



History Bytes

A Lackawanna Historical Society Publication

Vol. 1 No. 5

November - December 2018

Rick Sedlisky, Editor

A Message from the Editor

History Bytes launched in March 2018 and here we are, sharing the final issue of the year. Issues have been well received. The Lackawanna Historical Society has received additional online exposure, something that in the world of emails, iPhones, texting and apps, is a necessity as competition for peoples' leisure time and interests is intense.

You are the reason History Bytes has been well-received. It's you who research and write articles, you who offer suggestions for stories, you who write expanded stand-alone pieces for special editions, you who offer photographs, you who write books about our region that we review, you who collaborate together, and you who read each issue of History Bytes and offer your comments.

You are the historians. Without you, History Bytes wouldn't exist and our region wouldn't be so well-documented.

Thank You:

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Veterans Day 2018

Veterans Day 2018 marked 100 years since an armistice was signed with Germany, ending World War I. Originally known as Armistice Day, it was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

The day recognizes when World War I hostilities ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day, a day in May that recognizes those who died while serving our country. Veterans Day should also not be confused with Armed Forces Day. That day in May honors those currently serving.

Veterans Day recognizes all who served in the United States Armed Forces. It's a day when we thank all who served and continue to serve so that we remain free people.



Lt. Col. Frank J. Duffy

Lt. Col. Frank J. Duffy was an engineer with the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad and the Scranton area's highest ranking soldier who gave his life in WWI on August 17, 1918. He was laid to rest at Oise-Ainse American Cemetery near Chateau-Thierry, France.

The original Doughboy statue, located at Duffy Park (named for Lt. Col. Duffy) next to the old Harrison Ave. Bridge, was removed and is currently in place at the roundhouse at the Steamtown National Historic Site, protected from weather due to its condition. On November 11, 2018, a bronze replica of the statue was dedicated at the new Duffy Park near the new Harrison Ave. Bridge.

For a World at War, Peace at Last

By Jack Smiles

(Ed. Note- Mr. Smiles' article appeared in a recent issue of Citizens Voice)

Each day, the headlines grew more hopeful.

Monday, Nov. 4 — "Austria Quits War, Germany's Last Ally" and "Enemy Flees On Both Sides Of The Meuse."

Tuesday, Nov. 5 — "Yanks Sweep Towards Sedan" and "Allies Take Vast Slice Of Austria."

Thursday, Nov. 7 — "Parley With Foe At Dawn" and "Americans Achieve Peak Of Glory At Meuse Battle."

Friday, Nov. 8 — "Enemy Routed."

Saturday, Nov. 9 — "Germany Between Two Fires."

Sunday, Nov. 10 — "Yank Motors Chase Beaten Enemy" and "Smash Across German Lines."

So it was, two years before the first commercial radio broadcast, Americans followed the wind down of World War I the only way they could — through newspapers.

Finally on Sunday, Nov. 11, 100 years ago today — "State Department Announces
Glorious News — GREAT WAR ENDS."

The armistice was signed at 2:45 a.m. EST. The Associated Press had the news on the wires within 60 seconds. It reached Wilkes-Barre newspaper offices at 2:46. The news spread by word of mouth from morning newspaper workers to beat cops, watchmen and taxi drivers.

The Ashley collieries and shops of the Central Railroad of New Jersey manufacturing plants were the first to tie down their whistles to blow nonstop. Within 15 minutes, night firemen and engineers at collieries and factories all over the Greater Wilkes-Barre area did the same. Pastors were roused from their beds and ordered their sextons to ring the bells.

Though there were only 7,000 phones in Wilkes-Barre — with a population of 70,000 — and 2,500 in Kingston, every operator was either called to work or reported voluntarily after hearing the whistles and sirens. They handled 85,000 phone calls answering each with four words. "The war is over."

Between 3 and 5 a.m., people were roused from their beds. They lit their homes, scrambled to find flags and ran out to the streets, many still in their night wear. Impromptu

parades formed in every neighborhood. Revelers on foot or riding in mule and horse drawn wagons, open automobiles and trucks banged drums, cymbals and noisemakers improvised from pots, pans, pails and lunch buckets creating an all-encompassing cacophony. Bonfires were set, but only a few random Roman candles flew, as fireworks manufacturing had been curtailed for the war effort.

News of the war's end came soon after the lifting of the influenza ban on public gatherings. Saloons were allowed to reopen but soon closed for fear of being overwhelmed and damaged by revelers.

Wilkes-Barre Mayor Babcock declared a legal holiday and announced in the morning paper the city would partner with the Chamber of Commerce to organize an official peace parade to form on South River Street at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Factories, collieries and schools closed.

Parade Marshal Colonel Sterling Eyer rode at the head of the line escorted by mounted City and State Police. The lead marchers were men who served in WWI and were home on furlough. Spanish-American and Civil War veterans held places of honor. City, county and township officials of communities from which boys were "over there" marched in the first division.

Along came the Women's National Council of Defense, the Pennsylvania Reserve Militia, the Knights Templar in dress uniforms, the "sun glinting on their swords and armament was a glorious sight," according to a newspaper account. Fifty city firemen in uniform marched in step. From Forty Fort, Girl Pioneers of America wore khaki uniforms, bright red ties and service hats. The Red Cross column in white uniforms wore red veils for the surgical department and blue for canteen workers.

Women of a new organization carried a banner: "Mothers of Enlisted Men." Women of the YWCA donned blue tri-cornered hats. The girls of Serve-Your-City marched in a triangle formation wearing red, white and blue paper hats.

Factories, collieries and railroaders were in their own division. Hazard Wire Rope Works ran a truck filled with workers and decorated with bunting. Miners carried lanterns. The Boys' Working Reserve — a volunteer group of young men between 16 and 21, organized under the U.S. Department of Labor to work farms — rode on tractors.

Nurses in uniform and cooks from the emergency hospital established at the armory during the flu epidemic marched in line. One of the largest and most colorful delegations was from the Holy Rosary Italian Church on Park Avenue. Several drum corps and bands were interspersed among the divisions.

The bell from the old courthouse on Public Square, which was demolished in 1909, was a crowd favorite. Famous for its beautiful tone, it was towed on a float. The War Charities committee carried a large flag horizontally and people threw money into it.

The Sugar Notch fife and drum corps and most of the borough's citizens marched while dragging an image of German Kaiser Wilhelm and his son. The Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company's ambulance was drawn by two jet black horses and bore a banner reading: "To Berlin to Bury the Kaiser."

Bringing up the rear of the official parade were paraders who had been touring the city since 3 a.m. with pianos on trucks playing ragtime and "chickens on the radiators of cars," according to the Wilkes-Barre Evening News. All this under a deluge of paper streamers.

Wrath at the Kaiser was a popular theme in the Scranton parade. Six Eagles carried a coffin of the Kaiser and performed a war dance around it. An African-American chapter of the Knights of Pythias also bore a coffin of the Kaiser. One float depicted the Kaiser being burned at the stake. The devil sat on a float with this banner: "I don't want the Kaiser." The Carbondale hearse, drawn by a team of mules, held a coffin in plain view with the banner "Bill's Last Sad Rites, etc."

As happened in Wilkes-Barre, in Scranton, an impromptu parade broke out and from 5 to 9 a.m. and made several trips around town, through Green Ridge, North Scranton, Lackawanna Avenue, Bellevue, West Scranton and Dunmore with people jumping in with musical instruments, drums and cymbals. Italians joined the line with cornets, banjos, mandolins, guitars and hand organs. Those without musical instruments banged lunch pails, pie plates and tapped broom sticks on the roads. Flour was thrown by parade watchers. When they ran out of confetti, they tore up newspapers.

The official Scranton parade was led by World War I soldiers carrying the flags of American allies: P. Nealon, who had been wounded in France, carrying a British flag; John Bone with the Belgian flag, Patrick Ferguson with the French flag and John Hughes, Italian.

The city's bankers marched with a banner reading "If a boy is born on Nov. 12, name him Victor, a girl name her Victoria."

The LDS Band of West Scranton led the singing of "Hail, Hail the Gang's all Here". "The Old Gray Mare", "Keep the Home Fires Burning" and "Over There".

Similar happenings were seen in Pittston, though on a smaller scale. The Eagle Hose Company was out at about 3 a.m. with its drum corps banging through the streets. Homes lit up and thousands poured onto the streets. Parades sprang up in every section of the city.

In the official parade, city police carried lanterns, bank presidents walked in line with breaker boys, 50 women of the Red Cross Canteen marched in "natty blue uniforms," as the Pittston Gazette described them, and the Camp Fire Girls carried large American flags. Hughestown, Upper Pittston, Sebastopol and Jenkins Twp. contingents joined the parade. At the end, the West Pittston Hose Company carried a truck full of citizens blowing horns and waving flags.

The Hitchner Bakery declared a paid holiday for its 100 employees who marched with their supervisors.

In the midst of all the joy, grief. On Nov. 11, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dale of Quincy Avenue, Scranton, learned of the death of their son, Theadore, 25, killed by poison gas in France. The Syracuse University graduate one of the 627 soldiers and sailors from Luzerne and Lackawanna counties who were killed in the "Great War."

Sources: Digital archives of the Chicago Tribune, Pittston Gazette, Scranton Republican, Wilkes-Barre Evening News, Wilkes-Barre Record.

Casualty source: genealogytrails.com/penn/luzerne/military/ww_1.html

Jack Smiles is an award winning writer who specializes in history, baseball and short fiction. Historical pieces by Mr. Smiles have appeared in a number of Northeast Pennsylvania and Southern New York publications. He is the author of biographies of anthracite miners who became Hall of Fame baseball players: *EE-Yah, the Life and Times of Hughie Jennings*; *Big Ed Walsh: The Life and Times of a Spitballing Hall of Famer*; *Bucky Harris: a Biography of Baseball's Boy Wonder*. He also authored *Ninth Wonder of the World*, the story of the effects construction of the Tunkhannock Viaduct (Nicholson Bridge) had on Nicholson.





The United States Coast Guard: A Member Discusses His Service, Past and Present

By Chester J. Kulesa

I was inspired to join the Armed Forces given the example of my Father, Chester F. Kulesa. He was a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II and Korea. He was my hero. I did speak with an Army recruiter; however, in the summer of 1973, when I visited Cape May, NJ with friends, I learned of Coast Guard Boot Camp at the Cape May Training Center.

Upon return to Northeastern PA, I met with Chief Petty Officer Michael Sowden, Coast Guard Officer in Charge at the Wilkes-Barre Recruiting Office (Scranton did not have a Coast Guard Recruiting Office at the time).

He explained that the Coast Guard was our nation's oldest continuous seagoing service, dedicated to the preservation of life and property at sea, ashore or wherever need arises. Additionally, the Coast Guard is part of the Armed Forces, which also comprises the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. I was ready!

The United States Coast Guard contributed greatly to my personal growth and development. As a young person, it was great to be part of a proud tradition of men and women. This helped to develop confidence and a sense of self-esteem. The United States Coast Guard lives and breathes leadership. It pervades every aspect of the organization — leadership and responsibility. You will not be promoted without continuing education.

I admire members of the United States Armed Forces and Veterans. They made sacrifices in their service of our country. I think that the adage, "*All gave some and some gave all*", is true.

Learning to overcome difficulties with calm and temperate perseverance in carrying out my Coast Guard duties was essential. The skills and training I received were critical and

everything was done in moderation. I found big projects are manageable if they are divided into specific parts of the whole. For example, search and rescue is a very methodical and organized process and you must communicate and coordinate with others. Teamwork is very important to success.

I received the Coast Guard Unit Commendation Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Coast Guard Rifle Marksman Ribbon, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon and Coast Guard Good Conduct Award and Honorable Discharge.

Rank attained: Petty Officer Second Class or E-5



The Coast Guard Cutter *Citrus* had a complement of six officers and 50 enlisted men. We had several duty sections so that we could operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I (Chester Kulesa) am pictured second from the right with the men and officer of my duty section.

Photo courtesy of Chester J. Kulesa.

When I served on the Coast Guard Cutter, *Citrus*, I learned all the practical aspects of good seamanship aboard ship. At Station Pascagoula, MS, I participated in small boat handling and search and rescue. Because the Coast Guard is the smallest of the Armed Forces in the number of personnel, many Coast Guard men and women are involved in search and rescue and small boat handling. For example, during the Normandy Invasion of World War II, 98 Coast Guard-manned vessels participated in D-Day. Operation Neptune, June 6, 1944, is noted as the bloodiest day in the history of the United States Coast Guard.

Work at Coast Guard Headquarters taught me administrative and fiscal responsibilities. It was an interesting perspective to be at the Coast Guard's leadership center. Additionally, the Coast Guard had 17 regional district headquarters at that time. The organizational work done by all of those personnel was essential to those operating in the field. We did not want to let our men and women down.



USCG *Citrus*, January 1974

Note the heavy ice covering the *Citrus* in the period of January 16-19, 1974, while we were engaged in the rescue of the fishing vessel *Chief* and the attempted rescue of the fishing vessel *John and Olaf* under extremely perilous conditions in the Gulf of Alaska and the Shelikof Straits.

Photo courtesy of Chester J. Kulesa.

My first duty station after boot camp was aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Citrus* (WLB 300). The *Citrus* was an ocean-going buoy tender and ice breaker of the homeport, Kodiak, Alaska (AK). We had direct responsibility for the operation and maintenance of aids to navigation, such as lighthouses, fog signals, beacons and buoys.

We maintained buoys that weighed as much as 20,000 pounds from the Aleutian Islands, AK to Seattle, WA. My second duty was small boat station Pascagoula, MS. My final duty was at United States Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Age when entered the military: I was 18 years old



Servicing aids to navigation is one of the traditional missions of the United States Coast Guard. Here the *Citrus* is maintaining the ocean buoy EB03.

Photo courtesy of Chester J. Kulesa.

In January 1977, I served as a member of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee for the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter. I served side by side with members of all branches of the Armed Services - Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. Army Major General Robert G. Yerks was the Chairman of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee. I also marched in the inaugural parade.

Advice to those considering enlisting: Study the requirements of the branch of military that you wish to join. You can do this online, speaking with a recruiter or by talking to those who serve. For the Coast Guard, academic and physical requirements are demanding so prepare yourself in advance of your enlistment. Of course, you must be able to swim.

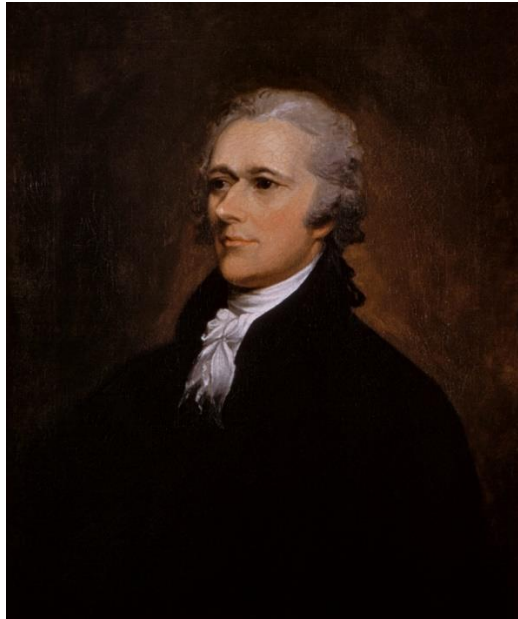
How has the military changed since you joined: September 11, 2001 changed everything. When I was in the Coast Guard, we were part of the U.S. Department of Transportation. After 9/11, the Coast Guard was modernized with new technologies and realigned with 21 other agencies into the Department of Homeland Security. The Secretary who led the department was former Pennsylvania Governor, Tom Ridge.

Because all of us in the United States depend on the oceans for our security and economic prosperity, the scope of the duties of the Coast Guard are immense. Our maritime border is 95,000 miles of shoreline, 25,000 miles of navigable waterways and 3.4 million square miles of economic zones next to coastal regions. The waters around the United States provide about half of the protein biomass in the world and that is approximately a \$10 billion industry. The Coast Guard participates in the global war on terrorism.

Biggest adjustment in going from military to civilian life: The biggest adjustment for me was going from military readiness of 24 hours a day, seven days a week to being a

civilian without that responsibility. In fact, that is the Coast Guard motto, *Semper Paratus*—Always Ready!

What is one thing most people don't know about your branch of the military: Most people do not know that Alexander Hamilton is the honored “Father” of the United States Coast Guard. When he became the first Secretary of Treasury, our new government was in a difficult financial situation. In addition, tariff revenue was stifled by smuggling.



An image of Alexander Hamilton

Courtesy of Rick Sedlisky

Hamilton's idea to create a revenue marine force equipped with cutters to catch smugglers and enforce customs laws was of critical importance, in my opinion. Congress authorized this seagoing service on August 4, 1790. This date is celebrated as the birthday of the United States Coast Guard.

What is the most rewarding aspect of serving in the military: I found it an honor to serve in the United States Coast Guard. Through my enlistment, I had the opportunity to play a significant role. I also had the opportunity to meet wonderful people who greatly changed my life in positive and meaningful ways.

Plans for the future: I currently serve as Secretary of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Coast Guard Veterans Association. I would like to see the organization grow and welcome other Coast Guard Veterans to join us. I can be reached via email at: nepacgvets@gmail.com by telephone at 570.282.4331 or my current residence, 107 Lee Rd., Greenfield Twp. PA 18407.

People may also message us on Facebook at Coast Guard Veterans of NEPA. We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at Perkins Family Restaurant, 304 Route 315 Highway, Pittston Township, PA.

Membership is open to all Coast Guard men and women — veterans, active duty and reservists. United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Merchant Marines are welcome to apply for Associate Membership.



NEPA Coast Guard Veterans Association Members visit Clarks Summit PA. Standing from left to right: are Tom Betsko, Chester Kulesa, Joe Katchko, Ken Bogert, Neil Morrison (President), Jeff MacMillan, Phil Churmblo, George Fetchko, Joe Slakis, Jim Law and Jim Trollo. Kneeling in the foreground left to right: Bill Corcoran and Tim Healey.

Photo courtesy of Chester J. Kulesa.

Chester J. Kulesa is the former Site Administrator of the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum and Scranton Iron Furnaces of the Bureau of Historic Sites and Museums of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. He is a graduate of the College of William and Mary and Pennsylvania State University.

Chester is the son of the late Chester F. and Arlene R. Kulesa. His siblings are: David, Scranton; Elaine, Nicholson; Karen, East Benton and Stephen, Scranton. He is married to Deilsie Heath Kulesa. Chester and Deilsie reside in Greenfield Township, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Kulesa enjoys reading history and participating in history projects. He is currently a volunteer at the Anthracite Heritage Museum, Scranton, secretary of the Greenfield Township Historical Society and a member of the Lackawanna Historical Society.

Scranton Veterans Memorial Park and Monument

By Pat Ahern with Rick Sedlisky

Phase Two of the Scranton Veterans Memorial Park and Monument that began on September 16 with a flag raising ceremony at the site is well underway.

The project's second phase will include the monument with among other things, veterans' names and a learning place that will include laser-engraved photos. The cost of Phase Two is \$225,000, with the final cost of the project totaling \$465,000. To date, \$8,000 for Phase Two has been raised.

The cost of Phase One for the park construction was \$240,000. All costs incurred in the initial phase have been paid in full.

More than 900 names will be recognized. Veterans named on the monument should have been Scranton residents or former Scranton residents and died in one of five wars, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq/Afghanistan. No death certificate is required, just a statement from a friend or family member verifying information. We also include Merchant Marines and veterans from Minooka. You can submit names or request donation information by contacting us at onestrongamerica@gmail.com. We also welcome community groups to conduct fundraisers on behalf of building the monument.

The idea of a Scranton Veterans Monument and Memorial Park was conceived by 14 veterans after reading the inscription on the plaque at the base of the flagpole inside Scranton Veterans Memorial Stadium. The stadium was dedicated:

“IN MEMORY OF ALL FORMER STUDENTS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM”

Upon completion, the inscription on the new monument will read:

“THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR ALL, FOREVER REMEMBERED”



Artist's rendering of the Scranton Veterans Memorial Park and Monument
Courtesy of Pat Ahern

LHS Membership Information

2019 Membership Reminder

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, the quarterly newsletter and the bi-monthly e-newsletter.

Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend who is interested in joining. Please return it to:

The Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.

Lackawanna Historical Society Membership Form

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----------------|
| // Student | \$10 | Name _____ |
| // Individual | \$35 | |
| // Family | \$45 | Address _____ |
| // Contributing | \$75 | _____ |
| // Sustaining | \$150 | |
| // Silver Corporate | \$250 | Telephone _____ |
| // Gold Corporate | \$500 | Email _____ |

Below is a link to complete for membership payment if you chose to use it.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSep8tRxXJUut7McTh4g4StczVjC4HRJAXMDE-ztxEDCzLncvA/viewform>

Upcoming LHS Events

Wednesday, November 21: Dine Lackawanna at AV, 320 Penn Ave., Scranton.

Sunday, November 25, 12pm: Victorian Ornament-Making Workshop, Catlin House.

Thursday, December 6, 7pm: Members Only Open House, Catlin House.

Friday, December 7, 7pm: Public Holiday Open House, Catlin House.

Sunday, December 9, 12pm: Holiday Pyansky Workshop, Catlin House. \$25 per person. Call 570-344-3841 to register.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Sunday, January 6, 2pm: Watres Armory Tour, SOLD OUT.

Thank You, Corky's Garden Path Greenhouse

We thank Corky's Garden Path Greenhouse, Scott Twp., for their recent, generous donation of perennials.

Upcoming NEPA Events

Buy Local Holiday Marketplace: Sunday, November 25, 11am – 4pm, Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple, 420 North Washington Ave., Scranton. Floors of vendors offer a variety of items, including jewelry, candles, home goods, wine, chocolates, fine art, handmade clothing and more.

Admission is \$2. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Free reusable shopping bags to the first 1,000 shoppers. For full details visit sccmt.org/buylocal.

Lackawanna Winter Market at the Globe: Friday, December 7, 11am – 7pm; Saturday, December 8, 11am – 4pm; Sunday December 9, 11am – 4pm. 100 block of Wyoming Ave., Scranton, in front of the former Globe Store. The market will have more than 60 vendors in a large tent with heat and electricity.

Old Fashioned Holiday Market, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre: Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1, 11am – 7pm, both days. Food, entertainment, arts & crafts, horse-drawn carriage rides, and a live Nativity scene, 5pm – 7pm, featuring Moving River Ministries and animals from The Lands at Hillside Farm.

Anthracite Mining Heritage Month January 2019

By Bob Wolensky

Planning is underway for the annual Anthracite Mining Heritage Month to be held at various sites throughout January 2019.

Several local organizations, including the Anthracite Heritage Museum, will be among the co-sponsors. Please send proposals for program ideas to Bob Wolensky at rwolensk@gmail.com.

Following is the event program currently in progress. A final version of events to be offered will appear in the January – February 2019 issue of History Bytes.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

1. **Friday, January 4- Penn State University-Scranton Campus, Dunmore, PA:** *Screening and discussion of "Centralia: Pennsylvania's Lost Town?"* a documentary film by Joe Sapienza; Commentary: Joe Sapienza (tentative); Moderator—Prof. Phil Mosley, Penn State University-Scranton; 7 – 10 pm, Business Building (tentative).
2. **Saturday, January 5- Boy Scouts of America: Mining Merit Badge,** King's College, 12 noon – 5 pm. Venue to be determined.
3. **Tuesday, January 8- Huber Breaker Preservation Society, Ashley, PA:** *Anthracite Mineworkers Speak: Stories and Reflections from Current and Retired Coal Miners.* Speakers: Tom Supey, Chris Merli, Mike A., Chester Zarumba; Moderator—Bill Best; 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Ashley Fireman's Hall.
4. **Friday, January 11- Greater Pittston Historical Society, Pittston, PA.** *Pittston's Early Social and Industrial History,* Speakers: Tony Brooks ("The Butler Family and Coal Business"), Ron Faraday ("The Early Pennsylvania Coal Company"), Ed Philbin ("Pittston's First Railroad"), Moderator---Ron Faraday; GPHS, 6:30 – 8pm, Cosgrove Room, Pittston Memorial Library.
5. **Saturday, January 12- King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA:** *Anthracite Region Labor History,* Speakers: Ann Flaherty ("The Molly Maguires"), Robert Schmidt ("Violence and Labor in Coal Country"), Robert Wolensky (The IWW in Anthracite"), Thomas Mackaman ("Anthracite Labor History), Moderator---To be determined, 7:30 – 9pm, Burke Auditorium, King's College.
6. **Tuesday, January 15- Lackawanna Historical Society, Scranton, PA:** *Four Major Anthracite Mining Disasters;* Speakers—Thomas Mackaman ("Baltimore Tunnel Disaster"), Brian Glan ("Knox Mine Disaster"), Richard Fitzsimmons ("Twin Shaft Mine Disaster"), Charles Kumpas, ("Pancoast Mine Disaster"); Moderator—Mary Ann Savakinas, LHS; 6:30 – 8:30 pm; Catlin House, Scranton.
7. **Thursday, January 17- King's College and the Anthracite Heritage Foundation, Wilkes-Barre, PA:** *The Annual Msgr. John J. Curran Lecture;* Speaker: Artist Sue Hand will present and discuss several paintings from her latest project on "Northeastern Pennsylvania Anthracite Collieries;" Moderator—Robert P. Wolensky, King's College; 6:30 – 8 pm, Burke Auditorium, McGowan School of Business, King's College.
8. **Friday, January 18- Marywood University, Dunmore, PA:** *Environmental Concerns in Anthracite Country,* Speakers—Robert Hughes ("Mine Reclamation"), William Conlogue ("On Unstable Grounds: Mine Subsidence in the Anthracite

Region”), Craig Robertson (“The Butler Mine Tunnel Contamination in Pittston”),
Moderator-- To be determined, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Schwartz Center B, Marywood
University, Dunmore.

9. **Saturday, January 19 - Anthracite Heritage Museum, Scranton, PA:** *Annual Knox Mine Disaster Program*; Speaker--David Brocca, Los Angeles, CA speaking on his documentary film, “The Knox Mine Disaster”. Other speakers to be determined.
Moderator: Bode Morin.
10. **Sunday, January 20- Annual Knox Mine Disaster Mass**, St. John The Evangelist Catholic Church, Pittston, PA, 10 am.
11. **Sunday, January 20- Annual Knox Mine Disaster Public Commemoration**, PHMC Historical Marker, Baloga Funeral Home, Port Griffith, PA, 12 noon.
12. **Sunday, January 20- Annual Knox Mine Disaster walk to the disaster site along the Susquehanna River**, Port Griffith, PA. Gather at Baloga Funeral Home, Port Griffith, PA, 12:30pm.
13. **Tuesday, January 22- The Knox Mine Disaster Documentary**: Screening and Discussion of the documentary film by Dave and Al Brocca, Wyoming Seminary Theatre, Kingston, PA, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Tickets required.
14. **Thursday, January 24- Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA:** *Doing Journalism in Northeastern Pennsylvania*, Speakers—Kalen Churcher (*Times Leader* and *Wilkes University*); Paul Golias (*Citizens’ Voice*); Joseph Butkiewicz (*Times Leader* and *Scranton Times*); Fred Ney (*Sunday Independent* and *Citizens’ Voice*);
Moderator—Mark Stine; 6:30 – 8 pm; Ballroom, Henry Student Center, Wilkes University.
15. **Friday, January 25- Plymouth Historical Society, Plymouth, PA:** *The Avondale Disaster of 1869: The 150th Anniversary*, Speakers—Steve Knodrad, Plymouth Historical Society; Georgetta Potocki, Plymouth Historical Society, Robert Wolensky, King’s College; Moderator—Steve Kondrad; 6:30 – 8 pm, Plymouth Municipal Building, Plymouth PA.
16. **Sunday, January 27- (Tentative) Sponsor to be determined:** *Writing Coal Country Literature: Fiction and Nonfiction*: Speakers—Lucia Dailey, Tom McGranahan, Rick Sedlisky, Bill Kashatus; Moderator: To be determined; venue and time to be determined.

17. Thursday, January 31- Pennsylvania Society of Mining Engineers: “Mine Engineering in the Anthracite Coal Fields”. Speakers- To be determined. Moderator- Mike Korb; venue and time to be determined.

Person of Interest

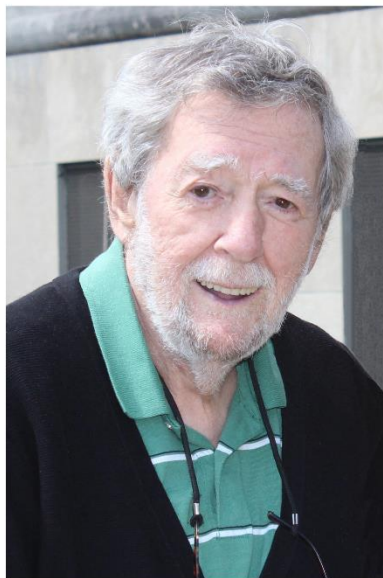
DONALD T. MURRAY

(1929 – 2018)

Minooka Pen & Ink Artist

Part 1

By Thomas W. Costello



Don Murray

Don Murray was an exceptional pen & ink artist, and also a humble man who did his work quietly, never seeking public attention or acclaim. Except for a small circle of family and friends in Minooka, Don’s drawings of Scranton landmark buildings and watercolor landscapes were a well-kept local secret.

Finally, two large, well-attended exhibitions were held at the University of Scranton’s Weinberg Library (2016) and Marywood University’s Suraci Gallery (2017), giving him deserved recognition and public appreciation for his art.

In the three years prior to his death, on March 15th of this year, Don and I spent many hours together in his studio and at a nearby diner talking about his life and his art.

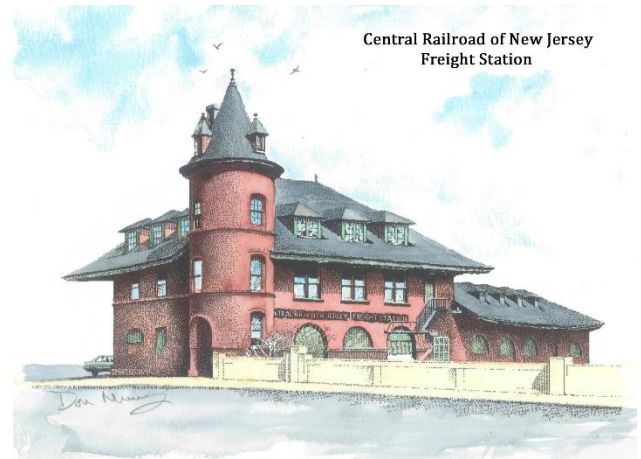
My great-grandfather, P. W. Costello, was a prominent pen & ink artist and engrosser in Scranton. He died in 1935, sixteen years before I was born. I learned about him from secondhand sources – relatives, engrossers, penmanship journals, books and newspapers.

I feel fortunate that I had the chance to get to know Don and hear his life story firsthand, to watch him work, to learn how he chose art subjects and why he favored certain materials, tools and techniques.

This profile is a tribute to a good friend and a remarkable illustrator and photographer.

West Scranton High School, U.S. Army

Donald Timothy Murray was born in West Scranton in 1929, the son of Joseph and Anna (Toomey) Murray. His father maintained rail cars at the Central Railroad of New Jersey Freight Station on West Lackawanna Ave., where Don also worked as a teenager. Later, he would draw and paint the building from all angles, reflecting his strong personal connection.



Don attended West Scranton High School in the 1940s. There he discovered an aptitude for math, especially geometry, a course of

study with direct links to art forms like drafting and technical drawing. This was a strong predictor of what would follow - a series of career choices that would give him the opportunity to develop those skills.

Don left school at 17, after his junior year, and enlisted in the Army. He trained as a construction draftsman at Fort Bevoir, VA, then served for ten years in Korea, Japan and the Philippines, creating topographic maps, charts and signage for the Army Signal Corps. He was awarded eight medals.

(In 2014, the Scranton School District awarded diplomas to Don and other veterans from Scranton who left school to join the Armed Forces during WWII, Korea and Vietnam).

ICS, Ingersoll-Rand

When Don returned home, he briefly attended the Murray School of Art in Scranton (no relation), then worked for the next 17 years illustrating instructional texts and various college publications for the International Correspondence Schools (ICS). He also took an oil and acrylics portraiture class.

In 1956, Don met Dorothy Kearney, a Minooka native and his wife of 61 years.



The Murrays' late son, Tim, who inherited his father's art talent, was also a skilled draftsman, photographer and calligrapher. "Mur," as he was known to his friends, later joined the Scranton Fire Dept, where he worked for 22 years at the downtown headquarters.

When John F. Kennedy campaigned for president in 1960, his tour of the Northeast included Wilkes-Barre, Minooka and Scranton. As his motorcade was passing up Birney Ave., Don ran alongside the car, while he held his toddler son, Timmy, and managed to briefly clutch Kennedy's hand. After the election, Don painted a large

portrait of the President that he mailed to the White House, with a letter enclosed asking Kennedy to autograph the painting.

On St. Patrick's Day, 1961, the painting arrived back at the Murray house on Walsh St. in Minooka, accompanied by a letter on White House stationery, dated March 15, that read: "Enclosed is the portrait which you sent in to be autographed by President Kennedy. The President liked the portrait and was happy to sign it for you." The letter was signed "with the President's best wishes" by "Priscilla Wear, Office of the President."

Don painted John Glenn's portrait after he became the first American astronaut to orbit the earth in February 1962. A friend of Don's got his painting autographed when he attended a talk that Glenn gave in Philadelphia.

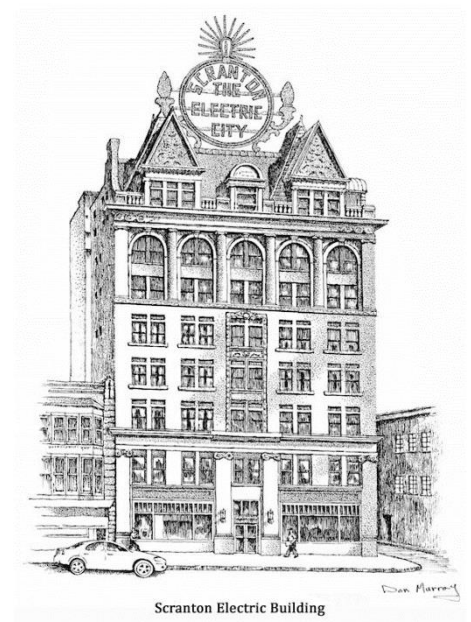
After leaving ICS in the mid-1970s, Don worked for the next twenty years in the Drafting Dept. at Ingersoll-Rand creating technical drawings for product manuals. Working from blueprints of heavy mining equipment, he used a ruling pen and a raised, beveled ruler to draw lines, and a manual air brush to add color, detail and dimension to his drawings.

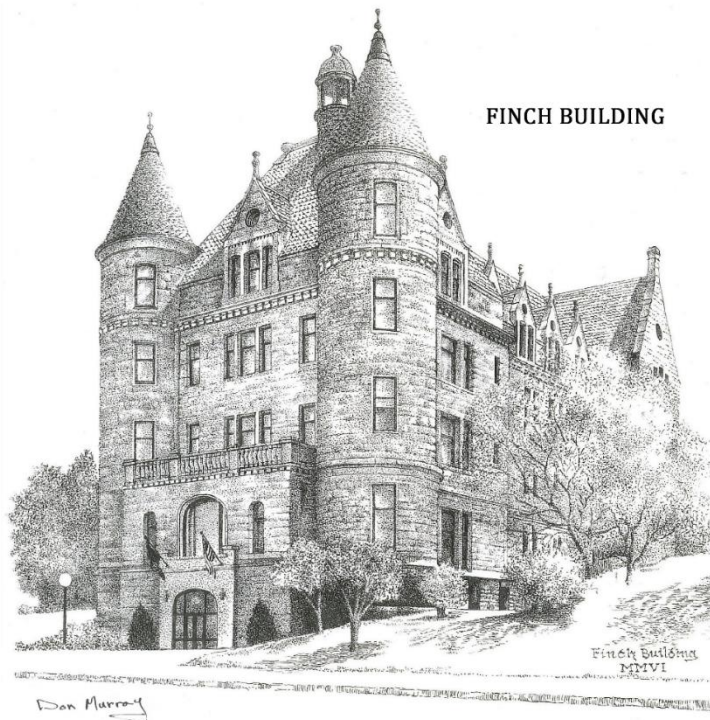
A Master of Stippling and Unique Perspectives

Don described himself as "largely a self-taught artist." He refined his skills through years of diligent practice working in diverse media, including, pen & ink, pencil, oil and acrylics.

After photographing each subject from a unique perspective, he produced a detailed illustration, usually in pencil, sometimes in black ink using a fine-pointed pen. He looked for interesting angles from which to highlight a building's structural features. He was a master of the technique of stippling. To stone surfaces he added hundreds of dots to create texture and age - to shade and shape - to capture the play of light on a building.

The first step in creating his landscape paintings was to "search for the perfect photo," as Don described it. He would drive out Route 307, near Lake Scranton, or Route 502 in Moosic, and walk through woods, and along farms and streams. Some of his richly-colored, rural landscapes were drawn or painted outdoors ("*en plein air*"), or sketched at the scene in pencil, then finished in his studio.





More of Don Murray's drawings of buildings that have been razed or abandoned can be seen on this website:

https://www.lackawannapagenweb.com/PW_Costello/DonMurray1.html

(Ed. Note- Part II of *Person of Interest, Donald T. Murray*, by Thomas W. Costello, will appear in the January – February 2019 issue of History Bytes)

Thomas W. Costello grew up in the Hill Section of Scranton. He has a BA from the University of Scranton and an MA from Seton Hall University. After teaching English and Speech Communication for several years in a prep school in Milton, MA, he worked for thirty years in pharmaceutical sales, sales management and managed care for Schering Corp. and Johnson & Johnson.

For three decades, Tom has researched the life and art of his great-grandfather, P. W. Costello (1866-1935), a renowned pen & ink artist, engrosser and illustrator from Scranton.

To further P.W.'s legacy, he gives slide presentations, writes articles, creates websites and organizes art exhibitions. He also enjoys genealogical research and writing about other artists from Scranton. Tom lives in East Brunswick, NJ, and often returns to Scranton.

Editor's Book Review

By Rick Sedlisky

Forgotten Hero

The Life, Letters & Diaries of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin
Nicholas E. Petula, Scranton, PA, 2017, 164 pp.



Lt. Ezra S. Griffin

Photo courtesy of Nicholas E. Petula

Forgotten Hero: The Life, Letters & Diaries of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin, by Nicholas E. Petula, almost didn't happen. While researching material for a book about his boyhood home, *Pioneer Neighborhood: A History of Park Place and Bull's Head*, author Petula wanted to include memorable residents who lived in his neighborhood.

Research about early settlers eventually led Mr. Petula to the Griffin family of Providence Township and in particular to Ezra S. Griffin, born in 1835 and who at age 29, gave his life during the Civil War. Researching a man who left 153 years ago proved to be extremely difficult because there is literally no one left speak about him and thus, very little information from which to tell his story.

lackawannahistory@gmail.com

The author says that he is a collector or an accumulator of things found at flea markets and other places. Was it as the author states, a stroke of luck, serendipity or something else that a purchase of papers, bills, and other documents brought letters written by Lt. Griffin to the author? Was it also serendipitous that a man from Philadelphia found 13 letters and two diaries written by Lt. Griffin and forwarded them to The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp 8 in Scranton that carries Lt. Griffin's name? Whatever or whoever brought the information to the author, gave him the resources necessary to finally tell the story of Ezra S. Griffin.

The early part of the book introduces the Griffin family, who dating back to the late 18th Century, were among the early settlers of what is now the Park Place-Bull's Head, part of North Scranton. Land ownership, census information and locations of Griffin family members' homes during the 19th Century at a time when city directories were not address specific are discussed. The reader will find the inclusion of early maps of the neighborhood a good supplement to the narrative.

On Page 12, the reader learns more about Ezra, including speculation about his level of education and why, when upon entering the service of the Union Army, he was appointed second lieutenant of his company.

The 143rd Pennsylvania Volunteers Infantry Regiment was the unit that Ezra, his friends and others from Luzerne County joined. In this chapter, names of many who appear in Ezra's diaries are introduced. The journey through muster, training and stationing of the 143rd near Washington, DC, is discussed in significant detail and offers the reader a first glimpse at Ezra's military experiences.

The chapter about the 143rd could be considered a synopsis of Ezra's time of service during the Civil War. However, by including snippets of Ezra's service time at this point in the book, the author offers just enough to entice the reader to turn the page and continue to the soul of the book, the diaries and letters of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin.

Author Petula allows Lt. Griffin's diaries and letters to speak for themselves. The diaries are meticulously written and offer the reader a detailed look at a painful and violent period in American history through the words of a man who lived that pain and violence.

The reader experiences different aspects of Lt. Griffin's day-to-day military life and there are many. His entries offer other comments and observations such as his February 1, 1863 entry, "Saw yesterday at President's Levee 'Old Abe', shook hands with him". This entry is one of many that bring the period and historical figures to life.

The diary entries about battles and skirmishes in which Lt. Griffin participated will have the reader feeling as though you are there. His July 1 – 5, 1863 entries about the Battle of Gettysburg and its aftermath and his descriptions of the slain, the suffering of the wounded, emotional stresses experienced and the eventual Confederate retreat, bring the historic

battle to life in a way that television documentaries cannot. Lt. Griffin's emotions are raw and detailed.

The more than 40 letters written by Lt. Griffin to his family are of a tone that is different from his diary entries. While the letters describe his day-to-day military life, they also offer a good look at his civilian life. The reader learns in detail about things such as sending money home to take care of his debts, his concerns about deserters, receiving letters, newspapers and packages from home, offering advice about the family business, expressing concerns and curiosities about certain family members, as well as a peek at the personal side of this well-educated, well-spoken man. Who was Ann C. Spaulding aka A.C.S.? How important was she in his life? An entry on Page 35 offers a hint.

One thing missing from letters to his family is any in-depth discussion of his wartime experiences. Perhaps as the authors suggests, it was Lt. Griffin's way of shielding his family from the pain, viciousness and brutality that accompany war.

The author complements the life of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin through the inclusion of numerous supporting documents, photographs and letters, all of which in their own ways, add interesting details and yet ask questions.

Why was Scranton Post No. 139 named after Lt. Griffin? What prompted the move of Ezra and his family members from their resting places at Griffin Cemetery to Dunmore Cemetery? Letters from military officers and official military documents underscore Lt. Griffin's loyalty to the country. His last will and testament is also included. Letter #49, written by Ezra's brother, D.W. Griffin, who was with him in Annapolis, MD, at his time of death, is extremely moving.

For anyone who traces genealogy, surnames are numerous. For those interested in the early history of Northeast Pennsylvania cities and towns, you will find names such as Hyde Park, Providence, Scranton, Dunmore, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne and more. Lt. Griffin's diaries and letters will have students of the Civil War and all readers feeling that you are with Lt. Griffin from the time he began his service with the Union Army to the day he was struck by a rebel bullet ball that subsequently ended his life.

This well-researched and well-presented piece of history is the result of one man, who through his desire to know more about his boyhood home, found Lt. Ezra S. Griffin, a neighborhood ancestor who, thanks to Mr. Petula, is finally recognized as the hero he is.

Forgotten Hero: The Life, Letters & Diaries of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin, by Nicholas E. Petula, is available for purchase through the Lackawanna Historical Society, either via email at lackawannahistory@gmail.com or via phone at 570-344-3841.

Nicholas E. Petula was born and raised Scranton's Park Place part of the city's Providence section. He taught history for 35 years at West Scranton High School and has written a number of books about Scranton including: *Brewed In Scranton: A History of the Brewing Industry in Scranton, PA*; *A History of Scranton Baseball, 1865-1953*; *Pioneer Neighborhood*,

Internet Links

Historical Attractions

- [Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority](#)
- [Steamtown National Historic Site](#)
- [Anthracite Museum and Iron Furnaces](#)
- [Electric City Trolley Museum](#)
- [Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour](#)
- G.A.R. Memorial Association Museum: Contact Joseph Long, Jr. 570-457-8438

Cultural Partners

- [Albright Memorial Library](#) and the Lackawanna County Library System
- [The Everhart Museum](#)
- [Scranton Cultural Center](#) at the Masonic Temple
- Scranton's Annual [Civil War Weekend](#) Events
- Scranton Times-Tribune's [Pages from the Past](#)
- [Pocono Arts: Where Culture Builds Community](#)

Anthracite Research

- [Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field](#) <http://www.northernfield.info/>

Historical Societies

- [Carbondale Historical Society](#)
- [Dunmore Historical Society](#)
- [Luzerne County Historical Society](#)
- [Wayne County Historical Society](#)
- [Susquehanna County Historical Society](#)
- [Monroe County Historical Society](#)
- [Wyoming County Historical Society](#)
- Archbald Historical Society: Contact Ed Casey (570) 614-3628
- Scott Township Historical Society: Contact Robert Vail (570) 254-9536
- Taylor Historical Society: Contact Christine Schaefer (570) 562-1225

County and Educational Partners

- [Lackawanna County](#)
- [Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit](#)

Lineage Societies

Provided by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

If you can trace one of your ancestral lines far enough back in time, and if you have acceptable proof, you might be able to join a lineage society. Here are links to the most popular ones. (You can find links to others by doing internet searches for descriptive words.) Links below include those for the organization's national headquarters web page, their Pennsylvania page, pages for selected local components, locating individual chapters, information about joining, and contacting the organization.

- The General Society of Mayflower Descendants: National
<https://www.themayflowersociety.org/> Pennsylvania valcullen@comcast.net
- The Daughters of the American Revolution:
National <http://www.dar.org/>
Joining <http://www.dar.org/national-society/become-member/how-join> Locations
<http://www.dar.org/national-society/become-member/chapter-locations>
- The Sons of the American Revolution:
National <https://www.sar.org/>
Pennsylvania <http://www.passar.org/> and ehtroutman13@gmail.com
- First Families of Pennsylvania:
Pennsylvania <https://genpa.org/first-families-of-pennsylvania/>
- The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution:
Pennsylvania <http://amrev.org/>
Lancaster <http://amrev.org/about-the-society/lancaster-chapter/> Joining
<http://amrev.org/becoming-a-member/overview-instructions/>
- The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War:
National <http://www.suvcw.org/>
Pennsylvania <http://pasuvcw.org/>
- The Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Inc. (NEPGS): Local NEPA
<http://www.nepgs.org/>

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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. The society is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Catlin House Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County and membership dues.

If you have anything to share that will add to the documentation of Scranton, Lackawanna and/or Northeast Pennsylvania, please contact the editor at lackawannahistory@gmail.com and place *History Bytes* in the subject matter.

Please enjoy our upcoming Special Edition:
Throop Murders, by Joe Rudzinski.