

NEWS RELEASE

LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NINE COUNTY LIBRARIES OFFER TRAVELING TRUNKS PROGRAM FOR
SUMMER FUN**

A child's life in 1900 is the focus of Traveling Trunks in the Libraries Program

SCRANTON (June 20, 2005) – The Lackawanna Heritage Valley and the Lackawanna County Library System have teamed up to offer the Traveling Trunks program in nine area libraries during the month of July. This innovative summer program is geared toward children ages six to twelve and showcases Northeastern Pennsylvania's remarkable history and culture through collaboration with librarians, local heritage sites, and area artists. The program will begin the week of July 5, 2005, and will run for four weeks through the week of July 25, 2005.

Every library will receive a trunk filled with items that represent a day in the life of a child in 1900, including hand-made clothes, a union suit, a conductor's hat, an iron railroad spike, books,

tapes and DVD's. A different artist will visit the libraries each week to engage the children in fun activities using the artifacts in the trunk. Lucia Dailey, a writer and poet, will be featured from July 5-8; Claire Marcus, a visual artist, will visit the libraries from July 11-15; Lisa Faccioponti, a storyteller, will lead the programs from July 18-22, and Doug Smith, a musician, will conclude the program from July 25-29. All the artists participate in the Artists in the Classroom program sponsored by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

Every child who attends all four sessions will receive a Passport Book of free coupons for area heritage sites. The same program will be offered at each library during the same week, so a child has the opportunity to visit a different library any day during a given week to achieve perfect attendance and receive the Passport Book. Steamtown National Historic Site, the Electric City Trolley Museum, the Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Lackawanna County Coal Mine Tour, the Lackawanna County Historical Society, and the Everhart Museum all contributed artifacts for the trunks, and each site is featured in the Passport Book.

The Traveling Trunks Program is free to all members of the Lackawanna County Library System. Families are asked to contact the local library for registration.

Traveling Trunks Program Schedule

Mondays: Valley Community Library, 739 River Street, Peckville, 1 p.m.,
Green Ridge Branch Library, Green Ridge Street at Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, 3
p.m.

Tuesdays: Dalton Community Library, 113 E. Main Street, Dalton, 11 a.m.
Providence Branch Library, 2006 North Main Avenue, Scranton, 2 p.m.

Wednesdays: North Pocono Public Library, 113 Van Brunt Street, Moscow, 11 a.m.
Carbondale Public Library, 5 North Main Street, Carbondale, 1:30 p.m.

Thursdays: Taylor Community Library, 200 Union Street, Taylor, 10:30 a.m.

Abington Community Library, 1200 W. Grove Street, Clarks Summit (time TBD)

Fridays: Lackawanna County Children's Library, 500 Vine Street, Scranton, 10:00 a.m.

“The Lackawanna Valley has an amazing history, and the Traveling Trunks Program really brings that alive for the kids,” said Natalie Gelb Solfanelli, Executive Director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley. “Not only that, but each library building has an interesting history of its own. Teachers love the Traveling Trunks program in the schools, and we are delighted to make it available to the entire community.”

Historians have labeled Scranton the industrial center of Pennsylvania’s anthracite coal region, but the area is about more than coal. Iron and steel production, railroad and canals, electrified trolley system, printing, textiles, mass education, and immigration all played a significant role in the Lackawanna Valley’s growth. Between 1860 and 1910 the area’s industrial activity expanded dramatically, and drew thousands of new immigrants. Many of their descendents remain.

This summer program is the result of a partnership between LHVA and the Lackawanna Library System. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley (LHVA) works with heritage attractions, government, civic and educational organizations, as well as individuals. It encourages collaboration and provides funding for projects that conserve, preserve and educate the public about the region’s historic, cultural, economic, and natural resources. LHVA offers the successful Traveling Trunks Program to area schools through a partnership with the Northeastern Intermediate Unit #19.

For more information about the Traveling Trunks Program in the libraries, contact Colleen Carter, Public Education Officer, Lackawanna Heritage Valley, at (570) 963-6730 extension 8211.

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