

StonyValley.com

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

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Upcoming Events

2014

Tues., April 22 @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.

“Stony Valley: Step Into History”

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

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 Seth A. Martin will be on hand to answer questions.

Sun., May 18 @ 10:00 a.m.

Rausch Gap Rail Ramble

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

Ramble along the Stony Valley Rail-Trail and Upper Rail-Trail with us on this average-paced 8 mile hike to the former communities of Rausch Gap and (Upper) Gold Mine.

Remember to wear sturdy shoes, and bring lunch and plenty of water.

Tues., May 27 @ 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Events Continued on Reverse

Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?

The silver bells and cockle shells are unmistakably missing from Stony Valley Daily Life Researcher, Seth A. Martin's historic garden. In March, Seth dug into his new project, “A Stony Valley Garden,” in which he works to recreate the type of gardens commonly seen among the houses of Rausch Gap in the mid-1850s.

With a passion for history and the outdoors, Seth first discovered Stony Valley while attending Penn State Harrisburg, just twenty minutes away, where he was working on a degree in Secondary Education Social Studies. He was soon taking weekly trips to the area with his future wife, Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad Historian, Brandy M. Watts Martin.

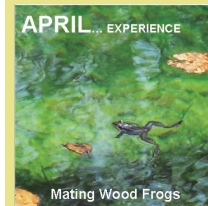
Seth noted in his March 22 blog article, “Hiking around Stony Valley, we explored the towns and found new ruins in the wilderness, and I started to wonder how did people really survive back there?” It was the longing to answer that question that drove Seth forward,

and he started preparing for his historic garden in late-2013.

The untamed remnants of a garden in his yard, and a desire to learn is all Seth needed to get started; however, just how the historic garden will fare is up to Mother Nature to decide. Learn more about the project, and follow Seth's progress throughout the year on the “Stony Valley Heritage” blog at:

StonyValleyHeritage.blogspot.com

EXPLORE... Stony Valley



EXPERIENCE the wood frogs in April and the flowers in May in Stony Valley and surrounds. Each month keep your eyes

open for other great ways to EXPERIENCE... Nature in Stony Valley. This year, both April and May hiking trips are less than 3-miles 'round trip and kid-friendly, so bring the family!

Every Memory Matters: A Family Album

By Brandy M. Watts Martin

When researching, you never know what surprises you may come across, where you'll find them, or just who you might be staring at in an old photograph. A few years ago, I was astounded to discover a photograph of my great great grandfather standing in front of the Cold Spring springhouse in the hands of a distant relation at a meeting.

I heard his daughter talk of huckleberry picking along the old Schuylkill & Susquehanna Branch, and his son-in-law used to “borrow” the Reading Company's handcar to get his deer out each hunting season, but I never realized my Cumberland County family knew about Stony Valley before that. Soon, I was off on a genealogical quest to find out just *how* they knew.

My great great grandfather, Daniel Arias F. Folk (1872-1949) was born in Missouri, certainly a far cry from the

(continued on reverse)



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StonyValleyHeritage.Blogspot.com

Upcoming Events

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Sun., June 8 @ 2:30 p.m.

A Journey Along the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Branch: The Last Days

Presented by Brandy M. Watts Martin
Capital Area Genealogical Society
Meeting held at Christ Evan. Lutheran
1214 Crosby St., Linglestown, 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.

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.

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.

Watch for MORE Upcoming Events at StonyValley.com!

coal clad mountains of Stony Valley, but his family returned to Pennsylvania just a few years after his birth. Upon entering adulthood, he would make his home in Letterkenny, Franklin County, and marry Emma H. VanSycoc in 1891, who would pass away the following year after delivering their first child.

Daniel would soon find his way "home" to Cumberland County where he would marry my great great grandmother, Minnie Bedeliah Morrow, in 1895. Together they would have nine children and move to York County, eventually settling in New Cumberland. Minnie would meet an untimely death in 1919, and Daniel would relocate to Harrisburg where he met his third wife, Rosa Ann (nee Nye) Straw.

For those of you familiar with surnames of the area, these names probably clicked in your mind. Various branches of the Nye (Ney) family settled at Cold Spring, Yellow Spring, Rattling Run and over the mountain in Fishing Creek Valley. Rosa was from the Fishing Creek Valley Nyes, having been raised near Manada Gap. Daniel was Rosa's second marriage, she having previously been the wife of Harry Edward Straw.

Straw (Stroh) was a typical Fishing Creek Valley surname. Harry, however, was raised a house at Yellow Spring, as his father George Washington Straw maintained that section of the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Branch. Harry would work for the line too, and for a while he and Rosa would live at Yellow Spring after they married in 1910.



The remains of the house in 2012, where Harry and Rosa lived at Yellow Spring.

Living in the valley in the mid-1910s would be lonely for Rosa who had two small sons at this time. It seems she quickly made friends with Fridel Foster, the wife of Mulford Foster, who owned and lived at the Cold Spring Nature Farm a few miles down the tracks. Fridel and Rosa would be of similar age, and Harry hauled water for Mulford at least once. Rosa probably visited Cold Spring on more than one occasion.

When Harry passed away in 1918, and Rosa subsequently married my great great grandfather, she must have remembered Cold Spring in her heart, and took her "new" family there to visit.



The Straw and Folk Family at Cold Spring

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.

Have information about Stony Valley you'd like to share? Contact our historian or one of our researchers:

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