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Our Mission

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum is a not-for-profit educational institution whose mission is to promote an understanding of the iron and steel history of Coatesville, Chester County, Southeastern Pennsylvania and the region to audiences of all ages and interests by collecting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting iron and steel's history and its relationship to the region and nation beyond.

Front Cover:
19th-Century letters
discovered during res-
toration of Brandywine
Mansion.

Back Cover:
Flags on display at
Graystone Mansion.

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Discovering the letters in Brandywine Mansion has been very exciting for us and the community! These business letters were written by local and regional customers to Dr. Charles Lukens, Rebecca Lukens and Solomon Lukens (Charles' brother), and no one had seen these letters for over 180 years. The interest in them was further spread by articles in the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Daily Local News and WHYH Radio. Further, we partnered with paper conservator Susan Duhl, Winterthur Museum and Hagley Museum and Library, in the examination process, making them some of the best handled letters around!

Copies of the letters were displayed at the Rebecca Lukens Award in May, honoring Mary Ann Rossi, the 2015 Recipient. The Rebecca Lukens Award was held at Graystone Mansion and was a great evening filled with fond recollections of Ms. Rossi and her many accomplishments. Mary Ann provides a perfect example of leadership, resilience, courage and strategic outlook - the attributes of Rebecca Lukens being exhibited today!

Earlier this year we engaged the consultants, MacIntyre Associates, for a study of the community's awareness of the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum. The findings included positive



Jim Ziegler

and far. Situated in the Lukens National Historic District at the intersection of Routes 30 and 82, we have acres of open green spaces, but are also close to major highways and byways. It was because of this location's easy distribution of iron that

feedback from the respondents and recommendations for further community, regional and national awareness and partnerships. However, we have much work to do. As we mentioned, our partnerships are growing and the Rebecca Lukens Letters have helped create awareness, but so can you, our members, by letting your friends, family and others know who we are and what we have to offer in a nationally-recognized historic landmark setting. (See our Mission Statement on this page)

I am very excited about our new Transcontinental Railroad exhibit, our first in a number of years. The exhibit portrays important moments in the American railroad industry, like the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, developments in technology, and the people who were involved. Our next exhibit on shipbuilding from 1870 - 1970 is in progress. We hope you will see these new exhibits.

Have a great summer and I hope to see you here!

Scott G. Huston



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Welcome to the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum and our newsletter, Boilerplate! We are fortunate to be able to offer historic and cultural exhibits with the convenience of easy access for our visitors from near

and far. Situated in the Lukens National Historic District at the intersection of Routes 30 and 82, we have acres of open green spaces, but are also close to major highways and byways. It was because of this location's easy distribution of iron that

Rebecca Lukens' father, Isaac Pennock, purchased this land and transformed the property into an iron and nail factory.

In this issue of Boilerplate you will read about business correspondence dating to 1834, recently found within the walls of the house Isaac Pennock purchased and Rebecca Lukens called home. We invite you to discover with us a piece of the history of the Brandywine Iron Works and Nail Factory, later known as Lukens Steel Company and now as ArcelorMittal Coatesville.

As always, thank you for your interest in the museum and for your support!

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum is a project of the Graystone Society, a 501(c)3 public charity registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



BRANDYWINE MANSION: WORK & DISCOVERY

The first half of 2015 witnessed the beginning stages of the restoration of Brandywine Mansion, one of the historic buildings in the Lukens National Historic District. The Fleming family built Brandywine Mansion in 1739 and in 1787 the property was sold to Moses Coates, who built an addition on to the house. In 1810, Isaac Pennock bought the property and his daughter Rebecca and her husband Dr. Charles Lukens moved into the home a few years later. Rebecca Lukens lived in the house until her death in 1854.

Our goal is to restore Brandywine Mansion to its 1830 appearance, the period

when Rebecca Lukens occupied the home and was actively managing the Brandywine Iron Works and Nail Factory, the 1800's predecessor to Lukens Steel Company. This phase of restoration involved work on the roof and cornice, including restoring the chimney. Please feel free to stop by and take a look at the work, which was completed by 18th Century Restorations, Inc.

During this phase of restoration, letters and objects dating to the 1820s and 1830s were discovered within the mansion walls. Details of this exciting discovery are described in the following pages!



Workers from 18th Century Restorations rebuilt door frame then replaced the entire roof on the newer section of the building.



19TH-CENTURY LETTERS DISCOVERED

Unlucky for some, but very lucky for us, it is the day many people dread. However Friday, March 13th, was one of those days that preservationists and historians dream about. Wesley Sessa, working as part of his 18th Century Restoration, Inc. crew, on NISHM's Brandywine Mansion, opened a wall on the building's second floor. He discovered a treasure trove of letters along with other items and oddities such as a calipers, a bullet mold, and what looks like part of a carriage whip.

The letters were addressed to Rebecca Lukens and

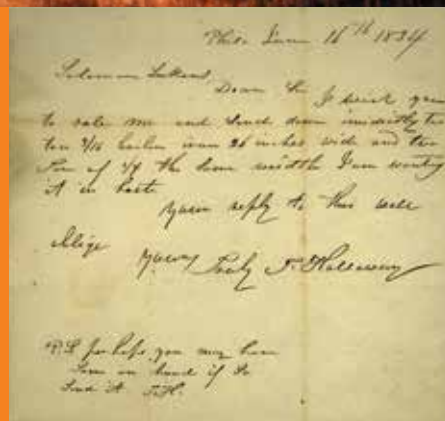
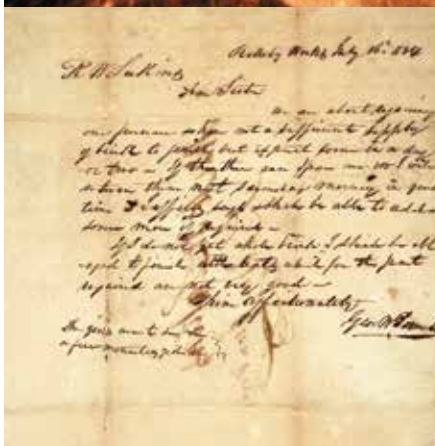
her brother-in-law, Solomon Lukens. Most of the letters are about business matters and the earliest correspondence dates to 1821. Fifteen of the others were written in the summer months of 1834. They all add to the fascinating portrait of early Lukens Steel history, dating back almost 200 years.

Staff are still unable to fully examine the letter's contents due to the fragile nature of the paper. However, the discovery and what we have transcribed so far provide an interesting insight into the early operations of Lukens.



Wesley Noonan-Sessa and Chris O'Hara of 18th Century Restorations examine letters found inside Brandywine Mansion.

Papers, letters and everyday objects were discovered when workers opened up a wall.



Rokely Works July 16th 1834
 R W. Lukens
 Dear Sister
 As we are about repairing our furnace and have not a sufficient supply of brick to finish but expect some in a day or two - if thee then can spare me 100 I will return them next second day morning in good time and ? shall be able to add some more if required
 If I do not get whole brick - I shall be obliged to finish with bats ? which for the part required are not very good
 ? affectionately
 George W Pennock
 The girls came to see me a few minutes yesterday

Phila June 16th, 1834
 Solomon Lukens
 Dear Sir
 I wish you to roll me and send down in directly two ton 3/16 boiler iron 26 inches wide and two ? of 1/4 the same width. I am wanting it in baste.
 Your reply to this will oblige.
 Yours truly, T Holloway
 P. S. We hope you may have some on hand if so send it. T.H.



A WINDOW INTO LIFE IN A 19TH CENTURY IRON MILL

The staff, volunteers and members of the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum are all extremely excited about the letters and other objects that were discovered in the walls of the Brandywine Mansion. The items give us a glimpse into the lives of those who lived and worked at the Brandywine Iron Works and Nail Factory. The collections historical importance gives us a great responsibility to preserve these objects for future generations.

Of all the items, the letters and other paper items are by far the most fragile. These items spent more than 180 years only 50 yards from a steel mill and are all extremely dirty. They have an outside layer of black soot and are very dry and brittle. Some of the items have also suffered damage from rodents. Since the letters are so fragile and have been folded many times, unfolding them can cause serious damage to them.

NISHM Collections Manager, Kathy Bratton,

Top Left to Right
 Samples of letters found in Brandywine Mansion, along with modern day typed transcripts of the letters.

Bottom Right
 Kathy Bratton, NISHM Collections Manager, consults with Lois Price, Winterthur Paper Conservator, as Philadelphia Inquirer reporter Michaëlle Bond takes notes.

contacted Winterthur for advice on how to best proceed with them. NISHM staff met with Lois Price, Winterthur Paper Conservator, and learned that because the pieces are so dirty, any handling of them will push the soot deeper into the fabric of the paper. Ms. Price recommended that letters be cleaned, then the brittle paper be relaxed and opened by a trained paper conservator. Ms. Bratton took the items to private paper conservator, Susa Duhl. Based on her recommendations and with preservation as a foremost concern, NISHM will form a plan for the care, preservation and conservation of these invaluable historic documents.



NINTH ANNUAL REBECCA LUKENS AWARD PRESENTED

On Thursday, May 7, the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum held its 9th Annual Rebecca Lukens Award. The award is presented to an individual in the community that exhibits the characteristics of Rebecca Lukens: leadership, resilience, courage, and strategic outlook. This year's recipient is Mary Ann Rossi, partner at MacElree Harvey in West Chester. Introduced by Graystone Board Member Al Giannantonio, Mary Ann greatly demonstrates the characteristics of our nation's first female industrialist, and we are so happy to have presented her with this award!

During the award event, we honored our Volunteer of the Year, Patti Hudock, who has given much of her time to helping the museum in so many ways. We also presented Jordan Ficca and Marc Kraidman, recently graduated from Coatesville Area Senior High School, with the Charles Lukens Huston Scholarships. Overall the event was a great success... with many local dignitaries and members of

Clockwise from Left.

1. Scott Huston, NISHM Board Member, presented the Rebecca Lukens Award to Mary Ann Rossi. 2. Dignitaries and NISHM members, along with family and friends of Mary Ann enjoyed a beautiful evening on the lawn of Graystone Mansion. 3. L-R Barry Rabin, Dan Miles and former Rebecca Lukens Award recipient Tammy Cansler Miles.

the community enjoying a nice evening with delicious food and a wonderful presentation!

Coming soon are more exiting programs and events! We will be completing our Iron & Steel Site Tour series, where we visit sites in Southeastern Pennsylvania to learn about the People, Process, and Product of iron and steelmaking. Tour #2 (July 23) includes visits to Pottsgrove Manor and the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area and on Tour #3 (August 27) we will visit Cornwall Furnace and take a train ride on the Colebrookdale Railroad. On September 11 we will hold our annual commemoration of that tragic day in 2001. We hope to see you soon!



SOME RECENT JACOBS-SHUPERT FIREBOXES



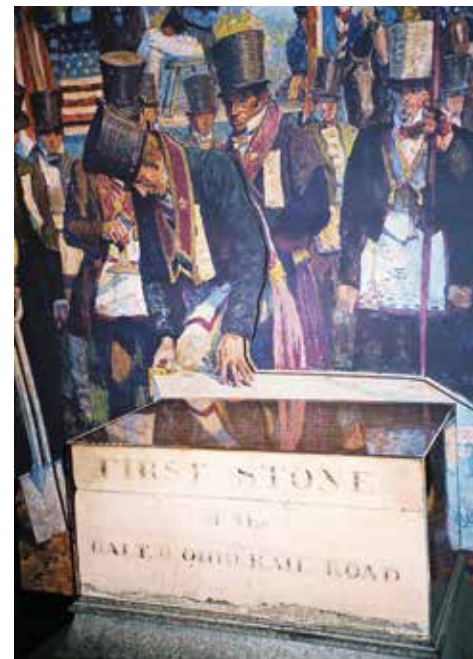
TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD EXHIBIT - THROUGH SEPTEMBER

An air of excitement permeated the newspapers, the national government, the local community. Virtually everyone talked about it. It was a project that had taken decades to come to fruition, and it transformed the lives of all Americans, from coast to coast. The scale of the project was one of the largest the world had ever seen. It was the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in the United States on May 10th, 1869.

On this day, tracks from Omaha, Nebraska to Sacramento, California joined at Promontory Point, Utah. Two major companies laid the track: the Union Pacific, coming from the East, and the Central Pacific,

from the West. A ceremony and celebration ensued that very day, culminating in the driving of the "Final Spike," or the "Golden Spike," as it was called in later years, to unite the two tracks together. The spike was hammered by Leland Stanford, the President of the Central Pacific, and Thomas Durant, of the Union Pacific.

The country was now connected in a way never before seen. The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad changed the lives of American. It also changed the People, Process, and Product of United States manufacturing, including the iron and steel industry. Visitors may view the exhibit through September.



Clockwise from Left.
1. Driving the "Golden Spike"
2. Jacobs-Shupert Firebox brochure
3. Laying the cornerstone of the B&O Railroad.



PATTI HUDOCK: 2015 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Left to Right

Gene DiOrio and Juliette Honsinger present Patti Hudock with the 2015 Eugene L. DiOrio Volunteer of the Year Award.

If you are interested in volunteering at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum please contact Juliette Honsinger at programs@steelmuseum.org or 610-384-9282!

We are proud to present the 2015 Eugene L. DiOrio Volunteer of the Year Award to Patti Hudock. The award is presented annually to the volunteer who demonstrates a special effort to the museum and the community, and who has dedicated the most hours of service to the museum. We congratulate Patti, who has provided outstanding service to the museum since 2012. She has been an integral part in the development of our gift shop and in welcoming group visitor tours. Patti is an employee of Pennsylvania American Water and has given over 150 hours of service to our organization. She is truly valuable to us.

Congratulations Patti!

Past Volunteers of the Year



Eugene DiOrio
2011



Francis Ciarrocchi
2012



Richard Scott
2013



Sharon Bowyer
2014



Caitlin O'Donnell



Pazia Segers



LaQuisa Thompson-Fields

CAITLIN O'DONNELL, PAZIA SEGERS & LAQUISA THOMPSON-FIELDS

We would like you to meet Caitlin O'Donnell, our college intern this summer. Currently in the process of a B.A. in History at West Chester University, her studies focus on American History, specifically the American Civil War.

"Working at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum gives me invaluable experience with working in a museum. I would like to have a career in the museum field and the Museum Collections and Archival Assistant skills are the ones I would like to learn the most. Working hands on with objects, as well as doing research for exhibitions is exactly the line of work I want to be in."

Also joining us this summer are Pazia Segers and LaQuisa Thompson-Fields, who come to us from the Coatesville Youth Initiative.

LaQuisa is a second year veteran with the CYI. Last year she worked with Life Transforming Ministries. She enjoys singing and sang with the Bel Canto choir at her school. Her

favorite hobby is doing people's hair. She is attending the Technical College High School where she is working toward her certification in barbering and cosmetology. She also spends free time reading and is currently enjoying the Bluford High book series.

This is Pazia's first year with the CYI program. Her two passions are biology and art. She currently has over 50 fresh water fish that she keeps in over 1,000 gallons of fish tanks. She has kept other fish as well, including one type that can act as weather barometers. She draws and does art commissions. Pazia will be testing for her black belt in karate. She hopes to have a career in art or marine biology.

Welcome – Caitlin, Pazia and LaQuisa!

SUMMER

Iron & Steel Tour #2:
Pottsgrove Manor, Schuylkill River Heritage Center
& Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area



July 23 | 9am to 4pm

Chester County Town Tours and Village Walks

August 6 | 5:30pm to 7pm | Free Event | Light Refreshments

Iron & Steel Tour #3:
Cornwall Furnace & Colebrookdale Railroad



August 27 | 9am to 4pm

FALL

Coatesville Remembers
14th Anniversary World Trade Center Commemoration

September 11 | Free Event

Steelworker's Reunion Barbecue

October 3 | Noon to 4pm

Holiday Open House: Santa, Trains and Music

December 11 | 5pm to 8pm

2015 SPONSORS

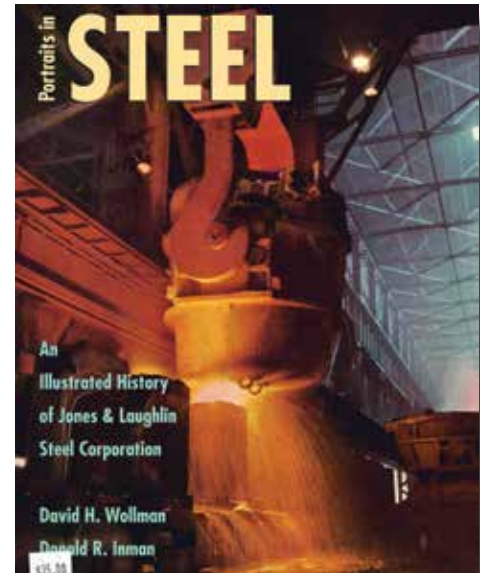


Charles & Barbara Huston | Peter & Ruth Nunn | Scott & Meredith Huston

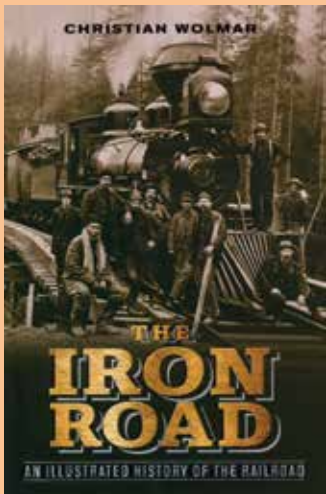
PORTRAITS IN STEEL

This history of Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation paints a gritty portrait of the successes and failures of the American steel industry as a whole, and J&L Steel in particular. The 131-year life of this "American Business" is presented from its origins as one of the many struggling ironmakers in the mid-19th century, through its leadership in technological innovation and progressive worker/management relations in the early 20th century, to its demise in 1984.

Portraits in Steel includes many never-before-published photographs of the Jones & Laughlin mills, as well as historic advertisement reprints



THE IRON ROAD - AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE RAILROAD



This illustrated book provides a detailed history of the rise of railroads across the world. The history begins in 1830, when the first train ran between Liverpool and Manchester, England, and ends with the high speed trains that now span Asia and Europe. This book is a must-have for any steel industry or train enthusiast.

Limited Supply, Normally \$40.00
Just \$29.95 until October 1st.

EXHIBIT
SPECIAL
LIMITED SUPPLY

KLAUS GRUTZKA PAINT BY NUMBERS KIT- OPEN HEARTH #1

A perfectly-sized custom paint by number kit that includes everything you need for hours of new-fashioned fun.

- Genuine artist canvas
- Frameless
- Acrylic paint set
- (2) Artist detail brushes
- Instructions and tips
- Weight 1.13 lbs
- Dimensions 12 x 15 x 3 in



THE NATIONAL
IRON & STEEL
HERITAGE MUSEUM

