

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

## Museum

### Telling the Story of Steel in America

#### Do We Need an Iron and Steel Heritage Museum?

This is an important question. As we move into the post-industrial era, we should remember and commemorate the work and the sacrifices of the people who built this country. But what sets steel apart, and why build The National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum here in Coatesville? There are many answers.

The products, process, and people of the iron and steel industry are in many ways a microcosm of American History. Interpreting the story of one can help make sense of another.

**Products** from the iron and steel mills tell one story of the United States: nails that helped construct the nation's early buildings and boiler plate powered the country's railroads and steam ships. Coatesville supplied the steel plates for the Nautilus, and the trees that supported the World Trade Center. To this day rail cars carrying steel plate roll out of Coatesville, building the next stage of our history.

The **process** of iron and steel making tells another story: the way technological innovation throughout our history has changed the way people live and work. The railroads wouldn't have existed without steel rails or boilerplate (manufactured first right here in Coatesville). Steel is used today in all heavy industries — oil rigs, mining, and, of course, transportation and national defense.

Most importantly, the **people** in the iron and steel industry tell yet another story. Along First Avenue we see the grand houses of the mill owners,



*120" Rolling Mill Motor House exterior, looking west*

demonstrating the company's prosperity over time. A museum would also tell the story of the iron and steel workers and their families, in addition to all the other people in Coatesville whose lives were effected by the steel mills. They immigrated from Europe and elsewhere, or moved north after the Civil War to work in the mills. These people are all a part of this history.

Why build a National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum here in Coatesville when there were much larger mills in Bethlehem, Pittsburgh and other places? The iron industry began in Chester County in the eighteenth century, and continues to this day. As the mill here is the oldest continuously working steel mill in the country, with a history stretching back 200 years, there is no more appropriate site for the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum.

For more information please visit our website: [www.lukensnhd.org](http://www.lukensnhd.org).



*Artist's rendering of the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum.*

## Events

### Victorian Ice Cream Festival — July 14<sup>th</sup>

Please join us, your friends and families at the Victorian Ice Cream Festival on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> 10 am to 5 pm.

This year will mark the 10th Anniversary of this wonderful community gathering, presented as always by the Graystone Society. The popular event takes place in the Lukens National Historic District on the grounds of Graystone Mansion. The Festival will be followed by the City of Coatesville's Fireworks Display in the evening.

Sponsors so far this year: The Philadelphia Inquirer; WCOJ-1420 AM; Dr. Henry Jordan; Citadel Federal Credit Union; Stewart Huston Charitable Trust; Willow Financial Bank; Dallas Krapf; Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP; Dagit-Saylor Architects; Summers & Zim's; Mittal Steel; Breuninger Real Estate; GK Productions, Inc; The Williams Group; Kevin & Becky Mountain and the Brandywine Health Foundation.

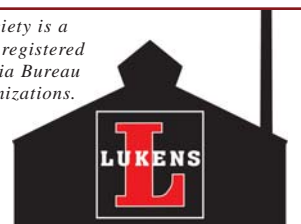


Historical exhibits will include: The America's Cup (Lukens supplied steel for some of the competitors), antique cars and fire trucks, and a presentation about Rebecca Lukens, Coatesville's most famous resident. There will be, entertainment, crafters and food stands, and of course ice cream! Visitors can stroll through the beautiful lawns and gardens of the Historic District, and the historic buildings will be open for tours. Volunteers are needed to help out with all aspects of this premier event. For more information: 610-384-9282 or [graystone@lukensnhd.org](mailto:graystone@lukensnhd.org).

### 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.

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



The Graystone Society  
in the Lukens National Historic District  
The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum  
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**Programs**

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

**Saturday, July 14, 10 am to 5 pm — Victorian Ice Cream Festival**  
A full day of entertainment and food for the entire family.

**Thursday, September 6, 5:30 pm — Fall Lecture # 1**  
Eugene L. DiOrio will discuss the history of the *Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad*.

**Thursday, October 4, 5:30 pm — Fall Lecture # 2**  
The Lukens Veterans Guild will host a discussion of the *Steel Rolling Process*.

**Thursday, October 18, 6 pm — Victorian Dinner**  
New this year: The Graystone Society will present a formal *Victorian Dinner*. Seating will be limited.

**Thursday, November 1, 5:30 pm — Fall Lecture # 3**  
Scott G. Huston will speak on the owners of Lukens Steel 1850-1927: *Dr. Charles L. Huston and his sons A.F. Huston and C.L. Huston, Sr.*

**Saturday, December 8, 4 to 7 pm — Holiday Open House**  
All the historic buildings will be decorated for the Holidays. In addition, there will be a Food Drive at the Lukens Executive Office Building to benefit the Coatesville Food Co-op.

**Collections**

The heat resistant suit shown here was worn in the steel mill to protect workers from the intense heat of the furnaces. This is one example of the many artifacts in our growing collection. The Graystone Society is in the process of applying for various grants to assist with proper storage and management of these items.



*Interested in collections or archiving? Volunteers are needed for help with collections management — 610-384-9282 or graystone@lukensnhd.org.*

**A few words with . . .**

**Scott G. Huston**

Coatesville is unique among the competing sites for a steel heritage museum. *Rivers of Steel* in Pittsburgh is not a compact, walkable site like we have here. Bethlehem, by including gaming, will not be a purely educational venue. In addition, we're a "hot" site — steel is still made here.

Yet we still ask the question: Do We Need an Iron and Steel Heritage Museum? The museum is expected to cost 25 million dollars, with \$5 million going to building restoration and \$8 million for site improvements. Approximately \$12 million will be used to make the educational experience come alive. That experience will, in part, involve science — the physics, chemistry and geology that were essential to the steel making process. It will also encompass art and architecture, and, most important of all, the story of the people who made the steel — the social history of industrial America.

The National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum is also a 25 million dollar investment in the revitalization of Coatesville. Preserving the stories of the people who built this town is obviously important. The resulting rebirth of a sense of community and the rekindling of civic pride — these things are priceless.

— by John Gutekunst

**Interested in The America's Cup?**

Did you know that Lukens supplied steel for some of the winning sailing boats when they competed? Visit the **Herreshoff Marine Museum** in Bristol, Rhode Island. Everything you ever wanted to know about the sport of sailing. [www.herreshoff.org](http://www.herreshoff.org)

**Properties**

**Graystone Mansion Porch**

Plans are in the works for the restoration of Graystone Mansion porch. A vault, which was installed when Graystone was City Hall, has been removed and restoration of the porch is being done in stages. We will begin with the site work, install necessary foundations and construct flooring of the porch. This work will enhance appearances from the present construction-site look, and allow us to provide handicapped access from the porch into the mansion.

**Carriage House**

This building (behind Graystone Mansion on Harmony Street) is currently vacant, but has great potential for use as a studio and exhibition center. The Carriage House requires much physical improvement to be usable. We are seeking funding for replacement of the furnace, air conditioning, wiring and plumbing, and to make the bathrooms ADA compliant. Also included in restoration plans are window repairs and roof patching.

Volunteers are welcome for upkeep of these and other properties. For more information: 610-384-9282 or graystone@lukensnhd.org.

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