Artist’s rendering of the United States Navy’s upcoming Columbia-class submarine.
President’s Message

What a year it has been! And we’re not done yet. Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, all of our lives have changed. Spring came and went and as summer began and we tried to reenter the routines the pandemic abruptly made us leave behind, protests across the country asked us all to confront the legacy of race, racism, and racial inequality in America. Like many institutions, we have asked ourselves what we can do as a museum and as a member of our community to contribute to meaningful change.

The National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum has always sought to make history accessible by making once private places accessible to the public. The history of iron and steel in America is not the story of one person, one family or one race. It is the story of everyone who has ever contributed to making the products that have allowed America to move towards the ideal of becoming a more perfect union. It is a story that is nuanced and messy and one that we strive to tell in a way that honors the contributions of all individuals, no matter their race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or religion. We know we have room to grow. Museums offer an opportunity to deepen knowledge and with that opportunity comes the responsibility to tell the whole history of iron and steel, including the role of race and racism in the industry. It is my hope that as the museum continues in its mission, it will rise to the challenge of being a museum for everyone -- of telling all of the diverse stories of the iron and steel community in a way that welcomes all of us to learn more about each other and our history. I welcome you to tell us about the stories you think we need to tell.

Be well,
Scott Gardner Huston

Executive Director’s Report

In this issue of the Boilerplate you will learn about the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum’s response to Covid 19, Black history in Lukens steel making and in Coatesville, the NISHM virtual exhibits available for you and the progress on the new Visitor Center at the museum. The cover reminds us of the long history of shipbuilding in Coatesville as it continues into the future. Many improvements have been made to the museum properties and the iron and steel collections. We hope you’ll find this Boilerplate interesting.
Top Navy Brass and Shipbuilders Visit Eastern Plate

ArcelorMittal Eastern Plate operations welcomed some special visitors to the Coatesville facility. Rear Admiral Scott Pappano, Blair Decker, General Dynamics Electric Boat, and Joe White, Huntington Ingalls Industries Newport News, met with employees to discuss the Navy’s newest Columbia series submarines.

Cory Chappell, operations manager, ArcelorMittal Eastern Plate, said the guests were invited to Eastern Plate to see how our plate products are made, learn about the quality of our products and our longstanding commitment in supplying these products.

“It was also a chance for the Admiral to address our workforce and express the importance of building the Columbia-class submarine for the U.S. and our allies,” said Chappell. “Additionally, it was an opportunity for the Navy to meet with its two largest shipbuilders – Electric Boat and Newport News – along with their primary steel supplier in Eastern Plate. A meeting of this magnitude is unprecedented in the 200-plus history of Eastern Plate.”

The visitors met with Coatesville employees as they toured the rolling and finishing departments. Following the tour, Admiral Pappano spoke to employees, calling them a “strategic national asset.” He answered questions and thanked employees for all they do in support of the Columbia-class submarine and the U.S. Navy.

*This event took place pre-COVID-19.

To read the full article go to www.steelmuseum.org

Black History in Iron & Steel

NISHM promotes an understanding of the iron and steel industry by collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting iron and steel’s history and its relationship to the region and nation. The museum accomplishes this goal, in part, by the stories of the people, products, and processes involved in steelmaking.

Integral to that mix is the people. While the founders and “family descendants” make up part of that story, equally important are the workers who labored in the mill. Many of whom were Black Americans. The museum celebrates Black lives here in Coatesville, and their significant contribution to the iron and steel industry. Through lectures, exhibits, panel discussions, examinations of labor, and review of historical events, the museum provides a small portal into the Black experience of working in the iron and steel industry.

Videos relating to the Black experience in Coatesville can be found on our website under “Explore Videos”. You can watch a panel discussion about Carver Court, the historically significant Black neighborhood of Coatesville constructed in 1943 to provide housing for African American defense workers. Similarly, in 2017 Dr. Tonya Thames-Taylor examined the nascent role of the Black worker in the early days of iron and steel. Or view the 2011 Zachariah Walker/Edgar Rice Remembrance & Reconciliation Conversation that was held 100 years after Zach Walker was lynched for the killing of Edgar Rice, a Worth Brothers Steel Company police officer.

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum welcomes your thoughts for lectures, for exhibits, and for ideas that will help all of us to move forward together in a better understanding of our fellow man.
New this year to NISHM’s website is an all-inclusive timeline of steelmaking in Coatesville, PA. Formerly, the museum featured a pictorial board highlighting pivotal moments in the history of Lukens Steel. With the advent of the new Charles L. Huston III Visitor’s Center, the need for a new, more expansive timeline, as well as an on-line version, became apparent.

Working together on the project was museum Development Associate and Tour Guide, Melinda Williams and Digital Manager, Samuel Radziviliuk. While Williams researched and penned the significant events of the Timeline, which established the structure, Radziviliuk unearthed corresponding graphics for it and brought the Timeline to life with movement and interactive capabilities. Now visitors can travel through Lukens’ history without ever leaving the comfort of their living room. The effortless, chronological Timeline affords viewers with the comprehensive steel-making history, as it happened, here in Coatesville.

For more on the Timeline, visit us at www.steelmuseum.org.

Each year we induct an individual into our Iron and Steel Hall of Fame. This year we have selected John Fritz, born in 1822, in Londonderry Township Chester County.

At the age of 16, John was apprenticed as a blacksmith and later became a mechanic at the Norristown Iron Company. In 1854, he moved to the Cambria Iron Company in Johnstown Pennsylvania, where he designed the first three-high rolling mill. In 1860 he became General Superintendent and Chief Engineer of the Bethlehem Iron Works in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. While there, he was responsible for installing a Bessemer Converter among other improvements.

The John Fritz Medal, often described as the “Nobel Prize for engineering, has been awarded annually since 1902 by the American Association of Engineering Societies for “outstanding scientific or industrial achievements”

Visit the Hall of Fame here: https://steelmuseum.org/i-s-hall-of-fame/
**Virtual Exhibits**

While the museum’s social media presence has been a priority for years, it has become even more important during the recent pandemic. The museum’s website includes many videos and exhibits to explore the fascinating iron and steel past, present, and future. The museum Facebook and Instagram pages are also very active and the number of followers grow each week. We hope you’ll join us.

**Charles L. Huston III Visitor Center Update**

The new Charles L. Huston III Visitor Center is gearing up for its official opening slated for later this year. The center will feature an all-inclusive overview of many of NISHM’s exhibits. Once visitors check in at The Lukens Executive Office Building and view the “We Are Coatesville Steel” exhibits, they may then move to the nearby Visitor Center to partake in a multitude of multi-sensory sight and sound experiences.

The exhibits range from the collection of vintage model trains (with interactive sounds and motion), to model sailing ships, to miniature models of the mill and its many pieces of equipment (i.e. spun head machine, 206” mill, World Trade Center “trident” construction) to the movies that depict not only current-day steel making at ArcelorMittal and past Lukens, but memories from the men and women who actually worked the steel mill themselves. While there, visit our Museum Shop featuring a wide selection of iron & steel–related gifts.

The Center will also feature an ADA ramp and state-of-the-art fire and smoke detection equipment. Finishing touches are now underway to ensure an awe-inspiring visitor’s experience when the Center opens.
Ann Fayles Hunts Down Lukens History

When it comes to dedicated supporters of NISHM, Ann Fayles is definitely hard to beat. Ann has been interested in the steel industry, and Lukens in particular, pretty much since birth. Her father, Russell, worked in the steel industry for over 25 years. One night driving, Russell saw the Lukens plant lit up by night. It was that sight that inspired him to apply to work at Lukens. During his career Russell never lost the thrill he felt the first time he watched workers tapping a heat.

Ann donates steel related objects to the Graystone Society to honor both her father’s memory and the time of the Great Steel Era. Ann scours eBay and similar websites for steel industry and Coatesville related objects to purchase and donate to the Graystone Society. During 2018 and 2019, Ann’s donations totaled over 640 objects. The arrival of an Ann Fayles box is always a welcome sight. Like Christmas, you never know what is in the box, and it is fun to open.

Ann’s contribution has been immeasurable, and we are deeply grateful for her generosity over the years.

Digitizing Lukens’ Employee Newsletters

From 1934 to 1995 employees of Lukens Steel and their families enjoyed reading the company’s employee newsletter. While the newsletter changed names over the years (Lukens Plate to Lukens Life) the most prominent and longest lasting name was Lukens Life. The newsletters are a great document of the history of Lukens Steel, and the community of Coatesville at large. NISHM has received a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a program of the National Archives and Records Administration, to digitize the newsletters.

This year-long project is being undertaken in partnership with the Hagley Museum & Library of Wilmington, Delaware. With over 7,200 pages of material to scan and digitize, Hagley is better equipped to handle a project of this scope. The digitized pages will be easily accessible from both the NISHM and Hagley websites. We are extremely excited that anyone searching for information on family that worked at Lukens will be able to do it no matter where they live. Keep your eyes on Boilerplate for updates on the project and when the web page goes live.

Oil Painting Restoration Completed

A large portrait owned by NISHM has had a beautiful makeover. This portrait of Martha Webb Pennock, Rebecca Lukens’ mother, hung in Graystone. As sometimes happens to objects that are on display, this painting was damaged. The portrait went to painting conservator Kristin deGhetaldi for repair and cleaning. Darkened from dirt and age, Martha’s painting was very gloomy. The cleaning revealed how beautiful the painting truly is. Martha’s cheeks have a pinkish glow and her eyes a bright twinkle. We are thrilled to be able to once again see the “real” Martha.
At Terracina, the home built for Isabella and Dr. Charles Huston in 1849, six of the chimneys have been repaired by New Tradition Masonry, LLC, Glenmoore, PA (masonry), County Environmental of New Castle, DE (scaffolding), and William Dunleavy, West Chester, PA (flushing). Bricks have been replaced and re-pointed; flashing installed, and select chimneys have been sealed and capped.

The new Charles L. Huston III Visitor Center is clicking right along. Harrington & Sons out of Wagontown is performing the electrical work. Elam Lanz from Leola laid in the insulation. Drywall will be handled by Enck Brothers Drywall Inc. from Quarryville. Painting is scheduled to start by late September. McComsey Builders from Parkesburg also contributed much to the final project. The exhibits will be reset in November with a re-opening slated for sometime next year.

Across the street at A. F. Huston’s 1889 home, Graystone, the detective work of color research for a new trim hue has begun. Architect and restoration engineer Dale Frens is assisting with the difficult task of determining what colors might have been used when A.F. built his home and arboretum before the turn of the last century. The consensus is between three shades of brown; tan, taupe, and beige. Painting contractor M.R. Cockerham out of West Chester has been retained to complete the job.
MEET THE MUSEUM

Harry Lewis

Former State Representative, CASH principal, and coach Harry Lewis also serves on NISHM’s Board. Harry looks back on his rewarding career with a warm smile, “Having the ability to work, contribute and dedicate my career to the community that I love has been a privilege. Being an educator in my community has allowed me to influence generations. Coaching has allowed me to develop leadership skills in a lot of youth. It was a pleasure being a job counselor for many years and having the opportunity to offer jobs for young people. As a legislator, I was able to give a voice to our community at the state level.”

Currently, his “job” is serving on a only a few boards. He feels it’s time to enjoy his family. “My favorite retirement past time has been traveling, spending time with my family, trap shooting and fishing,” says Harry.

Yet, when thinking about his multi-faceted career, he always looks to the youth he served. Harry says, “As I look back on my career, one of my greater achievements is watching the young people I have influenced and mentored now give back to the community.”

John Wickman

John Wickman came to Lukens in 1966 as a suffix clerk in the Production Control Department. He then became an order planner where he planned every clad order in Lukens for about 12 years.

After completing metallurgy courses through Penn State University’s Continuing Education division, John attended Immaculata College and received his B.A. degree in 1979.

John transferred to the Metallurgy Department as a technical assistant and then to the Chemistry Lab. Laid off in 1984 he became a teaching assistant at the University of Delaware where he worked on his master’s degree in English.

John returned to Lukens as a customer service representative, then returned to Metallurgy as Senior Metallurgical Technician and Chemist, where he remained until he retired in 2000.

A NISHM volunteer for many years, John teaches steelmaking to many of the school groups that visit the museum and recently became one of the Saturday tour guides. NISHM is honored to call John Wickman the 2020 Eugene L. DiOrio Volunteer of the Year.
Upcoming 2020 Events

September 11th
Coatesville Remembers
Virtual Commemoration - 8:30 AM
View On Steelmuseum.org

October 1st
Business Along The Brandywine
Presented By: Bob Holliday
Virtual Lecture - 6:00 PM
View On Steelmuseum.org

November 5th
Valley Iron Works
Presented By: Rich Smith
Virtual Lecture - 6:00 PM
View On Steelmuseum.org

December 11th
Holiday Open House
Conditions Permitting
5:00 - 8:00 PM

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Thank you to all of our members who joined or renewed from April 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020

New Members

Kenneth Dickey  Bobby & Stephanie Duncan  Michael Stillwell

Renewing Members

(* Donates 5+ Consecutive Years, Bold Denotes 120" Mill Club Member & Above)


We are greatly appreciative of ALL of our members’ support!

We couldn’t do it without you!
Remarkable Past, Promising Future
Eugene L. DiOrio, Katherine Gould Pella, Richard P. Smith
Remarkable Past, Promising Future is a pictorial history of ArcelorMittal’s Coatesville Operations, formerly Lukens Steel Company. Founded on July 2, 1810, the plant is the oldest continuously operating steel plant in the United States. $40.00

Chester County, A Traveler’s Album
Eugene L. DiOrio
A Travelers Album presents a sampling of Chester County attractions: historic landmarks, battlefields, monuments, parks and gardens, churches and meeting houses, great mansions and snug farms, industrial communities and more, all revealed in seasonal moods. $50.00

Images of America — Coatesville
Bruce Mowday
Coatesville has always been a city of visionaries, from its namesake, Moses Coates, a prosperous farmer and the area’s first postmaster, to Rebecca Lukens, the “Woman of Steel”. As the Lukens Steel Company prospered along the banks of the scenic Brandywine River, so did Coatesville, Chester County’s only city. Their rich history is told here through nearly two hundred historic photographs. $23.00

Iron & Steel Websites To Visit
Cornwall Iron Furnace
http://www.cornwallironfurnace.org/

Steelworks Center Of The West
https://www.steelworks.us/

Saugus Iron Works
https://www.nps.gov/sair/index.htm
The last weeks of summer are upon us! Even with our buildings closed to the public, squeeze in a final daytrip and walk the grounds of the Museum. Make sure you bring a camera because you’ll find the sprawling exterior view of the steel mill, three ironmasters’ homes, our 911 steel tridents and steam locomotive, the sonarsphere and our Steelworkers Memorial. Photo by: Rachel Cathell