



LHS

The Lackawanna
Historical Society
Journal

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A Review by Rick Sedlisky
Forgotten Hero:
The Life, Letters & Diaries of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin
Nicholas E. Petula, Scranton, PA, 2017, 164 pp.

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 died 153 years ago proved to be extremely difficult because there is literally no one left to speak about him and thus, very little information from which to tell his story.

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 infor-

mation 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, dating back to the late 18th Century, who were among the early settlers of what is now the Park Place-Bull's Head neighborhood of 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



Lt. Ezra S. Griffin
Photo courtesy of Nicholas E. Petula

Cont. on pg. 12

A Word from the President...

Hello Everyone,

I really can't begin this by saying what a peaceful and restful summer season it has been, as the LHS was its usual busy place. Beginning with the very well received "Historic House Tour in the Hill," the staff and volunteers haven't had much time to put their feet up with speakers, tours, "Dine Lackawanna", exhibit changes, "Children's Day", Drive-In Movie Nights, Committee Meetings and preparations for the October 12-14 Pennsylvania Historical Association annual meeting in Scranton. I thank all who played a part in these many activities, both in and out of the Catlin House.

While still many weeks away, please mark your calendar for our Annual Dinner on October 25. Details are included in this edition of our newsletter and the program is certain to be of interest to many.

The Society's success comes in great result from an engaged membership I feel we have this engagement because of what we offer our community. Our trustees, staff, and volunteers work together at our beautiful headquarters, the Catlin House, to encourage people to join. However, I believe we can grow our membership further. This is one of our highest priorities and you can help! Members contribute, volunteer and use our collections to interpret and promote our shared history. I want everyone to become an LHS member and learn about our region's fascinating past. This newsletter, as always, details upcoming events and provides interesting stories of Lackawanna County history. It also includes membership information which I ask you to share with others. A friend, relative, co-worker or new neighbor is an opportunity for you to promote LHS and suggest membership in one of the many categories we offer. As we say here, "Join us, be part of history."

Stay well, be active and get involved,
Michael Gilmartin

Invite a friend to join today!

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		
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<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$75		
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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

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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Fall Happenings...

Lions & Owls & Elves, Oh My!

On September 30, at 10 am the Lackawanna Historical Society will offer a special downtown walking tour featuring 30 of our tour guides' favorite things about Scranton.

The tour will start at the Catlin House. LHS guides Joanne Kavulich, Sarah Piccini and Joyce Hatala will lead participants on an exciting journey through the downtown with stops at some of the city's most treasured buildings like the Albright Memorial Library, the Lackawanna County Courthouse and the Radisson Lackawanna Station. They will discuss several downtown churches, hotels, banks and local landmarks that exemplify our amazing past, and also point out some of the more interesting and unique architectural details that are sometimes missed by the casual passerby.

The tour is free and open to the public. To register call the LHS at 570-344-3841.



Pennsylvania Historical Association Meeting

LHS is pleased to be hosting the PHA annual meeting in Scranton on October 12-14. Eighteen panels will present topics that relate to this year's theme, **Public Histories of the Mid-Atlantic**, to explore the many ways in which the public engages with the past. Three keynote speakers will explore the theme - at a lunch program *Stolen, Smuggled, Sold: How Cultural Objects Reveal Historical Events* with PHMC Chair Nancy Moses who will discuss her latest book; a dinner program at Steamtown National Historic Site with "Living Landscape Observer" Editor, and former coordinator of National Heritage Areas, Brenda Barrett who will present *Public History in Action - Pennsylvania Style*; and a concluding lunch program *Dimensions of Philadelphia's History* by urban and social historian Roger Simon. To add to the weekend, the Society will conduct a special *Friday the 13th Scranton After Dark* walking tour following the dinner program, and many of our local partners will offer free admission or special tours to conference attendees on the final day to encourage participants to stay and explore the city. Join us for the entire conference, register for one or two of the Keynotes or plan to attend some of these special **EXPLORE SCRANTON** activities on Saturday, October 14:

- Free admission to Everhart & Anthracite Heritage Museums with meeting badge from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- Free guided tours of St. Luke's Church from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm:
- Free guided tour of the Albright Memorial Library by Director Jack Finnerty at 2:30 pm *Call 570-344-3841 to register.*
- Open House at the GAR Civil War Museum 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm:

More details can be found
at <https://pa-history.org/meeting/2017>.

Take a Spooky Stroll for Halloween

\$5 per person *Reservations are required*

On **Friday, October 20 at 6:30 pm** the Lackawanna Historical Society's haunted walking tour returns for the Halloween season! Join the Society for a guided walking tour around Downtown Scranton for tales of mayhem and mysterious happenings at some of your favorite places. The tour will meet at the Society's headquarters, the Catlin House, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, and the walk will take about 1.5 hours. Join us to learn more about Scranton's perfidious past!

LHS Receives PHMC Support

In August, 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.



MEMORIALS

In Memory of Dr. R. Guy McGinnis
Mary Ann and Robert 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.

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:

September 20: ***JW's Pub & Eatery at Heart Lake Lounge***
1598 Heart Lake Rd., Scott Township (570) 254-9419

October 18: ***Sidel's Restaurant***
1202 North Main Ave., Scranton (570) 343-6544

November 15: ***POSH @ The Scranton Club***
404 N. Washington Ave., Scranton (570) 955-5890



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to our media sponsor

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or check our website for future dates!*

Exporting Scranton

by: Willis Conover

A continuing look at Scrantons across the country! Stay tuned for more.

Scranton, Kentucky

Founded in 1899, this community, first called Slab Camp, was named for Scranton, PA when lumbermen from northeast Pennsylvania went to Kentucky to extract the lumber in the forests of Menifee County east of Lexington. The Oneonta Lumber Company operated a large band-saw mill at the site, noted for its "fine oak and poplar timber." In addition to plans to saw some 30 million feet of lumber, the company also built a narrow gauge railroad to deliver the lumber to market. The town thrived by the activity and was awarded a post office. In September 1900 a fire destroyed the mill and surrounding buildings putting over 100 men out of work, but the company rebuilt. John L. Phillips of Dallas, PA, with offices in Wilkes-Barre, served as general manager of Oneonta. Others from northeast PA involved in the effort were Lewis Hallock, Charles Owen, S. L. Richards, George Wilson, H.M. Honeywell, and a Mr. Loveland. Wilson noted the importance of the expertise brought to the enterprise from Pennsylvania by telling the *Dallas (PA) Weekly Post* that "...the natives are not as well booked in lumbering as the Northern people." (Phillips resigned in 1901 and, shortly after, died of typhoid fever which he supposedly contracted in the lumber camps of eastern Kentucky.) As the lumber extraction faded, so did the town. Although listed by GNIS as a populated place, today Scranton is an unincorporated community with an unreported population.

Scranton, Mississippi

Today, Scranton is part of the city of Pascagoula, Jackson County. The original Scranton was incorporated in 1870 but merged in 1904 into the newly named Pascagoula, a city

near the Gulf of Mexico. The chief architect of the original Scranton was James Archbald, the prominent Scranton PA businessman and engineer with the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western. Archbald became the chief engineer of the Mississippi Central Railroad, laying out and superintending the construction of its road across Mississippi from Natchez to Hattiesburg. When Archbald built an extension of the railroad to the Gulf, he needed a terminus, so he planned and built facilities at a place he called Scranton. Also active in the area was Fenwick L. Peck from Scranton, a long-time lumberman, who also served as president of the Mississippi Central for a time as well as head of the large J. J. Newman Lumber Company that owned extensive forestlands and facilities in Mississippi and Alabama.

Scranton, Texas

With a population of about 40 people, Scranton is in Eastland County, in Central Texas, southeast of Abilene. In 1875, the families of David and H.B. Lane and Joe and Aaron Brown settled there and by 1880 there was a school and cotton gin. The naming of the town may be connected to the building of the Texas and Pacific Railroad west from Fort Worth in 1880. One source suggests the community was named for a surveyor on the line (yet no one by that name appears in the records). What is known is that investors in the Texas and Pacific included Moses Taylor of Scranton, PA. Unfortunately for the residents of Scranton, the railroad passed some 5 or 6 miles north of their town. The town survived, however, and became known for a college preparatory school called Scranton Academy that the locals had built in 1903. The 1910 census showed 150 residents. A definitive connection between the Texas and Pennsylvania Scrantons has not been established.

...Stay tuned for more Scrantons!

Current Exhibits, Near and Far...

Working Women of Lackawanna County

A new exhibit in the *Arlene Devereaux O'hara Fashion Gallery* on the second floor of the Catlin House pays tribute to Working Women of Lackawanna County.

This exhibit was proposed by **Bridget Conlogue**, Chair of the LHS Fashion Committee, and pays tribute to women who worked to support themselves and their families. From a student nurse to a Charlmont waitress, the exhibit explores the roles played by working women, and the expectations that women labored under. Along with the clothing, the exhibit also includes photos and items from the collection to help tell the story of the working lives of women.



Workin' on the Railroad



The Lackawanna Historical Society is part of a group of partner organizations who created temporary exhibits for **Steamtown National Historic Site's RailFest 2017**. The LHS exhibit celebrates those who have worked on the railroad, using objects from our collection to highlight the various jobs performed in rail yards and on the train. The exhibit will be on display through the end of September.

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Was there a miner in your family?

The Anthracite Heritage Foundation wants to add your coal mining ancestor to its registry database.

Go to ahfdn.org to learn more and to share your heritage.

World War I: From the Trenches to the Coal Seams and The Hotel Casey Exhibits Celebrate Scranton's Past



LHS Assistant Director **Sarah Piccini** recently collaborated with **Michael Knies**, Archives and Special Collections librarian at the University of Scranton to create a World War I exhibit, on display in the **5th Floor Heritage Room** at the **Weinberg Memorial Library** now through December. The exhibit looks at everyday life on Scranton's home front during the war, from baptismal certificates to school exercise books, as well as the experiences of local soldiers and the Red Cross. As part of the PHA conference, a panel discussion will focus on the exhibit on **Thursday, October 12 at 7 pm**.

Coming in September, Scranton's popular Hotel Casey is the focus of a new exhibit on display at the **Post Office building** on Courthouse Square. The exhibit, guest curated by LHS volunteer Tom Cipriano, uses items from the Society's collection to complement many items on loan from Brian Salak. Remember the hotel's heyday with china, silver, photos, and other items.

In the Catlin House...

Remembering The Fallen

To complement the premiere of Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's landmark documentary series, *The Vietnam War*, on WVIA TV on **Sunday, September 17th**, the Lackawanna Historical Society is pleased to host a lecture and book signing by LHS member Jason Amico on **Tuesday September 26 at 7 pm**. Jason will discuss his research and work to compile a complete list of Vietnam War casualties from Lackawanna County. He will also highlight some of the individual stories of those who served and have copies of the book that resulted from his work available for purchase.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Student

Alysa Stone, Old Forge

Individual

Don M. Hughes, Sarasota, FL

Violet Kelly, Scranton

Mark Roe, Clarks Summit

Dr. Midori Yamanouchi, Lake Ariel

Family

Colleen Gerrity, Scranton

Doris Boise, Dunmore

Contributing

Johnna Mountain, Collegeville

Buffalo Bill, An American Story

On **Sunday, October 22 at 2 pm**, the Society will present Tom Jordan in the one man show, *Buffalo Bill, An American Story*. The program will feature Mr. Jordan as Buffalo Bill in full costume telling stories of his youth on the plains as a wagon teamster, Pony Express rider and Army scout, as well as experiences with the Buffalo Bill Combination and Buffalo Bill's Wild West shows. You may recall the article, *When Buffalo Bill's Wild West Played Scranton* by Willis Conover that was published in a 2012 LHS Journal (Vol. 42, No. 4) detailing the show's runs in Scranton. As Buffalo Bill Mr. Jordan will also reminisce about his friends Wild Bill Hickok, Sitting Bull, George Armstrong Custer. The program is free and open to the public.



Battle of the Bulge Program Recalls Local Veteran

LHS Member James Dougher will present a lecture on the *Battle of the Bulge* at the **Catlin House on Sunday, November 12 at 2 pm** with a special focus on Dr. Joseph Schectman, a Lackawanna County podiatrist, who as a member of the 3rd Battalion 424th Infantry Regiment 106th Infantry Division, was trapped during the deadly battle north of Bastogne, and was able to escape with the help of the 82nd Airborne Division. Mr. Dougher spent countless hours interviewing Dr. Schectman to tell his story which led to a presentation by Pennsylvania Congressman Cartwright of nine medals honoring Dr. Schectman's wartime service, including the Bronze Star of Valor, "for fearlessly running messages as the U.S. 106th Infantry Division was under massive assault by Nazi Panzer Divisions". Dr. Schectman passed away on October 18, 2016 and the Society was honored when his widow, Harriet Schectman donated some of his WWII collection this past Spring.

With Much Appreciation. . .

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped with our summer programs. It is because of their continued service and dedication that the Society continues to offer a variety of successful programs and activities. Here are just some of the events we hosted and the volunteers who assisted:

Historic House Tour in the Hill

- **Joe & Fran Garvey** for their willingness to host the preview party for which **POSH** donated the catering services.
- **Michael Gilmartin** for coordinating this year's tour with input and assistance from **Laurie Cadden, Jeff Kiefer** and all of the **LHS Trustees**
- **Chris & Greg Posly** for acting as home base during the tour
- **Ella Rayburn** and **Nick Petula** for managing the Marketplace
- Our guides: **Amy Betts, Carol Boettger, Elaine Carroll, Yvonne Caudallo, Bridget Conlogue, Lindsay Courtright, Cindy Cramer, John Farkas, Arlene Gavern, Katie Gilmartin, Dr. Daniel & Sandy Ginsberg, Tom Horlacher, Linda Howarth, Joanne & Steve Kavulich, Jeff Kiefer, Linda Lynett, Terri Mandigo, Erin McFadden, Barbara McGee, Ann McGrath, Mary Jane Memolo, Laura Mursh, Ann Marie O'Hara, Dalida O'Malley, Amy Paciej-Woodruff, Leni Piasky, Juliana Piccini, Alex Posly,, Shannon Reid-Black, Laura Santoski, Linda Scott, Elaine Shepard, Kelly Sweeney, Amie Talarico, Dawn Talley, Linda Vosefski, Shelley White, Paula Yaggi, Christine Zike**
- And of course the homeowners: **Vi Kelly, Don Mammano, Patrick Galbraith & David Boland, Ken & Maryellen Lake, Jon & Susan Reif, and Cynthia Timko**

Summer Walking Tours

Thanks to **Leni Piasky, Juliana Piccini, Joanne Kavulich and Joyce Hatala** for guiding tours throughout the summer, and to **Margo and Marnie Azzarelli** for sharing their research for the tours of Green Ridge section.

Children's Day at the Catlin House

Each year, the Society dedicates a Summer Saturday of free activities for children. The event is sponsored by LHS Trustee **Doug Forrer** who funds the pony rides by Brook Valley Farms. We are most grateful to Doug for his contribution and to **Laura and her beautiful Brookvalley ponies** for their continued participation. We are also most appreciative to **Bob Savakinus** for securing a **Scranton-Wilkes Barre Railriders** mascot each year, and for obtaining **Montage Mountain** waterpark pass donations to be used as a door prize and to **Tara Kojza of Jessee's Place** for providing ice cream treats. Thanks also to **Ted Baird** who has been with us since our first Children's Day to display and discuss a local archaeological collection and to **Jan Lakuta** who joined us this year to lead an art project to recreate the historic Slocum Hollow image. He will return again next summer to complete the mural. Thanks also to LHS volunteers **Leni Piasky, Juliana Piccini, Joane Kavulich and Ann Marie O'Hara** for planning and presenting hands-on educational crafts each year; to **Abby Walsh** for providing glitter tattoos, and to the **Azzarelli family** and the **Siock sisters, Allie and Annie** for their continued assistance in offering tours of the Catlin House and acting as greeters whenever needed!

Christmas in July at the Circle Drive-In

On July 25, the Society presented a unique and amusing opportunity for the community to come together for an evening at the ***Circle Drive-in*** with a special showing of ***Christmas Vacation***. To add to the evening, several local authors including ***Margo & Marnie Azzarelli, Paul Browne, Nick Petula and Gary Ryman*** were on site to offer signed copies of their latest publications as the perfect *early holiday* gift! Thanks to ***Dave Castelli and the staff at Circle*** for hosting us, and to ***Jeff Kiefer and Theresa Dewaele*** for decorating and working the ticket booth. Thanks also to ***Toyota Scranton*** for sponsoring the program!



ToyotaScranton

At the Catlin House

Finally, the Society wishes to thank the amazing volunteers who come to the Catlin House on a regular basis to assist with research, library cataloging and filing, collections, and general day-to-day needs. ***Chris Ewasho*** continues to maintain the Catlin House plantings and is often assisted by ***John Ochman***. John recently spent several hours on a Sunday pulling weeds!

Joan Caffrey and Barbara Spott have been volunteering since 1998 and do an excellent job in maintaining a newspaper clippings file on local subjects. ***Alison Cicci*** joined us this earlier this year to assist in promoting the Society on Facebook. ***Joanne Kavulich*** continues her never-ending work to enter new and renewed members into the Society's database. ***Maryellen Dowling*** assists with general office work. ***Ann McGrath***, who completed a AARP work placement with the Society in June, has elected to stay on as a weekly volunteer assisting in organizing genealogical files and assisting LHS Trustee and curator ***Ella Rayburn*** in cataloguing new donations.

Ella works with an excellent crew of volunteers who assist her in maintaining the collections including ***Ed Osman, Nick Petula, Jonathan Wilson, Akira Shimizu, Ruxiao Jiang***. Two interns from Temple University, ***Jacob Brown and Olivia Hosie*** also assisted Ella with collections management this summer. Olivia is the sister of ***Megan Hosie*** who volunteered earlier this year before finding permanent employment in Philadelphia at the American Philosophical

Society and the newly opened Museum of the American Revolution! Congratulations to Megan and thanks to Ella for continuing to offer our student volunteers an enriching educational experience. ***Stephanie Branas***, who recently graduated from Wilkes University with a degree in History, also signed on as a volunteer this year and she has been most helpful in assisting the Society in preparing for the October PHA conference in Scranton.

Of course the Society also welcomes excellent high school-aged volunteers, one of whom ***Abby Walsh*** has been volunteering at the Catlin House for almost two years and has been invaluable in assisting us with programs, research and exhibit installations. She and LHS Assistant Director Sarah Piccini, have a great time working together every Friday. ***Lois Kretsch*** often joins in the fun on Friday when she volunteers her time to clean up selected files that have become unmanageable due to an over abundance of undated and duplicated articles. She has spent much of this summer organizing the Jones family file!

The LHS volunteers are truly the backbone of the organization and we were deeply saddened this year to say goodbye to two of them. ***Pat Chipak*** who joined us in 1997 has decided to step down this year so she and her husband Jack can spend more time traveling. ***Pat Suhanick*** who began volunteering in 2015 has also had to resign due to some health issues. We wish them both the best in the future endeavors and hope to see them at a future program.



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

*Thanks to everyone who has given to our campaign thus far but if you have not yet had a chance to donate, **NOW IS THE TIME!** The Society has been very successful in raising the funds to complete the much-needed upgrades at our headquarters and those who have visited the Catlin House in the last year have reaped the benefits by experiencing an excellent HVAC system that produces comfortable conditions year round! We are now wrapping up the campaign that has raised more than \$400,000 but we need to close to gap!! **Please make your donation today to help us reach our goal!***

Amps (\$3000 and over)

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 Thomas Yeager
 Clarice Zaydon

Volts (under \$100)

Anonymous
 Clara Adcroft
 Walter Avery
 Pete & Ellie Axford
 James Benetzky
 Andy Billek
 Tammy Budnovitch
 Michael G. Bufalino
 William & Susan Calpin
 LaBella Associates
 Ray Ceccotti
 Anthony & Diana Centrella
 Carol Chisdak
 Mike Chmiola
 Phil Condron
 Shirley Cottrino
 Robert & Sharon Cuff
 Thomas Dailey
 Bob Durkin
 Robert N. Eckersley
 Daniel Emick
 Christine Ewasho
 Exxonmobile Corporation
 John Anthony Farkas, Jr.
 Lois & Bill Farrell
 Joshua Felter
 Rabbi Michael & Doris Fine
 Diane Fritz

William H. Fritz
 Beth Gallagher
 Eugene & Lois Gallagher
 George's Garage
 Mary Garm
 Anne Gershey
 Jane Gilligan
 Michael & Nada Gilmartin
In Honor of John Atkins
 Dorothy Gordon
 Joyce Hatala
 Jack Horvath
 IBM International Foundation
 Barbara Jean Jones
 Steve & Joanne Kavulich
 Dale & Joyce Keklock
 Judi Keller
 Sandra Korpak & Jeff Gretz
 Kevin's Worldwide
 Delores & Edward Kownaski
 Dennis & Mary Kryzanowski
 Rudolph Kunz
 David & Anita Lohin
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard MacGregor
 Conor Malone
 Peter Manley
 Ralph J. Marino
 Pat Marion

Mark & Michele McDade
 Chris McWilliams
 Minnie Mead
 Gail Morgan
 Shawn Murphy
 Linda O'Leary
 Arlene O'Malley
 Ed & Betsy Osman
 Juliana Piccini
 Melissa Raught Dahlenburg
 Alana Roberts
 Francis Ruane
 Paul Rudnick
 Julia Savakinus
 Robert & Mary Ann Savakinus
In Memory of Jack Hiddlestone
 Elsie Schweitzer
 Linda Scott
 Doug Smith
 Peter Smith
 Nancy Thomas
 Martin A. Toth, Esq.
 Sally Venesky
 Jeanette Wagner
 Marilyn Wentland
 Shelley White
 Patrick Young
 William J. Young

Cont. from pg. 1

company.

Griffin and others from Luzerne County joined the 143rd Pennsylvania Volunteers Infantry Regiment. In this chapter, names of many who appear in Griffin'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 of military life.

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 Griffin'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.

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 the pain and violence of that period.

The reader experiences different aspects of Lt. Griffin's day-to-day military life. His entries offer 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 they 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 dif-

ferent 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 author suggests, it was Lt. Griffin's way of shielding his family from the pain, viciousness and brutality that accompany war.

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.

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?

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.

Nicholas E. Petula was born and raised Scranton's Park Place. 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, A History of Park Place and Bull's Head*; *A History of Public Schools in Scranton*; and *Scranton Once Upon A Time*.

Thanks to LHS member Rick Sedlisky for writing this review which will also be published in the next issue of the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania *eZine*. *Forgotten Hero: The Life, Letters & Diaries of Lt. Ezra S. Griffin*, by Nicholas E. Petula, is available for purchase through the Lackawanna Historical Society,

Women Voting?

Dennis Martin

In the Spring 2017 edition of this journal, Ella Rayburn wrote a very interesting article on a Poll Tax in Scranton. That inspired a second look at the *Eagle Clarion*, a short-lived newspaper (1920-1923) in Clarks Summit. An almost complete run of the newspaper was contributed to the Abington Community Library by Alan Shurtleff, a son of John Shurtleff, the editor, publisher and principal writer. This collection has been scanned and a booklet of excerpts created and available in the Local History Section of the Abington library.

The first time that women could vote nationwide was the 1920 election; the first mention of which appears in the October 8, 1920 issue. It reported that "[T]he books of Mr. L. H. Secker, Summit Tax Collector, shows about 525 women eligible to vote at the coming Presidential election provided that they pay their taxes of twenty-seven cents by October 2, 1920." While not called a Poll Tax, it clearly was a tax that had to be paid in order to vote and Ella Rayburn would certainly count that as such even though the amount probably would not have been an imposition to anyone.

The article continues "The Republican mass meeting at the Aljo Theater [aka 'The Nিকেlette'] yesterday afternoon was a roaring success accord-

ing to those on the committee. Of the women eligible to vote 250 attended, all of which pledged their support to the Republican party. Of course, many women who will in all probability vote on the Republican platform were unable to attend." (We note that the Abingtons were a Republican stronghold at the time and that the Aljo showed films only on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday nights so it was often used for large meetings.)

This edition was the second issue of the newspaper, so the newspaper did not exist when the country discussed the pending Constitutional Amendment to allow women to vote (the Nineteenth). If the newspaper had a longer history, we would have liked to have read Letters to the Editor on the subject before it became law.

We also note that the October 16, 1920 issue related that the Fire Company signed a contract with Western Union to provide a special operator and instrument to receive the latest reports of the election from 6 pm November 2 until 3 am the next morning. The Fire Company sponsored a free entertainment featuring singers, speakers, Clarks Summit Band, etc. Refreshments would be available for a nominal fee. (Only KDKA in Pittsburgh was licensed to broadcast at that time and it used

the Presidential election as its first report.)

In the October 30 edition, a change in voting location was announced. Instead of using Shilling's Garage as usual, the voting would be at the Borough Building due to space concerns. There were about 400 men and 500 women eligible to vote just in Clarks Summit. Of the 523 women eligible in Clarks Summit, over 90% paid their poll tax. Of the 110 women eligible in Clarks Green, about 100 paid their poll tax. Cars were being provided by the Republican party to get women to the polls.

The November 13, 1920 edition reported that the election returns at the borough building were well attended in spite of a heavy rain. By 11:30 the crowd had dispersed when Democratic papers announced Warren G. Harding's election. A fuller report in the same issue stated that 716 votes were cast - 509 straight Republican, 99 straight Democratic and 108 split tickets. 352 women voted "and it is stated that no hesitancy whatever was shown by them in marking their ballots." Mrs. E. R. Hoot, Chairwoman of Republican women commented that "The splendid cooperation shown by the men is greatly appreciated by the women voters." Women voted and the world did not come to an end. The similarity of the vote of men and women suggests that many women were as familiar with the issues as the men, possibly because they always had been active in political discussions contrary to the views of some men.

The November 27, 1920 edition reported that Mrs. Root had received a request for the names of three women who were desirous to serve on a Grand Jury in Scranton. We don't know if this was a new initiative but it suggests that, finally, women were considered the equals of men in the legal system.

The July 30, 1921 edition carried a report of the meeting of Republican women where Mrs. Mary S. Chamberlain declared her candidacy for Assessor of Clarks Summit Borough. It was hoped that more women would file for nominations to positions by the deadline. She may have been the first woman to express such an interest in our borough.

Although it is not relevant to the above, we note that the February 9, 1923 edition reported that the newspaper, which had gone to a full-sized format with national and local news, was suspending publication. The reason was that the editor, John Shurtleff, needed more time to finish his senior year at Clarks Summit - Clarks Green Joint High School. He would also be going to Lehigh University in the fall. The high quality of writing and reporting of the newspaper would never have suggested that it was the work of a high school student. In addition to *Clarks Summit (1920 - 1923)* and the *Eagle Clarion* available at the Abington Community Library, *Voices of the Abingtons, Volume VII* in the library has a history of the Shurtleff Family.

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:



September 12: Showcase of Civil War artifacts

October 10: Michael Wunsch

"The 1864 Great Sanitary Fair in Philadelphia"

November 14: Book Discussion, "Hour of Peril"

"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

President Roosevelt is coming to Scranton!

LHS Dinner Marks 115th Anniversary of the Anthracite Coal Strike

On October 25, the Society will host its annual dinner at the Radisson Lackawanna Station in Scranton at 6 pm with a very special guest, President Theodore Roosevelt. President Roosevelt, as portrayed by nationally recognized interpreter Gilbert "Gib" H. Young, Jr. of Huntington, Indiana, will discuss the Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902 and also be available during the cocktail hour to chat with guests and to pose for photographs. The Society is grateful to Prudential for its early sponsorship for this event.



Mr. Young, pictured here, has appeared before audiences at White House, Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, the JFK Library, and the Smithsonian's American History Museum, to name just a few venues on his resume. He has spoken at hundreds of historical societies, libraries, schools, retirement homes, and festivals throughout the country.

LHS Annual Dinner

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 6:00 pm
The Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel
700 Lackawanna Avenue

6:00 pm: Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres in the Lobby (cash bar)

7:00 pm: Dinner (served as buffet)

8:00 pm: Program

\$50 per person

Please fill out and return with your payment by October 4, 2017 to the Lackawanna Historical Society, 232 Monroe Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

No. of Reservations _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
232 MONROE AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18510

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| WED., SEPT. 20 | <i>DINE LACKAWANNA</i> at <i>JW's Pub & Eatery at Heart Lake Lounge</i> (see page 4) |
| SAT., SEPT. 23, 11 AM | <i>DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR</i> (call to register)
Starts at Nancy K. Holmes Library of Green Ridge Street & Wyoming Avenue |
| TUES., SEPT. 26, 7 PM | <i>REMEMBERING LOCAL VIETNAM CASUALTIES</i>
Lecture and Book Signing by Jason Amico at the Catlin House |
| SAT., SEPT. 30, 10 AM | <i>LIONS & OWLS & ELVES OH MY!</i> LRCA 30th anniversary walking tour (see page 3) |
| THURS. - SAT., OCT. 12-14 | <i>PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE</i> (see page 3) |
| WED., OCT. 18 | <i>DINE LACKAWANNA</i> at <i>Sidel's Restaurant</i> (see page 4) |
| FRI., OCT. 20, 6:30 PM | <i>SCRANTON AFTER DARK</i> downtown walking tour, \$5 per person (see page 3) |
| SUN., OCT. 22, 2 PM | <i>AN AFTERNOON WITH BUFFALO BILL</i> (see page 7)
A program by living historian Tom Jordan at the Catlin House |
| WED., OCT. 25, 6 PM | <i>A VISIT WITH PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT</i> (see page 15)
Annual Dinner program at the Radisson Lackawanna Station |
| SUN., NOV. 12, 2 PM | <i>THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE</i> (see page 7)
A program by LHS member James Dougher at the Catlin House |
| WED., NOV. 15 | <i>DINE LACKAWANNA</i> at POSH @ The Scranton Club (see page 4) |
| THURS. & FRI., DEC. 7/8 | <i>HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE</i> at the Catlin House Details TBA |

See page 14 for upcoming Civil War Roundtable topics!
Visit www.lackawannahistory.org and like us on Facebook for up-to-date listings of all activities!