



# LHS

**The Lackawanna  
Historical Society  
Journal**

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Winter 2017

## *The Foundations of Hyde Park*

By John Ferrara

An exciting part about historical research is the joy of discovery, stumbling upon information about the past and gaining respect for what life was like. Occasionally there are gaps in the record that create holes about a specific event or person, which add a flavor to the mystery of research. The researcher

becomes a detective, arriving at a conclusion based on the evidence present in the sources they look at. A source could be a book, newspaper, magazine, advertisement, etc. The history of Hyde Park Borough, a neighborhood of West Scranton, is full of such mysteries.

Thus the reason for this article; to peel back the layers of time and take a fresh look at the heritage of this unique community in hopes of making a more complete record of history.

Early settlement of the area was not in Hyde Park but rather what are now the neighboring areas of Taylor and Capouse (modern day North Scranton) with the arrival of Timothy Keys and James Hocksey at Taylor and Isaac Tripp at Capouse. During the Battle and Massacre of Wyoming, July 3, 1778 Keys, Hocksey, and Tripp were captured by the Indians. Keys and Hocksey

were scalped near Clarks Green, but Tripp was released.

The settlement of Hyde Park started in 1790 with a man known as Mr. Lindley who erected a log cabin near what is now N. Main Avenue and Washburn Street. Then in 1794 Rev. William Bishop built a house on

the land near N. Main Avenue and Price street. Rev. Bishop's residence was mainly used for religious and schooling purposes. Other early settlers were the Washburns, Knapps, Griffins, and Heermans. These families all purchased land in central Hyde Park. The Briggs Family settled near Keyser Creek and became successful



*Hyde Park Hotel  
Corner of Main Avenue and Jackson Street*

farmers.

As the eighteenth century closed and the nineteenth opened, Hyde Park would see rapid growth of settlers and industry. The original settlers became folk heroes of the area.

The first of these was William Merrifield, who came to the area at the age of thirteen in 1819 when his father Robert relocated the family to Providence from Columbia County, New York. Merrifield cleared the land with his father to build the family's homestead. Due to the limited access to schooling,

*Cont. on pg. 10*

## *A Word from the President...*

Hello Everyone,

The recently completed national election cycle and the transition of government leadership has made me think about how important and significant history is in our lives. At the same time, you realize how much we are all a part of it as individuals and that we do make an impact on our history. This impact is only felt, however, if we get involved, if we do something to contribute. I firmly believe this to be true.

Therefore, in the coming weeks and months I encourage you to do just that. As a community organization we exist to preserve, collect, and present the history of Lackawanna County, that is its past, present and future. We exist because individuals and other like-minded organizations actively, as well as financially, support our mission. As always, this newsletter provides you with a variety of ways to become involved, to contribute and ultimately, become more of a part of local history. Read on about the activities of others and the opportunity for you to become engaged with the programs, projects and events of the Lackawanna Historical Society.

Currently, our capital campaign is in its final stage to reach the goal required to sure the protection and preservation of our collections. Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far and if you can, consider adding to your contribution. Look for details about our spring activities in this newsletter so that you might be able to attend and support them. Or, take an opportunity to memorialize an individual or personal event is also presented.

Most important to me is the opportunity for membership in the LHS outlined below. Encourage someone you know to become involved through membership. Give the gift of membership to someone, a friend or family member, as a way to increase your involvement. The commitment to membership in the historical society helps define who you are and how you can be a part of history. Stay well and be involved!

Sincerely,  
Michael Gilmartin

### **Did you renew your 2017 LHS Membership?**

**About Membership...** *Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice, special discounts and invitations to all Society activities, members-only programs and the quarterly newsletter.* Attached is a membership form you can use to renew your membership or give to a friend or neighbor who is interested in joining. Please return it to:

The Lackawanna Historical Society at 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

#### **LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$10	NAME _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$35	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$45	ADDRESS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$75	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150	
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Corporate	\$250	TELEPHONE _____
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### ***The Lackawanna Historical Society 2017***

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The Lackawanna Historical Society is a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization which is dedicated to keeping vital the history of Lackawanna County. It is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Catlin Memorial Trust, Lackawanna County, and membership dues. Regular hours are 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 [lackawannahistory@gmail.com](mailto: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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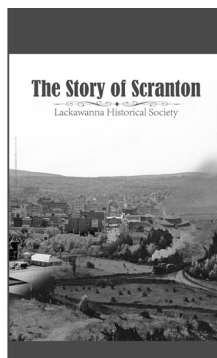


# In the Catlin House...

## EDUCATION

### *Local History Curriculum Introduced in Scranton Schools*

LHS recently partnered with the Albright Memorial Library and Scranton School District to create a local history curriculum for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The project was funded by a grant from the Scranton Area Foundation. The Society published a booklet detailing the city's history, from Indians to industrialization, that students will receive. A special Lackawanna Valley Digital Archives website will be created to provide students with digital photos, maps, and further resources. The curriculum will be introduced to students at the end of May.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Student

Megan Hosie, Jessup

### Individual

Loren Brink, Clarks Green

Kathy Celli, Scranton

Annette Fisher, Scranton

Anna Laird, Scranton

Barbara Lewis, Grand Forks, ND

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James & Joan Kearney, Sterling

Shean Family, Scranton

### Contributing

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Richard Pine, Salem, OR

### Sustaining

Don & Nancy O'Hara, New Cumberland

**LOOKING FOR A "COOL" PERSPECTIVE?  
WINTER WALKING TOURS AVAILABLE!**

### *You Live Here; You Should Know This!*

### **Teams Forming Now**

If you are interested in forming a team to play this year's local history game show on May 6, call the Society at (570) 344-3841

## TRUSTEE NEWS

At the general meeting on December 8, the Lackawanna Historical Society members elected the following individuals to serve an additional three-year term on the Board of Trustees: Joseph F. Cimini, Esq., Laurie Cadden, Douglas Forrer, Mary Jane Memolo, Christine Posly, and Elaine Shepard. At their January 18 meeting, the LHS Board of Trustees elected the following officers: Michael Gilmartin, President; Don Frederickson, Esq., 1st Vice President; Laurie Cadden, 2nd Vice President; William Conlogue, Secretary; Douglas Forrer, Treasurer; Dalida O'Malley, Assistant Treasurer. Thank you to all our Trustees for their continued dedication and good work for the Society throughout the year.

## Scranton Civil War Roundtable

The **Scranton Civil War Roundtable** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Yearly membership is \$20 for an individual and \$25 for families and is open to anyone with an interest in the Civil War era 1860-1865. The schedule of upcoming speakers is as follows:

February 21: Jim Remson, "Embattled Freedom" and the stories of black soldiers

March 14 :Bob Hanrahan, "Naval Battles during the Civil War"

April 11: Tom Jordan as Gen. George Armstrong Custer

May 9: Barb Strangfeld, "Lt. Charles Read"

June 13: "Draft Riots" Roundtable

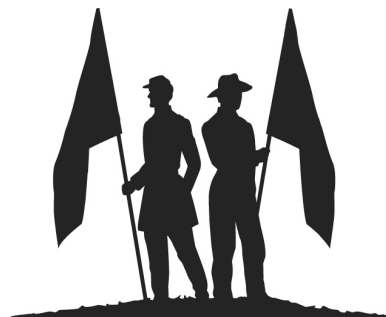
July 11: "Reconstruction" Roundtable

August 8: "Copperheads" Roundtable

September 12: Joann & Pat Dunigan, "Civil War era Etiquette"

October 10: Laurel Lipshutz as Dr. Mary Walker

November 14: Book Discussion, "Hour of Peril"



# DINE LACKAWANNA

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

*Dine Lackawanna* continues to be a popular success!

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

Hope to see you there!

## NEXT UP:

February 15

***Stirna's***, 120 W. Market St., Scranton (570) 343-5742

March 15

***Tiffany's Tap & Grill***, 291 N. Main St., Eynon (570) 876-0710

April 19

***Café Classico***, 1416 Mulberry St., Scranton (570) 346-9306 (*need voucher*)

May 17

***Camelot Restaurant***, 17 Johnson Road., Clarks Summit (570) 585-1430



Special Thanks  
to our media sponsor

**LAMAR**  
ADVERTISING

*\*Like us on Facebook  
or check our website for future dates!*

## Civil War Ball and Vintage Clothing Sale



The 13th annual Grand Civil War Ball will be held on **Saturday, April 22** at the Century Club. Doors open at 7 p.m. and dancing begins at 8 p.m.,

with music by period band *Spare Parts*. Tickets are \$35 for an individual or \$60 for a couple. Period dress admired, but not required.

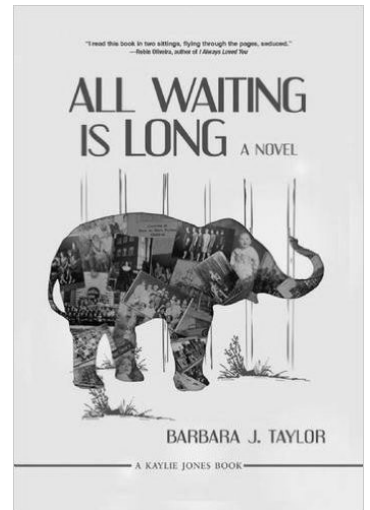
On the day of the ball LHS will be holding a sale of vintage clothing at the Catlin House at 11 a.m. Sale includes deaccessioned items of women's lingerie, capes and coats, and dresses from the late 1800s through the 1930s. Proceeds will support the preservation of LHS collections.



## All Waiting Is Long

On Sunday, **February 26**, the Society will host a presentation and book signing with author Barbara Taylor for her new book, *All Waiting is Long*. The program will begin at **2 p.m.** The book is a sequel to her first book, *Sing In the Morning, Cry*

*at Night*, the story continues the tale of sisters Lily and Violet as they grow up and leave Scranton in the 1930s. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. Call the Society at 570-344-3841 to make reservations.



## LHS Receives Support



In January, the Lackawanna Historical Society received word that it has been approved to receive a grant in the amount of \$2024 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.

The Society was pleased to learn that grant funding in the amount of **\$20,000** would be received through the Lackawanna County

Arts & Culture Community grant program and presented by Lackawanna County Commissioners Patrick M. O'Malley, Jerry Notarianni, and Laureen A. Cummings.



**Lackawanna**  
County  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Patrick M. O'Malley • Jerry Notarianni  
Laureen A. Cummings



# We got wired, now we need to wrap it up!!

*In the last few months the LHS has been working hard to close the gap in our Campaign. In the last few months we have raised an additional \$35,000 and are now only **\$40,000 short of our goal!** That's right, only \$40,000 and we can wrap up our Campaign!! Please encourage your friends and neighbors to donate or consider adding to your pledge. We are **so grateful to everyone** who has supported this effort and excited to know we are **so close to reaching our goal!***

## Amps (\$3000 and over)

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 Peter Smith  
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 Jeanette Wagner  
 Marilyn Wentland  
 Shelley White  
 Patrick Young  
 William J. Young

*Cont. from pg. 1*

William attained much of his knowledge through extensive reading and his willingness to improve at every opportunity. Later he became a teacher in Wyoming where he met and married Almira Swetland. Eventually, after conducting business in Center-moreland, Merrifield returned to Hyde Park and was appointed its first postmaster, a position he held for ten years.

In 1837, Merrifield became a joint-owner of a large tract of land in the central part of Scranton and the Keyser Valley, known as the Merrifield Plot. Having this land allowed him to attract the attention of William Henry and the Scranton brothers to establish the coal and iron industry that the city was known for. He also helped set up the Hyde Park borough charter in 1852, and served as its first burgess. In 1856, he was elected as associate judge of Luzerne County under Judge Conyningham. Merrifield later served in the state legislature and is given credit with aiding in the foundation of Lackawanna County.

Merrifield subscribed to the philosophy of a Jeffersonian Democrat, believing that public office was sacred and he took pride in the positions he held. After his time in public office, Merrifield became the first president of the Mechanics and Miners' Saving Bank, the first financial institution west of the Lackawanna River, which later became the West Side Bank, which was located on the corner of N. Main Avenue and Jackson Street. William Merrifield died in 1877 leaving a legacy that saw the borough of Hyde Park turn from a small farming community to an industrial boomtown.

Another prominent individual who helped Hyde Park thrive was Joseph Fellows. Fellows came to Hyde Park in 1794 from Liverpool, England with his wife Catherine Turvey and their nine children. In 1796, Fellows built the first bridge across the Lackawanna River, connecting Hyde Park with Slocum Hollow, enabling residents to easily reach the

Slocum grist mill and iron works. Fellows also later served as Burgess of the Borough Hyde Park. Joseph Fellows owned the first coal mining operation in Hyde Park, the Park Coal Company, which mined under present-day Fairview Avenue.

The story of the mine operation is one of those mysteries that developed over the years. Not much is recorded except that it is said to have been in operation at the same time as the Bellevue Drifts. Since Fellows began mining before the city's industrial boom, much of the coal mined was used by locals for heating fuel. Fellows sold the rights to Sheriff A.B. Stevens and later the Delaware Lackawanna & Wyoming (DL&W) Railroad acquired the coal rights. Fellows was probably prompted to sell around the time his wife died in 1814 and his English relatives lost interest in the coal in Hyde Park, withdrawing their money and leaving Fellows without capital. He later remarried Margaret Simrell, and they had two sons. Joseph Fellows left the area for upstate New York. After his death he was buried in the family cemetery in Hyde Park. Today, the cemetery, along S. Main Avenue, is Fellows Park.

Joseph Fellows legacy was continued by his children. John Fellows was the first brick maker in Hyde Park, while other members of the Fellows family answered the call of civic duty, like Joseph Turvey Fellows, who served as postmaster from 1861 to 1866. At the time, the Hyde Park post office was located in the store of Frink and Fellows on the corner of Main and Jackson Street where the Keystone Bank building stands today.

These two men, William Merrifield and Joseph Fellows were remarkable people who made great contributions to Hyde Park, but how are these men remembered in our modern world some 200 years removed from the time period in which they lived? Joseph Fellows' burial monument takes center stage in Fellow Park, but the the street named after



him is broken up by newer residential areas. William Merrifield and his wife are buried in the Washburn Street cemetery but without a dominant memorial like Fellows. Merrifield Avenue is located just off Jackson Street before the intersection with Keyser Avenue. As Hyde Park Borough grew and developed it was later incorporated along with the boroughs of Province and Scranton to form the City of Scranton. Hyde Park became the city's Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Wards, which today are mainly referred to as West Scranton or West Side.

The Hyde Park of William Merrifield, Joseph Fellows, and other early settlers is vastly different today. But the significance of those settlers is a heritage that cannot be ignored and I hope to help to preserve the memory of those early and influential individuals in hope that people will stay in touch with their local history.

**Celebrate West Side!** A special 2017 West Side calendar was produced by Mary Jasch and Julian Spiracino. Copies are available for purchase at the Catlin House.

## All Politics is Local

*By: Ella Rayburn*

The U.S. completed its quadrennial presidential election on November 8, 2016. We also sorted out the Senate and Congress along with Commonwealth row offices. As a salute to the process, we selected campaign items from the LHS artifact collection for an exhibit in the downtown Scranton post office. Volunteer Megan Hosie selected the wide range of mementos and wrote the text.

In the middle of the exhibit are materials from when loyal son William Scranton won the governor's seat followed by his run for the presidency.

Barry Goldwater defeated him at the 1964 Republican Convention.

From an earlier date we have a folder for Catherine Gearhart, 1935, the first woman to run for Scranton City Council. Although not elected, she remained active in civic affairs. Likewise, Geraldine Ferraro, 1984, was the first female candidate from a major

political party nominated for Vice-President of the U.S. She was not elected.

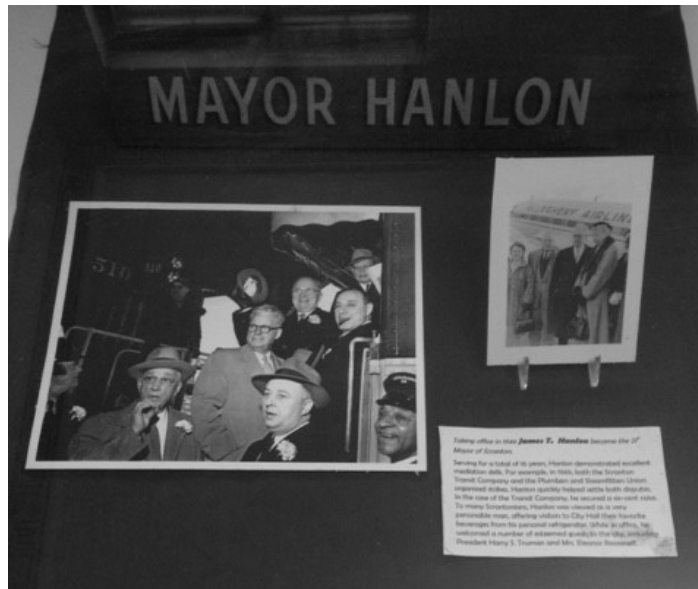
Gov. Robert and Mrs. Ellen Casey are honored for their community service.

Several Scranton mayors, Lackawanna County commissioners, row officers, and judges are represented.

Sponges and emery boards stamped with the candidate's name and hoped-for office were popular giveaways. On the fun side are a jar opener stamped with "Open

Your Government

and Your Spaghetti Sauce" and a blue plastic toy football.



**If You Go:** The exhibit is in four cases inside the Downtown post office on Washington Avenue. The display cases are outside the entrance to the First Credit Union.

# Don't Miss Dinner by Design!!

The Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to announce that the 7th Annual Dinner by Design program will take place on **March 3, 4, and 5** at the Scranton Cultural Center and POSH @ the Scranton Club. We're excited to see what our designers create in these fantastic spaces!



As in previous years, a special preview cocktail party, will be held **Friday, March 3** from **7 p.m. - 10 p.m.** at the Scranton Cultural Center and POSH. Tickets are \$75 (or \$65 for LHS members) and offers a chance to be the first to tour design venues, shop the marketplace, and browse

the silent auction while enjoying live music! Join us for an open bar and hors d'oeuvres at the Scranton Cultural Center, followed by dessert and coffee at POSH. Plus, preview party ticket holders can return throughout the weekend to view the designs again if they wish. Tickets for weekend touring-only on **Saturday, March 4**, from **11 a.m. to 9 p.m.** and **Sunday, March 5** from **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, are also available for \$15. Make your reservation today!!

## SAVE THE DATE

The Lackawanna Historical Society presents  
**HISTORY MAKERS**  
*A new annual program to honor a Lackawanna County citizen who has made an impact on our history!*

On March 30th, the Society will pay tribute to the late Honorable Michael Egan as our first History Maker, with a special event to celebrate his life and achievements. Judge Egan was elected Lackawanna County District Attorney at the age of 25 in 1932 and became a County Judge in 1941. Eighteen years later he was successfully elected to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. In February of 1977 he became Chief Justice, the second from Lackawanna County. He served as Chief Justice until 1980. During his term, he oversaw the reorganization of the appellate court, one of many legacies from his time on the bench.

*More details about this program will be announced in March.*

## "Let's Get Wired!"

Commit now to keep the  
Catlin House wired!

The cost of the Catlin House  
Electrical and HVAC upgrades  
is \$463,180. Please join us in  
taking care of one of the area's  
architectural treasures and  
make your commitment today.

Use this form  
to make your pledge.  
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 \$3000 and over

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

☐ Ohms \$1000 - \$2999

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

☐ Joules \$500 - \$999

☐ Watts \$100 - \$499

☐ Volts under \$100

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (day) Phone (evening)

The Lackawanna Historical Society  
is a 501 (C) 3 organization.

All contributions are tax deductible in  
accordance with Pennsylvania state law.

Your check is your receipt.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

## SPRING PROGRAMS

### *Louisa May Alcott Lecture*

Join us on **Sunday, March 19 at 2 p.m.** for a presentation by Louisa May Alcott as portrayed by Jennifer Ochman. Learn about Alcott's writings and her activities during and after the Civil War.

### *Pysanky Workshop Returns*

Register now for the Pysanky Workshop at the Catlin House on Saturday, April 1st. The workshop, a two hour beginner class teaching the basic steps of making pysanky, will be led by Tammy Budnovitch with two sessions at **10 a.m. and 1 p.m.** Cost is \$25 which includes all needed supplies. There will also be pysanky for sale as well as additional supplies. Space is limited, so please call us at 570-344-3841 to reserve yours today!

## MEMORIALS

In Memory of Donna Adler  
*Rev. Lester & Ruth Ann Stephenson*

In Memory of Philip V. Mattes  
*Victoria Mattes*

In Memory of Darwin Gano  
*Ella Rayburn*  
*Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus*

In Memory of Robert Keating  
*Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus*

In Memory of Raymond Champagne  
*Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus*  
*Sarah Piccini*

In Memory of Jim Guthrie  
*Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus*

In Memory of Gene Turko  
*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. To contribute in the name of an individual, please send check payable to the Society with the 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.*

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
232 MONROE AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PA 18510

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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SCRANTON, PA

## ***UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS***

- WED., FEB. 15** *DINE LACKAWANNA* at Stirna's (see pg. 4)
- SUN., FEB. 26, 2 PM** *ALL WAITING IS LONG* (see pg. 5)  
Book signing by Barbara Taylor at the Catlin House
- FRI., MAR. 3, 7 PM** *PREVIEW PARTY: DINNER BY DESIGN* (see pg. 10)  
at the Scranton Cultural Center and POSH @ The Scranton Club
- SAT/SUN, MAR. 4&5** *DINNER BY DESIGN* (see pg. 10)  
at the Scranton Cultural Center and POSH @ The Scranton Club
- WED., MAR. 15** *DINE LACKAWANNA* at Tiffany's Tap & Grill (see pg. 4)
- SUN., MAR. 19, 2 PM** *LOUISA MAY ALCOTT* (see pg. 11)  
Presentation by Jennifer Ochman at the Catlin House
- THURS., MAR. 30, 6 PM** *HISTORY MAKERS Honoring Judge Michael Egan* (see pg. 10) Details TBA
- SAT., APR. 1, 10 AM/1 PM** *PYSANKY MAKING WORKSHOP* (see pg. 11)  
Led by Tammy Budnovitch at the Catlin House
- WED., APR. 19** *DINE LACKAWANNA* at Café Classico *VOUCHER REQUIRED* (see pg. 4)
- SAT., APR. 22, 11 AM - 1 PM** *VINTAGE CLOTHING SALE* at the Catlin House (see pg. 5)
- SAT., APR. 22, 7 PM** *13TH ANNUAL GRAND CIVIL WAR BALL* at the Century Club (see pg. 5)
- WED., MAY 17** *DINE LACKAWANNA* at Camelot Restaurant (see pg. 4)

*See page 4 for upcoming Civil War Roundtable topics!*  
*Visit [www.lackawannahistory.org](http://www.lackawannahistory.org) and like us on Facebook for up-to-date listings of all activities!*