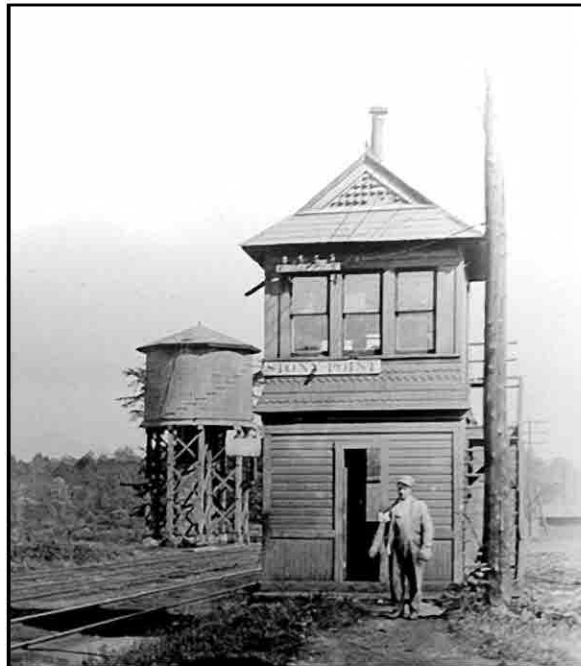


VALLEY EXPRESS

The History of Stony Point - Part One

The history of the Stony Point area begins in 1829 with the creation of Fallowfield Township, located in the southwestern corner of Crawford County. The township name comes from Lancelot Fallowfield who was one of the first individuals to purchase land from William Penn. In 1841 the township was divided into West and East, resulting with East Fellowship Township 28 square miles in area. Communities of the township included Minnis Corner, Atlantic, as well as Stony Point. Known for being hilly profile, the land was mostly farm acreage. In the early 1860's the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad on its way to Ohio bisected the township in a southerly direction.

When the railroad builders arrived in the area, they discovered a large hill made up of an excellent quality gravel. Located about one mile south of Stony Point the railroad built a shanty town on the site for about 500 workers that had arrived from Southern Ireland to work on the railroad's construction. A siding was placed at the quarry in order to load and transport gravel by the trainloads to worksites along the entire route from Salamanca, NY to Kent, Ohio.



The first Erie RR tower at Stony Point
photo from the Richard Feidler collection

The A&GW built a station originally at Stony Point, but when the first train arrived the location sign was lettered **EVANSBURG STATION**. The actual town of Evansburg, later named Conneaut Lake, was located 2 miles away at the nearby resort area, but was bypassed by the railroad during construction. A gentleman by the name of Thomas McQueen left his farm and chose to build a general store at the station. The store thrived on business serving the Shanty Town Irish. Thomas was the first postmaster of the community, and found himself responsible for naming the new Post Office. He discussed this with a few counselors, and after recalling that the depot had been built right in the middle of combination stone pile and brush heap, chose the name **STONY POINT**.

(continued on page 5)

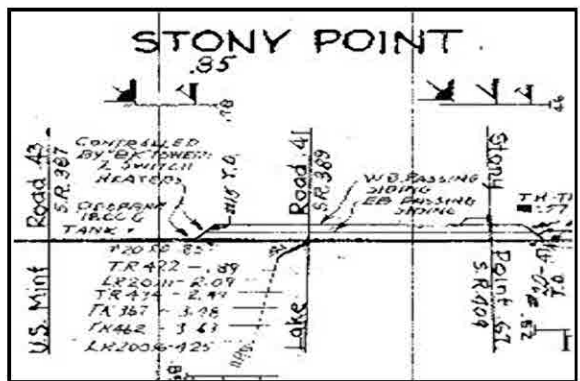
Local Rail Activity

New Track Construction

The Economic Progress Alliance will have a 7000 foot loop track constructed, as well as a 400 foot industrial track siding for a new tenant at the Keystone Industrial Park in Crawford County. The track will receive unit trains of railroad cars via the Norfolk Southern.

Lake Shore Railway Historical Society Awarded an ECGRA Grant

On Thursday, September 25, the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society of North East, PA was awarded a \$9000 grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. The grant will go towards funding projects at the museum, including restoring the GE 23 ton boxcab locomotive. Ray Grabowski was present to receive the award. Congratulations to everyone at LSRHS!



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From the Stationmaster's Office

This has been a tough winter for all of us; tougher than most. Since the last issue of the *Valley Express*, we have lost friends, a hobby store, and our model railroad club; all of which you can read in this issue. The good news is Spring is only a couple of weeks away as of this writing. Work on the #518 and the display site will commence once the weather cooperates. The #518 will have its lettering and Erie logo applied. The new track panel will be installed, thanks to the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad. The Bessemer & Lake Erie boxcar will arrive shortly after the display site is completed. And, although we have lost a couple of members, we welcome James Saulsbery of Adamsville. We have high hopes for more new members as our model railroad layout did very well over the holiday season, in helping us sell merchandise, attract potential new members, and bring in needed donations. We encourage our members to attend our meetings, held on the third Thursday of the month. There will be a lot to discuss, including the display site, ordering new shirts, getting our 2016 calendar ready, and possibly having a book or two published, to name just a few. Every effort depends upon our members volunteering to get the projects done. This will be a big year for the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society. Let's hope everyone that can, will help get these projects completed, so we can open up the display site to the public once again.



Bernie Hanmore

CONTRIBUTIONS & GIFTS

- Weber Electrical Supply
- Staples Copy & Print
- Lloyd's Rental & Sales
- Crawford County Historical Society
- Tom's Train Terminal
- Western New York & PA RR
- Susi Building Supplies
- US Bronze Foundry & Machine
- AC & J Railroad, Jefferson, OH
- LakeShore Railway Historical Society
- Mr. & Mrs. David P. Miller
- Industrial Truck & Crane
- Specialty Fabrications & Powder Coating
- Bob Bingham family
- Bill McComas Family
- Scott Royer
- Ed Fine
- Carl Timko Family
- Jan Grayson / Perfect Coat
- Tom Collard Family
- Ed Cronin Family
- Seco/Warwick (Sheet Metal)
- Jack Sheetz Family
- Anderson Enterprises
- D & M Tool
- Hafer Trucking

There's lots more information as well as interesting photos and stories on our website! Check it out at www.fcrrhs.org



French Creek Valley Express

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Historical Society

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