did not! It was not true that the woman arrested and claimed to be Annie Oakley, was actually Annie Oakley for I am the one and only Annie Oakley.

Upon learning of this falsehood, I tried to get it corrected, a daunting task because it was spread across the county in dozens of newspapers. Plus, the damage to my name was already done. Eventually, I was forced to file a total of 55 libel suits against various newspapers and their publishers, including your city's *Scranton Truth*. I brought the suit against Mr. John E. Barrett and Mr. James J. Jordan, former publishers of the *Scranton Truth*, for \$10,000 in damages. It was brought under my married name, Mrs. Annie Butler and commenced on March 16, 1904 in the

Scranton court. I was present for the entire trial, being represented by attorneys G.E. Hargrave and Henry N. Paul of Fraley and Paul of Philadelphia. The plaintiff's attorneys were Everett Warren and F. J. Fitzsimmons of Scranton, and Attorney Shea of Wilkes-Barre (who also represented the *Wilkes Barre News* newspaper on a matching libel suit).

The first witness in the morning session was former publisher John E. Barrett. He produced a copy of the offending article and stated that the daily circulation of the paper was 8,000.

I was up next. Because of the solemnity of the event, I was attired in a black traveling suit, black hat and a long black veil, with which I preferred to cover my face. On the witness stand my attorney asked me to raise it, which I did. According to the article in the next day's paper, they stated my hair is white, features are clean cut, eyes bright, and that "time has not yet begun to furrow either her brow or cheek". Then said, "she appears to be near 50, older than she actually is (born 1860). Her voice has no tinge of masculinity and has the soft musical ring of the voice of the weaker sex". Well, I never! Such liberties by the reporter!

I immediately declared that I have never been married to Buffalo Bill's son and denied the article in toto, further stating that I had not been in Chicago since 1903, had never been arrested nor imprisoned and had never used drugs. I told the court that I had been with Buffalo Bill's Wild West show for 17 years, had given exhibitions in every state and in 17 countries and had appeared in Scranton 4 times in the past seven years.

Under cross examination, the plaintiff's lawyer, Major Warren, tried to get me to tell him my age but I only admitted to "somewhere about 38 years of age," which seemed to suffice. When asked about the article, I said of course I knew of it, for many people throughout the country, believing it was really me, had sent me marked copies of it.

At this point my counsel objected, stating the opinion that the publishers were negligent in their duties by not fully investigating the story before publishing it. Major Warren countered saying it would be impossible for a publisher to investigate every news story from a distance, referencing the assassination of President McKinley in Buffalo. That news story had arrived in the city 10 minutes after

that shooting occurred and had to be published immediately. Mr. Paul immediately responded by stating that the libelous article about me had been printed in the *Philadelphia Press* on Aug 11th, denied in the press on Aug 15th, and yet was republished in the *Scranton Truth* five days later on Aug 20th! Why did they do that?

Major Warren then tried to turn the tide by claiming I knew the woman in Chicago beforehand, and therefore should have realized the article was not about me. Ridiculous. Mr. Paul, of course, vigorously opposed this idea, declaring that even if I had known the woman, that was irrelevant to her use of my good name. Judge Archbald quickly concurred and materially restricted any further examination in this area.

Testimony was halted until the next morning, when John E. Barrett became the first witness, basically stating the validity of the use of the article and his role as publisher. I was then recalled and could only reiterate that I felt the defendants were libel as they failed to investigate the validity of the story. My afternoon testimony was basically much of the same. My counsel concluded our portion of the case shortly after 2pm and it was time for the defense.

Mr. Warren handled this duty, and started by praising former publisher John E. Barrett and reminding the jury that I never wrote to the paper asking for a retraction. I will admit this is true, but I was so involved with lawyers, in 55 cases, that it simply slipped my mind. He then called Bar-

rett to the stand where he also spoke of his outstanding career and reputation. Next, James A. Jordan took the stand, and stated that at the time of the article he was the paper's business manager, had nothing to do with the news department, and had not even seen the article until after it was published.

After Final Arguments were made, Judge Archbald carefully charged the jury as to the law and the facts of the case, before they began deliberations at about 2:40 pm. (I understand that at 2am the following morning, jury members were heard somewhat loudly arguing over my case). The conclusion was not as I had hoped, but in the end, I accepted an award of \$900 and the case was closed.

Q: Thank you very much, and good luck with the remaining suits.

NOTE: In the end Annie won 54 of the 55 libel cases over a six-year period, though she spent more on attorney and court fees than she was awarded. While one award was for just 6 cents, the largest was an award of \$27,000 from William Randolph Hurst, a result that greatly pleased Annie. Annie died penniless in 1926 of pernicious anemia. Her entire fortune had been spent on her relatives and her various charities.

— For further research look for Case 130 F. 944, *Butler vs. Barrett & Jordan*. Appeal ruling 6.24.1904.



Scan for tickets

This program is supported in part by
LHVA and the Anthracite Cultural Board.

“For the Least of Them”

A play by K.K. Gordon hosted
by the Lackawanna Historical Society

Sunday, June 1 at 2pm

Lackawanna County Courthouse, Courtroom Three

Step back in time to the summer of 1902 to meet Fr. John Curran as his prayer is consistently interrupted by his concerns about his parishioners in the coal region roiled by a labor strike. Dramatically set in the courtroom where Curran testified before the Anthracite Strike Commission, this one-man show emphasizes Curran's role in the strike and his dedication to “the least of them.”

Tickets are \$10. For tickets call the Society at 570-344-3841
or purchase online at

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/lackawanna-historical-society/for-the-least-of-them>

In the News...

Building new partnerships and reaching new audiences.

On May 7, the historical society held a press conference to announce the revision of the “History Set in Stone” architectural guide and to introduce the new Spanish version. The guide, produced with funding support from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA), was first published in 2009 and revised in 2012. Much has changed in Scranton’s downtown in the last 12 years and the Society hopes that this newest edition will reflect those changes.

LHS Assistant Director Sarah Piccini worked on the needed revisions and created a new design and we were pleased to also work with Jenny Gonzalez Monges, Director of the STARS program at Marywood, to translate the guide. At the press conference, Jenny joined Sarah, LHVA’s Owen Worozbyt and County Visitors Bureau’s Director Curt Camoni and offered some details about her experience with the LHS and shared her hopes for a broader community:



... for the last year and a half, I have had the opportunity and honor to work with the Lackawanna Historical Society on various programs, projects and research. Some of these programs have included taking STARS youth, mostly local Hispanic and Latino youth, to tour the Catlin House and learn about George Catlin during our summer camp. We also worked with the LHS to teach the STARS youth about the importance of family genealogies and archiving family histories, as it will add to our local history and heritage. I also spent over a year researching the local migrant workforce behind NEPA’s agricultural industry for the last several decades. However, during multiple conversations with Mary Ann, we realized that in order for Lackawanna Historical Society to build a connection with the growing, new, and diverse immigrant communities moving to NEPA, we needed to think about translating documents into the second most spoken language in the region, Spanish. This will allow for better communication and understanding between the Hispanic and Latino community and LHS.

Therefore, I decided one of the projects that I would work on was translating the Downtown Scranton walking tour brochure into Spanish. Being able to share Lackawanna County’s rich local history, and cultural and natural heritage in Spanish to the Hispanic and Latino community will help build community trust, engagement and additional tourism.

The translation of the brochure was very rewarding because I learned so many interesting cool facts about our local history that I had never learned about before. I learned that the Scranton Estate was donated to the University of Scranton in 1941, that the first Rite-Aid store opened in Scranton on September 12, 1962, and that many of the downtown Scranton buildings were constructed from West Mountain Stone. I also learned that the Ad-Lin Building was purchased by the University of Scranton in 2012, and

renamed in honor of Louis Stanley Brown, the University's first Black graduate. I learned that Grace Hope Mission is one of the oldest constructions in the square, and that there was a monument in honor of John Mitchell, a well known leader of the United Mine Workers, who passionately advocated for the rights of the local coal mining workers. By translating the brochure, I learned so much about the similar struggles previous immigrants faced in NEPA.

By being able to offer the walking tour in Spanish, Lackawanna County will be taking a leading role in NEPA in embracing a welcoming and in-

clusive environment for new waves of immigrants who are looking to establish long-term roots in this beautiful region. The translation will allow for multi-cultural and generational educational opportunities that will highlight shared struggles and contributions of past and new immigrants moving to this region, which can strengthen their sense of belonging and promote solidarity across diverse groups. I hope this brochure translation is the first step to many more translations as it can be what prompts the next generation of leaders to document, highlight, celebrate, and archive their families' stories in Lackawanna county.

History Set in Stone guides are available now at local hotels, libraries and at the Catlin House.

Architectural Walking Tours Return!

Start your weekend off with some history! These free Friday and Saturday guided tours provide local residents and visitors with a chance to learn more about Downtown Scranton's magnificent architecture and the stories about buildings and neighborhoods you pass every day!
Call the Society at 570-344-3841 to make a reservation.



Sat., June 7 at 11 am: Courthouse Square; meet at cor. N. Washington & Linden
Sat., June 21 at 11am: Gothic District; meet at Lackawanna College, corner N. Washington and Vine
Fri., June 27 at 6 pm: Commercial and "Red Light" District; meet at Radisson Lackawanna Station
Sat., July 12 at 11am: Lower Hill section; meet Elm Park Church, cor. Linden and Jefferson
Fri., July 25 at 6 pm: Gothic District; meet at corner of Vine & N. Washington
Sat. August 9 at 11am: Courthouse Square; meet at cor. N. Washington & Linden
Sat., August 23 at 11am: Commercial and "Red Light" District; meet at Radisson Lackawanna Station
Sat., Sept. 6 at 11 am: Lower Hill section; meet Elm Park Church, cor. Linden and Jefferson

The Photo Archaeologist

Just Fifteen Minutes: Turning Overwhelm into Action (and Legacy)

By Cheryl Kaiser, The Photo Archaeologist & Photographer

In my previous article, I offered a bit of insight into why it's important to create an archive for your family—and even for your community. But let's be honest: understanding the importance and actually doing something about it are two very different things (don't I know it!).

It's easy to talk a good game, but when it comes down to taking action, that's where many of us stall. If I had to guess, I'd say the boxes you inherited are still sitting in the damp basement (or hot attic... or garage...) waiting for you to "have the time." Or maybe it's all those outdated devices tossed in a drawer—or old computers and hard drives—holding your digital photos hostage and in total disarray.

Whatever your version looks like, one thing's likely true: overwhelm makes us close the door and think, "I'll get to it this winter." (And how many winters have passed now?) I go through this phase too—believe me. (I'd rather write this article than face my own unsorted stash!)

Let's tackle the most common excuse head-on so that instead of guilt, you walk away with a little momentum—and dare I say, pride?

Start with Three Words: Just Fifteen Minutes

That's it. If you have more time, great. But so much can be accomplished in just fifteen minutes.

"But Cheryl, you don't understand the amount of stuff I have—what can I do in just 15 minutes? I need weeks!"

Oh, I understand. That's exactly why I say: don't wait for weeks—just start with one 15-minute window.

Here's what you can do in that time:

- **Make an inventory** of the boxes, videos, albums, and devices around your house.
 - ◊ *Example:* 3 cardboard boxes of Grandma's photos – hall closet; 10 VHS tapes – TV cabinet; old phones and memory cards – kitchen junk drawer.
 - ◊ Don't forget heirlooms you use or display: Grandma's turkey platter – dining room cabinet.
- **Set up a workspace** that's out of the way of daily life and curious pets. No permanent space? Choose a spot where things can stay organized so you don't have to start over every time.
- **Gather your supplies** if you're working with physical photos or keepsakes: acid-free sleeves, sorting bins, nitrile gloves, sticky notes, a soft pencil, and a proper pen like the Zig Memory System Photo Signature Pen. (Absolutely no ballpoint pens or Sharpies, please.)
- **Label bins by decade or category** and sort just one album or a few envelopes of loose photos.
- **Bundle your VHS tapes or home movies** for digitizing—so you can finally watch them again!

Progress over perfection. One fifteen-minute step at a time. Fifteen minutes is all it takes to build momentum—and build a legacy.

Other Activities to Bring Your Legacy to Life

Uncover the Stories

Here's the secret sauce: document the details before they disappear. Names, dates, places, and memories—anything you know or have heard. Don't worry about writing a novel—a couple of sentences or bullet points are pure gold.

Here are a few quick wins:

- **Ask relatives** while you can.
- **Use your phone's voice recorder** when chatting about photos—it's easy and priceless.
- **Label the back of photos** using a soft pencil or archival-safe pen—or attach notes digitally if scanning.

Digitize Without the Drama

You don't have to scan your entire collection in one weekend. Just start with the most fragile, most meaningful, or most likely-to-get-lost photos first. Once scanned securely protect these gems in archival packaging to assure their longevity. For long-term preservation, I recommend using a secure, private cloud platform that's permanent, doesn't compress your files, and won't mine your data. (I personally use Forever) And don't forget to include your notes and stories alongside the images.

Create a Living Archive

This is about more than organizing—it's about creating something useful, meaningful, and shareable.

Think of ways you can share or enjoy your collection:

- Create themed albums or photo books.
- Share curated folders or slideshows with family.
- Use photos to spark stories at reunions or family dinners.
- Gift photos to someone who shares the memory.

Your archive doesn't have to be "done" to be valuable. Every photo you identify, every story you write, every label you add is a gift to future generations.

In Closing

What starts in a shoebox can become one of the most meaningful legacies you leave behind. Don't wait for the "perfect time" or the "perfect system." **Just begin today—with fifteen minutes.** Your stories are waiting. I'd love to hear about your archive project!


cheryl kaiser

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Cheryl@CherylKaiser.com

LHS GENEALOGY FORUM'S *EUROPEAN TOUR*

FREE IN-PERSON SESSIONS CONTINUE

Registration is required at: <https://formurl.com/to/europeantour> (or call us and we will email you the link).

Researching Italian Records with Ann Marie Castelgrande

Saturday, June 14, 10 am to Noon at Council Chambers, Carbondale City Hall, 2nd floor

Researching Carpatho-Rusyn Records with Natalie Asikainen

Saturday, July 12, 10 am to Noon at Albright Memorial Library's Henkelman Room

Researching German Records with Tom Price

Saturday, August 9, 10 am to Noon at Valley Community Library

Researching Czech Republic and Slovakia Records with Michele Hokien

Saturday, August 16, 10 am to Noon at Valley Community Library

English and Welsh Records with Tom Price

Saturday, September 13, from 10 am to Noon at Abington Community Library

GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS

Class size limited to ten (10) people and registration is required by Friday, September 26, 2025 at:
<https://formurl.com/to/beginnersworkshop> (or call us and we will email you the link).

October 4, 11, 18, and 25, 9:30 am - Noon at Albright Memorial Library's Henkelman Room

Participants must commit to all four sessions and bring a laptop (NOT a tablet) / 3-ring binder / Notepaper.
 Workshop Fee is \$25.00 for LHS Members or \$35.00 for Non-Members (non-refundable)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Individual

Barbara Barrett, Dunmore
 Bailey Briant, Scranton
 William Burke, Blakely
 Harry Curnow, Peckville
 Eugene Haikes, Scranton
 George Pawlush, Cheshire CT
 Leslie Sheehan-Entrekin, Old Forge
 JR Shotwell, Scranton
 Ann Tunney, Scranton
 Rosemary Yankovich, Peckville
 Tomara Wilding, Blakely
 Jim Williams, Clayton NC

Family

Susie Jacquinet, Dunmore
 James Ryan, Scranton

Contributing

Kevin Finnerty, Elmhurst Twp.



Trustee News...

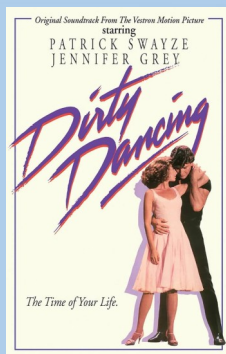
On Wednesday, February 19, 2025, during their monthly meeting, the Trustees of the Lackawanna Historical Society unanimously elected the following individuals to continue to serve as officers on a motion by William Rinaldi, Esq. and Second by Elaine Shepard.

Michael Gilmartin, President
 Don Frederickson, 1st Vice President
 Laurie Cadden, 2nd Vice President
 Doug Forrer, Treasurer
 Dalida Walton, Assistant Treasurer
 Bill Conlogue Secretary

Thanks to all our Trustees
 for their continued dedication.

Throwback Thursdays

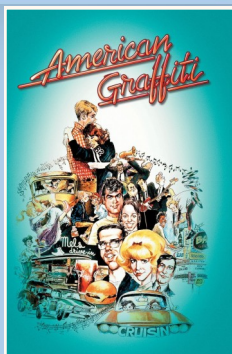
at the



June 19



July 24



August 14

\$9.50 Adult \$7.50 Child Gate opens at 7pm

For tickets go to circledrive-in.com

Please note that we are not able to offer our traditional summer screening of "JAWS" this year because it is its 50th anniversary and not available for fundraising efforts. But keep checking the Circle Drive In schedule for a possible late summer screening!



SCRANTON AREA
Community FOUNDATION

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY SINCE 1954

The Lackawanna Historical Society is grateful to the Scranton Area Community Foundation for its recent approval of a 2025 Community Needs Grant to support the Society in planning for a Northeast Pennsylvania regional archive.

The grant will be used to contract with Lyrasis Consulting to survey local history collections and available storage space. This will be an important first step in planning for the continuing growth and care of our collections.



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.

LHS MEMBER DISCOVERS LOCAL CLARKS SUMMIT MOVIE STAR

Earlier this month, the Society received an email from LHS Member Linda Belack, who wanted to share this story of Warren Stevens, a Clarks Summit native with a Hollywood connection. So who was Warren Stevens?

One day several years ago, I was watching the classic Sci-Fi movie, "Forbidden Planet". Curious to learn more about the cast, I went online. To my surprise, there was Warren Stevens, born in Clarks Summit PA! So why had I never heard of him? No one seemed to have!

He was born, Nov 2, 1919, and lived on Highland Avenue. This would put him in my father and uncle's generation. They both grew up in the Abingtons, and back in the day everyone more or less knew everybody! So why has no one ever mentioned Warren? I'll never know. My father and uncle are long gone, surely, they would have known him as they were close in age.

Warren graduated from Clarks Summit high school in 1937 where he played football and fenced. He attended the Navel Academy and in 1942 enlisted in the United States Air Forces. He served as a pilot during WWII.

After the war in moved to New York City to pursue a career in acting and was a founding member of the Actors Studio. After several small roles on Broadway he moved to California.

His first movie role was in "The Frog-

man". Many small roles followed until he got his big break as Doc Ostrow in "Forbidden Planet".

In 1957 he had his own short-lived television show "The 77th Bengal Lancers" but it only lasted for six months. Warren continued to find work appearing in episodes of a variety of television sitcoms of the day. He was in



more than 150 shows that spanned more than 40 years portraying characters in such notable shows as "Bonanza," "Twilight Zone,"

"Star Trek," "Rawhide," and many more.

Warren was married twice and had three sons. He died of lung disease on March 27, 2012. According to the internet his ashes were scattered in Clarks Summit?!

So, while he was never considered a "big star", he certainly deserves that title, and just think, somewhere in Clarks Summit, his spirit is still with us! Next time you turn on the TV and watch some old sitcoms you may just see him! — I know I have!



The Lackawanna Historical Society was pleased to receive grant funding from the Lackawanna County Arts & Culture Community grant program in the amount of **\$26,000** this year. Funding will aid the Society in continuing its mission to inspire the continued exploration of Lackawanna County. We are very grateful to the Lackawanna County Commissioners Chris Chermak and Bill Gaughan for their continued interest and support.

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:



Ashlee Alexander, Peckville	Edward Hoffman, Moosic	Michael O'Malley, Clarks Summit
Heather Alford, Peckville	Corbin Holcomb, Hunlock Creek	Cathleen Otis, Olyphant
Andrew Allen, Tunkhannock	Bradley Hoppy, Sugarloaf	Joseph Page, Mountain Top
Peter Anderline, Old Forge	Christopher Howe, Madison Twp.	Gary Park, Mountain Top
James Andidora, Greenfield Twp.	Denise Hromisin, Swoyersville	Therese Paxton, Freeland
Greg Arcuri, Scott Twp.	John Hrywnak, Moscow	Brian Pennypacker, Montrose
Rebecca Bartholomew, Avoca	Anthony Hutchins, Dunmore	Ranee Perricone, Honesdale
Joshua Bateel, Honesdale	John Jaskulski, Hanover Twp.	Jacob Peterson, Gouldsboro
Michael Battista, Hunlock Creek	John David Jones, Blakely	Jenny Phillips, Blakely
Andrew Bell, Dalton	Maureen Kielar-Hanchak, Archbald	Ann Marie Phillips, Springville
Eugene Berry, Taylor	Gerard Kipp, Pittston	Cynthia Pilarz, Lake Ariel
John Michael Black, Dalton	Raylean Kisner, Springville	Michael Ralston, Hanover Twp.
Lori Ann Boniello, Jessup	Clark Kitchell, Long Pond	Lowell Ramos, Dunmore
Edwin Boran, Drums	Gail Klinger, Mountain Top	Earl Richard, Carbondale
Corey Brewer, Laceyville	Nicholas Kogut, Great Bend	Gerald Riviello, Peckville
Evan Brink, Jefferson Twp.	Frank Kosakoski, Lancaster	Ray Rollison, Honesdale
Katie Brownell, Pleasant Mount	Michael Kostak, Wilkes-Barre	Brenda Sacco, Dunmore
James Bruce, Scranton	Ryan Lafferty, Carbondale	Madelyn Salaman, Scranton
Samuel Busacco, Scranton	Clarence & Paula Landsiedel, Dalton	Christine Sanchez, Moscow
Jon Butler, Bushkill	Colby Lemoncelli, Moscow	Kathy Sands, Tunkhannock
Philip Calachino, Scott Twp.	Bradley Lester, Sugar Notch	Lisa Schmidt, Dallas
Bill Campenni, Pittston	Yalin Liu, Pittston	Rebecca Schoonover, Peckville
Anthony Cappolella, Scranton	Don Lott, Drums	Daniel Schumann, Honesdale
John Carey, Shavertown	Cory Lynn, Mayfield	Christine Scott, Archbald
Ellen & Donald Carney, Lake Ariel	Sharon Manzo, Jessup	Philip Sheehan, Honesdale
Jason Casselbury, Hop Bottom	Anna Marie Marushock, Peckville	Christina Short, Greenfield Twp.
Judith Chapman, Carbondale	Brian McAdarra, Tunkhannock	Jonathan & Tara Sinclair, Hunlock Creek
Michael Crawford, Avoca	Shane McAndrew, Starlight	Trevelyn Slusaric, Wilkes-Barre
James Crouch, Tunkhannock	Glenn McCormick, Archbald	Trenton Smith, New Milford
Anya Cruz, Jermyn	Robert McDonald, Fell Twp.	Kenneth Smith, Tunkhannock
Riley Darlington, Honesdale	Logan McKean, Shohola	Christopher Spudis, Tunkhannock
Scott Davis, Damascus	Brenna McLaughlin, Honesdale	Karen & Roger Stone, S. Gibson
Nicholas Del Prete, Olyphant	Mark & Sandra Mellas, Tunkhannock	David Sutton, Honesdale
Lucille Denniston, Tafton	Karen Melucci, Peckville	Merri Swingle, Waymart
Jennifer Dixon, Dunmore	Gary Michak, Kingston	Gennifer Symons, Noxen
Stanley Domozych, Roaring Brook Twp.	Francis Mickavicz, Taylor	James Szewczyk, Dickson City
Nathan Eakle, Scranton	Angelia Migliaccio, Madison Twp.	William Thompson, Clarks Summit
Daniel Evans, Forty Fort	Gregory Mikulski, Hunlock Creek	William Thompson, Avoca
Glenn Fiorella, Lake Ariel	Britteny Miller, Henryville	Abigail Tlaseca, Wilkes-Barre
Samantha Fitz-Gerald, Scott Twp.	Christopher Mills, Olyphant	Kathryn Tyler, Forest City
Thomas Gaul, Old Forge	John Mitchko, Archbald	Paul Valentine, Thompson
Jason Gilbride, Jefferson Twp.	Daquan Mixon, Wilkes-Barre	Frank Vergnetti, Waymart
Robert Golden, Dunmore	Danny Moore, Pittston	Jeffrey Victor, Wilkes-Barre
Lisa Graydon, Marshalls Creek	Katelyn Morgan, Yatesville	Deanna Wadika, Meshoppen
Cherrie Grimm, Factoryville	Anthony Nareski, Old Forge	William Wagner, S. Abington Twp.
Brett Grover, Great Bend	Domenick Nolan, Greenfield Twp.	Robert Warnock, Waymart
Scott Grow, Meshoppen	William Norton, South Gibson	Alexia Wees, Simpson
Peter Gutowski, Roaring Brook Twp.	Thomas O'Brien, Moscow	Shelley White, Carbondale
Trentin Hall, Nicholson	Stephen O'Connor, Archbald	Karen Williams, Peckville
Robert Hannon, Scranton	Amy Odzana, Moosic	Michael Wolfanger, Milford
Irina Hendrickson, Hawley	James O'Loughlin, Lords Valley	Bernard Yanalis, Luzerne
Kevin Hertel, Spring Brook Twp.		Rachel Yenkowski, Dallas

Lackawanna Historical Society

presents the
2025 Historic House Tour

- June 22, 10 am to 4 pm -

BEYOND THE HILL

ENJOY THE HOMES & GARDENS
OF THE ABINGTONS



2025 Tour Sites include:

The Waverly Club, the Fitzgerald residence, the Blackledge residence,
the Kaufman property, the Stark gardens and Atkins' gardens.

Tickets:

\$30 in advance or \$35 on the day of the tour

*Purchase tickets at the Gathering Place, 304 S. State Street in Clarks Summit,
or in Scranton at The Catlin House, 232 Monroe Avenue,
or at Nada & Co, 1440 Capouse Avenue, or online at:*

<https://lackawanna-historical-society.ticketleap.com/beyondthehill/>

Day of tickets can be purchased at the Waverly Community House

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EVENTS & VIRTUAL HAPPENINGS

Email lackawannahistory@gmail.com to receive History BYTES

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Sun., Jun. 1, 2 pm | FOR THE LEAST OF THEM at the Lackawanna County Courthouse Tickets: \$10 See page 7. |
| Sat., Jun. 7, 11 am | ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR Courthouse Square See page 9. |
| Sat., Jun. 14, 10 am | GENEALOGY FORUM'S EUROPEAN TOUR Italian Records, Carbondale City Hall See page 11. |
| Wed., Jun. 18 | DINE LACKAWANNA @ Union Craft House in Taylor See page 3. |
| Thurs., Jun. 19, dusk | THROWBACK THURSDAYS Dirty Dancing at the Circle Drive-In See page 12. |
| Sat., Jun. 21, 11 am | ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR Gothic District See page 9. |
| Sun., Jun. 22, 10 am -4 pm | ABINGTON HOUSE TOUR See page 15 |
| Fri., Jun. 27, 2 pm | PAST TIMES via Zoom Scranton Lace Archives and the Waverly Comm See page 5. |
| Fri., Jun. 27, 6 pm | ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR Commercial and "Red Light" District See page 9. |
| Sat., Jul. 12, 10 am | GENEALOGY FORUM'S EUROPEAN TOUR Carpatho-Rusyn Records, Albright Library See page 11. |
| Sat., Jul. 12, 11 am | ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR Lower Hill Section See page 9. |
| Wed., Jul. 16 | DINE LACKAWANNA @ LaCucina in Dunmore See page 3. |
| Thurs., Jul. 24, dusk | THROWBACK THURSDAYS Christmas Vacation at the Circle Drive-In See page 12. |
| Fri., Jul. 25, 6 pm | ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR Gothic District See page 9. |
| Sat., Aug. 9, 10 am | GENEALOGY FORUM'S EUROPEAN TOUR German Records, Valley Community Library See page 11. |
| Sat., Aug. 9, 11 am | ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR Courthouse Square See page 9. |
| Thurs., Aug. 14, dusk | THROWBACK THURSDAYS American Graffiti at the Circle Drive-In See page 12. |
| Sat., Aug. 16, 10 am | GENEALOGY FORUM'S EUROPEAN TOUR Czech Republic & Slovakia Records, Valley Community Library See page 11. |
| Wed., Aug. 20 | DINE LACKAWANNA @ Sidel's in Scranton See page 3. |
| Sat., Aug. 23, 11 am | ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR Commercial and "Red Light" District See page 9. |
| Fri., Aug. 29, 2 pm | PAST TIMES via Zoom Heerman's Family with Gayle Williams See page 5. |
| Sat., Sept. 6, 11 am | ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR Lower Hill See page 9. |
| Sat., Sept. 13, 10 am | GENEALOGY FORUM'S EUROPEAN TOUR English & Welsh Records, Abington Community See page 11. |