# The Lackawanna Historical Society Journal

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Spring 2003



Boy Scout Troop #4 Jackson Street Baptist Church cleans up old Griffin Cemetery at the 100 block of North Main Avenue on May 28, 1966.

## The Grounds of Griffin Cemetery are Alive with History...

In the early to mid 1800's it was common on pioneer farms for owners to set aside pieces of their land for burial use. Today on the 1000 block of North Main Avenue, located adjacent to the Providence Jewish Cemetery, stands the Old Griffin Graveyard.

The Griffin Graveyard is believed to be

the oldest cemetery in the city, in which early settlers of Providence and Hyde Park are buried. The land was first acquired in 1772 through the Susquehanna Company by Isaac Tripp Sr. His sons, Job and Isaac, obtained portions of the land. Job, the eldest son, acquired lot 15 on which the cemetery is located. On January 8, 1793 the administrator of Job's estate, John Tripp, sold the property to Micajah Harding who opened the cemetery. It is believed that it was around this time that the

Taking Care of Business...

Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws of the Lackawanna Historical Society

The following changes to the By-Laws of the Lackawanna Historical Society have been recommended by the By-Law Committee. Please review them and join us on Sunday, April 27th at the April Program to cast your vote.

Article VII Section 3. Current: Fifteen (15) active members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at an regular or special meeting of the Society, except as hereafter provided.

Change: Eight (8) active members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Society, except as hereafter provided.

Article VII Section 4 Current: <u>Ten (10)</u> members of the Board of Trustees and a majority of the members of any standing or special committee shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Trustees or of any committee of the Society.

Change: Eight (8) members of the Board of Trustees and a majority of the members of any standing or special committee shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Trustees or of any committee of the Society.

Article VII Section 5 Current: Any Trustee absent for three consecutive meetings without excuse shall receive a letter. Proper notice of leave of Absence shall be required in written form from Trustee.

Change: -5. The Trustees may declare the office of a Trustee vacant if the Trustee (a) is declared of unsound mind by an order of Court, or is convicted of a felony, or (b) fails to attend three (3) consecutive regular monthly meetings without excuse acceptable to the Board of Trustees, or (c) does not accept within sixty (60) days after written notice of election to the office of Trustee by either attending a meeting of the Boar of Trustees or sending written acceptance.

The Secretary shall maintain an attendance record for the Trustees meetings. Members absent three (3) consecutive meetings should be notified that they are in conflict with Article VII Section 5 of the Society's By-Laws, unless it is an excused absence, and are subject to removal by the Board of Trustees.

- -6. Trustees shall be excused from monthly meetings due to work, illness, or death of a family member, if they call the society prior to the missed meeting.
- -7. Any Trustee may be removed for any of the enumerated reasons in Article VII Section 5, after receiving written notice from the Secretary, by an affirmative vote of one-half (1/2) of the remaining membership of the Board of trustees, after being offered an opportunity for a hearing in front of the Board of Trustees.

Congratulations to 2003 Officers who were elected on Sunday, February 16, 2003: Alan Sweeney, President; Richard Bovard, 1st Vice President; Eileen Pocius, 2nd Vice President; Douglas Forrer, Treasurer; Mark Cruciani, Assistant Treasurer; Arlene Devereaux O'Hara, Secretary. The members of the Class of 2005 including Ellie Axford, Donald Frederickson, Esq., Thomas Horlacher, Kathleen Keating, Eileen Pocius, and Paul Price, Esq. were also elected to serve a three year term.

**About Membership...** Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice and invitations to all Society activities, special 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

☐ Student	\$10	NAME
□ Individual	\$22	
☐ Family	\$30	ADDRESS
☐ Contributing	\$75	
☐ Sustaining	\$150	
☐ Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE
☐ Gold Corporate	\$500	

## The Lackawanna Historical Society 2002-03

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Newsletter

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 Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and membership dues.

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Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$22 and up for individuals, \$30 for Families, and \$125 for organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

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first burial occurred, that of Job Tripp. The first legal record of naming the graveyard after the Griffins was in October of 1860.

More than 75 years later the estate of Philip C. Griffin was sold to A.H. Winton. Research shows that Philip married Nelinda Harding who is believed to be the granddaughter of Micajah Harding. Winton took his tract of land and handed it over to his father, W.W. Winton. He then executed a trust agreement which gave a quarter of the land to Joseph Church and another quarter to Thomas Livey. Eventually the interest of Joseph Church's land was transferred to Isaac Dean in 1877. Dean, Livey, and Winton were the last to claim ownership over the cemetery land. Because the land had several veins of important coal under it. the D.L.& W. Railroad gained specific mineral rights to 14 acres of the land.

While it is not clear exactly why the cemetery was named the Griffin Cemetery, the Griffin family has had a long history in Scranton. Thomas Griffin, 1769-1854, son of Joseph and Margaret Griffin was originally from Yorktown, Westchester County, New York. He

## **Dean, Livey, Winton Connection**

Timeline shows how the current Griffin Cemetery ownership developed.

- 1772 Isaac Tripp Senior acquired land from the Susquehanna Company
- 1793 Job Tripp's estate sold to Micajah Harding. Job Tripp the first person buried in the cemetery.
- 1811 Thomas Griffin settled in Providence, Pa. He then gave the Western portion of his land which included the cemetery to Philip C. Griffin.
- 1871 Estate of Philip C. Griffin is sold to A.H. Winton. The trust agreement of his father, W.W. Winton, sold a quarter of the land to Thomas Livey and a quarter to Joseph Church.
- 1877 Joseph Church lost the interest of his land at a Sheriff sale. The land was then given to Isaac Dean by W.W.Winton.

came to Providence, Pa in 1811 with Isaac and Joseph Griffin to purchase a tract of 420 acres of land. Thomas Griffin's land was east bound by the Lackawanna River, to the south by Tripp's, north by Von Storch's, and it extended west to

Providence Township.

It was stated in a 1966 article in *The Scranton Times*, by historian Dr. Hollister, that "All of the Griffins who have lived and died in the valley repose here besides many others. Located between the villages of Providence and Hyde Park, it was used by many of the pioneer residents."

Mr. Griffin, a
Quaker and a farmer, was
born in Fishkill, New York
and married to Anna
Clapp, with whom he had

eight children. When Thomas died, he willed his home and land to his daughter, Letta Griffin.

The Quakers during this period were not required to put markers on their graves. History shows that Nelinda Harding moved the body of her son Ezra Griffin along with the bodies of Thomas, Anna, and Letta to the Dunmore Cemetery. Yet because it is believed that the graves were unmarked, one question that remains: Who did Nelinda really move or are some of these Griffins still left in their original burial ground? The mystery lives on!

By Andrea Ciarlo

Author's Note: Special Thanks to Paul Price and Aileen Freeman who aided in supplying the historical background of the Griffin Cemetery, and who are currently in the process of finding ways to restore it.

## New Members



Michael W. De Fazio Donald W. McLane Carol Paswinski Daniel J. Zayac Scranton Scranton Dunmore Dunmore

### Family

Brenda Bourbeau-Ed Widdick Hal and Marg Donahue Clarks Summit Scranton

### **Student**

Rich Smith

Scranton

**<u>Reminder!</u>** Membership renewals were due on March 1, 2003.

## ATTENTION ALL BASEBALL FANS!

LHS Night with the Red Barons honoring Northeast Pennsylvania Hall of Fame Players

When: July 9, 2003

Price: \$20.00 per person

Where: Lackawanna County Stadium

Time: Party Box opens at 6 pm, Game time is scheduled for 7 pm.

Get ready for a night of fun, food, and Red Barons baseball!

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## From Chocolate Roses to Peanut Butter Smidgens

A Box of Dreams: The Story of Gertrude Hawk Chocolates by Jack McDonough. Copyright, 1995, Avocado Productions.

Unraveled in this delightful read is the dedication and talent of a loving wife, mother, and skillful businesswoman who had a vision and went with it.

Gertrude's clear vision, determination, and art of candy dipping pulled through a time when good chocolate dippers were scarce and the candy business was almost out of business due to the war rations of sugar and chocolate. Despite the war, in 1936 at her home on Mark Avenue, Gertrude began making homemade chocolates in her basement. Gertrude's son, Elmer, recalls that "We used to make the candy on one side of the room and chocolate dip it in the other room. Mother would make the caramels and the other centers on the stove, and we'd mix it on the marble slab, just five-pound batches."

Little was known at the time that these homemade chocolates would go a long way out of the kitchen and into its current 60 store loca-

tions in Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey.

Over the past 67 years Gertrude Hawk Chocolates have gained enormous popularity and have become "one of the major custom chocolate makers in the country." Intimate details of the successes and failures made known through accounts by members of the Hawk family reflect true motivation and perseverance. Fundraising was one of the first business decisions made by Gertrude in order to get the name out to the public. Surely enough, fundraising is the "second-largest revenue producer today." Neighbors would come to the house to purchase chocolates while

A Chat with David Hawk I enjoyed interviewing David Hawk, grandson of Gertrude Hawk, and Head of Product Development at Gertrude Hawk Chocolates. I found Mr. Hawk to be a very lighthearted, jovial person. Yet can you blame him? After all when asked if he sampled all the products, with a giggle he replied, "I guarantee you I sample everything." But sampling isn't all that his job entails. Gertrude Hawk manufactures 19 million pounds of chocolate a year and must work hard to continuously put out products that suit the ever changing taste of consumers. After Christmas, one of their largest seasons, behind them they begin gearing up for the Easter Season, and sometimes since Easter is a condensed season, more sales are produced. Though Peanut Butter Smidgens are number one in popularity, new dark chocolate raspberry truffles will soon be making their way into stores.

Aside from the particular style, flavor and best ingredients put into the chocolates, the secret as to what makes this candy stand out from others "is the people who make it" according to Mr. Hawk. Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey all contain these precious chocolates, yet the success of Gertrude Hawk Chocolates has never made David Hawk forget his roots. When asked about his grandmother he stated, I remember her for all the little things she did, "such as buying him his favorite breakfast buns if he were to stay overnight her house." He continued, "She was a very terrific, loving person."

The candy shop alone "brought in more sales than with both the candy and the restaurant." In time, chocolate sales were on fire and the company moved to a larger headquarters in the Keystone Industrial Park where it still remains today.

civic groups and local churches such as Petersburg Lutheran Church and Myrtle Street Methodist Church would sell the candy to raise funds. Door to door sales were also popular. Elmer would "load up his Plymouth and bring the boxes of candy around." Growth of the business meant changes needed to be made in order to suit more machinery and more people.

By 1962 the business was moved to upper East Drinker Street. The new business headquarters brought some trial and error along with it. Gertrude and her husband, Elmer, decided to make the candy store into a fullblown restaurant This. however was considered "one of the biggest mistakes ever made." It was closed after four years of operation. It was then transformed back into strictly a candy shop.

Aside from the impressive story of the Hawk Family, many photographs, including one of Gertrude's first kitchens, add much personality to this book. Being a chocolate lover myself I always find it easy to eat the candy, yet making it is another tale within itself. Interestingly enough, after reading, I learned some of the minute details that go into candy making. Even with today's technology and fast producing machines, the chocolate

must be kept at an exact temperature, and consistency is a must! Candy making is truly an art and skill. Much applause should be given to the woman and family that gave and continues to give Gertrude Hawk Chocolates its unique taste. Overall, aside from the reader getting some chocolate cravings, a greater appreciation for hard work, determination, and Gertrude not only as a businesswoman but also as a neighbor is gained.

By Andrea Ciarlo

# Scranton, As Never Scene Before...

By Mary Ann Krisa

For local artist Bob Lizza, it all probably started somewhere around the fifth grade.

Doodling drawings wherever he found the space, Mr. Lizza knew that life as an artist, for him, was his only option. After drawing and doodling his way to senior year of high school, Mr. Lizza stumbled upon oil paints, and his art career started to take shape.

"I've always admired realists," Mr. Lizza said. "I've developed a style based on realism, but I tend to use more color than in real life."

After high school graduation, Mr. Lizza entered College Misercordia, as an art major. And as he learned the practical side of an artist's life—styles, techniques, etc.,—he decided that he also wanted to learn how to market his artwork.

"The last two years of college I spent in marketing and public relations," Mr. Lizza said.
"When I graduated I was looking for a job in public relations."

Mr. Lizza's post-graduate career began as a graphic designer in the public relations department of Marywood. A job, he says, helped to cultivate the rest of his career.

"They've always been on the cutting edge, technology wise," Mr. Lizza said. "I became very fascinated with technical design and the computer part of design."

With the skills Mr. Lizza picked up at Marywood, he went on to several other graphic design jobs before finally deciding to open his own business. *Lizza Computer Jobs* went into business in

1993, and Mr. Lizza quickly began to look for the latest technology to keep him on top of the field—a job, Mr. Lizza admits, that was not quite that easy.

"I was taking a \$20,000—\$30,000 risk," Mr. Lizza admitted. "But I was really focused on what I was doing."

Since 1993, Mr. Lizza's business has expanded enormously. Mr. Lizza's current line of work includes photographing a photo that can then be enlarged and placed on to canvas. It is, Mr. Lizza says, an art form, just as difficult to master as painting is itself.

"It's all related to quality import

Continued on page 7

## NEW IN THE BOOKSTORE

Have you been to the Catlin House lately? If not, be sure to stop by and check out our latest additions to the bookstore. Don't wait until the snow melts!

#### Rooks

Mine Seed by Lucia Dailey \$15.50

Stories From The Mines
by Tom Curra & Greg Matkosky \$29.99

The Coal King's Slaves:
A Coal Miner's Story

by William G. Williams \$14.95

Scranton Road:

The Life and Times of Edward Baker Sturges by Louise Sturges DeDera \$15.00

## **Items**

Catlin House New Hat	\$15.00
Catlin House Mug	\$ 7.00
Catlin House Denim Shirt	\$22.00

## Volunteer Profile: **Dorothy Rossi**

Age is an "irrelevant" number to Dorothy Rossi, a two year volunteer at the Lackawanna Historical Society. Full of wit, wisdom, and also a zest for life, Ms. Rossi considers volunteering both fulfilling and enjoying. She takes pleasure in the people interacting and sharing of opinions and stories that volunteering brings with it.

Born and raised in Peckville, Pa, her family of nine later moved to Philadelphia where she attended Philadelphia High School for girls. She lived 30 years in Delaware County, and she returned to Peckville in 1994 after retiring from her Paralegal position at Hoyle, Morris and Ker law firm. She is now considering once again relocating, this time to Swarthmore, Pa, so that she may be closer to her two children, Mark and Renee Rossi and her one grandchild Monica.

Ms. Rossi, who has spent a great deal of her life working in libraries now assists LHS in the maintenance of the library by labeling, shelving, and doing research. Dorothy especially enjoys the research aspect because she is "learning a lot of things about Scranton. things she never knew before."

Ms. Rossi does not only devote her time to the Historical Society, but she has also been a four-year trained volunteer for the

> Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact. - William James

Scranton Chapter of the American Red Cross. Along with this she is also involved with the Altar Rosary Society at The Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, where she helps with altar care, decorating the church with seasonal banners and flowers. bake sales, kitchen work, and the parish picnic. Dorothy is also a lector at Sunday masses and a member of The Business and Professional Women's Club. She has even taught an art appreciation course in Delaware County. Dorothy, an

avid reader, belongs to two book discussion groups: one at Marywood University's Institute of Senior Learners, and another at the Interboro Library in Peckville. Currently. she is reading "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte, but when asked what her favorite book is, she replied, "My Name is Asher Lev" by Chaim Potok.

Chatting away with Dorothy made me realize that I have some catching up to do. It was fascinating to hear that she had been to France, England, Spain, and Portugal, all over Canada, three times to California, and three times to Ireland. With a large smile she told me, "I have even flown on the Concorde!"

Aside from volunteering, Dorothy spends time reading, crocheting, water painting, floral arranging, and doing crafts. Quite the clever lady, she painted all the walls in her house herself and refinished the woodwork! Dorothy might be a bit shy to realize it, but she is indeed one impressive woman whose time and talents are valuable to many.

By Andrea Ciarlo



LHS WELCOMES MARYWOOD INTERN

Hello my name is Andrea Ciarlo. I am originally from Norristown, Pa. but came to Scranton to attend Marywood University. Currently, I am in my junior year and am studying Secondary Education with a concentration in English. Before I go into teaching, I would like to work as an Editor. I am enjoying my internship with the Historical Society and am discovering how much I have yet to learn. I also enjoy theatre, reading, singing, and volunteer work during my free time.

Andrea has been working with society Director, Mary Ann Moran and newsletter editor Mary Ann Krisa writing stories for this issue and assisting in research projects and programming activities. We are grateful to her for her diligence and hard work.

Scranton, As Never Scene Before...continued from page 5



Scranton City Hall, Bob Lizza, 1986

to quality out-port," Mr. Lizza said.

While Mr. Lizza still paints, he is now focusing his time on art reproduction as well as planning and building a facility that will act as both as an office and fine art gallery. And with the purchase of a Cruse scanner, a German made scanner that will offer even more precision in art replication, Mr. Lizza believes that his business has nowhere to go but up.

"I'll have one of the first in the country," Mr. Lizza said. "And I'm going after the national market."

While Mr. Lizza may be going after the national market, he plans to do it right from his home in Pittston. The

local area, Mr. Lizza says, is where he's from, and where he, (and his wife and two children) is going to stay.

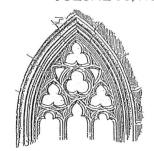
"Scranton really is a good artist community," Mr. Lizza said. "I know some people (artists) who are pretty well off. I'll be doing this for the rest of my life, and I'll just keep growing with it."

Mr. Lizza's artwork can be purchased at the Catlin House bookstore. He will be speaking at the Catlin House on April, 27th at 2 p.m.

## John Mitchell's Funeral March

-A Poem by Roy Whitman

Gathered throngs throw rose petals upon a black-draped coffin while curious Scrantonians crane their necks and let their bodies go limp hoping for a glimpse of the solemn procession. They stop and say that John Mitchell is being buried today. The firemen of Hose No. 10 stand and salute as the procession passes by and countless scores of men in the coal fields observe a moment of private silence. An American flag waves in the breeze, the mournful parade turning now off Cemetery Way to the final resting place. Amid immigrant and ancestor's bones a priest makes the sign of the cross as another coal miner's child lets out a cry.



# 10th Annual Places of Worship Tour

Join the Lackawanna Historical Society on May 10, 2003 for the 10th Annual Places of Worship Tour. This year, the Society plans to focus on places of worship in North Scranton including:

- Court St. Methodist Church
- St. Joseph Lithuanian Catholic Church
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- Providence Baptist Church
- Providence Presbyterian Church
- Holy Rosary Church
- Providence of God Lithuanian National

Historical background will be provided by each church and architectural styles and designs will be discussed by local Architect and Society Trustee Richard Leonori.

Members \$12 Non-Members \$15 (includes bus transportation and boxed lunch)

Space is limited, so reserve early. Reservations must be made by May 2,2003 through the Lackawanna Historical Society.

5	PLACES OF WORSHIP TOUR 2003					
-	REGISTRATION FORM					
i	Please detach and return with your payment to:					
1	Lackawanna Historical Society					
1	232 Monroe Avenue					
i	Scranton PA 18510					
-	Name	COM 1070 1000				
i	Address					
1						
1						
	Telephone	-				
- 1	Number of persons attending:					
	Members \$12 Non-members \$15					
	Amount enclosed: \$	-				

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

APRIL 13	The Last Dinner on the Titanic Catlin House and the Radisson. Cocktails 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. First Class \$100. Steerage \$65. Reservations required Bob Lizza	JUNE 8	Historic House Tour in the Hill Scranton's Hill Section 11:00 a.m.—400 p.m. Call Lackawanna Neighbors 963-7616 or Catlin House for details. A special Opening Reception will be held at the Catlin House on June 7.	
	Catlin House 2:00 p.m.	14	Wayne County Historical Society	
MAY 1-3	The 26th Annual Conference on Black History in Pennsylvania The University of Scranton. Registration forms will be mailed soon.		Genealogy Fair 2003 Wallenpaupack Area North Intermediate School Hawley, PA 9:00 a.m 4:00 p.m. \$28 (make checks payable to WCHS) Call Catlin House for details.	
10	10th Annual Places of Worship Tour North Scranton Departs the Catlin House at 9:30 a.m. \$12 members, \$15 non- members See page 7 for details	Also on the June 14thBus Trip to Hyde Parkwith the Architectural Heritage Association Depart from the South Side Shopping Center 7:30 a.m. and returns by 7:30 p.m. \$69 For reservation call 347-5687 or 876-4356		
31	Taste of History  My Big Fat Historical Wedding Catlin House 7:00 p.m9:00 p.m. Invitations will be coming soon!	JULY 9	NEPA Hall of Fame Baseball Night Lackawanna County Red Barons Stadium Party Box: 6:00 p.m. Game Time: 7:00 p.m. \$20 per person See page 3 for details	

The Mules have arrived...

Don't miss the Miles of Mules Round Up on May 2nd at the Everhart Museum!

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 232 MONROE AVENUE SCRANTON, PA 18510

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