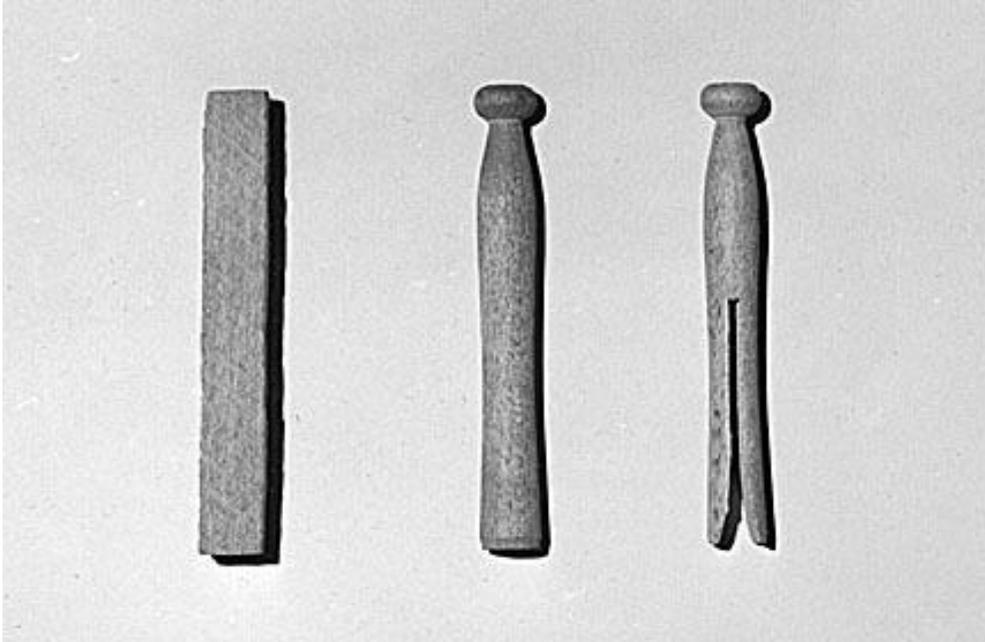


Clothespins

Clothespin factories were found throughout the Lumber Heritage Region in towns including Kane, Mt. Jewett, Kushequa, Coudersport, Duhring, Masten and nearby in Lopez and Stonestown, Sullivan County. The Kane Clothespin Factory operated by David Howells, M. W. Moffitt and Joshua Davis, opened in the fall of 1889. The following year it was purchased by Howells, Moffitt and Co., The following describes the process of making a clothespin at their factory and is representative of how they were made.

“The process of making these is an interesting one. It is done in just six motions. The first one cuts a four-foot chunk off the log, the second saws a board from the chunk, the third saws the board into square strips, the fourth cuts the strips into clothes-pin lengths, the fifth turns the pin, and the sixth cuts the slot into it. This is done very rapidly, and they are then dried and polished in revolving cylinders, after which they are at once boxed and shipped. The capacity is 300 boxes of 720 pins per day, or twenty-nine miles in length.”¹¹⁵

¹¹⁵ Leeson, M.A., History of the counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron, and Potter Pennsylvania: with biographical selections, including their early settlement and development, a description of the historic and interesting localities, sketches of their cities, towns and villages, portraits of prominent men, biographies of representatives citizens, outline history of Pennsylvania statistics. (Chicago: J. H. Beers & Co., 1890), quoted in <http://genealogytrails.com/penn/mckean/1890history13.htm>, accessed on 3 March 2021.



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“Steps in Making Clothespins”

Clothespins were a common item found in homes, camps, residential businesses and facilities throughout the country. A simple utilitarian tool, essential to every housekeeper’s inventory, the clothespin was commonly made of Beech wood, because it would not stain when it was placed against damp material. Beech was not typically harvested by the lumber companies and was a perfect species for the clothespin industry.

Men and women were both employed in Pennsylvania’s clothespin factories. Although some factories may have only employed men, it is evident that women were employed in some clothespin mills. The Dodge Clothespin Factory in Coudersport, Potter County and the Lopez Clothes Pin Factory in Lopez, Sullivan County are two examples. In 1900 Lopez Clothes Pin

¹¹⁶ “Steps in making Clothespins,” *Lopez, PA: The Icebox of Pennsylvania*, “Items of Interest”, <http://lopezpa.com/items-of-interest/>, accessed on 30 July 2020.

Factory employed Mary Hunsinger, 20, as a “Turner,” and Grace Carrington 36, Maude Werkeiser 17, Pauline Gross 16, and Alta Fenner 16, as “Sitters,” and Emma J. Steele 15, did “packing.”¹¹⁷ Although only a listing of names, these women are representative of the roles and responsibilities that women had in clothespin factories.

The Dodge Clothespin Factory in Coudersport, Potter County, was built in 1896 by Alfred Dodge. Dodge consolidated two similar operations he owned in Michigan into the one factory at Coudersport. He moved east due to dwindling supplies of Beech. Dodge brought with him his machinery and any employee who was willing to move. At this time Beech was plentiful in Potter County. Dodge contracted for what he estimated to be a 15-year supply of standing Beech trees in the surrounding forests.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁷ Lopez, PA, *The Icebox of Pennsylvania*, “Items of Interest, “ <http://lopezpa.com/items-of-interest/> accessed on July 30, 2020.

¹¹⁸ Castano, David, “Three Hundred and Sixty Million: A History of the Dodge Clothespin Company 1896-1921,” *Potter County Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin* No. 215, (April 2020): 3.



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Dodge Clothespin factory, Coudersport

Alfred and Ann Dodge also moved their whole family to Coudersport, and they were intimately involved with the Clothespin company. Their oldest son, J.B. Dodge, worked in the office. Their younger son, Herbert, was a foreman in the factory. Their 17- year-old daughter, Lula, was a lathe operator on the production line. In addition to 30 more employees, including at least 18 women, they completed every task from sawmill to shipping.¹²⁰ The women in Dodge's factory

¹¹⁹ "Dodge Clothespin Factory, Coudersport," Courtesy of the Potter County Historical Society.

¹²⁰ Castano, "Three Hundred and Sixty Million: A History of the Dodge Clothespin Company 1896-1921," 4.

typically operated the lathes and the polishing machines. Operating the band saws, rip saws, slotters and planers, the power plant, log pound and warehouse were male responsibilities.¹²¹



Interior view of the Dodge Clothespin Factory, Coudersport, Potter County

The above interior image of the Dodge Clothespin Factory, features what appears to be the machine room. This section held the lathes, spotters and polishers, typically operated by the women, including Dodge's daughter, Lula.

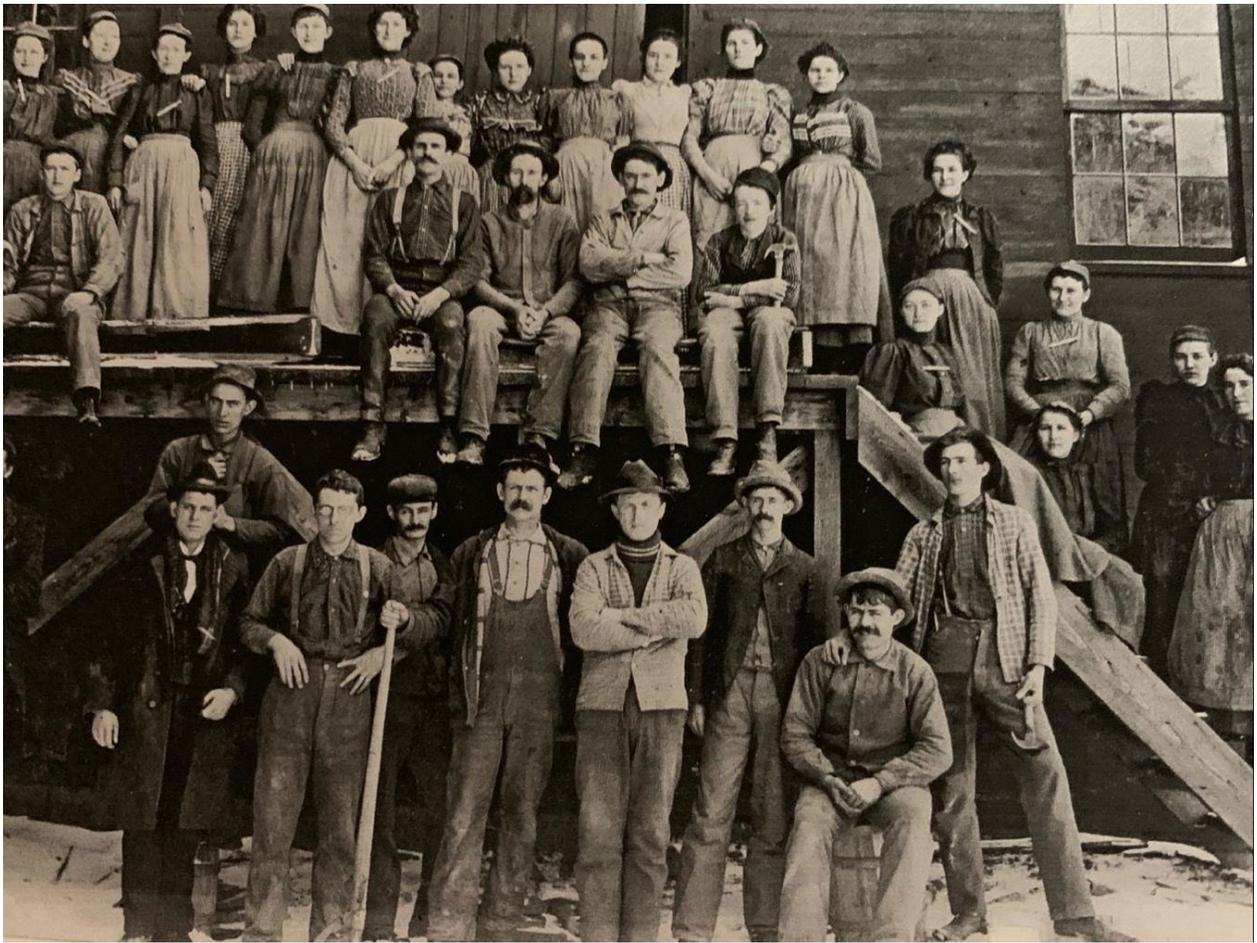
¹²¹ Ibid., 4.

¹²² "Interior View of the Clothespin Factory", courtesy of the Potter County Historical Society.

In 1899, Dodge, along with his brother, Albert, bought out a competing clothespin factory in Duhring, Forest County. The factory was moved from Pennsylvania to Richwood, Virginia. In 1904 another factory was built in Lincoln, New Hampshire. Dodge owned lumber camps in all three states. By 1905, the annual capacity of all three facilities was 360,000,000 clothespins.¹²³ Undoubtedly, all of his factories would have employed both women and men.

The following two images are of the men and women who worked at the Dodge Clothespin Factory in Coudersport at the turn of the century. The first image features a group on a loading dock. There are 18 women in this image. Five of the men hold tools of their trade in their hands. Taken around 1907, the second image features 8 women near the log pond entrance to the factory. Notice the log about to enter the building at the top of the ramp, from the log pond below. The women are standing on the dock section. Some of the individuals are numbered, but not identified. A note attached to the picture stated, "No. 1 Ralph Lloyd. No. 2 Smith/Loyd [sic] and Smith married Stebbins sisters/(believed one named Gegia)/Loyd [sic] and Smith opened an oil well supply company in/Bradford – known as the Lloyd Smith Corp. and operated/there for many years. The company was dissolved in/the late 70s." Perhaps the Stebbins sisters are also in this picture.

¹²³ Castano, "Three Hundred and Sixty Million: A History of the Dodge Clothespin Company 1896-1921," 5.



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“Workers at Clothes Pin Factory”

¹²⁴ “Workers at Clothes Pin Factory”, courtesy of the Potter County Historical Society



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“Workers at the Coudersport Clothespin Factory about 1907”

¹²⁵ “Workers at the Coudersport Clothespin Factory about 1907”, courtesy of the Potter County Historical Society.



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Dodge Clothespin Factory Workers

The above image features employees of the Dodge Clothespin Factory posed on a group of cut logs. There are 22 women and 14 men. Several employees are labeled and identified as “1. Barbara Fath 2. Anna Frieberg 3. Mike Fath 4. Frank Bate”. Women were instrumental in the

¹²⁶ Untitled image, courtesy of the Potter County Historical Society.

production of the clothespins. The operation brought notoriety, capital and people to Coudersport during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Dodge clothespins were found around the world. “A Potter County Doughboy in WWI sent a label home to his family from France. Printed prominently on the label was, “DODGE CLOTHESPIN COMPANY COUDERSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA.”¹²⁷ Imagine how this tangible memory of his home made this young soldier feel. His pride and wonder are evident in that he sent the label back to his family in Potter County.

Kindling Wood

Another common byproduct of Pennsylvania’s forest was kindling wood. Kindling factories were common throughout the lumber regions of the state. They were typically located within the vicinity of a sawmill. Kindling factories used the leftover slab and scrap wood from those sawmills to make the kindling. Much of the kindling wood produced was then shipped to New York City and Philadelphia for use in coal stoves for heating and cooking. During the late 1800’s wood was scarce in these cities, particularly New York. The wood bundles were tied with a twine that was soaked in wood tar, fashioning it as a wick. Once the bundle of kindling was placed in a stove, a person, typically a woman, only needed to light the burning twine to ignite the bundle, which would consequently ignite the coal in the stove. This image of a cast iron parlor stove with a bundle of kindling wood illustrates what these bundles looked like. The

¹²⁷ Castano, “Three Hundred and Sixty Million: A History of the Dodge Clothespin Company 1896-1921,” 5.

bundle featured was made at one of the Lopez, Sullivan County, kindling wood factories. The burning twine is visible. A typical bundle would sell in the cities for 5 cents.



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Parlor Stove with Kindling Bundle

In 1979 students from the Olean High School, in New York, interviewed Elizabeth Borst Gilmore when she was 90 years old. Gilmore was the daughter of Ezer Borst, who was the owner and

¹²⁸ “Bundle of Kindling made at one of the several Lopez Kindling Wood factories,” from <http://lopezpa.com/items-of-interest/>, accessed on 30 July 2020.

operator of a kindling wood factory in Weston Mills, just over the state line from Potter County. She recalled the process of how kindling wood was made: the “scrap wood would be cut into blocks 2 ½ to 3 inches in length. A chain conveyor took these blocks up to the top of a silo-type kiln where they were discharged and dropped into a kiln’s interior, which was lined with steam pipes. The blocks came out of the bottom of the dry kilns, where the bundling operation was set up.”¹²⁹ According to Gilmore,

“Philo Blaisdell invented the press that was used in bundling kindling wood. He and his seven brothers controlled a vast enterprise of kindling factories in Bradford, St. Mary’s, and Austin, Pennsylvania and Carrollton. They rented the bundling machine to other kindling factories. The Blaisdell Enterprise was an immediate success, so much so that the firm shipped five railroad cars of wood bundles to Brooklyn weekly.”¹³⁰

¹²⁹ “State of the Union: From wood-kindling industry to the world-famous Zippo,” *Olean Times Herald*, 25 March 2016. https://www.oleantimesherald.com/news/here_and_now/state-and-union-from-wood-kindling-industry-to-the-world/article_f5be0cfa-f238-11e5-bcd7-ffd8aeadff43.html, accessed 7 July 2020.

¹³⁰ Ibid.



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Kindling Wood Factory at Austin

This image is of the large Wood Kindling Factory in Austin, Potter County, owned by the Blaisdell Brothers. The photograph was taken around 1888 and a number of women are visible amongst the staff. Angie Rideout is identified in the image. A period description of those who worked at the Austin Kindling Mill in 1887/1888 follows below:

“There are 100 bundling presses at the factory which are mostly handled by boys and girls in equal number from 15-20 years of age. These presses are worked automatically by steam screw presses, with a pressure on each bundle before tying of 40,000 pounds. The pressure and release is made by a simple touch of the foot of the bundler. The gearing of the presses are made to turn one half inward and one half outward; the side with the outward turn being for the girls so that their skirts cannot be caught in the machinery. These children soon become expertly, binding 700 or 800 bundles a day, each while some very expert

131 “The Kindling Wood Factory at Austin,” courtesy of the E.O. Austin Home and Historical Society, Austin Pennsylvania.

and nimble ones bind twice as many. They receive 20 cents per hundred bundles, which it will be seen gives them excellent wages.”¹³²

The above description of Blaisdell’s Austin Kindling Mill is incredibly telling. It subtly speaks to the dangerous nature of working in the factory. The machinery moved fast and there was little room for error for the young men and women who worked there. If a woman’s skirt was caught in a press, the presses ran automatically and would not just shut off. The woman could be pulled into the press, causing harm or severe injury. Blaisdell’s bundling press invention speaks to the rising pace of industrialization in the latter half of the 18th century.

Industrialization and its hazards were not limited to the textile mills and such in the big cities, they were present in the rural regions as well. The air in these factories would have been filled with sawdust. Splinters would have not just been a nuisance but a hazard, particularly for the eyes. A 1908 account from *The Forest Republican* newspaper demonstrates the hazards of splinters from an accident, at the Kellettsville Kindling Factory, in Forest County:

“Mat. Cunningham met with a serious accident Friday. While working in the cutting room of the Kindling wood factory, a splinter was lodged in his eye. A visit to Dr. Hall, eye specialist, of Warren, resulted in its removal. He was getting along nicely at last report.”¹³³

The age and gender of the Austin Kindling mill employees was also mentioned in the description of Blaisdell’s mill; “...boys and girls in equal number from 15- 20 years of age.” This is instrumental in visually developing and mentally understanding that a large number of young women and girls were working in equal number to that of the young men and boys in the Austin mill. Their work expectations and salaries are also included. In this case, the men and women also appear to be paid at the same rate, based on the number of bundles they produced per day. Following is a picture of the staff of the Blaisdell Brothers Kiln Dried Wood

¹³² Leeson, M.A., History of the counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron, and Potter Pennsylvania: with biographical selections, including their early settlement and development, a description of the historic and interesting localities, sketches of their cities, towns and villages, portraits of prominent men, biographies of representatives, citizens, outline history of Pennsylvania statistics. (Chicago: J. H. Beers & Co., 1890), 1117.

¹³³ The Forest Republican, Tionesta, PA. 5 February 1908, Wednesday, Page 4.
<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/2796824/mat-cunningham-injured/>, accessed on August 12, 2020.

factory in Austin. Notice the number of employees and the variety of their ages. Some of the workers are holding strips of wood or kindling in their grip, indicative of their labor.



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“BLAISDELL BROS. KILN DRIED WOOD”

In 1903, the Blaisdell Brothers founded the Standard Wood Company and built a plant under the same name, in Laquin, Franklin Township, Bradford County. The plant was constructed for the manufacture of kindling wood made from the waste of a hemlock sawmill. The mill operated from 1903 until 1918. It was first run by R. Lorem and later by W. F. Beers. The kindling factory employed roughly 70 people, half of whom were women and girls who bundled the kindling wood.¹³⁵ Blaisdell’s Laquin Kindling Factory also had an equal number of men and

¹³⁴ “BLAISDELL BROS. KILN DRIED WOOD,” courtesy of the E. O. Austin Home and Historical Society., Austin PA.

¹³⁵ Clarke, Staley N. *The Romance of Old Barclay*. (Towanda, PA: 1928).
<https://www.joycetice.com/booksb/barcla14.htm>, accessed on 5 April 2021.

women employed. Using the Austin and Laquin mills as examples, it can be assumed that all of the kindling mills owned by the Blaisdell's employed both men and women in equal numbers.



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Two unidentified women Kindling factory workers

136 "Kindling Workers," courtesy of the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Kindling factories were also subject to fires due to the nature of their production and the vast amounts of dried wood in the hold. For example, in the Lopez region along the Loyalsock River, in Sullivan County, adjacent to Lycoming County, The Jennings Brothers started a kindling wood mill in 1888. Built by McCartney and Hall, the mill burned down in 1890. It was rebuilt the same year and was later sold to the Standard Kindling Wood Company, belonging to the Blaisdell Brothers. In the same vicinity, the Fisher Kindling Wood factory was built in 1895. It burned down six months after it was built. The factory was rebuilt in 1896 and burned down again the same year. Sixty days later it was rebuilt, only to suffer a smaller fire again in 1897. It was destroyed by fire in 1907 and was the last operating business in Lopez.¹³⁷

Austin and Laquin were both also home to hub and veneer factories. These factories were present through the Lumber Heritage Region. Between 1903 and 1904, Fay Burroughs built the Laquin Pennsylvania Hub and Veneer Company for the manufacture of wagon hubs and brewer's chips. The plant employed roughly 15 people, 5 of whom were "girls" who sorted chips.¹³⁸ Like so many lumber towns of the era, Laquin was founded in 1902, but once the surrounding forests were harvested, the town was abandoned, and is now a ghost town.

Just over the border from Cambria County lies the town of Windber, Somerset County.

Although recognized more for bituminous coal, Windber also had a kindling factory at Arrow

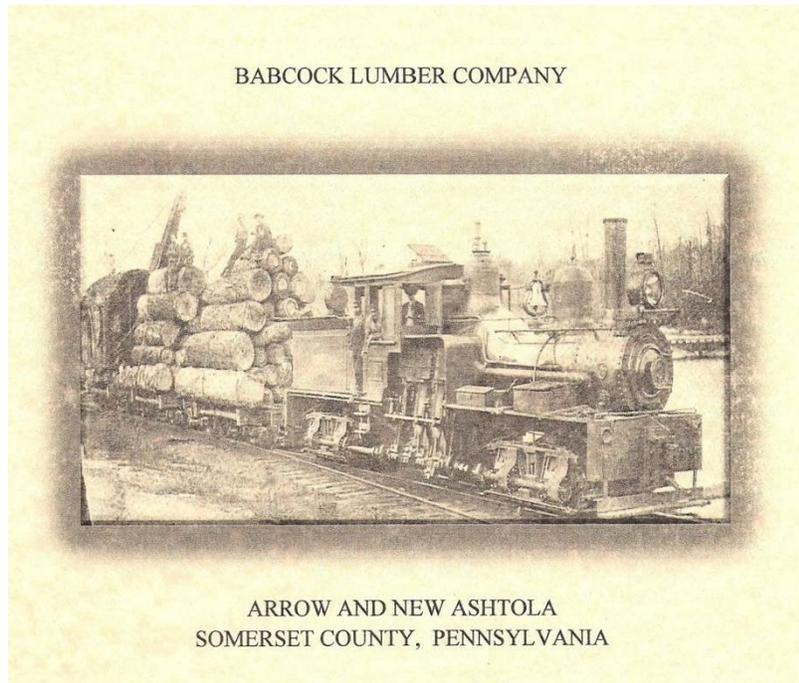
¹³⁷ "Lopez History." <http://lopezpa.com/lopez-history/>, accessed 7 July 2020.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

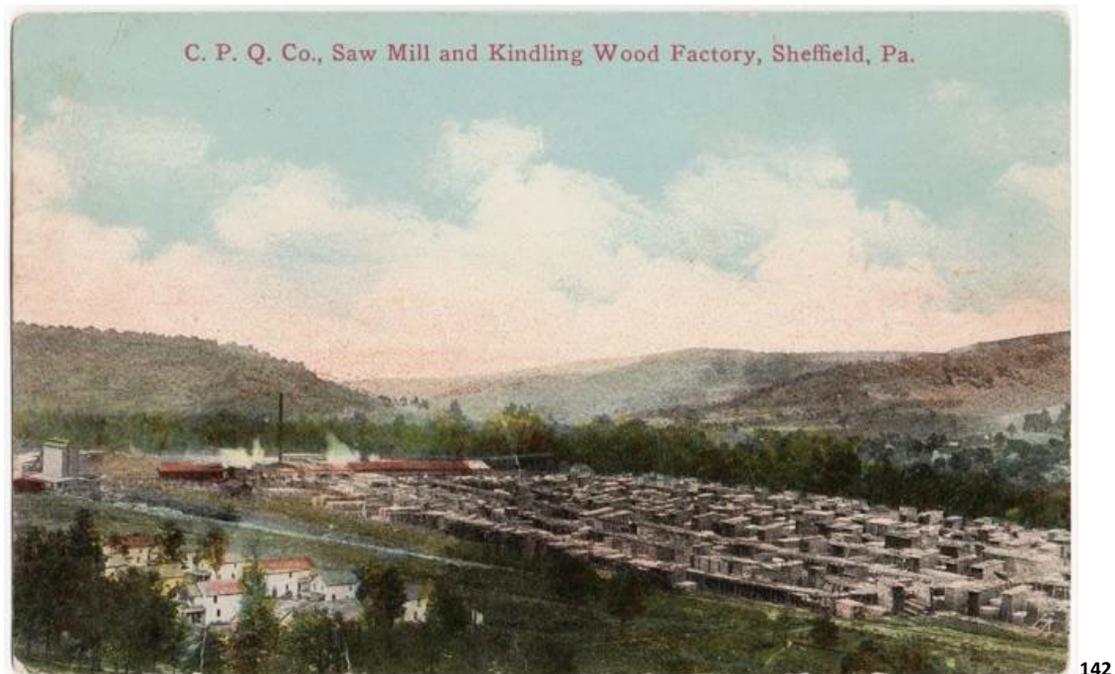
that employed 14 “girls” in 1908.¹³⁹ The building of the Arrow Kindling Factory in 1904, was under the direction of F. L. Blaisdell of the Standard Wood Company, New York. The factory cost \$40,000 to build and the raw material was provided by the Babcock Lumber Company. Their kindling bundles were sold to “big eastern markets” including Philadelphia and New York.¹⁴⁰ While just a reference, the placement of this kindling factory in Somerset County indicates just how far south they were regarding the Lumber Heritage Region. This also demonstrates the continued success of the Blaisdell brothers, their Standard Wood Company, and their hiring practices. It is relevant to understand that some coal companies also had their own lumber businesses and mills to supply their need of wood for use in their coal industries. Kindling factories were also located in Lycoming, Warren, Potter, Elk, McKean, and Forest Counties.

¹³⁹ Maclean, Annie Marion. “Life in the Pennsylvania Coal Fields with Particular Reference to Women.” *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 14, no. 3, 1908, pp 329-351. *JSTOR*, https://www.jstor.org/stable/2762714?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents, accessed on 17 March 2021.

¹⁴⁰The New York Lumber Trade Journal, Volume 37, July 15, 1904, p 16. https://books.google.com/books?id=DL9PAQAAIAAJ&pg=RA2-PA16&lpg=RA2-PA16&dq=Arrow+kindling+factory+pa&source=bl&ots=0bDBxawbo9&sig=ACfU3U3pC0tuUquchxs37YXcxCaNiFuKhw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewiJ0fCwpdr-AhV_k4kEHQe7Dfs4FBD0AXoECAIQAw#v=onepage&q=Arrow%20kindling%20factory%20pa&f=false, accessed on 31 March 2023.



Booklet cover representing the Babcock Lumber Company



Postcard depicting an image of the C.P.Q. Co., Saw Mill and Kindling Wood Factory, Sheffield, Pennsylvania

¹⁴¹ Cover of booklet, *The Babcock Lumber Co. in Ashtola and Arrow, PA*. Facebook post, The Windber Area Museum, May 9, 2014. Accessed on 31 March 2023.

¹⁴² "Postcard- C. P. Q. Co. Saw Mill and Kindling Wood Factory. Sheffield, Pa.", image courtesy of the Warren County Historical Society, Warren, PA.

Women and War Efforts

During the war efforts of the first half of the 20th century, there are few references to women working in industries related to lumber in Pennsylvania, but there are some. During the first World War the Mansfield Novelty Works, in Tioga County, hired women to make foot rulers, yard sticks, and small wooden novelties.¹⁴³ The Mansfield Novelty Works was one of the largest manufacturer of wooden tops and children's tops in the country. The toys and utilitarian objects were all made of locally harvested wood. The factory burned down on July 29, 1920. "The fire was caused by a hot box just after the women's shift ended."¹⁴⁴ This quote referenced from the *Wellsboro Agitator*, indicates that the men and women may have worked separate shifts apart from one another and that the women were still employed after the Great War. The Novelty Works was rebuilt after the fire and closed in the early 1970's.

Between 1921 and 1924 a tar refinery was built in Roulette township, Potter County. The refinery produced jet resin, solvents, wood creosote, inhibitor oils and guaiacol. These items were crucial to government needs for the war effort, but due to men enlisting, there was a shortage of employees. As accounted below, a group of Roulette women came to the rescue.

"During World War II, labor was so scarce it appeared that the refinery might have to shut down. A group of Roulet [sic] women heard of the problem and offered their services. After a period of training, they operated the difficult and complex process until the war ended. These women were: Vera Bloomer, Leitha Treat, Marie Brown, Ada Corbett, Hazel Gross, Margaret Barr, Tillie Pransky, Alice Main, Amelia Johnson, Isabel Arnold and Agnes Franklin."¹⁴⁵

¹⁴³ <https://www.joycetice.com/business/novelty.htm>, accessed on 27 April 2021.

¹⁴⁴ <https://www.mansfield.edu/mansfield-history/mansfield-borough/fires.cfm#item6>, accessed on 27 April 2021.

¹⁴⁵ Lyman, Robert R., *History of Roulet, Pa. and the Life of Burrel Lyman (The Founder)*. Coudersport, PA, Press of T-C SPECIALTIES CO, 1967. 166.

These heroic women took on a mighty task and prevented the refinery from shutting down. Like other women of the era, these women assumed what were considered dangerous and male dominated jobs as their civic duty to help their community and their country.

During WWII in Eldred, McKean County, women worked at the National Munitions Factory making motor shells, incendiary grenades, thermite aerial bombs and bomb fuses. 95 percent of the plants 1,500 employees were women. Together they produced eight million devices.¹⁴⁶ The conditions they worked in were dangerous and many were exposed to TNT. Those women developed a yellow skin tone and were referred to as the “Canary Girls.”¹⁴⁷ In Warren County women took on jobs at the National Forge & Ordnance Company of Irvine, the Struthers Wells Corporation, and at the Penn Furnace and Iron Company of Warren. In Cameron County, the “shell house girls” worked at the Climax Dynamite Plant. Although not working at lumber related plants and industries, their contributions are worth telling. Together these women crossed gender lines and worked in multiple industries to help and serve their country and win the war. All lost their positions or were forced out after the men returned home from WWII.

One fact to note regarding the dynamite industry in Cameron County, is it’s relation to the construction of the Panama Canal. The Panama Canal was built between 1904 - 1914. In 1910, Keystone National Powder combined the Keystone, Emporium, and Sinnamahoning plants to fill an order of 25 million tons of dynamite. The plant’s “shell house girls” were hired because of

¹⁴⁶ https://www.bradfordera.com/news/working-women-of-world-war-ii/article_7541169c-1fdd-11e8-b637-1b8900a28b4f.html, accessed 17 March 2021.

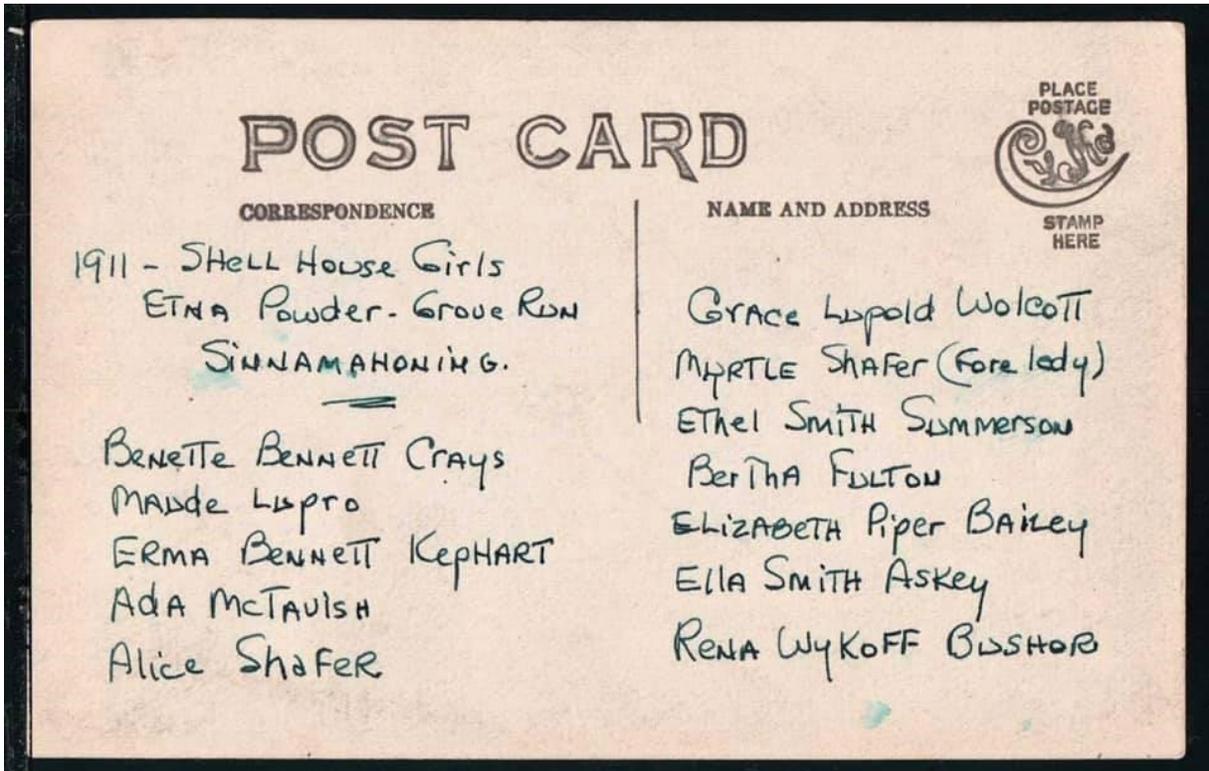
¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

the delicacy of their fingers which helped in making the dynamite.¹⁴⁸ Some of the women who worked at the factory, in 1911, are pictured and named on the postcard below. Notice that Myrtle Shafer is listed as the “fore lady.” It is plausible that they also made some of the dynamite used by the lumbermen to brake-up log jams along the rivers.



Front of a Postcard featuring an image of the Shell House Girls

¹⁴⁸ Susan Hoy, interview by author, the Cameron County Historical Society, Cameron, PA. Fieldnotes. 11 November 2020



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Reverse image of the Postcard displaying the names of the Shell House Girls

There are instances of women working in the woods, specifically harvesting wood, during WWII in the United Kingdom and in the United States in both the Northwest and New England.¹⁵⁰

During WWII Pennsylvania had 16 POW (Prisoner of War) camps. These camps held primarily German prisoners. Some of the prisoners were housed at camps within the Lumber Heritage Region. Some of which were repurposed Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps. These POW's worked in the woods during WWII and may be the reason that we did not see women

¹⁴⁹ "Shell House Girls," postcard image courtesy of the Hygrade Inn, Emporium, PA.

¹⁵⁰ See <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/20/world/europe/britain-lumberjills-world-war-ii-.html> for information on the United Kingdom's Women's Timber Corps. For information related to the United States and Canada read: Felt, Margaret Elley, *Gypso Logger*. 1963. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2002. Print. And Smith, Sarah Shea. *They Sawed Up A Storm, The Woman's Sawmill at Turkey Pond, New Hampshire, 1942*. Portsmouth, NH: Jetty House, 2010.

loggers as part of the region's war effort. In his, History of Roulet, Pa., Robert Lyman gave a personal account of the German POW's:

"World War II was on. The need for wood chemicals and charcoal was vital to the government.... In all the history of the Gray Chemical Co. the factory was never shutdown for lack of wood. When World War II raged in all its fury, man power 'was scarce indeed. Only a few old woodcutters continued to work. At times there were only a few days supply of wood in the factory yard. When the situation became desperate, the army sent in Captain Sharp, Lieutenant Bartley, a detachment of guards, and about two hundred German Prisoners of War, to cut wood and logs. Milton Braun, of Germania, was in the army. A request for him to act as interpreter was promptly granted.

The prisoners were quartered in barracks, on Lyman Run [Potter County], surrounded by a high wire fence, and under constant guard. These Germans were a cross section of all classes of society. There were artists, opera singers, actors, authors, mechanics and all kinds of highly skilled men. Some were expert woodsmen. Some had never had an axe in their hand. And a few were boys, only fifteen years of age. As this writer knew them, they were good men who hated war, and were content to be here even as prisoners, under forced labor with very limited rations of food. They started cutting on 14 May 1945, and quit on 29 November, the same year, after cutting 14,000 cords of wood and 300,000 feet of logs.¹⁵¹

The women who worked as secretaries in the office of the Gray Chemical Company during this period were Madie Burt Valentine, Mildred Dexter Moshier, Jane Rossman DeStevens, and Marie Sieber Ostrom.¹⁵² The Company closed in 1948, after the war ended. Lyman went on in his book to discuss the folks who were employed by the Gray Chemical Company, including those thousands of woodcutters who sustained the company through the years harvesting the county's forests. His comment speaks to their diversity and varied backgrounds:

"They were a motley multitude. They were the riffraff of all the classes. They were a ragtag of old time lumberjacks. They were farmers, masons, carpenters, teachers, priests, preachers. They were criminals who had served time, or were

¹⁵¹ Ibid., Lyman. History of Roulet, Pa. and The Life of Burrel Lyman. 167-168.

¹⁵² Ibid., 168.

out on parole. They were professional woodcutters from Austria and Italy—mighty men who could work at nothing else. Several were women.”¹⁵³

Who were these elusive women? He does not go on to expound on them, but his comment proves they were there. Some of them exist in pictures, nameless, their stories yet to be told.



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Unidentified image from Potter County featuring one man and 6 women

¹⁵³ Ibid., 169.

¹⁵⁴ Unidentified image, courtesy of the Potter County Historical Society.

Hidden Industries, Religion, Diversity and Reform:

Lumber towns and industries brought about the needs and desires for other businesses including boarding houses, hotels, supply stores, dry goods, bars and brothels. George William Huntley Jr.'s book, [A Story of the Sinnamahone](#), and Hiram Cranmer's account both make numerous references to religious faiths, ethnic diversity, boarding houses run by married couples or widows, peddlers, bars, those who knitted/sewed clothing for the lumbermen, and "scarlet women." Although these stories are abundant throughout the Lumber Heritage Region, their accounts provide an enlightening perspective on the lives of women and elements of diversity within the region. They can be complimented by other stories and references from the surrounding counties. Without these small allusions and the inferences we draw from them, their stories and relevancy would be lost.

Clothing

Lumbermen and raftsmen alike needed clothing that protected them from the elements. Some pieces were acquired by traveling peddlers and tailors, others were made by local women for purchase. Hiram Cranmer described the everyday attire of a woodsmen:

"A 'wood-hick' (lumberjack) wore calked shoes, overalls with the bottoms cut off so they wouldn't catch in the calks, in the summer-time a woolen undershirt, no outside shirt. Wool was a protection against sunburn and catching cold when caught in a shower. In the winter a heavy outside woolen overshirt was worn."¹⁵⁵

¹⁵⁵ Cox, "Harvesting the Hemlock: The Reminiscences of a Pennsylvania Wood-Hick." 115.

The men wore woolen shirts, as opposed to other types of fabric, because when wool gets wet, it still retains heat, as opposed to cotton, which dissipates heat. Wool is natural fiber that is also known for its moisture wicking capabilities and is a breathable fabric. It was an essential material for the woodhicks. Notice the woolen socks hanging from the woodhick's bunks and on the feet of the men seated below.



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Interior Woodhick Bunkhouse with Socks Hung to Dry

Mike Tulis was from Emporium. He originally came to the region as a foreman on a railroad construction crew. He and his family stayed in Cameron County after the rail was completed and he became a peddler. According to Huntley, Tulis' wife Hanna (White) "conducted a shop

¹⁵⁶ Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

at home in which she employed several women, making flannel underwear and overshirts out of cloth bought from Rich's Woolen Mills at Woolrich [Clinton County]. Mike could sell all of the kinds of goods that his wife could produce."¹⁵⁷ Additional items made by Hanna Tulis, and the women she employed, would have included mittens, socks, hats and towels. Tulis also sold a variety of Irish linens and utilitarian objects including, "yarns, buttons, needles, pins, combs and hair pins." Tulis was able to earn enough money "pack peddling" to eventually build and own a mercantile business in Emporium. His wife's labor, and that of the unknown women she employed in her cottage industry, contributed to the family's success.

The need for mittens, socks, overshirts, and underwear was great because there were no factory-made items available to the woodhicks during the nineteenth century. This provided a natural market for women who knit and sewed. Huntley's book contains multiple references to these women. "Mrs. Ellen Peters and Mrs. Margaret Logue were two of the best knitters in the First Fork neighborhood."¹⁵⁸ "Mrs. Mattie Batron was the expert sewer of the East Fork Neighborhood. She made men's overshirts and 'wammuses' out of colored flannel and decorated the fronts with braids and buttons of different colors, which were worn for 'dress-up' without a coat."¹⁵⁹ "Aunt Delilah Williams was an expert knitter. She knitted socks and mittens and sold them to the men in the camp."¹⁶⁰ In essence, women were the support network for the men. Without proper food, nourishment, clothing, and care, the men would

¹⁵⁷ Huntley. The Story of the Sinnamahone. 135-136.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid. 303.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid., 332.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid., 332.

not have been able to properly do their jobs in the woods and along the rivers. This private and poorly documented support industry was essential to the care and wellbeing of the Pennsylvania woodhick, bark peeler, and raftsman.

“Scarlet Women”

Often nameless, varying in ages and in numbers unknown, women also found employment in the region’s woods and lumber towns as prostitutes. In the late nineteenth century prostitution was common and considered a “Necessary Evil,” a way to protect innocent women and girls from sexually charged men. “That would soon change, but during most of the nineteenth century, Americans viewed prostitution as a safety valve for sexually active men who might attack respectable young women or for wandering husbands who strayed from their uninterested wives.”¹⁶¹ References to these illicit women are found throughout the region. Cranmer referred to them almost mundanely when he stated, “I carefully avoided all strike territory and closed towns that were completely ruled with only one company store, company hotel, and company controlled red-light district...”¹⁶² Indicating the commonality of brothels. Huntley also makes reference to “red-light districts” and remarks on the men who had interactions with these “scarlet women,” and “jades.” He referred to one of the working girls as “an inmate of a dive in Lock Haven,” and another as “a dirty trollop.” He attests,

“When the ‘wood hicks’ were drunk in town, they would pick up immodest women for sociable companions; but when they were sober, they cared nothing for this class. They respected and protected modest and polite womanhood.”¹⁶³

¹⁶¹ Johnson, Robert Flynn, Working Girls: An American Brothel, circa 1892, The Secret Photographs of William Goldman. (New York: Glitterati Editions, 2018). 13.

¹⁶² Cox, “Harvesting the Hemlock: The Reminiscences of a Pennsylvania Wood-Hick.” 131.

¹⁶³ Huntley, A Story of the Sinnamahone. 200.

Bits and phrases come together to tell the story of Cora Brooks, arguably the most famous madame of Potter County. Cora was 19 years old when she married her first husband. After her husband died, she started a boarding house and brothel to support herself and her children. She married again to a man by the last name of Brooks. The marriage did not end well. He apparently had relations with her help and left her for another woman. He had a sister who died in childbirth and Cora assumed the role of foster mother to [her] children.¹⁶⁴ Cora chose to willingly take on this responsibility to help keep the children together and prevent them from going to a county orphanage. Cora then entered her third relationship with Harry Davis and remained with him until she died in 1943. They were never formally married.

Cora's establishment was interchangeably referred to as a home, boarding house, a "bawdy house," and as a "Redlight house," depending upon who was speaking of it. In essence, it was all of those things. Rumors exist that her clientele consisted of men of all walks of life; workmen, lumbermen, politicians and husbands who sought company with her "girls." Her house was located on the outskirts of town, on a hill near the Austin Dam. By 1911 the morals of the country had shifted and middle-class female reformers- suffragettes, feminists, and members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union were trying to "protect the home" by targeting the vices of alcohol, gambling and prostitution.¹⁶⁵ Cora and her girls may have visited and shopped in the town of Austin, but they weren't welcomed by everyone.

¹⁶⁴ https://www.pennlive.com/midstate/2011/09/prostitutes_kin_seeks_pardon_f.html, accessed on 26 October 2020.

¹⁶⁵ Johnson, *Working Girls: An American Brothel, circa 1892, The Secret Photographs of William Goldman*. 14.



Cora Brooks Boarding House

One mile below Cora's establishment was the town of Austin. George Bayless had the dam constructed for the purpose of supplying water to his paper and pulp mill. The dam was built of concrete and steel reinforcing rods and was completed in December 1909. Bayless used the cheapest method to construct the dam, resulting in dangerous flaws. On Saturday, September 30, 1911, the dam began to split at 2:15 in the afternoon. Few houses in Austin had telephones during this time, but Cora Brook's did. While it is debated whether she or Harry Davis first heard the dam begin to break, Cora has been given credit for calling the Austin switchboard operators at the Bell Telephone office. At least two women were on duty. Phone operator Lena Binckley ran into the streets and yelled for people to run to higher ground. Another phone operator, a young girl named Katherine Lyons, stayed at her post ringing everyone she

¹⁶⁶ <http://www.familyoldphotos.com/photo/pennsylvania/24756/cora-brooks-gave-alarm>, accessed on 1 May 2021.

could until her switchboard stopped working.¹⁶⁷ She then took to the street and helped warned the town's people of the pending disaster. With over 250,000,000 gallons of water rushing to town, Cora's warning and the actions of the switchboard operators saved countless lives.



Bayless Paper Mill Dam at Austin

Torrents of water destroyed the town. Fire and gas explosions followed. In total, 78 lives were lost. In comparison, the Johnstown Flood of May 31, 1889 killed over 2,200 when the South Fork Dam gave way. The flood waters traveled 14 miles from Lake Conemaugh to Johnstown in only 10 minutes. The flood waters from the Bayless Paper Mill Dam had only one mile to travel to the town of Austin. It is believed that the lower death rate was a direct result of Cora's quick thinking to call the town.

¹⁶⁷ https://www.pennlive.com/midstate/2011/09/prostitutes_kin_seeks_pardon_f.html, accessed on 26 October 2020.

¹⁶⁸ <https://pawilds.com/asset/austin-dam/>, accessed on 6 May 2021



Flood Devastation in Austin, Potter County, September 30, 1911

Prior to the Austin Dam Flood, charges of operating a “house of ill repute” and selling liquor without a license were pending against Cora Brooks. When the trial took place three months after the flood, she pled guilty. The town and judge recognized her humanity and her efforts to help the people of Austin.

“Had it not been for her, undoubtedly hundreds more lives would have been lost,” residents said in a letter to the sentencing judge. ‘Large numbers of people were fed by her, and the suffering and distressed rendered aid and assistance.’ ‘Cora Brooks,’ the judge declared, ‘proved she was not only human, but humane.’ And he released her with a \$200 fine.”¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁹ Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

¹⁷⁰ https://www.pennlive.com/midstate/2011/09/prostitutes_kin_seeks_pardon_f.html, accessed 26 October 2020.

There is more to Cora Brooks than being the proprietor of a “bawdy house.” She was a business woman, a partner, a mother, a heroine, and a friend to her community. While others may have avoided and judged her prior to the flood, she did not keep that from preventing her from helping in a time of need.



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Cora Brooks in center, surrounded by her “girls”

¹⁷¹ “Cora Brooks and her girls,” courtesy of the E. O. Austin Home and Historical Society, Austin, PA.

Religion

Regarding religious diversity, Huntley's book mentions people of various denominations including protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish faiths. Itinerant preachers and "Circuit Riders," like the Reverend John Blackburn, held large revival meetings in hotels during the winter months or outside in clearings or groves during the warmer seasons. These meetings brought about conversions of faith, provided a social aspect, repentance to penitents and an opportunity to testify. Some of the preachers spoke to temperance and the vices the plagued some of the lumber towns. According to Huntley, the Reverend Blackburn held revival temperance sermons in Cameron County on "Woe to the Liquor Drinkers," "Woe to the Liquor Seller," and "Woe to the People who Tolerate Liquor Selling." Adventist Preacher, Reverend Gates (also known as "Mackamoose" due to a medicinal tonic he made and promoted) also held Camp Meetings near Sterling Run on "Liquor and Prayer." Reverend Brother Burnham and Reverend Wash Shafer, both Methodist preachers, also spoke and lead singing at these camp meetings and encouraged Baptism.¹⁷² These camp meetings attracted upwards of 200 people from around the region. They also provided a social outlet to all who attended.

¹⁷² Ibid., 64-72.

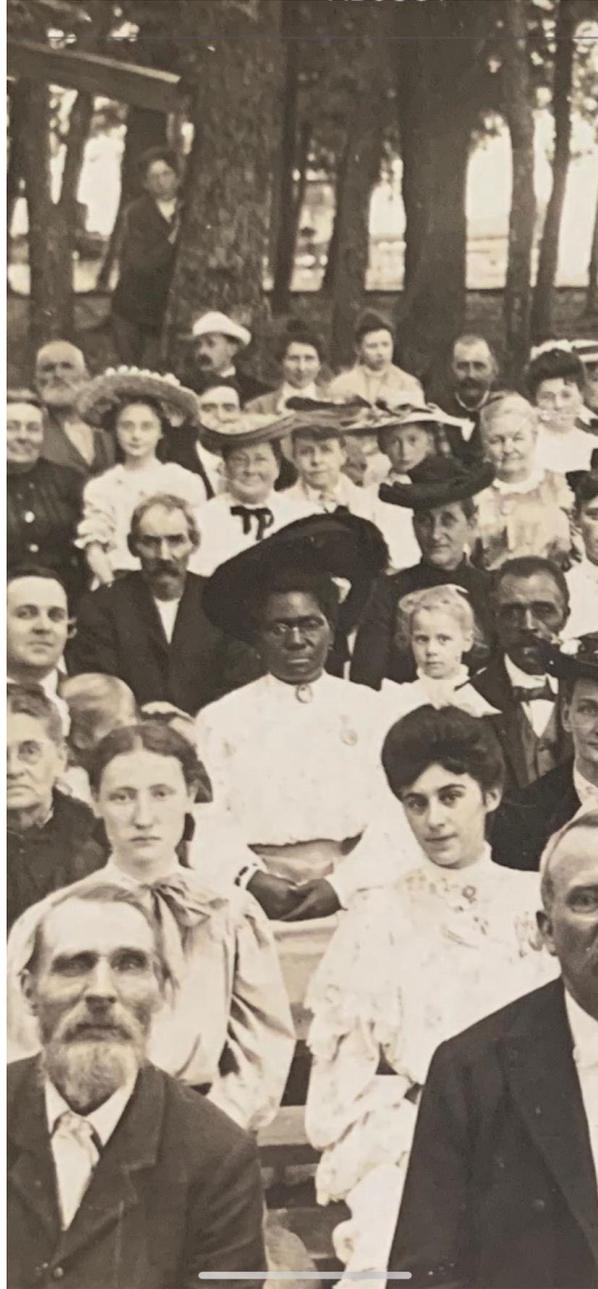


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Camp Meeting on Whig Hill, Forest County

Above is a photograph of a camp revival meeting taken at a grove at Whig Hill, in Forest County. The Whig Hill Methodist Church was dedicated on February 2, 1880. An evangelical church, they were hosting revival meetings in the late 1880's. Of particular interest is the Black man and woman seated on the fourth row from the front. There is no context or information for this couple, but they are an indication of the diversity within the region. It is also important to note that they are seated in amongst everyone else attending the revival meeting.

¹⁷³ "Misc-478- Camp Meeting on Whig Hill, Forest County, PA," courtesy of the Forest County Historical Society.



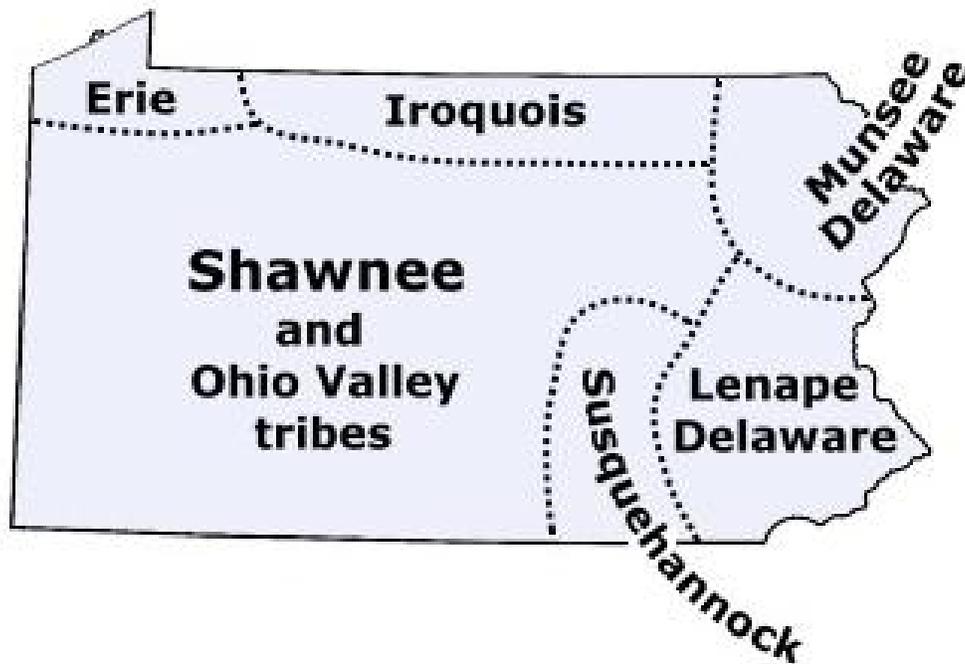
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Close-up of a Black couple attending the Camp Meeting at Whig Hill

¹⁷⁴ Ibid., closeup of image.

They do not appear to be isolated or removed to the side or back of the gathering. They are represented naturally and inclusively amongst all of those in attendance. This does speak to the community at the revival.

The diversity in population within the Lumber Heritage region was primarily Caucasians of European decent. Although there were small populations of Black Americans and Indigenous Americans, including Iroquois, specifically the Seneca, during the mid to late 19th and early to mid-20th century. The number of native people within the region had been decimated due to colonialism and disease. The map below indicates the estimated locations of various Indigenous Americans prior to European expansion. Those of native heritage who were living in the region would have practiced the beliefs and spiritualities of their respective culture. Others may have practiced forms of Christianity due to conversionist tactics by early settlers.



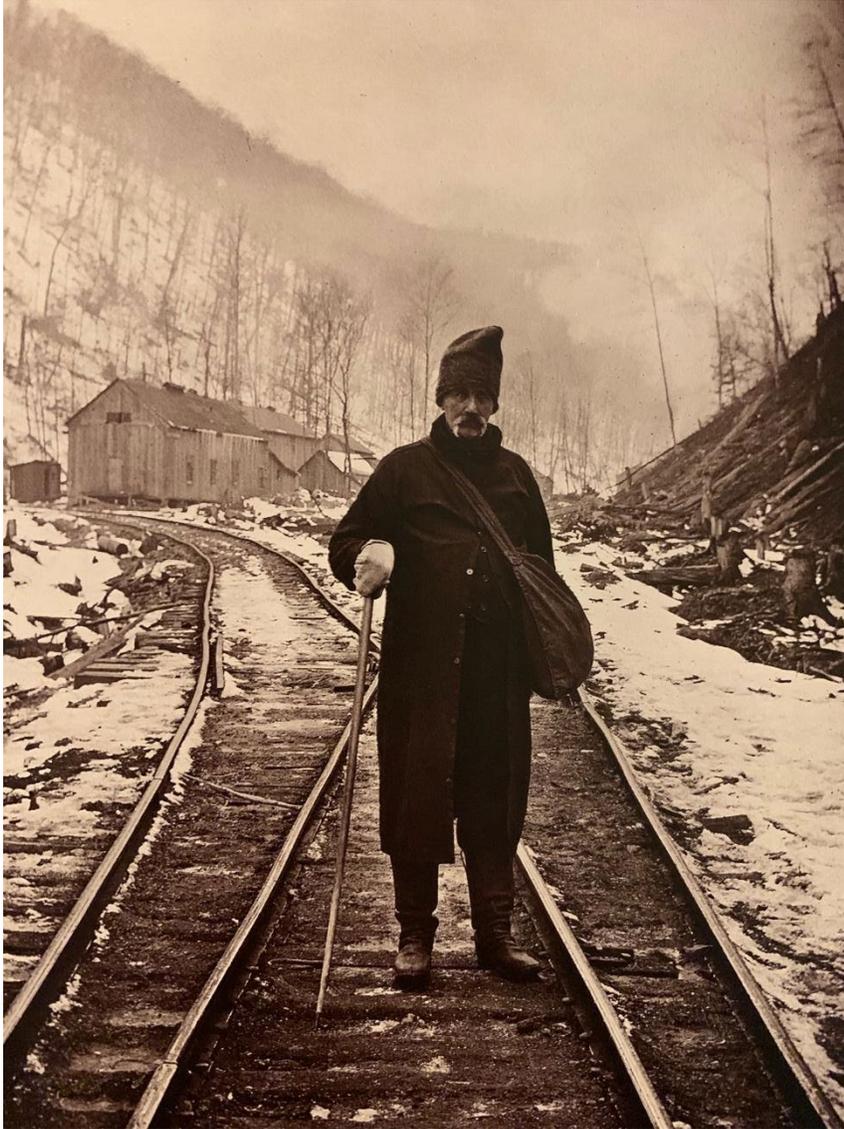
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Father Brennan was a Catholic priest and Reverend Tom Holland was a Protestant minister in the Driftwood area of Cameron County during the late 1800's. Both served the counsel of woodhicks and their families. Edward F. Kocjancic, of McKean County, noted that most of the lumberman in and around their camps were Catholic, as was his mother, Rose. He stated that it amazed him that, "...these lumberjacks could recite the Latin mass beginning to end but they wouldn't go to church.... They respected the church, but just wouldn't go."¹⁷⁵ He also recalled Reverend Frank Reed who was an itinerant preacher or "Sky Pilot" who visited the lumber camps in North Woods to conduct services and help those in spiritual need in the 1930's and 1940's. Even though many of the lumber camps were in isolated regions, faith was still

¹⁷⁵ <http://www.native-languages.org/pennsylvania.htm>, accessed on 30 April 2021.

¹⁷⁶ Kocjancic, "Logging Camp History and Consulting in Northwestern Pennsylvania." 6-7.

practiced and attended to. Although the comments are in passing, Huntley repeatedly refers to “Jewish peddlers” and tailors, some who “talked Yiddish.” There are other references to stores in the region that were owned and operated by Jewish families. This infers that there were Jewish communities in the region as well. Jewish immigrants were in Lancaster County in the early 1700’s. Huntly also refers to a group of woodhicks who were, “conservative Unitarians” from Maine, and others who practiced “powwowing,” which is a medicinal reference to Pennsylvania Dutch (German) remedies and cosmology. This information speaks to the religious diversity within the region.



Bill Brewer, "hick preacher"

William T. Clarke took this image of itinerant preacher, William (Bill) Brewer (1845-1928) in the Hammersley area of Clinton County. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Brewer preached at lumber camps throughout the region and was known as the "Sky Pilot of the Alleghenies."

¹⁷⁷ "Bill Brewer, 'hick preacher,' Hammersley region, Clinton County," courtesy of the Pennsylvania State Archives, RG-6.20, WTC, no. 3879.

Brewer was born in Webster, New York and died at the Warren State Hospital, Warren County, where it was reported that he suffered from “senile psychosis.”¹⁷⁸

Diversity

Various accounts from lumbermen speak to their code of ethics while working in forests. The conventionalism of the woodsmen indicated that careless or sloppy work was not tolerated, which prevented casualties. Hiram Crammer, a self-proclaimed woodhick, put it plainly, “The reason few men were killed in the hemlock was the unwritten law of the woods that a care[e]less man who endangered himself and others must be fired. The law of the woods was that a man must not be fired hungry so at the close of the next meal he was handed his pay.”¹⁷⁹ In essence, what mattered most was that you could trust those who you were working with. This same sentiment was shared by Tim Morey, Natural Resource Specialist for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at Leonard Harrison State Park. He pondered that when you were working with other men in the woods, it didn’t matter the color of your skin or what your beliefs were. What truly mattered was you could trust those who you were working with. That you knew they had your back and worked as safely as possible.¹⁸⁰

Although some logging camps certainly had men from similar backgrounds, regions, ethnicities, or faiths, other camps had more diversity. This diversity is elusive, and in some cases, hard to

¹⁷⁸ Ostman, Ronald E. and Littell, Harry. Wood Hicks and Bark Peelers: A Visual History of Pennsylvania’s Railroad Lumbering Communities. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2016. 194.

¹⁷⁹ Cox, “Harvesting the Hemlock: The Reminiscences of a Pennsylvania Wood-Hick,” 114.

¹⁸⁰ LHR meeting with Steve Manginell and Tim Morey. Author’s fieldnotes, Leonard Harrison State Park, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, July 22, 2020.

determine and identify by period photographs. One cannot look at these images and definitively determine faith, what language someone spoke, their ethnicity or their heritage.

Below are three typical group portraits of individuals who worked in lumber related industries. One is a typical “woodhick” photograph, meaning a group of lumbermen posed together, from Potter County. Seated predominately in the front row is a Black man. He is holding his cap in his hand. Along with the other men in the front and second rows, they are seated on the wood scraps and a cut log, indicating the work of a lumber camp. This image also features two women, presumably the camp cooks. Given their appearance, the young woman on the end could be the other woman’s daughter. They could also both be part of a family unit with the man standing next to the older woman. This photograph was passed down through the Newell Family and was eventually donated to the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, but little information is known about the images other than the camp location. According to Joshua Fox, curator of the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum,

“Fred [Newell] was a farmer and a carpenter who lived on his family farm in Newelltown, PA in Tioga County. During the winter months he would find work in lumber camps. It was not uncommon for farmers to supplement their incomes by working in lumber camps during winter when there was not as much work to be done on the farm. In 1900 at the age of 34 he was struck on the head by a falling tree limb, while working at a lumber camp near Corbett, PA.”¹⁸¹

The other two photographs are from mills in Lycoming County. All three images feature Black men who worked in some aspect of the lumber industry in Pennsylvania, proving that there was an element of diversity, albeit small, within the field.

¹⁸¹ Fox, Joshua. “Curator’s Corner.” *Woodchips*, Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates’ Quarterly Newsletter, Spring 2019, 4.



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Newell Photograph taken at an Unidentified Lumber Camp

The next image was taken at an unidentified mill in Williamsport, Lycoming County. There are at least four men of color of varying ages in this assemblage. They are visible throughout the group and are not seated together. The men all appear to be on a loading dock. From the mid 19th century through the early to mid-20th century, Williamsport was a hub of industry, known as a lumber port and home to many mills and factories related to lumber. It was and remains, the county seat for Lycoming County. The city had a larger and more diverse population than the smaller surrounding lumber towns and villages.

¹⁸² LM2019.4.1, untitled image, Newell collection, courtesy of the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.



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Unidentified image of mill employees in Williamsport, Lycoming County

The next photograph was taken at the Brown, Clark and Howe Lumber Mill in Williamsport. Some of the logs milled here came from Potter and Tioga Counties and were driven from Kettle Creek to the West Branch of the Susquehanna. This photograph features two men of color in the group. Take note of the range of ages of the men and boys.

¹⁸³ E50.LL.C.7, unidentified group of mill workers. From the Collection of the Lycoming County Historical Society and Thomas T. Taber Museum.



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184 2001.28.4, Brown Clark & Howe Lumber Mill, Williamsport. From the Collection of the Lycoming County Historical Society and Thomas T. Taber Museum.

Unidentified Employees of the Brown, Clark and Howe Lumber Mill in Williamsport, PA **Underground Railroad**

In all of the locales studied within the PA Lumber Heritage Region, Williamsport was the most diverse. It was a critical point along the Underground Railroad and was also the home to Quakers, abolitionists, and progressives. It was also the home of slave hunters and after 1865, the Ku Klux Klan. The Underground Railroad helped enslaved people from the South escape to freedom in the North, sometimes going far into Canada where they were not subject to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Many routes went through Pennsylvania, which was a free state. (Technically, slavery was abolished in Pennsylvania in 1780 under the Gradual Abolition Act of 1780, however, those born into slavery before the Act's passage were still kept in bondage. There were also those bound as indentured servants.) The Underground Railroad roughly ran from 1830 until the end of the Civil War in 1865. Pathways to freedom went through the Allegheny Forest and are documented throughout Pennsylvania, particularly along waterways and railways. Williamsport was a progressive city and had an element of the population that supported abolitionists and progressive movements. The area also had Underground Railroad stations and routes. Although some in the region supported the Underground Railroad and its cause, there certainly were other members of the community who did not and combated its efforts.

Daniel Hughes (1804-1880) was a lumber river raftsman on the West Branch of the Susquehanna in the mid 19th century. He transported lumber from Williamsport to Havre de Grace, Maryland. Hughes is documented as being a towering man, standing over 6' 7" tall,

weighing approximately 300 pounds. He was bi-racial, of African American and American Indian, possibly Mohawk, heritage. He migrated to Pennsylvania from Oswego, New York in 1828. He and his wife, Ann Rotch, who was also Black, had 16 children and lived just north of Williamsport in the Pennsdale-Muncy area. This area was once offensively known as “Nigger Hollow” and is now more appropriately called, “Freedom Road.”¹⁸⁵ Together they helped slaves escape from the south to freedom in the north. Hughes would hide escaping slaves in his raft and smuggle them north to Williamsport. The story of Hughes and his family has been passed down by oral tradition by his great-granddaughter, Mamie Sweetings Diggs.¹⁸⁶ At great risk to themselves, the Hughes family helped protect, hide, and nourished those men and women before they would start their journey further north on the railroad to Elmira, New York. They were hidden on the Hughes’ property in its woods and caves. Hughes’ son, Robert, was recorded as reflecting upon his role in helping his family hide those escaping bondage,

“We would hide them in the woods in brush houses. I was just a little boy, but I remember very well carrying meals out to them in the woods. They usually traveled in groups of two or three men. Often patrollers would come to our place looking for runaways. They never caught anyone at our place. Rich people and good church people in Williamsport, mostly Quaker helped in the work.”¹⁸⁷

From Hughes residence, the runaways would next travel to the Apker House, in Trout Run, Lycoming County. This was the home of abolitionist and owner of the Williamsport-Elmira Railroad, Robert Faires. Faires would hide the escaped slaves in his house and barn.

¹⁸⁵ <https://web.archive.org/web/20120420085941/http://www.newsofyesteryear.com/archives/1075>, accessed on 5 May 2021.

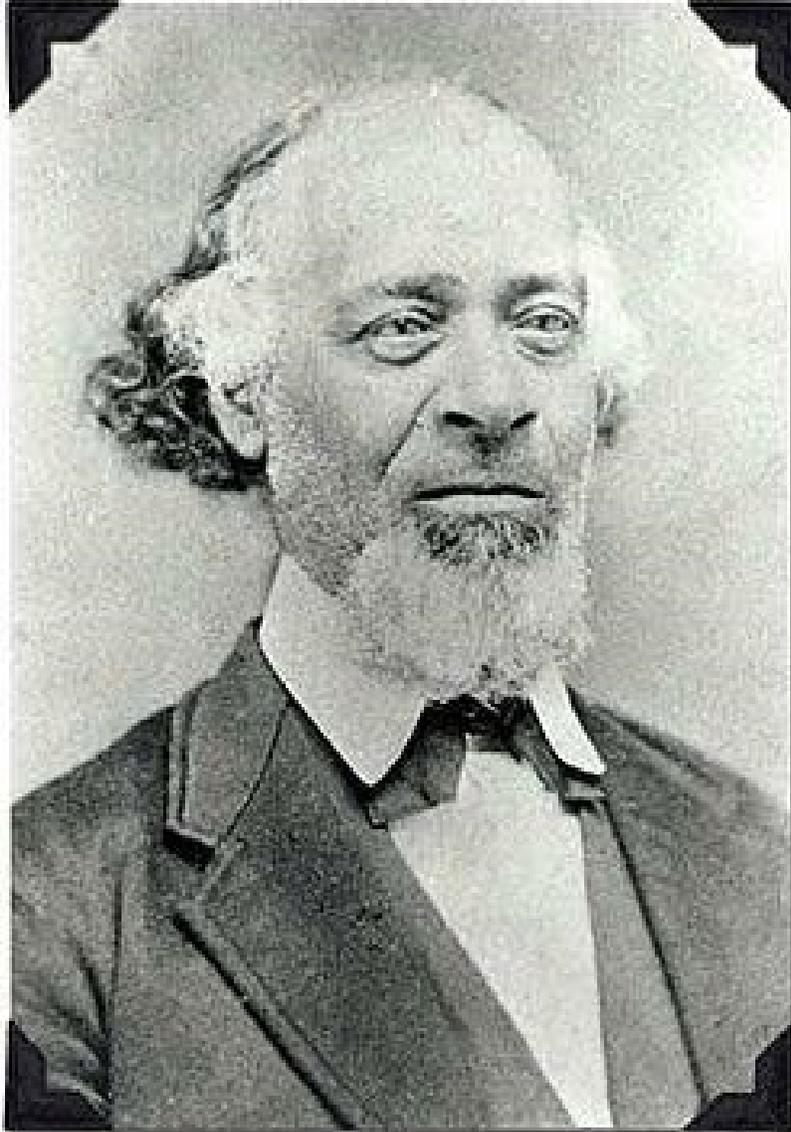
¹⁸⁶ <https://www.lycoming.edu/art/underground/mamie-sweeting-diggs.html>, accessed 1 May 2021.

¹⁸⁷ <https://web.archive.org/web/20120420085941/http://www.newsofyesteryear.com/archives/1075>, accessed on 5 May 2021.

Conveniently, his railroad line ran through his property. Faires would then stow the runaways in the railway baggage cars bound for Elmira, New York.¹⁸⁸

Hughes later donated part of his property to be a cemetery. Nine Black Civil War veterans are buried there. The property is a historic site and is now identified by a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker. It's important to note that Hughes used his profession as a lumber river raftsman to mask his work with the Underground Railroad.

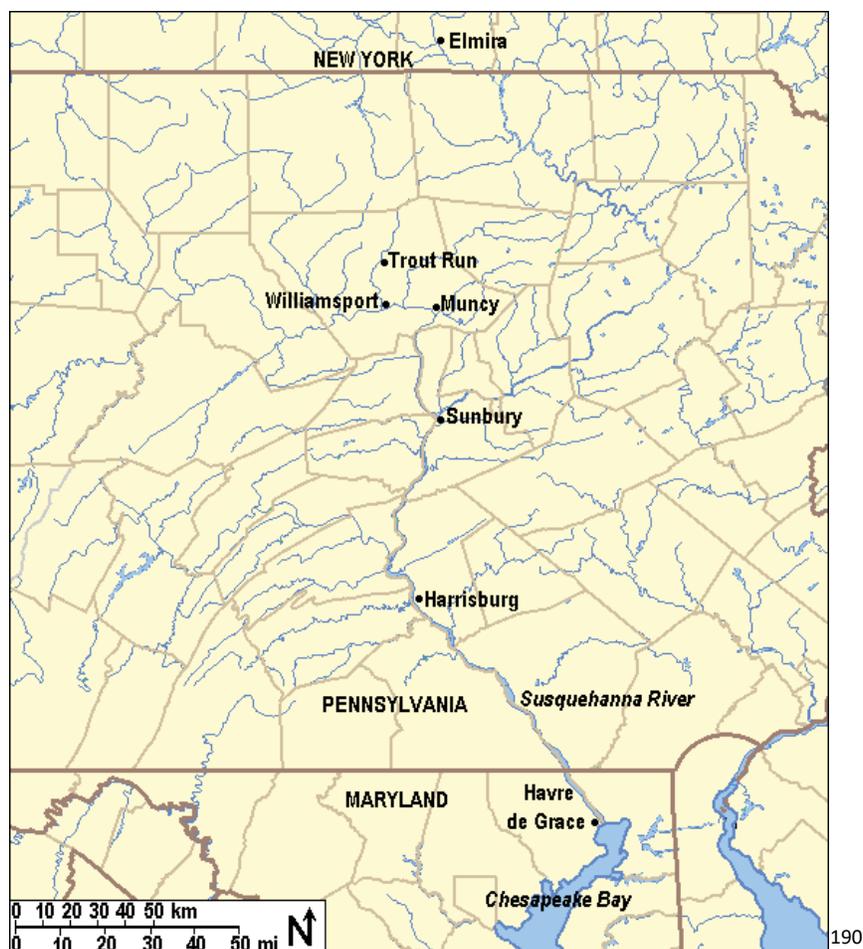
¹⁸⁸ <https://www.lycoming.edu/art/underground/sites.html>, accessed on 4 May 2021.



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Daniel Hughes

¹⁸⁹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Hughes_\(underground_railroad\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Hughes_(underground_railroad)), accessed on 29 April 2021.



Underground Railroad map of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York that details the pathway of freedom and important locations along the route that Hughes used. Notice the importance of the Susquehanna River.

William Whipper (1804-1876) and Stephen Smith (1795-1873) were wealthy Black lumber merchants and businessmen. They owned a successful lumber business in Columbia County, as well as a fleet of railroad cars and canal boats. Whipper was born to an enslaved house servant and her white owner. Smith was born a slave in Dauphin County.¹⁹¹ Both became involved in the abolitionist and antislavery movements. Using their influence and resources, they worked

¹⁹⁰ https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/69/Daniel_Hughes_River_Map.PNG, accessed on 4 May 2021.

¹⁹¹ <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/smith-stephen-1795-1873/>, accessed 5 May 2021.

with others involved with the Underground Railroad to help hundreds escape slavery from the 1830's through the 1850's.¹⁹² Using the Pennsylvania's Main Line Canal and the Allegheny Portage Railroad (which connected Hollidaysburg, Blair County to Johnstown, Cambria County), they were able to help hundreds escape slavery by moving them North to Canada, East to Philadelphia or Westward to Pittsburgh and beyond.¹⁹³ Although located just outside of the Lumber Heritage Region's boundaries, Columbia County is adjacent to Lycoming County and along the banks of the Susquehanna River. The story of Whipper and Smith compliments that of Daniel Hughes and involves Cambria County.



Portraiture and Engraving of William Whipper

¹⁹² National Park Service. Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site. Interpretation and Visitor Services Division. Visitor center interpretive signage and displays.

¹⁹³ <https://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-110>, accessed 5 May 2021.

¹⁹⁴ Both images are of William Whipper and are worthy of inclusion. Portrait of William Whipper attributed to William Matthew, 1845. Courtesy of the Fenimore Art Museum, <http://collections.fenimoreartmuseum.org/william-whipper-0>, accessed 5 May 2021. Block print. <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/william-whipper-nonviolence>, accessed 5 May 2021.

Scipio Kane

Scipio Kane was a runaway slave who became an aid and valet to General Thomas Kane, leader of Pennsylvania's Bucktail Regiment, during the Civil War. Thomas Kane was an abolitionist and supported the antislavery movement. Kane and Young became close friends and settled in Kane, McKean County after the war. According to Wendy Oakes, of the Kane Historic Preservation Society, the Kane's were the founding family and namesake of Kane. She credits Scipio Young's family as the second founding family.¹⁹⁵ Together Kane and Young worked in a lumber mill and went on to start their own successful lumber industry in Kane. Young later brought the rest of his family to the area from Essex, Virginia. He went on to own several buildings and businesses in Kane including a barber shop and billiard hall.

BILLIARD PARLOR
SCIPIO YOUNG, PROP'R.,
Fraley Street, KANE, PA.

☞ This room has been newly finished throughout. A fine new billard table of the latest make has been added, and the pool table thoroughly overhauled and new cushions and cloths added. Any person who enjoys rolling the ivorys can do so with pleasure at this parlor. A first-class

BARBER SHOP!
is run in connection with the billiard room where you can get a good sha hair cut.

 ¹⁹⁶

Advertisement for Scipio Young's Billiard Parlor and Barber Shop

¹⁹⁵ Wendy Oakes, interview by author, 11 November 2020. Field notes, Kane Historic Preservation Society Depot, Kane, PA.

¹⁹⁶ <https://kanepa.com/2019/07/31/day-41-the-story-of-scipio-young/> accessed on 15 January 2021.



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Scipio Young and Family

Some of Scipio's building are still present along Kane's main street. His property at 54 N. Fraley Street was once labeled "1887/S. Young" at the top of the roofline building. Renovations have covered his name from its modern-day appearance.

Fudegeon VanCamp and Jefferson County

Fudegeon VanCamp is thought to be the first Black man to locate to Jefferson County. He was a free man who traveled westward from Easton, Northampton County, during the winter of 1800-1801. Tradition relates that he brought apple seeds with him and planted them in Jefferson County. VanCamp raised two sons and two daughters on a farm near where present

¹⁹⁷ "Scipio Young and family," courtesy of the Kane Historic Preservation Society.

day I-80 crosses SR28.¹⁹⁸ When Brookville became the county seat of Jefferson County in 1830 it was recorded that “it had a population of 2003 whites, 21 freed colored, and only 1 slave.”¹⁹⁹ Four years later, Elijah Heath (1796-1875), an outspoken abolitionist residing in Brookville, helped two runaway slaves escape from the Brookville Jail. Heath provided William Parker and Charles Brown with tools to pick their cell’s lock.²⁰⁰ The men then fled north to Canada. The slave owners filed a lawsuit against Heath and won due to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793, that allowed penalties to be imposed on anyone who helped prevent the seizure and return of escaped slaves. Stories of diversity are briefly mentioned in the county histories of the region and many of them have a connection to lumber. Even in small-recorded census numbers or passing references, there was diversity.

Women

Located next to Warren County, Crawford County was home to John Brown, slavery abolitionist, and Ida Tarbell, an investigative journalist who tackled complex subjects and was a progressive who promoted reform. Their stories resonate in the topics of abolition, reform, suffrage, and rights that are also found within the Lumber Heritage Region. Although located in Crawford County, the image below was taken in Titusville at the Tarr Farm Tea Party, during the oil boom on the 1860’s. Notice the style of buildings behind the group of women. They resemble lumber camp buildings and are constructed of rough-cut plank lumber. When studying the women in

¹⁹⁸ <https://www.explorejeffersonpa.com/matson-growing-green/>, accessed 23 September 2020 and Briggs, Carole, interview by author, authors notes, Brookville, PA, 23 September 2020.

¹⁹⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96234400/elijah-heath>, accessed on 3 November 2020.

²⁰⁰ <http://paheritage.wpengine.com/article/black-history-pennsylvania-overview/>, accessed on 4 May 2021.

the image, there appears to be elements of diversity. One or more of the women may of either African American or Indigenous heritage, but they stand together. Their dress is common for the time. Most of the women are wearing constrictive hoop skirts.



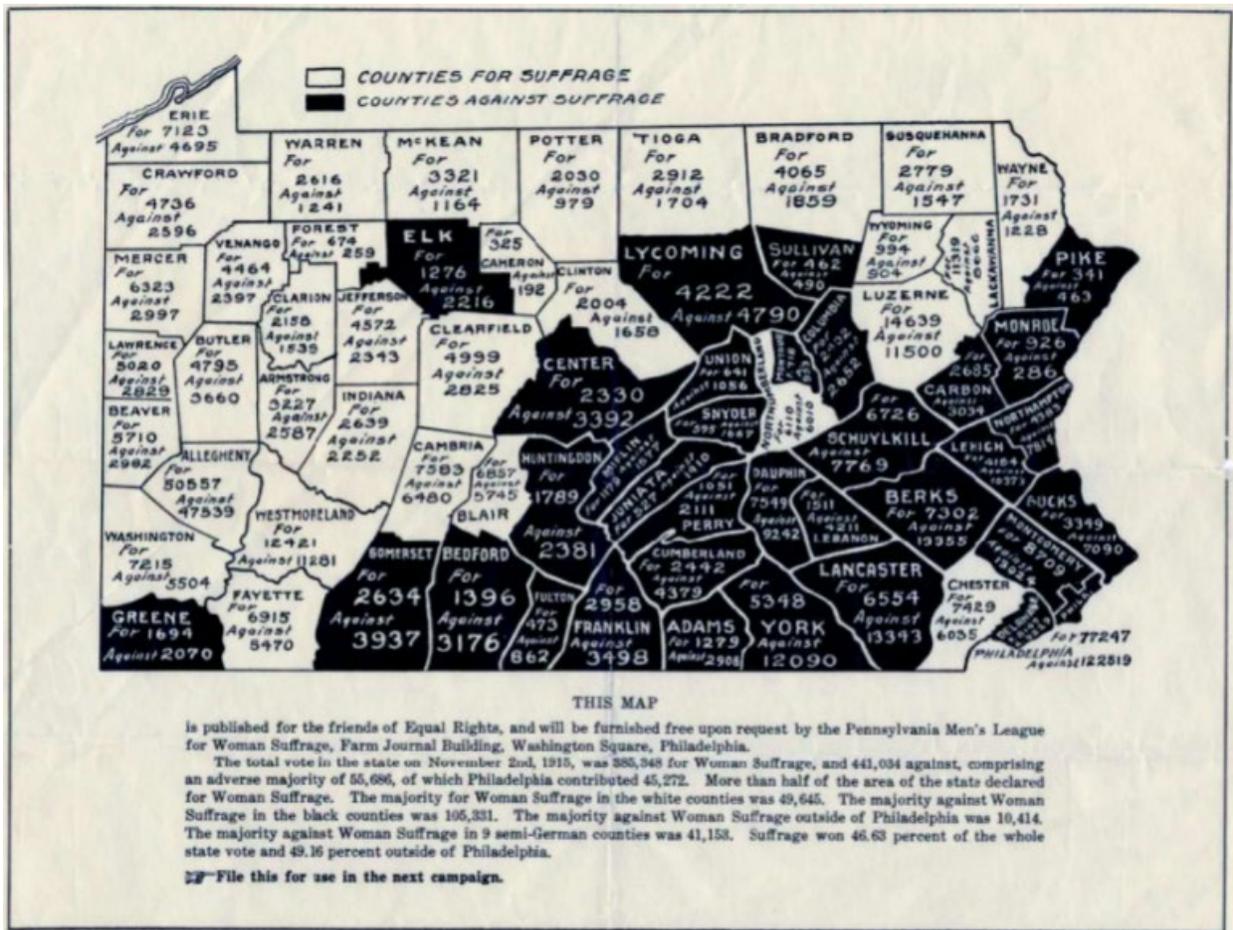
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“Tarr Farm Tea Party”

With respect to women’s history within the Lumber Heritage Region, it is integral to note that of the 15 counties, 12 voted in favor of Women’s Suffrage on November 2, 1915. Those counties in favor were: Warren, Forest, Clarion, Indiana, Clearfield, Jefferson, McKean, Cameron, Potter, Clinton, Cambria, and Tioga. Those who voted against the women’s right to

²⁰¹ DW129, “Tarr Farm Tea Party,” courtesy of the Drake Well Museum and Park, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

vote were Elk, Centre, and Lycoming. The map below clearly illustrates this. With the exception of Elk, Centre, Lycoming, Sullivan, and Pike Counties, the majority of Pennsylvania's woodlands were in favor of suffrage. This is a testament to the strength, fortitude, courage, and independence of the women from the region and the men who supported them.



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Map of the Pennsylvania Men's League for Women's Suffrage: Votes by County, 1915

²⁰² <https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/woman-suffrage/screen-shot-2017-05-30-at-5-27-54-pm/>, accessed on 3 May 2021.

The Civilian Conservation Corps and Beyond:

When Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in 1933 the country was in the midst of a deep depression that started in the 1920's. Industry had ravished America's forests. Farmlands had become dustbowls due to over farming and poor farming practices. Most of the country's population was unemployed and out of work. Such high and lengthy periods of unemployment also prevented the younger generations from gaining work experience and skills. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on April 5, 1933, with the intent of employing the nation's young men. The relief project provided jobs, skills, and instruction, food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and pay to send back home to help their families. The monthly salary for all enrollees was \$30, \$25 of which was sent back to their family. The program was open to unmarried men between the ages of 17 and 23, regardless of race. The men were placed in work camps and sites throughout the country. The leadership of the camps fell under the auspice of the United States Army.

The CCC's projects were focused on the country's natural resource. It was a restoration plan that helped reforest the country. State and national parks and forests were created with resources for the public including picnic groves, camping sites, swimming beaches, bridges, pavilions, and a variety of park buildings. Drainage was addressed, dams were built, and lakes created. Roads and trails were built, repaired or improved. Over 2 billion trees were planted throughout the course of the program. Improvements were made that prevented erosion and

helped to prevent and control forest fires. Fire towers were built, and when a forest fire erupted, the men fought them. The CCC provided adventure, change, and the ability to travel—sometimes across the country.

The legislation which created the CCC prohibited discrimination based on race. Robert Fechner, born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, and an officer on the General Executive Board of the International Association of Machinists, was chosen to be the head of the CCC.²⁰³ W. Frank Persons, a Red Cross advisor and administrator was appointed to be in charge of the United States Employment Services, which filled the muster rolls of the CCC units.²⁰⁴ Despite instructions from Persons that enrollees be selected without regard to race, Corps administrators in many states refused to select a proportionate amount of African Americans. The CCC operated during the Jim Crow Era and many officials argued that segregation was not discrimination. Separate but not equal. Pennsylvania had one of the largest amounts of segregated CCC camps in the country, but the relief for African Americans was still disproportionate. Although very much truncated, this history is integral to understand the history of the segregated camps and enrollees in Pennsylvania.

The CCC camps that were located within the Lumber Heritage Region were in the District No. 1, Third Corps Area. The segregated companies, date they were started, and location where they were located is as follows:

²⁰³ Cole, Olen Jr. The African-American Experience in the Civilian Conservation Corps. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1999). 10.

²⁰⁴ https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/ccc/salmond/chap2.htm, accessed 8 May 2021.

S-84	303-C	6/20/1933	Bennezette
S-119	303-C	7/12/1937	Philipsburg
S-116	303-C	11/15/1941	Clearfield
S-56	314-C	5/6/1933	Mt. Union
S-72	315-C	5/6/1933	Medix Run
S-83	316-C	5/6/1933	Wilcox
NF-5	321-C	4/25/1933	Kinzua
NF-4	336-C	5/6/1933	Kane
S-141	336-C	10/1/1935	Grantsville
S-62	361-C	6/5/1933	Milroy
NP-1	385-C	6/10/1933	Gettysburg
NP-2	1355-C	5/20/1934	Gettysburg
SP-11	2313-C	7/3/1935	Westford
SP-13	2313-C	7/3/1935	Schnecksville
NF-12	2314-C	7/3/1936	Kane
NF-12	2315-C	7/3/1935	Kane
S-154	2317-C	7/3/1935	Bedford
S-145	2336-C	7/5/1935	Austin ²⁰⁵

Out of 170 CCC companies serving in Pennsylvania, only 18 served Black men. The enrollees of those camps came from states including Washington D.C., Texas, Maryland, Tennessee, Georgia, Delaware, New York, Virginia, and various regions of Pennsylvania. The segregated camps often had a letter “C” designation after the company’s number to denote, “Colored.” The same can be said for the “veteran” CCC camps which were denoted by a “V.” Over 25,000 veterans of WWI were selected by the Veterans Administration to work special “Veteran Camps” with no restrictions on age or marital status. Pennsylvania had 19 of these camps.

²⁰⁵ http://www.ccclegacy.org/CCC_Camps_Pennsylvania.html, accessed on 29 September 2020.



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Civilian Conservation Corp Camp S101 Company 321, Ridgway, PA



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²⁰⁶ Facebook post, Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy Group, Mike Shultz posted 22 February 2021. “CCC Co 321/ Ridgway Pa/June 1 1940”, accessed on 21 April 2023.

²⁰⁷ “Crane at Twin Lakes, ANF,” courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service

Crane at Twin Lakes, setting stones in place for spillway, ANF, near Kane PA.

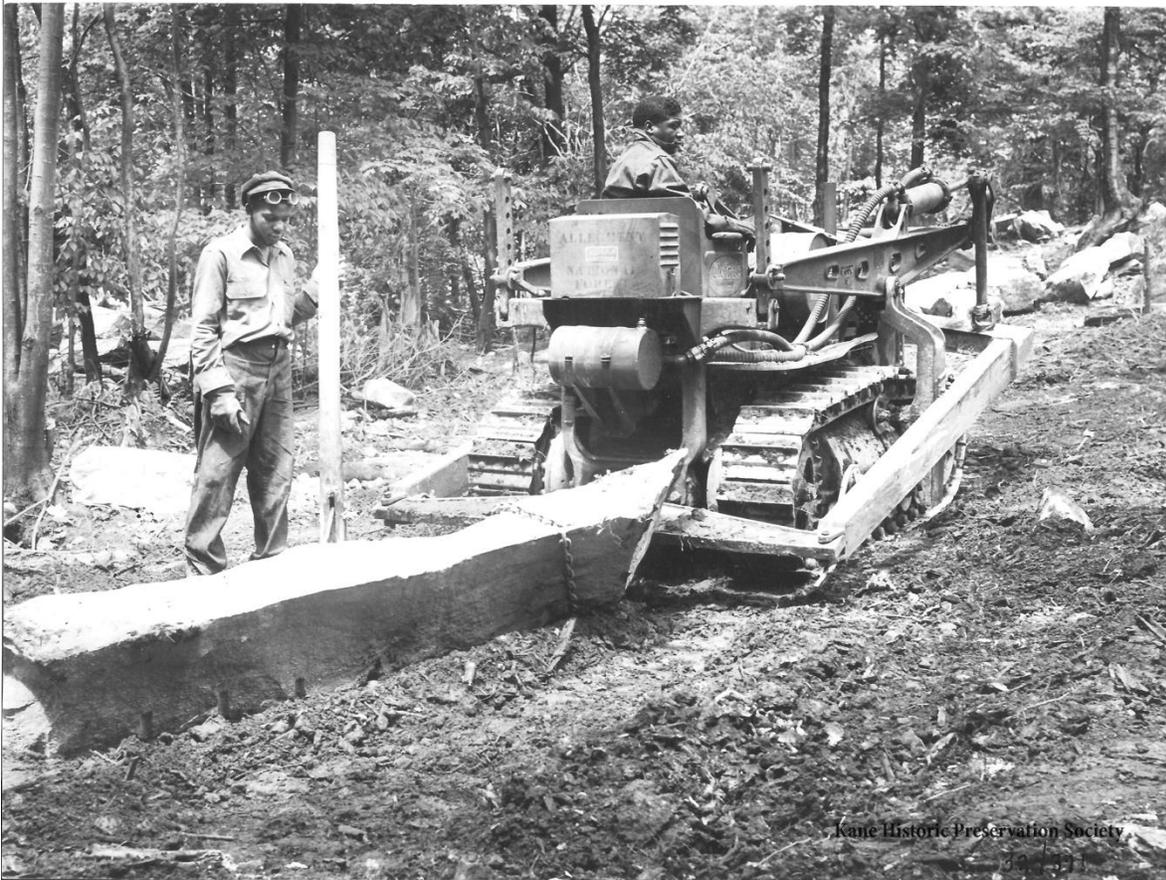


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Dam Construction at Bear Creek, Allegheny National Forest

Much work was completed in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) by the men of Companies 336-C, 2314-C, 2315-C, all of whom were stationed in the vicinity of Kane, McKean County. The men constructed dams, built lakes, roads, trails, recreational buildings, and pavilions. Their work at the Twin Lakes Recreation Area, ANF, is still visible today and used by visitors and outdoor enthusiasts daily. CCC enrollees learned practical skills in an on the job setting. Many learned how to drive a variety of construction trucks and earth moving equipment. Some used these skills to procure public works jobs in cities and municipalities after they left the CCC.

²⁰⁸ "Dam construction at Bear Creek," courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service.



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CCC construction work at Twin Lakes Recreation Area, ANF

According to the history of Company 2314-C ANF-12, Kane, PA:

“On October 5, 1935, the company moved from tents to permanent barracks. Since occupying camp, the enrollees have made excellent records on work projects, and did heroic work in keeping open snow-drifted roads during the winter of 1935-36. The members of the company have rebuilt five miles of telephone lines, constructed a stone base on Seven Mile Road from Lamont to the Experimental Station, as well as quarrying, cutting, and hauling 1200 yards of stone from Twin Lakes Dam stone cut masonry spillway.

Projects now being conducted include the installation of culverts, and the construction of stone base on Twin Lakes Road No.91, the quarrying and hauling of stones for headwalls, and the actual masonry work for the walls.”²¹⁰

²⁰⁹ CCC-069 “Construction at Twin Lakes,” courtesy of the Kane Historic Preservation Society

²¹⁰ Official Annual 1936, Civilian Conservation Corps District No. 2, Third Corps Area U.S.A. (Baton Rouge, LA: Direct Advertising Company, 1936.) 41.



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CCC construction work at Twin Lakes Recreational Area, ANF

CCC camp enrollees often had to build and/or repair the camps in which they lived. The program also provided educational opportunities for all members to learn additional skills and trades. These vocational courses included, but weren't limited to, mechanics, radio instruction, cooking, art, carpentry, surveying, welding, and driving. Educational classes in basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills were also available. The men of Company 2314-C worked to improve their camp.

²¹¹ CCC-066 "Construction at Twin Lakes," courtesy of the Kane Historic Preservation Society.

“In June of 1936, 1st Lt. Louis D. Hubbard was placed in command of the company, and fostered many camp improvements and a diversified educational program. Under his command the enrollees have laid many brick walks, completed the flag pole plot, finished the parking area, and built coal sheds. In addition, a chicken house, and a Mess utility shed were built, and one barrack remodeled for educational uses.”²¹²



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CCC Enrollees from Company 2314-C, Kane, study Radio Code

The above image depicts members of CCC Company 2314-C of Kane, McKean County in an evening vocational course. The men studied Radio Code in this educational class. The skills they learned allowed them to operate and run the camp’s radio station, which provided

²¹² Official Annual 1936, Civilian Conservation Corps District No. 2, Third Corps Area U.S.A. 41.

²¹³ <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/fall/ccc.html>, accessed on June 22, 2021

amusement, news, and levity. Black men struggled to enter leadership positions within the CCC. Classes like this were typically taught by white officers or instructors.



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²¹⁴ CCC enrollees from Company 336, Kane, PA., both images are courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service

CCC enrollees in the ANF help provide scale during a forest development study, winter 1933. Enrollees had leisure time and recreational opportunities on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. Camps had a variety of recreational sports teams including boxing, baseball and basketball. Other members participated in religious activities, wrote and published their own camp newsletters, or performed in bands, plays, musicals, or glee clubs. These activities were demonstrated in the history of Company 2314-C:

“On September 3, 1935, Captain J. Frank Howard was ordered to active duty at Camp ANF-12 as Chaplain. Chaplain Howard organized a singing group that traveled with him when he conducted religious services at Colored camps in what was then Sub-District No. 5. Religious activities conducted were Sunday Morning Church, Sunday School in the afternoon, and Bible Class.

Since its organization, the glee club and quartet have had the pleasure of serving citizens in Kane, James City, and Bradford, Pa., as well as Olean, New York. On one occasion the quartet broadcast from station WHDL, Olean, N.Y. as guests on a program sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance. The various athletic teams have established records of which the camp is justly proud.

Members of the Radio Class erected a building, complete in every detail, which housed radio equipment and provided an operator’s office as well as classroom for the radio and aviation groups. Leader Ernest Paxton and Enrollee Henry Fuller passed their examination for Radio Amateur Operator licenses. The two members are still students of the radio class.”²¹⁵

The collage image from the *1936 Official Annual of Civilian Conservation Corps for District 2 of the Third Corps Area* visually illustrates the variety of activities that Company 2314-C participated in: work, education, skill development, music, sports, religious services, and daily life. The group of CCC enrollee boxers represent several companies and camps. Camps would

²¹⁵ Official Annual 1936, Civilian Conservation Corps District No. 2, Third Corps Area U.S.A. 41.



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Group of CCC boxers including member of Company 2314-C

According to Susan Stout, Research Forester Emerita from the United States Department of

Agriculture, members of the CCC camps who worked in the Allegheny National Forest assisted with a long-term study of forest development. Humans were often used as element of scale.

The images below illustrate members of the CCC Camp 4, Company 336-C, in the Highland area of the Allegheny National Forest, who participated in the project.²¹⁸

²¹⁷ CCC-042 courtesy of the Kane Historic Preservation Society.

²¹⁸ Stout, Susan. "African American CCC photos 2- these are all from Camp 4 in Highland." Message to author. 6 February, 2021. E-mail.



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Member of Company 336 -C helping with a long-term study in forest development in the Kane Experimental Forest

²¹⁹ "CCC at Bear Tree," courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service.





²²⁰ "CCC at Bear Tree," both images courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service.



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Members of Company 336-C helping with a long-term study in forest development at Bear Tree

Although all CCC camps were structured in the same manner with similar projects, they faced different challenges. Camps could face poor leadership, lack of resources, or be prevented from educational programs due to remoteness. Segregated camps could also face discrimination from white leadership and from their surrounding communities. There were also communities who were just not supportive of having a CCC camp in their midst, regardless of race. Challenges facing the enrollees were evident at the CCC camp at Benezett, Elk County, S-84, Company 303-C, but the source is hard to accurately define. The men at Benezett worked on a variety of conservation projects.

²²¹ CCC enrollee from Company 336-C at Bear Tree, courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service.

“Conservation of the forests of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was the task assigned to the company. Up to the present time the company has completed 20 miles of forests roads, partially completed 6 more miles, and has built 11 miles of foot-trails. It has completed 11 miles of roadside cleanup, 19 miles of trailside cleanup, 18 miles of stream improvement, 129 acres of forest stand improvement, and 145 acres of general cleanup. The enrollees have planted 16 acres of Black Locust, Pine and Japanese Larch trees, covered 443 acres of blister rust control, and 1930 acres of timber estimating. A total of 630 man days have been spent in firefighting, 433 man days in fire suppression, and 25 man days hunting missing persons. Feed shelters numbering 45 have been constructed and three bridges have been built, with one bridge now under construction. A total of seven miles of telephone line is maintained. Work in progress at this time is mostly of re-construction, due to the damages done by the spring flood.”²²²

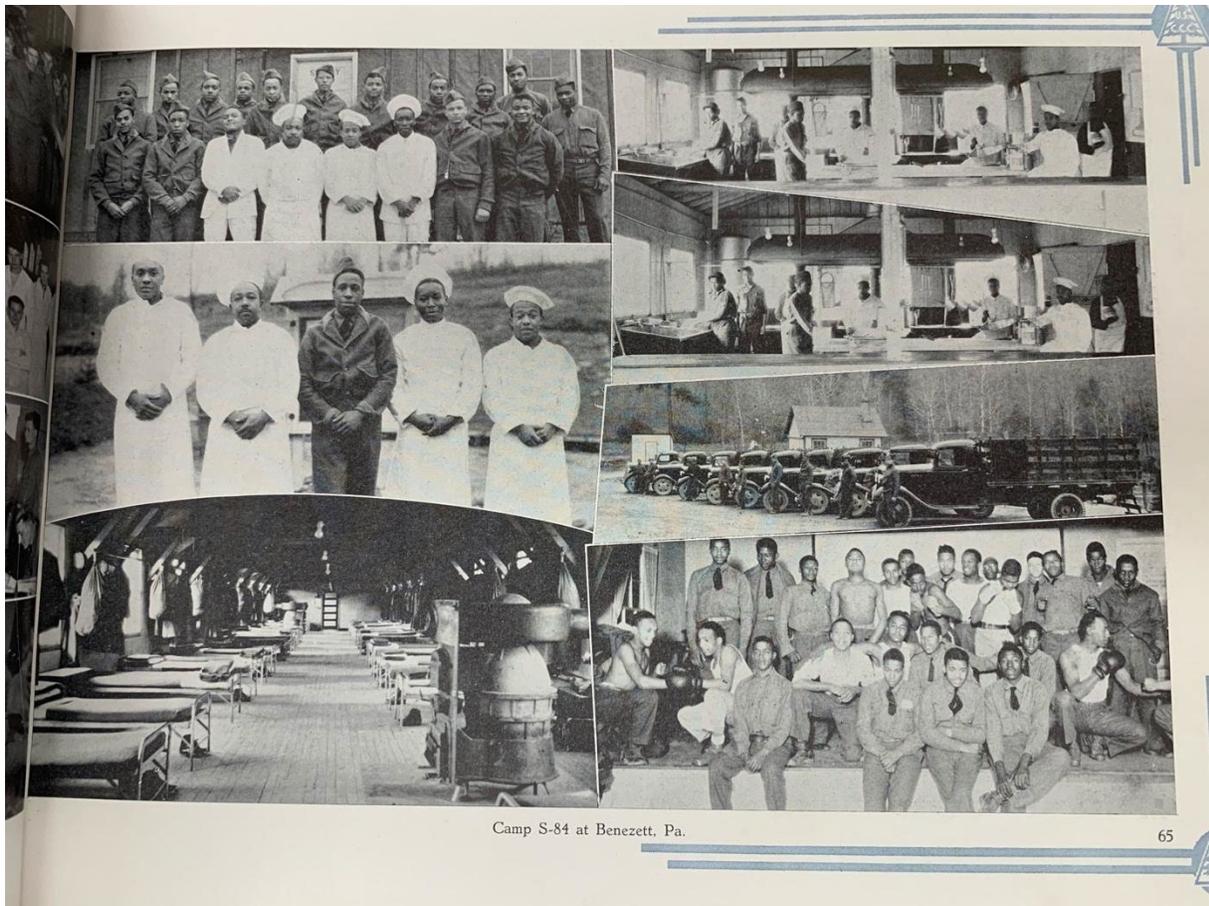


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Enrollees of Camp S-84, Company 303-C, Benezett

²²² Official Annual 1936, Civilian Conservation Corps District No. 2, Third Corps Area U.S.A. 67.

²²³ Official Annual 1936, Civilian Conservation Corps District No. 2, Third Corps Area U.S.A. 67.



Collage of pictures representing Camp S-84, Company 303-C

Regarding educational opportunities and activities, the Company's description in the 1936

Annual states:

The Educational Adviser was assigned to this camp April 1934, and the foundation of the educational program has been laid by an enrollee, who became his assistant. The program has been centered mostly around academic subjects, elementary and secondary. Vocational courses are offered, but they have not met the demands of the enrollees. This has been due mainly to a shortage of adequately trained instructors. Whenever there is a capable person available, his services are used to instruct classes. Classes for illiterates and academic courses are also held.

The relationship between the camp and the surrounding communities has always been pleasant. The camp baseball team, basketball, and track teams

²²⁴ Ibid., 65.

have participated in sports with most of these communities and proved ambassadors of goodwill in promoting better relationship. One of the DuBois elementary schools and the Benezett High School made contributions of books to the Educational Department.²²⁵

The representative of the company who wrote these descriptions speaks to lack of resources and of community relations. He is tactful, but by including, “promoting better relationships,” he has indicated that the relationship with some element of the community had been strained. A letter written by the enrollees on June 16, 1936, indicated other issues that were affecting the morale of the men in the company. The letter speaks to issues of leadership, lack of resources, and discrimination. Their frustration is clear, and their questions are genuine. More research will need to be conducted to discover how the issue was addressed and hopefully, resolved.

²²⁵ Ibid., 67.



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11-1-1938

Director Robert Fechner
Emergency Conservation Corps
Washington, D. C.

Company 303, Camp 447, W. D. B.
Bannock, Pa.
June 15, 1936.

Dear Sir:

We regret it very much that we hafter to bother you but under the present circumstance we find it impossible to do otherwise. As American Citizens we are asking you do we hafter tolerate with such treatment as we have? We sincerely hope that you will give us due consideration because our camp has the reputation of being one of the finest working camps in the United States. Sirs you know and I know that building roads and bridges is pretty hard work. Do you see any reason why we should work in camp after we come in off the road? By the time we get washed up and change our clothes its chow time and we still havn't had any rest yet, we hafter work in camp or get find from one to three dollars and maybe sent home. Are the officers suppose to find the boys that way? How many men are they suppose to keep in camp? We often wonder if it is simply because we happen to be the only colored camp in the district. During the worls war color didn't make any difference why should it now. We can't see why we should work on the road and in camp both we think it is very unreasonable. Do our color make any difference in the eyes of the United states Government? We are not blaming the United States Government for our present condition but we really wished that they would look into the situation. Our camp being in an isolated spot like it is, can you see any reason why we shouldn't be allowed to have as many truck as we wished to go to the baseball games that our team plays saturday and sundays. Some games our boys play the officers won't let but one truck go and that one only takes the baseball team. The only good officer we've had here within the last year was Lieutenant Edward Wigman of Little Washington, Pa. He has been release from the Civilian Conservation Corps. Everybody in the 303rd Company liked Lieutenant Wigman. All of us boys would be more than glad to have him back if the Government see fit to send him back to us. Do we get any of these new uniforms for summer ware? All the boys names that are signed below and on the back of this sheet of paper are asking the same quéstions. Theres hardly ever more than one stay in camp after twelve o'clock saturday thats why when we ask trucks they always say can't more than one truck go to the baseball game because theres only one officer in camp.

Respectfully yours,

Hannibal Pembleton
Charles Johnson
Charles Pinckney
John Grigsby
Harry Humphries
Larry Summers
Curtis N. Jerry
Thomas L. Adderly
Floyd Robinson
William Green

Edward Burris
Louis Brooks
Ernest Harper
Percy Christmas
James Mitchell
Lorizo Phillips
Ivey Ownes
Benjamin Perry

Sylvester Carson
Inman Hill
Edward Gaines
Alphonso Harrell
James Ashew
James Gibbs
Rudolph Elmore
Wilbur Ball
James Gadsen
W. N. Parker

226 Letter courtesy of the private collection of Bob Imhof.

These are just two examples of the segregated CCC camps and companies in Pennsylvania. The men who served in these camps had a profound impact in our forests and helped to create lasting state parks and trail systems. Some of their camps are completely gone, with only partial stone foundations as relics to their time in Penn's Woods. In other areas buildings, walls, dams and spillways exist, a tribute to their labor. Like all men who served in the CCC, lifelong friendships were made. The history of the Black men who served in the CCC program is just as relevant as any man's. The CCC also had separate camps for veterans and Native Americas. Pennsylvania was home to 14 veteran companies and 19 veteran camps. Companies often relocated to other areas once work was completed, or a change was assigned. There were no Native American CCC camps in Pennsylvania.

Youth Outreach

Years later in 2012, the U.S. Forest Service and members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (a part of the National Pan-Hellenic Council) comprised of nine largely Black fraternity and sorority groups) Incorporated Iota Phi Chapter from Pittsburgh, came together to host a camp program that would bring Black youth from the city to Chapman and Twin Lakes State Parks in Warren and McKean Counties. The idea was to teach the young men about the history of the African Americans who served in the CCC. Some members of the fraternity had fathers who had served in the CCC, in the camps that were in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). They wanted to bring attention to the role that Black CCC enrollees had in development of the ANF. The camp provided the opportunity for the middle and high school students to meet peers from Kane,

learn some outdoor skills, gain knowledge about the heritage of the CCC and an understanding of the work the men did.

Thanks to the partnership of Susan Stout from the U.S. Forest Service and Carlton Heywood of the fraternity, fifteen young men, accompanied by seven adults from the Iota Phi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, came to the camp. They went through a fishing safety program, practiced casting, and tried to catch a few fish at Twin Lakes State Park. They learned how to use GPS equipment and went geocaching. In the evening, the group met with an astronomer and learned about the stars and constellations. Much to their surprise, they even saw a bear! This unexpected opportunity also taught them about bears, their habitat, and why they are tagged and tracked by the Wildlife Commission. The group toured Chapman and Twin Lakes State Parks and learned about the history of their buildings and features. They also participated in a service project that allowed them to learn some hands-on CCC skills.²²⁷

²²⁷ Ferry, Brian, "Chapman plays host to urban group," Times Observer, 12 June 2012, A3.



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Learning the skills of a CCC enrollee

This partnership program combined history, heritage, and outdoor opportunities to provide a younger generation with a sense of place and self. Sharing our combined histories can be extremely empowering. The students who attended this program gained knowledge and experiences that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. One of the students, Diamante Jones, shared some of the lessons he learned: “Fishing takes patience. Bears can smell sweet things from 20 miles away. When I’m in the woods, I have to clean up after myself.

²²⁸ Image courtesy of Susan Stout, Research Forester Emerita, USDA.

Safety is everything.”²²⁹ His lessons resonate and are similar to those learned by CCCer’s and woodsmen and women alike, no matter the generation.



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Learning about CCC Architecture and Stone Work

As the students learned in this program, the forests are managed today. Active logging still takes place in the Allegheny National Forest and throughout Penn’s woods, but it is now heavily managed to protect our natural resources. Forest management by those involved with the industry and United States Forest Service helps to keep our woods healthy. Diversity among

²²⁹ Jones, Diamante. (2012, June). *Weekend at Chapman State Park* [PowerPoint Slides]. U.S. Forest Service.

²³⁰ Image courtesy of Susan Stout, Research Forester Emerita, USDA.

those working in the fields of forestry and lumber have increased. Women and minorities hold a variety of positions from administrative to educational to hands-on lumbering. The United States Forest Service employs legal migrant work crews within the ANF. These workers help with site preparation, weed and release, crop tree release, fence removal and planting.²³¹ Although not yet documented, their work and their stories are valuable and relevant. It is important to understand that they are part of the story and that the story continues to evolve.

The histories, information, stories, and photographs captured in the research, found in this document, represent and reflect on the history of women and elements of diversity within the Pennsylvania Lumber Heritage Region. This is only the beginning and this work is not the definitive. This document is a starting point. It is my sincere hope that research in these areas will continue. All of the stories have the ability to be expanded upon given time and resources. I have no doubt that there are more histories out there just waiting to be discovered. My challenge to anyone who reads this document is to keep asking questions, listen to the answers, continue to learn, and to keep an open mind. Our combined histories are essential and empowering. They will help to give us all a better understanding of the Lumber Heritage Region's history and those who worked here.

²³¹ Wiltsie, Kevin. "FW: Migrant workers on the ANF." Message to Susan Stout. 8 February 2021. E-mail.

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