

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

## Events

### 2006 Victorian Ice Cream Festival

The 9th Annual Victorian Ice Cream Festival drew large crowds to the grounds of Graystone Mansion. Along with the ice cream, there were numerous crafters, entertainment and children's play section. Following the Ice Cream



Festival, the City of Coatesville presented a concert and fireworks show.

Terracina was decked out with a multitude of silver items this year. At Graystone Mansion, the dining room was beautifully set up for a formal dinner. Graystone also played host to presentations on the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum, and a local collector of Coatesville memorabilia.

Success of the Ice Cream Festival is due to the hard work of the many Graystone Society volunteers who work behind the scenes. Some of the volunteers have been donating their time and effort every year since the first Ice Cream Festival nine years ago. Among these are **Becky Mountain**, who arranged for the entertainment, and **Ginny Allen**, in charge of organizing the volunteers.

Other volunteers include **Al Carey**, who made sure the signs and the grounds were ready, and **Doris Zelina**, who worked with the

crafters, a job she's been doing for the last several years.

Coordinating everything was **Mary Sullivan**, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Graystone Society. Mary has been running the Ice Cream Festival for the last five years.

Additional thanks go to **Gene DiOrio**, Executive Director of the Graystone Society, for his steady leadership in committee and organizational work. Coatesville provided security, streets management, displayed promotional signs, and donated the kid's games.

Sponsoring the Ice Cream Festival were: Coatesville Savings Bank, The City of Coatesville, Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Huston, III, The Huston Foundation and The Stewart Huston Charitable Trust. The event Partners were: Dagit-Saylor Architects, First Financial Bank, Harris Mountain Funeral Home, Mittal USA - Coatesville, Roehrs, Stanton, Willimann & Associates, Rotary Club of Coatesville and Summers & Zim's.

Publicity was abundant this year, both before and after the event. Articles in the Daily Local News and Coatesville Courier were favorable, putting the city and especially the Lukens National Historic District in a positive light.

Proceeds from the Ice Cream Festival benefit the maintenance and restoration of Graystone Mansion. It is the help of our sponsors and the City, and most of all the hard work of the volunteers from the Graystone Society that makes the Ice Cream Festival such a successful event.

## Acquisitions

### Brandywine Mansion Acquired for Historic District



The Stewart Huston Charitable Trust has acquired historic Brandywine Mansion, the former home of Rebecca Lukens, and has donated the property to the Graystone Society.

"Brandywine Mansion is a very important part of the history of Lukens Steel and Coatesville" said Scott Huston, Executive Director of the trust. "Our family is pleased to be able to pave the way for the ultimate restoration of a key piece of American history."

Brandywine Mansion is the oldest structure in the Lukens Historic District. Early portions of the house date to the mid-1700s.

Rebecca Lukens ran The Brandywine Iron and Nail Company (later reorganized as the Lukens Iron and Steel Company) out of this house until she passed away in 1854. Rebecca became the nation's first female industrialist, and is largely responsible for the company's growth into the oldest, continuously operating steel mill in North America.

The Graystone Society plans to restore Brandywine Mansion to its early 19<sup>th</sup> century appearance, the period when Rebecca Lukens occupied the home.



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

### Fall Lecture Series

**September 7: Cunard and Lukens - Steam and Steel**

Presented by Eugene L. DiOrio,  
Executive Director of the Graystone Society

**October 5: Training at Lukens**

Presented by Charles Lukens Huston, III,  
former VP of Lukens Steel Company

**November 9: Lukens: The Evolution of Rolling Steel**

Presented by Scott G. Huston,  
President of the Graystone Society

*For information and reservations: call Gene DiOrio at 610-384-9282,  
email [graystone@lukensnhd.org](mailto:graystone@lukensnhd.org) or visit the Events page at [www.lukensnhd.org](http://www.lukensnhd.org).*

## A few words with . . .

### Mary Sullivan

Mary Sullivan is retiring as Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Graystone Society. Working for an organization dedicated to historic preservation, however, doesn't mean she is stuck in the past. Mary is nothing if not forward looking.

She credits technology with making her job of coordinating the Victorian Ice Cream Festival a bit easier. "I can be walking between Graystone and Terracina, call a volunteer on my cell, have them e-mail a document to my computer, and print it out when I get there," she said.

Mary has been with the Graystone Society for 22 years. Prior to that she was on the Board of the Coatesville Area Senior Center. Besides the Ice Cream Festival, Mary is also the main contact for the information about the Lecture and Concert series that take place in the Lukens Historic District.

When Mary gives tours of the buildings, she says that people are amazed at the beautiful architecture and grounds, and the fascinating people who lived and worked here. She notes that Rebecca Lukens is especially important as a role model for young girls when they tour Terracina.

The Lukens National Historic District is very fortunate to have access to the skills and talents of Mary Sullivan. Rebecca Lukens isn't the only role model here!

— by John Gutekunst

## Collections

### World Trade Center "Trees"

When the World Trade Center towers collapsed on September 11, 2001, the fragments left standing were Lukens steel. Efforts are underway to acquire some of the 13 remaining trees for display at the National Iron and Steel Museum. Unfortunately there are still legal and insurance issues, so the time frame for distribution of artifacts is unclear. If the trees can be obtained, it is hoped that they can be displayed outdoors so they can be free to the public.

### Steelworkers — What They Wore, What They Carried

The National Iron and Steel Museum is not just about the products made at Lukens, it is also about the people who worked there. We are interested in donations of the steel-toed boots and hardhats that were worn by actual steelworkers, along with the lunch pails and other items the workers would have typically carried into the mills.

If you or someone you know would be interested in donating an item, or for more information, contact Katherine Kuroczko at [curator@lukensnhd.org](mailto:curator@lukensnhd.org).

## Properties

### Executive Office Building

Offices & suites are available for lease with a blend of classic elegance and 21<sup>st</sup> Century features. Convenient location with easy access via Route 30. For more information contact Sharon Tanderich at [admin@hustonproperties.org](mailto:admin@hustonproperties.org).