

## A Letter from the Editor

Dear LHS Members,

Throughout the decades since the settlement and development of the Lackawanna and Susquehanna valleys, many historic events have served as major turning points.

The founding of the Scranton Iron Furnaces established our industrial heritage and provided the opportunity for our area's growth. The influx of immigrants from Eastern, Southern, and Western Europe established our diverse ethnic background. Our communities powered the major cities of the East Coast. Brave men and women from our neighborhoods went off to serve our country during every major military engagement of our history.

Our industrial heritage was a pillar of strength that helped our area boom in the early 20th Century. But with time, the region's economy changed. It's difficult to pin one item as the fulcrum to that shift. But several events in 1959 highlight the change that had been building in preceding years.

The Knox Mine Disaster hastened the end of anthracite mining in the area. The bankruptcy of Scranton Lace, once one of the most prominent of the area's laceworks and silk mills, indicated the impending ending of another key industry in the region's economy.

These two events from 1959 weren't the sole cause of change, but they highlight our transformation between the first half and the second half of the 20th Century.

This issue of the Lackawanna Historical Society Journal remembers two prominent events that mark 50th anniversaries this year. And it's a reminder that we must preserve today's history for the future.

Sincerely,

Brian Clark

Newsletter Editor

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**About Membership...** Membership privileges include unlimited access to the Society library, 10% discount in our bookstore, advance notice and invitations to all Society activities, special 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

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<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35	ADDRESS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$75	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$150	_____
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