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 so 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

At The Mouth of Stony Creek

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 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
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
- HIERS
- 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.

**Cold Spring BINGO**

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

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

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 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.

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.
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.¹

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. 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.

¹ 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.