



Luzerne County Historical Society FORECAST February 2018

Celebrate Spring with LCHS!

Members Opening at the LCHS Museum “Let’s Go Shopping! Stores of Yesteryear” Thursday, April 19—6-8 p.m.

Join us for a members-only opening of our newest exhibition at the Museum, 69 Rear South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre.



“Let’s Go Shopping! Stores of Yesteryear” reminisces about the shopping opportunities in Luzerne County and Wilkes-Barre during the 1800s and 1900s. The exhibit will draw from the LCHS collection of photos, documents and objects, offering a walk down memory lane past famous favorites like Woolworth’s, which got its start in Wilkes-Barre, and local gems like Blum Brothers and Isaac Long’s.

The exhibition opens to the public on Friday, April 20, and will be open Wednesday through Friday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Look for details on related programming this spring. The exhibit is supported by the Edith L. Reynolds Trust.

Above: Louis Tisch Grocery at 90 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, 1884-1905; Right: Pomeroy’s Department Store at Public Square and West Market Street, ca. 1940; both collection of the Luzerne County Historical Society.

160th Annual Meeting & Gala Dinner Friday, April 27, 2018—5-9 p.m. Westmoreland Club, Wilkes-Barre

Join us for the 160th annual meeting of the LCHS and our gala dinner at the Westmoreland Club! Inspired by our new exhibition, “Let’s Go Shopping!,” the gala dinner will celebrate the same theme with a new short play, “Wilkes-Barre Shops and Stores: A Stroll Back in Time,” written by Joseph Butkiewicz. Three vignettes starring Charles Miner Jr. (early 1800s), Miranda Sock (1934) and Deborah and Cindy, two local teens (Spring 1972), will bring memories of shopping in Wilkes-Barre to life.



A silent auction will accompany the dinner with an opportunity to bid on many local items from dinner out to decorative historic objects to a private tour of the museum with LCHS’s Executive Director!

Please remember that only LCHS members current as of February 28, 2018, are able to vote at the annual meeting, which starts at 5 p.m..

Tickets for the dinner are \$85 for members and \$95 for non-members. Tickets MUST be purchased in advance by April 18, 2018. For more information or to purchase tickets, email reservations@luzernehistory.org or call 570-823-6244 ext. 3.

We thank our presenting sponsor, Berkshire Asset Management LLC for their support of the LCHS Annual Meeting and Gala Dinner!

Don’t Forget! NEW HOURS at the Bishop Library and LCHS Museum

The **Library** is open from **12 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday, 12 to 6 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.**

The **Museum** is open from **2 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.**
The Bishop Library and LCHS Museum are closed on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

LCHS Forecast
Vol. 15 No. 1
February 2018

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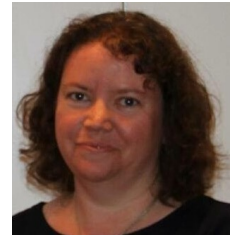
The mission of the Luzerne County Historical Society is to preserve and promote the collective history and heritage of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Message from the Executive Director

Hello! As we begin a new year, I look forward to continuing the Society's forward progress. We had a wonderful 2017: our membership increased by more than 200, our overall combined attendance increased more than 500 over 2016, and, with your generous support, we have raised over \$28,000 through the 2017-2018 annual appeal (see page 6!) - a substantial increase over last year (and there's still time to donate—the appeal closes on June 30!). We truly could not do what we do without each and every one of our members, visitors, donors and supporters. Thank you!

However, as many of you have noticed, we are facing some important—and costly—building maintenance projects including a new roof for both the Swetland and Denison Houses, as well as painting the Swetland and Hancock Houses. We are taking the first steps to address these projects and to establish a cyclical maintenance plan for all of our buildings, although our progress will be dependent on raising funds through donations, grants and other programs.

Please remember that we have new hours at the Museum and Bishop Library (see page 1). We hope that these changes will make the museum and library more accessible for you—our members and our patrons. And, be sure to consult page 3 for the calendar of our upcoming events.



Thank you for your support of the Luzerne County Historical Society—I hope to see you soon!
Aimee E. Newell, Ph.D.

LCHS Wish List

Can you help us?

We are in need of the following items:

- Lateral filing cabinets
- Canister vacuum cleaners (2)
- iPads (2-3)
- Dehumidifier(s)
- Acid-free textile storage boxes (\$50-\$150 each)

We will accept donations of used items as long as they are in good condition and good working order. We would also appreciate donations of cash toward the purchase of these items.

Call 570-823-6244 ext 1 or email info@luzernehistory.org if you can help!

Please contact us before dropping off an item so that we can be sure to acknowledge your generosity.

Calendar of Events—February through June 2018

February 15—Thursday

Lecture, “Embattled Freedom: Chronicle of a Fugitive-Slave Haven in the Wary North,” by Jim Remsen, 6:30 p.m. Museum, FREE for members, \$5 for non-members.

February 24—Saturday

Gallery talk in “Points of View: Luzerne County Landscapes” by Aimee E. Newell, LCHS Executive Director, 12 p.m., Museum; FREE for members, \$5 museum admission for non-members.



March 17 - Saturday

Last day for “Points of View: Luzerne County Landscapes,” Museum. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members.

March 29— Thursday

Lecture and book-signing, “Hurricane Agnes in the Wyoming Valley,” by Bryan Glahn, 6 p.m., Museum, FREE for members, \$5 for non-members.

March 31—Saturday

Museum and Bishop Library closed in observance of Easter Weekend.

April 12—Thursday

Lecture, “Baseball in 1860,” by Mark J. Riccetti Jr., 6:30 p.m. Museum, FREE for members, \$5 for non-members.

April 19—Thursday

Members exhibit opening, “Let’s Go Shopping! Stores of Yesteryear,” 6-8 p.m., Museum; FREE for members.

April 27—Friday

160th Annual Meeting and Gala Dinner of the Luzerne County Historical Society. Program theme – Stores of Yesteryear in Wilkes-Barre. Meeting at 5 p.m.; Cocktails and dinner start at 5:30 p.m. Silent auction. Westmoreland Club, 59 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre. \$85 members; \$95 non-members. **Reservations required in advance. To vote at the Annual Meeting, your membership MUST be current as of 2/28/2017.**

May 5—Saturday

Genealogy Workshop at the Bishop Library. Learn about our resources and how to research your family. 2-4 p.m. \$15 members, \$25 non-members. **Spaces are limited—Reservations required in advance.**

May 17-20—Thursday-Sunday

Fine Arts Fiesta, Public Square. Visit the LCHS booth! FREE. <http://fineartsfiesta.org/>.

May 18 - Friday

International Museum Day; Museum FREE to all.

May 26—Saturday

Museum and Bishop Library closed in observance of Memorial Day Weekend.

May 27—Sunday

Nathan Denison House opens for tours, Sundays through September 2, 1-4 p.m., Denison Street, Forty Fort, FREE for members, \$5 for adults, \$3 for children.



June 9—Saturday

Lecture, “Swetland Family Needlework Samplers” by Aimee E. Newell, 12 p.m., Swetland Homestead, 885 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, FREE for members, \$5 for non-members.

June 23—Saturday

“Community Conversation—Agnes 45 Years Later.” 12 p.m. at the Museum. Come share your stories and memories of Hurricane Agnes. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members.

June 29—Friday

Games Night at the Swetland Homestead! 6:30 p.m. Try out popular games from the 1800s—croquet, lawn darts, horseshoes and more. Come in costume from any era (or alternate reality). Food and drink available. \$10 members; \$15 non-members; FREE for kids.

July 4—Wednesday

Museum and Bishop Library closed—Join us at the Wyoming Battle Monument ceremony!

**To make a reservation for any event, call 570-823-6244, ext. 3
or email reservations@luzernehistory.org.**



Buy a Book! Help the Bishop Library

We would like to add these books to our library collection. If the book listed has a price, it is currently available and we would love to have you purchase it for us. If the book listed does NOT have a price, it is out of print—do you have a copy that you would be willing to donate? Please call us at 570-823-6244 ext. 2 or email library@luzernehistory.org to claim a book.

Peaceable Kingdom Lost: The Paxton Boys and the Destruction of William Penn's Holy Experiment by Kevin Kenny, Oxford University—\$21.95

Vital Records of Dallas Methodist Church, from the Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society—\$10.00

Connecticut's Pennsylvania "Colony" 1754-1810: Susquehanna Company Proprietors, Settlers, & Claimants by Donna B. Munger, Heritage Books, 2007—3 vols., \$35.00 each

SS Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Plymouth [cemetery book] - \$30

History of Glen Summit Springs by the Mountain Top Historical Society.

The History and Genealogy of the Drum Family by Laura Helman, 1927.

History of Butler Township, Luzerne Co, 1786-1880.

Tombstone Inscriptions: St. John's Lutheran & Reformed Cemetery, Luzerne County by Norm and Peggy Drasher, 1993—\$25

Two Hundred Years of Progress: Butler Twp, 1784-1984 by Drums Lions Club, Butler Twp.

THANK YOU to Barbara Williams and an anonymous donor for helping us acquire four of the books on our list in the September 2017 newsletter!

Coming Soon! Silent Auction at LCHS Gala—April 27!

We are hard at work gathering items for the Silent Auction at our Gala Dinner on April 27! Bid early and bid often! Lots will include delicious restaurant certificates, antiques and rare books, decorative home items and much more!

Silent Auction donor Alice Sallada and LCHS Executive Director Aimee Newell show off two woven coverlets that will be up for bid on April 27.



We Welcome Our NEW Members!

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Ms. Irene Brislin
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Intern Journal: Working on the Welles Collection by Amber Kelley, Student at Misericordia University



My internship at the Luzerne County Historical Society was a valuable experience. I was able to build on cataloging skills that I learned at my previous internship. I completed my goal of indexing the Welles Collection, a large collection with books, photographs, letters and more. The most challenging aspect was the letters, due to the handwriting. Many of the words were written at a fast pace, so they appear as scribbles. It was not easy to figure out the names of the letter recipients, or the names of the senders. However, I persevered and was often successful at figuring out the names of recipients and senders. Another challenge was the condition of some of the letters. Many were frail, or had multiple tears, discoloration and so on. This made locating names on the letters more difficult.

I also learned a new skill during my LCHS internship: using microfilm and becoming familiar with that technology. I used microfilm to answer a specific research request that needed information pertaining to marriage records and deeds. The micro-filmed marriage records were the most difficult because the microfilm had many sheets that were dark, making it difficult to read the slides. However, I was able to find the specific names that the patron was looking for.

My LCHS internship experience helped me decide to go into this field and become an archivist. Amanda Fontenova, the LCHS Director of Library and Archives, helped me learn about the type of graduate program I should pursue and she talked with me about the specific skills someone in her position needs to develop, such as public speaking. Overall, the staff at the Luzerne County Historical Society were great and I am thankful that I had the opportunity to work with them over the fall semester. The skills I developed during the internship and the people I worked with at the Luzerne County Historical Society were the elements that made my internship profitable; I hope in the near future that I am able to come back and volunteer.

Editor's note: We were thrilled to have Amber with us over the fall. Her index of the Welles Collection is a valuable resource for our patrons and our staff. We wish her the best with her continued studies and future career! For more information on an LCHS internship, email info@luzernehistory.org.

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The Wyoming Valley Benefits Fund

2017-2018 LCHS Annual Appeal

A huge thank you to all who donated to the LCHS 2017-2018 annual appeal! These donations are essential to our operating fund and will allow us to bring you the 2018 programs that are listed in our calendar of events. Our fiscal year ends on June 30, 2018. We welcome donations in all amounts, which can be sent to the Luzerne County Historical Society, 49 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. Please mark your check "annual appeal" on the memo line. As of January 18, we received \$28,314 from 162 donors.

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New to the LCHS Museum Collection!

by Mark J. Riccetti Jr., LCHS Director of Operations & Programs

This past autumn, Jerry Matcho donated his father's uniform from his days as a player/manager for the Brookside Yanks baseball team to the LCHS. This baseball uniform, consisting of shirt and pants, helps us to interpret local history, but also illustrates the evolution of national baseball history.

The Brookside Yanks (who played from the 1930s into the 1950s) were one of the better teams in the Wilkes-Barre area. They played their home games at Hollenback Park while being based out of a café on the corner of Madison and Elm Streets. The Yanks are an example of the local community baseball teams that many American towns fielded from the late 1800s to the 1960s.

The uniform, which belonged to Michael Matcho and dates from his late-1940s/early-1950s run with the team, demonstrates where baseball uniforms had come from, and where they were going, in terms of design. When baseball began in the New York City area in the 1840s, men simply came to

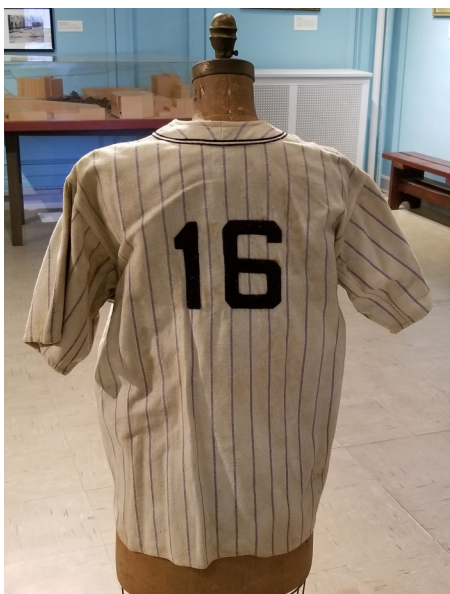
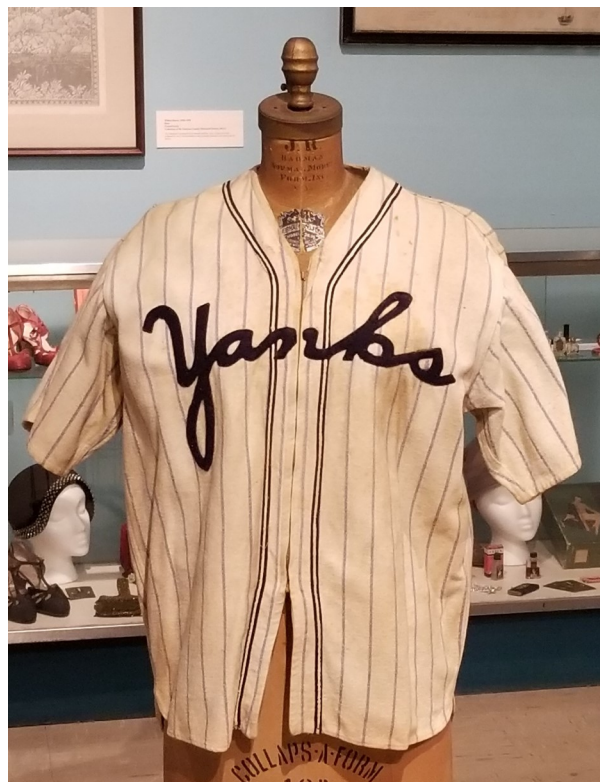
practices and games after work. So, the first "uniforms" were their clothes. On a daily basis,

men wore button-down shirts with detachable collars and cuffs, vests and jackets. They removed their jacket, collar and cuffs to play. Thus, the classic baseball uniform style of a button-down shirt with what we now call three-quarter sleeves and collar trim with a vest on top was born. The Colorado Rockies still play in a uniform of this style.

While this Yanks jersey resembles today's uniforms with its trim and button-down style, it also has a zipper, which is not as popular today. This was common in Major League Baseball during the 1930s and 1940s. The White Sox first wore zippered uniforms in 1937. By the early 1960s, twelve teams wore zippered uniforms. The fad died out quickly—by 1975 only the Phillies still wore them (and continued to do so until 1986).

You may have noticed that on the back there is no name, a practice that a few teams (the Yankees, Red Sox, and Giants) still follow today. There is the number 16, however, since numbers became commonplace in the 1940s after famously being made popular by the Yankee teams of the 1930s (although the Cleveland Indians actually did it first).

We appreciate Mr. Matcho's generous gift very much. It is not only a wonderful piece of local sports history, but a fascinating piece of American baseball history, showing that baseball still has visible roots of its origin as an 1840s gentleman's pastime.



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