

**Lukens
Cooperative Store
1955**



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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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There's always a lot going on here at the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, especially during the warmer months. First, I would like to congratulate Beth Harper Briglia on being the 2024 recipient of the Rebecca Lukens Award.

We are also very excited to announce that we are able to host a ceremony at Graystone Mansion. The return of this event marks the first time in over four years that we were able to gather in person to honor such a worthy recipient. Please read more here in *Boilerplate* about Beth's accomplishments.

The warmer weather also marks the return of our high visitation season, and we are excited to welcome visitors from all over the region to Coatesville so that they may learn not only about Lukens Steel, but steelmaking in general as well as about the products that comprise our nation's infrastructure.

This year also marked the return of Workers' Memorial Day (aka "Safety

Day,") an event that brought more than 500 employees from Cleveland-Cliffs. In addition, we continue to manage the properties to the highest level possible. Some of our recent projects are also highlighted here. Come visit and take a tour to see these improvements!

We also continue to receive donations of treasured items and artifacts related to Lukens and other steel companies from a vast group of engaged people. Managing those collections – tracking who gave what and determining the best place to display them – remains a top priority. As you might guess, most of our collections work is labor-intensive and we welcome any volunteer support.

Finally, I want to thank you – our members and sponsors – for without you, none of this would be possible.



Scott G. Huston

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

What awaits you at NISHM? Telling America's steel story.

The scope and scale of the Lukens National Historic District & Steel Heritage Museum are rich and enormous. The story of Rebecca Lukens is remarkable and inspirational. She successfully laid the foundation for a great iron and steel company at a time when few women dared to break from traditional roles.

The story of the Lukens People and the iron and steel products they have made over the course of more than two centuries is equally remarkable and inspiring.

The stories are local but connect to the broader American experience, from the

steel in battleships and landmark American buildings, to the hopes, dreams, and common experiences of hard-working everyday people.

The Lukens Store, the Steelworkers' Memorial, the Guppy, hard hats and badges are all on display at NISHM

Regardless if it's a student on a tour learning about industrial history or a history buff, everyone is welcome to visit, engage and enjoy! We are grateful for your support!



Jim Ziegler

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

National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, 50 S 1st Ave, Coatesville, PA 19320 | 610-384-9282



THE LUKENS COOPERATIVE STORE: ONE-STOP SHOPPING

Generations of Coatesville residents and former Lukens employees and their families may have one thing in common: they shopped at the Lukens Cooperative Store.

The store had its beginnings in 1885, but it never thrived until it reopened as a stockholder-supported enterprise in 1920. Officially known as the Lukens Employees Cooperative Store, Ltd., the store had 700 stockholders who purchased stock at \$10 a share. Success was not guaranteed since the store had a working capital of less than \$10k - and only one store worker. But it would thrive as a truly cooperative store - it was never a company store - since it was owned and managed by stockholders.

Later the store was open to all Lukens employees, though most saw the dividend-paying stock was a good selling point since most liked the convenience of buying on

credit and having the bill deducted from their paychecks.

Judging from a store history published in a *Lukens Life* in 1969 - appropriately titled "From Prime Rib to Mini-Skirts" - the store remained a small affair until it expanded in 1924 and again in 1928 when an addition was made to the store housed in what is now the partially restored Brandywine Mansion on 1st Avenue.

In those early years clerks, dressed in shirts and ties and long white aprons, took one's order and left the goods on the counter for you to collect. That had changed by 1951, when the store opened its doors to non-Lukens employees and drew customers from all over.

The same store manager, Emory T.
(Continued on page 10)



BETH HARPER BRIGLIA - REBECCA LUKENS AWARD RECIPIENT

Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. (CLF) is pleased to announce, together with the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum (NISHM) in Coatesville, the 18th annual Rebecca Lukens Award to a longtime philanthropic advisor and community volunteer in Chester County, Beth Harper Briglia .

Beth is a longtime philanthropic advisor and community volunteer in Chester County and the former Executive Vice-President of Philanthropic Services at the Chester County Community Foundation (CCCCF) based in West Chester.

Describing herself as “honored and humbled” to be named this year’s honoree, Beth said that she has personally known several of the previous Rebecca Lukens Award recipients and has felt a kinship with how they have worked to improve the lives of others. She said she first came to know the story of Rebecca’s life through Gene DiOrio, co-founder of the Graystone Society, who gave her personal tours of the Lukens National (3) Historic District.

At the time, Beth was just beginning her work at CCCC and understanding how one’s values are connected to philanthropy in making life better for others. “I was inspired by her story and what she did,” Beth said of Rebecca, “I was especially taken with the fact that she wanted to have her father’s legacy as founder of the steel mill to live on and she worked to ensure that the mill workers were well served.”

According to Scott G. Huston, a direct descendent of Rebecca Lukens and NISHM’s board president, honorees demonstrate the leadership qualities of the early Quaker ironmaster. “Beth’s list of accomplishments and accolades is impressive,” Huston said, “There was no such thing as the non-profit or philanthropic sector in Rebecca’s time, of course, but the three core values we always mention – Rebecca as a visionary, a doer, and a strategic leader – are qualities that Beth Briglia has also brought to her work in guiding others in philanthropy.”
(For more about Beth see www.steelmuseum.org)

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Resuming an event that had be sidetracked by COVID, Cleveland-Cliffs Coatesville paused operations for the day and commemorated workers who had gone to work and never returned home. Over 500 Coatesville steelworkers were bussed to brief ceremonies at the Steelworkers Memorial. The names of workers who lost their lives at the Coatesville mill were read accompanied by the ringing of a bell. NISHM Executive Director Jim Ziegler welcomed the group on the behalf of the museum.



"FREE-PLAY TRIBE" HOME SCHOOL TOUR

On January 26th, the first tour group of 2024 visited the museum. Forty-one children and eleven adults spent the afternoon visiting and learning about iron and steel production. The Downingtown-based home and school group spent time in the Lukens Executive Office Building, Visitors Center, 120" Motor House, Terracina, Graystone Mansion, and visited Brandywine Mansion, the Narrow-Gauge Train, Sonarsphere and the Steelworked Memorial,



HARRY HAINES COLLECTION

Recently NISHM received a unique donation from Beverly Haines of Coatesville. Beverly is the widow of Harry Haines, the president of United Steel Workers Union Local 1165 before, during, and after the strike of 1991-92. Selected items from the donation, consisting of memorabilia



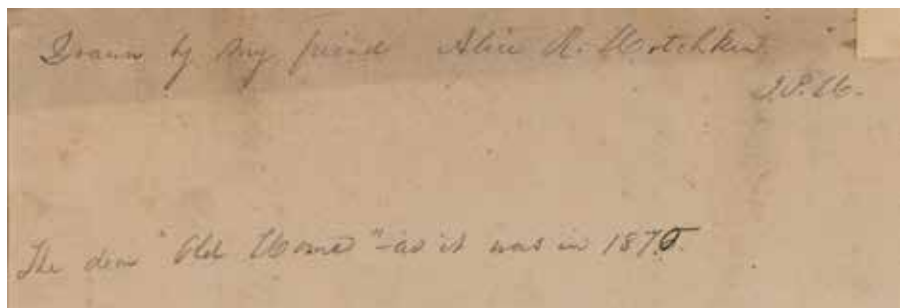
from Harry's time at Lukens, are on display in the Conference Room in the Lukens Executive Office Building. Harry started at Lukens in July of 1950, and other than a two-year hitch in the army, worked there until his retirement. Starting as a "hookup" man in the 206" Mill, Harry was a crane operator by November of 1950. Several items from his time with Lukens and from his service to Local 1165 are on display; including several union lapel pins, Harry's handwritten notes for a speech given during the strike, his union gavel, a digital watch presented to Harry to commemorate the settlement of the strike and many other items. This display is sure to bring back memories to anyone who remembers Harry Haines or the times from the 1950s to the 1990s.

1870 SKETCH OF THE BRANDYWINE MANSION.



NISHM is very pleased to announce the acquisition of a sketch of the Brandywine Mansion done in 1870. Drawn by Alice R. Hotchkin, the sketch came to us by way of Kinsey Baker of The Book Haven. The sketch shows the mansion as it appeared in 1870, before the addition of the company store (since removed) and before the surrounding area was swallowed up by urbanization. On the back there is a note written in pencil. It is faded and difficult to read but seems to say, "Drawn by my friend Alice R Hotchkin, I.P.H.". The IPH is assumed to be Isabella Pennock Huston.

When the sketch arrived, it was still in its' original frame and in surprisingly good condition. Wanting to keep it as original as possible, but also wanting to prevent any damage before it started, the sketch was rehoused in the original frame but using museum quality acid free matting and UV protective glass on the front and back. The sketch, as well as the note on the back, can now be displayed looking as they did in 1870, but without fear of damage or fading.





SPRINGTIME PROJECTS!

Just like with your home or property, we find ourselves with a load of "To-Do" projects each spring, especially since many of the structures in the Lukens Historic District date to the 1800s.

Pictured here is the newly-restored door to a historic root cellar located a few yards from Terracina. Tony Buck, our longtime handyman and carpenter, did an excellent job replacing the badly deteriorated board & batten panels with similarly styled doors of Southern yellow pine. "It's an amazing example of a root cellar in the Historic District of Coatesville," Tony says, "It was built with a brick vaulted ceiling in 1848. Before there was refrigeration, people had to get creative."

According to Tony, the frost line varies (it's 36 inches in Pennsylvania), but below it, the soil temperature is the same everywhere in the world. In the root cellar, it is a constant 45-50

degrees F., ideal for fresh food storage, from October to May.

Above right: the period music room of the c.1889 Graystone Mansion had a much-needed makeover. As usual, M. R. Cockerham Painting Contractors, Inc. did the work. In previous years, Cockerham's crew has painted the exterior of Terracina. This time, it was an interior job requiring skilled plasterwork and painting. Fine cracks had appeared in the walls, which were probably the result of dampness and expansion when the house was heated by oil.

Last but not least was replacing an old entrance door of the 1940s Motor House. Installed by the Parkesburg-based McComsey Builders Inc., the new all-steel door has the appropriate industrial look not to mention that it gives us added security.



CATHERINE QUILLMAN

A longtime West Chester resident, Catherine started as a tour guide at NISHM in the fall of 2019. She has written for the museum's website, cover stories for *Boilerplate*, profiles for the Iron & Steel Hall of Fame, and grant proposals for the museum.

Catherine earned her undergraduate degree in English from Washington College, in Chestertown, Md and has a Masters in Fine Arts degree from Temple University. She is also a board member of The Chadds Ford Historical Society and The West Chester Historical Commission.

In addition, she volunteers her time at NISHM events such as the holiday open house, serving as a house guide and offering items for NISHM's online auction including pet portraits, tours of the Brandywine battlefield, and walking tours in West Chester that focus on the borough's connection to anti-slavery issues and the Underground Railroad as described in her book, *"Walking the Uptown: a tour of an historic African-American community in (7) West Chester, Pennsylvania."*



SCOTT HUSTON

Scott Gardner Huston serves as the President of The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, where he guides the direction and day-to-day operations of the museum. He is also the Executive Director of The Stewart Huston Charitable Trust, where he develops, implements, and manages administrative and grant strategies.

Scott is a direct descendent of Lukens Steel founding mother, Rebecca Lukens, and the son of Charles L. "Skip" Huston III and Barbara Scott Huston. He is a graduate of Episcopal Academy and Denison University, Granville, Ohio (where he majored in history and economics).

His career has been varied and diverse, often populated by work and board memberships with charitable institutions and historical/political entities. He is an avid golfer, ice hockey and cricket player. He resides in Berwyn, PA with his wife and two daughters.

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NISHM NEEDS YOUR HELP - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Museum hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Saturday.

If interested, please contact Jim Ziegler, Executive Director, at execdir@steelmuseum.org, or call 610-384-9282.

Available opportunities include:

- Office Help (Sat.) – answer phones, greet visitors
- Special Events – set up, man registration table, clean up
- Collections (Tues., Wed., and Thurs.) – organize rooms, accession artifacts
- Tour Guides (any day) – lead visitors through exhibits and historic homes



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WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

LUKENS STORE (CONT.)

Bachman, a Lancaster native and former A&P manager, who operated the store singlehandedly in the 1920s, now oversaw a staff of 45 people. In 1955, the store received a boost in space when the Lukens Credit Union moved to the corner of Valley Road and Strode Ave. Other changes included the creation of so-called "departments" such as "frozen foods" and "fresh produce" that rivaled a relatively new thing called a supermarket.

The new departments transformed the store from being a cross between an old-time general store and a neighborhood grocery store into a commercial enterprise with such modern features as grocery carts and a full-scale meat department. The meats, especially the hand-cut steaks, were in such popular demand, people "came from miles away," as one *Lukens Life* story proclaimed.

Many former patrons remember the second floor, where rack of clothes displayed the latest adult and children's fashions, and saleswomen were on hand to help you find any household item you could think of, from pots and pans to dishes and toasters. The shoe department was similarly as well stocked as that of any department store.

Especially appealing was the personal service that included home delivery and custom orders or payment arrangements on such big ticket items as televisions and air conditioners. For the store personnel, their job was made easier by a money sorting system installed in 1955 that used a pneumatic tube system to carry "money to a central location," according to *Lukens Life*.



By 1969, 90 percent of the customers were Lukens employees and stockholders, who coveted their shares of a stock that had become a "status symbol" since it was "very hard to obtain, as *Lukens Life* reported. Sadly, the days of the cooperative store ended after it was abandoned in the early 2000s and, after years of neglect, demolished in 2009.

LEARN MORE ABOUT -

VIKTOR MÁCHA

Viktor Mácha (1984) has been travelling around the world at his own expense, documenting the heavy industrial sites such as iron works, steel works, rolling mills, forges, foundries and coke plants since 2006.



<https://www.viktormacha.com>

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