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FEBT members Larry Fuchs, Tom Perman, Craig Confair, and Joel Myers perform some sorely needed carpentry work replacing wooden sheathing on the south end of the Car Shop in the Rockhill Shops Complex during the July 2022 work session. – Dave Bulman photo

WORKING AS A SUMMER 2022 INTERN FOR THE EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

My name is Brian Standfest, and I am a student entering my senior year at Juniata College, located in Huntingdon, PA, studying History and Museum Studies. I was a big fan of trains in my youth, but my love of trains began to wane as I got older. That is until February of this year, when I came to the East Broad Top Railroad (EBT) in Rockhill Furnace, PA, for the first time.



Brian Standfest poses with the handcar on the main line adjacent to the EBT Museum in Robertsdale. – Julie Rockwell photo

I came to the EBT on a field trip led by Lawrence Biemiller with the Museum Practicum class, taught by Kathryn Blake, the Director of the Juniata College Museum of Art (JCMA). The field trip included a shops complex tour and a visit to the archives at the Orbisonia Passenger Station. The class also met members of the EBT Foundation (EBTF) as we gathered ideas to help us prepare for curating a Fall 2022 exhibition at the JCMA to celebrate the EBT's Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary!) of its monumental groundbreaking in 1872.

One of the staff members we met was Julie Rockwell, the EBT Archivist. She told us that a Juniata College student, senior Sammy Bellin, interned with her in Summer 2021 and would be employed as a part-time Archives Technician after he graduated in May. Toward the end of our visit, I asked Julie if she would be looking for an intern this summer. She provided me with her email, and we began communications about this possibility and what an internship would entail. I was extremely fortunate to be told that a private donor for the EBTF fully funded an internship for me!

My internship offer enabled me to work on the National Railways Historical Society (NRHS) Heritage Grant, awarded to the EBTF this May for the East Broad Top Railroad Preservation of Architectural and Engineering Maps and Drawings Project. With this opportunity, the East Broad Top Railroad Archives and Special Collections (EBTRR ASC) welcomed me for eight weeks during June and July.

During these past eight weeks, I have learned how Julie works to develop a formal archive. When I started, I knew there was some semblance of order in the archival materials, but it was overwhelming. I cannot imagine what the archives looked like before Julie began organizing and cataloging the materials last year. Working on the Maps and Drawings Project, I first created general inventory spreadsheets and a Data Dictionary using Google Sheets. I then began cataloging a variety of paper maps and drawings. I also prepared the maps and drawings for scanning with a wide-format scanner (to be purchased from the NRHS grant funds) and future permanent housing and storage. Eventually, formal accessioning (cataloging) of these inestimable amounts of maps and drawings will occur into the collections management system, PastPerfect Web Edition™, and become available for public access as a digital collection catalog.

I quickly learned when Julie told me that the EBT kept everything; they indeed kept everything! I cataloged detailed parts drawings from various railcars, passenger cars, locomotives, and other "miscellaneous" or unique machinery and buildings. This inventory changed to include other objects like sketches of parts used in the different EBT shops and architectural and engineering blueprints reproductions, linen maps, vellum maps, tracings, and sketches. Most maps and

drawings I have cataloged are in excellent condition, which is shocking as they have been untouched in storage for decades. Still, others are moldy and falling apart, illustrating what happens when paper materials are vulnerable to less-than-optimal environmental conditions. Out of the over a thousand maps and drawings I managed to inventory, the most wondrous map I discovered was enormous and shows a network of unknown, underground coal mines!

Besides working on the Maps and Drawings Project, I had other experiences during my internship. One morning I was on site and saw Engine No. 16 steam for the first time during its restoration, and I will never forget the first sights, smells, and sounds of No. 16 coming alive since 1956! Later in the day, I could hear its steam whistle, which added to this once-in-a-lifetime experience! In June, I accompanied Julie, Sammy, and Friends of the East Broad Top (FEBT) archives volunteer Scarlett Wirt on a behind-the-scenes tour at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg, PA. We met the archives and collections staff and volunteers and learned about their archival practices and how they approach scanning maps and drawings.



Archival interns Sammy Bellin and Brian Standfest work with FEBT archives volunteer and Trains Magazine writer Wayne Laepple to unfold a map of a mine that is in the hands of the East Broad Top Railroad Archives and Special Collections program. – Julie Rockwell photo

I also joined Julie at the first Archives Day at the FEBT Robertsdale Museum, which was a wonderful experience. I met friendly and knowledgeable FEBT volunteers and learned even more about the history of the EBT and its connections to Robertsdale. Julie and I brought various maps, drawings, and other archival materials related to Robertsdale and the Rockhill Iron and Coal Company. At the end of the day, I took a handcar ride up and back on the restored EBT line, which was incredible!

Although the icing on the EBT internship cake was meeting Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey, who visited the EBT and stopped by to see the archives. It was great to hear how interested he is in the work of the Foundation, and it was the first time I had ever met a Senator.

I enjoyed my time as the Summer 2022 Intern and learned many things about how an actual archive functions. I learned how to handle maps and drawings during the cataloging process properly and how to protect and better house the more damaged ones to try and prevent them from further deterioration. I also learned how to write a Standard Operating Procedure for my maps and drawings inventory process, so those who come after me to work on the Maps and Drawings Project, whether another intern or future volunteers, can pick up the work where I left off. A final skill introduced to me

was scanning small drawings with an Epson V850 Pro scanner and assisting in uploading these scans into PastPerfect™, which Julie, Sammy, and Dr. Lee Rainey are populating with “descriptive metadata” almost every day. I wish to stay longer at the EBTRR ASC and continue working with Julie, Sammy, and everyone else at the EBTF and the FEBT.

This archives internship has been invaluable and has opened my eyes to potential career paths after college. This experience has also encouraged me to become a new FEBT member and continue my support of the great EBT! I thank the EBTF and the FEBT for supporting this fantastic opportunity! I hope these organizations will continue funding this internship program so that other college students can experience working with the East Broad Top Railroad Archives and Special Collections. – *Brian Standfest*

Brian Standfest completes inventorying his first bin of items during his eight week internship – Julie Rockwell photo



COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

EBT Lineside Building Kits from Southern Heritage Models



Give your flagstop passengers and your section crews an authentic way to shelter from summer thunderstorms!

The EBT Handcar Shed kit is based on the drawings from the Winter 1997-98 *Timber Transfer*. The EBT Passenger Shelter kit is from the drawings in the Fall 1996 *Timber Transfer*. The kits are available in both HO and O scale.

Both kits are primarily made from laser cut basswood and birch plywood. The battens are individually cut using the included template. Correct roof material is included with each kit. The shed doors and windows can be made open or closed. There is even a bench for the inside of the shelter, as well as six signs. The floors of the sheds are marked for HOn3 or for On3 and On30 rail.

Shelters are \$17.95 each for HO scale and \$33.95 for O scale. Handcar sheds are \$24.95 for HO and \$45.95 for O. 15% member discount applies. Shipping cost for each HO kit is \$5.00, or \$7.50 for two or more. For O, shipping cost is \$7.50 each or \$10 for two or more.

Order through FEBT Company Store website at store.febt.org (PayPal, credit cards accepted.) Mail orders must enclose check payable to FEBT Company Store (no money orders.) PA residents must include 6% sales tax. Send mail orders to FEBT Company Store, 121 Chester Drive. #215, Pine Grove Mills, PA USA 16868-0215.

FEBT TRACK CREWS GEAR UP TO REASSEMBLE THE PAINT SHOP LEAD

FEBT's very active track crews experienced a lull in our work from June 14th until the Work Weekend on July 16th. We finished the work to re-open the track in Robertsedale on June 14th, allowing access to approximately 4,400 feet of track for use by the original EBT handcar located there. (Significantly increased numbers of visitors to the Robertsedale museum have been experienced this season. We hope that our work is but one factor in the successes being enjoyed.)



The FEBT Track Crew works together to spike up the Paint Shop lead track during the July work session. – Larry Fuchs photo

On July 16th, however, the lull came to an end as the EBTF's full-time crew tasked us with the reassembling of over 100 feet of track in the Paint Shop lead (behind the Sand House). This track was removed in order to allow installation of the water mains for the new fire suppression system and for the steam locomotives' tenders. The full-time crew assisted with the spotting of ties and the replacing of rail on the ties in advance of the work party. What remained for the FEBT crew to do was to line the rail, gauge, and spike it up.

An excellent and able crew, consisting of Daniel Lane, Phil Coyle, Dave Hart, Tom Jordan, Gordon Ley, and Tom Perman were ably led by Larry Fuchs. They were able to get the work done by two o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday. A comment might be in order about the nature of the FEBT's track crews' taskings. We are often tasked to undertake a project on our own, at the direction of the full-time staff of the railroad. Saturday's Paint Shop lead work falls into that category. At other times, we undertake a project entirely on our own, following directions set out by Brad Esposito, General Manager of the railroad. The work in Robertsedale falls into that category. At other times, however, FEBT personnel work side-by-side with the full-time personnel. The relationship is a close one, marked by excellent cooperation between the two entities. Our goal in all this is to advance the railroad's rebirth and to enhance its future. What a great honor to be able to do that! – Gene Tucker

BROAD TOP AREA COAL MINERS MUSEUM TO REOPEN

On Saturday, August 13th, the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum will reopen in Robertsdale, PA. The museum is operated by the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society, and has been closed since October 2021 due to relocating from the former Methodist church on Church Street to the Reality Theatre, located at 704 S. Main Street. The new location is next to Robertsdale Elementary School, and just two short blocks south of the FEBT Museum. The grand reopening event will coincide with Robertsdale Community Days, which will feature a number of craft, winery/brewery/distillery, face painting, food, baked goods, and other vendors and activities in town, including live music. Part of the festivities also include the August Archives Day at the FEBT Museum, so this is an event to not be missed. – *Doug Davenport*



The Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum, in its new location. – Ron Morgan photo

CONFESSIONS OF A FEBT MUSEUM HOST

I asked volunteer museum host Doug Linebaugh to record some of his thoughts about the day he worked. Allow me to set the scene for two of the things that he mentions. Curt Miller had a car problem on his way in and Rickie Rourke filled in for him. Late in the day, after we had closed up, a couple came by. Doug took the time to talk to them and show them around a bit.

Here's Doug:

I appreciate Ricky stepping into a phone booth and coming out with his host shirt on and filling in for Curt.

I just showed that after-hours couple the wye and its bridge and explained narrow gauge to them, and they were wowed just by that little piece of a tour. They said they'd be back when we're open.

But I'll never forget giving 7-year-old Isaac and various combinations of his parents and grandparents three consecutive handcar rides, with the final one making it all the way to the end. He'd still be riding it if he could... they, too, will be back.

Sorry for Curt, but Steve and Ricky were great to work with again. You bet it was enjoyable. Likely I can help again if needed later this month.



FEBT Museum hosts Jane Clarke and Steve Jackson roll north through the Robertsdale yard on the handcar. – Pete Clarke photo

Our attendance has been trending up and sales and donations have been strong. I hope you attended the second Archives Day on July 30. August 13 is the next one. Every day is a good day to visit, but Archives Days are great.

Robertsdale, have you been there yet? – *Pete Clarke and Doug Linebaugh*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
August 13	FEBT	FEBT Museum August Archives Day
August 13, 14	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 13, 14	BTACMHS	Robertsdale Community Days/Coal Miner Heritage Days
August 13	BTACMHS	Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum Grand Reopening
August 17, 18, 19, 20	EBT/RTM	Orbisonia/Rockhill Homecoming
September 3, 4	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 9, 10, 11	EBT	Orbisonia Antique Power Show
September 17	FEBT	FEBT Museum September Archives Day
September 17	EBT	First Responder Day
September 17	RTM	First Day Celebration, Searching for Sasquatch
September 19-23	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week Session
September 23, 24, 25	EBT	Ragtime in Rockhill
October 7	FEBT	FEBT Museum October Archives Day
October 7, 8, 9	FEBT	FEBT Fall Reunion
October 8	RTM	Fall Spectacular
October 15, 16	RTM	Pumpkin Patch Trolley 2022
October 22	RTM	Phantom Trolley
October 22, 23, 29, 30	EBT	Great Pumpkin Patch Express
November 5, 6	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
November 25, 26, 27	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 2-4, 9-11, 16-18	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country

<u>Hosts:</u>	FEBT	Friends of the East Broad Top	www.febt.org
	EBT	East Broad Top Railroad	www.eastbroadtop.com
	RTM	Rockhill Trolley Museum	www.rockhilltrolley.org
	BTACMHS	Broad Top Area Coal Miners Historical Society	broadtopminersmuseum.com

UPCOMING ROCKHILL FURNACE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The next Rockhill Furnace volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday August 13th and 14th. If you are interested in participating in the Rockhill Furnace volunteer sessions including track work, and are not on the current signup distribution, please contact Charlie Wootton the Rockhill Furnace volunteer coordinator at rhrestoration@febt.org.

– Dave Bulman

UPCOMING ROBERTSDALE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The FEBT Museum is open every Saturday thru October. Contact Pete Clarke if you are interested in serving as a host at the museum. Pete can be reached at febt@aol.com. – Doug Davenport

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1725

JULY FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Friend of the East Broad Top appreciates the 17 donations received in July. These donations totaled a little more than \$5,600, and bring the current fundraising campaign totals to well beyond twice the goal. Additional funds received will be used to advance the goals and ongoing projects of the organization. Please continue to check this newsletter for more detailed information.

2022 Fundraising Goal:

\$100,000

July Donations:

\$5615.00

Campaign Total:

\$236,532.76 – 236.5%

July donors*:

Terry & Jan Bender
Walter D. Dietz
Dave Johnson
Al Rizzo

Alexander Bowser
Lynn Dolan
Victor V. Kidd
Jesse Svoboda

Peter G. Byers
Douglas E. Fink
Steve Knohr
Janet Thomson

David H. Capp
John S. Griffith
Matthew McGuffey
Graham Todd

* - All donors listed represent donations received between June 22, 2022 and July 21, 2022. Donations received after May 21 will be reported in the September 2022 issue due to press time constraints.

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport

ROCKHILL JULY PROGRESS REPORT



We had another productive summer work weekend in July, with 17 volunteers on Saturday and 15 on Sunday.

Projects worked this weekend included yard track work, masonry repair inside the roundhouse, rebuilding the car shop south wall and doors, Combine 14 floor sealing and seat restoration, box car 174 flooring, locomotive No. 16 tender tool box rebuilding, building painting, and store house bin final assembly and staining.
– Dave Bulman

FEBT gets involved in steam restoration, as Dave Ebright assembles a toolbox for locomotive No. 16 in the foreground. Eric Knepp works on making parts for seats for Combine 14 behind Dave. – Dave Bulman photo



A return to steam on EBT means there is a need for a stable roundhouse to stable the steam engines. Dave Padula and Joe Earnest make repairs to the brickwork of the roundhouse. – Dave Bulman photo

ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION

Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc. (FEBT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, historical, and educational society dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of the East Broad Top Railroad National Historic Landmark in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. It was organized in 1983 and now boasts over 1,700 members. FEBT publishes an award-winning magazine, *Timber Transfer*, and a monthly e-newsletter, and operates a museum in Robertsdale PA, the EBT's southern terminus. See febt.org/ for more information.

Making friends with the Friends. While there is plenty of work to do, making time to get to know the volunteers around you over coffee is never a bad idea. – Dave Bulman photo



ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the East Broad Top Newsletter is a monthly digital-only periodical. Started in 2020, it is intended to keep members and donors apprised of what the organization has done and will be doing. The FEBT Newsletter is distributed by email to the current list of members and donors, and is a privilege of contributing to the FEBT's cause of preserving, restoring, and interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad for current and future generations. The editor can be contacted at Newsletter@febt.org. Press time for information submitted is 8:00 PM Eastern time on the 25th of each month. Events occurring after the 25th, such as donations and memberships, will be considered part of the following month's information.