

The Graystone Society brings you the newsletter of the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in the Lukens National Historic District.

## Property

### Lukens Company Store Demolition to Begin This Spring

The long range goal for the Rebecca Lukens House, also known as Brandywine Mansion, is the complete restoration of the house. This Spring will begin the first step in the process — demolition of the Lukens Store section of the building.

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Brandywine Mansion became part of Lukens' company store, and a large structure was erected against it. The store closed in 1992 and has remained vacant ever since. Parts of the structure have become unsafe, and in order to save the original structure it was decided to remove the store.

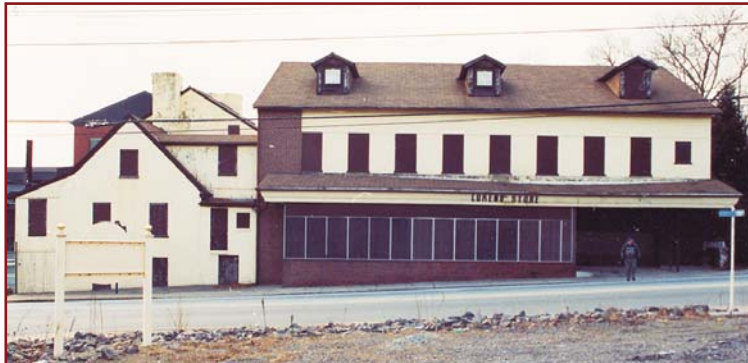
A careful inventory of the objects left in the store has been completed by McKelvey Museum Services. Approximately 85 items have been deemed historically important, are now being removed for proper storage by City Construction Co, Inc. Luken's store records a have also been removed to the Graystone Society archives.

All electrical work in the building is being done by Greg A. Vietri, Inc. and the actual demolition will be done by Mayer Pollack Steel Corporation of Pottstown. 18<sup>th</sup> Century Restorations, Inc. will then secure the building, sealing the roof and shoring up where necessary.



With the removal of the store, the true dimensions of Brandywine Mansion will become apparent. The footprint of the original structure is really quite small. Brandywine Mansion is hardly the type of building people might call a mansion today, but was in fact the very humble home where Rebecca Lukens raised her family and from which she ran her business. The house, built by the Fleming family and later enlarged by Moses Coates, for whom Coatesville is named, is the starting point for the Lukens National Historic District.

Rebecca's entrepreneurial spirit, along with her overall philosophy of humility and self-reliance are reflected in this incredible house. When completely renovated, Brandywine Mansion will no doubt become the focal point of the entire Lukens National Historic District.



## Events

### Coatesville Rotary Ice Cream Festival to be held at Graystone Mansion

Make plans to attend this year's Ice Cream Festival on Saturday, **July 11<sup>th</sup>** 10 am to 5 pm. The ever popular event takes place in the Lukens National Historic District on the grounds of Graystone Mansion.

The Coatesville Rotary Club will be sponsoring and managing the event this year. Proceeds will benefit the Rotary's charitable giving program.

There will be plenty of fun for the kids, vendors, music, food and ice cream. The festival will be followed by the City of Coatesville's Fireworks Display in the evening.



For more information contact **Chip Huston at 610-384-7993 ext. 11**, or go to [www.lukensnhd.org](http://www.lukensnhd.org), give us a call at 610-384-9282 or send an email to [graystone@lukensnhd.org](mailto:graystone@lukensnhd.org).

## History

Corner

### The Panic of 1837



The financial situation we find ourselves in these days is nothing new — there are many parallels to the Panic of 1837.

The panic was caused by many factors, but was mostly the result of unregulated speculation and financial missteps by the government. When the banks called in their loans, prices declined, and businesses crashed. Thousands were ruined, trade stood still, and confidence vanished.

The Panic of 1837 threw a bad scare into Rebecca Lukens. She had just rebuilt her mill a few years earlier. She wrote to a close friend:

*The difficulties of the time throw a gloom on everything. All is paralyzed - business at a stand. I have as yet lost nothing, but am in constant fear . . . I have stopped rolling for a few weeks and set my men to repairing the race dam . . . but shall take advantage of the first gleam of sunshine to resume.*

Because she had rebuilt her mill and retained her skilled workers, Rebecca was at an advantage when the economy recovered, and was able to start rolling almost immediately.

## Be a part of the Graystone Society!

It's easy — go to [www.lukensnhd.org](http://www.lukensnhd.org) and click on the **Donate, Join** or **Sponsorship** tabs or call today 610-384-9282.

We can't do it without you!

*The Graystone Society is a 501(c)3 corporation registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations.*



The Graystone Society and  
 The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in  
 The Lukens National Historic District  
 76 South First Avenue, Coatesville, PA 19320  
 610-384-9282  
 graystone@lukensnhd.org  
 www.lukensnhd.org  
 Copyright The Graystone Society, Inc. 2009 All rights reserved.

NONPROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 COATESVILLE, PA  
 PERMIT NO. 95  
 ZIP CODE 19320

### Programs

#### Upcoming Events in the Lukens National Historic District

- May 7 — Spring Lecture # 1  
 Carol Siri Johnson, author of  
*The Language of Work —  
 Technical Communication of Lukens Steel,  
 1810 to 1925*
- May 13 — Slide show by Eugene L. DiOrio:  
*Touring Britain part 3*
- June 5 — Spring Lecture # 2  
 Jim Matta: *The History of the  
 A. Duie Pyle Trucking Company*
- June 17 — Slide show by Eugene L. DiOrio:  
*Touring Britain part 4*
- July 11 — Coatesville Rotary Ice Cream Festival  
 at Graystone
- September 16 — Slide show by Eugene L. DiOrio:  
*Chester County Day*
- October 1 — Fall Lecture # 1  
 Dr. Tonya Thames Taylor,  
*Women in the Workforce*
- October 3 — Chester County Day
- November 5 — Fall Lecture # 2  
 Al Gianantonio,  
*The Baldwin Locomotive Works*
- December 12 — Holiday House Tours  
 and Food Drive

### Programs

#### Barbara Travaglini Honored

The Third Annual Rebecca Lukens Award was presented to **Barbara Travaglini** on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Lukens Executive Office Building. More than 125 were in attendance, including friends and family of Ms. Travaglini, government officials and many local business people.

Frances M. Sheehan, President and CEO of the Brandywine Health Foundation introduced this year's award recipient. Ms. Travaglini was also honored by State Representative Tim Hennessey, and by State Senator John Rafferty through a proclamation read by Eugene L. DiOrio.



Scott G. Huston and  
 Barbara Travaglini

Special thanks go out this year to our gracious sponsors: Citadel Federal Credit Union and PECO Energy. Money raised at the Rebecca Lukens Award Ceremony helps pay for programs in the Lukens National Historic District.

### A few words with . . .

#### Scott G. Huston

Scott G. Huston is the President of the Graystone Society. He is well versed in the problems that face non-profit organizations, especially in these trying financial times. Scott believes that it is important for non-profit organizations to work together and gain strength from each other. They are thereby better able to grow and to continue providing the social and educational opportunities in the region that non-profits do so well.

The Graystone Society maintains the buildings and grounds in the Lukens National Historic District, which provides a beautiful place in the center of Coatesville for people to gather. This year we are partnering with the Coatesville Rotary to produce the Ice Cream Festival. We will also be working with Art Partners in a summer camp program which will take place at Graystone. These partnerships also allow us to continue reaching out to school groups and home-schoolers, providing them with solid courses grounded in mathematics, science and history.

The creation of the Iron and Steel Task Force is another aspect of partnering that can benefit both non-profits and the people they serve. The purpose of the Task Force is to look at the iron sites in the region and assess the amenities they provide, the traffic they can handle, and to create linkages, taking advantage of the strengths of each unique site, working to the benefit of all, and providing a better experience for the public.

### Interested in the Hopewell Furnace?

Hopewell Furnace is a National Historic Site located in Elverson, adjacent to French Creek State Park.

Hopewell was actually part of a self-sufficient community centered around the production of iron, with homes and stores for the workers. It has been restored to the way it looked during the 1830s and 1840s, when the furnace was at its height of activity.

A cold-blast iron furnace is charged by dropping in iron ore, coal and limestone, and pumping in air (provided by bellows powered by a water wheel). When the right temperature is reached, the iron is drained out of the bottom of the furnace. Hopewell produced pig iron (to be refined further later) and cast iron, most notably parts for Franklin Stoves.

The final blast at Hopewell was in 1883. In 1935 the Federal government purchased the land, and during the great depression restoration was started by the Civilian Conservation Corp. For more information and hours of operation visit [www.nps.gov/hofu](http://www.nps.gov/hofu).



Your Donation is Tax Deductible

The Graystone Society is a 501(c)3 corporation registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations.