

Join Us!

BUS TRIP to the Museum of the American Revolution!

Saturday, November 2, 2019—8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Come along to Philadelphia to see the special exhibition, "Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier" at the Museum of the American Revolution (MAR). Tickets include round-trip coach transportation, admission to the special exhibition and the MAR core exhibitions, as well as a "lunch and learn" session, "Making the Museum," with lunch included. Member tickets are \$85, nonmember tickets are \$100; **must be purchased by October 17, 2019.**

To purchase tickets, or for more information:
call 570-823-6244 x1 or email info@luzernehistory.org.

Give the Past a Future
Bishop Memorial Library
LCHS Museum
Denison House
Sweetland Homestead

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.luzernehistory.org
info@luzernehistory.org
570-823-6244

Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

49 South Franklin Street

Luzerne County Historical Society

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Luzerne County Historical Society

FORECAST

September 2019

Harvest Fest

Sunday, October 6, 2019—1 to 5 p.m.
Denison House, 35 Denison Street, Forty Fort

On Sunday, October 6, 2019, from 1 to 5 p.m., early American craftsmen and artisans will come to life at the Nathan Denison House! Harvest Fest will feature demonstrations of cross-cut sawing, 1700s weapons, quill pen and ink drawing, wood carving, wheat weaving and much more. Hearth cooking methods from the 1700s will be demonstrated in the Denison House kitchen. The use of herbs and spices during the 1700s will be discussed. Contemporary examples of primitive artwork, as well as locally-made honey and candles will also be available for sale.



Children are invited to try their hand at 1700s toys and crafts. A string ensemble from Wyoming Valley West will entertain with music of the period. Admission is \$5 for LCHS member adults and \$3 for LCHS member children; \$7 for non-member adults and \$5 for non-member children. Children aged 5 and under are free. For more information call 570-823-62-44 ext. 3 or email reservations@luzernehistoy.org.

Special thanks to the Bergman Foundation for their sponsorship of this program!

Dining with Friends

Have a wonderful meal and help raise funds for LCHS

Wednesday, October 23, 2019—Cork

Join Society members and supporters on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at Cork, 463 Madison Street, Wilkes-Barre, for the next "Dining with Friends" evening! The restaurant will generously donate 10% of its proceeds that night to the Historical Society.

Come out for a delicious meal while helping the Society at the same time! **Please call Cork directly at 570-270-3818** to make reservations and mention that you are with LCHS. The Society would like to thank Rob Friedman and the staff of Cork for their generosity in sponsoring this "Dining with Friends" evening. For more information about Cork, visit <https://corkdining.com/>. For questions about this program, call 570-823-6244 or email info@luzernehistory.org.

Festive Traditions

Plus—New This Year! Festive Wreaths!

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 7 & 8, 2019—1 to 4 p.m. p.m.
Sweetland Homestead, 885 Wyoming Ave., Wyoming

Plan now to join us for the Society's holiday-themed Festive Traditions program at the Sweetland Homestead on Saturday and Sunday, December 7 and 8, 2019, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Travel through time as you tour the house with costumed guides and explore how Christmas traditions evolved from the late 1700s through 1877.

New this year—we introduce Festive Wreaths! Browse our silent auction of holiday wreaths from local businesses and individuals; the highest bidders on Sunday at 4 p.m. win the wreaths!



Tours run regularly from 1 p.m. through 4 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$8 for members, \$12 for non-members and \$5 for kids 5-17. To purchase tickets in advance or to become a member, call 570-823-6244 ext. 3 or email reservations@luzernehistory.org. No reservations are needed, tickets can be purchased at the door.



LCHS Forecast
Vol. 16 No. 3
September 2019

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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

The Society had an exciting summer—our Road Rally was a success, with such popular response that we are already planning to bring it back next August! And, we were thrilled to receive an NEH grant to help us buy archival supplies, to start working on scanning and cataloging part of our map collection thanks to a grant from the PHMC, and to continue developing an archaeology program for kids at the Swetland Homestead thanks to a grant from the Willary Foundation! Read on for more about these projects inside.

This fall, we have many programs in the works, both at the Society and in collaboration with other organizations—the Sordoni Gallery, the League of Women Voters and Luzerne County Community College, to name a few—check our social media for more information. We are also pleased to offer a bus trip on November 2 to the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia to see the new exhibition about an Irish revolutionary soldier—see the back cover for details! As always, thank you for your support of the Luzerne County Historical Society—we could not give the past a future without you!

Aimee E. Newell, Ph.D.



LCHS President's Corner

Dear Members: I hope you had a good summer full of happy memories, restful moments, and perhaps a little history sprinkled in! My husband and I have a three-day trip planned to the Gettysburg Battlefield. Our host and guide will be Steve Killian, long-time LCHS board member and historian.

Many of you continue to comment on the chipping paint at the Swetland Homestead. Work will commence shortly, although the roof, gutters, and interior work must be addressed first before we can paint the exterior. I am pleased to report that the Society has engaged the firm of John Milner Associates, based in Chadds Ford, PA, to oversee the project. We are honored to have this prestigious, award-winning, firm overseeing the much-needed facelift of our historical treasure!

The Society is offering many programs and events throughout the fall and winter. Keep your eyes peeled for our annual Harvest Fest at Denison House on Sunday, October 6 (rain or shine). Festive Traditions is slated for the first weekend in December at the Swetland Homestead, which will be decorated for the Christmas season. On Thursday, January 23, 2020, the portraits hanging at the Westmoreland Club, which are owned by LCHS, will be explored during our second Portrait Walk. Champagne and light hors d'oeuvres will be included in the ticket price.

As always, the Society will start its Annual Appeal at the end of October. In a manner of speaking, **the Annual Appeal is our largest fundraiser.** We depend on our members, business and individual, to help us meet the needs of our day-to-day operations. I hope you will respond generously.

On behalf of the LCHS Board of Directors, THANK YOU for your continued support of our programs and events. Best wishes for a beautiful autumn!



Tish McCarthy Last, President

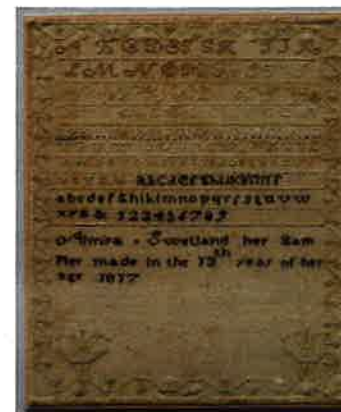
Calendar of Events—September through December 2019

September 14-15—Saturday-Sunday

Battle of Wyoming Walking Tours by Stephen B. Killian, 1 p.m. each day. \$7 members, \$10 nonmembers, \$5 all kids. Please note that this is a two-mile, two-hour rain or shine walk. **Reservations are required.**

September 18, October 16, November 20—Wednesdays

Guided Meditation by Jennifer Ciarimboli. 6:30 p.m. at the LCHS Museum. FREE to all.



September 22—Sunday

Lecture, Needlework Samplers by LCHS Executive Director Aimee E. Newell, Ph.D., 2 p.m., Denison House, 35 Denison Street, Forty Fort. FREE for members, \$5 for nonmember adults, \$3 for nonmember kids.

September 29—Sunday

Last day of the season for tours of the Nathan Denison House! 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 35 Denison Street, Forty Fort. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members, \$3 for nonmember kids.

September 29—Sunday

Tours of the Swetland Homestead, 885 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming. Noon to 4 p.m. FREE for members; \$5 for nonmembers, \$3 for nonmember kids.

October 6—Sunday

Harvest Fest, Denison House, 35 Denison Street, Forty Fort. 1-5 p.m. \$5 for members (\$3 for kids); \$7 for nonmembers (\$5 for kids). Enjoy demonstrations of period crafts and more!

October 10—Thursday

Lecture, "History of Brewing in Luzerne County," by LCHS Director of Operations and Programs Mark J. Riccetti Jr. 6:30 p.m., LCHS Museum, 69 Rear South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre. \$7 for members; \$10 for non-members. Beer and pretzels are included.

October 23—Wednesday

Dining with Friends at Cork. Support LCHS—10% of the proceeds come to the Society. 463 Madison Street, Wilkes-Barre. Call 570-270-3818 for reservations and mention the Society!

November 2—Saturday

Bus trip to Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. See the special exhibition, "Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier," along with the core exhibits. Lunch and learn session included with bus transportation. \$85 members, \$100 nonmembers. **Reservations required by October 17.**



November 14—

Thursday

Gallery Talk, The Battle of Wyoming at 240: Revolution on the Homefront, by LCHS Director of Operations and Programs Mark J. Riccetti, Jr., 6:30 p.m., LCHS Museum. FREE for members, \$5 for nonmembers.

November 28-30—Thursday, Friday, Saturday

LCHS Museum and Bishop Library closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

December 6—Friday

Last day to see The Battle of Wyoming at 240: Revolution on the Homefront." 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. FREE for members; \$5 for nonmember adults; \$3 for nonmember kids.

December 7-8—Saturday and Sunday



Festive Traditions and Festive Wreaths at the Swetland Homestead, 885 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming. 1-4 p.m. each day. \$8 for members, \$12 for nonmembers, \$5 for all kids under 18.

December 22 through January 1

LCHS Museum and Bishop Library closed in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day. Regular hours resume on Wednesday, January 2.

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

Thank You! Summer 2019 Donations to LCHS

We rely on the generosity of our community, members and supporters to continue to give the past a future. Thank you to these donors who helped us over the summer!

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Interested in Volunteering? We Need Your Help!

Do you want to learn more about history? Have you always wondered about how museums and libraries care for and research their collections? Or would you like to help out at Society programs and events? The Luzerne County Historical Society is looking for volunteers who can commit to short-term and/or long-term projects.

Current volunteer opportunities include:

- **Tour guides at the Denison and Swetland Houses** – enthusiasm and curiosity are required, as well as good people skills. Training is provided.
- **Front desk help and researchers at the Bishop Library** in Wilkes-Barre – previous research experience is preferred, but not required.
- **Inventory volunteers** at the LCHS Museum and Bishop Library – computer skills are helpful and attention to detail is essential.
- **Special Events and Booth Sitters** – help out at our events and programs and/or at our information booths at local events, like the Fine Arts Fiesta.

Training is provided for all volunteer positions. Please call 570-823-6244 ext. 1 with questions or email info@luzernehistory.org!



2018-2019 LCHS Annual Appeal Wrap-Up

Thank you to all who gave to the LCHS 2018-2019 annual appeal—you helped us to achieve another record-breaking year with donations totaling \$60,638! These donations are essential to our operating funds and allow us to bring you the programs listed in our calendar of events. Our fiscal year ended on June 30, 2019, with gifts from 218 donors. Here, we recognize donations received since our May 2019 newsletter, wrapping up the FY2019 appeal. Keep an eye out for our 2019-2020 appeal this fall—we need you!

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LCHS Awarded Grants to Help with Exhibitions, Collections Storage and Cataloging, and Archaeology Program

LCHS is pleased to announce several successful grants received over the spring and summer! Awards were made by federal, state and local grantors and will help the Society to move forward with its strategic goals to diversify its programming and to improve the stewardship of its collection. We thank these funders for their support!

- A grant from the **Edith L. Reynolds Trust** will help the Society with its museum exhibitions. The Society aims to open two changing exhibitions each year; planning is underway for new exhibitions in Spring 2020.
- A **Historical Archives and Records Care grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)** is providing funds to scan, catalog and encapsulate the LCCHS collection of hand-drawn maps and selected unpublished blueprint maps.
- LCCHS will use funds from a **Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities** to purchase archival supplies to better



house segments of its museum and library collection, data-loggers to track temperature and humidity at its library, museum and historic houses, and a light meter to monitor light levels for collections objects.

- With a grant from the **Willary Foundation**, LCCHS will continue to develop and implement a hands-on program about archaeology at the Swetland Homestead for school-age children. The program will teach children about the im-

portance of archaeology to learn about the past and what we can learn about the family and local history from digs at the Swetland Homestead.



Why Legacy Giving?

A legacy gift is a planned future donation to the Luzerne County Historical Society, given through a will as a percentage bequest, a specific bequest, or a property bequest. You may also consider other forms of designation such as a beneficiary, a life insurance policy or a trust. It is a decision that each person makes in their own financial planning process, taking into account their charitable wishes and values.

Past legacy gifts to the Society allowed us to purchase and maintain the Bishop Library, fund the research materials of the Library and maintain Swetland Homestead. We recently received a designated gift which will allow us to make significant and much needed repairs to the Swetland Homestead property and programs.

Legacy gifts ensure that we can continue our important mission to preserve and promote the collective history and heritage of Luzerne County. **Please consider discussing a legacy gift to LCCHS with your financial advisors, tax accountants, or estate planning attorneys.** You can make an important contribution to the future sustainability of the Society!



Intern Journal

Allison Spencer and the LCCHS Mining Photographs

We have been thrilled to have intern Allison Spencer with us this summer at the Bishop Library. Allison, who is pursuing her Master's degree in Library and Information Science at Drexel University, scanned a significant portion of the Society's collection of mining-related photos, helped to input inventory data



about the photos into our collections management database and put together an online exhibition with a selection of the photos.

"I really enjoyed working on the online exhibition," Allison said. "It allowed me to think creatively about the themes represented by the photos and to put them together to tell the story of mining in Luzerne County." The exhibition, "Coal Mining in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania," can be viewed by visiting <https://luzernehistory.omeka.net/>.

As Allison discovered, the history of coal mining in Northeastern Pennsylvania goes back hundreds of years. The LCCHS collection includes photographs, stereographs, negatives, and postcards, some of which date back to the early 1800s. Allison scanned and uploaded more than 100 images from the LCCHS collection for the digital collection available with the online exhibit.

The exhibition is organized into several sections, some highlighting the types of mining images in the LCCHS collection (postcards, stereographs, etc.), with other sections related to mining history

(inside the mines, mining equipment and machinery, mining accidents and disasters, etc.). Look for a post by Allison on our blog about one of her most interesting finds—<https://luzernehistory.org/collections/blog/>.

We wish Allison the best as she completes her Master's program. And, we hope that our members and community will check out the online exhibition and remember that you can come to the Bishop Library to see the photos and other images for your own research!

Above: Intern Allison Spencer in the Photo Room pulling out mining-related photos for scanning; Right: Wilkes-Barre miners (David Meredith is on right with pipe), ca. 1902.

