



1636 Sansom Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Victorian Society in America

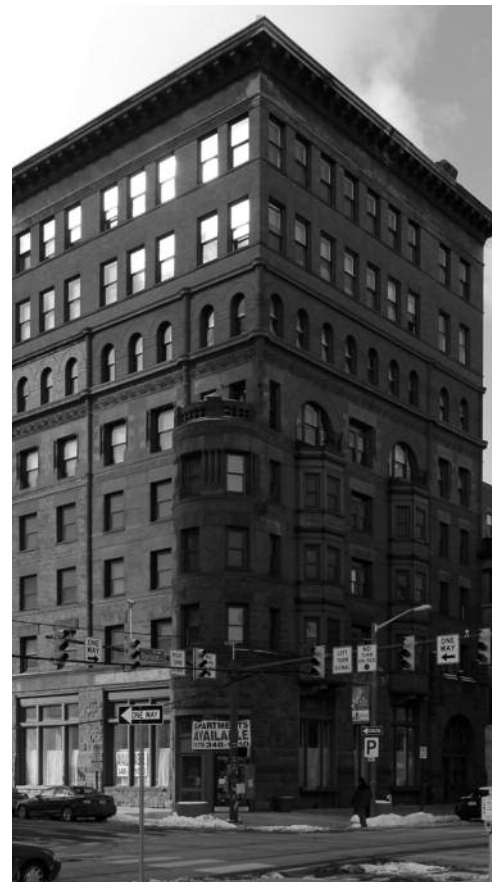
Invites you to join us for

ANTHRACITE ARCHITECTURE:

THREE VICTORIAN TOWNS IN
NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

A Fall Study Tour led by Michael Lewis

OCTOBER 15 - 18, 2015



JIM THORPE | WILKES-BARRE | SCRANTON, PA

This three-day tour looks at the architecture of the Anthracite Coal Region. Anthracite coal – “hard coal,” as it was once commonly known – is almost pure carbon, and so it burns cleanly. The world’s largest deposit is along the Susquehanna River in northeastern Pennsylvania, which became the international center of anthracite extraction during the nineteenth century. Three different towns embody this story in different ways. **Wilkes-Barre** was at the center of the lucrative mining industry but maintained much of the New England character established by its first Connecticut settlers. **Jim Thorpe** (the former Mauch Chunk) is the picturesquely sited mountain town where a pioneering gravity railroad was created in 1817 to bring the coal across the Pocono Mountains to the Delaware River. Finally, **Scranton** would become the railroad hub of the coal industry, and the home of the powerful D. L. & W. Railroad, whose mighty train station, now a hotel, will be our base during the tour.



Following our opening reception on Thursday evening, we will spend a day in each of the three towns. We begin on Friday, October 16th in **Wilkes-Barre**, the heart of the Wyoming Valley. Originally claimed by Connecticut settlers, Wilkes-Barre was laid out in 1772 as a typical New England puritan town with a central town green. But once serious large-scale coal mining began in the middle of the nineteenth century, the entire valley was undermined by shafts and tunnels. As J. Paul Getty supposedly said, “*The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth* (but not its mineral rights).” The only area that was never mined was the original riverfront settlement where we will visit houses by some of the leading architects of New York and Philadelphia – Wilson Eyre, C. H. P. Gilbert, Frank Furness, F. C. Withers, Edmund Gilchrist, and the immensely gifted Bruce Price, whose wife was a native of Wilkes-Barre, and whose independent career began in Wilkes-Barre. We will also see churches by such major architects as James Renwick, Charles M. Burns, Edward Kendall, J. C. Cady, and William Schickel. Bruce Price is buried in Wilkes-Barre’s Hollenback Cemetery, which has a splendid array of funeral monuments by Price and which is one of America’s loveliest picturesque cemeteries, overlooking the banks of the Susquehanna.

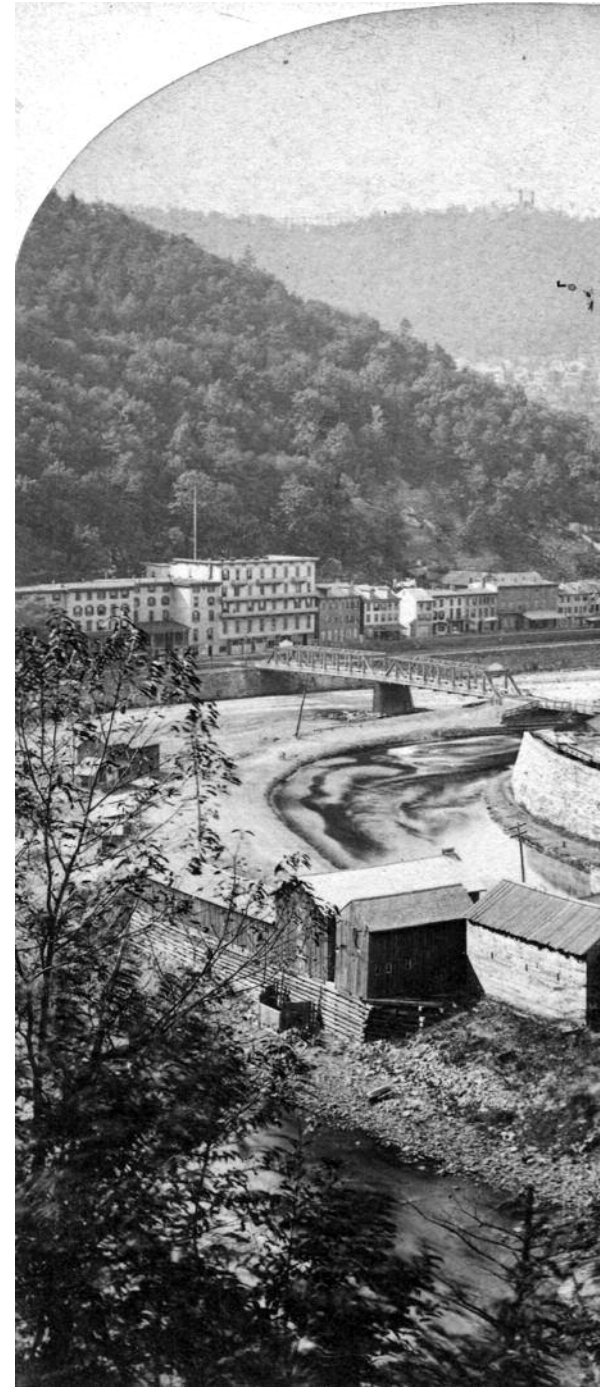
***Full details of the itinerary can be found on the Society’s website:
www.victoriansociety.org***

JIM THORPE | WILKES-BARRE | SCRANTON, PA

Scranton (Saturday, October 17th) is utterly different in character and burst into life in the 1840s as an industrial rail center. Its character is more firmly industrial, and stamped by the railroad as much as Wilkes-Barre by the nearby river. We will see buildings by Richard Upjohn, Russell Sturgis, Raymond Hood, Isaac G. Perry, J. C. Cady, Green & Wicks, and Kenneth Murchison, who designed the great railroad station with its faience panels showing all the towns linked by the D. L. & W. railroad. In Scranton is the railroad history complex known as Steamtown, a complex of railroad buildings from the 1850s through the early twentieth century. It is also possible to tour an anthracite coal mine and descend 300 feet.

After this hyper-industrial meal we will require a pastoral *digestif* and on our third day we will tour the town located in “the Switzerland of America,” **Jim Thorpe** (Sunday, October 18th). This is not so much a town but one superb Victorian street in a narrow valley, meandering upwards between two rows of architectural gems, an exquisite Victorian charm bracelet of a town. At the foot of the street are the greatest of the buildings: one of the best preserved antebellum houses in all of America is the Asa Packer Mansion (1860), whose furnishings are intact to a surprising degree, down to the wooden toilet seat. Alongside it is his son Harry Packer’s Mansion (1874), designed by Addison Hutton, and now a bed-and-breakfast. We will visit the astonishing St. Mark’s Episcopal Church (1867) on what is surely the most gorgeous building site ever handed to Richard Upjohn, set in the hillside at the foot of Jim Thorpe’s Main Street and also the New Jersey Central Depot by Philadelphia’s polymath engineer-architects, the Wilson Brothers (1888).

At the time of our tour in mid October, the autumn foliage is at its peak, a perfect time to contemplate the vanished world of the anthracite coal aristocracy, which spent lavishly on their houses, churches, and clubs, and just as lavishly as their extravagant and poignant tombs.



Above: Jim Thorpe, (formerly Mauch Chunk), 1845.
Below: Scranton, c. 1909.

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Information and Registration

BECAUSE SPACE IS LIMITED WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL MEMBERS WHO PLAN TO ATTEND REGISTER WITH THE SOCIETY AND BOOK THEIR HOTEL UPON RECEIPT OF THIS BROCHURE

Special Notes

All lunches are included; breakfasts and dinners are on one's own. The opening reception is in Scranton on Thursday evening, October 15th at 6:30 p.m. Note that Sunday's tour of Jim Thorpe is a full-day tour. We will be back in Scranton at approximately 6:00 p.m., so plan your travel accordingly.

Bear in mind that there will be extensive walking so please bring comfortable shoes. We regret that we cannot provide alternate means of transportation for those who have walking or endurance difficulties

Getting There

Scranton is a few hours drive from New York City, Philadelphia and many NE cities. It is also served by the Wilkes-Barre / Scranton International Airport KAVP / AVP. Unfortunately there is no longer train service to or from Scranton

Eating Out

There are a number of restaurants – of various types and price points – within walking distance of the hotel. The hotel also has an excellent dining room.

Hotel Information

Our headquarters hotel is the **Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel**, 700 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503. The main phone number for reservations is (570) 342-8300 or (866) 715-7836. Please use these numbers to make your room reservation and be sure to mention that you are with the Victorian Society in America to get the discounted rate. We have reserved a block of rooms at a discounted rate of \$129.00 per night single or double occupancy, and *these rooms will be held for us exclusively until September 23, 2015*. After this date, the discounted rate may no longer be available and the rooms will be subject to availability.

MAKING RESERVATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE HOTEL ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND AT YOUR EXPENSE. THE SOCIETY'S ONLY ROLE IS TO SECURE THE DISCOUNTED GROUP RATE.

How to Register

Registration can be made via check (preferable), credit card or money order.

Checks should be made payable to The Victorian Society in America. The Victorian Society in America is not responsible for accidents, injury or loss of personal items during this program. The Victorian Society in America reserves the right to make such changes to the schedule, sites to be visited, or personnel as may become necessary or desirable. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. **As this mailing has been sent via first class mail reservations will be taken immediately.** RESERVE EARLY AS SPACE IS LIMITED. Phone or fax reservations will ONLY be taken with a credit card payment at the time of reservation. Send your fax reservations to (215) 636-9873.

Refunds

Refunds will only be given until September 25, 2015. A \$100.00 administrative fee will be deducted from each refund. After September 25, 2015 no refunds of any kind will be given.

Trip Insurance

If you think that there is a chance that you will need to withdraw from this trip after you have paid you may wish to consider purchasing trip insurance. Trip insurance protects you against any unforeseen need to cancel. Trip insurance can cover the Society's fee and your airfare and hotel costs. There are many providers of this type of insurance; one place to start looking is www.insuremytrip.com (800-487-4722). The Society is providing this information purely as a service to you, and we do not receive any compensation from any insurance organization.

	COST	NO. OF PEOPLE	=	TOTAL
Registration Fee	\$425	_____	=	_____
Membership in the VSA (if not already a member)	\$55 individual	_____	=	_____
(non-members wishing to attend must join the Society)	\$65 household	_____	=	_____
If you are paying by credit card, please add \$25 to help cover the bank processing costs	\$25			_____

TOTAL REGISTRATION AMOUNT \$ _____

Please check if applicable:

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made payable to The Victorian Society in America

Please charge my credit card # _____

Exp. date _____ Sec. Code _____

Signature _____

Name _____ First name on name tag: _____

Additional Participant _____ First name on name tag: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____

Email address _____

Please mail your completed form with your payment to: The Victorian Society in America, 1636 Sansom Street • Philadelphia, PA 19103