Last year I did a presentation at an elementary school within the LHR. As I was presenting some of our wood on glass collection, I spoke of a town full of temporary structures. I mentioned that often times whole villages would be moved to follow the timber, leaving behind a ghost town. Boy did that catch the attention of a room full of 3rd graders. Lesson Learned.

As we enter October, the month of ghouls, ghosts and goblins, I thought it natural to share stories of the once thriving lumber towns that are now dubbed ghost towns. Although not meant to scare, the idea of whole towns being abandoned is an unsettling thought.

Many of the industries of the 20th century left the Lumber Heritage Region with abandoned towns speckled throughout. The coal, oil, and lumber industries that once thrived and provided the masses with employment left as quickly as the industry. Many of the sites were purchased from the government and used as CCC camps, thus explaining the numerous state parks in the region.

Some of these ghost towns are now recreational sites. Loleta, PA (www.allegheensite.com/loleta-recreation-area) established in 1889 once had 600 inhabitants most of which worked the hills clearing out the timber to build America. The site was enhanced by the CCC and today is a camping destination. You can enjoy one of the 38 camping sites, a 3-mile hiking trail, a swimming area, picnic pavilions, and more.

Or chose a visit to Matsen, PA (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Loggers_Path) for a more rugged adventure on the Old Logger’s Path. This trail takes most hikers 2 or 3 days to complete as it winds through the property once held by Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company. If you enjoy the outdoors and have a fascination of life in the 20th century, take time to visit one of the many LHR ghost towns.

Throughout the month we will share stories of the LHR ghost towns and the hauntings and folk lore stories associated with the Lumber Heritage Region. If you have a good haunting story related to lumbering story to share, send it to info@lumberheritage.org and we will feature it on our Facebook page.

Enjoy your time in the Lumber Heritage Region and always be safe.

Godspeed,

[Signature]

Winter scene of Loleta looking north.
Visitors to the Lumber Heritage Region may be starting to notice some new signs popping up across the area. The Lumber Heritage Region’s new wayfinding signage program is up and running and will offer visitors to the area a unique opportunity to see all of the attractions located in the LHR. Holly Komonczi (Executive Director) and Steve Manginell (Outreach Coordinator), have a difficult time hiding their enthusiasm for this new program and all of the possibilities they see in it that will help attract visitors to the area.

Holly states, “The concept of wayfinding signage isn’t a new one. In fact, baby-boomers and the generation that grew up watching the television show “MASH” may recognize the design. What makes our program unique is that we aren’t pointing people in the direction of another state or town, but to the next nearest tourist attraction.” For instance, a family visiting the Lumber Museum in Galeton, PA may not realize that they are only 28 miles away from the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. This information may encourage visitors to travel to the next attraction simply because they didn’t realize they were already so close to it. Providing this information not only helps the traveler reach a new destination, but also helps get people moving around the region to visit other sites. And it is a great way to partner with other organizations.

Continued on next page
Holly believes that working together and partnering with the organizations that operate other tourist attractions is a bonus for everyone involved. As the Executive Director of a non-profit organization, she understands how tight budgets make marketing a challenge and sees this program as a low-cost way to benefit all that participate.

The LHR also has plans to expand the wayfinding program to include new interactive ways for tourists to utilize the signs. A new geocaching trail is one idea the LHR is exploring. Geocachers will be able to follow the signs to the next geocache and have the opportunity to win a prize after they completed the trail. Other ideas include a “selfie” photo contest and a contest that will challenge visitors to tell us about their wayfinding experience. They will then have the opportunity to have their story featured in the Lumber Heritage Newsletter.

So far, signs have been installed at the following locations: The Pennsylvania Lumber Museum; Smicksburg Heritage Society; Forest County Historical Museum; Bilger’s Rocks; the new Straub Brewery Visitor’s Center; Renovo Heritage Park; Penn Brad Oil Museum; the new Punxsutawney Phil’s Visitor Center; Pennsylvania Grand Canyon; the Bucktail Monument in Driftwood, PA and the Warren County Visitor’s Bureau.

For updates on the wayfinding program go to LHR’s website at lumber-heritage.org or visit our Facebook page. For more information about this exciting new program contact Holly Komonczi by emailing her at hkomonczi@lumberheritage.org or by calling 814-761-4207.
LHR FUNDRAISER FOR ALIFT

Please join us in supporting a good cause. We are raising money for ALIFT (Assisting Loggers Immediately Fund Trust) a 501(c)(3) non-profit that assists Pennsylvania loggers in crisis with monetary donations in their time of need. Your contribution will make an impact, whether you donate $5 or $500. Every little bit helps. Thank you for your support. You can donate by going to the following link www.facebook.com/donate/2328654624116730/

VINTAGE SAWMILL FOR SALE

For Sale By Owner

Left handed AB Farquhar Company Sawmill. This mill was purchased in the 1980’s and used for small projects. It has Babbit Bearings and 2 blades. It is a core fed system. For more information please call, Robert Howard—814-558-5331.
The LHR is a 15 county region in North West/North Central Pennsylvania that accentuates the importance of the lumber industry for the past, present and future. The goal of the heritage region is to market its assets to potential visitors, to serve as a resource to the PA hardwood industry, and to keep the economic impact of the region in the forefront.

Something to Think About
Are there really ghosts in “Ghost Towns”?

Not exactly! A ghost town is an abandoned village, town, or city, usually one that contains substantial visible remains. A town often becomes a ghost town because the economic activity that supported it has failed. Such is the case with the many Lumber Ghost Towns of the Lumber Heritage Region.

The town of Norwich in Mckean County.

FEATURED PARTNER

Straub Brewery

Straub Brewery was founded in 1872 by Peter Straub (1850-1913). Brewing continuously since that time, Straub is the third oldest brewery in the United States and considered an American Legacy Brewery™. It is still owned and operated by the original founding family, now in its seventh generation. Straub is also the smallest pre-Prohibition brewery still in business in the United States.

Straub is the last brewery in the United States to produce and sell beer in returnable 16-ounce glass bottles, commonly called "Pounders." The Brewery uses a traditional bottle-washing machine to clean the returned glass bottles and prepare them for refilling. Heavy-duty, reusable cardboard cases and dividers enable the Brewery to minimize the amount of new packaging material. In 2016, the Pennsylvania Resource Council honored Straub Brewery with its “Leadership in Reusable Packaging” Award for this 16-ounce Straub American Lager returnable package.

Straub Brewery is humbled and proud to be designated as an American Legacy Brewery™ because it celebrates over 146+ years of Fierce Independence in brewing! It signifies that Straub has produced quality American Lagers for more than five generations and represents the passion and dedication of a single family, who successfully managed, expanded and often protected a way of life that the Brewery represented. Ours is a history shared by only a few surviving legacy breweries in this country. Today, a new generation of Peter’s descendants carry-on his brewing traditions, maintaining the quality and relevance of our products and sustaining the heritage of Peter Straub.