

StonyValley.com

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

MAIL TO: Brandy M. Watts Martin, Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad Historian,
P.O. Box 366, Pine Grove, PA 17963 • EMAIL: Historian@StonyValley.com



Upcoming Events

2014

Tues., March 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

Rausch Gap

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

Discover the largest of the former coal mining and railroading communities in Stony Valley. With over 1,000 residents, Rausch Gap, was a happening place in its heyday.

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 study 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

Do you know an organization looking for presentations? Pass StonyValley.com on to them!

Discover Stony Valley's heritage with new blog

Ever wondered how people in Rausch Gap lived in the 19th century? Perhaps you think your relative could have hung out at the Cold Spring Hotel. This year, start discovering more about Stony Valley with StonyValley.com's "Stony Valley Heritage" blog.

Created to explore the valley's rich heritage, the blog will feature articles primarily from two researchers, Annette Logan and Seth Martin, as well as occasional articles and updates from historian Brandy M. Watts Martin.

The blog kicked off February 1 with an article by Cold Spring researcher Annette Logan, who manages an online photo gallery devoted to seeing Saint Anthony's Wilderness from your home (<http://www.seeSAW.smugmug.com>). For the blog, Annette will be focusing on the Cold Spring Hotel Site's past. A former summer resort, eventually turned summer camp, the hotel site offers three centuries

Store benefits valley's past

StonyValley.com opened its Online Store late last year (<http://www.ebay.com/usr/stonyvalleyheritage>), where you can find historical publications about the valley, and the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad, which ran 54 miles from Rockville, Dauphin County to Auburn, Schuylkill County.

Currently the Online Store is carrying a variety of publications related to the valley's past, postcards, prints and handmade scarves from Central Pennsylvania to keep you warm while you explore Stony Valley in this cold winter weather.

All sales from the Online Store benefit the continued research of Stony Valley and the S&S Railroad.



of history that Annette plans to explore.

Annette is also providing information for "This Day in Cold Spring History" on StonyValley.com's Facebook and Twitter for 2014. (Please Note: The seeSAW website is currently undergoing maintenance.)

To find out more about the faces behind StonyValley.com's blog and about the valley's rich heritage head over to the new "Stony Valley Heritage" blog at <http://www.StonyValleyHeritage.blogspot.com>, where you can view Annette's first article.

Every Memory Matters

By Brandy M. Watts Martin

My first memory of the Rausch Gap Cemetery in Stony Valley was walking through weed lined trails to get to four stones in a clearing. The one that caught my attention was a small stone belonging to Catharine Blackwood who died at the age of 1 year, 1 month and 7 days.

For years, I've been told that over two dozen gravestones graced the old cemetery in the 1970s, but no records or pictures have surfaced to prove the claim. Then I started *really* listening to the memories of those who visited the cemetery, and learned (*continued on reverse*)



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StonyValleyHeritage.Blogspot.com



The Rausch Gap Cemetery during the 1970s, similar to how the author remembers her first trip to the cemetery two decades later.

Every Memory Matters (continued)

more than I could have ever imagined.

A descendent of John Proud, recalls visiting his ancestor's grave in the 1950s by *driving* to the clearing from Gold Mine Road, and not on the abandoned S&S Railroad either! A descendent of Ray Gorman, says he visited his ancestor's grave, after *driving* to the cemetery, in the 1970s, but the headstone was not located where the rest now sit.

Memories matters, since I can definitely tell you in the 1990s, I had to begrudgingly walk to that cemetery as a kid, and there are just three inscribed stones today. Without the numerous tales of the Rausch Gap Cemetery, we may not know *who* is

buried there, or where all those missing gravestones went (as there were at least sixty individuals buried in the cemetery, and room for some one hundred bodies).

To insure other memories are not lost of Stony Valley and life along the old Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad, the "Every Memory Matters" campaign was started in April 2013. For 16 years I have been researching the abandoned railroad, and years ago I didn't bother to record the memories of those who are no longer with us. Their tales of watching the last train go down the Old Reading as a child, helping to tear down the famous High Bridge after returning from World War II, or the construction of Tieland were unfortunately taken with them to the grave. Make sure your photos and memories aren't! No memory is insignificant, no photograph too blurry.

Any information, memories, and photographs you wish to share, with us and others will greatly help in discovering the lost history of the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad, the industries the line serviced, the communities the line crossed through, and the countless people who worked on the line. Brandy's full contact information is on the reverse of this newsletter.

Cold Spring Hotel visitors indentified in new project

February saw the beginning of a new project led by Annette Logan, Cold Spring Researcher to compile a list of visitors to the Cold Spring Summer Resort between 1850 and 1900 (when the hotels burned).

These visitors, sometimes just picnickers and outdoorsmen passing through, came from far and wide. They include everyone from day laborers to capitalists and prominent citizens of the surrounding communities of Harrisburg, Lebanon, Pottsville and

Reading, but why some of them came to Cold Spring remains a mystery.

The alphabetized index is available at <http://stonyvalley.com/coldspringvisitors>, and will be updated as more names and information is found. Basic genealogical data compiled by Brandy M. Watts Martin is also found on the index to help identify your relatives a little easier.

If you happen to find your relative in the index, please contact Annette Logan.

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

EXPLORE... Stony Valley



Inscription Tree

Did you know StonyValley.com features a different place to explore in Stony Valley and surrounds each month on our Nature page? As the

months go by, make sure to check the website for places for you and your family to get out and EXPERIENCE... Nature in Stony Valley!

Upcoming Events

✧ CONTINUED ✧

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!