

FORECAST



The Luzerne County Historical Society will host its 2nd Annual Fall Festival on the grounds of the beautiful and historic 1803 Swetland Homestead at 885 Wyoming Avenue from noon to 3 pm on Saturday, October 10. This fall event was started at the request of members and over 100 people attended last year to make it such a success that we are doing it again. The Festival will feature a delicious Chicken BBQ by Silaveri's Catering, a bake sale, an authentic Civil War encampment featuring the 143rd PA Volunteer Infantry Regiment, First Person Living History Tours of the 1803 Swetland Homestead, and period correct Colonial and Victorian games on the lawns for children. The Festival will also include a Hat Contest with awards for Largest and Most Extravagant Hat, Prettiest Hat, and Closest to the theme: Fall Foliage. Don't forget to bake your favorite homemade pie and have it entered for judging in our Pie Contest. All of this entertainment and education is included in one ticket for the low price of \$10 for LCHS members and \$15 for nonmembers. Children under 10 years of age are FREE with an accompanying paying adult. So come enjoy delicious chicken and all the fixings, learn how Union Soldiers camped, marched and drilled, and see how citizens of the Wyoming Valley lived and entertained themselves. This will be one fun, action filled Saturday afternoon when you can also enjoy the fall foliage of the Swetland Grounds. For tickets or more information, call the Luzerne County Historical Society at 570-823-6244 ext. 3 or email reservations@luzernehistory.org.



Downtown Wilkes-Barre Ghost Walks

The Luzerne County Historical Society is proud to announce that our Annual Downtown Wilkes-Barre Ghost Walks will be returning again this year. The popular tours will run October 23 and 24. Come join us for a walking tour of the downtown historic district and learn about totally true ghosts, murders, and hidden graveyards, all right here in the Diamond City! Stops include: Public Square, the site of the former Sterling Hotel, River Street, and the only known place where Romans walked right here in Wilkes-Barre. Come join the Society's own Dr. William V. Lewis as he takes you on a trip through the darker side of the city from the mid-1700s through the 20th century.

All tours start in front of our Museum at 69 South Franklin Street at 6:45pm and last approximately 2 hours. Cost is \$7 for LCHS Members, \$10 for nonmembers.

Tours are limited to the first 35 reservations ONLY and due to the popularity of these tours RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. To make reservations call 570-823-6244 ext. 3 or email reservations@luzernehistory.org.

Wonderful trip to Gettysburg!

Members and friends enjoyed a full day excursion to the Gettysburg Battlefield co-hosted by Steve and Estella Killian. Steve provided an overview of the Civil War events that led to confrontation at Gettysburg and answered questions as we traveled.

A licensed battlefield guide joined us and provided a tour with a special focus on the troops from Luzerne County. Everyone was impressed with the new Visitor's Center exhibit and the beautifully restored Cyclorama.

Thanks to Anne and Jerry Postupack of Cameo House Bus Tours who made all of the arrangements for us. They have a number of interesting upcoming trips including the Hudson River Valley and the Treasures of the Vatican at the Franklin Institute. Contact Anne at anne.cameo@verizon for details or to be added to her email list. Be sure to let her know you are a member of the Historical Society.

The Luzerne County Historical Society held a book signing and meet and greet with author and Native American Historian Royal Sutton. Mr. Sutton signed copies of his new book, "On the Edge of Extinction," which features photographic portraits made originally from glass plate negatives done by Frank A. Rinehart, the premier photographer in Omaha, who was appointed the Official Photographer for the Trans-Mississippi Expo. The Trans-Mississippi Expo took place in 1898 and, at the last minute, it was decided to bring about 500 Indians to the Expo to show attendees the human side of this misunderstood people. Rinehart had the unique opportunity to produce photographic portraits of each of the Native Americans in attendance. "The Edge of Extinction" not only highlights some of those portraits of this handsome race, but also gives a view of life in Omaha, the commentary of the national press concerning the Trans-Mississippi, a look at photographer Rinehart and more so as to help understand this time in the history of the Midwest.



The 5th annual LCHS Classic Car Show was held on May 5 with over 300 people attending. Registration closed at 12:30 as over 160 vehicles spanning 101 years of automotive history packed the grounds at the Swetland Homestead. Volunteers served hot dogs and hamburgers and DJ Steel Dragon entertained during the Classic Car show which has become one of the fastest growing events for the Society and for the NEPA automotive scene as well. Pictured is this year's "Best of Show" a beautiful Pontiac Catalina 2+2 Convertible.

Halloween Weekend Events at the Swetland Homestead and Nathan Denison House

October 30th and 31st 2015

Victorian Death and Mourning at the Swetland Homestead

On the eve of all saints and souls days, there will be tours and exhibits on mourning practices, grieving customs and celebrations of death from the 18th through 20th centuries. See an actual re-enactment of the Victorian funeral of Maggie Swetland who really was buried out of the house in the 1860's. After seeing how people of the 19th century dealt with death, come and learn about "modern" medicine, as the 143rd PA Volunteer Infantry will set up a real live Civil War Field Hospital. See amputations, extractions, and other "gentle" medical techniques, from the unit's own in-house surgeon. 7pm to 9pm both days, \$8 for LCHS members \$10 for non-members.

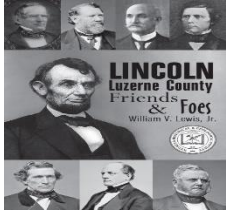
Colonial Superstitions, Folklore and Witchcraft at the Nathan Denison House

Come to the Nathan Denison House this Halloween for an all new event where you will learn about superstitions, burial practices, myths and afterlife beliefs of the Colonial Era, as told by our costumed Denison Advocates. Learn about the many varied torments that made up the crime of "Witchcraft", right here in the Valley! You will also hear many famous folk tales that kept Colonials up at night! Time: 6pm-9pm both days. Price: \$5 for Adults \$3 for Children

For tickets or more info, call 570-823-6244 ext. 3 or email reservations@luzernehistory.org. Attend both and receive \$1 off admission!

Why waste money on a haunted house, when reality is far worse than anything you can possibly imagine?

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



The Luzerne County Historical Society has released its new publication to coincide with this year's 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

The Society's new publication, *Lincoln: Luzerne County Friends and Foes*, examines the lives of area men who supported Lincoln in his run for the Presidency and during his time in office as well as those local politicians who actively worked against Lincoln. Written by local historian and author Dr. William V. Lewis, Jr., the book looks at leading politicians from Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties or those who had significant ties to the area. (Until 1878, Lackawanna County was part of Luzerne County.) While many today believe that the Northern states were solidly in support of Lincoln during his years as president, a significant portion of the North and its political leaders adamantly opposed him and his efforts during the Civil War.

Cost of the book is \$8 (with LCHS members receiving a 10% discount) and the book is available at our research library and museum. Also the book can be ordered and shipped to your home by calling 570-823-6244 ext. 3

Calendar of Events

- September 5-- LCHS Closed for Labor Day
- September 13-- Birthday party for Colonel Nathan Denison at Denison House
- October 4-- Denison Harvest Festival
- October 10-- 2nd Annual Fall Festival at the Swetland Homestead
- October 23-24-- Downtown Wilkes-Barre Ghost Walks
- October 30 - 31 -- Civil War Field Hospital and Victorian Death and Mourning at Swetland
- October 30 – 31-- Colonial Superstitions, Folklore and Witchcraft at Denison House
- November 26 – 30 --LCHS Closed for Thanksgiving
- December 3-6 -- Swetland Candlelight Christmas Tours
- December 5 – 6-- Afternoons of Colonial Hospitality at Denison

Did you know that a Confederate Battalion made it as far as Benton? Did you know that what is today Columbia County was a hot bed for Copperheads? (Northerners who supported the Confederacy) Did you know that Lee intended to send some of his forces here to “the coal fields north of the Susquehanna” after Gettysburg? Do you know what would have happened if he had? Over 60 individuals learned all this and much more, as, for the first time ever, the Luzerne County Historical Society, in partnership with the 48th Mississippi Regiment, and the 143rd Pennsylvania Regiment re-enactors hosted an alternate history event, “The Swetland Homestead, Under the Stars and Bars” on June 20 and June 21 at historic 1803 Swetland Homestead, Wyoming PA. Based on Colonial Williamsburg’s “Redcoat Weekends,” the event centered on what would have happened if the Confederates had won at Gettysburg and continued their long march north. The Swetlands were staunch abolitionists (so much so they purchased a sugar cane plantation in Baton Rouge in the 1840s and freed the slaves there) and strong believers in the preservation of the Union, so as such, a Confederate incursion would be interesting to say the least. The weekend featured two Civil War encampments, drilling, fighting, and the dozens of attendees then saw something quite rare up north, looting and pillaging as Captain Thomas Manlove of Vicksburg, MS lead the attendees through his newly captured home. In addition to costumed tours of the house, attendees were treated to demonstrations of both Union and Confederate battle doctrine, tactics and equipment of the Civil War, and were able to see how the Confederates governed conquered Northern Territory.



In August, the Luzerne County Historical Society, the PA 143rd Volunteer Infantry and the 48th Mississippi Infantry Regiment presented a weekend of Civil War Games and Leisure Activities. Games such as Mumbly Peg, Shut the Box, Corn hole, Splits, and vintage card games were explained and played. The Homestead was also open for tours by costumed guides and there was a Civil War encampment on the grounds.

Luzerne County Historical Society

49 South Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Phone: 570-823-6244

Fax: 570-823-9011

Email: lchs@epix.net

www.luzernehistory.org

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