



Every Memory Matters: Family Stories

By Brandy M. Watts Martin

People often forget that the old Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad, which once used the Stony Valley Rail-Trail to transport freight and passengers, stretches beyond Stony Valley into the Dauphin and Schuylkill County countryside. Those who lived along and worked for the railroad have their own stories, which have been sent to me by the dozens each year. This issue, we are looking back to three of those stories that show just how important the S&S Railroad was to families in the region.

The Madenford Monument

"This 'monument' is in the driveway to the cabin that my grandfather [Roy Madenford] built in Rock... I'm not sure what inspired him to put up this display, but it's not impossible that he was connected to the railway in his younger years."

When I received the email in 2006, I had never heard of Roy Madenford, and had no idea why a monument to the S&S would be placed so far away from where the tracks actually ran in Rock, Schuylkill County. I had to find out.

Leroy "Roy" Madenford was born January 1899 to Milton Harrison Madenford and Annie Kreamer and had grown up in Wayne Township, Schuylkill County. Although Roy labored in the car shops as a machinist for a steam railroad for at least a decade (1920-1930), due to the S&S shops removal from Pine Grove earlier in the century, he would not have worked for the railroad itself, but may have worked on engines run on the line. His most direct route of transportation to the shops would have been on the S&S, which ran through the

southern end of Wayne Township, where he was residing.

Roy is the most likely link to the S&S in the Madenford family, although his ancestors also lived in Wayne Township, although not "near" the line. Milton, his father, was a farmer. Milton's father, Edward, was a farmer and Civil War veteran who worked as a blacksmith in 1850, just a few years before the railroad was constructed there. Edward's father, Nicholas van Madenford, an original immigrant from Holland, was employed as a farmer when the railroad was constructed; however, at age 72 he likely did not assist with its construction. Perhaps Roy built the monument to insure the line he rode was not forgotten.

Clearing Snow From The Line

Most railroads had the extravagance of plows to clear snowed-in tracks, but what happens when even your plow will get stuck? Near present-day Beuchler Lane in Oak Grove, Schuylkill County, this was just the problem the S&S was having. A deep railroad cut had plagued the line since its early beginnings, but one gentlemen while I was in high school decided to set the record straight on just how the cut was cleared when he was growing up.

During the Great Depression, he and other children who grew up near Oak Grove remember the area men, mainly farmers, helping to shovel out the cut for anywhere from 20 cents to 35 cents a day, depending on the story and just when in the Great Depression the story took place.

Photographs of men clearing the cut during the same time period corroborate

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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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(Right) This monument in Rock sits on land once owned by Roy Madenford

(Below) Men shovel snow in Beuchler's Cut near Oak Grove



Upcoming Events

We're excited to announce NEW programs, multiple opportunities to see the "Stony Valley: Step Into History" 3-D Model, and more in 2015! Looking for a presentation for your organization? Don't worry we still have some available dates in 2015. Ask for a brochure about our presentations TODAY!



Sat., March 14 @ 6:00-9:00 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 Stony Valley Daily Life Researcher Seth A. 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.

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 "Stony Valley: Step Into History," StonyValley.com's 3-D Model of Stony Valley and surrounds.

Thurs., April 9 @ 7:30 p.m.

Rausch Gap

Presented by Brandy M. Watts Martin
Middle Creek WMA Visitors Center
Kleinfeltersville, PA

A revamp of the highly popular program, *Rausch Gap* explores the largest of the

industrial communities of Stony Valley, Rausch Gap, Lebanon County, boasting approximately 1,000 residents during its heyday. A coal mining patch town turned railroad headquarters, Rausch Gap's ruins can be explored from your seat with this program.

Sun., April 19 @ 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

"Stony Valley: Step Into History"

Earth Day At The Park
East Hanover Community Park
8848 Jonestown Road, Grantville, PA

East Hanover Township Park & Recreation Department, in partnership with Lebanon Valley College Education Department's Social Studies Methods students presents EARTH DAY IN THE PARK!

The event includes over 20 different hands-on activities, workshops and stations to help us all take better care of our community.

While there 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 A. Martin will be on hand to answer questions.

For more information about the event and to find out who the other participants are, the flyer can be found on our Facebook page.

Thurs., April 23 @ 7:00 p.m.

*Cold Spring Hotel Site:
Uncovering Its Layers of History*

Presented by James C. & James M. Logan
Dauphin-Middle Paxton Historical Society
Church & Allegheny Sts., Dauphin, PA

Learn about the layers of history at Cold Spring in Stony Valley. Once home to a resort hotel, the site was repurposed multiple

times throughout its storied history.

James C. & James M. Logan authored *Cold Spring Hotel Site: Uncovering Its Layers of History*, which is currently available for purchase on StonyValley.com's online store.

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.

Mon., October 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

Stony Valley: A Haunting History

Presented by Brandy M. Watts Martin
East Hanover Historical Society
of Dauphin County
8848 Jonestown Road, Grantville, 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.

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

Wonders of the Wilderness

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

Discover the natural wonders of Saint Anthony's Wilderness including Boxcar Rocks

Upcoming Events Continued

north of Stony Valley, the flowering garden of Rattlesnake Shack in Clarks Valley, and highlights from the breathtaking mountainous terrain in between.

Brochure of available presentations for organizations to select from is available by emailing historian@stonyvalley.com



Fishing at Outwood in the Mill Creek.



(Left) Camping at “The Deep Hole” during the Great Depression, now under the water of the Lebanon Reservoir. (Center) The Yellow Spring Hunting Camp stands on a rail bridge across Stony Creek in the 1940s. (Right) Hunters stand in front of the log landings for the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Branch in Ellendale in the 1930s.

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his and others’ stories, and show just how difficult railroading was during the Great Depression.

It’s Just An Old Hunting Picture

I don’t know how many times I’ve heard, “It’s just an old hunting picture” mumbled when someone is referring to a collection of photographs of Stony Valley. Sometimes those photographs lend more to the story of Stony Valley and the S&S Railroad than even the hunters themselves can imagine. Each landform.

Every building. Little details that are often overlooked five, ten, or fifty years ago, all add to the valley’s story, and without them, we’d lose much of the history we know today. Above, a few outdoorsmen in photographs from the past can be found, showing just what the old saying “a picture’s worth 1,000 words” really means.

If you have information on Stony Valley, the S&S Railroad, families who worked for the S&S Branch, or photographs you’d like to share with us and others,

STONY VALLEY KIDS

This season, EXPERIENCE...Nature through a child's eyes at the Sand Spring(s)
(Directions are on StonyValley.com's Experience page.)



Stony Valley has so much water underground, it needs to find a place to escape. Water comes out of the ground in places called springs. Some of these springs have sand in the bottom. They are called sand springs. Can you find one in Stony Valley?

STONY VALLEY KIDS

Did you know? Bubbles in the spring come from water bubbling up from the ground. They help to move away the leaves on the surface so you can see the sand!



We need to get ready to explore Stony Valley. Can you help by coloring us?

Older children can learn more about springs with their parent's help, at <http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercyclesprings.html>

