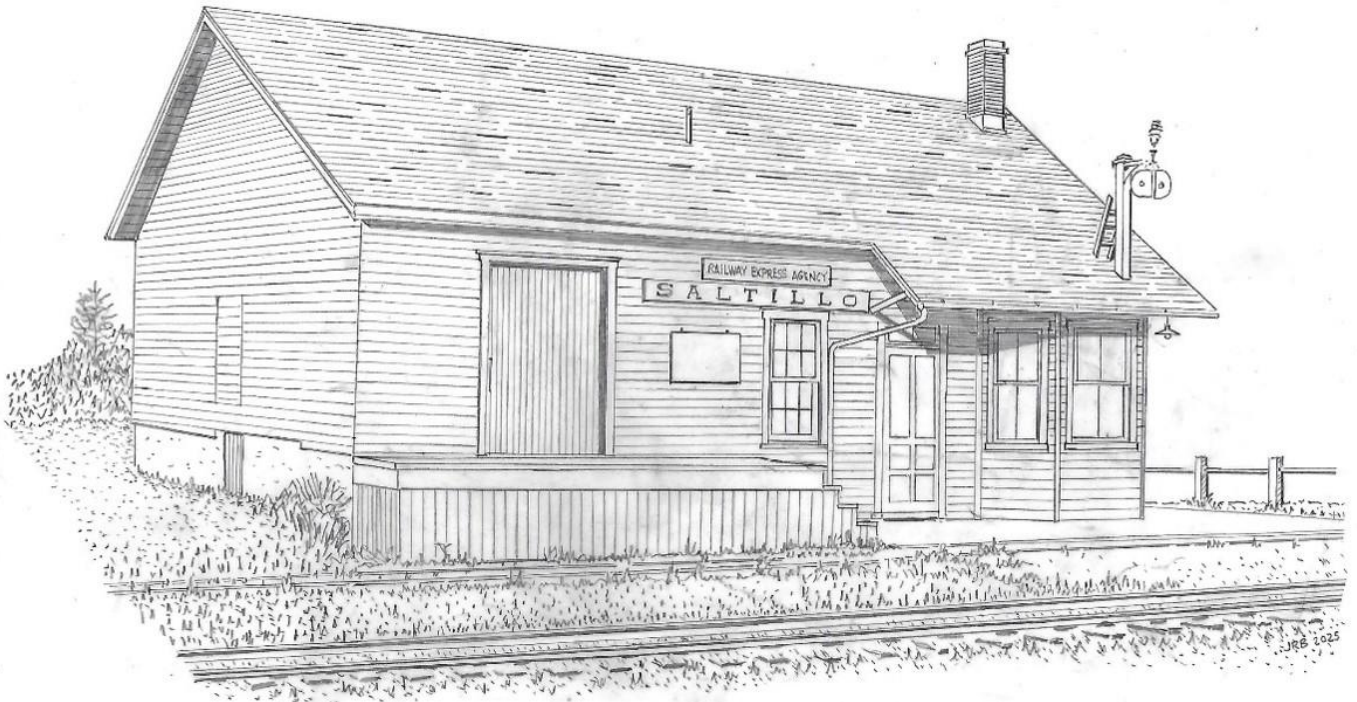




On April 5, 2025, Huntingdon County Commissioner Jeff Thomas, FEBT President Andy Van Scyoc, EBT Foundation General Manager Brad Esposito, and EBT Corridor Committee Chairman Allen Miller dig the first shovels full of dirt out of what will become the foundation for the new structure. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo

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This rendering shows the Saltillo Station as it will be reconstructed to be from the trackside view. – John Bowie rendering

SALTILLO STATION RECONSTRUCTION BREAKS GROUND

A long lost iconic EBT structure is being reborn! On Saturday, April 5, groundbreaking occurred for the reconstruction of the historic Saltillo Station when FEBT President Andy Van Scyoc, EBT Foundation GM Brad Esposito, Huntingdon County Commissioner Jeff Thomas, and EBT Corridor Committee Chairman Allen Miller officially scooped the first shovels of dirt to launch the project. They were joined by architect John Bowie; builder Jeff Swope; and a large crowd of FEBT volunteers, EBT Foundation staff, and many community members.

This milestone was the result of three-plus years of planning, design, and fundraising efforts. The project has been made possible by donations to multiple FEBT Campaigns, as well as a grant from the Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation. This phase of the project will see the exterior of the station completed by J.L. Swope Construction, Inc., of Quarryville, PA. The interior will subsequently be finished by FEBT volunteers once funds for the materials are raised, including reinstalling elements of the original station that were saved before its demolition.

Saltillo was an important operational location for the EBT during common carrier operations. It is at the base of the grade ascending to the mines to



the south and included a water tank, two sidings, a wye, and the station. The station itself was constructed in 1892 and modified multiple times until its final configuration was completed in 1913. The station operated until the EBT shut down in 1956 and then sat dormant and deteriorating for decades. In 2003 the station was documented by FEBT and recorded in the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). In 2004, what remained of the station was demolished due to safety concerns, but FEBT was able to save many interior features and examples of trim and siding.

Saltillo will soon again be a key operating point on the EBT, as the goal of the March to Saltillo restoration of trackage from Orbisonia will make Saltillo the temporary southern terminus for tourist operations. The reconstructed Saltillo Station will be a great operational asset and a very visible symbol of the return of the EBT. The building will also be a valuable asset to the local community, including availability for small community events. You can support the completion of the Saltillo Station and the

Above: A large crowd is assembled in Saltillo for the groundbreaking ceremony. – Dave Bulman photo

Left: The ticket window from Saltillo Station was salvaged in 2003, and will be one of the artifacts to be reinstalled in the new structure. – John Bowie photo

March to Saltillo by donating to the FEBT campaign. The March to Saltillo has advanced significantly now that this phase of the work has begun.

A northbound coal train pauses at Saltillo Station in November 1954. – EBT Archives photo, EBTF.2023.16.9, Ralph A. Slater collection



2025 MARCH TO SALTILLO PROGRESS UPDATE

2024 was a fantastic year for the March to Saltillo. Track was restored from Odd Fellows Cemetery Road all the way to Route 994, including the crossings at Route 475 and McCoy Rd. The great progress was capped by the FEBT members riding to Jordan Summit at the fall reunion, the first passenger train on that track since 1956. All of this progress was made possible by track materials funded by the FEBT campaign, including \$150,000 of donations beyond the 2024 goal, and the dedicated work of the FEBT volunteers and EBTF full time track crew.



EBFT and FEBT track crew construct track south of Rt. 994. – Al Gallo photo

What are the plans for the March to Saltillo in 2025? The initial efforts will be a continuation of last year. Track restoration is underway on the south side of the 994 crossing, working toward the Southern Huntingdon County High School. This work is expected to culminate mid-year with the installation of new crossings at Route 994 and the two high school driveways. This will result in restored track from Rockhill to the approach to Pogue Bridge.

Further continuous track restoration south of the school driveway will have to wait for the Pogue Bridge restoration to be completed, as equipment access to the bridge (on both

sides) will need to be maintained for the upcoming bridge work. To continue progress, track restoration will move to different portions of the right-of-way between Pogue and Saltillo that are cleared or can be cleared to be ready for track construction. Planning efforts for 2025 with the EBT Foundation and FEBT concluded that the ROW heading north out of Saltillo would be the next segment restored. So, the March to Saltillo will become the March *from* Saltillo for a period of time this year. This work will also align nicely with the Saltillo Station project.

Clearing and brush cutting have already been completed from the station site to north of the siding switch. 2,500 ties and other required track material (spikes, plates, bolts) have been ordered, funded by the 2025 Campaign.

The EBTf and FEBT track crew have begun track efforts in Saltillo and will start marching north, restoring the main line and station siding. This new chapter in the March to Saltillo will be exciting to see, especially with the new station being built beside it.



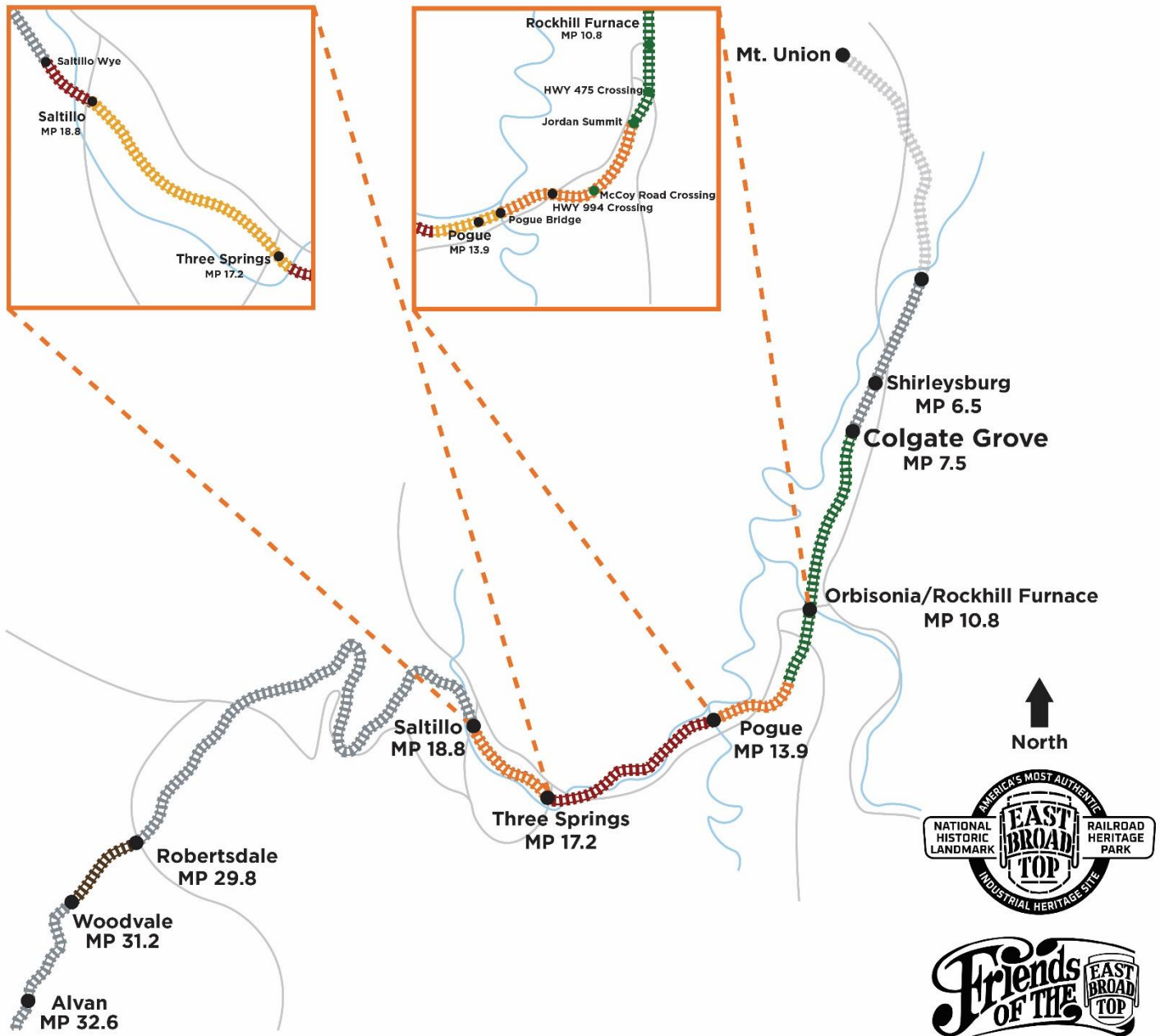
Right-of-way clearing by G & H Anderson Excavating underway in Saltillo. – Dave Bulman photo



We will still need significant additional track materials to continue the work this year and beyond. An additional 2,700 ties and associated track materials will be required to complete the Saltillo to Three Springs segment, and many more will be needed to get from Pogue to Three Springs. Your continued donations to the FEBT Campaign will directly support and accelerate this effort. – Dave Bulman

FEBT volunteers resumed disassembling rail joints in Saltillo following the station groundbreaking ceremony. – Dave Bulman photo

EBT FOUNDATION TRACK STATUS MAP



March to Saltillo Restoration Progress



2025 CAMPAIGN REACHES MILESTONE

Thanks to your generous donations, the 2025 Campaign is now at over \$300,000, exceeding our 2025 goal of \$270,000! This has allowed us to proceed with the Saltillo Station construction, purchase materials to continue the March to Saltillo, fully fund the 2025 Archives effort, prepare for additional restoration efforts in Rockhill (including Storehouse No. 2 and replacing the turntable deck), and support rebuilding the trailing truck for Engine No. 15.

2025 Campaign Goal:

\$270,000

Campaign Total:

\$308,479 – 114.3%

This is a great start to the 2025 Campaign and we still have six months to go. Your continued support will allow us to do more to accelerate the rebirth of the East Broad Top. 2025 Campaign donations beyond the \$270,000 goal will be used to purchase additional track materials for the march to Saltillo, help to finish the Saltillo station interior, and advance other key FEBT restoration projects. We exceeded \$360,000 in the 2024 Campaign – help us beat that this year! Your continued support of the FEBT Campaign will allow us to continue and accelerate these and other projects to preserve, restore, and interpret the EBT.



Right-of-way clearing is one of the many items your contributions have funded. The main line and sidings north of Saltillo have been cleared to allow track reconstruction. This south-facing view shows the north passing siding switch, and NARCO branch grade on the right. – Dave Bulman photo

The 2025 Campaign runs until Sept. 30, 2025. You may donate online (credit card and PayPal accepted) at the FEBT Company Store, <https://store.febt.org/donate>. If you prefer to send a check or money order payable to FEBT, address it to:

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

FEBT is a designated 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible in the U.S.

Thank you for your generous support! – Karen Bulman and Dave Bulman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
April 12, 13, 19	EBT	Easter on the Rails
May 3	FEBT	FEBT Museum Opening Day 2025
May 3	BTACMHS	Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum Opening Day 2025
May 3	FEBT	Young Easties Work Session (Rockhill)
May 3-4	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 17-18	EBT	EBT Goes to War!
May 17	EBT	Trackside Tastes & Tunes
May 19-23	FEBT	Rockhill Spring Work Week
June 7	FEBT	Young Easties Work Session (Robertsdale)
June 7-8	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 14	EBT	Trackside Tastes & Tunes
June 14	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
June 28	FEBT	Young Easties Work Session (Rockhill)
June 28-29	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 12	FEBT	Young Easties Work Session (Robertsdale)
July 12-13	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 19	FEBT/BTACMHS	Robertsdale-Wood Heritage Day
July 26	EBT	Trackside Tastes & Tunes
August 2	FEBT	Young Easties Work Session (Rockhill)
August 2-3	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 9	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
August 23-24	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 30	EBT	Trackside Tastes & Tunes
September 13	FEBT	Young Easties Work Session (Rockhill)
September 13-14	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 15-19	FEBT	Rockhill Fall Work Week
September 17-21	EBT	Ragtime at the Railroad
September 20	EBT	Trackside Tastes & Tunes
October 3, 4, 5	FEBT	2025 Fall Reunion
October 3	FEBT	FEBT Museum Archives Day
November 1	FEBT	Young Easties Work Session (Rockhill)
November 1-2	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
November 28-30	EBT	Christmas in Coal Country
December 5-7, 12-14, 19-21	EBT	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 Restoration Work Weekend will take place Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4. The remainder of the 2025 Rockhill Furnace Work Session schedule is available above. Please consider coming out for one or more of the sessions to help us continue to preserve and restore the East Broad Top. 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. Visit our website at [Volunteer – Friends of the East Broad Top](#) for more information on all of our volunteer projects and how you can participate. If you have questions about volunteering, or have suggestions for our volunteer recruiting efforts, please email me at volunteer@febt.org. – Dave Bulman

FEBT MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Easter on The Rails April 12, 19 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The FEBT Museum will be open for the 2025 season on Saturdays beginning May 3, 2025. Operating hours are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Archives Days: June 14, August 9, October 3



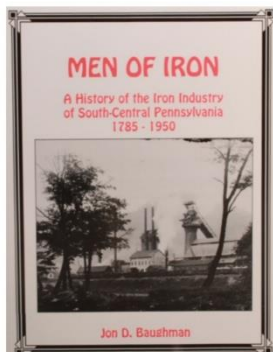
J.L. Swope Construction wasted no time in making progress on the station, as this April 7 photo shows the foundation already dug out. – Dave Camisa

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

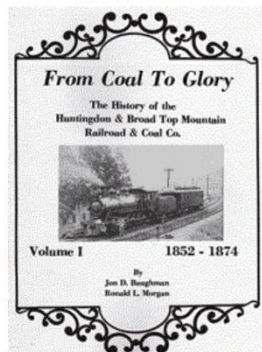
FEBT members do a great many things for the organization and for the EBT. Project leaders track the time invested in Robertsdale, Rockhill, and along the line. On-site activities logged more than 9,000 volunteer hours in 2024 alone. However, many members also kick in additional time off-site doing things that help fulfill FEBT's mission. We want to make sure that those off-site hours are added to the sweat equity that the Friends contribute to taking care of the East Broad Top. If you are serving on a committee, working a booth at an event as part of the outreach program, writing an article for this newsletter or the *Timber Transfer*, or participating in some other important task that members do remotely for the organization, please remember how much time you spend doing those things. Send your time in to the Volunteer Coordinator the first week of each month by email to volunteer@febt.org to ensure your contributions are noted properly. Thanks for all that you do! – Doug Davenport

FEBT COMPANY STORE

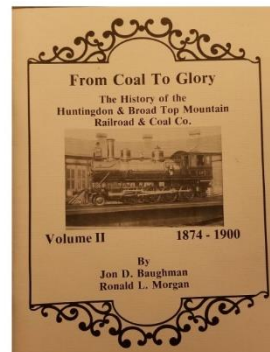
NEW, BACK IN STOCK AND COMING SOON



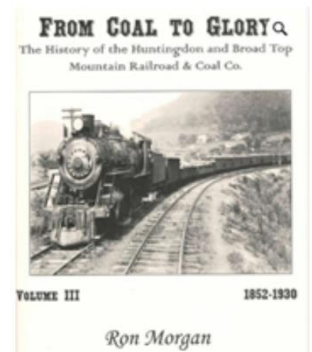
\$18.00



\$20.00



\$20.00



\$22.00

EBT Region Local History Books Back In Stock

Order on-line through the FEBT Company Store website at store.febt.org, using your account or create an account. PayPal, major credit cards, and personal checks payable to FEBT Company Store are accepted.

FEBT COMPANY STORE

NEW, BACK IN STOCK AND COMING SOON



Vulcan Truck w/Leaf Springs
Used on Caboose 27 & 28



Forged U-Shaped Pedestal
Used on Cars
1,2,5,16,17
2nd 22, 23, 24

HOn3 Trucks 3D Printed by Ric Case

**Check the Company Store
website for availability**



Vulcan Truck w/Coil Springs
Used on Steel Hoppers



Cast U-Shaped Pedestal
Wood Beam Truck
Used on Cars
3, 4, 18, 19, 20, 29



Arch Bar Truck
Used on Early Freight Cars



Brill Truck Used
on coach 6



Arch Bar Truck
Used on Car 6

Order on-line through the FEBT Company Store website at store.febt.org, using your account or create an account. PayPal, major credit cards, and personal checks payable to FEBT Company Store are accepted.

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 2,200 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.



This sign lets the community and passers by know about the project and how they can help. – Dave Camisa 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.