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Winter 2015

The Scrantons In Their Own Words

by Dennis & Sharleen Martin

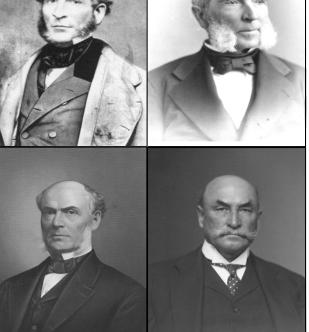
Within the Lackawanna Historical Society sits a collection of 17 record books containing over 10,000 pages of copies of letters spanning

the decades between 1850 and 1920, and spanning the lives of four of the most prominent founding members of the city, the Scrantons. These letters give a glimpse into how these men had created and maintained the four aspects that defined early Scranton: coal, steam, iron, and water. Whether about producing the rails and building the railroad and shipping coal in George Scranton's time or bringing in water during William Walker Scranton's time, these letters. most of which have been transcribed or summarized for study, give an overview of the contributions of the family which

Spanning the years 1850 through 1854, the first two books told how the Scrantons, in particular George Scranton, brought the age of steam to the area. In 1840, William Henry invited his son-in-law Seldon Scranton and Sel-

gave this community its name.

don's brother George to join he and Sanford Grant of Belvidere, New Jersey, in building an iron works in Slocum Hollow. Two years later, they were smelting low-quality iron. The Scrantons tried and failed for five years to cre-



Clockwise from left: George Scranton, Selden Scranton, Joseph Hand Scranton, William Walker Scranton

ate a commerciallysuccessful product before taking a chance on a new partnership. At this time, the New York and Erie Railroad was building a line from Piermont on the Hudson to Dunkirk on Lake Erie, but they lost their supply of iron rail from England. The Scrantons offered to make rails for the railroad in return for financing to expand their facilities, to which the NY&E railroad agreed. Beginning in 1847, the Scrantons began producing t-rail and transporting it via oxcart. In 1850, plans began to create a railroad through the Lackawanna Valley to ship their rails to market.

This railroad, originally the Liggett's Gap Railroad, would later become the Delware, Lackawanna and Western. The story of the railroad's formation can be traced through the letters of George Scranton in the Society's archives.

Other letter books span the years between 1873 and 1916 and contain

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A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. As far as resolutions go, l'encourage all to do what you can to make that wish come to a reality for family and friends alike. One of the easiest and most pleasant ways to accomplish this is to volunteer!

I hope the recent holiday season was enjoyable for you and that part of it included the Holiday Open House at the Historical Society headquarters, the Catlin House. I am very grateful to the many volunteers wo came to help decorate the house and make the event so special. During the Members-Only celebration I was pleased to announce the naming of the Arlene Devereaux O'Hara Fashion Gallery on the second floor at the Catlin House. In recognition of Arlene's volunteer work and generous support of the LHS as a Trustees and member of the fashion committee the board unanimously agreed to establish this memorial in her honor. A framed photo and biography of Arlene's years with the society was placed in the room.

Additionally that evening included the installation of mounted photos and documentation on George M. Catlin and Edward Langley as part of the central hall display of architectural drawings of the Catlin House. Thanks to Trustee Richard Leonori for preparing the exhibit.

Again Happy New Year! Thope to see you at a Dine Lackawanna in the coming months. The fund raiser has proven to be a great way not only to raise money but to stay in touch. Until then,

> Stay warm, well, and involved, Michael Gilmartin

2015 Memberships are now due!

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

 ACIAMANINA	111011	ORICAL SOCIETT MEMBERSHII FORM
Student	\$10	NAME
Individual	\$35	
Family	\$45	ADDRESS
Contributing	\$75	
Sustaining	\$150	
Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE
Gold Corporate	\$500	EMAIL

The Lackawanna Historical Society 2015

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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 Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, and membership dues. Regular hours are Tuesday through Friday 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 Mary Ann Moran Savakinus at lackawannahistory@gmail.com

Members of the Society receive this publication. Membership contributions are \$35 and up for Individuals, \$45 for Families, and \$125 for Organizations. Special Silver and Gold Corporate memberships are available.

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the Lackawanna Historical Society.



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In the Catlin House...

Special Thanks

We would like to extend a very special thank you to all our volunteers who helped make our holiday season bright! Our traditional holiday decorations would not be possible without our Christmas elves Jeff Kiefer and Michael Gilmartin. Thanks to Leni Piasky, Elaine Carroll, Brandon Castellano, Doug Forrer, Ann McGrath, Richard Leonori & Eddie Smith, the Azzarelli family, Dennis & Sharleen Martin, Ella Rayburn, Bill & Bridget Conlogue, the Allegrucci family, Tom Horlacher, Mark & Kathy Nazar, John & Jenn Ochman, Irwin & Donna Adler, Dalida O'Malley, Bob Savakinus, Mark Gancarcik. the Posly family and all who baked cookies, plus Savo's Pizza. Thanks also to Jacqui Adams for providing music and Uta Dreher and the Drazdowski family for sharing their collections to display. Thank you for all your do!

NEW MEMBERS



Individual

Greg Bitner, Clarks Summit
David LaFrance, Scranton
Mike Langan, Scranton
Don McKeon, Scranton
Ann McGrath, Scranton
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John & Maureen Hart, Scranton Edward & Patricia Kiefer, Scott Twp. Robert & Barbara Strangfeld, Clarks Summit

Contributing

David Harrity, Alexandria VA Tom Moran & Tracie Passold, Scranton Deborah Phillips, Dunmore

DON'T FORGET!

Renew your membership for 2015 today!

Please fill out the form on page 2

and return it to LHS!

2015 Dinner by Design

The Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to announce that the 2015 *Dinner by Design* program will take place on February 27 through March 1 at POSH at the Scranton Club. We're excited to see what our designers create next!

Designers who have already signed on include POSH, Bella Faccias, The Scranton Club, John Mackey Designs, Central Park Flowers, MCR Productions and last year's People's Choice winner, JK Designs.

A Preview Cocktail Party will be held Friday, February 27 from 7-10 p.m. at POSH. Tickets are \$75 and include an open bar and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets for the exhibits for Saturday and Sunday are \$15.



From L-R are LHS Trustee Arlene O'Hara, LHS Executive Director Mary Ann Moran Savakinus, runner-up Julie Falzett of Over the Moon, 2014 People's Choice winner HJK Designs' Jeff Kiefer, LHS Trustees Laurie Cadden and Dalida O'Malley, and LHS President Michael Gilmartin.

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Let's Get Wired!!!

The Society continues its work to raise funds for much needed upgrades to the Catlin House electrical and HVAC systems. Campaign pledges currently total \$349,290.76. In December, final bids for the mechanical work came in at

\$39,000 less than expected! So we are that much closer to reaching our goal! If you have not yet made your pledge or know someone who wants to support the project, please use the form on page 11.



Amps (\$3000 and over) Anonymous LHVA

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Watts (\$100-\$499) continued

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letters written by William Walker (W.W.) Scranton, Joseph Hand Scranton's son, first about his work as general manager of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company and as president of his own steel firm, Scranton Steel Company, and of his tenure at the Scranton Gas and Water Company. Ever since his graduation from Yale, he had been working under his father Joseph Hand at the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, working his way up to plant supervisor by the time of his father's death in 1872. Letters in the LHS collection begin after Joseph Hand's death when W.W. had risen to the rank of general manager. He was never the president of LI&C as his father had been, due to the Scrantons lost control of their company to obtain financial support during lean times. This slight did not sit well with W.W., and he mentioned it constantly in his letters to the company, but he kept the plant going even through the hard times. Scranton led the police against labor during the 1877 labor riot in the mines and even gave a detailed report in his letters about the riot, a rare glimpse of this event from the management side where the labor side had been much more heavily reported.

By 1880, the iron works were the second largest producer in the country, yet the board of directors did not want to invest money to improve and update the plant. W.W. Scranton took the opportunity to resign from the LI&C and start his own iron company, the Scranton Steel Company, using the Bessemer process available in Europe that he had studied extensively. Very quickly, he made the Scranton Steel Company successful, on par with the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company, but within ten years, he wanted to get out of the iron business and sold his company to the LI&C; the company re-formed as the Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company.

During his time at the LI&C and Scranton Steel, William Walker Scranton also ran the Scranton Gas and Water Company, one of the most prominent gas and water companies in the area. He inherited the company from his father, Joseph Hand. Throughout his long tenure as president as reported in his letters, he developed the company into guite a business. Through mergers with other water companies such as Hyde Park, Olyphant, and Providence, he provided water for much of the Lackawanna Valley. He also created and maintained vast reservoirs to keep water flowing into the city, especially during years of drought. However, he did have running battles with the city and various companies including the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company over water rights and rates, though he continuously prevailed and thrived against any challenge.

Finally, unlike in George Scranton's records, W.W. Scranton also kept personal correspondences, giving the reader a glimpse into a cross-section of his life. From tragic events such as the deaths of his mother and sister to happy events such as his son Worthington's triumphs, marriage, and birth of his own children, he documented well his trials and triumphs through much of his life. He also kept track of his own personal business through these letters, including his duties as executor of his father's estate and his father-in-law's lands in St. Albans, Vermont. He also talked about personal concerns including redecorating his house and commissioning portraits of his various family members, including George and Seldon, which are to be found hanging in the Lackawanna Historical Society. Thus, in a way, he created a circle around the main aspects of coal, steam, rail, and water, and all through keeping their letters for future use (if not for future generations).

These letters were transcribed into electronic form in a multi-year project by Sharleen and Scott Martin (W. W. Scranton letters) and Dennis Martin (G. W. Scranton letters). The two volumes by J. H. Scranton were mostly transcribed into cursive at an earlier date and are currently being converted into electronic form.

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"Who Does Valerie Bertinelli Think She is?"

An LHS Member digs deeper to find the answers.

By Cecile Belisle Champagne

When I became aware that Valerie Bertinelli was going to be on *Who Do You Think You Are* last summer, I decided to do my own research on her and her family. I had read in the <u>Scranton Times-Tribune</u> that her family was connected to Jefferson Township in Lackawanna County. I read Valerie's two books: *Losing It and Gaining My Life Back One Pound at a Time* and *Finding It and Satisfying my Hunger for Life without Opening the Fridge.*, and also visited her website: www.valeriebertinelli.com.

Some of my research came from these sources but I also want to point out how impressed I was when I first watched the *Who Do You Think You Are e*pisode about Valerie. It began with the drive around the courthouse in downtown Scranton and appeared to have been filmed when there was nobody there. I had never seen the area looking so nice! But back to my research...

To begin, I first looked up the marriage license of Nazzarene Bertinelli and Angeline Crosa dated 20 December 1930 in Lackawanna County, PA. Nazzarene was listed as a resident of Carbondale and Angeline gave her place of residence as South Canaan in Wayne County, but I could not determine the connection to Jefferson Township. I found Angeline Mancie, age 21, living with her mother and step–father, Gregory Mancie, in the 1930 census of Jefferson Township, Lackawanna County. Jefferson Township, Lackawanna County. Jefferson Township, Lackawanna County borders South Canaan, Wayne County.

Next I searched for the marriage record of Gregorio Mancia and Maria Possio Crosa but was unable to find it. I did, however, find that Nazzarene came from Scheggia, Perugia, Italy in 1922 at the age of 24 using the Ellis Island website. But still could not find Angeline Crosa listed. After I watched the program, I realized this was because her name was given as Maddalena when she came from Sanzo, To-

rino, Italy in 1915 at the age of 7. I also had no way of knowing that her mother would have been listed under the name Maria Possio rather than Crosa.

Continuing to the next generation, I found that Nazzarene and Angeline had three children who were all born in Carbondale: Adeline, Andrew Francis, and Norma. Andrew Francis, Valerie's father, was named after his two grandfathers, Andrea Bertinelli and Francesco Crosa. The family then moved to Claymont, DE where Nazzarene died in April of 1968 and Angeline died in August of 1992. Adeline is the widow of Dino D. Vispi and still lives in Claymont, DE.

According to her website, Valerie and her husband, Thomas Vitale, recently visited Adeline and sampled her "cappelletti in brodo soup" in her basement kitchen. This soup is quite similar to Angeline's famous "tortellini in brodo soup." Norma was married to Ronald Fairweather and died in Claymont, DE in November of 2005.

Mention was made on the program that Valerie's parents recently celebrated their wedding anniversary. They were married on 19 June 1954 in Wilmington, DE. Andrew Francis Bertinelli was 20 years old and Nancy Lee Carvin was only 17 years old.

Valerie's mother, Nancy Lee Carvin, was born in the Pennsville section of Lower Penns Neck, Salem County, New Jersey. She was the daughter of Lester Vogdes Carvin and Elizabeth Adams Chambers. It is through Elizabeth Adams Chambers Carvin that Valerie's English ancestry was traced on *Who Do You Think You Are*. Unfortunately, Elizabeth died when Nancy was only 8 years old and Nancy left her home in New Jersey at a young age. Lester continued living in Pennsville and died there on 26 February 1989. Nancy was living on her own in Wilmington, DE when Andrew Francis Bertinelli met her and swept her off her feet.

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Civil War Roundtable



Jim Getty portrayed Abraham Lincoln at the Inaugural Roundtable meeting.

The Lackawanna Historical Society has recently partnered with the Confederation of Union Generals (COUG) to form a Civil War Roundtable. The Roundtable meets monthly at the Catlin House, and is open to anyone with an interest in the Civil War era 1861-1865. The first meeting was held on January 13th with a presentation on Louisa May Alcott by LHS/COUG member Jennifer Ochman and upcoming meetings include:

February 10, 7 pm: "War Governors"

March 10, 7 pm: Elizabeth van Lew

April 14, 7 pm: Gen. Wesley Merritt

Yearly membership dues for the Roundtable are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for families.

For more information or to make reservations for the next Roundtable meeting, call the Society at 570-344-3841.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Roswell Patterson

Ellie Axford
William Chamberlin
Lynn Nichols
Dennis & Linda Harding
Sarah Jane McHale
Barbara Platt
Charles & Joanne Stetz

Ann Chamberlin
James Fleming
Esther Friedmann
Richard & Sally Marquardt
Stafkings Healthcare Systems
Ella Rayburn
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<u>In Memory of Thomas Kennedy</u>

Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus

Contributions to the Lackawanna Historical Society in the name of individuals are placed in a Memorial Fund and are not used for general operations. If you'd like to make a contribution to the Society in the name of an individual, please send your check payable to the Society including name and address of person(s) for whom memorial is made. All contributions to the Lackawanna Historical Society are tax deductible to the fullest extent that the law provides.

Save the Date!

The 11th Annual Grand Civil War Ball will be held Saturday, April 18 at 7 p.m. at The



Century Club in Scranton with music provided by Spare Parts. The Civil War Ball is an effort to recreate a period ball from the 1860s.
Dancers will spend the evening participating in many of

the dances that were popular during the time of the Civil War. Period dress and dress blues or grays are greatly admired, but not required. Modern formalwear is acceptable. Stay tuned for more details! PAGE 9 VOLUME 45, NO. 1

"A Closed Mouth - A Wise Head"



Bob Hughes as Jason Miller in Go Irish: The Purgatory Diaries of Jason Miller, 2011

Join us **Sunday, February 1** at **3 p.m.** for an original one-act play and refreshments at the Rossetti home, 1005 Vine Street, in Scranton.

Local playwright Bob Hughes will present
"A Closed Mouth - A Wise Head," a true-to-life death-bed
scene. The performance will also feature a guest appearance
by noted soprano Eileen Hanisch.

Tickets are \$10 and benefit the Society. Reservations can be made by calling the Society at 570-344-3841. We hope to see you there!



"You Live Here, You Should Know This!"

Our local history game show, "You Live Here, You Should Know This!" is back!

Join us **Saturday, April 25** at **6 p.m.** at Montage Mountain to see the defending champion Albright Memorial Library team try to hold onto their title!

The games will continue in a fast-and-furious *Jeopardy*! style, testing contestants' knowledge of local people, places, and events. Winners will have the exclusive bragging rights for one whole year of holding the status of

Local Lackawanna History Legends of Lore!



2015 championship team from the Scranton Public Library L-R: Scott Thomas, Martina Soden, Joe Klapatch, and Bernie McGurl.

Want to practice your skills? LHS has been working with a Leadership Lackawanna class to create a web-based version of the game show, which will be unveiled in the spring.

Stay tuned for more details!

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DINE LACKAWANNA



Want to take a night off from cooking, and support the Lackawanna Historical Society at the same time?

Dine Lackawanna is a popular success!

This fundraiser is hosted each month at a different Lackawanna County restaurant, and gives you the chance to enjoy a fabulous meal chosen from a great menu at one of the county's premiere dining locations, and a portion of night's proceeds benefit LHS.

So far we have raised more than \$5,000 and dined at some of our area's finest eateries and are grateful for their support.

NEXT UP:

Café Classico

1416 Mulberry St., Scranton Wednesday, January 21

Market Street Grill

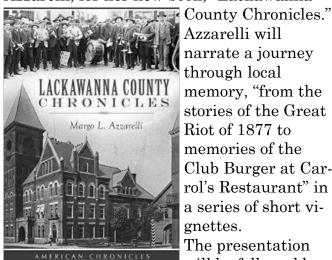
223 West Market St., Scranton Wednesday, February 18

Sidel's Restaurant

1202 N. Main Ave., Scranton Wednesday, March 18

Book Launch and Signing

Join us Sunday, February 22 at 2 p.m. for a book launch with local author Margo Azzarelli, for her new book, "Lackawanna



Azzarelli will narrate a journey through local memory, "from the stories of the Great Riot of 1877 to memories of the Club Burger at Carrol's Restaurant" in a series of short vignettes.

The presentation will be followed by a

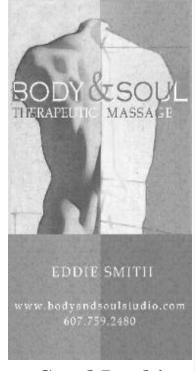
book signing. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Need to recover from the hectic Holiday season?

The Society is pleased to partner with Body & Soul Therapeutic Massage in Clarks Summit for a special raffle. Enter today to win a one-hour massage! Tickets are \$5. and each ticket has a 1-in-30 chance of winning. Proceeds benefit the Society.

Contact us at (570) 344-3841

to purchase tickets.



Good Luck!

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"Let's Get Wired!"

Commit now to keep the Catlin House wired!
The cost of the Catlin House Electrical and HVAC upgrades is \$523,180. Please join us in taking care of one of the area's architectural treasures and make your commitment today.

Make your pledge today by using this form. Make check payable to the LHS Restoration Fund and return to:

Lackawanna Historical Society 232 Monroe Avenue Scranton, PA 18510

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Capital Campaign Pledge Form

I am pleased to support the Lackawanna Historical Society with my contribution indicated below to upgrade the Catlin House electrical and HVAC systems:

	Please Print	Levels of Giving			
	Name(s)		☐ Amps ☐ Ohms	\$3000 and over \$1000 - \$2999	
	Address		Joules	\$500 - \$999	
			☐ Watts	\$100 - \$499	
City	State	Zip Code	□Volts	under \$100	
Phone (day)	Phon	ne (evening)	The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501 (C) 3 organization. All contributions are tax deductible in accordance with Pennsylvania state law.		
	Email	Your check is your receipt.			

- In Appreciation -

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Society end-of-the-year giving campaign by bringing in (or sending) a Holiday Gift for our Staircase Garland. The effort raised close to \$2000! We were especially grateful to the Old Forge Miners for their contribution.



LHS Receives Support

In January, the Lackawanna Historical Society received state arts funding in the amount of \$2,821 through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The grant is administered locally through the Pocono Arts Council.

In addition, the Lackawanna Historical Society received a \$4,000 General Operating Support grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.





The Society has also received notice from Lackawanna County that a grant of \$20,000 will be received in March through the Lackawanna County Arts & Culture Community grant program of Lackawanna County Commissioners Corey D. O'Brien, Jim Wansacz, and Patrick M. O'Malley.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 232 MONROE AVENUE SCRANTON, PA 18510

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

SUN., FEB. 1, 3 PM	A CLOSED MOUTH, A WISE HEAD (see page 9) Master Storyteller Robert Hughes and soprano Eileen Hanisch at the Rossetti home 1005 Vine St. in Scranton (\$10 donation)
Sun., Feb. 22, 2 PM	BOOK LAUNCH AND SIGNING (see page 10) "Lackawanna County Chronicles" by Margo Azzarelli
FRI./SAT./SUN., FEB. 27 - MAR. 1	DINNER BY DESIGN (see page 3) at POSH at the Scranton Club
THURS., APR. 9, 9AM	MINE SUBSIDENCE & CUT THROAT WAIVERS Local history symposium at Steamtown National Historic Site
SAT., APR. 18, 7 PM	CIVIL WAR BALL (see page 8)
SAT., APR. 25, 6 PM	LOCAL HISTORY GAME SHOW (see page 9)

Look inside for monthly Dine Lackawanna (page 10) and Civil War Roundtable (page 8) dates!

For updates on all LHS activities visit our website at www.lackawannahistory.org and be sure to like us on Facebook!