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Don't Miss Games Night!

June 29, 2018—5 to 9 p.m.

Try your hand at historical games
Come in costume
Food and drink



\$10 members; \$15 non-members
Kids under 18 are FREE!

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885 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming

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Luzerne County Museum
Denison House
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Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

49 South Franklin Street

Luzerne County Historical Society

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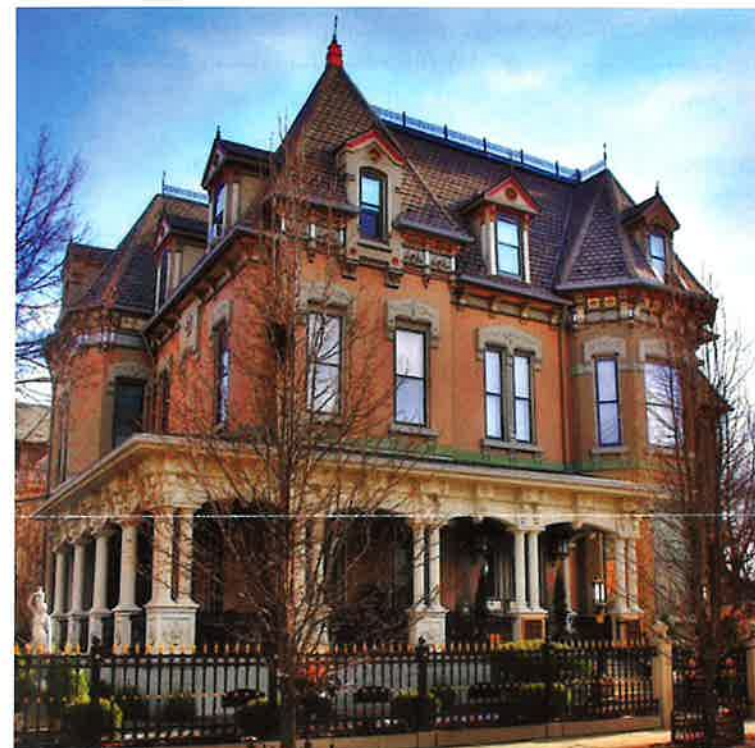


Luzerne County Historical Society FORECAST

June 2018

A Glimpse of the Gilded Age

Thursday, August 2, 2018—5-8 p.m.
304 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre



Take a step back in time and enjoy a glimpse of the gilded age on our tour of the Frederick Stegmaier Mansion. Guides will tell stories of the 1890s and early 1900s in America and in Wilkes-Barre, as well as fill you in on the Victorian-era décor and Stegmaier family history. Enjoy champagne, punch and light appetizers as you stroll through this elegant setting.

After the tour, continue the gilded age experience by adding dinner at the Mary Stegamier Mansion (156 South Franklin Street).

Tour tickets are \$40 for members and \$50 for non-members. Add dinner for \$50 for members (\$90 total per person) and \$60 for non-members (\$110 total per person). For more information or to purchase tickets, email reservations@luzernehistory.org, call 570-823-6244 ext. 3, or visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-glimpse-of-the-gilded-age-tickets-46229519738?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.

Thank you to the Bergman Foundation for their generous support of this program!

Kids Crafts at the LCHS Museum! Thursdays—July 12, 19 and August 9, 2018—2:30 p.m. 69 Rear South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre

Join us for our kids craft programs this summer at the LCHS Museum! Children will learn a local history lesson and create a craft that connects to the museum's exhibitions and collections. The topics are:

- Thursday, July 12 – Shopping Bag Design
- Thursday, July 26 – Stained Glass Windows
- Thursday, August 9 – Native American-Inspired Beadwork

Reservations are required for these programs. Tickets are \$5 per child for non-member children and FREE for children of LCHS members. Price includes the activity and a beverage. Tickets may be purchased by calling 570-823-6244 ext. 3 or by emailing reservations@luzernehistory.org.



LCHS Forecast
Vol. 15 No. 2
June 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! I continue to be extremely grateful for our members, donors, volunteers and supporters. As I write this we have just surpassed the \$34,000 mark for our 2017-2018 annual appeal, which is a record-breaker for the Society! And, there is still time to donate—the appeal closes at the end of our fiscal year on June 30. See page 6 for details and recognition of our most recent donors.

As many of you know, we are a private nonprofit organization—we do **not** get funding from the county or the city, and we get one small annual grant from the state. We have a dedicated staff, but it is small, and we have four historic buildings to look after. Your membership and donations make an essential and vital difference to our work on giving the past a future. Thank you for showing us—and your community—that our history is important!

We have some fantastic programs coming up this summer and fall. Our tour of the Frederick Stegmaier Mansion on August 2 offers an exciting chance to immerse ourselves in the Gilded Age. And, after the tour, you have the option to continue the evening with dinner at the Mary Stegmaier Mansion—come with old friends or make new ones by joining us!

Don't miss our Games Night on June 29 at the Swetland Homestead. We'll have lots of indoor and outdoor historical games to learn and play. And, feel free to come in costume from your favorite era or reality.

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—June through September 2018

June 23—Saturday

Community Conversation—Agnes 46 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! 5-9 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 Battle of Wyoming Monument ceremony!

FREE admission to the Denison House after the ceremony—see a re-enactment of the capitulation between Nathan Denison and John Butler.

July 7—Saturday

Last day to see “This momentous and tragic day”: Agnes at 45, Museum. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. FREE for members; \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids.

July 12—Thursday



Kids Craft #1—Design your own shopping bag; 2:30 p.m. Museum, FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. See page 1.

July 22—Sunday

Lecture—Revolutionary War Medicine by Jeff Smith, 2

p.m., Denison House, 35 Denison Street, Forty Fort; FREE for members; \$5 for non-member adults; \$3 for non-member kids.

July 26—Thursday

Kids Craft #2—Stained glass windows; 2:30 p.m. Museum, FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. See page 1.

August 2—Thursday

A Glimpse of the Gilded Age, tour the Frederick Stegmaier Mansion, 5-8 p.m. \$40 members, \$50 non-members. Add dinner at the Mary Stegmaier Mansion (\$50 members, \$60 non-members). 304 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre. **Reservations are required.** See page 1.

August 9—Thursday

Kids Craft #3—Native American Beading; 2:30 p.m. Museum, FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. See page 1.

August 16—Thursday

Community Conversation—Let's Go Shopping! 6:30 p.m. at the Museum. Share your stories and memories about shops and shopping in the Wyoming Valley. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members.

August 18-19—Saturday & Sunday

Encampment at the Denison House! 35 Denison Street, Forty Fort. \$5 for members; \$3 for member children; \$7 for non-member adults, \$5 for non-member children.

September 1—Saturday

LCHS Museum and Bishop Library closed in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

September 7—Friday

Exhibit opening, Battle of Wyoming at 240: Revolution on the Homefront, Museum. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE to all.



September 15-16—Saturday & Sunday

Battle of Wyoming Walking Tours by Stephen Killian. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sept. 15, 1 p.m. on Sept. 16. \$7 members, \$10 non-members. Please note that this is a two-mile, two-hour walk. **Reservations are required.**

September 20—Thursday

Lecture—“Heynabonics”: How we talk in NEPA by Will Butkiewicz, Museum. 6:30 p.m. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members.

September 23—Sunday

Demonstration—Early American Fiber Arts: spinning, dyeing, weaving and more. 1-4 p.m. at the Denison House, 35 Denison Street, Forty Fort. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members, \$3 for non-member kids.

September 27—Thursday

Lecture—The Yankee-Pennamite War—A Brief Overview by Bob Mischak, Museum. 6:30 p.m. FREE for members; \$5 for non-members.

To make a reservation for any event, or for more information, 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

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

Remembering Freeland by Norm Drasher, Closson Press—\$24.95

History of Hazleton Part 2 and Part 3 by Norm Drasher, Closson Press—\$21.00

Wyoming Valley: Proud People, Proud History by Tom Mooney, 2000 (can find used on Amazon.com)

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

THANK YOU to Estella Killian, in honor of Stephen B. Killian, James Ahlbrandt and Rich Jenkins for helping us to acquire three of the books on our list in the February 2018 newsletter!

Denison House is Open for the Season!

The Nathan Denison House at 35 Denison Street in Forty Fort is open for the 2018 season. Tours of the house, provided by the Denison Advocates, are available on Sundays through September 30 from 1 to 4 pm. Admission is free for members (\$5 for non-members and \$3 for children)! Nathan Denison was one of the first forty shareholders in the Susquehanna Company to settle five new towns or townships in the Wyoming Valley in February 1769. Denison became a popular leader of the pioneer settlers from Connecticut. He served as a Justice of the Peace and colonel of the local militia, distinguishing himself in the ill-fated Battle of Wyoming in 1778.

We are pleased to host a series of programs at the Denison House this summer and fall, starting on July 4th with a reenactment of the signing of the capitulation after the Battle of Wyoming in 1778. The Denison House will be open for free to all after the annual ceremony at the Wyoming Monument. Come see Nathan Denison and John Butler reenact the capitulation 240 years later!

On July 22, Jeff Smith will give a talk at 2 p.m. at the Denison House to demonstrate the tools used for Revolutionary-era medicine. And, on September 23, Caron Nelson and Alyse Roote will demonstrate colonial-era fiber arts, including spinning, dyeing, weaving and more. Check the LCHS website and Facebook page for more information.



Intern News: LCHS's First Online Exhibit



Thanks to our Spring 2018 intern, Jeff Stanford, a senior digital history major at Wilkes University, we were able to scan our collection of Hurricane Agnes photos and to go live with our first online exhibition! You can view the exhibit at <http://luzernehistory.omeka.net/exhibits/show/agnes-flood-of-1972>.

Taking inspiration from our current museum exhibition, "This momentous and tragic day": Agnes at 45, the online exhibition has three sections: destruction and clean up, Forty Fort Cemetery and Nesbitt Memorial Hospital. Viewers can browse the exhibit and leave comments if they want to share memories or information about the subjects of specific photos.

We look forward to offering more online exhibitions in the future. Check our Facebook page and website for more information! For more information on an LCHS internship, email info@luzernehistory.org.

An unidentified house showing the effects of the Agnes flood in 1972. Unidentified photographer. Collection of the Luzerne County Historical Society.



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 funds 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. We are thrilled to report that as of June 2, we received \$33,749 from 211 donors. Here, we recognize gifts received since our winter newsletter went out.

\$500-\$999

Matching gift from Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies—Molly Hinkin

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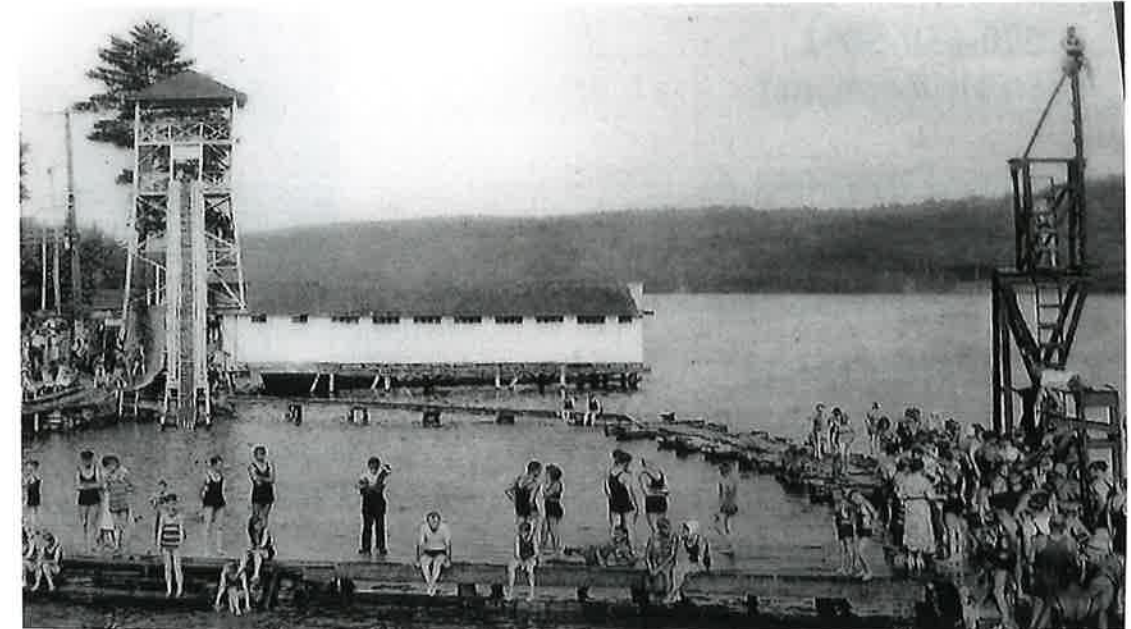
We Welcome Our NEW Members!

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Carrie Arnold
Charles and Susan Boyek
Mr. & Mrs. John Butchko
Tina Fulginiti
Don Harworth
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Hydro Jr.
Estella Parker Killian
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Jennifer Murphy
Jennifer Rogers and Vincent Cappel-
lini
Ronald and Madge Rogers
Patricia and David Searfoss
Eugenia Shane

Andrea Smith
Lorraine and Patrick Smith
Maureen Temprine
Michele Tyburski
Dawn and Rob Vincenti
Jane Walsh Waitkus

New ebook on Harveys Lake—www.harveyslakebook.org by F. Charles Petrillo



This scene, circa 1920, shows the beach at the Harveys Lake Picnic Grounds. The "Shoot-the-Chute," a water slide, is visible at left. At right is a three-tier diving platform that reached 40 feet in height. Around 1930 the park, created by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, would be acquired by the Hanson family, who operated the amusement park until 1984. The Hansons managed the beach facilities until 1988 and the dance pavilion until 2002.

The new book includes 165 historic photographs like this one to tell the story of Harveys Lake, Pennsylvania, from its discovery in 1781 by Wyoming Valley settler Benjamin Harvey, through its transformation as a major recreational resort, and its present status as an independent borough. The 270-page publication is an expanded and updated edition of F. Charles Petrillo's 1983 book on the Lake's history.

Wilkes-Barre-area lawyer and local historian Petrillo published the original book one year before the closing of Don Hanson's Amusement Park, the Lake's best known feature. However, the park grounds offered dances, concerts, beach and boating facilities through 2002 and the new edition expands the history of the park through that year when the grounds were sold for private development. The book also offers expanded chapters and a new chapter on the Warden Place community. The many new photographs in the 2018 e-edition are supplemented by pieces by three lake artists: Dorothy Ricci, Linda Shumaitis and Bonnie Coveleski.

The e-edition has not been published as a traditional printed book but has been placed on the internet in two formats: an easily readable, large font, format and as a PDF in traditional book format. **Both versions may be downloaded for free by the public.** The web address is www.harveyslakebook.org.