



## Note From The Historian

Thanks for picking up an issue of our e-newsletter. We try our best each and every quarter to get this free e-newsletter out to you to make sure you know what upcoming presentations there are, hear important news that impacts the valley, and also learn a little about the area's rich history. Unfortunately, having it come out each and every quarter wasn't possible for the Summer 2015, Vol. 3, No. 3 issue. To say the least we were rather busy with projects around our home, trying to plant crops and get the harvest in from our own garden, and the deadline for the newsletter just slipped by.

The "At The Mouth of Stony Creek" article that was started in the Spring 2015, Vol. 3, No. 2 issue is therefore

going to be continued in this Fall issue. We're sorry for the inconvenience this has caused, and will try our best to make sure that we get the e-newsletter out quarterly in the future. If you would like to be added to our e-updates please click on the "Don't Use Social Media? Sign Up For Email Updates" link on the sidebar of StonyValley.com. From this point forward our e-newsletters will not only be posted to our website, but also a link will be sent out via our Stony Valley Heritage blog, which we use as our e-update service.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events in the future!

*Brandy M. Watts Martin*  
S&S Railroad Historian

**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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**Annette Logan**  
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## At The Mouth of Stony Creek (Continued From Spring 2015 Issue)

By Brandy M. Watts Martin

*What happened to Stony Creek Mills and Green's Mill in Dauphin at the mouth of Stony Creek? Find out here! If you missed the first part of the article, you can find it on [stonyvalley.com/e-newsletters](http://stonyvalley.com/e-newsletters) or in printed issues of Spring 2015, Vol. 3, No. 2.*

### THE DAUPHIN FLOURING MILL

In 1885, William J. Robinson's estate was divided, during which time his son, Edwin P. Robinson, receives the 14-acre plot of land containing a grist mill, saw mill, blacksmith shop and wagon shop. During the ownership of Edwin P. Robinson, the grist mill was leased to a

J. C. Jones from at least 1890 to 1897, being called the Dauphin Flouring Mill or J. C. Jones Flouring Mill. It should be noted that on April 26, 1897, burglars blew apart the safe at the mill, but could not find any cash.

By 1901, the Dauphin Flouring Mill was under the management of M. F. Proctor, of Canada, being supervised by Spencer G. Kinter during Proctor's absence in January. As reported in the *Harrisburg Telegraph*, the Dauphin Flouring Mill and raceway were purchased by the Eastern Milling Company, and Proctor would return home to Canada during the year. The Citizens Water Company received the

*Continued on p.4*

### — Inside This Issue — Fall 2015, Vol. 3, No. 4

At The Mouth of Stony Creek (Cont. From Spring 2015 Issue).....	1
Drive Thru Trivia .....	3
Event Cancellation Notice .....	4
Note From The Historian.....	1
Stony Valley Kids:	
Exploring Stony Valley.....	2
Upcoming Events .....	3

**Want to learn more about the history that you see along the trails in Stony Valley?**  
**Our online store has books to help you!**

[ebay.com/usr/stonyvalleyheritage](http://ebay.com/usr/stonyvalleyheritage)

*Sales benefit our research.*



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

# STONY VALLEY KIDS










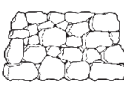






This season, EXPLORE... Stony Valley!  
(Directions on StonyValley.com's Explore page.)

While you're out exploring in Stony Valley, try and find the following items on these BINGO cards.

Write an "X" over each item as you find them.

Can you get 4 across, up and down, or diagonally? Did you find everything on the card?







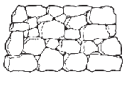

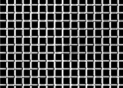





## Railroad Bed BINGO

 PRINTS	 DEER	 FLOWER	 COAL
 FISH	 SPIKE	 GATE	 LODGE
 WATER	 RUINS	 HIKERS	 LEAF
 SIGN	 TREE	 BIRD	 TRAIL

Items on this card you might see from the Railroad Bed! Hint: You may need to get out of the car for  
← one or two.

Items on this card you might see on a Cold Spring guided tour or by walking around the site on your own! →

## Cold Spring BINGO

 SIGN	 BIRD	 PEOPLE	 GRASS
 TREE	 MARSH	 WALL	 SQUIRREL
 INSECT	 STEPS	 GRATE	 OLD ROAD
 BIG ROCK	 FIELD	 LOG	 SPRING

Going on the Drive Thru? You can do the first card in the car and the second while walking around Cold Spring!



**PARENTS:** As young children we were introduced to the wonders of the Great Outdoors, and believe that other children should be as well. On StonyValley.com we have 11 kid-friendly hikes of 3 miles or less round-trip to help you introduce your children to Stony Valley and the Great Outdoors as well. They are #3, 4, 9 and 10 on the Educate Page and #1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 on the Experience Page of the website, where directions can also be found. Happy Exploring!



## Drive Thru Trivia



The first driving tour of Stony Valley was held by the PA Game Commission in 1959 according to newspaper accounts.



In the early years, the Drive Thru went westward from Gold Mine Road to Ellendale. In 1965, the PA Game Commission switched the direction of vehicle travel to its current eastwardly route from Ellendale to Gold Mine Road due to road construction on Route 22 near Dauphin and so motorists were no longer driving into the sun.



At least three different brochures were handed out at the Gate over the years to inform motorists what they were to see along the way. (Does anyone have the older brochures?)



The now-abandoned Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad starts before you reach the Ellendale Gate. As soon as the pavement ends on Stony Creek Road, you will begin driving on the path of the former railroad.

### STOPS ALONG THE WAY



During Drive Thru motorists pass the sites of six former stations – Water Tank, Rattling Run, Yellow Spring, Cold Spring, Rausch Gap and Gold Mine – on the abandoned line between the two gates. At one time the railroad, which ran 54 miles from Rockville, Dauphin County to Auburn, Schuylkill County, boasted 27 stations through three counties.



The “Last Caboose” (shown below) mentioned for a number of years in the Drive Thru brochure as being located at **Water Tank** was utilized as part of Camp A-L-O-N-E, a hunting camp that existed prior to World War II. The remnants of the caboose are difficult to locate today.



Devil’s Race Course, the headwaters of **Rattling Run**, lent its name to a young adult book written in 1984 by Avi Wortis called *Devil’s Race*, which features a fictional tale about one of the individuals buried in the Rausch Gap Cemetery.



The **Yellow Spring** Stone Tower, which sits atop the mountain, is the only remaining tower of the four stone towers that once sat in Stony Valley. The towers, which included two at Rausch Gap and one at Gold Mine, were all located next to steam engines, and were probably used as exhaust chimneys.



Until 1993, the **Cold Spring** Station (shown above) still sat along the abandoned line. The station, built in 1909, was vandalized in 1990 and then removed a few years later. Part of the station is now in the Lebanon County Historical Society.



The **Rausch Gap** Cemetery, which today only holds the three inscribed stones of Andrew Allen, Catherine Blackwood and John Proud, has room for as many as 100 graves where people from the valley could be buried in a span of more than 30 years during the valley’s heyday.



**Sand Spring**, between Rausch Gap and Gold Mine, although never a station was utilized as an emergency water source by the railroad during droughts in the late-19th century.



Contrary to popular belief there is no proof of a gold mine at the town of **Gold Mine**. There are more than three dozen theories for how Gold Mine got its name, which vary from reasonable to just downright bizarre. The most likely reason; however, is that its name was due to the black gold (coal) that was being mined.

## Upcoming Events

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

**Sun., October 18 @ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

State Game Lands No. 211 Drive-Thru “Stony Valley: Step Into History” and Cold Spring Hotel Site Guided Tours

State Game Lands No. 211 Drive-Thru Starts at Ellendale Gate, Dauphin County

See the autumn scenery on the annual PA Game Commission driving tour of Stony Valley. Drive 17 miles along the abandoned Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad, starting at the Ellendale Gate and continue to Gold Mine Road. Stop at the former communities along the way to discover the area’s rich history.

EXPLORE...Stony Valley with our display at the Cold Spring Hotel Site 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. Additional boards will show images of the Cold Spring Hotel Site throughout its history. Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.

Authors of *Cold Spring Hotel Site: Uncovering Its Layers of History*, James C.

*Events Continued on Next Page*

*Cont. from p. 1* surrounding property and presumably the grist mill at this point as well; however, as history often has it, the property was still referred to as the Robinson Estate when the local sewer line was being laid across the mill property in August of 1902. By September of 1901, the Dauphin Flouring Mill and cribbing for the Dauphin Dam (or Stony Creek Dam) was receiving repairs in hopes to reopen again soon.

Early in 1902, Jacob N. Shoop of Dauphin and Stone Sifer of Clarks Valley, created a partnership and rented Dauphin Flouring Mill, opening the mill on January 27. Their partnership dissolved in April, Shoop taking over operation, while Sifer moved to Harrisburg with his family. Yet, by February of 1903, George W. Shoop eagerly rented the Dauphin Flouring Mill from Jacob N. Shoop, who had since vacated the property.<sup>1</sup>

In 1906 a pump station used for the Dauphin Consolidated Water Supply Company was constructed about fifty feet north of the old grist mill. The grist mill stood until at least 1912, when it was noted that Stony Creek was still dammed to allow water to funnel down the mill race and to the grist mill. This mill race also supplied water to the Dauphin Tannery and was used as intake for the water company's pump house.



*The wooden dam, around the turn of the century, that preceded the current stone Dauphin Dam to dam Stony Creek for the grist mill and tannery's mill races.*

Upon the destruction of the grist mill, an era closed in the history of Dauphin.

#### AUTHOR'S NOTE

There are numerous discrepancies in the information for the old grist mill and there may have actually been two mills that sat at the mouth of Stony Creek at

the same time: one belonging to the Sturgeons, the other to the Greens. Additionally, *Our Heritage* states the grist mill burned down around the turn of the century; however, at this time I am still unable to corroborate that account. I have tried my best to insure the included information is as accurate as possible.

<sup>1</sup> George W. Shoop previously operated a mill "up Stony Creek"; however in 1902, when he moved to the better-located Dauphin Flouring Mill, his brother Samuel took over the other mill, likely located near Singersville, a station on the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad.

*Please Note:* Ambrose Wagner, a resident of Lewisburg in 1903, was a former manger of the Dauphin Flouring Mill; however, at present, it is unknown what years he managed the mill.

## Upcoming Events

Logan and James M. Logan, and Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad Historian, Brandy M. Watts Martin, will be offering FREE guided walking tours of the hotel site throughout the day. Each tour takes approximately 30 minutes and takes you on a walk back in time to experience the heydays of the Cold Spring site through historic photographs and interpretation.

\*Event may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Please see our "In The Event of A Cancellation" notice in the last column.

### 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.

\*Event may be cancelled due to inclement weather. Please see our "In The Event of A Cancellation" notice in the last column.

### In The Event of A Cancellation:

If one of our events is cancelled, the event cancellation will appear on our social media (Facebook, Twitter and Blog) as well as our website as soon as possible. We apologize that our e-update system takes approximately 24 hours to update and send, so if in doubt, please check one of our other notification systems before heading out to an event.

Know an organization looking for presentations? Keep us in mind! We are NOW SCHEDULING for the 2016 Program Year! Brochures of our available programs can be found at upcoming events and on StonyValley.com under the "Available Programs" button on the menu.