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NEWSLETTER

Preservation Restoration Interpretation

Volume 4, Issue 9

September 2023



The March to Saltillo bears some additional fruit this month. FEBT Track Crew members, coupled with the EBT Foundation's professional track team and mechanized equipment have restored approximately 800' of main line trackage to steam engine-worthy operational right-of-way. – Eric Knepp photo

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FEBT Museum hosts Steve Jackson and Evert DeMott assist a private group with a handcar ride during the first FEBT Museum specially-scheduled event on August 3rd. – Dave Camisa photo



A VISIT TO THE FEBT LIBRARY IN ROBERTSDALE

Walking up the stairs, past the “FEBT Members Only” sign, in the old Rockhill Iron and Coal Company Post Office, one is instantly immersed in the history they are about to see. With the Friends of the East Broad Top Museum on the first floor, as well as walking tours and hand car rides, it can be hard to imagine that even more history is present at the Robertsdale site. Upon arriving in the library, though, and meeting Don Barton the FEBT Librarian, the history scales almost experience the same weight the coal scale did during the peak of the coal mines production.



Shelves full of books and articles regarding the East Broad Top Railroad and its equipment as well as a complete set of the FEBT magazine *Timber Transfer* and references and magazines that are a modeler’s dream.

Through talking with Don, he explains how looking through the various pictures and reference materials around him, including some of the definitive books on the East Broad Top, he found that the railroad officially rostered one 18-ton crane. A picture exists of not only that one crane, but three others. Where did they come from? Did the railroad buy them, and if so why aren’t they on the roster? In the words of Don himself, “It’s just one of those mysteries.” Given enough time and digging, though, one can be sure Don will be able to find out the actual answer.

FEBT Librarian Don Barton joyfully awaits your next question on the second floor of the Old Post Office Building. – Jane Clarke photo

In this author’s humble opinion, a visit to the FEBT library is a must for any FEBT member. Not just for the reference material present or the history contained in the vast volumes on the shelves and the drawers, but for a conversation with Don as well. Don is a vast reference of knowledge and so engaging that one will happily lose track of time learning and listening to what he has to say. Any question you may have, he can likely find the answer and even know where there is a picture of the answer as well. For example, when this author asked about the bold style lettering presently on No. 16 and soon after the question was asked there were multiple pictures of sister engine No. 18 with what appears to be bolder lettering on her tender. Truly amazing, and I certainly hope to get back to the library to have more conversations with Don in the future. – Al Gallo

TRACK REPORT: UNDOING (DIGGING) & REDOING

An Overview of our Work this Month

We began our work for this reporting period by tidying up the ballasting, surfacing, and tamping of the switch in the Rockhill yard leading to Track 7. The work here involved tamping with air-powered devices known as jitterbugs. These creatures are loud (requiring hearing protection by everyone involved in the work). They are used to tamp ties in switches, where the mechanical tamper can’t reach.

We then moved on to the Undoing portion of our work south of PA Route 475, which was followed by some Digging in the Car Shop. We wrapped up with the Redoing of the switch located about 900 feet south of the Coal Tipple, just north of the IOOF Cemetery Road grade crossing. Details of all this follow.

The Undoing

A wise decision was made to dismantle all the joints in the rail south of PA Route 475. This rail had been removed from the right-of-way and was placed on the west side of the ROW sometime prior to our work. During the late July FEBT Work Weekend, we began the work of dismantling the joints south of PA 475. Following up the next week, we managed to dismantle about 170 joints total, nearly one-half mile of track. The great majority of the joints were well accustomed to being together, so they demanded a good deal of effort to pry (or work) them loose. At times, a good amount of hammer work was also involved. (I jokingly like to say that those who work with the hammer a good while during the day won't have any frustrations to work out at day's end.)



Dave Hart cuts bolts in the rails on the north face of Jordan Summit during the late July work session, as the March to Saltillo makes its way up the grade. – Tim Schindele photo

All of the joint bars were taken to the Boney Pile for storage until the rebuilding begins in this area.

The Digging

During the August FEBT Work Weekend, we advanced the work on a project to rebuild the wood flooring in the Car Shop. The Car Shop was the location where coal hoppers were constructed during the days of wooden hopper cars. In later times, it was used to build and repair cars the EBT's signature narrow gauge steel hoppers. 6"x6" pressure treated joists are being used to support the floor. We dug over twenty cribs to prepare places for the joists to go.

The Redoing

From early August until the August FEBT Work Weekend, our FEBT personnel enjoyed a break from track work while the railroad's fulltime personnel tackled some ballasting, tamping and surfacing work. Then, during the week of August 22nd, we started the redoing of the switch just north of the IOOF Cemetery Road crossing. This switch is located about 900 feet south of the Coal Tipple. The area was graded, then new ties were laid out, and rails were placed and spiked up. About 90 feet of the switch is now done as I write this (on August 24th). The work on this switch and the rebuilding of the crossing itself are scheduled to be completed during the week of August 28th.



John Quinn and Tim Schindele work together to verify the cribs in the Car Shop have been dug to the current depth on August 19th. – Gene Tucker photo

From the “It’s All Good” Department

For many (if not most) of us, seeing progress in opening up and rebuilding track southward toward Pogue and beyond is a fondly-held hope and dream. Personally, I long for the day when No. 16 will be pulling up in front of the Southern Huntingdon High School (hopefully, much to the delight of the students who can peer out the window at that marvelous sight!). But the reality is that it’s gonna take a lot of hard work, investment of resources, and the hurdling of some hurdles to get to that point.

Meanwhile, the railroad is operating over the track to and from Colgate Grove; track that requires care and maintenance. Such care means that the railroad’s track forces (paid and volunteer) have those duties on their plates, in addition to the advancing work going south.

So, though we haven’t been exclusively working on the goal described above, our sights are firmly set on achieving that goal as resources allow. We’re gonna get to that goal, for sure. The rebuilding of the switch and the crossing at IOOF Cemetery Road allows further progress going south. Caring for the track that’s now fully in service is part and parcel of ensuring that the railroad’s vitality is maintained, and that its future is ensured.

So, whatever work is done falls into the category of “It’s All Good”. Whatever time FEBT members can devote to getting the work done is also in the “It’s All Good” Department. We are grateful for as much or as little time as our members can contribute.



A northward view from the Oddfellows Cemetery Road grade crossing. The Coal Dock Filling Shed is visible in the distance, over a football field away. The extent of tamped ballast in the main line is in closer proximity to the switch at the southern-most point of the Rockhill Yard. – Gene Tucker photo

Our Most Valuable Resource: People!

I love to name names, especially when the naming has to do with excellent and productive work. This month, we had a goodly number of our members contribute their time, talent, energy and wisdom to what’s been accomplished. Some of these whose names appear in this list come a long way to further the work. To them, and to those whose lives are busy, my hat’s off in tribute. Alright, in truth, my hat’s off to each of those named in the next paragraph.

The following members helped out during this reporting period: John Quinn, Daniel Lane, Larry Fuchs, Dave Hart, Tom Jordan, Tom Perman, Todd Johnson, Tim Schindele, Dave Johnson, Jon Rudman, Van Cresswell, Doug Linebaugh, Al Gallo, and Joel Myers. We also welcomed to two new members of the track gang: Tyson Daniels and Allen Modro (welcome especially, gents!). – Gene Tucker

2023 FALL REUNION INFORMATION

October 6, 7, & 8 in Robertsdale & Rockhill, PA

Reunion will feature numerous activities:

- Photo freight train
- Railbike, speeder, & handcar rides
- Walking tours
- Banquet dinner
- Locomotive Restoration Program
- Company Store
- Miners Museum
- Shop tours

For the most up-to-date information see <https://febt.org/event/febt-fall-reunion-2023/>

Friday, October 6 in Robertsdale, PA

- Registration/check-in starts at 1:00 PM in the Robertsdale Volunteer Fire Dept.
- FEBT Museum open from 10 AM to 5 PM
- Miners Museum open from 2-5 PM

Saturday, October 7 in Rockhill Furnace, PA

- Train & trolley rides
- Photo freight train
- Registration starts at 10 AM at Rockhill Elementary School
- FEBT Company Store at the school
- Building tours, including the machine shop and roundhouse
- Speeder rides
- Clinics
- Fundraising auction – donations needed!

Sunday, October 8 in Robertsdale and Rockhill Furnace PA

- In Robertsdale:
 - FEBT Museum open from 10 AM to 5 PM. Ride the handcar and railbikes
 - Miners Museum open from 1-4 PM
- In Rockhill:
 - Building tours, speeder rides, food vendors
 - Ride the trains and trolleys

Registration

Early registration will help us gauge crowd size. **Please help us by registering early through the FEBT Company Store!** Registration will be \$40 and will be available at <https://store.febt.org/> starting Sept 1st. On-site registration will be offered on Friday & Saturday. **Registration includes all tours and programs, one regular train voucher, and banquet dinner.**

FEBT Fall Reunion Online Registration

<https://store.febt.org/>
Log in and sign up
TODAY!

The screenshot shows the FEBT website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Home, Log Out, Account, and Back to FEBT Homepage. Below this is a banner for "Friends of the East Broad Top" with the slogan "#16 in Steam Again!". The main heading reads "Your Best Source for EBT Research Materials, Models and Collectables!".

There are three main columns:

- Product Categories:** Lists items like "FEBT 2023 Reunion Drawings, Plans, and Maps", "Historic Photographs Video and Audio Disks", "Books and Magazines", "Models and Modeling Supplies", "1983 FEBT Newsletter", "The Timber Transfer Clothing and Caps", "Miscellaneous Items", "Donations", and "FEBT Memberships".
- Announcements:** Contains several news items, including "FEBT 2023 Reunion Registrations Now Available!", "Moved? Is your address incorrect?", "Latest Timber Transfer available for download!", and "2023 Fundraiser Campaign Launched!".
- Search:** Includes a search bar with "search here" text, a "Search" button, and an "Advanced Search" link.

At the bottom right, there is a "New Products" section featuring "East Broad Top Reborn (2023) DVD from Trains Magazine" for \$27.99.

Annual business meeting to be held on October 6th at the Robertsdale Fire Dept. at 6 PM.

- FEBT President Andy Van Scyoc, other board members, and restoration-crew leaders will update members on the organization's many activities.
- Pizza will be available for a free-will donation before the Business meeting.



2023 Fall Reunion Model and Photo Contest

For more information about the Fall Reunion contests, contact Andy Van Scyoc by e-mail at FEBTreunion@gmail.com.

General rules

Any FEBT member who is a Reunion registrant may enter the model and photo contests. No model or photo that has ever won an award in a previous FEBT contest may be entered.

Photographs

- Must feature the EBT or related restoration activities.
- All photos must be mounted on/in a mat board no larger than 11 by 14 inches; the photo may be any size but not exceed the size of the mat.
- **New!** Panoramic and wide-format photos. The max size for mat board is 30 x 14 inches.
- No picture frames or glass/Plexiglas covers may be used.
- No more than two photos may be submitted by a single entrant in each category.
- Only the photographer can enter a photo.
- Color and black-and-white photos must be entered in one of these categories:
 - Classic Original: photos with minimal alterations beyond cropping.
 - Artist's Choice: entries may have any manipulations and enhancements done to achieve the desired end.
- The *Timber Transfer* editor may present an Editor's Choice Award.

Models

- All models must be based on subjects directly related to the EBT.
- No limit to the number of models entered by each entrant.
- There must be at least two models entered in a category for a contest to be declared. (No award will be given in any category in which a contest is not declared.)
- Categories may be combined to ensure a contest.
- Supporting documentation may be displayed with any entry, as long as the entrant's name does not appear on any of the documentation.
- The model contest categories are as follows:
 - Locomotives – Any self-propelled equipment except maintenance-of-way speeders;
 - Rolling Stock – Any revenue freight or passenger equipment; any nonrevenue equipment primarily intended for track or lineside maintenance.
 - Structures and Module/Dioramas – Any building or other structure, either railroad-related or lineside; and any structure or structures that are mounted on a base which depicts a scene, with or without track.
 - "What If" – Any model depicting a facet of the EBT had history played out differently (had the EBT standard gauged, carried on past 1956, etc.)
- **Special restoration program model contest**

This award recognizes the model that best represents a project undertaken by our restoration volunteers. The award consists of a special plaque created by our Rockhill Furnace restoration crew. This special award will be based on the popular vote of current restoration volunteers. – *Andy Van Scyoc*

FEBT RESUMES ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

“Do you think the East Broad Top will ever extend their line? Boy, I’ll tell you, it’s in bad shape, you know, the trees that’s up in the rails every place” asked Merle Steninger, former EBT Brakeman, in a 1998 interview by Tom and Chad Deihl, FEBT. Mr. Steninger shared memories of his family’s work for the East Broad Top Railroad, and speculated on its future. His interview was one of many collected by the Friends of the East Broad Top oral history program in the 1980s and 1990s. These interviews document the first-hand experiences of people who worked for the railroad and represent a significant and lasting contribution of experience and knowledge.

Mr. Steninger would certainly be glad to know that in 2023 the railroad has in fact extended its line, first with a return to Colgate Grove, and now moving south toward Saltillo. At the same time, the FEBT has also resumed its oral history program.



Partnering with the Three Springs/Saltillo Area Historical Society, the FEBT hosted an oral history roundtable on Saturday August 26th to capture the memories and stories of people who remember the trains in Three Springs, Saltillo, and surrounding communities. FEBT volunteer Al Gallo videotaped the session, while EBT Archivist Julie Rockwell, Archives Technician Sammy Bellin, and the historical society’s Brian Hoffman shared film, photos, and waybills from local businesses.

Archivist Julie Rockwell leads the discussion at the Oral History Roundtable, held at the Three Springs/Saltillo Historical Society in Three Springs. – Al Gallo photo

As we plan the next phase of the FEBT’s oral history program, we want to hear from you! Not only do we want to learn more about life along the line, but also the more recent history of the EBT. The Friends recently celebrated 40 years of support for the EBT and through their restoration projects have become part of the railroad’s history. If you’d like to tell us about your experiences, or have suggestions on people and topics for interviews, please reach out to a member of the oral history team (Scarlett Wirt (febtcollections@gmail.com), Julie Rockwell (archivist@eastbroadtop.com), or Lawrence Biemiller (biemiller@mac.com)). – Scarlett Wirt

WORKING AS THE SUMMER 2023 INTERN FOR THE EAST BROAD TOP RAILROAD ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

My name is Connor Green, and I am entering my Senior year at Juniata College located in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. For a little background about me, I’m from South Jersey, and I have four jobs on campus, write poetry, and collect vinyl records. I love Juniata College. It’s an amazing atmosphere that’s perfect for exploring all those interests and more. Part of what I also love about it is that there are always opportunities knocking on your door. To be an intern with the EBT Archives this summer was an opportunity I am certainly glad I took.

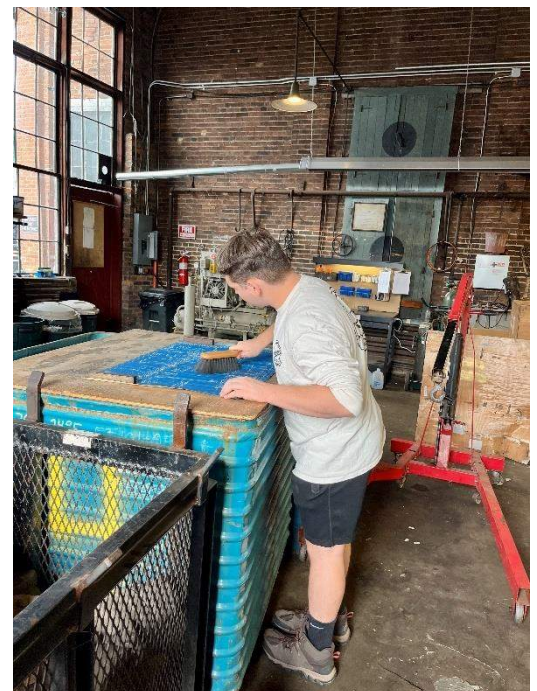
It was my Sophomore year at Juniata when I first came to know the East Broad Top Railroad. The EBT Foundation supported a student-driven exhibit that featured EBT archival materials at the Juniata College Museum of Art (JCMA). At the time, I was taking a class at Juniata with Dr. James Tuten entitled, “Sophomore Colloquium,” which incorporated a little bit of everything from career readiness, to enhancing critical thinking and encouraging reflexivity. We were promptly put into a study group to go and make observations about the “draft” exhibit. I was mesmerized then at the breadth of the exhibit and its many historic, narrative timeline stations (train pun intended). It was a great experience, and I wouldn’t shut up about the EBT for the next several weeks. Needless to say, I was hooked.

This May, I was tasked with working Career Day for one of my jobs at the Career Development and Alumni Engagement Office. You should’ve seen me. I wore a two-piece gray suit with a checkered scarf, dress shoes, and a tie that matched. I wore my glasses (which I don’t need) to appear more scholarly and...well...ready! I talked to school districts which related to my Program of Emphasis of Secondary Education-Social Studies. But I was excited about visiting the EBT Archives table and reconnecting with Sammy Bellin, the current EBT Archives Technician, who had graduated from Juniata and did his internship with the Archives in the summer of 2021. Sammy was a respected student in the History department, and I had attended his Liberal Arts Symposium presentation, so I wanted to congratulate him and reconnect. As fate would have it, he was sick that day.

I was a little bummed, but I ran into two quite exciting EBT folks because of it. I met Lawrence Biemiller, a longtime, dedicated member of the Friends of the EBT, and Julie Rockwell, the EBT Archivist. I had my resume printed and ready to go, my elevator pitch down to a science, and I was ready to tell them both about the scholarship I was working on for Liberal Arts Symposium later that semester. I had no idea how informal the conversation was going to be. Somewhat relieved, I opened up to them, and told them I was interested in the internship opportunity to work on the Archives’ National Railway Historical Society Architectural and Engineering Maps and Drawings Project. Julie told me to apply, and so later that same day from pure enthusiasm, I did. Lawrence and Julie’s work with the EBT and career backgrounds were interesting, the position sounded great, and I remember talking to my Juniata tour guide friend Brian Standfest, who did his internship in the summer of 2022 with the Archives. Brian told me I should definitely apply, so within a couple weeks I had a virtual interview with FEBT members Scarlett Wirt and Lee Rainey, along with Sammy and Julie. I was so filled with joy when they called me later that same night and offered me the position.

To start, I toured the EBT complex for the first time in May. It was very overwhelming. I took a look in the three vaults in the Orbisonia station, and I could see, top-to-bottom, that this place was full of records, artifacts, and archival materials. I was introduced to riding the train with Engine No. 16, and to all of the people who work in and around the station. I received a great shop tour, and upon learning some more history about the place, the Friends, and the Foundation, I was hooked even more.

On June 5th, 2023, I started the internship, and worked onsite in the Archives office for the first time. I was terrified of the daunting task ahead of me, primarily to continue item-level inventories on maps and drawings, but was also very ready and energized. First, I tackled “The Bins” (there were about twenty, 48 and 90-quart bins underneath the mail cabinet in the vault in the former Chief Engineer’s Office and also stored on office shelves) and began to inventory. I learned to populate the spreadsheet data fields with information such as drawing titles, dates, measurements, condition, and additional notes, which included many map codes. I also learned about physical processing of maps and drawings (mostly rolled), and was trained by Julie and Sammy to lead the processing by first cleaning the maps and drawings, then categorizing maps and drawings together, and storing them in over 60 square tube boxes (square instead of round for better storage capacity). I also applied preservation methods of “polyester tubing” and mylar encapsulation (for flat files) to better protect the more fragile and damaged materials.



Connor Green cleans EBT drawings in the Roundhouse as part of the preservation process. – Julie Rockwell photo

There were all kinds of excellent materials I was inventorying, such as blueprint reproductions of property maps showing coal deposits in nearby boroughs, drafting linens of mine gallery maps in Robertsdale, large, tracing paper mine accident maps from the 1930's, tons of M-1 drawings; the subject variety just goes on and on. I was like a kid in a candy store.

Once completing all the inventory for the loose maps and drawings in bins and processing them, I went on to inventory and process the bins on top of the vault cabinet, the thirty or so sectioned vault cubbies, a large overhead box, the Rockhill Iron & Coal Company mail cabinet, the wooden mine map drawers, and last but certainly not least, the Archives office filing cabinet!



In the 12 weeks of my internship, I inventoried just shy of 2,750 maps and drawings, including hundreds of blueprints of parts, buildings, and equipment, bulk series of maps and drawings tied with string, and many folders of correspondence related to the maps and drawings, including properties, the right of way, and proposed lines. And while the measuring and putting the data into the spreadsheet could be quite mundane sometimes, it was all worth it when we as a team made cool discoveries daily, like an original J. Simpson Africa survey map from 1855.

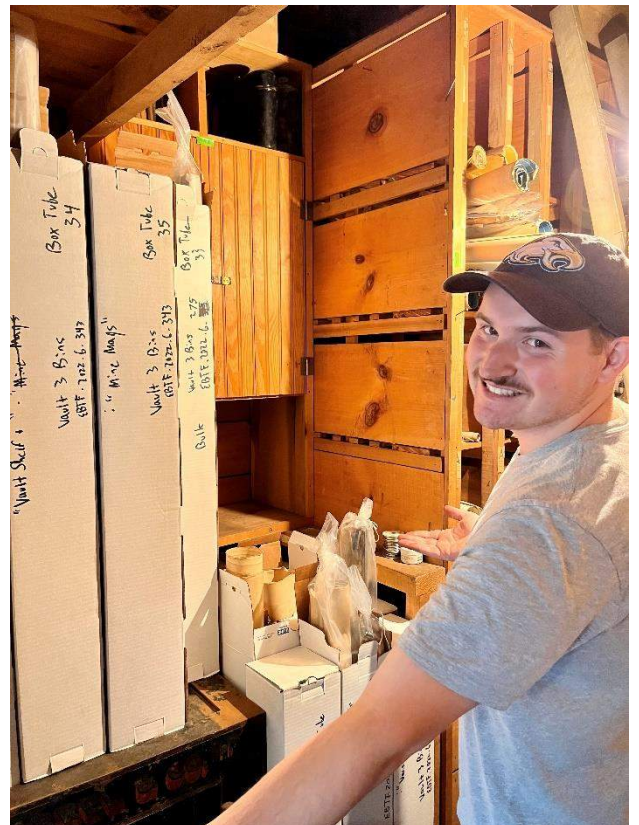
This Broad Top Improvement Company document is one of the oldest pieces in the EBTRR A&SC Program inventory. – Julie Rockwell photo

While inventorying and processing the maps and drawings were the focus of my internship, I also learned how to use and access PastPerfect© Web Edition, the collections management system. I learned how to change certain labels and tags within catalog entries by populating those fields, and editing them to be correct, updating current storage spaces to be most accurate.

Another fun thing that I did was learn how to use the WideTEK36 large format scanner. When the opportunities presented themselves, I always tried to help Sammy with scanning oversize maps and drawings (he was constantly scanning maps and drawings!), even if it meant just holding the material flat while it went through the scanner in the huge polyester carrier sheets.

Lastly, I attended Archives Day with Julie at the Robertsdale FEBT Museum, and conversed with very knowledgeable EBT scholars and FEBT members, taking a break only to take a handcar tour up from Robertsdale towards Woodvale and Alvan, seeing the old tipple locations and mine locations along the way. I also attended the Orbisonia-Rockhill Furnace 100th Anniversary Homecoming

Connor Green poses in the Orbisonia Station vault with 60 boxes of material he processed over the course of his internship. – Julie Rockwell photo



with the archives team at the Lion's Club, meeting community members with EBT history in their blood who stopped by to see the various EBT Mainline displays by the local historical organizations.

I think this experience has taught me a lot about myself and what I want out of my education at Juniata. It taught me to be determined, focused, willing, and not afraid to ask questions. It taught me to be organized, inquisitive, free-thinking, and considerate. It taught me about team dynamics, and how important it is to cooperate with each other on tasks. It taught me about the content of archives, and how both physical and digital collections are processed and managed. The knowledge and memories I gained from this summer will not simply slip away.

As I go into my Senior year at Juniata, having all of this information and experience under my belt, I feel more confident than ever in saying that working at the East Broad Top Railroad and with the Archives and Special Collections team has provided me with a more than impressive experience both professionally, and personally. The warm, welcoming atmosphere the team provided, as well as the freedom and independence to be truly enthralled and immersed in the tasks at hand, made for a work environment that was unlike any other. This was a good choice.

Thank you, FEBT, and the Foundation, for supporting my internship! – Connor Green



Unafraid of dirty work, Archives intern Connor Green shows off the dust that has been preserved, along with the documents in the Archives collection. – Julie Rockwell photo

A MUSICAL MONTH IN ROBERTSDALE

The museum hosted two more group visits on days the museum was not normally open. Both went well. (Please note that group visits not on a Saturday when we are already scheduled to be open, must be scheduled in advance.)

We hope you were among the 22 people and 3 dogs who were at the museum on August 12th (Robertsdale Community Day). We were busy!

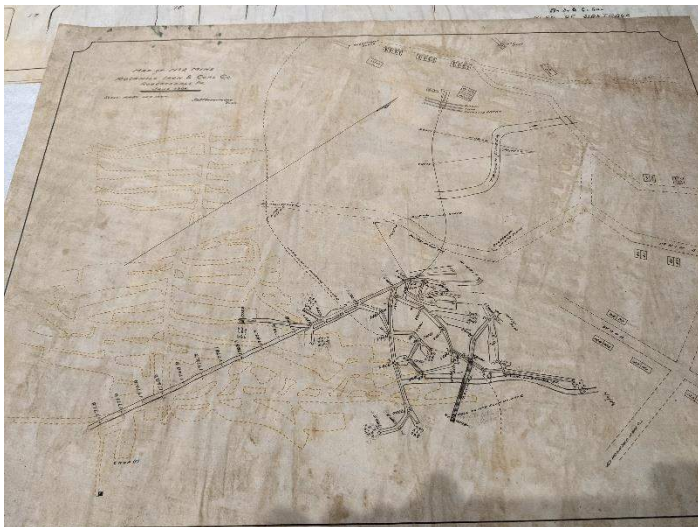
- Host Rickie Rourke was almost constantly giving walking tours.
- Julie (looking suspiciously like the villain in a James Bond movie as she considers pushing the dynamite plunger down) was there with more cool stuff from the archives. Luckily for us, she did not blow us all up. Several of us spent some time looking at the map of mine #2.

- The barbershop quartet Level Best was there. They sang inside the museum since it was a hot day, but they also walked up to the ballfield where other Community Days events were being held. There they sang and advised visitors that the museum was open. Great fun was had, particularly when they invited guests, including EBT GM Brad Esposito, to sing along with them. This link will get you several pictures and a video of one of their songs (used with permission from Level Best). <https://photos.app.goo.gl/LxxfxMdXv528mvU9A>
- The library was open. See the article by Al Gallo in this newsletter on Page 3
- I was lucky to be the host for a group on the handcar that included a (very) young man who, every time the speed started to drop, would call out a command to “Get this car moving!” He insisted that we get to the end of track, and we did.



The FEBT museum in Robertsdale. Full of knowledgeable hosts who would like nothing better than to talk to you about the EBT. Full of books that can be purchased (from the gift shop), or read in the library (by members, on days the librarian is there, 9/9 & 9/23). With a librarian who’s full of information and knows where to look things up. Full of cool stuff from the archives (9/9). Let’s face it, we are full of it and would love to see you come and take some of it away! – *Pete Clarke*

Above: EBT Foundation GM Brad Esposito joins barbershop quartet Level Best at the FEBT Museum during Robertsdale Community Days. – Jane Clarke photo
Below: The August Archives Day display included a map of Mine No. 2 from 1906. – Jane Clarke photo
Right: Your chances of being exploded by an archivist are low, but never zero. Julie Rockwell demonstrates the explosives contactor used in the Rockhill Iron & Coal Company mines at the August Archives Day event. – Jane Clarke photo



LATE JULY AND AUGUST 2023 ROCKHILL WORK WEEKENDS WRAP-UP

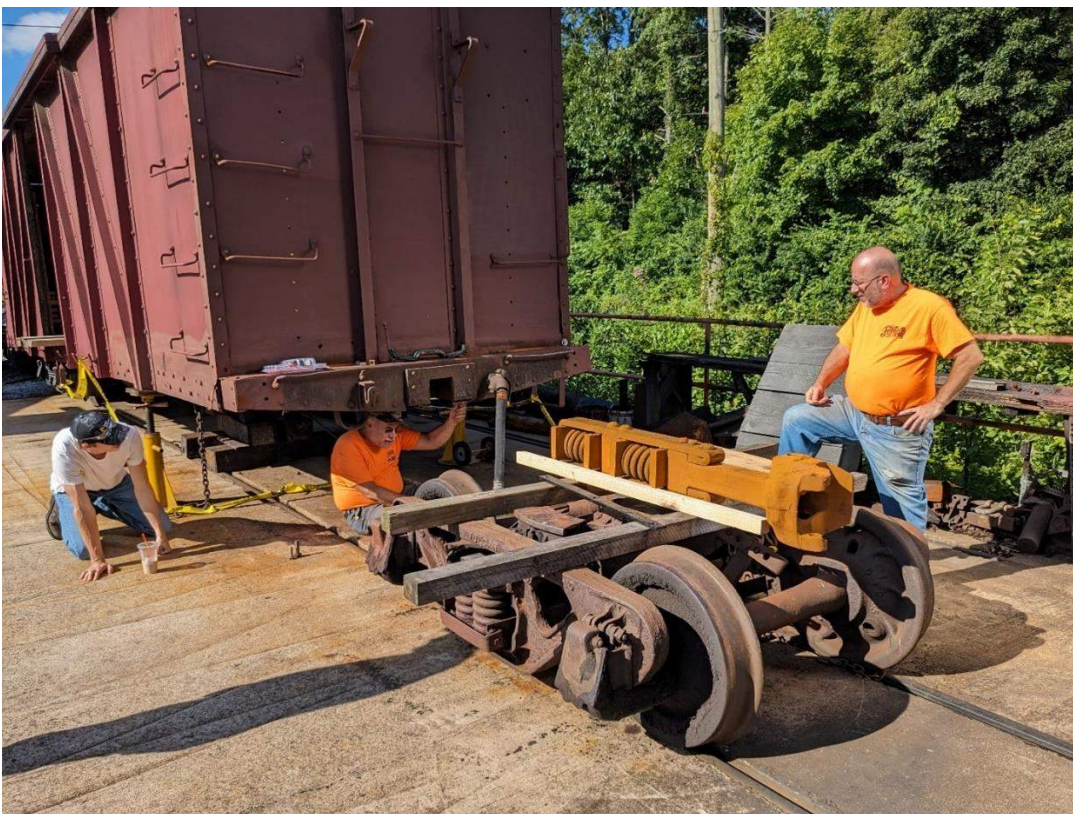
The second of two July work weekends was held in Rockhill on 7/29 and 7/30, after the August newsletter went to press. We had 23 volunteers on Saturday and 13 on Sunday. The August work weekend was held on 8/19 and 8/20. At this session we had 23 volunteers on Saturday and 10 on Sunday.

Progress continued on Combine 14, including de-flashing of new cast seat supports, priming and painting of the end doors, platform step rebuilding, and more seat reassembly.



Above: One of the doors to Combine 14 glistens with fresh paint during the August work session. – Al Gallo photo

Left: Wyatt Kindler, Steve Jacobs, and Dave Ebright prepare to re-install the north coupler on Boxcar 174. – Al Gallo photo.



The Boxcar 174 crew completed final prep and re-installation of the north coupler and truck. The crew also proceeded with prep and painting of remaining unpainted areas inside the car.

The Storehouse team continued lean-to interior reconstruction; installing

beadboard siding in the north hallway and south doorway, installing interior battens, and installation of the wash room door.



The window crew continued rebuilding and installing multiple window sashes, installed the final window in the Car Shop south wall, and painted window trim on the Storehouse.



Above: Doug Linebaugh paints the recently-installed Storehouse window frames during the August work session. – Eric Knepp photo

Left: Craig Confair works on the interior tongue-and-groove wall cladding in the Storehouse – Eric Knepp photo

Below: Track crew members manually regulate ballast around the switches at the south end of the Rockhill Yard. – Eric Knepp photo

The track crew separated rail joints in preparation for track rebuilding south of the PA 475 crossing, and regulated ballast on the southern switches for yard Tracks 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Track crew volunteers also lent their labor to support reconstruction of the wooden floor in a portion of the Car Shop, as you read in the trackwork article on Page 3.

If you'd like to help with these and other projects to restore the EBT, please come out and join us! – *Dave Bulman and Eric Knepp*



AUGUST FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Friends of the East Broad Top reached new fundraising milestones in August thanks to our generous donors. The 2023 campaign total now stands at \$258,236.21, which is the first time we've exceeded \$250K in any campaign. August's 37 donations totaling \$9,423.00 was also the best August we've ever had. Thank you to all contributors for your generosity.

2023 Fundraising Goal: \$180,000
August Donations: \$9,423.89
Campaign Total: \$258,236.21

There are several ways to donate. Donations can be made online at <https://febt.org/fundraiser/> using the Company Store portion of the website, which accepts credit cards and PayPal payment methods to contribute. Donations may also be made by mailing a check, payable to FEBT, to:

FEBT Fundraising Treasurer
C/O Karen Bulman
P.O. Box 43063
Cincinnati, OH 45243

August donors*:

Jerry Angier	Timothy R. Beaty	Jan Bender	Alexander Bowser
Christopher Buckley	Tom Buckley	David Capp	Thomas Carlson
Jeffrey W. Damerst	Gerard Deily	Douglas Fink	Robert D. Fontana
Norman P. Gentieu	John Griffith	Frank Harker	Charles Hawkins
Michael Hegedus	James & Julie Hughes	Vincent Jakubowski	Dave Johnson
Patricia Jud	Victor Kidd	Stephen D. King	Ethan Lashlee
Sherry Vivian Makin	Richard Onorevole	Orbisonia-Rockhill Furnace Historical Society	
Ted Ostrander	Peter Reisinger	William R. Seabrook	Daniel Wesoloski
Wayne Wilder			

In memory of David & Esterina Battistella:
David S. Whitaker

* - All donors listed represent donations received between July 22, 2023 and August 21, 2023. Donations received after August 21 will be reported in the October 2023 issue due to press time constraints.

- *Karen Bulman, Dave Bulman, and Doug Davenport*

ALTERNATE WAYS TO DONATE TO THE FEBT

In my brief time serving as your Fundraising Treasurer, it has been my pleasure to serve you, our donors, in this important mission to preserve, restore and interpret this amazing national historic landmark! Over a quarter of a million dollars have been raised for the 2023 campaign! What I wonder, will we raise in our upcoming campaign?

Recently, a FEBT member suggested we publish an article about the advantages of making a Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA account. We were also recently notified that FEBT had been named in a will. The following highlights these and other alternative methods to donate.

Note: This is NOT tax advice! Individual tax situations vary, please consult your own tax adviser. This is intended to provide general information about other ways to donate.

IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution-QCD

Donors aged 70 ½ and older can make tax-free donations from their IRAs which can be used to satisfy the required minimum distribution from an IRA. The QCD rules allow you to give the amount you donate from your IRA *directly* to a qualified charity without ever receiving it as income.

Information can be found by visiting www.irs.org or consulting your financial/tax adviser.

Bequests & Beneficiary Designations

You can consider making a gift in your will or trust, or designate the Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc. as a beneficiary of any asset account. Naming charities or other organizations/individuals as beneficiaries and allocating among them in whatever percentages you'd like can accomplish your charitable giving objectives.

Donor-advised Fund-DAF

A donor-advised fund account can help donors make tax-efficient charitable donations. All DAFs are managed by “sponsors”, tax exempt public charities that can administer individual DAF accounts such as Fidelity, Schwab, or Vanguard to name examples.

Stock

You can donate by transferring shares of stock. While this may not have the tax advantages noted above, the FEBT will gladly accept stock donations.

Company Matching Gifts

Many businesses match employee donations to charitable causes through corporate matching gift programs. If your company provides matching gifts, please email me so that I can work with you and your organization.

Remember, that no donation is too small; \$5.00 buys four railroad spikes! Each and every donation is valued and appreciated however you wish to help!!

LATE JULY AND AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

The following FEBT members participated as volunteers at either Rockhill or Robertsdale between July 25th and August 24th. Thanks for all of your contributions of time and effort to help keep FEBT moving in a positive direction.

Bill Adams	Donald Barton, Jr.	Weston Becker	Roy Burnham
Jane Clarke	Pete Clarke	Craig Confair	Alex Cook
Van Cresswell	Kevin Croyle	Tyson Daniels	Evard DeMott
Dave Ebright	Tom Faust	Larry Fuchs	Al Gallo
Tyler Gardner	Bobby Goldby	Dave Hart	Steve Jackson
Steve Jacobs	Dave Johnson	Todd Johnson	Tom Jordan
Wyatt Kindler	Eric Knepp	Daniel Lane	Doug Linebaugh
Matthew Malkiewicz	Jeff Miller	Jonathan Miller	Allen Modro
Joel Myers	Tom Perman	Hans Plugge	John Quinn
Mark Reese	Julie Rockwell	Rick Rourke	Jon Rudman
Tim Schindele	Roger Stier	Gene Tucker	Andy Van Scyoc
Kate Wahler	Mike Wahler	Charlie Wootton	

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top
membership is up to
1939

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
September 9, 10	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 9	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
September 18-22	FEBT	Rockhill Fall Work Week
September 22-24	EBT	Ragtime in Rockhill
October 6, 7, 8	FEBT	FEBT Fall Reunion
October 6	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
October 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29	EBT	Peanuts Great Pumpkin Patch Express
October 14, 15	RTM	Pumpkin Patch Trolley
November 4, 5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
November 24, 25, 26	EBT	Christmas in Coal Country
November 24, 25	RTM	Lights, Camera, Christmas Trolleys!
November 25	RTM	Santa's Trolley
December 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-23	EBT	Christmas in Coal Country
December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16	RTM	Lights, Camera, Christmas Trolleys!
December 2, 9, 16	RTM	Santa's Trolley

<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 volunteer session will take place Saturday and Sunday, September 9th and 10th. The Fall Work Week will take place Monday through Friday September 18th -22nd and will once again include a variety of social activities. The final work session of the year is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, November 4th and 5th. Work session dates for 2024 will be posted to the website once they are finalized.

Please consider coming out for one or more of the sessions to help us continue preservation and restoration of the East Broad Top Railroad. If you are interested in participating in the Rockhill volunteer sessions, including track work, and are not on the current signup distribution, please contact Charlie Wootton, the Rockhill volunteer coordinator, at rhrestoration@febt.org. Visit our website at febt.org/volunteer for more information on all of our volunteer projects and how you can participate. – Dave Bulman (dbulman115@gmail.com)

. – *Dave Bulman*

FEBT MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Hours: 10 AM to 5 PM



September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 October 6, 8 (Fri. & Sun. of FEBT Reunion), 14, 21, 28
 December 2, 9, 16

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

EBT Three Springs Depot

The Three Springs Depot was built in 1877. During the life of the depot, it went through a number of changes. Pictorial records show in the early years it had a smokejack on the roof and the loading dock was only 2 feet high. The smokejack was at some point replaced with a chimney. Later, the loading dock was raised to about 3 feet high and the train order board was added on the roof.



This kit includes all of the parts to build the station at any stage of its life, or any combination the builder chooses. There is also a choice of skirting for around the loading dock. This HO scale model has a foundation footprint of 6½ x 4¾ inches. It is laser-cut basswood and plywood with resin detail parts. This model would make a great addition to your EBT model railroad!

\$69.95 Member Discount Applies Shipping \$10.00

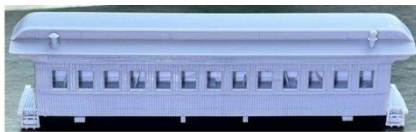
Order through FEBT Company Store website at store.febt.org (PayPal, credit cards accepted). Mail orders must enclose check payable to FEBT Company Store (no money orders). PA residents must include 6% sales tax on merchandise and shipping total. Send mail orders to: FEBT Company Store, c/o J. Quinn, 121 Chester Drive, PO Box 215, Pine Grove Mills, PA USA 16868-0215

FEBT COMPANY STORE NEW, BACK IN STOCK AND COMING SOON

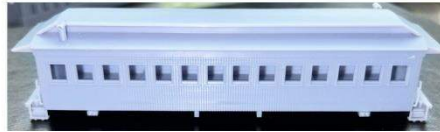
New in the Company Store:

East Broad Top Reborn (2023) DVD from Trains Magazine
\$27.99 Member Discount Applies Shipping \$7.50

From Ric Case's 3-D Printed Models:
\$60.00 each Member Discount Applies Shipping \$10.00 each



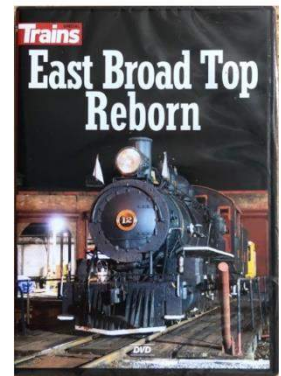
Coach 3 (HO)



Early Coach 4/5 (HO)



Early Combine 16 (HO)



Also in Stock:

EBT Blacksmith Shop kit from Banta Modelworks (HO)
\$120.00 Member Discount Applies Shipping \$10.50

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 1,900 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.



Weston Becker cuts components of the end platforms for Combine 14 during the August work session – Eric Knepp 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. Previous issues of the FEBT Newsletter may be found at febt.org/newsletter. 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.