



# NEWSLETTER

Preservation Restoration Interpretation

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Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2026

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*Steam arrives at the Southern Huntingdon County High School and the north approach to Pogue bridge thanks to the progress of the March to Saltillo. — Rick Hamilton photo*

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*Ties are staged along the right-of-way in front of Saltillo Station, awaiting good weather for track installation as winter sets over the Aughwick Valley – Al Gallo photo*



# CALENDAR YEAR 2025 IN REVIEW – TRACK DEPARTMENT

Here is an overview of the main activities of FEBT's track personnel during 2025.

## Caring for the Infrastructure Currently in Service

Two major projects were undertaken by the combined forces of the railroad's full-time staff, assisted by FEBT volunteers, in calendar year 2025. We did a significant amount of tie replacement in the main line a bit north of the custard stand. We also began the process of upgrading Track 3 in the Rockhill Yard. The aim of this work is to allow Track 3 to be used as a passing siding. This work involved respacing of current ties in the track structure so as to obtain a twenty-two-inch spacing. Ties that required removal and replacement were also spaced accordingly. Since many of the ties didn't require removal and replacement, a good bit of this work involved moving the ties in one direction or another, so as to get them in the right spot. A good bit of work with sledge hammers applied to the sides of the ties did the trick, in most situations. (It's safe to say that, after the day's work, those who made use of those sledge hammers were able to cancel their afternoon therapy sessions.) As I write this in mid-December, this work is almost done, having reached a point about one hundred feet south of the Meadow Street grade crossing.

## Did Anyone Say "Grade Crossings"?

In 2024, we tackled the replacement of the PA Route 475 crossing. That was good practice for the work that we faced in 2025, for this year we replaced five crossings. The first to receive attention was the driveway leading into the sewer treatment plant (this plant is located nearby to George's Used Cars, on the north side of Orbisonia). The next one replaced was at Enyeart Road, a bit further north (and a little south of the custard stand).

Then, we turned our attention southward, and redid the crossing at PA Route 994, a little north of the Southern Huntingdon High School. That crossing is the longest of the five, about 78 feet long. It required welding together two sticks of rail (so as to avoid having a joint in the roadway).

Finally, the two grade crossings in front of the High School were also redone. (The completion of this work brought us within sight of the north side of the Pogge Bridge.)

The process for all five crossings was much the same: new and heavier rail, new crossies (treated with the new copper-nap treatment), well-tamped #3 ballast stone, and followed by repaving.



*Above: Jerry Gervais sets spikes in Track 3 ties on November 26. – Gene Tucker photo*

*Below: The completed southern crossing in front of Southern Huntingdon Co. HS. – Al Gallo photo*





### Miscellaneous Work

In advance of the annual Memorial Day Weekend events in Three Springs, our personnel cleaned flangeways so as to allow for speeder and handcar rides.

We spent time in Robertsdale as well, installing two turntables so that railbikes could be turned without lifting them. We also restored the switch for the south end of the Mine 5 siding to service, allowing for vehicles to take the siding while other traffic passed. The switch at the enginehouse lead just south of the Robertsdale Museum was adjusted so it works properly.

### Looking Ahead and Preparing for 2026

Much clearing of the right-of-way in Saltillo took place this year. The same can be said for the ROW south of Pogue Station (a project undertaken and supported by FEBT). Work in these two locations will allow for construction of track once the various aspects of the work fall into place.

Track materials (ties, spikes, bolts, joint bars, etc.) were distributed in Saltillo, working north from the rebuilt, new station.

FEBT authorized the purchase of 2,400 relay crosssties. Shipment of these ties began in early December. FEBT personnel assisted the full-time employees in resizing these ties (down to six-foot length for ties to be used in yard service, and to seven-foot length for mainline service).

### And Finally, a Tribute to our Wonderful Workers!

How many operations that are similar to EBT's across the country can say that they have a generous supply of eager and capable track workers? Probably not many, I'll wager. We are blessed, tremendously so, by the dedication, skill, willingness to assist whenever and however it's required, and humor of our FEBT crew. They are numerous. They are eager to advance the cause of the EBT's betterment. And, they work wonderfully well right alongside the railroad's two first-class employees; Track Foreman Henry Long and new employee Zane Esposito. We look forward to an exciting and productive new year. – *Gene Tucker*

*Top: Ties sit awaiting dispersal in front of Saltillo Station. – John Widmeyer photo*

*Right: Rich Poletto, Daniel Lane, and Butch Kerchenski resize ties for use in the Rockhill Yard. – Al Gallo photo*





# 2025 RESTORATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2025 was truly an amazing year for FEBT restoration efforts. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, our generous donors, and the support of the EBTF, we've made incredible progress to preserve, restore, and interpret the East Board Top this year. Our volunteers dedicated over 18,000 hours of their time in the past year, and our donors contributed more than \$550,000. Here are highlights of all the progress this year.

## The March to Saltillo

The March to Saltillo restored over 5,400 feet of track to service, all the way to the north approach of the Pogue bridge at the Southern Huntingdon County High School. This included the rebuilding of the grade crossings at Route 994 and the two high school driveways. What a thrill it was to ride to within sight of the Pogue bridge at the reunion! Track work at Saltillo was started, with approximately a mile of ROW north from the station cleared and graded. Ties and other track materials were purchased and then laid out on the ROW for track assembly that will begin soon.



Work is also underway south of the Pogue Bridge. Clearing and grading of the stretch from Pogue siding to Price's bridge that was very overgrown and included a large washout is nearing completion by G&H Anderson Excavating. This work required heavy equipment access and needed to be completed before track assembly could start at Pogue. This work will allow track construction to proceed south from Pogue in 2026. To prepare for this effort, 2,400 additional ties were ordered in December using 2026 Campaign funds and are now being delivered.

*Top: The combined FEBT and EBTF track crews continue the March to Saltillo at the Southern Huntingdon County High School just north of Pogue Bridge. – Al Gallo photo*

*Above: Cleared ROW stretches from Pogue to Prices's Birdge as part of the March to Saltillo. – Dave Bulman photo*



### Track Work

The combined FEBT and EBTF track crew were also busy beyond the March to Saltillo. They replaced two crossings on the mainline north of Rockhill this year and rebuilt the Rockhill yard Track 3 with extensive tie replacements allowing its return to full service. See additional details in the trackwork article on Page 3.

### Saltillo Station

Saltillo Station went from plans to reality this year! After groundbreaking on April 5, construction by J.L. Swope Construction progressed rapidly. The exterior of the station is now complete, and installation of the plumbing, electrical and HVAC systems is underway. Plans for completion of the interior by FEBT volunteers is moving forward, and custom interior siding to replicate the original materials is on order from a local lumber mill. The interior will include reinstallation of multiple original elements including the ticket window.

### Rockhill Structures

The Rockhill Furnace Shops Complex saw continued major progress to restore and preserve the historic buildings and structures. This year five new metal roofs were installed, including on the Freight Office and the Foundry gantry. This continues our multi-year effort to ensure that all of the Rockhill buildings have sound roofs.

The Rockhill turntable was completely rebuilt with new timbers and decking.



*Top: The Saltillo station site in 2024 - just a memory. – Dave Bulman photo*

*Above: A blanket of snow gives a winter look to Saltillo station in December 2025, with track materials hinting at what's next. – Bill Adams photo*

*Left: Five new roofs were installed in Rockhill Furnace, including the Freight Office, thanks to the 2025 Campaign. Al Gallo photo.*

Restoration of Storehouse 2 also made great progress. The first-floor stock racks were emptied during the May work week, and the building was raised and supported on cribbing by Earl Miller & Sons building movers. The first-floor structure was then removed, and a new full foundation installed. FEBT volunteers and EBTF staff then rebuilt the first-floor framing, allowing the cribbing to be removed. Next up will be rebuilding the stock racks and installing new historically correct wood siding.



*Left: In March 2025, Storehouse #2 was sinking into the ground. – Dave Bulman photo*



*Right: Storehouse #2 in November 2025, back to proper height with a new foundation and framing. – Al Gallo photo*

The Rockhill window crew continued restoring and installing windows throughout the shop complex. A major focus was all of the windows in the alleyway between the machine and boiler shops. By the end of the year, all of the windows and trim had been restored. Siding replacement and painting also continued in the alleyway, and on the south wall of the boiler shop.

Finally, a new effort was launched this year to restore the interior of the Blacksmith Shop, led by our Next Gen Easties volunteers. Restoration work included the belt-driven hammer forge, the large drop forge, anvil supports, coal bins, worktables, tool racks, and one of the forges. Most recently the team emptied the large stock rack in preparation for its rebuilding.



*Left: Freshly restored windows and siding give a completed look to the alleyway between the Machine and Boiler Shops. – Al Gallo photo*



*Right: The view from the top of the now-empty Blacksmith Shop stock rack, showing the material removed by our Next Gen volunteers in November 2025. – Brad Esposito photo*



## Rolling Stock

Great progress was also made on the equipment front. Combine 14 neared final completion with the installation of windows, doors, lights, seat frame, steps and myriad other parts. The car was set on shop trucks and rolled outside at the conclusion of the September work week. The EBTF mechanical team began rebuilding the trucks, and the required new truck components were purchased, included brasses, wedges, and wheelsets. In 2026, the car will be turned over to the EBTF mechanical team for completion of brake and truck work.



Boxcar 174 also neared completion in 2025, with flooring and interior sheathing completed and work benches, toolboxes, and interior lighting installed to enable its new role as a mobile workshop. Painting of the exterior was begun and will be completed as soon as the weather allows.



The two unpainted hopper cars in Robertsdale were painted black by our Young Easties, and the cars stenciled with EBT heralds and markings.

The FEBT campaign is also supporting the restoration of steam locomotive No. 15 including the purchase of a new tender tank. In 2025 the old tender tank was shipped to Curry Supply Co. for use as template, and construction of the new tank is now underway. The 2025 Campaign provided funding for the trailing truck, and the 2026 Campaign will provide funds for new staybolts.

### MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE

The Friends of the East Broad Top  
membership is up to  
**2257**

*Top: Combine 14 emerged from the Paint Shop in September 2025 looking sharp. – Dave Bulman photo*

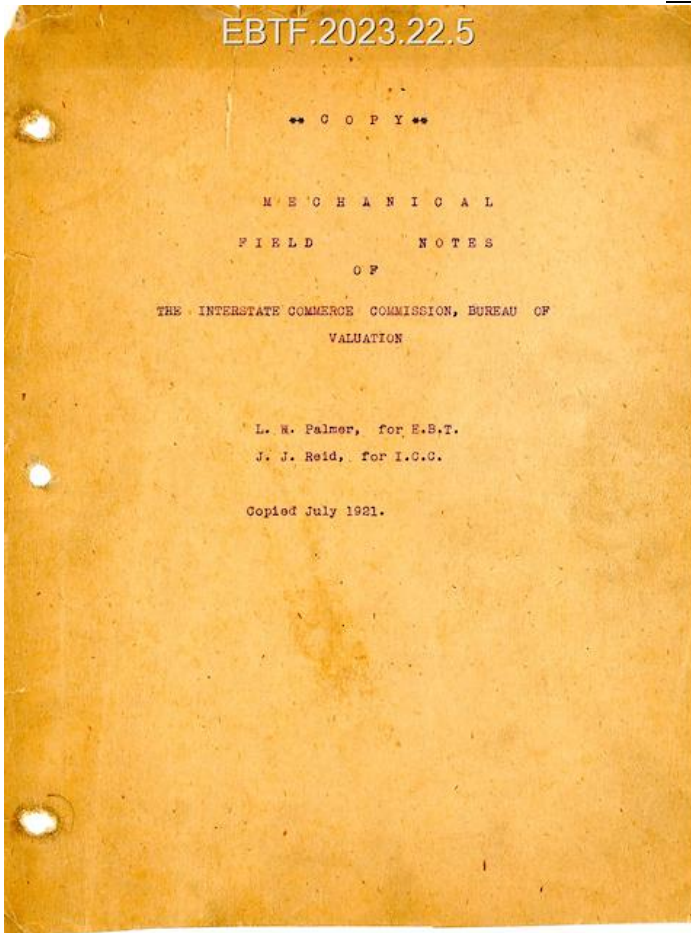
*Above: The interior of Boxcar 174, showing new flooring, walls, workbenches, and toolboxes. – Dave Bulman photo*

*Right: Engine 15's original tender tank departs for Curry Supply in January 2025 for use as a template for the construction of the new tank funded by the FEBT Campaign. – Brad Esposito photo*





## Archives



The East Broad Top Railroad Archives and Special Collections team had another busy year preserving and making accessible EBT historical materials. A total of 561 catalog records from 13 distinct collections were made available this year. This included six EBT Directors' and Stockholders' Minutes volumes (including Shade Gap RR and Rocky Ridge RR volumes) comprising 1,197 scanned pages. In addition, the Archives received grant awards from the PHMC & NRHS, employed two Juniata College interns, and had over 425 volunteer hours contributed. Most recently in December, the EBT Archives released the second of the collections of rolling stock data generated by the EBT in response to the requirements of the Interstate Commerce Commission:

<https://ebtarchives.catalogaccess.com/exhibits/47>.

EBTF.2023.22.5 contains the handwritten volume Mechanical Field Notes of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Bureau of Valuation (96 pp.) for EBT locomotives, cars, small shop tools, and a variety of shop infrastructure.

What a list! We are thrilled with what we've accomplished together in 2025, and we could not be more excited about what we will do together in 2026. You are helping to make the East Broad Top one of the most amazing preservation stories in American railroad history. – *Dave Bulman*

*Mechanical Field Notes of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Bureau of Valuation, Front cover. July 1921. – EBT Archives photo, EBTF.2023.22.5, EBT-ICC Collection*

## DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

The following members volunteered from November 22 to December 21 in Rockhill Furnace, in Robertsdale, along the line, or remotely to support FEBT. Thanks to all FEBT volunteers for their dedicated efforts to preserve, restore, and interpret the EBT.

Bill Adams  
Dave Bulman  
Pete Clarke  
Doug Davenport  
Jerry Gervais  
Butch Kerchenske  
Ben Leese  
Dave Phillips  
Lee Rainey  
Deb Tucker  
Bill Wheeler

Lawrence Biemiller  
Karen Bulman  
Chris Coleman  
Ray Davidowski  
Lance Gilliland  
Eric Knepp  
Kevin Lynch  
Rich Poletto  
Bill Reynolds  
Gene Tucker  
John Widmeyer

John Bowie  
Roy Burnham  
Craig Confair  
Larry Fuchs  
Dan Horting  
Ed Kompare  
Mathew Malkiewicz  
John Quinn  
Blair Stewart  
Dick Ullery  
Scarlett Wirt

Sue Briggs  
Jane Clarke  
Alex Cook  
Al Gallo  
Steve Jackson  
Daniel Lane  
Curtis Miller  
Jon Radder  
Jim Troup  
Andy Van Scyoc  
Charlie Wootton



# FEBT'S YOUNG EASTIES ENGAGE IN A VARIED SCHEDULE

FEBT's Young Easties program enjoyed its second season in 2025. This past year, we branched out considerably, offering a widely varied set of offerings. On average, participation was in the five-to-seven teenager range, with an average of four or five parents and grandparents, who also took part, for each session. (Alas, we were forced to cancel one of our planned offerings, due to low participation.)

We acquainted ourselves with paint brushes and rollers, painting battens on the siding of the Boiler Shop. We also painted the sides of two hopper cars on display in Robertsdale. We learned about the geology of the Broad Top coal fields, attending a lecture given by a geologist. We also learned how the railroad operates on a daily basis, enjoying a chat with engineer Courtney Brown; listening to a description of what happens behind the scene in order to make things happen from Director of Sales Andrew Greene; and we learned a lot about the railroad's extensive archives from Archivist Julie Fether. We rode railbikes, in Robertsdale and again in Rockhill. We did track work (surprised?) in Rockhill, installing ties in the yard. Always wanting to offer a full and complete track work experience, our teens got the chance to try their hand at spiking with a maul (with good results!).

We look forward to a good set of offerings for 2026. Planning and discussions are already underway. Stay tuned for exciting news! – *Gene Tucker*



*Above: Young Easties paint the new boards and battens on the Boiler Shop. – Gene Tucker photo*  
*Right: Young Easties stand in front of their painting work on the hoppers in Robertsdale in September 2025. – Gene Tucker photo*





# A PRODUCTIVE 2025 IN ROBERTSDALE

I've been encouraged to make this month's article be a "year in review". So, let's look at 2025.

People were on site at the museum on at least 75 days this year.

- 35 of those were days that the museum was open.
- 40 of those were days the museum was closed, but people were there working on one thing or another.

Not in Robertsedale, but the Museum host crew also handled the railbike rides on the 4th of July event in Rockhill Furnace, so we'll take credit for that and get to 76 days.

In those 35 days we welcomed 719 guests. Add the at least 65 people who took a railbike ride on the 4th and the museum crew helped expose at least 784 people to FEBT.

I hear you saying, "Pete, the reunion skews all your numbers." Ok, let's not count the reunion days (two) or signed-in attendance (161). That gets us to 33 days and 558 guests. That means we averaged nearly 17 guests each day that the museum was open. It was our second-largest year for attendance. Second only to 2023 when we had a large group that brought 181 visitors. Remove that group and we are at a virtual tie.

Those visitors were generous with their donations and purchased many items from the gift shop. I'm pretty sure that a high percentage of "them" was you. Thank you for supporting the museum.

Who were hosts in 2025? Roy Burnham, Ed DeMott, Lance Gilliland, Charlie High, Steve Jackson, Greg Kifer, Doug Linebaugh, Bill Mosteller, Kevin Nolish, Hans Plugge, Rickie Rourke, Aaron Stilson, Chris Walker, Rob Willhite, Scarlett Wirt, and me. Archivist Julie Fether and the "Archives Days" that she organized helped a lot as well. By the way, if you don't think that your strong suit is rebuilding railroad cars or jacking up buildings or rebuilding track then the kind of work the hosts do might be more up your alley.



*Not only is the historical information in the FEBT Museum reason to come up the mountain, natural beauty can be an added perk of making the trip. – Jane Clarke photo*

Nice numbers, but what else happened?

- The HVAC in the old post office was repaired.
- We built new, more efficient shelves in the inventory closet.
- We painted and fixed up the glass exhibit cases.
- We painted the picture rail in the Inman Hall to make it fade from view.
- Roy repaired and improved the railbikes (several times).
- We purchased, built, and installed 2 cabinets on the 2nd floor to help organize donated items.
- Victor Booth built 2 turntables for the railbikes. Then he and a crew installed them.
- Scarlett designed and installed new displays in the Inman Hall two times.
- When the local organizers of the Robertsedale Community and Heritage Days event threw in the towel, Jane stepped up and with help from the Miners Museum, the fire department, and the EBT (speeders), to create Robertsedale-Wood Heritage Day.



- We continued to work with Julie Fether and had several “Archives Days,” some of which included greater cooperation with the Miners Museum.
- We opened for the Keystone Trails group.
- We opened for “Trolleyfest” which was held at the Rockhill Trolley Museum.
- We opened for the Mid-Hudson On30 Modelers, organized by Dave Camisa.
- We opened for the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau (and as a result got this great on-line tour made by Hanah Thatcher – find the “Virtual Museum Tour at <https://febt.org/robertsdale-museum/>).
- Gene Tucker and the track crew extended the usable track, and later in the year added another functional switch (so we can have rail vehicles “pass” at the mid-point).
- We added new items in the gift shop.
- We actually got started replacing the station doors – one new door is hung.
- The last two hopper cars were painted by the Young Easties and lettered.
- The final large display panel in the Inman Hall was finished. (Thanks to Bill Adams for that incredibly long job. He designed and began building them in 2010.)
- A librarian stepped down (thanks for your work, Don Barton Jr.) and another stepped in (Kevin Nolish). Kevin, Scarlett, and other folks in FEBT are re-imagining what a library means these days – and how to get there.
- A time bomb that had existed for many years went off – we had a sewer back-up during the Reunion. We hired a plumber who got it fixed. Ok, it took 2.
- We purchased a new radio base station with an external antenna to work with 6 handheld radios loaned to us by the railroad. We now have radio coverage over the entire length of railbike and walking tours. Should an emergency happen, we can now get help quickly.
- FEBT purchased a mine car that worked in the mines served by the EBT. It needs restoration work, but it’s on display in Robertsdale now.
- For our year-end celebration, museum hosts were allowed to ride our railbikes on the mainline from to Rockhill Furnace north and south! We then shared a relaxing cook out/pot luck dinner.



*Above: Station door replacement in Robertsdale is in progress. – Jane Clarke photo*

*Below: An authentic RIC mine cart is displayed on the Scale Track. – Jane Clarke photo*



What I hope jumped out at you as you read the above: Robertsdale is full of activity. We are willing to open for your group on a day other than a scheduled open Saturday. There are interesting items for sale at the gift shop – many of which are only available at the gift shop. The displays are being updated at least twice each year. The railbikes, while labor intensive, are bringing in lots of new guests, many of whom did not know about the EBT. So, the railbikes are doing the job we had envisioned.

You need to visit Robertsdale and allocate time for a walking tour, for a railbike tour (if you are physically fit for it), to spend time studying the displays in the Inman Hall, to purchase something at the gift shop – and then to head over to the Miners Museum. Maybe this year is the year you’ll join our crew of hosts.

Robertsdale, RAH! – *Pete Clarke*



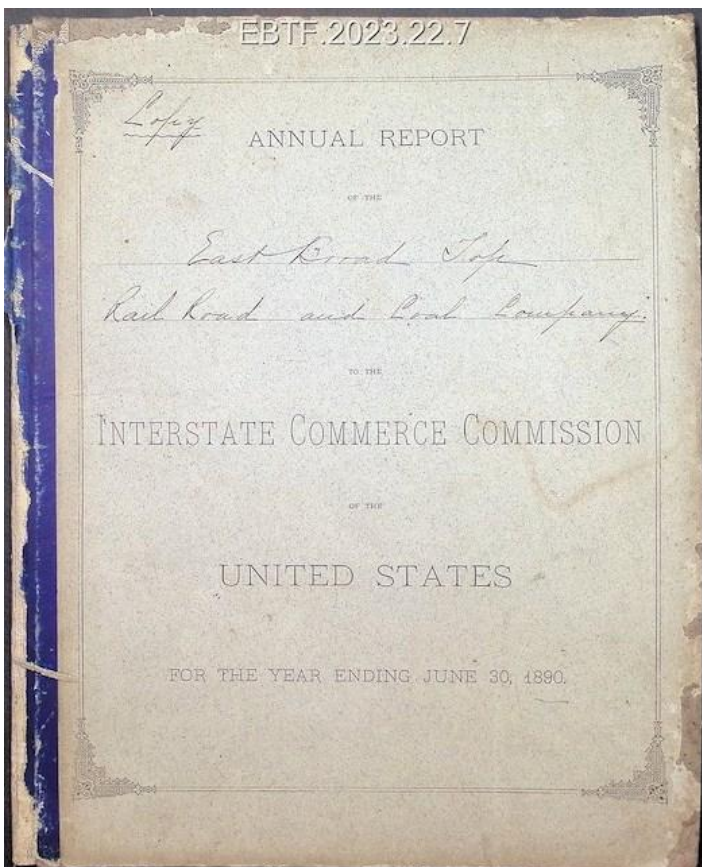
# JANUARY ARCHIVES RELEASE

The East Broad Top Railroad Archives and Special Collections kicks off 2026 by releasing a treasure trove of information scanned from selected volumes of the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) Annual Reports.

<https://ebtarchives.catalogaccess.com/exhibits/48>

In recent months we have showcased the EBT's yearly submissions to the federal government's Interstate Commerce Commission relative to rolling stock. This is a rich source for historians and modelers. But many rail historians argue that one of the greatest accomplishments of the ICC was the systemization and annual collection of a wealth of passenger and freight traffic data. This allows comparisons through time, across railroads, and much more.

Let's take an EBT example. Curious about how much iron ore the EBT carried in 1905? The ICC files have it: 43,442 tons. How much of that was originated on the EBT? None, says the ICC report. That ore was worked into 25,176 tons of manufactured pig and bloom originating on the EBT. (By the way, if you are growing tired of hard numbers, by contrast, that year farmers along the EBT originated and shipped only four tons of wool – just a bit more than the proverbial “three bags full.”)



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FREIGHT TRAFFIC MOVEMENT.  
(COMPANY'S MATERIAL EXCLUDED.)

COMMODITY.	FREIGHT ORIGINATING ON THIS ROAD.	FREIGHT RECEIVED FROM CONNECTING ROADS AND OTHER CARRIERS.	TOTAL FREIGHT TONNAGE.	
	WHOLE TONS.	WHOLE TONS.	WHOLE TONS.	PER CENT.
Grain,	144	319	463	
Flour,	24	75	99	
Other Mill Products,	187	347	534	
Hay,	94	14	108	
Tobacco,		28	28	
Cotton,				
Fruit and Vegetables,	39	110	149	004
Live Stock,	25	25	50	
Dressed Meats,	29	2	31	
Other Packing-House Products,	116	37	153	
Poultry, Game, and Fish,	29	26	55	
Wool,	4		4	
Hides and Leather,	167	324	491	007
Anthracite Coal,		210	210	
Bituminous Coal,	256 619	56	256 675	
Coke,		1727	1727	
Ores,		43 442	43 442	
Stone, Sand, and other like articles,		123	123	
Lumber,	18 260	66	18 326	859
Petroleum and other Oils,	13	137	150	
Sugar,		135	135	
Naval Stores,				
Iron, Pig and Bloom,	25 176	7	25 183	
Iron and Steel Rails,		86	86	
Other Castings and Machinery,	49	481	530	
Bar and Sheet Metal,	7	96	103	
Cement, Brick, and Lime,	18	233	251	
Agricultural Implements,	5	43	48	
Wagons, Carriages, Tools, etc.,	10	103	113	
Wines, Liquors, and Beers,	6	24	30	
Household Goods and Furniture,	124	136	260	075
Merchandise,	109	485	594	003
Miscellaneous: Other commodities not mentioned above,	1727	783	2510	006
<b>TOTAL TONNAGE,</b>	<b>307 651</b>	<b>56 431</b>	<b>364 082</b>	<b>100</b>

*Selected images from ICC Annual Reports. 1890-1916. – EBT Archives photo, EBTf.2023.22, EBT-ICC Collection*

Get the idea? The 79 annual reports in this collection are also an enormous resource on not just rolling stock but also traffic, finance, and more. There is so much information, that we have been able to put online only a selection of years and a subset of each report. You can examine the full set in the Archives office.

The EBT Archives, a conjoined operating unit between the EBT Foundation and the Friends of the East Broad Top, wishes you a Happy New Year, and thanks you for your continued support to protect, preserve, and provide access to EBT Foundation and Friends of the EBT collections! – Julie Fether



# EBT ARCHIVES SAYS FAREWELL TO SAMMY BELLIN, HELLO TO AMELIA KASDORF

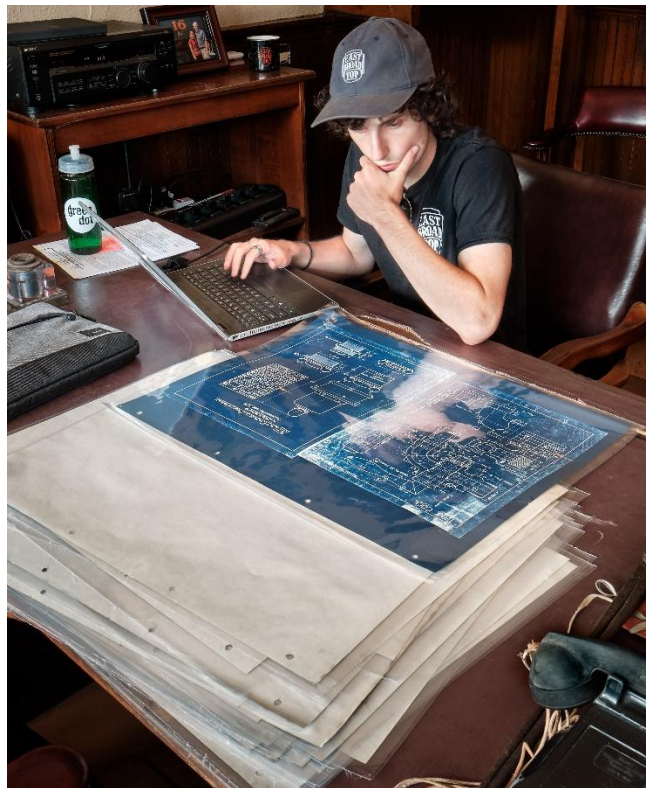
In December 2025, the EBT Foundation and FEBT said a heartfelt “Farewell” to Sammy Bellin, the EBT Archives' inaugural Juniata College intern and later the first Archives Technician. Sammy had been a key player since the establishment of the East Broad Top Archives and Special Collections in May 2021.

As the first Juniata College intern, working alongside me, Sammy entered the world of the EBT while he was a junior in the history department at the college. In fall 2020, Charles R. and Shirley A. Knox Professor of History Dr. Jim Tuten and FEBT board member Lawrence Biemiller led an introductory local history course focused on EBT history. Students in the class wrote A Brief Guide to the EBT: Living Relic of the Industrial Age, of which Sammy was lead author. Tuten and Biemiller recommended Sammy to be the first intern to assist me, as I had wanted to start an internship program in partnership with the Archives.

Starting on May 27, 2021, Sammy and I began the mammoth task of conducting a spot inventory of the EBT corporate records; an estimated 5,000+ linear feet of documents, maps and drawings, ledgers, photographs, and correspondence retained in the Orbisonia Passenger Depot vaults, administrative and engineering offices, and various buildings at the historic industrial complex. Sammy and I began building the archive from scratch.

After graduating in May 2022 with a Bachelor’s degree in history, Sammy became the Archives Technician to assist in the processing, preservation, digitization, and cataloging of EBTF and FEBT collections. With the chief engineer's office secured for Archives operations and a technical infrastructure (computers, an Epson scanner, and the collections management software) in place, Sammy took the lead and started scanning the most accessible, manageable, and eye-catching of the collections, such as the Friends’ Jack Alexander Collection (FEBT.2022.2) and the Foundation’s first collection of donated train orders (EBTF.2022.1). Our goal was to have 1000 catalog records available for the launch of the publicly accessible Digital Catalog at the FEBT Annual Reunion in October 2022. Sammy met that goal, and he certainly didn't stop there!

Sammy learned how to wrangle the wide-format scanner and the small book scanner, and how to scan and fine-tune hundreds of



*Above: Inaugural EBT Archives intern and Archives Technician Sammy Bellin. – Julie Fether photo*

*Right: Sammy Bellin catalogues locomotive safety valve drawings for use by EBT Foundation mechanical staff. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo*



photographs, slides, and negatives using the Epson scanner and Photoshop Elements. The longest drawing Sammy scanned (with help from two others) has probably been 10 feet.

Since 2022, Sammy has done an incredible job scanning and cataloging literally thousands of documents and photos for at least 140 collections, most of which are available for public access. Currently, 4,983 catalog records contain 14,441 individual digital images. Sammy's work included physically processing collections, completing requests for EBTF and FEBT internal operations, training interns and volunteers, developing and documenting workflows, participating in educational and community outreach, and assisting me with all things Archives.

Sammy worked closely with EBT curator/historian Lee Rainey, and other EBT historians Ron Pearson, Ric Case, Vagel Keller, Dave Johnson, Rich Wickett, and Lawrence Biemiller, as well as the Foundation's Brad Esposito, James Roslund, Linn Moedinger, Dave Domitrovich, and Ron Freitag. Many of the cataloged and scanned records shared on social media, featured in FEBT's *Timber Transfer*, and in the monthly newsletter were created by Sammy throughout his tenure.



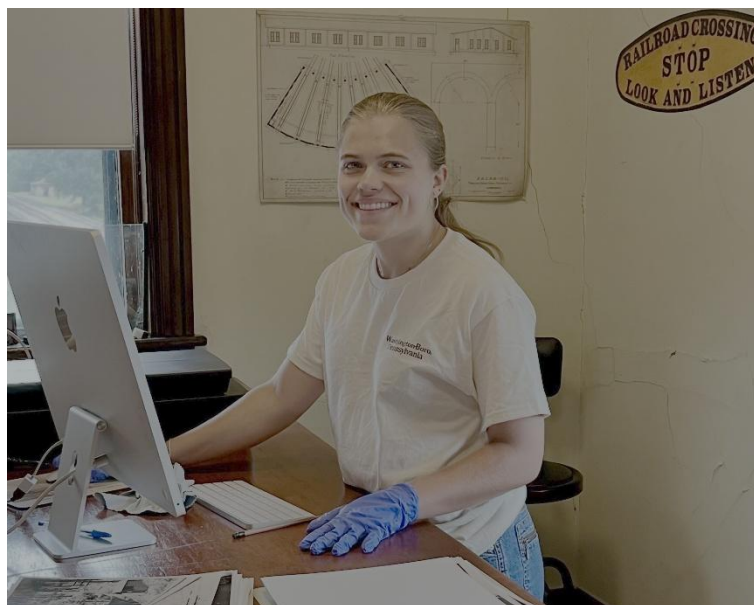
After all these years of accomplishments, Sammy is heading in a new direction. However, the legacy contributions of Sammy's to the EBT Archives are the training, professional leadership, and skill sets he's passed down to our new Archives Technician, Amelia Kasdorf.

Amelia, the EBT Archives' fall intern, graduated from Juniata College in May 2025 with degrees in museum studies, history, and environmental science. Since August, Sammy has worked closely with Amelia to introduce her to all facets of the Archives operations. Amelia also worked with Lee Rainey to execute a "Car Capacity Tariffs Project," which was featured in FEBT's November 2025 Newsletter and is available in the digital catalog (EBTF.2023.3). Another tariffs project will be featured publicly this winter.

Enthusiastic, focused, and hardworking, Amelia brings the same professional, intelligent, positive, and infectious energy that Sammy has devoted to the Archives and is a perfect addition to the EBT Family.

If you have ever spent hours looking at collections on the digital catalog, received an image request, requested research, both external and internal, or visited the various opportunities to see the collections during Archives Days, special events, and tours, chances are Sammy helped make it happen.

Thank you, Sammy, for all that you have done to make the EBT Archives a reality, and welcome, Amelia, to the EBT Archives! – Julie Fether



*Above left: Sammy Bellin and Amelia Kasdorf collaborate on archival information – Julie Fether photo*

*Above: New Archives Technician Amelia Kasdorf poses at her work station. – Julie Fether photo*



# FEBT COMPANY STORE

## ITEM OF THE MONTH

### 2026 Calendars Are Here

Our 2026 calendar features images taken by the East Broad Top Railroad's official photographer, Matthew Malkiewicz ([www.lostracksoftime.com](http://www.lostracksoftime.com)). These photographs, taken over the past few years, showcase the East Broad Top from the end of the Kovalchick era through its rebirth under the EBT Foundation ownership. Many of these photographs are available to the public for the first time in this calendar. Enjoy these scenes of America's oldest operating narrow gauge railroad, the East Broad Top, through the lens of Matthew Malkiewicz.

Calendar is 11x17 inches. Photo of the calendar cover and text courtesy of the East Broad Top Foundation.



**\$19.99** Member Discount Applies

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# FEBT COMPANY STORE



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# DECEMBER FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Happy New Year!

We are off to a great start on the 2026 Campaign thanks to our very generous donors. December donations totaled \$73,739 in 146 donations, including one donation of \$25,000. This brings the 2026 Campaign total to \$184,449. FEBT appreciates your help to support its goals of restoring, preserving, and interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad. Thank you!

**2026 Campaign Goal:**

**\$350,000**

**December Donations:**

**\$73,739**

**Campaign Total:**

**\$184,449 – 52.7%**

December donors\*:

Robert Achilles	Frank T. Baker	Wayne Baldwin	John E. Bates
Donald G. Bayer	Ronald W. Beckman	Charles S. Bender II	Kendrick Bisset
Casper Bocklage	Lucas Bonagura, Jr.	George Botic	Alexander Bowser
Charles Bradley	Robert Brewster	Gregory A. Buchala	Dave Bulman
David H. Capp	Wayne Carr	Dave Christensen	Thomas M. Clark
James & Lois Colby	William Collins	Craig & Jill Confair	William and Cynthia Corbin
Bruce Courter	Steven F. Daum	Dan Despard	Steven Dickey
Marlin D. Diehl	Thomas & Shirley Diehl		Clifford Dodge
Sally S. Donner	Craig Dunn	George J. Dvorak II	Frank R. Dziama
Wade C. Eagleton	R. G. Edmonson	Steve Elliott	Linda Erdman
Gerard W. Farrell	Douglas E. Fink	Leland Floyd	George A. Forero
Richard Gilman	Jim Goodin	Eugene Graber	Bill Graves
Daniel R. Green	Brenton Greene	John Griffith	Robert W. Grzywacz
Robert Hadsall	Ralph Haines	Bruce Hartman	Scott D. Heberling
Michael Hegedus	Charles W. High	Richard Himmer	Lee K. Hodgson
Sheldon Hoover	David W. Houseal	Cliff Howell	Daniel Hrivnak
James & Julie Hughes	Stephen Ingham	Gary Jacobs	Cathie Jenkins
Dave Johnson	Victor V. Kidd	Kevin Kneer	David Kneisley Sr.
John E. Kokas	Robert Kuhlman	Lionel E. Lavoie	John J. LePrince
Richard C. Lind	Phil Linne	Kevin Lynch	Robert M. Mandeville
Garret McCabe	Ken McDonough	William Menefee	Wick Moorman
Howard Morgan	Bob Morningstar	George Morton	Iralene Neary
Paul Niemiec	Russell B. Norris Jr.	Roger M. Nutting	Harry Parks Jr.
Leonard Pasket	James T. Patterson	David A. Phillips	Walter Poppe
Jonathan Scott Procter	Jonathan Pulling Jr.	Teresa J. Renner	Danny Rice
Allen Rider	Albert Rizzo	James Robinson	Edward Rogers
David Rose	Anthony Sallo III	Robert Savino	Kevin Scanlon
Kirk J. Shaffer	Roger L. Shimon	Robert D. Shotsberger	Ira Silverman
Alan B. Sinclair	Timothy Sposato	Jim Stapleton	Donald Stark
Gilbert L. Sterner	Roger Stier	Charles M. Sullivan	Gary E. Thomas
Vern Van Voorst	Richard E. Wachter	Jesse Walter	Ron Watkins
David Watts	Carleton W. Weber	Sam W. Wilder	Scarlett Wirt
Andrew P. Wittenborn	Brian Wolfe	Terrill L. Woolsey	John S. Yoder
James Zumbo			

*In honor of Thomas A. Deihl Jr.:*  
Jeremy Diehl

*In honor of Bob Meek:*  
Patricia Meek

*In memory of Matthew Glenn Yarnell:*  
J. Huffman

\* - All donors listed represent donations received between November 22, 2025 and December 21, 2025. Donations received after December 21 will be reported in the February 2026 issue due to press time constraints.



The 2026 Annual Campaign began October 1, 2025 and will run through September 30, 2026. Campaign details were revealed on October 4, during the FEBT Reunion. You may contact the Fundraising Treasurer at:

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*

## WANTS AND NEEDS: COMPANY STORE HELP

The FEBT Company Store needs you! FEBT needs two or three volunteers to help run the Company Store. This is an opportunity to support the organization from home. The Company Store can be managed from virtually anywhere and it doesn't require filling your garage with all the merchandise either!

The specific tasks of the manager role are to order products, track sales, manage the store accounts, and report store activity to the Board. The second role focuses more on the store technology; e-commerce, website, and point of sale systems. This requires some working knowledge of such systems or a willingness to learn the technologies, and extra time on your hands. In both cases, additional help can always be requested and both roles are fun and rewarding! If you are interested in taking on either of these roles (or even just a portion) please send a note to Andy Van Scyoc at [vanscyoc@gmail.com](mailto:vanscyoc@gmail.com). – *Andy Van Scyoc*

## FEBT NEWSLETTER COVERED LOTS OF PROGRESS IN 2025

FEBT once again did a lot of great things in 2025, and the FEBT Newsletter has been consistently sharing that progress with you, the reader. As the editor, I've had the opportunity to share the stories of these successes with you. However, I don't create the majority of the content that you read in here. The newsletter gets its content from volunteers on the ground who share what they see with their words, pictures, and/or graphic artistry skills.

In 2025, we published our 12 monthly issues of the newsletter, plus two extra issues highlighting major milestones of progress that couldn't wait until the first of the next month to be shared with you. Seventy-three contributors provided content overall. Seventeen writers wrote or collaborated on 196 articles of information. A total of 301 pictures were published from 45 photographers. We also published 62 graphics from nine graphic artists. Thank you to all the newsletter contributors, and thank you to you for reading. – *Doug Davenport*



A large group of FEBT Foundation employees, FEBT volunteers, school dignitaries and employees, and community members come together to greet No. 16 as steam returns to the north edge of the Upper Aughwick crossing for the first time since 1956 on August 8, 2025. – Matthew Malkiewicz photo



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
January 10-11	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
February 7-8	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
February 13-15	EBT	Winter Spectacular
February 28 - March 1	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
March 21-22	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
March 28, 29	EBT	Easter on the Rails
April 4	EBT	Easter on the Rails
April 10-12	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 1-3	FEBT	2026 FEBT Reunion
May 16-17	EBT	The EBT Goes to War!
May 16	EBT	Trackside Tastes & Tunes
May 30-31	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
May 31	EBT	Ice Cream Train
June 1-5	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week
June 20	EBT	Broad Top Brews Train
June 27-28	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
June 28	EBT	Ice Cream Train
July 4	EBT	4 <sup>th</sup> of July at the EBT
July 18-20	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
July 18	EBT	Trackside Tastes & Tunes
July 19	EBT	Ice Cream Train
August 15-16	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
August 15	EBT	Trackside Tastes & Tunes
August 16	EBT	Ice Cream Train
August 30	EBT	Trackside Tastes & Tunes
September 5	EBT	Clash of the Axemen
September 10-13	EBT	Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Fest.
September 12-13	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
September 12	EBT	Trackside Tastes & Tunes
September 14-18	FEBT	Rockhill Work Week
October 3	EBT	Broad Top Brews Train
October 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31	EBT	Pumkin Patch Express
November 27, 28, 29	EBT	Christmas in Coal Country
December 4-6, 11-13, 18-20	EBT	Christmas in Coal Country

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

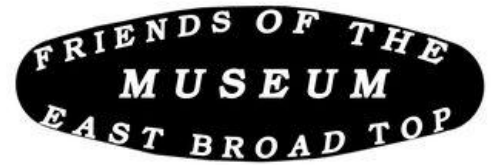
## UPCOMING ROCKHILL FURNACE VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

The next Rockhill Restoration Work Weekend will take place Saturday and Sunday, January 10 and 11. See the FEBT website at <https://febt.org/volunteer/> for additional details. Please consider coming out to help us continue to preserve and restore the EBT. If you are interested in participating in the Rockhill volunteer sessions, including track work, and are not on the current signup distribution, or if you have questions or suggestions about volunteering please contact Dave Bulman, the FEBT Volunteer Coordinator, at [volunteer@febt.org](mailto:volunteer@febt.org) for more information on all of our volunteer projects and how you can participate. – *Dave Bulman*



# FEBT MUSEUM SCHEDULE

The FEBT Museum is closed for the winter.  
2026 operating dates coming soon.



*The FEBT track crew and the Young Easties rebuild track 3 in Rockhill in 2025. – Al Gallo 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 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/](http://febt.org/) for more information.

## 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](mailto:Newsletter@febt.org). Previous issues of the FEBT Newsletter may be found at [febt.org/newsletter](http://febt.org/newsletter). Press time for information submitted is 8:00 PM Eastern time on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Events occurring after the 25<sup>th</sup>, such as donations and memberships, will be considered part of the following month's information.