



LHS

The Lackawanna
Historical Society
Journal

Volume 55, No. 3

ISSN 0895-1802

Summer 2025

4TH ANNUAL

Local History Fair

LEARN MORE ABOUT
COLLECTIONS-PROGRAMS-EVENTS

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AND SWEET TREATS FROM EVIL SWEETS BY LULU!

VIEWMONT MALL
DICKSON CITY

SHOP FOR LOCAL BOOKS
AND SOUVENIRS!

SAT., SEPT. 20 | 11AM-4PM

A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

Well, it happened again! Our amazingly astute executive director Mary Ann offered to host a meeting this past July at the Catlin House in regard to the America 250th Celebration. Both she and Sarah Piccini invited Lackawanna County non-profits and civic organizations to attend. The idea presented at the July meeting was to establish and encourage those organizations who were present to share and describe the event they are planning to hold as part of Semiquincentennial celebrations in Lackawanna County. The LHS would then act as a clearinghouse to record and produce a shared planning calendar of events happening now through the end of 2026.

Monthly meetings of this group will continue to occur at various locations around the county. A working calendar of events has been established by the LHS where interested organizations can log-in to post the activities they are planning. We will share more information as the details come together so please stay tuned.

In the meantime, please enjoy this issue of our Journal. I trust as you read on you will find updates about the many programs and events we have set for the Fall, and articles with interesting tidbits about our past. Enjoy these remaining days of Summer and look forward to the beauty of nature as we transition into another season.

As always, stay well, stay strong and stay involved.

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.

The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal is printed in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Entire contents copyrighted © 2025 by the Lackawanna Historical Society. Visit www.lackawannahistory.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for up-to-date listings of all activities!



Thanks for your Support...

History Makers



Some thoughts from LHS Member Raymond Pilch, Esq.

The Society often works with donors and their tax advisors in efforts to reduce their tax burdens while giving gifts to the LHS both now and in the future. The group has a very useful *LHS Planned Giving Committee* which has helped out in the past with these deferred gifts. I find their assistance invaluable and want to mention a few things which often do not come up in regular discussions.

People often talk about the value of their gifts to LHS and their impact on Pennsylvania Inheritance (up to 15%) and Income Taxes (up to 3.07%). Little is mentioned about Federal Estates Taxes and Income Taxes and how to reduce those taxes while helping the LHS.

Pennsylvania and some other states often do not make amounts from retirement accounts or plans (periodic or otherwise) subject to any taxes – income, estate or inheritance. You can give anything you want to the LHS today subject to certain limits but Pennsylvania makes no exception for state taxes if they apply. Federal Law can be much different. When you get money from those “qualified” accounts, you are subject to federal tax law. You can name the LHS as the irrevocable beneficiary of your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or any other qualified retirement plan today and get at least a partial Federal tax deduction today. Many people are not subject to Federal Estate Taxes (as high as 45% when they do apply) thanks to recent changes to the tax laws but most IRAs and other retirement accounts are subject to income taxes as high as 37%! This can even apply to “required minimum distributions” which are not needed or wanted. This can be avoided by naming a qualified charity as the beneficiary of the account amounts or giving the account in your will or trust.

Any contributions made to an appropriate charity from the qualified accounts effectively get a double tax break. The LHS can help you skip a combined Federal tax bill of over 50%! Your tax advisor can help you make tax effective gifts in this area.

Soon I will talk about the value of giving a Life Insurance Policy – EVEN A TERM POLICY – to the LHS but that will be another day.

DINE LACKAWANNA

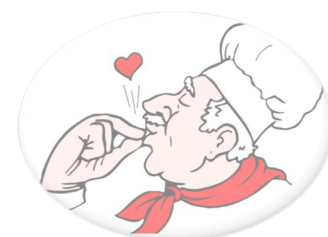


Thanks to Lamar Advertising for its ongoing support of this program.

September 17: **Chef Von and Mom**
501 Linden St., Scranton (570) 955-0368

October 15: **Pete's Place at the Manor**
8 Salem Ave, Carbondale ((570) 281-6240

November 19: **Stirna's Restaurant**
120 W Market St, Scranton (570) 343-5742



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

LHS Intern Abigail Kreig Makes a Connection

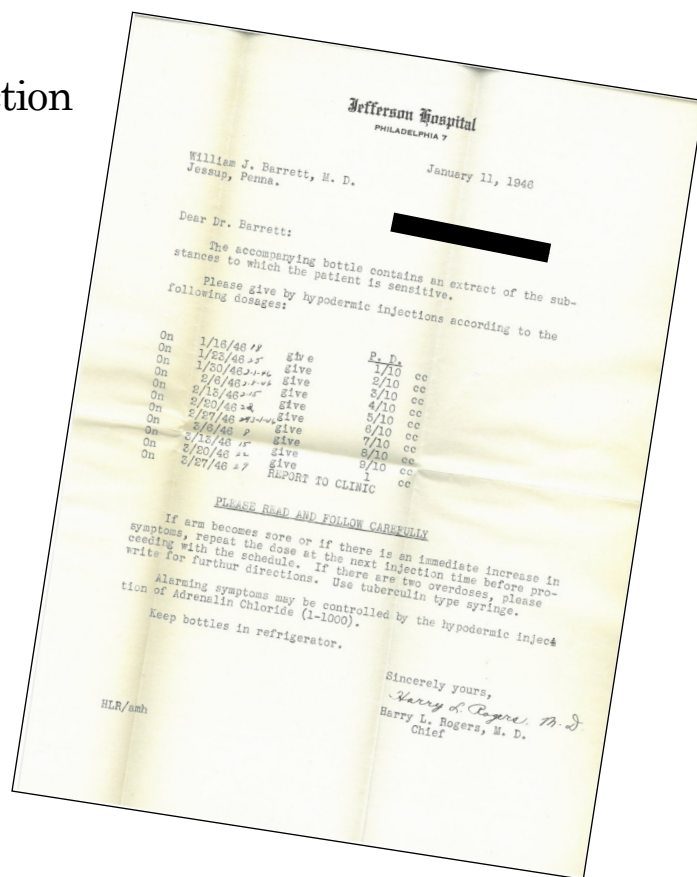
The Dr. William Barrett medical records were donated by his granddaughter, Laura M. Grisolano in 2021. Dr. Barrett was the county coroner, a surgeon, and a general practitioner. Many of his patients were injured coal miners - almost all immigrants. When she donated the collection, Laura shared that her "mother grew up eating homemade dinners from a variety of cultures and ethnicities" because Dr. Barrett's patients "frequently paid with home cooked food" She added that in his meticulously kept records she found "interesting paper trails involving the unions, the mining companies, and the insurance agents." We asked our summer intern Abby Kreig to help inventory the records, but never imagined that she would discover her own way of connecting to them. Here's her story:

Interning at the Lackawanna Historical Society this summer, I knew there would be many different projects that I could help with and learn from. I was excited to explore aspects of our local history that I would have never known about. About midway through the summer, I got asked to help with cataloging medical records from Dr. William Barrett, a family doctor who practiced in Jessup from the 1920s through the 1950s.

Being from Jessup, I was excited to be able to go through and see if I recognized any names, and to explore the general problems of his patients at the time. His patient base consisted of a diverse mix of families and individuals from across northeastern Pennsylvania, primarily blue-collar workers, with over two thousand patient and family files, showing his popularity and reliability. Some patients only came in for a one-time visit, relating to work accidents or just needed minor treatments, some families came to him for decades, with him treating young couples that you can see transform into large families, welcoming baby after baby.

Many files are run-of-the-mill cough and cold, scrapes and bruises, broken bones, appendectomies, and pregnancies. But one afternoon, as I was working through the files, I found something a bit shocking. Well, not to the average person, but to me—someone who has gone to the allergist all their life, it was. Hidden in a record folder was an injection list and an allergy test card. At first, I thought what I was seeing had to be something else because there was no way they had allergy shots in the 1940s that are so similar to allergy shots now.

Now lots of people have allergies, whether it's seasonal allergies or dust or mold, it's a bit of an inconvenience, but me, I am allergic to everything, every tree, most grasses, pollen, dust, dogs, cats, tree nuts the list goes on; I have seen an allergist for most of my life, taking antihistamines all my life and even outgrowing some of them. When I was in high school, my doctor suggested starting allergy shots, basically the premise is you are injected with a concentrated dose of your allergies and over time you begin to develop immunity to them. I got one



shot in each arm for five years. First, you start with every week, you go to the office, get the shots, and then sit for thirty minutes, just in case anything drastic happens. That went on for about three years, then you graduate to every two weeks for a while, and then eventually every month, I even put my shots on my college packing list to avoid having to come home to get them. So I was pretty surprised when I saw something very similar to my own journey in the 1940s billing records of this collection listed as "pollen concentrate," and a list of what the patient was prick tested for with the reactions she had.

Most people aren't even aware that allergy shots exist in the first place because they have no need for them. Still, the more surprising part is that the allergy shots I know today aren't even that different from the allergy shots a housewife from Jessup got in 1943. The intersections of history are so fascinating to me, I would have never thought that the experience I went through could tie me to someone so long ago, especially in such a local way. I loved being able to find these small niche pieces of local history that you can't find anywhere else but a place like the Lackawanna Historical Society, where everything comes together, over the centuries of a historically rich place like Northeastern Pennsylvania.

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, Sept. 26 at 2 pm

*A History
of St. Joseph's Center*
with Sister Maryalice Jacquinot

Friday, Oct. 24 at 2pm

*Dominick Delfino's
Great Escape*
with William Sallurday

Friday, Nov. 21 at 2pm

*NEPA Language and Life
Project*
with Lewis Esposito, Ph.D.

Pre-Sales for the 2026 Calendar

Scranton is Looking Up!

\$20 Scranton is Looking Up!



2026 Calendar

Chamber of Commerce
426 Mulberry Street

The Scranton Board of Trade reorganized in 1923 as the Chamber of Commerce. Dedicated in May 1926, their new headquarters on Mulberry Street was designed in the Modern style with Art Deco details by architect Edward Langley. The first floor banquet room featured a Kimball organ donated by L.A. Warren public relations; dance classes were held there in the 1960s. The chamber moved into new offices on Mulberry Street in 1989; the building was converted into retail space and apartments in 2012.

POSH @ the Scranton Club
404 North Washington Avenue

Built for members of the Scranton Club, a private men's club, this Colonial Revival style building was designed by architect Edward Langley and opened in 1906. Today, the building is shared by three tenants: the Scranton Club is open to members on the lower level; Reliance restaurant offers special dining on the first floor, and POSH caters special events on the upper floors.

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Available December 1st

Pre-Order Yours Today!!

To reserve your calendar, send payment of \$20 (plus \$4 for S/H) to LHS or use this QR code to order.



The calendars are the brainchild of Susie Connors and are dedicated to her late husband, former Scranton Mayor Jim Connors, who was the city's biggest cheerleader. It offers images of architectural details from Scranton's downtown buildings that can only be seen by "looking up!" All purchases benefit the Lackawanna Historical Society.

BEYOND THE CANVAS WITH RONNIE

In this issue, Ronnie shares some details about a collection of letters that were recently donated to the Society.

He was a good, quiet man. He never referred to himself a hero, never acted like he was anything special, and never talked of his time in the Army. To the outside world he was an everyman. To those who knew him well he was a good husband, wonderful father, great friend, and one of our nation's unsung World War II war heroes. I take great pleasure in presenting to you Gerald "Jerry" MacKelvey Pittaway, Sr., late of Carbondale, PA.

When the attack on Pearl Harbor happened, Jerry was a young 19-year-old working as an assistant manager of a small store in Carbondale, PA.



Later, when asked about the attack, he commented that he felt both "anger and worry". Within a year his life changed dramatically when he was drafted into the Army in Dec. 1942. He was sent for training in Mississippi,

then to Texas for his next assignment. He didn't know it, but his life was about to undergo yet another dramatic change. While riding a bus into the local town a young lady, Marge Tippit, boarded the bus. Needing a seat, Jerry offered up his lap, which she accepted. We don't have the details, but the young couple, obviously madly in love, soon married in March 1943 and by 1944 Jerry was off to the war in Europe as part of the 28th Division. Later, when asked about going overseas, he said it "was expected – we were anxious but ready to serve" and that the trip over was "scary – as convoys were being sunk"!

In July of 1944 Jerry landed at Normandy, went on to the German border, the Siegfried line and then to the Ardennes Forest where he was captured during the Battle of the Bulge, at a time when the German soldiers were killing captured enemy soldiers. In Jerry's words: "We fought tiger tanks with only 37 and 57mm guns and bazookas. Germans were everywhere. I saw friends fall, it was just a matter of kill or be killed. Soon we ran out of ammo. It was a frightening night. As the sun rose, we knew it may be the last sunrise we would ever see. The German officer ordered us taken prisoners, not killed, because we fought so hard with no hope of winning. We were marched and taken by train to POW camp Stalag 13C, Bavaria, Germany."

As for his time in captivity: "I was treated very badly during my imprisonment...starved and tortured by the SS. They would make us watch as they tortured our friends...they were pure evil. I volunteered for a farm detail, thinking we could steal some food. When I had returned to a robust 100 pounds or so, we attacked and killed our guards and escaped and were fed by local farmers at great risk to their own lives, we were recaptured by German soldiers, they were going to use us as bargaining chips after they lost the war. Our prisoner march was intercepted by a tank group from Patton's Army and I was free and back in the arms of the American Army."



Note in all this Jerry only comments on just the facts of the day. He does not mention how during one battle he carried his wounded sergeant to safety, and that during his time in Europe he was awarded not only two Bronze Stars, the combat infantry badge, various campaign ribbons, but also the coup de grace, the Purple Heart, for wounds incurred during an air raid.

During his enlistment Jerry wrote 55 let-

ters home, most about daily activities, future plans, and filled with thoughts of loneliness and of his love for his young bride. Those letters were received with relief. Not so the telegram telling young Marge and his parents that he was missing in action. Nor the one that came two months later telling them that he now was a POW. It was then an excruciating 5 months before they finally received one telling them he was safe. We can only imagine the extreme relief and overwhelming joy they felt.

Jerry left military service in Nov. 1945. In June 1946 Marge and Jerry lost their first daughter at birth. In October 1947 their daughter Linda was born. Jerry was missing military life and times were financially tough, so he joined the PA. National Guard as a 1st Lt. When the Korean War broke out, his unit was activated and was sent to Indiana. Their son Jerry, Jr., was born there in 1950. Ironically, our Jerry was actually then sent back to Germany – but this time to face the Russians, with Germany as his safe ground! He saw no action and returned home in May 1952. He eventually retired as a Major.

In the following years Jerry was involved with his old Army buddies. They held reun-

ions, wrote letters and cards to each other. K Company 393rd Infantry Regiment was truly his second family. His surviving family believes this involvement helped Jerry cope with his memories of WWII.

Jerry's health began to fail in 1996, and after a series of strokes he passed away in 1999. (Marge passed away in 2010). Shortly before his death, when talking about his time



Age 77, just before his death

in the reserves and with the reunions, Jerry said: "I felt like I hadn't done enough since I was stuck in a POW camp while the 99th Infantry had gone on to great successes. In later years, K company began having reunions and it became known to all of us that we all shared a desire for silence about our

service. It turns out that we all felt ashamed that, having been captured, we had failed our assigned combat duties.

Only as mature men could we see how much we actually contributed'. RIP Jerry.

GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS

Spots are still available for the Genealogy for Beginners workshop which will take place on Saturdays in October:

**October 4, 11, 18, 25 from 9:30 am to Noon
at the Albright Memorial Library's Henkelman Room**

Workshop Fee

\$25 for LHS Members or \$35 for Non-Members (non-refundable)

**Class size limited to ten (10) people
and registration is required by Friday, September 26, 2025 at
<https://forms.gle/QCwMRbxj2CYqF82w5>**

**Participants must commit to all four sessions
and bring a laptop (NOT a tablet)/3-ring binder/notepaper.**

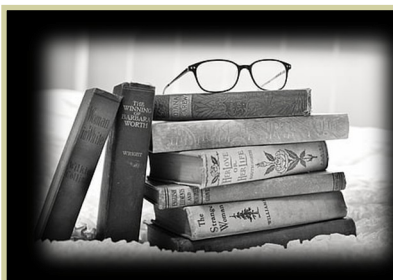


On Sunday, October 12
from 5:30pm to 8:30pm, we will once
again host the Night of Amusements
at Sidel's Restaurant,
1202 N. Main Avenue in Scranton.

The Night of Amusements is a fun twist on a high-stakes casino night combined with traditional carnival side show fanfare. Participants can win riches on games of chance, learn their future from one of our fortune tellers, come face-to-face with a mythical creature, and so much more! Carnival-themed refreshments are included in ticket

price of \$20 (\$15 for LHS members), and a cash bar is also available. Guests are encouraged to come in casino-themed or period costume but this is not required. We are grateful to our confirmed sponsors include Toyota of Scranton, our Ringmaster and LHS Trustee Dalida O'Malley plus Center City Print, and media partners Lamar Advertising and Posture. Our third year promises to bring even more amusements like the *Oddities Museum* of Geofferey Llewys and our new Human Slot Machine! So be sure to join us on October 12th!





Sharon's Bookshelf

Introducing "Sharon's Bookshelf"

Earlier this year, LHS staff and volunteers began conducting a full inventory of its collections. In February through April, Intern Alex Medulan pulled all duplicate copies from our library and placed them in storage. In May, volunteer Sharon Burnham was then tasked with reviewing the books to determine their values so we could offer them to members to purchase. We decided the best way to do this was by creating "Sharon's Bookshelf" as a new offering in the Journal where Sharon could highlight some titles for members to consider. She prepared this article for her first entry:

*In an LHS storage room are hundreds of vintage books on **local history**. Titles cover a broad range of topics including early transportation, anthracite industry, the early industrial period including the transformation of labor, labor unions, women and children in the 19th and 20th centuries, local church histories, private and public education, architecture and much, much more! Many society members have expressed great interest in purchasing these volumes for their own bookshelves. So, as a volunteer at the society, I have inventoried this collection and will be presenting selected volumes for sale to members in this, and future issues, of the LHS Journal.*

*Titles will be offered based on a local historical theme beginning with **Railroad History**. Listed below are some fascinating books that offer historical details about some of our region's most beloved railroad companies, and an interesting overview of Steamtown National Historic Site. Each is competitively priced and all proceeds will benefit the LHS.*

The following gently-used publications are available for purchase at the prices listed:

- Casey, Robert J., and Douglas, W.A.S, **The Lackawanna Story: The First Hundred Years of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad**, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1951. (Condition: Good) Price: \$30.00
- Chappell, Gordon, **Steam Over Scranton: The Locomotives of STEAMTOWN: A Special History Study of Steamtown National Historic Site**, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1991. (Condition: Fair) Price: 30.00
- Osterberg, Matthew M. Osterberg, **The Delaware & Hudson Canal and the Gravity Railroad**, Images of America, Arcadia Publishers, 2002. (Condition: Very Good) Price \$5.00
- Leslie, Vernon, Litt.D, **Honesdale and the Stourbridge Lion**, Stourbridge Lion Sesqui-centennial Corp, Honesdale, Pa. 1979. Rare (Condition: Very Good.) Price \$20.00

To make a purchase, stop by the Catlin House, call 570-344-3841, or email lackawannahistory@gmail.com,
Books will be sold first come, first served.

In the next issue, Sharon will highlight books about the Anthracite Coal Industry.

The Photo Archaeologist

More than a Picture: The Difference Between Collecting Images and Connecting with Them

By Cheryl T. Kaiser, The Photo Archaeologist & Photographer

There's something comforting about having a box (or five) of old photos tucked away in the closet or attic. We think, "At least we still have them." Or "there are so many and the kids don't care, so why bother?". And that's true—having the photos is a start. But I'd like to invite you into a deeper layer and perspective of what it means to be a memory keeper, family historian, or simply someone who treasures the people who came before us and their importance.

Because here's the truth: collecting photos and connecting with them are two very different things, did you know that?

I've seen it many times—boxes passed down from one generation to the next, moved from one house to another like family heirlooms. But unless we pause to engage with those photos, ask questions, listen to stories, and preserve the meaning behind them, they remain just pieces of paper with an image on them. So, is connecting with your collection important? Yes. But powerful? Not yet.

When a Photo Holds More Than an Image

Have you ever looked at a photo—not just glanced, but really looked—and suddenly felt something shift or move your heart somehow? Maybe it was your great-grandmother's eyes looking directly into the camera. Perhaps it was a candid of your dad laughing in a way you hadn't remembered him. That's the moment when the connection begins.

Photos are memory triggers, emotional breadcrumbs. They invite us to pause and wonder, to reflect and to feel. They can bring us to tears, flood us with questions, or wrap us in the warmth of belonging. But only when we stop to listen.

There is deep emotional meaning in being seen and remembered. And there's something profoundly healing - especially for future generations—in knowing that their people lived, struggled, celebrated, created, loved, and mattered. In these moments, we don't just see our ancestors—we feel them. For me, it's a moment of time-travel as I feel as if I'm present as the photographer or as a witness of the moment. We remember that our stories didn't start with us. And that realization can ground us in ways that no document ever could.

What Happens When We Don't Connect

When we don't take time to connect with the people and moments in our photographs, the images risk becoming artifacts without context. Future generations might inherit the box, but without names, places, or stories, those faces will eventually fade into the anonymity of some unknown, distant relative's basement, or even the trash.

Worse, we lose the chance to say, "*This is where I come from.*" We miss the emotional thread that ties us to our past and reminds us who we are—and why it matters.

And yet, the connection is there, waiting. It doesn't have to be elaborate or perfectly documented. A name written in pencil. A note about the picnic. A memory sparked in a conversation. These are the tiny but mighty bridges between collecting and connecting.

Even a few simple stories can breathe life into an entire collection of the past generations, as well as YOUR collection of photographs! The moment we start to know the people in those photographs—even a little—we turn forgotten images into a living, breathing narrative of resilience, love, and belonging.

The Gift to the Next Generation

I believe every story we uncover adds depth not just to our understanding of the past—but to our fam-

ilies' futures. When you give a child or grandchild a photo with a story attached, you give them more than an image—you give them identity. You give them a sense of belonging. You help them see that they are part of something bigger.

And maybe even more importantly? You show them how to remember. You model for them that stories matter. That people matter. That they matter.

You help them build roots—not just in facts and figures, but in heart and soul.

A Gentle Nudge to Begin

So yes, hold on to those boxes of photos. But go one step further. Sit with them. Talk about them. Write down what you know, or ask someone who might know more. Share a story with your family—even a small one. Better, and possibly easier yet, record your voice and preserve the audio story along with a digital copy of the photograph or photographs, or handwrite the story to accompany the physical pictures.

This work doesn't require perfection or research degrees. It just requires heart. It requires curiosity. And a little time. Because when we connect with our images, we're not just archiving the past. We're shaping the emotional legacy of the future. We are giving our families—and ourselves—the incredible gift of continuity. And that, friends, is worth far more than a box of pictures.

Just one photo. Just one story. Just one connection. That's where it begins.


cheryl kaiser

The Photo Archaeologist™

Uncover and curate your stories and photos into the tapestry of your life and legacy.



Your Complete Family Archive Resource

Contact Cheryl Today to Find Out How Easy it is to Start Your Family Archive

570-357-1794

www.CherylKaiser.com

Cheryl@CherylKaiser.com



This is my maternal grandmother, pictured in 1937—the year before my mother was born. I love this photo because she is genuinely happy. I see my mother's eyes, my own smile, and a sense of joy I don't remember seeing as a child. I was always a little afraid of her for reasons I couldn't quite name. She passed away in 1970 when I was just seven, and I know she struggled after my grandfather died in 1966. But here, there's so much hope and promise—untouched by the hardships I later came to learn my family endured.

Spending time with this image—and others in my collection—has helped me see her beyond the lens of childhood. I only wish I could talk to her now, adult to adult. As the eldest grandchild, and now the elder of this branch of the family, I have to rely on my own memories, secondhand stories, my mother's written reflections, other photo captions, a few treasured letters—and a little imagination—to try to piece together her story and feel her true personality.

Stay tuned for details of the upcoming seminar on this topic, in conjunction with the work of Anthracite Photographer, Scott Herring.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Individual

Delores Dalickas, Uniondale
 Michele Dembesky, Dickson City
 Andrew Curtillo, Scranton
 Tara Finnerty, Clarks Summit
 Steven Fritch, Westlake OH
 Glenn Johnson, Dalton
 George Lonsdorf, Narbeth
 Jim Masters, Scranton
 Ashley Milne-Tyte, East Hampton NY
 Michael Moolick, Dalton
 Tom O'Toole, Scranton
 Patsy Walker Powell, Henderson NV

Contributing

Alexandra & Dwayne Krafjack, S. Abington Twp.

Platinum

Chris Campbell, St. Augustine FL



A donation was recently made to the Society in honor of Bernie McGurl to congratulate him on his recent retirement from the Lackawanna River Conservation Association by Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus



Save the Date

Join us for our **Annual Dinner** at the historic Tripp House on **Thursday, October 23 at 6pm!** Enjoy dinner catered by Accentuate Catering and learn more about the region's Native past with a special program with Chief Bluejay of the Lenape Nation.

Stay tuned— invitations to follow!

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Dominick Azzarelli

Julie Esty & The Dearly Departed Players
 Sarah Piccini
 Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

In Memory of John Belack

Linda Belack

In Memory of Ron Leas

Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

In Memory of Fran Durkin Keating

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.



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.

Did you ever hear the song "Scranton The Friendly City"?

The year was 1954, and Bernie Blier, PR Director for Scranton's Chamber of Commerce, was busy preparing to host an upcoming state convention. By sheer coincidence he had an informal conversation with two well-known music composers, both with ties to Scranton. When they remarked on the warm reception they had received here, Blier replied that what the city needed was an anthem that could express its friendly spirit. So, George Freems, a Scranton native, and Sammy Timberg, the house pianist at the Europa Lounge, went to work and in June performed their new song for Scranton Mayor James T. Hanlon. Timberg composed the lyrics which were set to a march tempo by Freems:

*Stand Up...And Shout About Scranton
Our Friendly Town
Lift Your Voice And Sing This Happy Song
Scranton ...Scranton...That's Where I Belong
The Mayor Or The Traffic Cop,
Will Never Pass You By
And If He Cannot Place You Face
He'll Simply Holler "Hi"
So Sing Loud and Be Proud Of Scranton
Our Friendly Town"*

The Chamber was so pleased with the ditty, which was published by Europa Lounge manager George Colovos, Sylvester "Cy" Kazmerski, then secretary of the Jaycees, announced it would be used as the theme for the state directors' convention taking place the following weekend. In a July 11, 1954 *Scranton Tribune* article, Sammy and George said the hardest part about writing the song was explaining to Bernie Blier why they needed to use the word "town" instead of "city" in order to come out with a better rhyming format.

Sammy Timberg was born in New York City and had gained fame along side his brother Herman, a



Sammy Timberg

well-known star of the Vaudeville stage. His initial success came when he was just 18 years old and joined his brother Herman and sister Hattie to create *On the Mezzanine* for the Marx Brothers in 1921. Through much of the 1920s and 30s he found work writing songs for Broadway reviews and also organized his own orchestra. But he is perhaps best known for the music he wrote for cartoons by Fleischer Studios including *Popeye*, *Betty Boop* and *Superman*. Possibly his most recognized and most-recorded song is *It's a Hap-Hap-Happy Day* from Fleischer Studios production of *Gulliver's Travels*. One of his songs, *Help Yourself to My Heart* was even recorded by Frank Sinatra. He was also an early, although unsuccessful manager of the then yet-to-be discovered comedian Jackie Gleason.

Timberg came to Scranton in 1953 for a two-week engagement, entertaining at the Europa Lounge on the 200 block of North Washington Avenue. The show was such a big hit, it was extended and ran for more than a year.

During that period, he developed great affection for the city, and eventually moved into the Hotel Jermyn to take up permanent residence with his second wife, Scranton resident Maria Davis. His wife died in 1983 and he died in 1992.

George Freems was born in Scranton as Nathan Frieman and resided with his family at 537 Taylor Avenue. He graduated from Scranton Tech in 1925 and hooked up with Sammy's brother Herman to work the vaudeville circuits as a comic. He worked as an entertainer on the USO circuit during WWII then returned to the states to find work in radio and television production.



George Freems

In the 1950s, he frequently returned home to Scranton to host special shows and to engage local talent in his *Telefilms* entertainment company. He died in 1967.

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:



Joshua Barille, Spring Brook Twp.	David Hurst, Dallas	Roger Park, Dallas
Tracy Bartlett, Susquehann	Holly James, Jermyn	Francis Peterman, Hawley
Matthew Benton, Exeter	Scott Jennings, Nicholson	Philip Podhyski, Fell Twp.
Darrell Boston, Carbondale	Stephen Jervis, Factoryville	Samantha Preitz, Moosic
Samantha Boyd, Scranton	Ronald Johnson, Factoryville	Isabella Proscia, Jermyn
Kathy Brown, Carbondale	Paul Jones, Montrose	Michael Prukala, Hunlock Creek
Elijah Brown, Carbondale	Gloria Kelly, Madison Twp.	Joseph & Jaime Puchalski, Tunkhannock
Colin Browne, Moosic	Barbara Krasavage, Hunlock Creek	Scott Ransom, Hop Bottom
Devin Budd, Jessup	Thomas Kravetsky, Uniondale	Christopher Reed, Olyphant
Logan Burns, Peckville	Teresa Kveragas, Dunmore	Craig Reeves, Montrose
Christopher Cacassa, Waymart	Bodie Lcoe, Clarks Summit	Robert Richardson, Tunkhannock
Traci Call, Montrose	Frank Lahotsky, Madison Twp.	Melinda Riggelman, Clarks Summit
Kathleen Casarin, Archbald	Colleen Langendoerfer, Waymart	William Rosler, Carbondale
Tara Castellano, Dunmore	Alan Lockwood, Waymart	Charles Ross, Dalton
Kimberly Chervenitski, Harding	Ashley Loomis, Tafton	Clark Ruger, Tunkhannock
Brian Chervenitski, Shavertown	Barbara Lotterman, Lenoxville	Eric Schaefer, Mehoopany
Adam Cislo, Jefferson Twp.	Kinsey Lukasavage, Tunkhannock	Karen Schake, Montrose
Justin Cobb, Nicholson	Daniel Luke, Shavertown	Justin Schermerhorn, Jefferson Twp.
Robert Conrad & Judith Davis, Clarks Summit	Ronald Malinchak, Carbondale	Justin Schwartztrauber, Tunkhannock
Hunter Daily, Tunkhannock	Patrick Maloney, Bear Creek Twp.	Deanna Scofield, Tunkhannock
Wagner David, Scranton	Luke Mamola, Dallas	Joshua Seguire, Moosic
Andrea Deantonio, Carbondale	Margaret Marino, Clarks Summit	Jacqueline Sheare, Clifford Twp.
Gabriel DeMarco, Sugarloaf	Kyleigh & Owen Vossburg Marshal, Wyalusing	Jeffrey & Beth Shrader, White Haven
Melissa Demarest, Montrose	John Matthew, Tunkhannock	Michael & Hilary Slivinski, Monroe Twp.
Charles Dennis, Waverly Twp.	Teresa McNamara, Tunkhannock	Michelle Smith, Forest City
Dennis Donat, Honesdale	Tyler Mead, Roaring Brook Twp.	Jessica Smith, Pleasant Mount
Jennifer Erdmann, Scott Twp.	Nomaris Mercado, Dunmore	Michael Smith, Wilkes-Barre
Steven Farrell, Clarks Summit	Craig Merkel, Scott Twp.	Christopher Stefursky, Archbald
Marcin Fasiiecki, Olyphant	Amber Michalik, Jim Thorpe	Kelly Ann Stettler, Hunlock Creek
Albert Flederbach, Carbondale	Mary Jane Mistysyn, Clifton Twp.	Jaime Supancik, New Milford
Shari Franklin, Waymart	Eileen Molinaro, Fell Twp.	Gennifer Sutton, Clarks Summit
Alice Gable, Tunkhannock	Christopher Moliterno, Lakeville	Michael Taback, Gouldsboro
Lawrence Gabriel, Carbondale	Jonathan Montgomery, Factoryville	Emma Taylor, Scranton
Rodney Geer, Lake Como	William Moores, Tunkhannock	Wesley Tolley, Carbondale
Anne Godfrey-Wilson, Tunkhannock	Paige Moore, Olyphant	Richard Tratthen, Scott Twp.
Nichole Groover, Montrose	Philip Neiman, Moconaqu	Richard Wagner, Old Forge
Todd Hall, Newfoundland	Gary Newman, Little Meadows	James Watson, Wilkes-Barre
Justin Heffner, Kingston	Alexander Nitowski, Duryea	Paul Weidner, Honesdale
William Heim, Lake Ariel	Kyleigh O'Boyle, Scranton	Leonard Wheatley, Hop Bottom
John Heim, Clarks Summit	Lidia Ortiz, Meshoppen	Donald Wood, Nicholson
Hayden Holley, Archbald	Ted Otis, Laceyville	Stephen Yanchek, Archbald
John Holmes, Dunmore	Maria Ottone, Scott Twp.	Douglas Yatsonski, Honesdale
Ryan Hoover, Avoca	Lee Pajalich, Moosic	Dillon Yeager, Dalton
Steven Howell, Factoryville		Ryan Youndblood, Pittston
		Edward Ziegler, Dupont



“Faces of the Accused”

A special program with
author Nick Petula

Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 7pm
at The Catlin House
232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton

Take a photo tour through the city’s criminal past, and meet the men and women arrested by the Scranton police department between 1898-1920. Join us to learn more about Nick’s unique collection of mug shots, telling the tales of accused murderers and burglars, horse thieves, and highway robbers.

At the Hope Horn Gallery October 20 through December 12, 2025

The Anthracite Coal Industry of Northeastern Pennsylvania *Selected Paintings, Sculptures, and Works on Paper* *from Public and Private Collections: 1829-1959*

Organized by Richard Stanislaus, past curator of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Anthracite Heritage Museum, this first exhibition in a two-part series features coal-themed art from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, on loan from individuals and organizations including the Lackawanna Historical Society, Luzerne County Historical Society, Everhart Museum, Anthracite Heritage Museum, Pottsville Public Library, and Scranton Public Library. The project is supported in part by grants from The Gail and Francis Slattery Center for the Ignatian Humanities at the University of Scranton; the “armature” initiative of Northeast Educational Intermediate Unit 19; and the Lackawanna County Office of Arts and Culture.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

The Anthracite Coal Industry of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Richard Stanislaus, *Guest Curator*

Gallery Lecture at Pearn Auditorium,
Brennan 228 • 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Public Reception at Hope Horn Gallery,
Hyland 405 • 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

New Deal Post Office Murals in the Anthracite Regions of Northeastern Pennsylvania

David Lembeck, *Independent Scholar*

Gallery Lecture at Pearn Auditorium,
Brennan 228 • 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Public Reception at Hope Horn Gallery,
Hyland 405 • 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.



Charles Keck. *John Mitchell Monument*. Bronze and granite sculpture. 1924. Erected by Members of the United Mine Workers of America and Friends. Courthouse Square. Scranton, PA.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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EVENTS & VIRTUAL HAPPENINGS

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

Wed., Sept. 17	<i>DINE LACKAWANNA</i> at Chef Von and Mom (See page 3)
Sat., Sept. 20, 11 am	<i>LOCAL HISTORY FAIR</i> at the Viewmont Mall (See page 1)
Wed., Sept. 24, 7 pm	<i>FACES OF THE ACCUSED</i> program by Nick Petula at the Catlin House (See page 15)
Fri., Sept. 26, 2 pm	<i>LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES</i> via Zoom <i>St. Joseph's Center</i> (See page 5)
Fri., Sept. 26/Oct. 3, 10, 17, 7pm	<i>SCRANTON AFTER DARK</i> Haunted Walking Tours SOLD OUT
Sat., Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, 9:30 am	<i>GENEALOGY FORUM'S</i> Genealogy For Beginners (See page 7)
Sun., Oct. 12, 5:30 pm	<i>NIGHT OF AMUSEMENTS</i> at Sidel's Restaurant (See page 8)
Wed., Oct. 15	<i>DINE LACKAWANNA</i> at Pete's Place (See page 3)
Thurs., Oct. 23, TBA	<i>ANNUAL DINNER</i> at the Tripp House (See page 12)
Fri., Oct. 24, 2 pm	<i>LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES</i> via Zoom <i>Dominick Delfino's Great Escape</i> (See page 5)
Wed., Nov. 19	<i>DINE LACKAWANNA</i> at Stirna's (See page 3)
Fri., Nov. 21, 2 pm	<i>LACKAWANNA PAST TIMES</i> via Zoom <i>NEPA Language and Life Project</i> (See page 5)
Thurs., Jan 22, TBA	<i>JANUARY BLUES</i> at the Catlin House

On Thursday, September 4th, LHS joined its partners from the Scranton Chapter of the DAR to dedicate the Kate Chapman marker at the Century Club. The event was hosted by the Scranton Area Community Foundation as part of its America250PA bell unveiling.

