A Note from Our Executive Director

Can you believe we are halfway through the year already? I think about our Nineteenth Century Wood Hicks who were probably preparing camp for another season of timber felling. I can imagine they, like us, were enjoying the warmer days and nights and taking advantage of the vitamin D.

The story is told that King Charles II gave the land now known as Pennsylvania and Delaware to William Penn to pay off some debt he owed Penn’s father. The rest is history. I mention this because there are a few LHR stories that started as chance meetings and well… The rest is history.

Last June I was visiting the Tionesta Market Village with my mom. It was a fun day of shopping, of course for things I didn’t really need. We enjoyed some pulled pork at a picnic table in the village and admired our purchases. As we were driving out of town, I noticed the historical society was open and we decided to stop and look inside. I had only been at the LHR for a short time and wanted to see the Wood Hick statue funded by one of our grants. We made our way inside and met a wonderful volunteer who showed us around the museum. We experienced many interesting artifacts and I saw pieces from the lumber era and noticed the volunteer didn’t speak much of them. Of course, me being an introvert (not a bit), I pointed out the pieces and introduced them to her. She then told me of a collection in the basement of old lumber tools and I knew I had to get involved. Some financial things just lined up and under the leadership of this volunteer we now have a replica lumber cabin on site that helps the LHR tell their story in the western part of the region and a new supportive board member. The lumber camp is a small museum and camp replica that helps the LHR share the lumber history to visitors in this part of the region. The museum is also the site of one of our wayfinding signs. (For more on the museum see Page 6). So if you see Steve and I around, don’t hesitate to introduce yourself.

you never know what great lumber heritage projects could come of it.

Enjoy your summer!

Godspeed!
Holly

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LHR Wayfinding Project

We are so excited to finally begin placing our wayfinding signs in the ground. Here is Holly working with Craig and Curtis from Bilger’s Rocks putting up the post to hold the sign. Directional arrows showing where the next nearest attraction is located will be added soon. We have additional plans for the project so be on the lookout for more news! If your organization would like to participate, give us a call and we’d be happy to reach out.
Another great happenstance occurred during a visit Steve and I had to Smicksburg for our wayfinding marketing project. Now if you don’t know Smicksburg in Indiana County, you don’t know it is a prominent Amish Community so you’re not going to find a Walmart or a steakhouse. But you will find kind folks who make you feel at home. As Steve and I drove into town with no plan on where to go we first stop at the community park. What a beautiful little park with open fields and a walking trail. After looking around at the park for a while and talking to a fellow visitor, Steve and I decide to drive around and look for our next stop. Right up the hill we find a mini-mall with shops and a restaurant. We go into the restaurant and start looking around the small shop in front. Before I spend all of my money on bulk supplies, I decide to tell a waitress what we are doing in town and asked if she knew whom we could speak to. She looks at me with a smirk and points to a table in the corner. “Come with me, this is your man”, she says. We walk up to the table and she introduces me to the president of the Smicksburg Historical Society. Steve and I got a personal tour of the Historical Society and stories we will surely never forget. Most importantly we got a new partner in the wayfinding project and another great asset to our wayfinding tour. I am anxious to see where this adventure leads us next.

Some day I’m going to catch him smiling….I promise!

Have you watched our new video?

Pennsylvania Hardwoods-From Our Forest to Your Home

Fans of the Science Channel’s program “How It’s Made” will love our newest LHR video. Pennsylvania Hardwoods-From Our Forest to Your Home shows the viewer how lumber is produced. The video begins in the forest and depicts the numerous ways trees are harvested. The video then moves on to the lumber yard to show how the trees (now in the log stage) are graded and stored. Finally, onto the lumber mill and the extensive process a log goes through in order to be turned into a usable piece of lumber. This fascinating journey highlights new technology that has not only streamlined how the industry operates but also how every scrap of a tree is being used with the ultimate goal being “zero waste”. When you’ve finished watching the video, explore more of LHR’s website to learn about the history of the lumber industry. You’ll be amazed at how far the industry has progressed.

Log onto: www.lumberheritage.org for more information.
History Buffs Take Note—GenDisasters.com Website Is Addictive

GenDisasters is a genealogy site, compiling information on the historic disasters, events, and tragic accidents our ancestors endured, as well as, information about their life and death. You can search a whole host of disasters throughout the entire U.S. or by individual state. The site is free to use and can be filtered down to the county level. The following is an excerpt about a forest fire that occurred 1891 in Curwensville as reported by The Daily Gazette and Bulletin from Williamsport:

The Penfield stage met with a thrilling experience Saturday evening while on its way to Clearfield. It had several long stretches of burning woods to drive through, the passengers covered their heads and faces and the horses were whipped to a running pace and away dashed the stage coach down the burning hills into Clearfield. A teamster having a load of bark on the same road was compelled to cut harnesses and run for his life, both sides of the road was all afire, his wagon and bark caught fire also and were also destroyed. The damage to the timber on the mountain cannot be guessed at with any degree of accuracy.”

ATTENTION ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

If you are struggling with trying to decide what to do after graduation and aren’t really sure what you’re interested in, you may want to check out the jobs available in the lumber industry.

Anyone remotely familiar with the lumber industry is well aware there are a variety of jobs and skills required that didn’t exist many years ago. With the advent of computer controlled equipment and more powerful machinery, the industry is much more advanced in the 21st century than it was in the 18th century and the types of skills needed has advanced as well. If you can answer “yes” to any of these questions, there may be a lumber job waiting for you:

- Do you love working in the outdoors?
- Are you skilled with computers?
- Have a good eye for detail?
- Want to learn how to operate heavy machinery?

There are over 700 job categories to explore in the forest industry and one of them may be just right for you! Go to www.paforestcareers.org to see what jobs are waiting.

Happy 30th Anniversary!

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Heritage PA program. This program boasts 12 Heritage Areas, spanning 57 of the Commonwealth’s counties, and comprises an endless amount of adventure pertaining to Pennsylvania’s rich and very diverse history. The businesses, non-profit organizations, and community leaders committed to preserving Pennsylvania’s unique historic and cultural resources encourage tourists with varying interests to visit one or more of the areas. They will have the opportunity to experience some of the most important and pivotal actions which have contributed to the nation’s formation and growth.

The Lumber Heritage Region was created in the late 1990s and continues to discover new ways to keep Pennsylvania’s Lumber Heritage alive.

Happy 30th Anniversary!
We’re on the Web!  
www.lumberheritage.org

**Something to Think About**

There is no doubt the deforestation in the Lumber Heritage Region was devastating when it happened in the latter part of the 19th century. However, we would not have the beautiful fall foliage that we enjoy today if hardwoods would not have replaced the loss of the white pine.

**New Museum**

LHR is pleased to announce the opening of the **Forest County History Museum** in Tionesta, PA.

LHR was so thrilled to partner with the Forest County Historical Society on this project. The new museum has been designed as a replica of a lumber camp in order to showcase how a lumberjack lived.

Visitors entering the museum will find an authentic replication of the bunks that were slept on, lumbering tools that were used, and several unique displays such as a horse drawn wagon pulling a load of lumber. It certainly puts the life of a “woodhick” in perspective when you see the tools they had to work with and the backbreaking labor it must’ve taken, not only to cut down a tree, but get it out of the woods and to market.

The new museum is just one of many stops visitors to the Lumber Heritage Region can make to learn about the history of the lumber industry!

The museum is located at 206 Elm Street, Tionesta, PA. For more information visit their Facebook page or call 814-755-4422.

Holly, Steve, and Members of the Forest County Historical Society. Photo courtesy of Tracy Hilton