

EXPLORE... Stony Valley • EXPERIENCE... Nature • EDUCATE... History

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Every Memory Matters: Between The Censuses

By Brandy M. Watts Martin

Cold Spring Township, Lebanon County can easily be considered a genealogist's nightmare. Part of Stony Valley, and the southernmost tip of the Lower Anthracite Coal Region in Pennsylvania, Cold Spring Township became the perfect place for the first wave of immigrants to the Anthracite Coal Fields to settle. The Irish Potato Famine and then economic troubles in Wales and England sent hundreds of immigrants to Stony Valley, creating a population boom of 2,000 individuals by 1855. The year 1855; however, is a year that genealogists and family historians can certainly grumble over, for it's between the 1850 and 1860 census. To make matters worse, the majority of those 2,000 individuals were immigrants from Europe who arrived after the 1850 census in America, and left before the 1860 census, thus many are left with a dilemma: How can we track down our Stony Valley relations?

Over the years, I have had numerous queries from people who stumbled across the name Rausch Gap, or other towns in Stony Valley, in their Family Bibles, church records, death certificates,

or family lore, which becomes the primary way to track down Stony Valley residents. I am currently compiling a master index of the residents of Stony Valley's own Anthracite Region, primarily focusing on those who left the valley before 1870.

How can you help? If you know of individuals, or have relations, who lived in Stony Valley or worked for the Dauphin & Susquehanna/Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad (anywhere along the line), we'd love to get some information from you. Please send the following information you have on the individuals, along with any additional information, or photographs to Brandy M. Watts Martin.

Please include:

- Name of individual
- Relationship to you (if any)
- Parents/Siblings/Spouse/Children
- Birth/Death dates and places
- ANY known occupations
- Reason why you believe they lived in, worked for, or are associated with Stony Valley and the S&S Railroad
- Attention: note if you prefer photographs included *not* to be used by Brandy M. Watts Martin



Christmas is just around the corner. Get your history and nature lover something they can enjoy year 'round.

<http://www.ebay.com/usr/stonyvalleyheritage>

Publications relating to Stony Valley and the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad
Artwork, Postcards and Decor • Locally Crafted Handmade Scarves • Plus More!

Have information about Stony Valley or one of its residents you'd like to share? Know about an individual who once worked for the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad? Have some photographs lying around of people or places in Stony Valley (new or old) that you'd like to share with us and others? Contact our historian or one of our researchers:

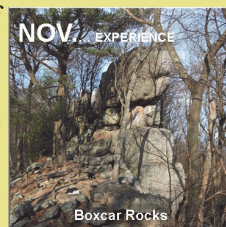
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EXPLORE... Stony Valley

There's lots of great opportunities for your entire family to get out and EXPERIENCE... Nature in Stony Valley from



Second Mountain Hawk Watch to the Devil's Race Course. Some hikes take less than three miles 'round trip and are suitable for children. These hikes are marked with the Stony Valley Kids logo.

Upcoming Events

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[@StonyValley](https://twitter.com/StonyValley)



StonyValleyHeritage.Blogspot.com

Upcoming Events

2014

Sat., September 27 @ 12 Noon

“Stony Valley: Step Into History”

Stony Creek Valley Coalition's
Annual Picnic at the
Kittatinny Hunting and Fishing Club
Swopes Valley Road, Suedberg, PA

The annual picnic will be held at the Kittatinny Hunting and Fishing Club, and lunch is served at 12 Noon. There will be a short coalition meeting later in the day. Everyone is welcome. Please feel free to bring a covered dish if you desire.

While you're there discover Stony Valley's top ten historic sites and top ten natural wonders with the "Stony Valley: Step Into History" 3-D model of the surrounding terrain, which will be on display. Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad Historian Brandy M. Watts Martin, and Stony Valley Daily Life Researcher Seth A. Martin, will be on hand to answer questions.

Wed., October 8 @ 7:00 p.m.

Stony Valley: A Haunting History

Presented by Brandy M. Watts Martin
Richland Community Library,
Richland, PA

From ghosts to ghouls, witches to warlocks, murderers to mischief-makers, hear some of the mysterious and historical tales that call Stony Valley home.

Mon., October 13 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ruins In The Wilderness: The Coal Mining Towns of Stony Valley

Presented by Brandy M. Watts Martin
East Hanover Twp. Historical Society
Meeting held at East Hanover
Township Building, Grantville, PA

Explore the coal mining communities of Stony Valley from your seat.

**STATE GAME LAND No. 211
DRIVE THRU AND GUIDED TOURS
OF COLD SPRING HOTEL SITE
ARE CANCELLED FOR 2014**

Tues., October 14 @ 7:00 p.m.

*A Journey Through Time on the
Schuylkill & Susquehanna Branch:
Circa 1900 to 1910*

Presented by Brandy M. Watts Martin
Sweet Arrow Lake County Park,
Pine Grove, PA

Travel the line from Dauphin to Auburn on a mixed train (train carrying both passengers and freight) between 1900 and 1910, passing by the sights and businesses of yesteryear.

Sat., October 18 @ 6:00-9:00 p.m.

“Stony Valley: Step Into History”

Comics & Paperbacks Plus
201 East Main Street, Palmyra, PA

With the cancellation of Drive Thru this year, the “Stony Valley: Step Into History” exhibit will be travelling to Palmyra instead.

EXPLORE...Stony Valley with our display featuring a 3-D Model that depicts hiking trails, land forms, and the top ten historic sites and top ten natural features in the valley and surrounds. Historian Brandy M. Watts Martin, and Stony Valley Daily Life Researcher Seth Martin will be on hand to answer questions.

Any *Cold Spring Hotel Site: Uncovering Its Layers of History* books by James C. and James M. Logan that are sold during this event will benefit the continued research of Stony Valley and the S&S Railroad.

Fri., October 31 @ 7:00 p.m.

Stony Valley Spook Hike

Hike led by Brandy M. Watts Martin
Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club
Meets only at the Gold Mine Road,
Western Rail-Trail Parking Lot

A steady-paced 7-mile hike on the rail-trail to the Rausch Gap Cemetery in the dark to hear tales of ghosts and ghouls, murderers and mischief-makers along the former S&S Railroad. Remember to bring flashlights, extra batteries, and a drink.

*May be cancelled due to bad weather.
Cancellation information can be found on
StonyValley.com and its social media

Tues., November 4 @ 7:00 p.m.

*A Journey Through Time on the
Schuylkill & Susquehanna Branch:
The Last Days*

Presented by Brandy M. Watts Martin
Auburn Area Historical Society,
Auburn, PA

Discover the secrets the last days of the line holds between Dauphin to Auburn on a passenger train shortly before World War II. From the declining industries to the demise of a doomed line, the last days showcase a decade plus look at the line.

2015

Wed., March 25 @ 7:30 p.m.

Wonders of the Wilderness

Presented by Brandy M. Watts Martin
Quittapahilla Audubon Society
Meeting held at Lebanon Valley Home,
550 East Main St., Annville, PA

Discover the natural wonders of Saint Anthony's Wilderness including Boxcar Rocks north of Stony Valley, the flowering garden of Rattlesnake Shack in Clarks Valley, and highlights from the breathtaking mountainous terrain in between.

The presentation will also feature
StonyValley.com's 3-D Model of
Stony Valley and surrounds.

Tues., April 28 @ 6:30 p.m.

Walkin' The Rails

Presented by Brandy M. Watts Martin
Annville Free Library, Annville, PA

One of the first rails-to-trails in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Stony Valley Rail-Trail runs 19.5 miles in Dauphin, Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties, winding its way through the heart of the second largest road-less wilderness tract of land in Pennsylvania. A family-friendly program, this slideshow, takes the first-time family explorer to the avid hiker in a trip down the rail-trail discovering the history and nature you can see along the way.

Do you know an organization, Scout or youth group, church, senior, or social group looking for presentations? Pass StonyValley.com on to them!

NOW SCHEDULING FOR 2015!