



Pictures capture the moment.....

Octavius Bull – Early Photo-documentarian of West Nantmeal Township

Octavius Bull was born in 1878 to an affluent family in Philadelphia. From birth, he suffered a handicap with one leg shorter than the other and somewhat stunted growth. His parents died when he was still a child and he moved to the Bull family homestead in East Nantmeal Twp at age 21.

It was there that he became interested in photography and spent much of his time photographing local scenes including baseball games, Sunday School picnics, grist mills, iron furnaces, etc. in the Nantmeal and neighboring townships.

Sadly, he died in 1909 of a stroke at the age of only 41. But his legacy lives on in his photographs. The Chester County History Center has over 500 of his photos depicting life in rural Chester County around the turn of the century and they are a fascinating glimpse of life at that time.

Unique West Nantmeal gifts!

Looking for affordable local gifts? West Nantmeal Historical Commission has some unique items. (Limited quantities) Available during office hours or call 610-286-9722 ext. 12.

West Nantmeal mugs, green & cream with a local scene	\$2.00
8 pack notecards with local scenes	\$4.00
Black and white historical calendar photos	\$2.00

It Takes a Village

Back in the day when the roads and transportation were not so great, area's have to be more or less self sufficient.

And to that point, listed on an old map of West Nantmeal, were the trades of local folks. Just about anything you might need was " in our village."

There were many hardworking varied residents, who contributed to the "good living" of West Nantmeal. Almost all of the residents listed worked here or nearby. It is interesting to see how they made a living. Some of the professions listed are as follows:

A tinsmith of all kinds, tinware, roofing, spouting. Dry goods, groceries, lumber, coal, fertilizers, dairyman, grazier, and dealer of livestock.

Custom saw miller, wholesale and dealer in grain and flour. Surveyor and conveyancer. Castings made of all kinds of machinery. Butcher and dealer in all kinds of hides. Physician and surgeon. Coach maker. Blacksmith, shoe maker and fashionable boot wear.

There was a lake, where many couples met, either boating or skating and later married. There was the "old green" dance hall, where most of the young folks could be found on a Saturday night.

Anything you might need was found here in West Nantmeal.

As the saying goes, It really does take a village.

Interested in learning more about West Nantmeal Township? We'd love to have you join us! Please visit our website, westnantmealhc.org, or come to one of our monthly meetings which are held at the Township Building on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 PM. (Subject to change; please check our website)

All aboard!!!

Have you ever wondered what the history is behind the abandoned railroad Right-Of-Way, that meanders through our West Nantmeal township area?

The East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railway line, later known as The New Holland Branch was born in 1854. The purpose for the railroad, was to provide access for the villages along the rural portions of the Brandywine River with the growing lucrative markets in the larger cities of the east. The initial section of the railroad stretched from Downingtown to Waynesburg. Waynesburg caused confusion as there was another Waynesburg in western PA, so the name was changed to Honey Brook in 1884. The railroad served many stations along the Brandywine as is evident from a 1862 train schedule. The railroad line also served the Isabella Furnace and the Lewis Grist and Saw Mill. The old stone and wood station building at the Lewis Mill road crossing is still visible from the road, as shown below.

WAYNESBURG BRANCH. PENN'A RAIL ROAD.			
On and after Monday next, May 5th, 1862, the Trains on the Waynesburg Branch will run as follows:			
LEAVE EASTWARD.		LEAVE WESTWARD.	
STATIONS.	PARKESTOWN TRAIN 7:45 A. M. 8:15 P. M.	STATIONS.	PARKESTOWN TRAIN 7:45 A. M. 8:15 P. M.
Waynesburg.	6.00 11.30	Downingtown.	9.10 4.25
Bohannon Road.	6.06 11.37	Chester Valley Int.	9.15 4.32
Daupman's.	6.08 11.40	Shelburne's.	9.17 4.34
Forres's.	6.11 11.47	Dorlan's Forge.	9.27 4.42
Copola.	6.16 11.50	Darke's Mill.	9.35 4.48
Barneston.	6.24 11.59	Reed's Road.	9.40 4.52
Moorestown.	6.32 12.10	Brooklyn.	9.45 4.56
Springton Forge.	6.38 12.15	Copola.	9.50 5.00
Cornock's.	6.40 12.20	Springton Forge.	9.55 5.04
Brooklyn.	6.46 12.27	Moorestown.	10.00 5.08
Reed's Road.	6.49 12.31	Barneston.	10.11 5.16
Dorlan's Mill.	6.52 12.35	Copola.	10.20 5.24
Dowlin's Forge.	6.57 12.41	Forres's.	10.22 5.28
Shelburne's.	7.05 12.51	Daupman's.	10.28 5.31
Chester Valley Int.	7.08 12.55	Bohannon Road.	10.36 5.34
Downingtown.	7.15 1.00	Waynesburg.	10.40 5.40

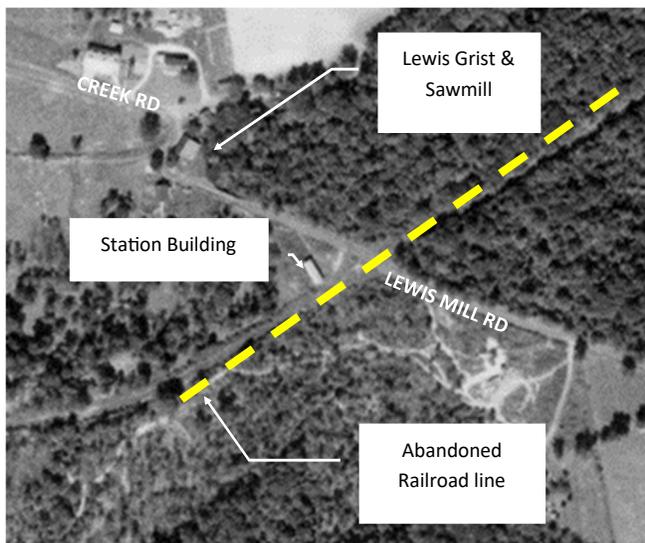
Trains on the Waynesburg Branch connect with Trains on the Penna. R. R. at Downingtown, as follows:

EASTWARD
With Parkesburg Train arr. at West Phila. at 5:20 A. M.
Mail Train, " " 5:25 P. M.

WESTWARD
With the Mail Train leaving Philadelphia at 7:15 A. M.
Harrisburg Accom. " 2:30 P. M.

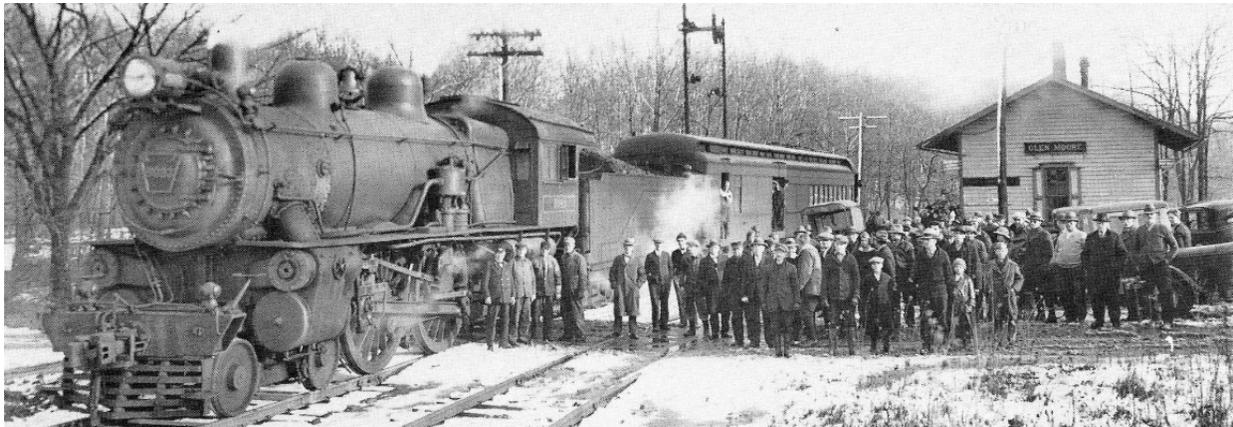
ENOCH LEWIS,
General Superintendent

C. C. FRANCIS,
Supt. Phila. Div. Penna. Rail Road.



1937 Aerial Photograph

Sadly, the arrival of automobiles became the preferred method of transport and passenger services ended in 1930, followed by the last freight services in the 1960's. The picture below is of the last passenger steam train trip, taken in front of the Glen Moore station.



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WEST NANTMEAL TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC COMMISSION
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