

# StonyValley.com

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

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## Upcoming Events

2014

**Thurs., July 17 @ 6:00 p.m.**

*Stony Valley: A Haunting History*

Presented by Brandy M. Watts Martin  
West Hanover Twp. Historical Society  
Meeting held at West Hanover Township  
Recreation Center,  
628 Walnut Avenue, Harrisburg, 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.

Presentation held after West Hanover Township Historical Society Indoor Picnic. Anyone wishing to attend the picnic, please bring a covered dish to share with others. You will need to supply your own beverage, paper goods and utensils.

**Sat., July 19 @ 6:00-9:00p.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 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 Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad.

*Events Continued on Reverse*

## Every Memory Matters: Tracking Down A Trackman

By Brandy M. Watts Martin

Over the years, I've often received genealogical queries about people who either worked on, or lived along, the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad. I've found the queries tend to come all at once and pile up quickly; then get answered slowly. Queries with a little bit of a back story and a single question tend to be answered a lot faster, unless it sends me through binders and binders of un-indexed research, which was the case of the descendents of Franklin B. Putt.

The great grandson of Franklin B. Putt, a former employee on the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Branch, wrote to me: *“My Grandfather John E. Putt, two brothers Fred and Robert and a daughter Lottie were all probably born at home somewhere up Stony Creek Valley. I would like to know if you have done any research regarding property owners and homestead locations within the valley.”*

Unfortunately, the Putt family was like many families on the western end of Stony Valley. *(continued on reverse)*

## The Road Less Traveled

Sometimes there are discoveries of new ruins in Stony Valley when you least expect them, such as the recent ones made on the Rausch Gap Rail Ramble led by Brandy M. Watts Martin for the Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club on May 18.

A pleasant trip from the Gold Mine Western Rail-Trail Parking Lot to Rausch Gap on the Stony Valley Rail-Trail, with a break for lunch at the Appalachian Trail Shelter became a little longer as the group attempted to navigate back to the Upper Rail-Trail and onto the former settlement of Gold Mine. After an extra two miles was added to the hike due to rerouting around precarious stream crossings due to the rains that were experienced the week previous, the hike's participants visited their last stop on the Ramble, the settlement of Gold Mine.

A mid-nineteenth century coal mining community, Gold Mine is along a wagon road running south from the Up-

## EXPLORE... Stony Valley



Beat the heat this summer when you EXPERIENCE the waters of Stony Valley with hikes to Stony Creek in June, the Evening Branch Beaver Swamp in July, and Jeff's Swamp in August. Each month keep your eyes open for other great ways to EXPERIENCE... Nature in Stony Val-

per Rail-Trail. Once in the village, the ruins of typical coal miner's double houses form two streets with the remnants of bake ovens scattered about.

The last of the houses borders the western bank of Gold Mine Run, and since it has an unusual layout and central position to roads leading from the main community, is believed to have served as the company store near the end of the settlement's existence.

*(continued on attached page)*



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



[StonyValleyHeritage.Blogspot.com](http://StonyValleyHeritage.Blogspot.com)

# Upcoming Events

✧ CONTINUED ✧

## PLEASE NOTE:

**This Program was rescheduled to Sun., August 10 @ 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.

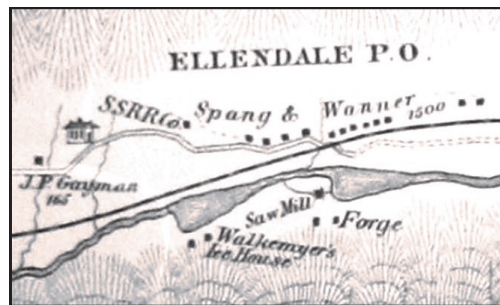
Events Continued on Attached Page

## Tracking Down A Trackman (cont.)

They moved around... a lot. Therefore my trace was by the years and then the decades, to find just where the Putt family homestead existed.

Shortly after Franklin B. Putt married Margaret Dewalt, the daughter of Ferdinand Dewalt, the 1880 census was taken, showing them in Middle Paxton Township surrounded by neighbors in iron-making professions. Recorded as a laborer who was only employed for six months out of the past year on the census, Franklin lived just a few houses away from Peter Snyder, the manager of Ellendale Forge, placing the Putts in the community of Ellendale.

It is likely at least one of their four children – Lottie V. (1881), Robert F. (1883), John Elijah (1885) and Frederick C. (1886) – could have been born in this house. By 1900, the census shows they have probably moved, but not far due to their neighbors occupations in the iron-making and sawmill industries, both of which were prominent industries at that time in Ellendale. Due to them not owning their own property until they moved to Dauphin in April 1901, we may never know where exactly they lived while in Ellendale, but because of their proximity to the manager of forge, their exact house can at least be narrowed down.



Living among iron industry workers, the Putt's house when the children were born would have been among those company homes belonging to Spang & Wanner, the then-owners of Ellendale Forge in 1875 (seen above in the 1875 Beers' Atlas of Dauphin County). None of these home are believed to exist today; however, there is a photograph that survives from the same era when the Putts' lived in the valley that shows what a similar house may have looked like.

Thank you to the descendents of Franklin Putt for sharing your story.

If anyone has other information about S&S workers, please contact us.



(Above) A home at Ellendale Forge that was used as a company office as well as residence for some of the workers. (Right) Franklin B. Putt around the time of his retirement.



## Stony Valley Historic Garden

Hopefully you have been following along with Seth A. Martin, Stony Valley Daily Life Researcher's updates of the progress in the Stony Valley Historic Garden on our blog and Facebook pages. At a recent event, we were asked just what we planned to do with everything we harvested from the Historic Garden.

Well, aside from the obvious, we plan to store some of the root vegetables for use over the winter, and may either can, freeze, or dry other crops harvested. This is what we also did with our crop from our main farm garden last year.

Please keep in mind the Historic Garden is approximately 550 square feet of our overall 4,600+ square feet of garden space we will be harvesting from this year, which includes herb patches, a mint bed, two gardens (historic included), and four different kinds of berry bushes.

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

**Brandy M. Watts Martin**

Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad Historian  
historian@stonyvalley.com

**Annette Logan**

Cold Spring Researcher  
coldspringhistory@stonyvalley.com

**Seth A. Martin**

Stony Valley Daily Life Researcher  
seth@stonyvalley.com



# Upcoming Events

✧ CONTINUED ✧

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.

Watch for MORE Upcoming Events at StonyValley.com!

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

## The Road Less Traveled (continued)

Nearby the old bridge piers used by wagons to ford Gold Mine Run exist. The hike's participants agreed that this would be the most reasonable place to cross their last stream crossing due to the abundance of rocks in the creek bottom. Lo' and behold, right as we started up the old wagon road, a house foundation (pictured below) appeared to the south, and another one after that with a bake oven!

We had always wondered what might sit on the other side of the wagon-road bridge piers, but never had the ability to cross the creek at that exact location before. A quick survey of the area proved no easily recognizable ruins during that hike, but additional surveys are planned.



## Seeking Information About The Rausch Gap Cemetery

We are seeking photographs of, and information relating to, the Rausch Gap Cemetery or other cemeteries located in Stony Valley, or along the former Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad in from all time periods. It doesn't matter if the picture was taken last year, in 1970, or in 1900.

Any information shared with us will could be used in our social media, web-

site, publications, etc. with proper credit given. You can share information with us through our social media, email [historian@stonyvalley.com](mailto:historian@stonyvalley.com) or send the information to Brandy M. Watts Martin, Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad Historian, P.O. Box 366, Pine Grove, PA 17963.

Thank you for your assistance in preserving the S&S Railroad's history.

## EVERY MEMORY MATTERS

Brandy M. Watts Martin, who has been researching the abandoned Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad/Branch (locally known as the Old Reading, S&S, or Slow and Steady) for the last sixteen years since 1997, is seeking stories and photos about life along the former line.

Stories include names and memories of those living and working along the railroad, industries and businesses that utilized the railroad, and photographs of life along the old line, all from the everyday to the once-in-a-lifetime. No memory is insignificant, no photograph too blurry.

Information, memories, and photographs you wish to share, with her and others, can be sent to:

[Historian@StonyValley.com](mailto:Historian@StonyValley.com)

or

Brandy M. Watts Martin, Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad Historian  
P. O. Box 366, Pine Grove, PA 17963



"My father put me in an apple tree to watch the train go down the Old Reading, telling me I'd never see it happen again."



### Communities the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad/Branch serviced are:

DAUPHIN COUNTY: Dauphin, Ellendale Forge, Heckton, Rattling Run, Rockville, Singersville, Stone Glen, Water Tank and White Spring

LEBANON COUNTY: Cold Spring, Gold Mine, Rausch Gap and Yellow Spring

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY: Auburn, Auchenbach, Aucheys, Beuchler (Oak Grove), Hammon (Summit Station), Jefferson, Mount Eagle, Moyers, Outwood, Pine Grove, Rock, Roeders, Stanhope, and Stonemont

NOTED FEATURES: High Bridge, Red Bridge, Stone Arch, Stony Valley



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [STONYVALLEY.COM](http://STONYVALLEY.COM)

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