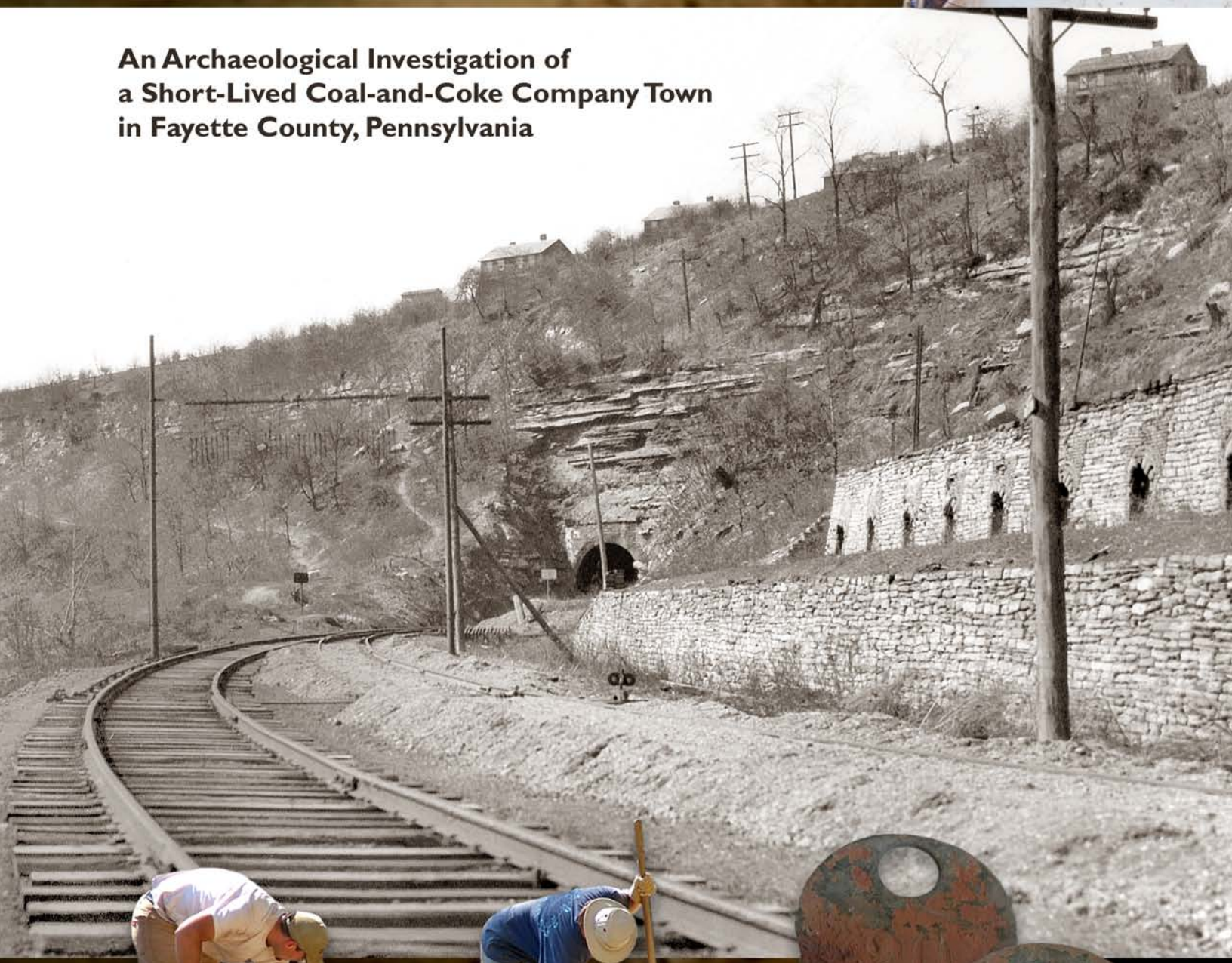
Discovering Dunlap

An Archaeological Investigation of a Short-Lived Coal-and-Coke Company Town in Fayette County, Pennsylvania



A Cultural Heritage Research Services, Inc. Publication

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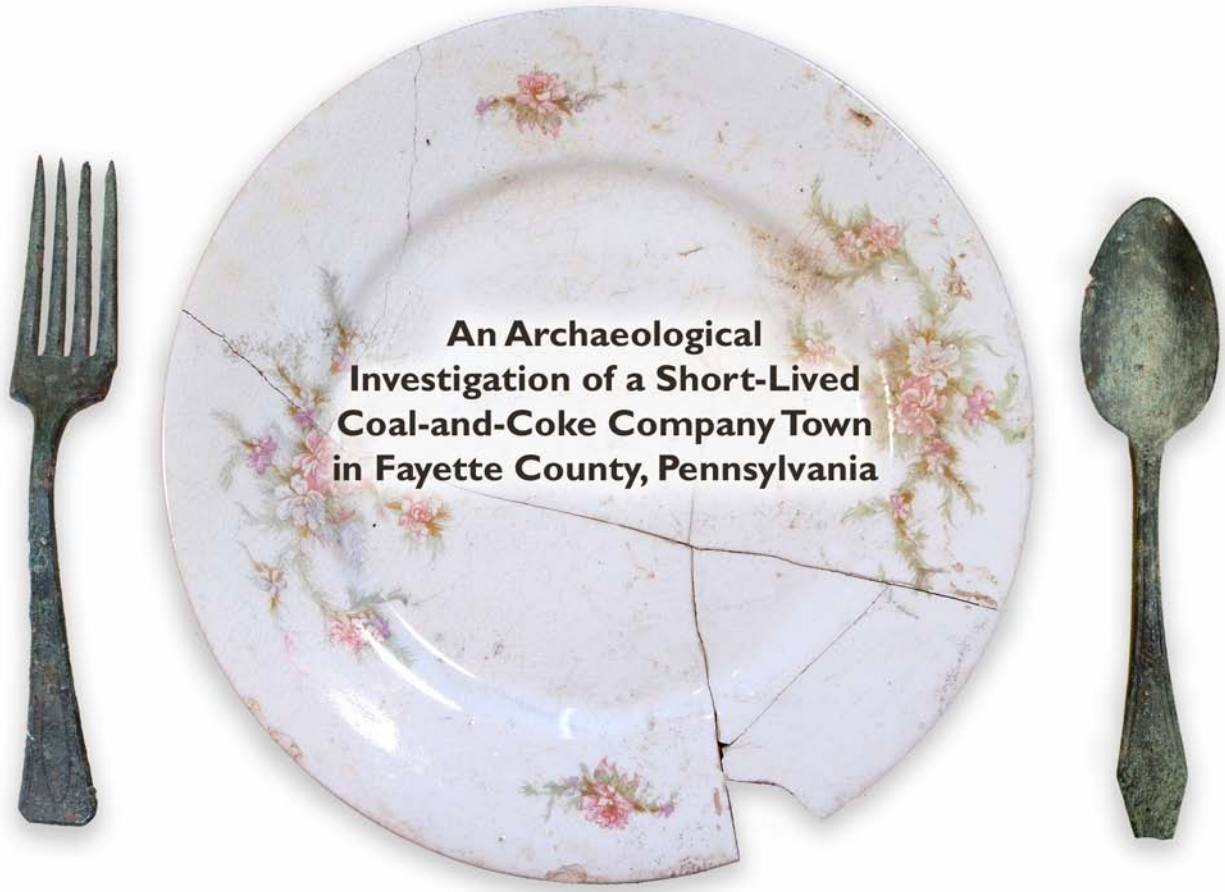

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2008

Funded by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

On a secluded ridge in Fayette County's Redstone Township, CHRS, Inc. archaeologists scour a mechanically-stripped portion of the Dunlap Village Site in September 2005.

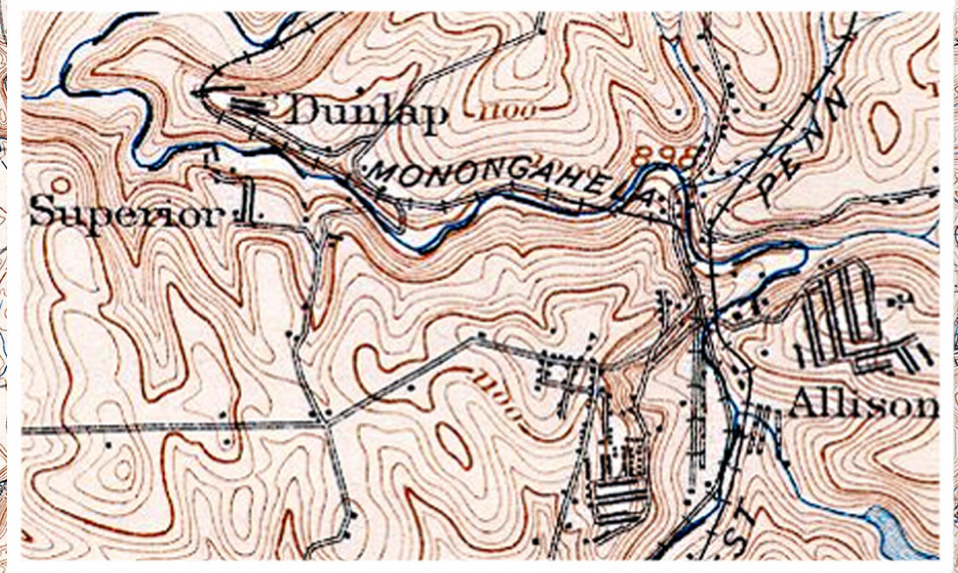
Dedicated to Tom Murphy (1906-2003),
whose vivid and exuberantly shared childhood memories of Dunlap
were a boon to this investigation.

Special thanks to Evelyn Canistra and her late husband Anthony,
on whose property most of the Dunlap Village Site
was located at the time of this investigation.

Discovering Dunlap
An Archaeological Investigation of a Short-Lived Coal-and-Coke Company Town in Fayette County, Pennsylvania

Principal author: Philip Ruth, Director of Research, CHRS, Inc.
Contributing author: Kenneth J. Basalik, Ph.D., President, CHRS, Inc.

CONTENTS



*Though largely depopulated by 1931, the village of Dunlap was still enough of a cultural entity that visiting USGS surveyors decided to include it in the next edition of the Masontown, Pennsylvania topographic quadrangle, published four years later. Neighboring patch towns of Superior and Allison (**inset detail**) would survive into the twenty-first century, but geographically isolated and corporately orphaned Dunlap lost its viability—and all but a few of its structures—during America's Great Depression.*

Why Archaeology, and Why *Here*?

If you're like most Americans, you have a good sense of what archaeologists do, and why they do it. Poll results published in 2000 revealed that "Americans correctly view archaeologists' work as digging, excavating, finding, analyzing, researching, studying, documenting, and, more specifically, analyzing and researching the past to discover and learn what life and past civilizations were like."* Not that there aren't a few misconceptions floating around. You might be surprised to learn, for instance, that archaeologists do not study rocks and stones (that's the domain of geologists), nor are they experts on fossils and dinosaurs (that's paleontology's province). And any archaeologist will tell you that the glamorous picture of archaeological adventure and romance painted by Hollywood bears little resemblance to the painstaking and quiet endeavors that fill their days—meticulously moving dirt, cleaning and labeling artifacts, entering data in computers, poring through tables of data.

Poll results also indicate that most Americans believe archaeology is worth the effort. There is a general perception that archaeology can help us improve the future by increasing our understanding of both the past and the present. People recognize that archaeological artifacts and sites can have aesthetic value, spiritual worth, and historical significance for populations and individuals. For these reasons, the majority of Americans support legislation designed to protect and preserve archaeological resources.

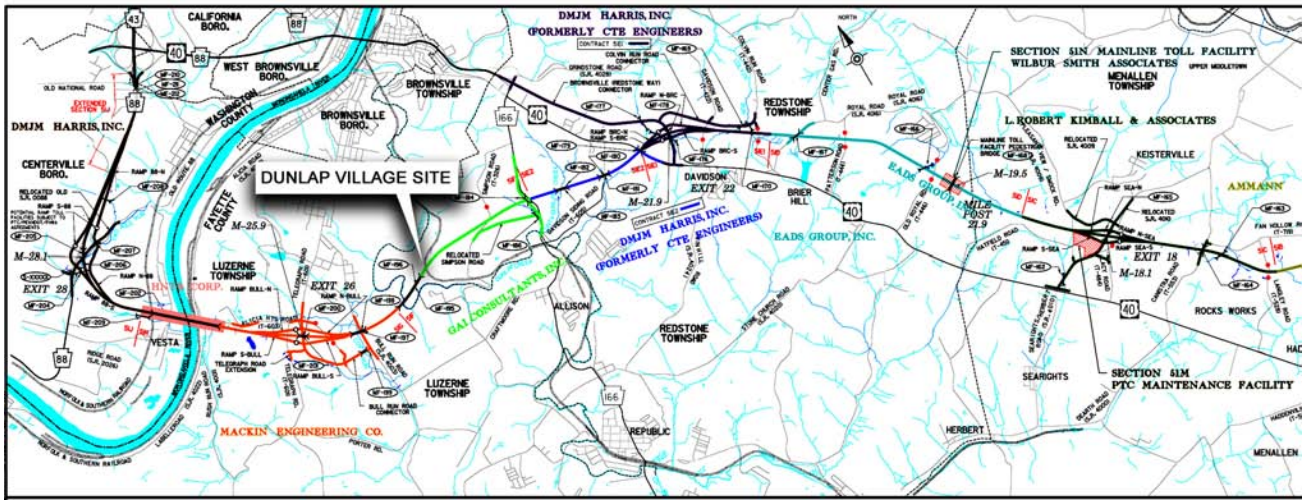
*Exploring Public Perceptions and Attitudes about Archaeology, Harris Interactive Poll, February 2000.

Even with this awareness and appreciation, people can be startled to find an archaeological investigation underway in their own "backyard." Americans tend to regard archaeology as activity performed in exotic locales. In reality, hundreds of archaeological investigations are conducted across the United States every year. A few are high-profile operations overseen by historical organizations and duly covered by the media. The vast majority, however, are relatively brief investigations necessitated by federal, state, and/or local laws designed to preserve the nation's archaeological heritage. "Digs" of the latter variety are part of a protocol of environmental clearance sometimes referred to as "the Section 106 process."

The Section 106 Process

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 is the cornerstone of American cultural resource preservation policy. Amended and strengthened several times since 1966, this law established the National Register of Historic Places, the office and duties of state historic preservation officers (SHPOs), a program of grants-in-aid to enable SHPOs to conduct their work, the Certified Local Government program to identify communities that meet certain preservation standards, federal agency responsibilities concerning historic preservation activities, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This legislation was followed in 1969 by passage of the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies to prepare impact statements for undertakings that might

The location of the Dunlap Village archaeological site is denoted on a detail of an October 2006 map showing the scope of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's Mon/Fayette Expressway, Uniontown to Brownsville Project.



have an effect on environmental quality (cultural resources being contributing elements to environmental quality). Yet another law with far-reaching implications—the Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act—was passed in 1974. This legislation extended the protections established by the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 to all federally funded, licensed, or aided undertakings where scientific, historical, or archaeological data might be impacted.

The unofficial but commonly employed term "Section 106 process" derives from the section of the National Historic Preservation Act requiring federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings or licensing activities on historic properties, while giving the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to review and comment on the potential effects of these activities. The Advisory Council has defined the procedure for satisfying Section 106 requirements in a set of regulations titled "Protection of Historic Properties."

Given Pennsylvania's rich cultural heritage, it should come as no surprise that the State Legislature has enacted laws aimed at further protecting the Commonwealth's archaeological resources, whether or not they are imperiled by federally funded, licensed, or aided undertakings. The lynchpin of this regulatory effort is Act No. 1978-273, amended as Act No. 1988-72, which requires that State-funded undertakings be subjected to the same Section 106 process as federally-funded projects. The State's SHPO—the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), Bureau of Historic Preservation—has also published guidelines designed to promote consistency and efficiency in the treatment of cultural resources across the Commonwealth. These directives include the 1991 "Cultural Resource Management in Pennsylvania: Guidelines for Archaeological Survey and Mitigation."

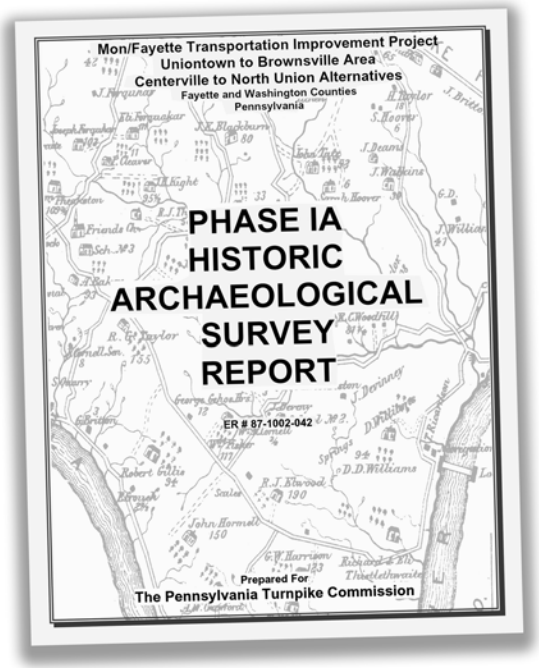
A "Mon/Fayette Expressway"

The Section 106 process was high on the list of considerations when the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) launched a series of transportation projects in southwestern Pennsylvania's Mon-Fayette region in the early 1990s. The PTC was responding to the Pennsylvania General Assembly's recent passage of two pieces of legislation: Act 61 of 1985, which directed the PTC to design, construct, and operate several new toll roads in the Commonwealth; and Act 26 of 1991, which added to the list of proposed toll roads, and established a continuous source of state funding to help the PTC advance its expansion projects. Among the highways conceived at this time was a "Mon/Fayette system [that] will extend approximately

70 miles south from Pittsburgh through the Monongahela River Valley and western Fayette County to Interstate 68 near Morgantown, W.V.," according to a PTC press release. The toll road was expected to "improve access to redevelopment sites in the economically depressed Mon River towns where the steel and coal industries once flourished, [and] provide faster and safer travel options for through traffic, particularly commercial vehicles that now use existing north-south arteries, such as PA Route 51, PA Route 88, PA Route 837, and PA Route 857, as well as U.S. Route 40 (the National Road)."

The new "Mon/Fayette Expressway" system would be constructed in four independent projects, one of which would result in a 17-mile stretch of toll road connecting Uniontown with Brownsville. That particular section was intended "to provide for safer and more efficient vehicular travel by improving access, addressing future capacity requirements and drawing traffic (especially trucks) off U.S. Route 40 and onto a more modern facility," another PTC press release explained. "The project also is designed to support the efforts of the National Road Heritage Park, to make Route 40 less of a major transportation artery and more of a local traffic corridor and tourist destination."

At the start-up of the Uniontown to Brownsville Project, the project's prime contractor—Benatec Associates, Inc.—retained a cultural resource management (CRM) firm to identify and address issues relating to potential impacts of the project on cultural resources. Cultural Heritage Research Services, Inc. (CHRS) of North Wales, Pennsylvania, was charged with investigating and evaluating historic structures and historic archaeological resources within the project area (for Section 106 purposes, all above-ground structures and archaeological resources at least fifty years of age are considered "historic"; archaeological resources predating the arrival of Europeans in America are classified as "prehistoric" or "precontact").



CHRS's initial task was to prepare a *Historical Context* laying out a methodology and historical framework for identifying and assessing historic cultural resources within the project area. The resulting report—exhaustively titled *Mon/Fayette Transportation Project Allegheny, Fayette, and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania, and Monongalia County, West Virginia, Cultural Resources Survey, Volume I, Historical Context*—was submitted to the PHMC in 1993. As the project advanced and the PTC narrowed its focus onto two alternative alignments for the new highway (one primarily north of Route 40 and one south of that roadway), CHRS conducted a Phase IA Historic Archaeological Survey of the reduced project area. This investigative step—taken in the spring and summer of 1998—involved examining warrant maps, tax records, road surveys, published and unpublished regional histories, newspaper archives, deed records, genealogical files, ground-level and aerial photographs, and other historic records, then conducting field reconnaissance of selected sites in order "to identify the potential nature, number, integrity, research potential, and National Register significance of historic archaeological resources which may lie within the project's Area of Potential Effect" (according to the Phase IA report [***left***], submitted early in 1999). This investigation led CHRS researchers to flag nearly one hundred loci as having historic archaeological potential warranting further investigation and evaluation.

"Unidentified structures over the Simpson Tunnel"

Among the historic archaeological loci identified by CHRS researchers in the western section of the project area—within a portion of the proposed highway common to both the northern alignment and southern alignment alternatives—was a locus designated in the Phase IA report "Locus NS11: Residences over the Simpson Tunnel." In this location, researchers had noted on an aerial photograph taken on September 25, 1938 (***facing page***) what appeared to be the roofs and shadows of two house-sized structures standing in a clearing on a ridge in western Redstone Township, overlooking a loop in Dunlap Creek. Several smaller structures were also discernible in this vicinity. Mid-twentieth-century maps of this area further revealed that the Monongahela Railroad was routed through a tunnel directly beneath Locus NS11. This curvilinear passageway was identified on a 1996 USGS topographic quadrangle as "Simpson Tunnel." Based on these data, the authors of the Phase IA report noted that Locus NS11 "is the location of unidentified structures visible in the area on top of the Simpson Tunnel. The structures have been demolished and no remnants are visible on recent aerial photos. The structures do not appear on any [of the] pre-1939 maps [examined during this investigation]. [This archaeological locus] has moderate potential for National Register eligibility."

Over the course of the next few years, as the route of the Uniontown to Brownsville roadway was narrowed to a single alignment, CHRS personnel visited each archaeological locus within the reduced project area judged to have historic potential. In some cases, their field view revealed that activities of the past fifty years had disturbed the site to the point where useful information would no longer be retrievable (only when historic artifacts are uncovered in intact stratigraphic settings can they contribute valuable data to the historic record). Other loci were dismissed when reconnaissance revealed them to be located just outside the project's ever-more-refined Area of Potential Effect (APE). Where loci appeared to be intact and testable, CHRS field technicians employed an excavation strategy designed to identify the age, composition, and scope of each locus. Simultaneously, CHRS researchers dug deeper into archives in an attempt to shed additional light on historic activities within the tested loci. When the nine-month process of data collection concluded early in 2002, the data were analyzed and an exhaustive Phase IB/II report was generated. This report presented the data and indicated which loci appeared to be eligible for listing in the National Register. Out of nearly one hundred loci originally identified, only three appeared capable of contributing significantly to an understanding of local history. One of them was Locus NS11—the "unidentified structures on top of Simpson Tunnel"—which the recent round of research and testing had more specifically identified as the "Dunlap Village Site (36Fa480)."

Discovering Dunlap

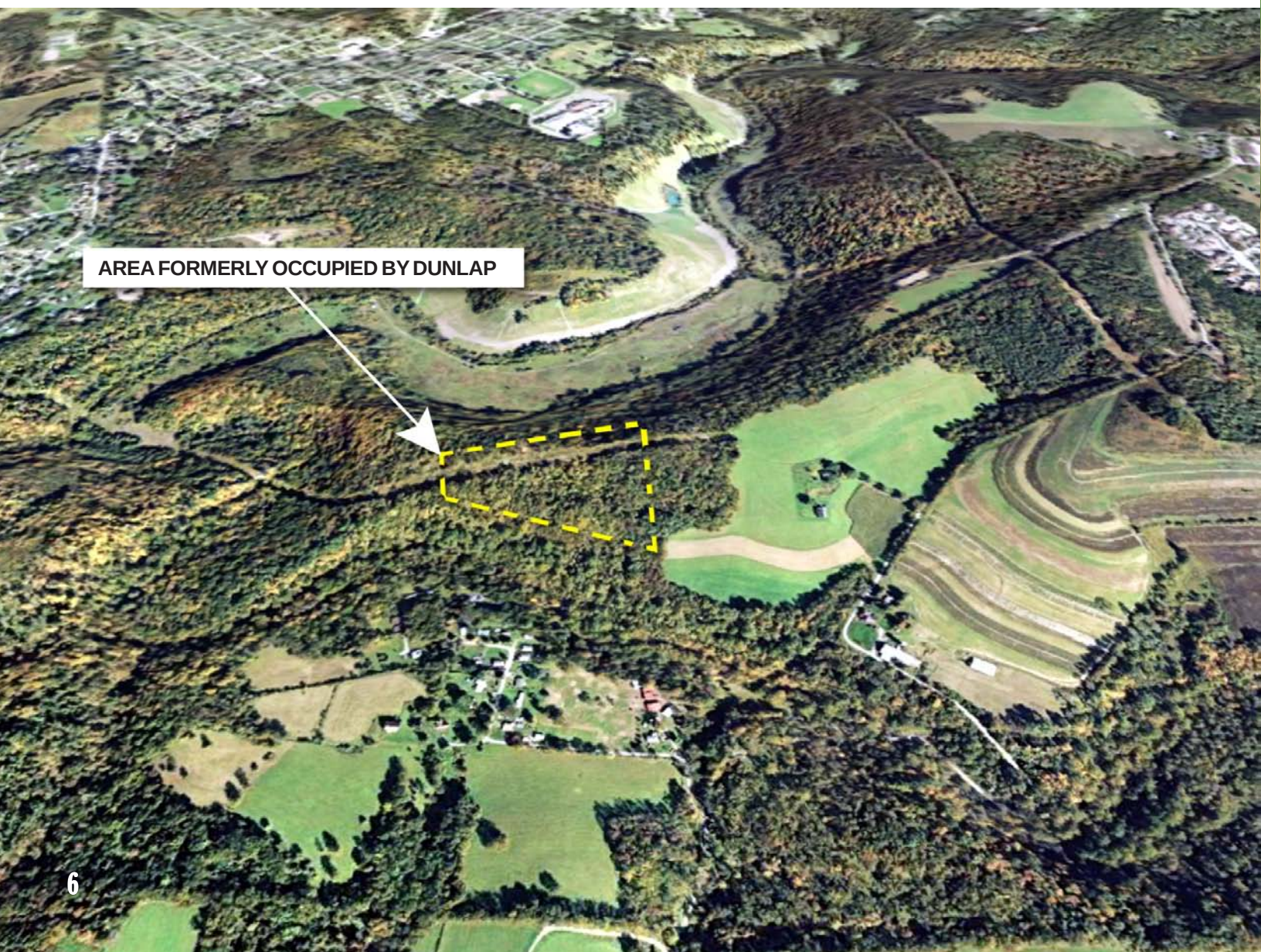
Forty pages of CHRS's 2002 *Mon/Fayette Transportation Project, Uniontown to Brownsville Area, Phase IB/II Historic Archaeological Survey* report were devoted to describing the firm's systematic discovery of cultural activities at Locus NS11 through the two prongs of archaeological inquiry: physical excavation and historical research. Among the recitation of "Field Data Results" was the mapping of fifteen building foundations in various states of disintegration, the excavation of eighty-two 22-inch-diameter "shovel test pits" and nine larger "test units," and the unearthing and analysis of more than 11,000 artifacts. Supplemental research conducted by CHRS Director of Research Philip Ruth and his staff of historians had yielded enough information to compile a six-page history of the "Dunlap Village Site." In concluding the presentation of findings associated with Dunlap Village, the Phase IB/II report's principal author—CHRS president Kenneth J. Basalik, Ph.D.—asserted that "the Dunlap Village Site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D; it has poten-

tial to add to our understanding of local history." He also pointed out that the site "is anticipated to be affected by the Mon/Fayette Transportation Project, and therefore, additional work is recommended." The additional work could "address questions involving nearly every aspect of material life, from a variety of perspectives." To help the report's reviewers appreciate the potential value of additional archaeological work at the Site, and to explain how CHRS proposed to conduct this work, Dr. Basalik offered a series of "Research Questions" as part of a "Phase III Work Plan." The final section of the Work Plan described how CHRS proposed to recover from the Dunlap Village Site as much data as might be extracted within a reasonable budget of time and expense—ahead of the anticipated destruction of the site by

builders of the Mon/Fayette Expressway. PHMC reviewers, and ultimately PTC officials, found CHRS's argument for National Register eligibility and Phase III worthiness compelling. The PTC determined the Dunlap Village Site (36Fa480) eligible for listing in the National Register on June 9, 2003, around the time that CHRS was authorized to proceed with a Phase III survey (also known as "Data Recovery") of the Site.

In addition to preparing what promised to be a voluminous *Phase III Archaeological Survey Report*, CHRS was tasked with producing a general audience publication "summarizing the history of Dunlap, the results of the archaeological investigation, and the significance of the Dunlap Village Site." It is that final product—created a few months after the completion of fieldwork, lab work, and the submission of the Phase III Archaeological Survey Report in June 2007—that is open before you. You will find in these pages that our "understanding of local history" was indeed expanded through additional research into activities in and around Dunlap. It became obvious early in CHRS's investigation of Locus NS11 that few vestiges of this once-bustling village lingered in public perception. Having vanished from the landscape in the mid-

Northward bird's-eye-view of the Dunlap Creek watershed circa 2006, digitally generated by Virtual Earth.



Westward view of the ridge formerly occupied by nine duplexes. The trees have grown up over the course of the past fifty years. The ridge would be entirely wooded if not for efforts to keep a corridor cleared for power line maintenance.

twentieth century, Dunlap has existed in recent decades only as a fading impression in the memories of a dwindling few area residents. It has been our privilege to probe into the recesses of history and retrieve a wealth of details pertaining to people and activities the world might otherwise have forgotten. This investigation has given us a window into an era and a corner of the world well worth recollecting. We hope you'll agree that our time was well spent in discovering Dunlap.

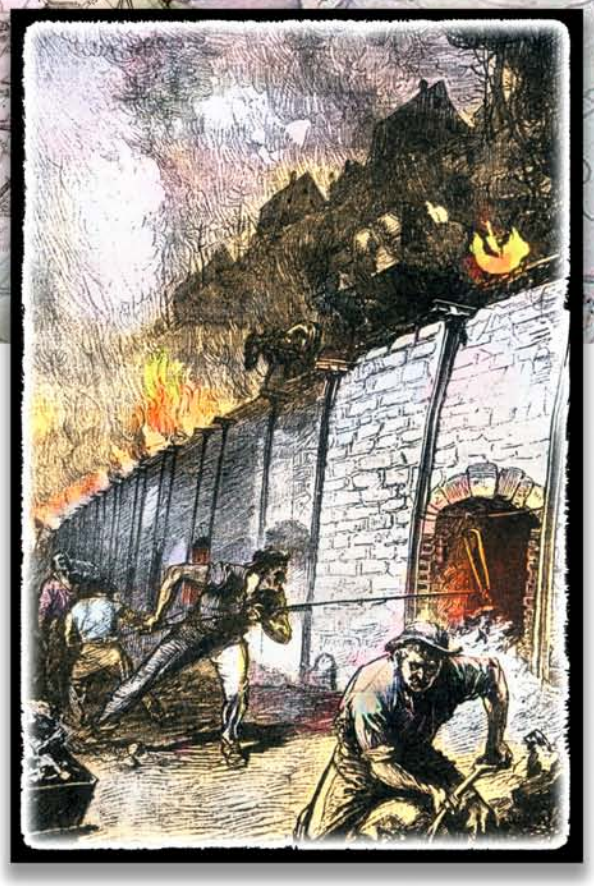
Philip Ruth
Director of Research
CHRS, Inc.
March 2008

Thanks

The following persons generously entertained researchers' questions, offered stories and advice, and in some cases allowed their historic photographs to be copied and reproduced:

Evelyn Canistra
Elaine Defrank
David Gratz
George Meese
Jim Meese
Tom Murphy
Harold Richardson
Frances Tarquinio

We thank them for their important contributions to this investigation.



Above: *The future site of Dunlap (marked by a star in the inset detail) is featureless on a map of Fayette County published in 1901. A dot immediately east of the site denotes the Garwood farmhouse, along the west side of Simpson Road. Within a few years, a railroad would be laid along "Dunlaps" Creek, banks of beehive coke ovens would be built beside those rails, and the skies above Cedar Hill would fill with smoke from "Garwood Works."*

CHAPTER ONE

What the Setting Suggested

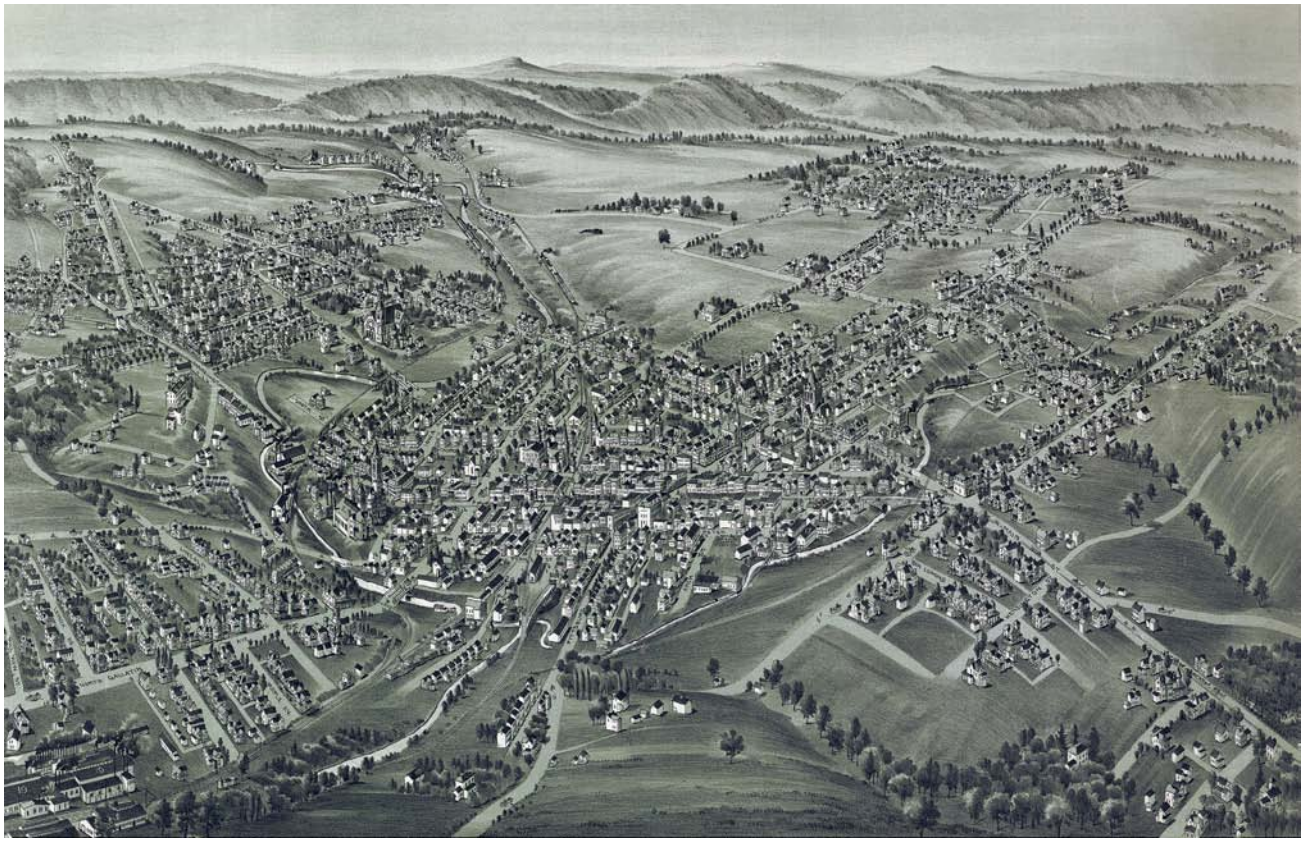
In the course of a Phase IA Historic Archaeological Survey conducted for the Mon/Fayette Expressway Project during the spring and summer of 1998, CHRS researchers consulted scores of sources and repositories in compiling data related to historic structures and activities within the Uniontown-to-Brownsville corridor. Culled from warrant maps, tax records, road dockets and surveys, published and unpublished regional histories, newspaper archives, deed records, genealogical files, ground-level and aerial photographs, nineteenth- and twentieth-century maps, and other historic records, the data contributed to the investigation in two principal ways. Data associated with particular archaeological loci helped investigators make preliminary assessments of the loci's integrity and significance, and these assessments were eventually included in the Phase IA Historic Archaeological Survey report. Beyond this use, the data served as the basis for a "Study Area History" presented in the opening pages of the report. This historical overview provided a context for understanding and appreciating the discussions of field work, artifact and feature analysis, and conclusions that filled subsequent sections of the report. Composed by CHRS Director of Research Philip Ruth, the Study Area History traced the socio-economic evolution of western Fayette County within the broader cultural setting of what came to be known in the latter years of the nineteenth century as the "Connellsville Coke District." Further along in the Section 106 process, investigators would consider in even greater detail what this setting suggested in terms of activities on the Dunlap Village Site, and what kinds of data might still be recovered from the Site through a more intensive archaeological investigation. The portion of the Study Area History touching on the era and potential character of the Dunlap Village Site read as follows:*

During the first half of the nineteenth century, some Fayette County farmers supplemented their incomes by tapping outcroppings of bituminous coal on their land, and cooking (refining) the material into coke in small homemade ovens. With its high carbon content and minimal impurities, coke proved an ideal fuel for the region's iron producers. The modest amount of coke produced in this way by entrepreneurs operating within the National Road corridor between Uniontown and Brownsville was most often used as fuel in local iron furnaces, there being no railway lines or easily navigable water routes in the vicinity to facilitate the distribution of larger quantities. Closer to the Monongahela River, and particularly along its banks, coal mining and coke production was practiced on a much wider scale beginning around 1819, despite only rudimentary technology and an almost total dependency on human muscle power.

Prospects for coal and coke producers in the interior of Fayette County improved dramatically with the opening of the Pittsburgh & Connellsville Railroad in 1855, and the Fayette

*Bibliographic citations and English-metric conversions included in the original have been removed to increase readability.

Panoramic maps produced in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are often useful in archaeological investigations in that they present oblique, three-dimensional views of their subjects. The vantage point of this southeastward view of Uniontown circa 1897 is several hundred feet in the air above the point where the proposed Uniontown-to-Brownsville portion of the Mon/Fayette Expressway will tie into Route 119. Oliver No. 2, one of the earliest coal-and-coke works in the Lower Connellsville region, is located directly beneath the viewer. Uniontown's West Main Street—a section of the National Road—extends off the lower righthand corner of the image.



& Connellsville Railroad in 1855, and the Fayette County Railroad's debut five years later. Fourteen coke works, with their long banks of beehive ovens, were soon operating along these lines in northern Fayette County. To the west, the Pittsburgh, Virginia & Charleston Railroad Company opened a line along the Monongahela from Pittsburgh to Brownsville in 1881, at which time it also proceeded with construction of a branch line along the Redstone Creek between West Brownsville and Union-town. The Pennsylvania Railroad bought this railroad in an unfinished state, completed construction of it in 1882, and began operating it as the "Monongahela Division" of its main line.

During the next quarter-century, this basic network of railways was augmented by numerous branch lines reaching into virtually every corner of what became known as "The Connellsville Coke District," which was centered around Connellsville and Scottdale, and stretched along the western flanks of the Appalachian Mountain range from the Monongahela to Blairsville in Westmoreland County. A map of this district published in 1908 (**page 13**) illustrated the extent of this rail network as of that year, as well as the constellations of coke works to which these lines provided access. The portion of the Connellsville District lying on the south side of the Redstone Creek valley, between Brownsville and Uniontown, was designated the "Lower Connellsville Field," though it had become known more colloquially around the turn of the twentieth century as "the Klondike." According to a Fayette County historian, the nickname derived "from a fancied resemblance of [its] sudden coal and coke development in 1899 to the rapid development

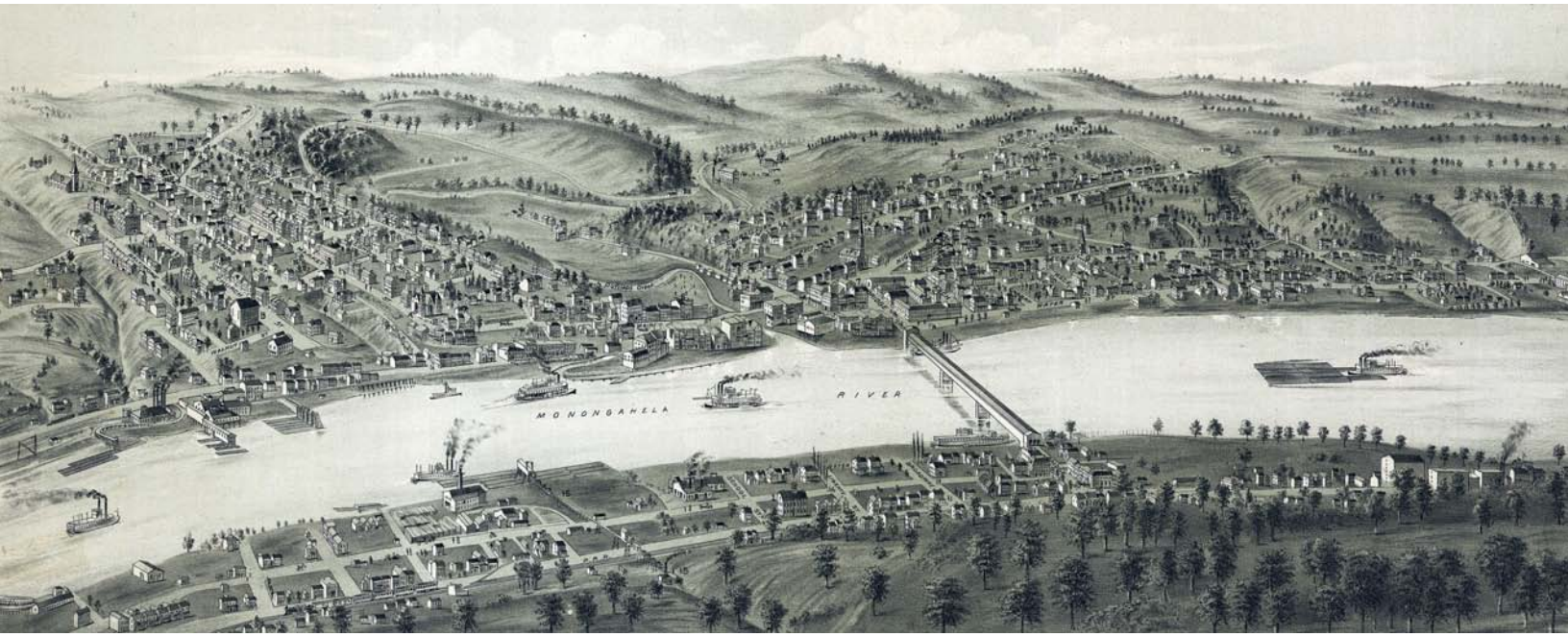
of the Alaskan gold fields of the Klondike district."

The Hyperactive "Klondike"

Coal and coke producers of the Upper Connellsville Field began pushing southwestward into the Klondike in the 1890s as the northern field approached exhaustion. Barely six years into the first large-scale efforts to extract and refine Klondike coal, coke production in the Lower Connellsville Field was equal to 30% of the upper district's output. Between 1900 and 1908, 23 coal-and-coke works with attendant company towns were established in the Klondike, most of them in the valleys of Dunlap and Redstone Creeks. By 1914, the Klondike boasted 88 coal-and-coke works with 17,000 ovens, nearly on par with the much larger Upper Connellsville district's 92 plants and 21,000 ovens.

Some of the new works were launched in the National Road corridor between Uniontown and Brownsville. The Oliver No. 2 works, abutting the northwest corner of Uniontown, was among the earliest large-scale coking facilities to operate in the Klondike. Founded by the Oliver Coke and Furnace Company in 1890, Oliver No. 2 turned out to be the second in a family of four plants established by the Company on a 3,500-acre tract in North Union Township. Oliver No. 1 was located just across Redstone Creek, due north of Uniontown. By 1908, more coke ovens were operational at Oliver No 2 (408) than at its predecessor (329).

The W.J. Rainey Company established its Royal mine and coke works around 1905 on the north side of the National Road, midway between Uniontown and Brownsville. Most of the coke produced there was shipped to the Company's Cleveland Rolling Mill. The remainder was sold on the open market. Outfitted initially with 186 ovens, the Royal works was soon enlarged to include 800 ovens. Many of the 263 employees of the Royal mine and works in 1912 lived in Chestnut Ridge, a company town comprising 90 homes, a recreational field, and a company store. The first houses built in this village for non-managerial workers were standard-issue eight-room duplexes of the type



This southeastward view of already-prosperous Brownsville circa 1902 was produced just as Fayette County's "Klondike" region was about to explode with coal-and-coke-related activity. Dunlap would sprout on one of the distant ridges. The western extent of the Mon/Fayette Expressway's Uniontown-to-Brownsville section was designed to cross the Monongahela River several miles south of Brownsville, just beyond the righthand side of this view.

An aproned matriarch poses in her award-winning patch town garden early in the twentieth century. Scores of similar garden-and-gardener views recorded by H.C. Frick Company photographers are archived in Pennsylvania repositories such as the Coal and Coke Heritage Center on Penn State's Fayette campus.

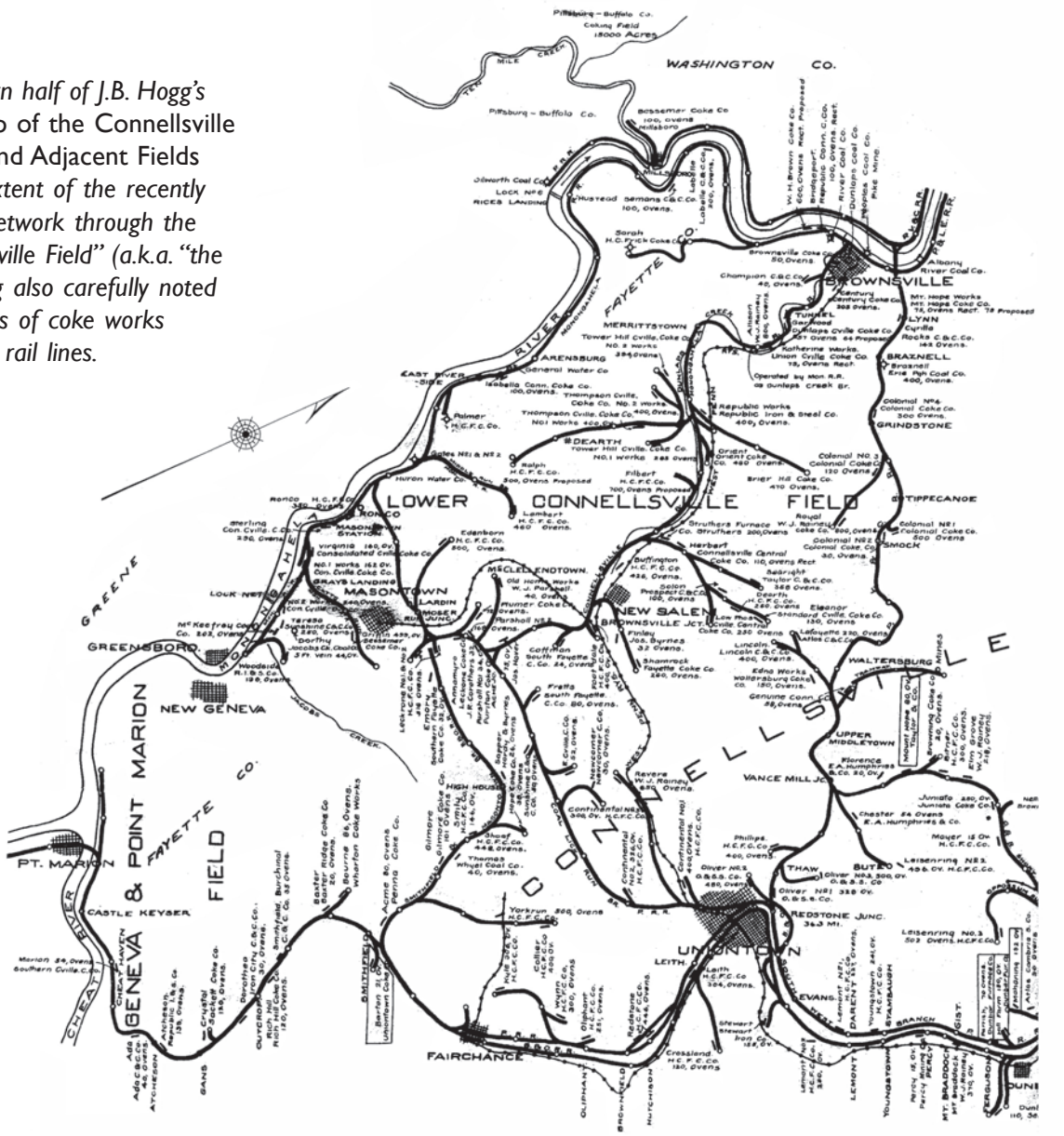
sprouting by the hundreds across southwestern Pennsylvania. Managers' houses were normally built as detached or single-family units, and were often set apart from the rows of laborers' dwellings. Under the direction of the company's founder and namesake, W.J. Rainey, later housing for non-managerial workers in Chestnut Ridge was built in the form of single-family units, which Rainey felt would attract a better class of laborers.

South of the historic settlement of Searights along the National Road, the Taylor Coal and Coke Company of Uniontown opened a mine, coke yard, and company town in 1907 on a tract of land encompassing 740 acres. Two years after its opening, this "Searights" works provided employment for 346 workers, who extracted 377,950 tons of coal and cooked it in 358 ovens into 250,000 tons of coke. The same year Searights was established, Pittsburgh coke magnate H.C. Frick opened similar facilities on a 498-acre tract about a mile east of Searights, along the southwest side of the National Road. Known as "Dearth," this complex included a drift mine, 250 ovens, and housing for 101 families. In 1912, Dearth's 210 employees produced 295,730 tons of coal and 180,730 tons of coke. The coke was transported to the Pittsburgh yards of the U.S. Steel Corp., of which the H.C. Frick Coke Company was a subsidiary.

In 1909, W. Harry Brown built a mine and coke works called "Alicia" in Luzerne Township, on the banks of the Monongahela River, three miles upriver from Brownsville. As a later entrant in the Klondike coke industry, Brown was able to take advantage of recently developed technology that would eventually drive some earlier "cokers" and their increasingly outmoded beehive ovens out of business. The ovens installed by Brown at his Alicia works were rectangular rather than round. Coke prepared in a rectangular oven could be pushed out of the oven by an electric ram in a matter of minutes, while coke prepared in beehive ovens had to be shoveled out by hand, a chore that could take several hours. Brown began with 193 "push ovens" at his Alicia works, but that total soon swelled to 400. As of 1916, there were 362 miners employed at Alicia. During that year they brought up 507,329 tons of coal from the mine and processed them into 336,913 tons of coke.

The Patch Town Phenomenon

Living conditions in late-nineteenth-century Fayette County company towns were relatively primitive. Houses were often erected hastily out of low-quality materials. Public buildings such as schoolhouses were often crudely built and under-sized. Many patch towns were closed off to non-residents, and inhabitants were kept in line by private Coal & Iron Police. Conditions were often less onerous in towns developed after the turn of the twentieth century, including those scattered across the Klondike. The rapid rise of the coke industry occurred during a period of American industrial development



The southwestern half of J.B. Hogg's 1910 New Map of the Connellsville Coke Region and Adjacent Fields *illustrates the extent of the recently expanded rail network through the "Lower Connellsville Field" (a.k.a. "the Klondike"). Hogg also carefully noted the constellations of coke works accessed by the rail lines.*

characterized by widespread volatility in market prices, wages, labor-management relations, and issues of cultural assimilation. Strikes and workplace violence erupted more frequently, making American-born workers increasingly wary and resentful of the growing ranks of immigrant laborers. Some mining and coking companies in southwestern Pennsylvania tried to reduce cross-cultural tensions and the isolation of immigrant groups in their company towns by providing more sanitary and attractive surroundings. H.C. Frick encouraged residents of his patch towns—including Dearth—to cultivate gardens in order to beautify the villages, enjoy the benefits of a wholesome outdoor activity, and improve their family's nutritional intake. Cash prizes were offered to residents who generated the most attractive and fruitful gardens. As a result, much of the land around the workers' houses at Dearth was devoted to vegetable and flower cultivation. Some workers were able to supplement their wages by selling excess produce to the company store. A few others kept milk cows, which not only satisfied their own family's need for dairy products, but their neighbors' as well. For provisions beyond what they could raise in garden plots and animal shelters, residents were beholden to the company store. Some of the staple items in company stores were raised on company-owned farms surrounding the patch towns. For the most part, however, the harvest of these farms provided sustenance for horses and mules deployed in the mines and cokeyards.

The Pinnacle of Production

Fayette County's coal and coke industry peaked between 1900 and World War I. The H.C. Frick Coke Company mined 19,170,740 tons of Fayette coal in 1906, the highest annual production it would ever achieve. As of 1910, 28,000 ovens were deployed across the County, and 16,000 more were arrayed across Westmoreland County. The overwhelming majority of them were in service to the Frick Company. Approximately 40,000 of Fayette County's 180,000 residents worked in coal mines as of 1910. The industrial boom made some Fayette Countians very wealthy. Uniontown was home to some two-dozen millionaires in the first decade of the twentieth century, including Josiah Vankirk ("J.V.") Thompson, a small-town banker who made millions buying and selling coal lands. His spectacular bankruptcy in 1915, precipitated by an overextension in the vacillating market, was a grim harbinger of things to come for Fayette County's coal-and-coke industry.

Beginning in 1890, a system of electric railway or "trolley" lines was developed in the Connellsville Coke District to connect remote patch towns with urban areas. The Uniontown Street Railway Company was first to lay tracks between several Klondike patch towns and the County Seat. In 1908, lines were extended westward to Brownsville and Masontown, as reflected on the previously-cited 1908 "Connellsville Coke Region" map (**page 13**). In 1914, the trolley companies active in the region merged to form the West Penn Railway Company.

Industrial Decline

The aftermath of the Great War brought radical change to the coal-and-coke industry. Increasing competition inspired some mining operations to link up with, or become "captive" to, particular steel-making firms. These partnerships enabled some mining companies to better weather the vissititudes of demand and supply. To curb post-war over-production, in December 1919 the Fuel Administration ordered coke producers to curtail their production to 50% of the previous month. The order threw many men out of work. In 1922, workers in the Klondike went on strike after a market collapse sent wages plummeting.

Another factor in the dramatic decline of the Klondike coking industry was the invention and deployement of coke ovens capable of retaining chemical by-products of the firing process, which could then be used in the production of steel. The 40,000 beehive ovens strung out across the Connellsville Coke District in 1916, and even the new generation of rectangular ovens, allowed valuable by-products such as gases, ammonia, and coal tars to go up in smoke. Ovens that captured by-product were more expensive to build, but they promised to be better long-term investments. They also consumed greater quantities of coal, which did not bode well for the Klondike, where the most accessible coal veins were already being worked out. The Klondike mines, moreover, were located thirty or more miles from Pittsburgh's steel mills, the chief by-products market. As Fayette County historian Walter "Buzz" Storey would report:

> The proverbial handwriting on the wall for the beehive ovens came in 1918, when U.S. Steel opened its mammoth by-products plant at Clairton, upriver from Pittsburgh. Some beehives lived on in small operations to supply foundry and domestic coke, a market not filled for some time by the by-products plants, whose entire production went to the steel mills. But after a reprieve during World War II, the beehive coke yards went into steady decline. The last commercial coke yard in Fayette County, at Shoaf, closed in 1972. The last of the original beehives was closed at a small plant at Alverton, just north of Scottdale, in Westmoreland County, in 1982, on orders of the state Department of Environmental Resources.

Along the National Road between Uniontown and Brownsville, the W.J. Rainey Company's Royal coking facilities ceased operations in 1930, but the neighboring mine remained active, with

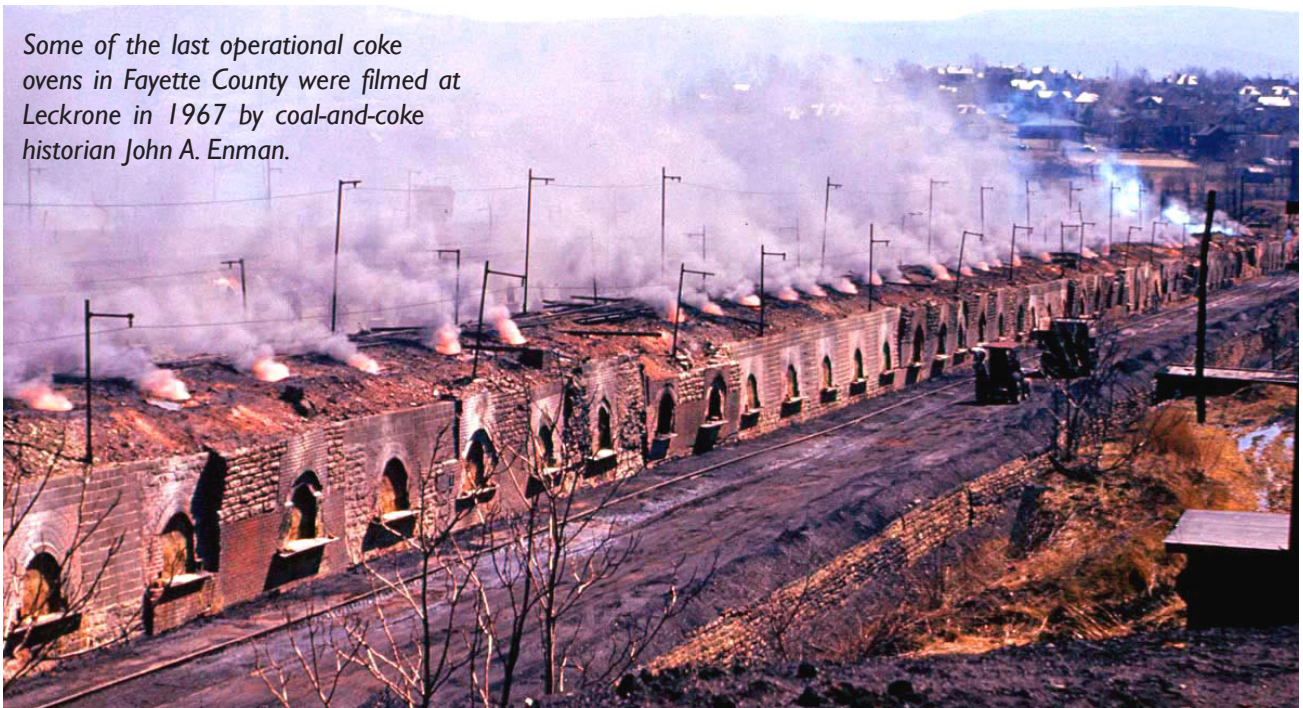
542 miners extracting 668,401 tons of coal that year. During the early years of the Great Depression, the Republic Steel Corporation bought the Searights coal mine and coke works and continued to extract coal through 1935, when 386,713 tons of coal were produced. Paul Angelo Sr. bought the Searights patch town in 1937 and converted its employee housing into into rental properties. Westgate Management bought the town in 1972 and used it for government-subsidized housing. The coke ovens survived until their 1979 dismantling.

The Dearth mine and coke works appears to have operated continuously until 1924, but only sporadically thereafter. Within the next two decades it was taken over by the Dearth Coke Company. In 1943 the company conducted a strip mine operation at Dearth, with three workers producing 12,304 tons of coal. Mining was only a sidelight at Dearth by that time, however. Coal imported from surrounding mines provided most of the raw material for Dearth's ovens, in which the works' 58 employees produced 178,399 tons of coke. Dearth's coking works operated on an as-needed basis until its closure in 1954.

The Pittsburgh Steel Company bought the Alicia works around 1921, but by 1924 the Monongahela Coal and Coke Company was operating the facility. Alicia appears to have been dormant in the late 1920s and throughout the Depression, except for a period in 1939 when the Pittsburgh Steel Company cooked 26,621 tons of coal there. At Vesta No. 6 in 1940, 218 miners produced 395,772 tons of coal, which was then shipped downriver for processing into coke closer to Pittsburgh. Around 1947, Jones & Laughlin built a new coke plant at LaBelle to handle the production from all its Vesta mines.

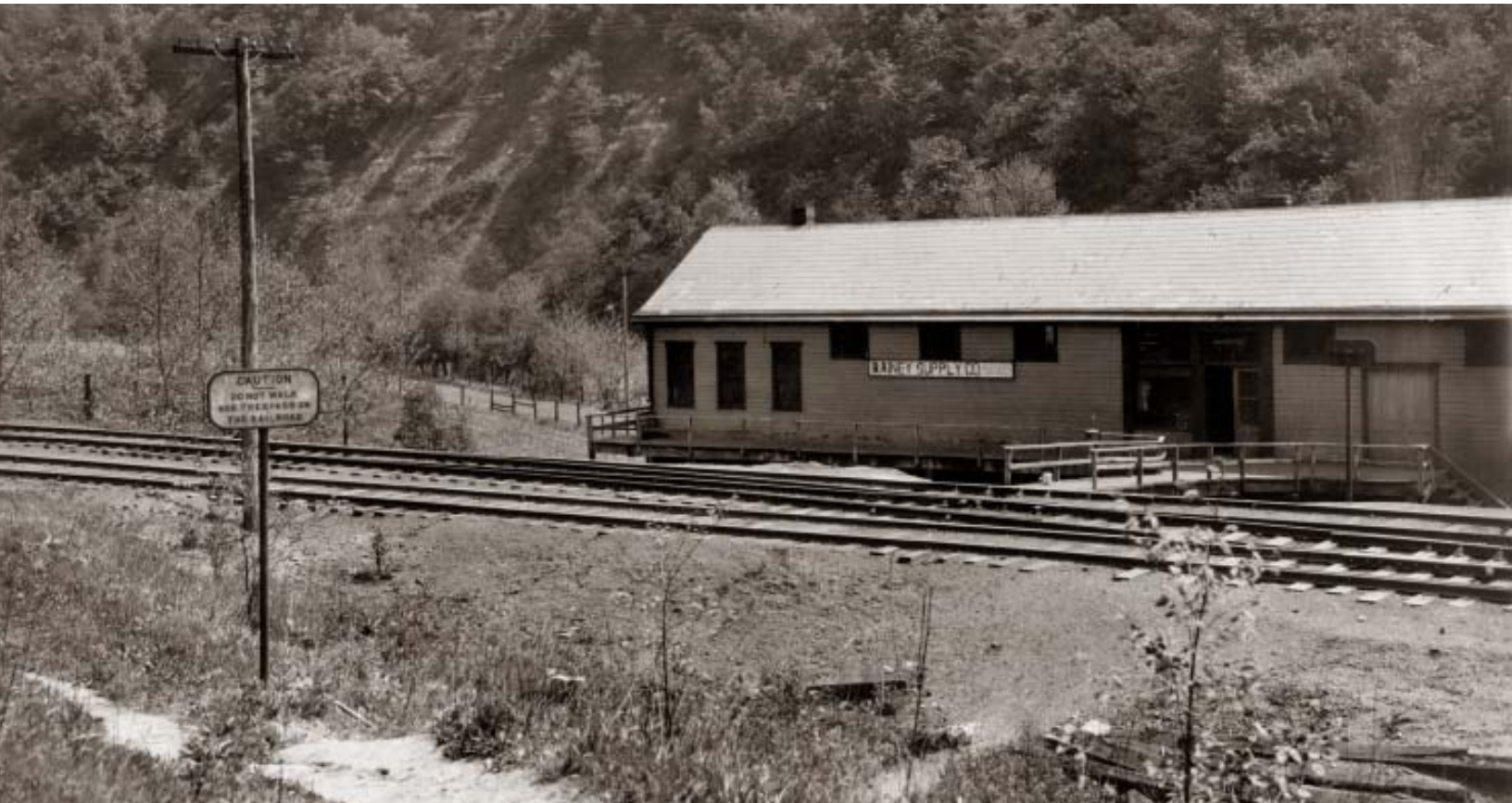
Industrial Bust

With its coke industry already in decline, Fayette County was hit particularly hard by the Great Depression. Unemployment levels in the coal-and-coke industry ranged from 25% to 40% throughout the 1930s, and even those miners and coke-workers who held jobs often worked only a few days per week. Some of the people evicted from their homes during this financially troubled time moved into abandoned beehive ovens. After a brief resurgence during World War II, Fayette County's coal industry "went bust" in the early 1950s. The County "has never fully recovered," "Buzz" Storey would lament in 1993, "despite continuing efforts to attract diversified industry. [It] ranks at or near the top in melancholy statistics such as rate of poverty and number of welfare recipients. Thousands of its residents have had to move to other areas of the country to find work, and the County lost more than 25% of its population."



Some of the last operational coke ovens in Fayette County were filmed at Leckrone in 1967 by coal-and-coke historian John A. Enman.

*Digging up photographic evidence of Dunlap during its heyday proved a daunting task for CHRS researchers. Area residents could offer only a handful of images, and these were "glancing blows" rather than direct photographic hits. Pictures taken by a Monongahela Railroad Company photographer recorded the scene on either side of the railroad tracks between Simpson and Dunlap in 1929, but a westward view from the Simpson Road bridge (**above**) captured mostly the duplexes and shanties of Simpson (on left), with only a few tantalizing glimpses of Garwood Works farther down the tracks (including portions of the tipple, the hoisting house, the fan house, and the company store). A southeastward view taken in this vicinity (**below**) focused on the Rainey Supply Company's Simpson store between the tracks and Dunlap Creek.*



CHAPTER TWO

What Documents and Memory Disclosed

Seven decades after its demise as a coal-and-coke company town, Dunlap proved an elusive research subject for CHRS historians wading into their investigation in the summer of 2003. The village's geographic isolation, small size, lack of attractions, frail corporate ownership, and transient population conspired to keep Dunlap in the shadows even as it enjoyed its post-World-War-I heyday. While larger, more diversified, and more populous patch towns close by and across the Klondike grabbed headlines, unheralded Dunlap labored in relative obscurity. Its last and latest population scattered quickly when the corporate plug was pulled in the midst of the Great Depression. The houses and shanties of depopulated Dunlap were soon dismantled, and the village began its steady slide into the dustbin of history, leaving behind few traces—or so it seemed.

CHRS researchers were tasked with finding those traces, then teasing from them as complete a story of Dunlap's rapid rise and fall as could be compiled within the project's timeframe and budget. This they did by scouring back issues of Brownsville and Uniontown newspapers, culling data from annual *Reports of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania*, tracking down and interviewing informants, poring through legal records, poking through California District Mining Office archives, examining census enumerations, and even placing a query in a local newspaper column, among other efforts. With each harvest of additional data, the once blurry outlines of Dunlap's story slid into sharper focus. When the time for report-writing came, Director of Research Philip Ruth had a lengthy timeline chock-full of data upon which to base a "History of Dunlap Village and Garwood Works" composed for the *Phase III Archaeological Survey Report*. That "History" read as follows:

For several decades leading up to the 1908 establishment of the Garwood coal and coke works and the adjoining patch town (eventually known as "Dunlap") in western Redstone Township, the areas later occupied by these cultural complexes were part of the wooded western section of a 153-acre farm bounded on the east by Simpson Road, and on the south and west by Dunlap Creek. The primary dwelling, barn, outbuildings, and most of the cultivated fields of this farm were (and still are) located in the eastern half of the property, which is more level and accessible (via Simpson Road) than the western section. The farm was conveyed by Luzerne Township resident William Miller and his second wife Ann (née Johnson) to William's daughter Mary Ann by a deed dated February 5, 1866. Mary Ann Miller had by that date married Abraham Garwood and was living with him and their eight children across Dunlap Creek in Redstone Township, possibly on what would be known in the early twentieth century as "the Garwood Farm." Following Mary Ann Garwood's death in April 1892, and Abraham Garwood's death three years later, their adult children assembled on October 28, 1899 to convey the rights to the "nine foot or Pittsburgh seam of coal in and underlying" the Garwood Farm to Uniontown banker Josiah VanKirk Thompson and his business partners Isaac

Semans and Thomas Semans, in consideration of $15,267.70.

Inception of the Connellsville Central Railroad

Thompson and his associates had been buying up mineral rights, coal-bearing lands, and associated real estate in Redstone, Luzerne, and other central-western Fayette County townships since the mid-1880s. They intended to cash in on these investments as coal mining and coke production expanded and intensified in the townships lying between Uniontown and Brownsville. When they acquired the Garwood Farm's mineral rights in 1899, they may have been aware of the U.S. Steel Company's interest in building a railroad out from Brownsville along Dunlap Creek, extending into a region variously known as "the Lower Connellsville Coke District" and "the Klondike." In finally providing an efficient means of transporting Klondike coal and coke to market, such a conduit would dramatically increase the value of coal lands throughout the Dunlap Creek watershed. The hopes of Thompson and his fellow speculators were further heightened on August 2, 1902 when the U.S. Steel-sponsored Connellsville Central Railroad Company was incorporated and authorized to construct a rail line along the twelve-mile stretch of Dunlap Creek between Brownsville and an H.C. Frick Coke Company works at Buffington (in Menallen Township). At Buffington, the Connellsville Central Railroad would connect with the Masontown and New Salem Railroad, recently completed by U.S. Steel. By an agreement effected on January 15, 1903, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company agreed to operate for U.S. Steel the Masontown and New Salem Railroad as well as the Connellsville Central Railroad (CCRR), once the latter was completed. Construction of the CCRR line commenced in the spring of 1903.

This development set the stage for Josiah Thompson and his partners to cash out of their investment in the Garwood Farm's mineral rights. By a deed dated May 1, 1903, they conveyed these rights, along with the rights to adjoining coal lands across Dunlap Creek in Luzerne Township, to the Union Coke Company of Pittsburgh. The Redstone Township deposits were described in this deed as "GARWOOD 152.677 ACRES OF COAL." The surface rights to this tract were retained by the Garwood family until July 15, 1903, on which date family members conveyed the majority of the Garwood Farm's surface—encompassing 110.14 acres, including the future sites of Garwood Works and Dunlap—to farmer John D. Simpson, in consideration of $5,478.45. The 66-year-old Simpson owned and occupied the farm across Simpson Road from the Garwood Farm.

Reports of progress made on the CCRR's construction through the Dunlap Creek corridor southeast of Brownsville were published regularly in the *Brownsville Clipper*. One such report, published in the September 24, 1903 edition, read as follows:

> The Connellsville Central railroad, that is being built down Dunlaps creek, will connect at Buffington with the Masontown and New Salem branch of the Pennsylvania. The work is being pushed as rapidly as possible on both ends and in about a year the tracks will be laid. The road will open a splendid country for Brownsville and much of the trade from up the valley will come our way. The Brier [Hill] coke company [in Redstone Township] with its 300 coke ovens will have a railroad of its own two and a half miles long that will connect with the Dunlaps creek railroad and the Orient company near Merrittstown [in Luzerne Township] will also have a connecting link.

In laying out the CCRR on the Redstone Township side of Dunlap Creek, the railroad's designers confronted a spine of rock jutting up more than 200 feet from the creek bed in the western half of the former Garwood Farm. Rather than follow the creek in its long and looping course around this impediment (known locally as "Cedar Hill"), the designers elected to build a curvilinear tunnel through the base of the ridge. Excavation for this 420-foot tunnel

The northern portal of the Simpson Tunnel was memorialized by a Monongahela Railroad Company photographer in April 1933. Had the picture-taker stepped back a few feet to capture a wider view, he may have recorded the northern facades, or at least the rooftops, of Dunlap's duplexes on the ridge above the tunnel.

began in the fall of 1903, as soon as the rail bed from Brownsville to Cedar Hill was in good enough shape to permit the transporting of heavy machinery to the proposed tunnel site. It was noted in the November 5, 1903 edition of the *Brownsville Clipper* that "the heavy air compressor for the tunnel at Simpson's up the creek required sixteen horses to draw it from the railroad station." The size of the labor force working on the tunnel during the winter of 1903-04 was such that a barn standing on a strip of land between Dunlap Creek and the newly-laid tracks east of the tunnel's southern portal was converted into a boarding house. This house would remain in operation for many years after the tunnel's completion, serving a mobile population of coal miners and coke workers.

"A Fatal Explosion"

The first of many accidents that would claim lives and limbs of men working beneath Cedar Hill during the first three decades of the twentieth century occurred on Sunday morning, March 27, 1904. Accounts of the tragedy and its aftermath were published in successive editions of Uniontown's *News Standard* as follows:

A Fatal Explosion.
Four Men Killed and Six Others Hurt in Dynamite Explosion.
In Tunnel, Dunlaps Creek R.R.
Workmen Thought All the Charges Had Gone Off, and Returned to Work, When One of the Men Struck Explosive With His Pick
All Foreigners

An explosion at Cedar Hill tunnel yesterday killed four workmen instantly and injured six others so badly that their recovery is doubtful. Cedar Hill tunnel is on the Connellsville Central railroad, a branch of the Pennsylvania railroad, and is two miles southeast of Brownsville on Dunlap's creek. It is being constructed by Kellar & Crossman, contractors.

Sunday morning a charge of nine holes was set off by the electric battery and the men, after the smoke had cleared away, returned to work. It seems that one hole failed to go off and being ignorant of this, one man struck the dynamite with his pick, causing the explosion.

The four dead workmen were terribly mangled, one living two hours with his tongue cut out and with limbs torn to pieces.

The injured were taken across the country to the Uniontown hospital and it is thought three of them will die.

Deputy Coroner J. T. Ross and Dr. Henry Eastman prepared the bodies for burial and the inquest will be held today. The killed were all foreigners and went by numbers instead of names.

***Right**: Detail of a map produced by D.K. Orr in 1911, showing the Monongahela Railway and the coal-and-coke works it served. Garwood Works and neighboring Katherine Works are denoted on either side of the Railway's Simpson station.*

Explosion Victims at Hospital

Five victims of the dynamite explosion of Sunday morning on Dunlap's Creek were brought to the Uniontown hospital and one of them, William Copeland, a colored man, died at 10 o'clock Sunday night. Copeland formerly lived in Philadelphia and has a wife there. The other four victims are:

William Stokes, colored, foreman, will probably recover.

L.W. Dunlap, colored, will recover.

Dominick Marana, injured about the abdomen and internal injuries in serious condition.

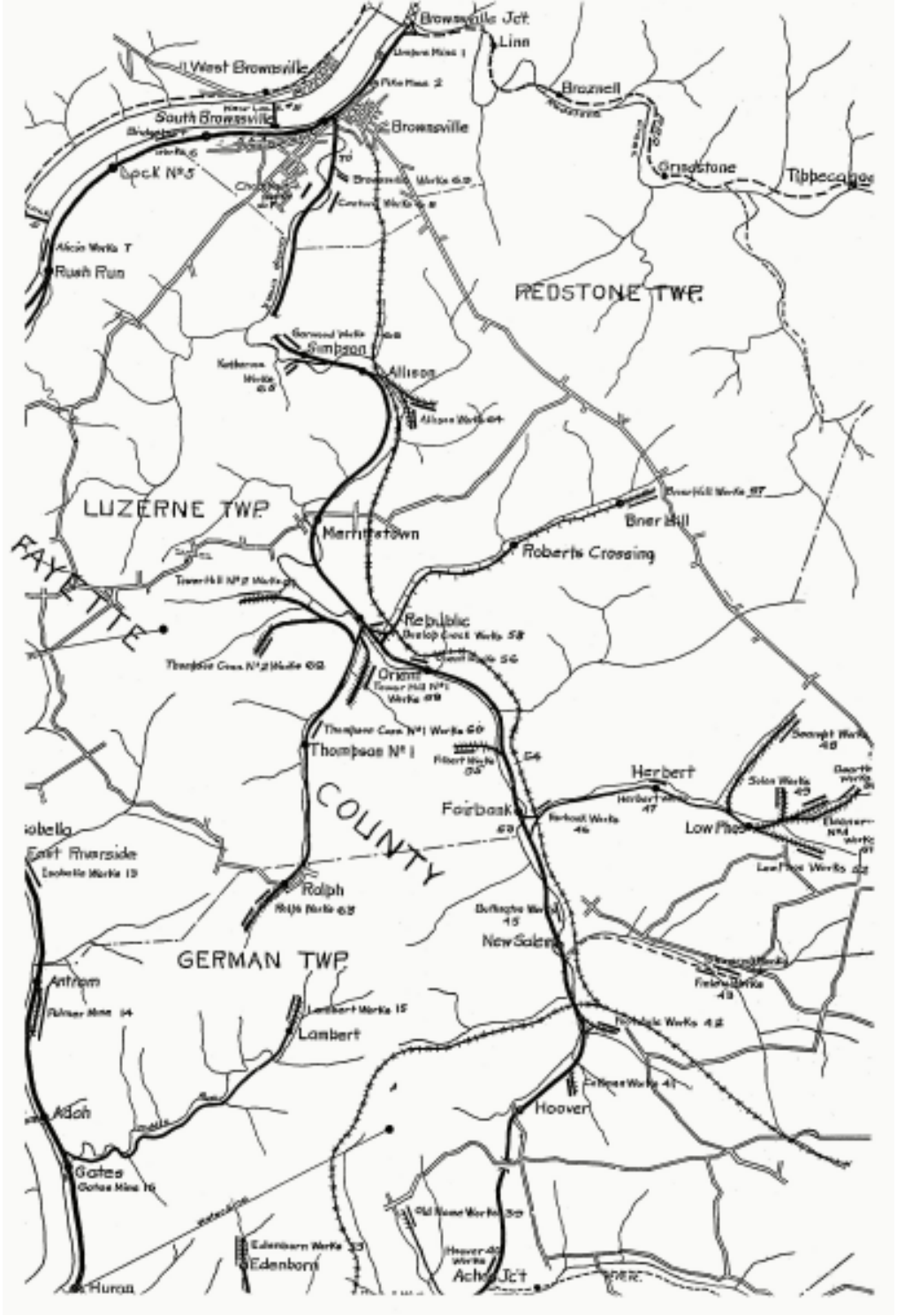
_____ Greene, colored, will probably recover.

_____

Some Casualties
Negro Dies at Hospital
Makes Sixth Victim of Dunlap's Creek Explosion--
Another from Brownsville Explosion Succumbs to Injuries

The death of Dominic Marana at the Uniontown hospital Monday evening about 5:30 o'clock made the sixth death resulting from the explosion at Cedar Hill tunnel on Dunlap's creek Sunday. Marana was not expected to live when taken to the hospital.

William Stokes, colored, another victim of the explosion, is critically ill at the hospital, but L.W. Dunlap and ____ Green, both are getting along nicely and may recover.



Incorporation of the Connellsville and Monongahela Railway Company

The property, rights, and franchises of the Connellsville Central Railroad Company and the Masontown and New Salem Railroad Company were consolidated on March 10, 1905 through the incorporation of the Connellsville and Monongahela Railway Company (CMRR). The property of the new corporation "was operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad under lease from the date the original property was acquired . . . to June 1, 1905. From that date [through the close of the twentieth century] the property has been operated by the Monongahela Railroad and its successor, the Monongahela Railway, under lease from the Pennsylvania Railroad," according to railroad historian Robert Netzlof. On May 9, 1905, farmer John Simpson and his wife Gertrude conveyed to the CMRR the corridor of land on the north side of Dunlap Creek—extending eastward from the Cedar Hill tunnel's southern portal—on which the CMRR had laid its tracks the previous year.

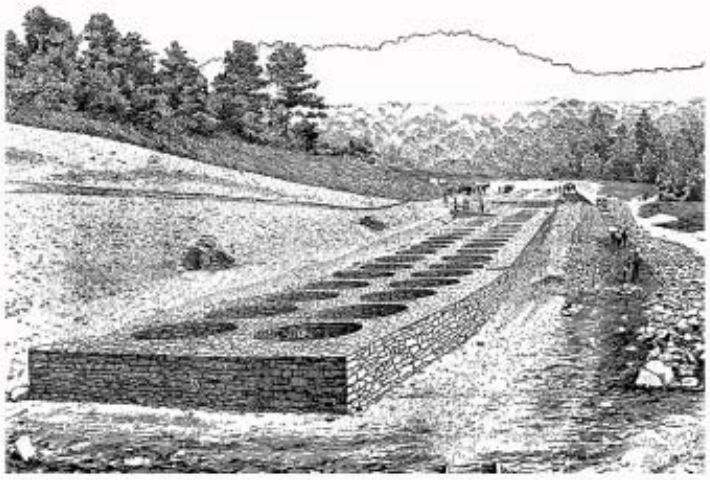
For two years following the CMRR's purchase of railroad right-of-way from John and Gertrude Simpson, coal-and-coke related activities in the immediate vicinity of the Simpson farm were limited to the passing of trains over the CMRR, en route to or from the coal mines and coke works several miles up Dunlap Creek. Then, around May 1, 1907, a group of Fayette and Westmoreland County businessmen formed the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company and announced plans to build a coal mine, coke plant, and patch town in the western and southern portions of

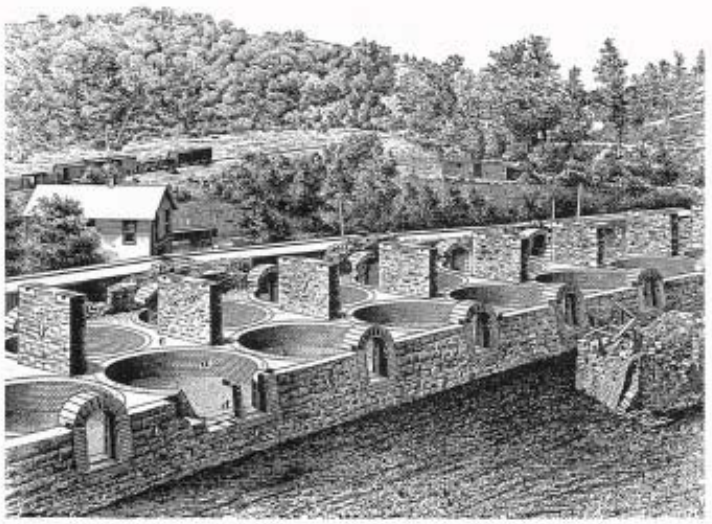
Hospital News

William Stokes, the colored man who was seriously ill as the result of injuries received at the explosion on Dunlap's Creek Sunday, is now improving. L.W. Dunlap, another victim of the explosion, was discharged from the hospital today.

the former Garwood Farm, now owned by John and Gertrude Simpson. An article published in the May 3, 1907 edition of Brownsville's *Clipper Monitor* provided some of the details, including evidence that the Cedar Hill tunnel beneath the western end of the Simpson property had become known as the "Simpson Tunnel":

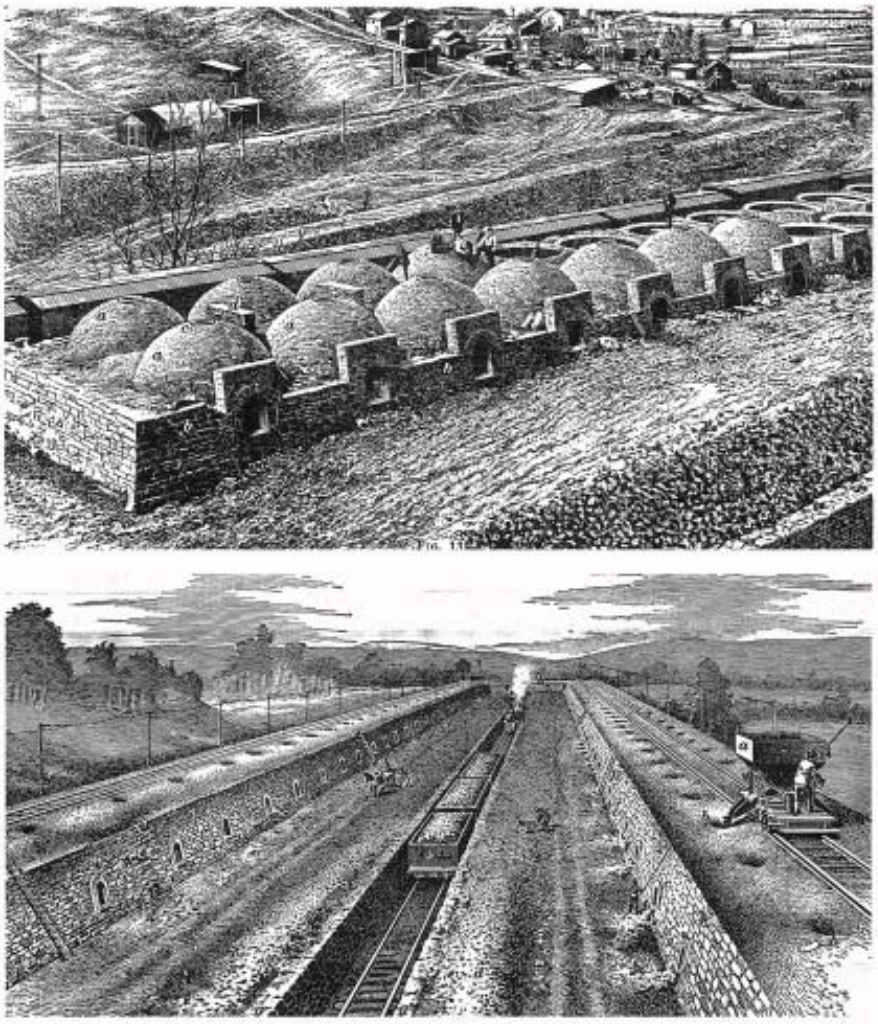
> Garwood Farm Coal.
> Brownsville Men in New Coke Company to Operate There.
>
> Business men of Uniontown, Connellsville, Scottdale and Brownsville have purchased the Garwood farm of 155 acres on Dunlap creek, Redstone township, and organized a coke company to be known as the Dunlap-Connellsville coke company. The farm was purchased at $1,890 per acre, costing $292,950.
>
> A charter will be applied for and a plant will be equipped as soon as possible. The main office of the company will be in Connellsville. Work will be commenced at once on 155 ovens, a shaft, a store and company houses. The plant will cost about $500,000.
>
> The officers of the company are: President, W.A. Bishop of Connellsville; vice president, Paul Mauzy of Brownsville; secretary, George W. Campbell of Connellsville; and treasurer, James W. Buttermore of Connellsville.
>
> The directors are Cyrus Echard, Wade Marietta, Charles Detwiler, Wm. Mier, and Dr. J.B. Wood of Connellsville; Joseph R. Campbell and John S. Loucks of Scottdale, John F. Loucks and Dr. Frank Taylor of Uniontown and W. M. Dunn, of Brownsville. The location is just beyond the Simpson tunnel and the company expect to be making coke within six months from now.





Deed records reveal that the Company's acquisition of surface and mineral rights necessary for this undertaking was a little more complicated than the purchase described in the preceding account. By a deed dated June 25, 1907, John and Gertrude Simpson conveyed the surface rights to the westernmost 33.27 acres of the former Garwood farm to the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company, in consideration of $4,158.75. The Company's "Garwood Works" (the above-ground and subterranean components of the coal mining and coke production complex) would be located in the southern half of this tract, along the north side of Dunlap Creek. Employee housing would be constructed in the northern half of this tract, atop Cedar Hill and overlooking the Works. A stipulation of the June 25, 1907 conveyance was that the "Monongahela Railroad" would be permitted "to maintain a telephone wire across the surface over the tunnel now maintained by said railroad on said

A set of pen-and-ink drawings published in a circa-1905 magazine illustrate stages in the construction of beehive coke ovens in "banks"(left to right). With earth-insulated ovens in this configuration, railcars could facilitate the topside "charging" (loading) of the ovens with coal, and the ground-level "pulling" or "drawing" (unloading) of coke from the ovens.



tract." On July 22, 1907, the Union Coke Company conveyed the mineral rights to the 152.67-acre Garwood Tract to Connellsville businessman George W. Campbell, in trust for the Union Coke Company. As noted in the foregoing newspaper account, Campbell was also treasurer of the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company, and thus appears to have served as the common human denominator between the two interests.

Debut of Garwood Works

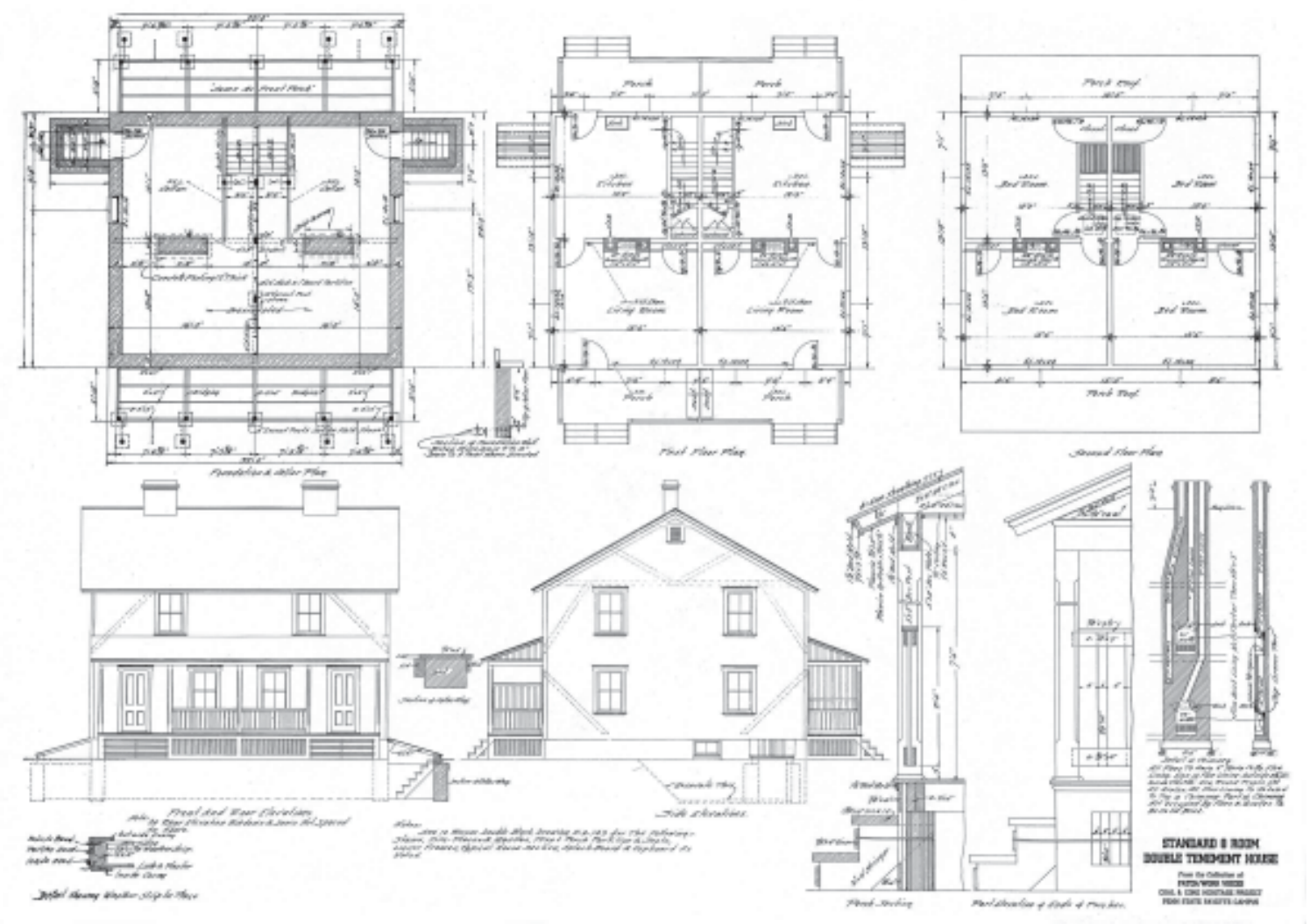
Construction of banks of beehive coke ovens along the north side of the CMRR's tracks immediately east of the Simpson Tunnel's southern portal commenced in the summer of 1907, simultaneous with the drilling of a shaft down to the level of the Pittsburgh coal seam beneath Cedar Hill. The Garwood mine became operational in December 1907, according to a Secretary of Mines report published early the following year. Twenty-three men managed to extract 390 tons of coal from the new mine over the course of four six-day work-weeks in December 1907, with three-quarters of the initial yield used for heating and powering Garwood Works itself.

The opening of the Garwood mine was not a major news event in the hyperactive Klondike. Many more and larger coal-and-coke operations were being inaugurated throughout the region, as reflected in the

following *Clipper Monitor* dispatch, published in November 1907:

> Developments of the Lower Connellsville Coke region have been rapid but an added impetus will be given in with the erection of six new plants by the [H.C.] Frick company. The new plants are to be located at the following places: one between Dearth and New Salem; one on Kelly run, near East Millsboro; one on Meadow Run, near East Millsboro; and one on Antrim Run, near Gates.

Even closer to home, the William J. Rainey Coal Company added to its extensive holdings in the fall of 1907 by acquiring 1,100 acres of coal land just up Dunlap Creek from Garwood Works. As noted in a *Clipper Monitor* article, "the W.J. Rainey people [purchased] the Allison farm . . . [east of] Simpson station for $1,650,000, and it was their intention to begin operations as soon as the weather permits. This is a large deal and adds another important coke works to this section of Fayette County." Across Dunlap Creek from Garwood Works, a group of Uniontown businessmen organized as "the Union Connellsville Coke Company" purchased "170 acres of fine coking coal" from John Simpson and began drilling a shaft early in 1908, according to a dispatch in the November 21, 1908 issue of *The Morning Herald*. The Company



would establish here its "Katherine Mine & Coke Works," along with a patch of employee housing that came to be known—by virtue of the nearest road and railroad flag stop—as "Simpson" (on some early twentieth-century maps, and in some newspaper accounts, the "Simpson" title was also applied to the Union Connellsville Coke Company's coal and coke works).

It took a year for the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company to complete construction of its first bank of coke ovens beside the Simpson Tunnel. Notices published in the *Clipper Monitor* documented the inauguration of coke-making at Garwood Works as follows:

> [August 7, 1908:] The Dunlap Connellsville Coke company, in which local people are the investors, expects to start making coke next week with 50 ovens. Of this number, 38 are now ready. The plant is east of the tunnel and reached by the Connellsville Central road.
>
> [September 25, 1908:] The Dunlap Connellsville Coke Company at Simpson fired 31 ovens of its new plant. Something over 100 ovens will be built. Robert Lowther is superintendent.

According to a Secretary of Mines report for 1908, 35 men were employed at Garwood Works over the course of that year, and all but a few of the 2,145 tons of coal extracted from the mine in 1908 were transformed in the final four months of the year into 1,543 tons of coke.

***Left**: According to informants and archaeological field data, Dunlap's duplexes were constructed along the lines of the "Standard 8 Room Double Tenement House," as profiled in this undated plan in the collection of the Coal and Coke Heritage Center.*

A Village Called "Dunlap"

While some of Garwood's coal and coke workers may have found accommodations in the boarding house that had earlier served railroad and tunnel builders, others took up residence in employee housing erected by the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company on the ridge overlooking the Works. Thomas Murphy (1906-2003), who lived with his family in the Garwood Works patch town on three occasions during the second decade of the twentieth century, reported in an interview that this community was known as "Dunlap." He believed that the first houses erected in Dunlap were frame two-story duplexes of the style common in southwestern Pennsylvania patch towns of this era. Each residential unit in each duplex comprised two rooms of equal size on the first floor and two identical rooms on the second floor.

In his 1962 Ph.D. dissertation *The Relationship of Coal Mining and Coke Making to the Distribution of Population Agglomerations in the Connellsville (Pennsylvania) Beehive Coke Region*, John A. Enman described this house type and its deployment in southwestern Pennsylvania as follows:

> [Of the three principal types of dwelling units constructed in Connellsville Coke District patch towns—multiple, double, and single structures—] the most common dwelling by far was the two-family dwelling or what is now classified by the Bureau of the Census as a "semi-detached dwelling." This was usually a two-storied building with four rooms to a side, two upstairs and two down. Theoretically, the two downstairs were the parlor and the kitchen, while the two upstairs were the bedrooms. This intended utilization was not always carried out in practice, for many families took in single men as boarders.
>
> In many instances the parlor was converted into a bedroom so that boarders could be accommodated. . . . The purpose of such crowding was to cut expenses and realize greater savings. For those who took in boarders, as well as for the boarders

themselves, one shared objective was to own a house outside the company town, or to return to the homeland comparatively wealthy. . . .

The overwhelming popularity of the double house can be attributed to several factors. First, it had more appeal to the potential worker who immigrated to the Region. . . . Second, insurance costs for units with fewer families were probably lower which, over the years, meant larger savings for the operators.

In view of their greater appeal (and more continual occupancy) and lower insurance rates, the higher cost of these units may in the end have been no more than for multiple dwellings [those with more than two dwelling units].

The preponderance of two-family dwellings encountered in the field by investigators of the Coal Mines Administration was accounted for in terms of cheapness of construction, "inasmuch as any variation from the square or oblong plan increases the cost without adding to the floor space."

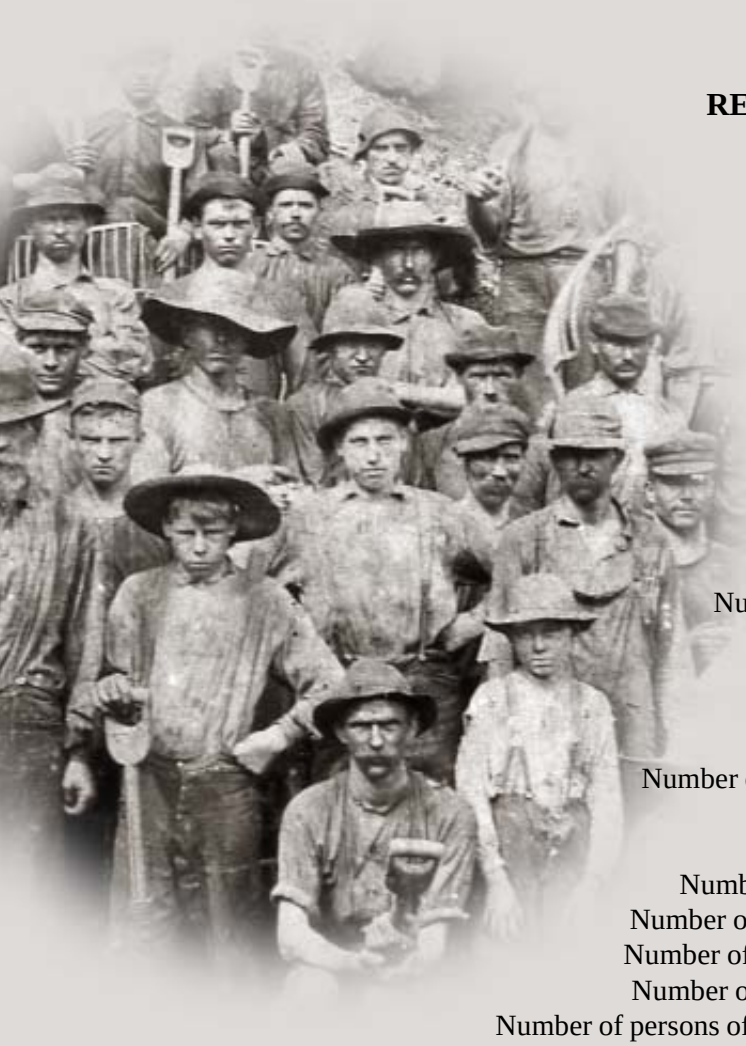
The two-family unit saved somewhat on construction, for one exterior wall was eliminated. It could, also, be built upon a lot not much larger than that required by a single family unit since the latter was, almost without exception, a single story structure throughout the Region. And it curtailed, to some extent, the loss by fire. Were the entire unit burned, the loss would be restricted to shelter for two families, not three, four, or more. Apparently, the smaller losses by fire, covered by insurance from the earliest days of settlement construction, offset the higher per family-unit construction or replacement cost of the two-family unit over the multiple, oblong shaped buildings. . . .

The greater number of individual structures needed when housing was confined to the double rather than the multiple unit brought some changes in the shape of a settlement. The same number of family units now formed longer lines of houses than at those settlements where the multiple units were used. In some communities this resulted in a more pronounced linear shape. In others, where numbers of houses made the use of multiple rows necessary, the spacing required by the latter helped bring the rectangular and square settlements into being. Although houses were closely placed side by side, there was a fairly large interval, the "fire space," between rows of dwellings. This safety space provided occupants with a large back yard in which the management encouraged the raising of produce, poultry, and dairy cows. Lot sizes varied within and among the settlements depending upon the size of the dwelling and the preferences of the operators.

In addition to a row of duplexes, former Dunlap resident Thomas Murphy remembered an older, two-story brick dwelling (possibly a former Garwood farmhouse), standing at the eastern end of the village. This building was occupied during the 1910s by the mine superintendent. Several dozen two-room and three-room frame "shanties" were also erected in the eastern portion of Dunlap after the first of the more substantial duplexes had been constructed overtop the Simpson Tunnel, according to Mr. Murphy. At least five of the three-room dwellings were built in 1910, as noted in a *Report of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania* for that year.

Statistical Snapshot of Dunlap's Population in April 1910

It is not known if any of Dunlap's "shanties" were completed and occupied before April 15, 1910, on which date a census enumerator visited "the Connellsville Central Coke Works, or known as Garwood Works" and found 78 persons living there, divided among 14 households. Demographic data recorded by the enumerator during her visit have been tabulated as follows (**facing page, top**):



1910 FEDERAL CENSUS DATA FOR RESIDENTS OF DUNLAP ("GARWOOD WORKS")

Total population:	78
Number of males (percent. of total population):	48 (61.5%)
Number of females (percent. of total population):	30 (38.5%)
Number of households:	14
Number of families:	14
Average number of persons per family/household:	5.57
Number of males in nuclear families:	37
Number of females in nuclear families:	30
Number of male boarders:	11
Number of female boarders:	0
Number of Caucasians (percent. of total population):	78 (100%)
Number of adults (18 years or older):	40
Number of adult males:	27
Number of adult females:	13
Number of adults born in U.S.:	10 (25%)
Number of foreign-born adults (percentage of total adults):	30 (75%)
Number of children (17 years or younger):	38
Number of children born in U.S.:	27 (71%)
Number of adults born in Italy (percent. of total adults):	20 (50%)
Number of adults born in Hungary (percent. of total adults):	8 (20%)
Number of adults born in Germany (percent. of total adults):	2 (5%)
Number of adults born in America (percent. of total adults):	10 (25%)
Number of persons of American ethnicity (percent. of total population):	24 (30.8%)
Number of persons of German ethnicity (percent. of total population):	5 (6.4%)
Number of persons of Hungarian ethnicity (percent. of total population):	16 (20.5%)
Number of persons of Italian ethnicity (percent. of total population):	33 (42.3%)
Number of employed persons (percent. of total population):	27 (34.6%)
Number of employed adult males:	26 (33.3%)
Number of employed adult females:	1 (1.28%)

The picture of Dunlap presented by the April 1910 federal census data is of a village comprising just over one-dozen residences, most of them occupied by nuclear families averaging five or six persons. Fewer than half of the households included at least one boarder. Three-quarters of the adults in Dunlap had been born in Europe (the majority in Italy), and most had immigrated to the United States within the past 10-15 years, as reflected in the large percentage (71%) of children born in America. Of the 26 employed adult males, one-third were involved in the mining operation, one-third were engaged in coke production, and one-third found employment as craftsmen or farm laborers in the neighborhood. The coal and coke workers represented less than half of the 53 Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company employees recorded in the 1910 *Report of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania*, so the Company must have drawn from a wider labor pool. The need to attract additional hands increased in 1910 as the Company completed

and fired 26 additional beehive coke ovens. The expansion of facilities and workforce propelled the Company to new heights of productivity in 1910, with 16,986 tons of coal mined, and 12,683 tons of coke produced.

By the close of this record year, the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company had acquired the mineral rights to the 155-acre Garwood Tract from Union Coke Company trustee George Campbell. Lofty expectations for 1911 were signaled by the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company's ordering of 62 additional coke ovens for Garwood Works, which would bring the total there to 119. Completed in 1911, the additional ovens did not immediately contribute to improved Company's fortunes, however. The year 1911 turned out to be as commercially dismal for the Company as 1910 had been bright. Like most coal-and-coke operations throughout southwestern Pennsylvania, the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company's Garwood Works suffered the effects of a downturn in the industry initially attributed to "a large falling off in the activity of the important industries that consume steel." This fall-off was "so reflected in the coal and coke markets that in the latter part of December [1910] the mines and ovens [in the bituminous fields] were operated at only fifty to sixty-five percent of their capacity," according to the author of the 1910 *Report of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania*. Even with decreased production, a glut of coal on the market turned 1911 into "one of the most unsatisfactory in the history of the coal mining industry as far as profits were concerned," the 1911 *Report* author noted. "Generally, the bituminous trade has been demoralized and discouraging, owing to faulty merchandising; that is, the production is unrestricted and the great amount of coal on the market naturally keeps the prices at a low level. The unfavorable prospects for business in other lines seemed to instill into the minds of producers the idea that the demand would be greatly lessened, and in order to obtain trade they therefore made the lowest possible prices, notwithstanding the fact that the cost of mining is every year becoming greater."

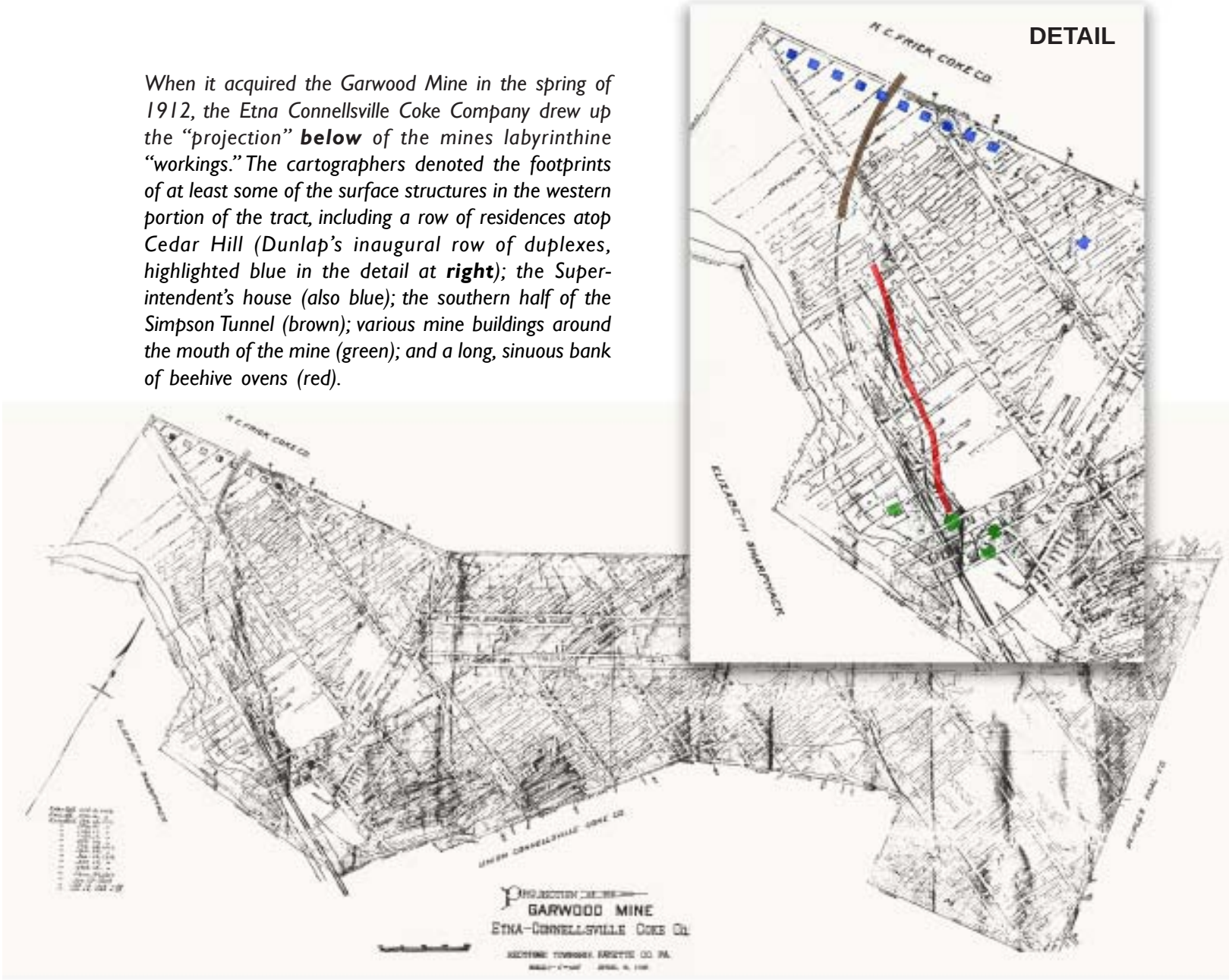
In this depressed environment, the Garwood Works operated only two weeks out of the first ten months of 1911. The lack of employment may have motivated a significant portion of Dunlap's population to relocate. For families living from paycheck to paycheck, the urge to find gainful employment elsewhere would have been strong.

For persons remaining in Dunlap, the employment picture brightened considerably in the fall of 1911, as Garwood Works sprang back into full-time action early in November, and remained busy through the first month of the new year (a note in the December 2, 1911 edition of *Coal Age* reported that "fires have been lighted at the Garwood plant of the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company, near Brownsville [which had been] idle since April 1, last; the activity will continue at least until Feb. 1, and the management believes longer. Fifty-seven of the 119 ovens are in operation and the others are being put in use as rapidly as possible." While winter weather briefly interrupted coke-making in February 1912, the stage was being set for a strong spring resurgence of Garwood Works under new ownership.

Brightening Employment Picture

On January 25, 1912, three Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company directors—George Campbell, Cyrus Echard, and D.M. Parkhill—organized a corporation under the name "Etna Connellsville Coke Company." The intent of the new organization became clear on March 16 when it acquired the holdings of the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company (which thereafter ceased to exist). On a map titled "Project of the Garwood Mine" (**facing page**), produced by or for the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company the following month, a warren of existing and proposed mine shafts, tunnels, and chambers was depicted beneath Cedar Hill, on the north side of Dunlap Creek. Surface features denoted on this map included two structure footprints between the railroad tracks and Dunlap Creek (identified by Tom Murphy as representing the boarding house and the Dunlap company store),

*When it acquired the Garwood Mine in the spring of 1912, the Etna Connellsville Coke Company drew up the "projection" **below** of the mines labyrinthine "workings." The cartographers denoted the footprints of at least some of the surface structures in the western portion of the tract, including a row of residences atop Cedar Hill (Dunlap's inaugural row of duplexes, highlighted blue in the detail at **right**); the Superintendent's house (also blue); the southern half of the Simpson Tunnel (brown); various mine buildings around the mouth of the mine (green); and a long, sinuous bank of beehive ovens (red).*



a bank of coke ovens approximately 825 feet in length lining the north side of the railroad tracks, and three structure footprints immediately east of the ovens. Of the latter, one was labeled "shaft," and another "fan."

Denoted on the 1912 "Project of the Garwood Mine" atop Cedar Hill, just inside the northwestern boundary of the 33.27-acre tract (constituting the surface area now owned by the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company), was a row of ten rectangular building footprints. The Simpson Tunnel was depicted passing through Cedar Hill directly beneath this row of buildings, dividing the row into eastern and western halves. Tom Murphy has indicated that Dunlap's original row of duplexes occupied the ridge in this location, facing southward. In Mr. Murphy's recollection, there were only nine duplexes in this row, designated Houses 1 through 18. The only other above-ground structure denoted on the 1912 map was a T-shaped building near the eastern limit of the tract. Mr. Murphy has reported that the nineteenth-century brick farmhouse later occupied by the mine superintendent stood in this location.

According to Mr. Murphy, Dunlap grew during the second decade of the twentieth century to comprise thirteen duplexes (a row of nine overlooking a row of four), eight three-room shanties (for single men), eight two-room

shanties (also for single men), the Superintendent's house, and a schoolhouse. The village did not include any structures other than dwellings, privies, and the schoolhouse. Each of the duplexes was equipped with a two-family privy-and-coal-bunker, located approximately 100 feet from the dwelling's front door. The area between the dwellings and the privies was usually reserved for gardening.

Childhood Memories of Dunlap

Additional information concerning Dunlap's structures and occupants was provided by Tom Murphy in a pair of interviews conducted in 2001. He offered the following comments in a June 12, 2001 interview:

> The companies [that owned Dunlap] encouraged the families to keep boarders. I lived in House Number 13 there. Right next to me was House Number 12. A couple rented the house. The husband worked in the mine, and they had four boarders living upstairs who also worked in the mine. The husband and wife stayed downstairs, in a back room. One day, one of the [boarders] got killed. So what did they do? The companies in those years weren't responsible for anything. If you got hurt or something, it was tough luck. Four men carried [the dead miner] in a stretcher from the mine—this is about 2,000 feet from the shaft; they hoisted him up on the shaft—and they carried him up to House Number 12. I seen it. They dumped him off in the middle of the kitchen floor. They just walked right into the house where he boarded, and they dumped him off in the kitchen, there. A dead man in his working clothes, all dirtied up, and everything. They folded the stretcher and they went back down. I don't know if they went back into the mine to work, or where they went. Now, the Boarding Boss, the man who rents the house, he took a $5 bill out of his pocket. He goes next door, and he says, "Well, Joe got killed." He gets $3 there. He goes to the next house. He gets $2 there. He goes down to the next house. He gets $4 there. He covers the whole town. Every house in the town. He collects maybe $75, $80, or $90. Then he calls up the undertaker in Brownsville. From Brownsville, they used to ride to Thornton, and then the Dunlap Road [a.k.a. Simpson Road] branched off at Thornton, and came down. It was about a 15-minute drive down into Dunlap.
>
> The two-family houses at the top of Dunlap did not have basements. Every house had a foundation of stone. They quarried stone in putting the coke ovens together, and the flat stones they'd take up onto the hill there in wagons, with teams of horses, and they would dump them up there, and use them to make the houses straight. Like, if they were on a hill, they just made a straight foundation. The wall was about 14 inches wide, the whole way around. And they mounted that house on that foundation. They were all put together that way. The houses were in an area that was sort of on an incline. A gentle hill. The houses on the lower end were lower. One side of the house would always be nearer to the ground, because they had to maintain the level for the house. One side of the house would be maybe three feet off the ground, and the other side five feet. The front of the houses pointed in the direction of the mine opening [southward]. The road was everywhere. You could travel anywhere. It wasn't considered like there was just one avenue. You could travel a space maybe 50 or 60 feet wide. It was more than just one road. And don't forget there were outhouses put between them. About 100 feet away from the house there was an outhouse. It was a double outhouse, about 4 feet by 8 feet. It had to serve two families. Each family had their own side. Each side had one side for coal—everybody had to have coal—and toward the middle was a toilet. So both middles were toilets, and both ends were used for storage of coal. These outhouses were in front of the houses. When it got

dark in Dunlap, it was really dark! There was no electric lights, nowhere. Everybody used kerosene lamps. And if somebody didn't have his window blind pulled down, you could see this light. That was the only light you could see. And what we did: we had a lantern, and if we had to go out at night for any reason at all, we'd light the lantern and go out and take care of ourselves. Then bring the lantern back in and put it out.

The four houses below the row of nine houses were built to face the other houses. So both groups of outhouses were close together. I remember some of the people who lived in those houses: the Robertses, the Quarricks. There were Polish, Slovak, Hungarian, Croatian, Russian, Lithuanian, Italian—all mixed. But there were no blacks. The boarders were the same mix of nationalities. It was a general mix of people. We all got along like one big happy family.

There was a community oven there in Dunlap that the company built. Once a week the housewives would go down there. One of the men would go down there and fill this oven. It was about 12 feet long and about 8 feet wide. It was built in an arch. It had an opening in the front about 16 by 16 [inches]. They'd put a charge of wood in there, and set it on fire. And when it burned down, the women would come down with their bread pans, loaded with dough, and they'd fill that oven up. And then they'd come down an hour later to get it. Some of the best bread that you've ever seen in your life! And you could smell it all over town.

None of the houses had electricity [during the 1910s]. Electricity came through about 1920, and up till about 1928. Some of the towns didn't have it until about 1930. The only use we had for electricity was for lighting. That was a big thing, really. We never had no electrical appliances of any kind. It was a big thing when we got electricity, because in every room

Ninety-four-year-old Tom Murphy shares his childhood memories of Dunlap during a September 2001 interview at the Coal and Coke Heritage Center.

they hung a light. Just hung it down from the ceiling, about three feet, and it just had a snap button on it. So you could turn the light on in the room. That helped us out.

About every fifth house, there was a water pipe sticking out of the ground. About four feet high, and it had a valve on it. And you'd go down there with a water bucket, and get your water, and take it into your house. The water had a steel smell to it. I don't know where it came from. It might have come from that swamp down there [the reservoir near the coke works]. The closer you lived to one of those pipes, the less distance you had to carry the water bucket. There was also water coming down out of the hillside. And the company sent a mason down there, and he mended it, and put a pipe there. We were able to get good, fresh water for drinking that way. Mostly everybody did that. They went down and used that water. It would take about five minutes to fill a two-gallon bucket of water. People would send their kids down there to get fresh water.

The shanties in Dunlap were in an open field. They built about eight shanties in a row. Each pair of shanties had a double outhouse. There was a row of three-room shanties and a lower row of two-room shanties. The two-room shanties were mainly for two bachelors, who would rent it, and live in there, and work in the mine. That happened a lot. A lot of times two or three men would rent a shanty, and then live in there and work in the mine. The big houses were for families, mostly. And if a family didn't have any kids, then they'd keep one or two boarders. It was profitable to do so. The going rate for room and board at that time was $20 for the first 15 days of the month—considered a half of a month—and then the next 15 days was the other half.

I guess they only built thirteen two-family houses because that's all the company wanted. They had land enough to build some more houses, but that was their goal. I think there were [eventually] 42 houses. We lived in House Number 42 one time. I lived in three houses in Dunlap: in 15, 13, and 42.

All the houses were numbered. The company had them all numbered. When you paid the rent, they marked it on the statement: "House 22" or "25" "rent." We paid $3.50 every two weeks for rent. It was $7 a month. The shanties were less than that. I think the shanties were $6. And I think that the two-room shanties might have been only $5. The top row of shanties was all three-room, and the bottom ones were all two rooms.

People threw their trash everywhere. We had no [particular dumping] place at all. If we opened up a can, we just threw it over there next to the outhouse. Everybody had his own private garbage dump. Anything you wanted to throw, you just threw it on the pile. It dissipated, and later on in years it would grow in. A lot of growth would cover it up. If you had a whiskey bottle or something, you threw it out there by your toilet. Or anywhere at all. And you carried the ashes out of your stove every day. You burned coal, and you shook the ashes out, and it fell into a chamber down below. You had a little shovel, and you shoveled these ashes into the coal bucket. If people had a garden, they would scatter that out over their garden. They found out that it was beneficial, and it grew plants better. A lot of us would do that. You had a piece of land that you could make a garden anytime you wanted to. It was your yard. Actually, a lot of people did that. It was a strip maybe about 100 feet by 40 feet wide. It made a nice garden.

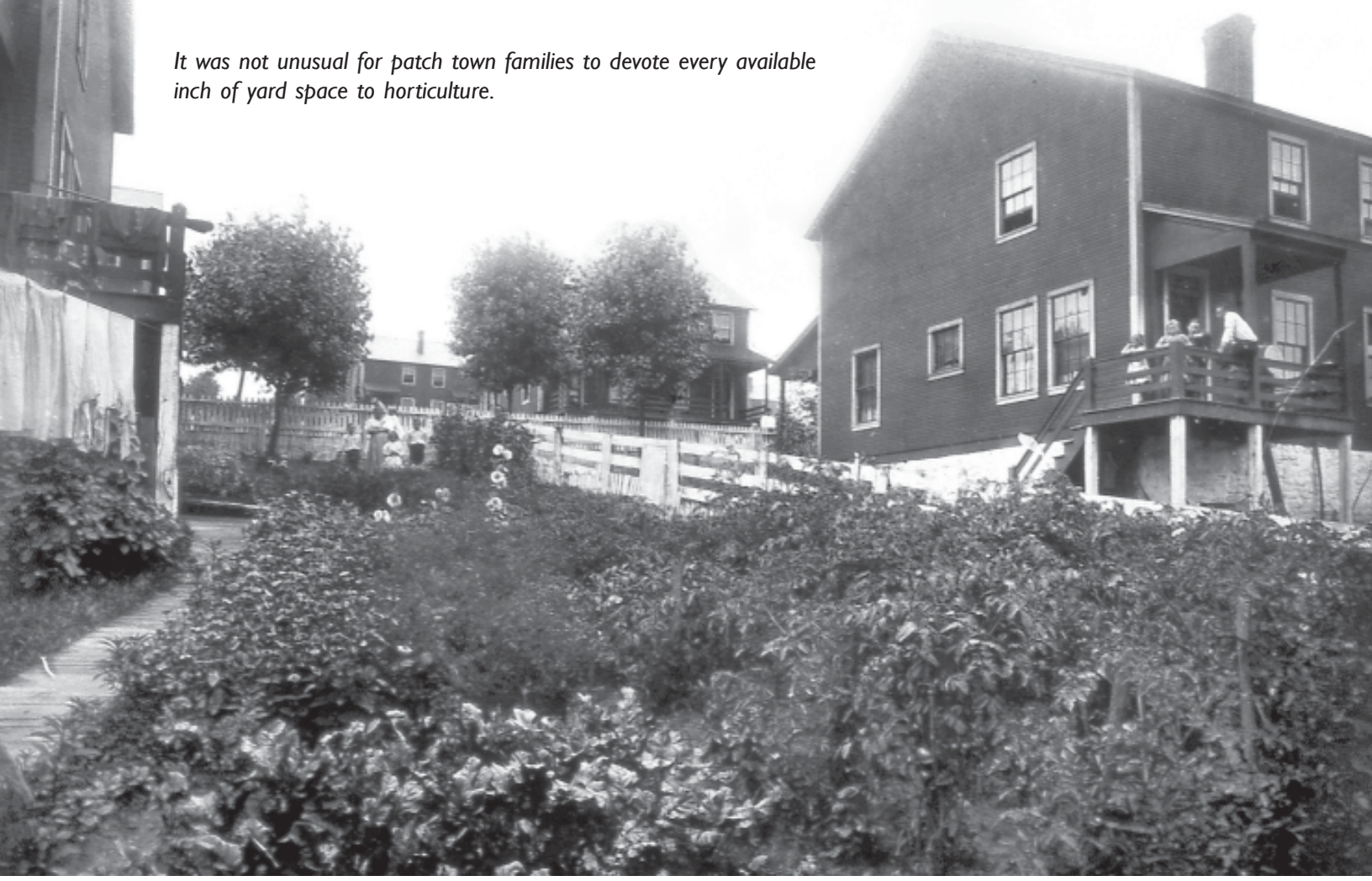
I'd say half the people made a garden. And they put it to good use. They raised cabbages, and onions, and lettuce, and tomatoes, and stuff. The gardens were always in the front of the houses, between the outhouse and the house. We used to have fences between the yards, in a rough kind of way. Just to mark the boundary line when you're putting in a garden. So you'd know where your garden is.

Tom Murphy expanded on some of these descriptions, and recalled additional aspects of life in Dunlap, in a September 17, 2001 interview videotaped by Director of Research Philip Ruth (screencaps on **facing page** and **page 31**). Among Mr. Murphy's reflections on that occasion were the following:

My brother [John] was born in House 13 [around 1916]. My sister [Katy] was born in house 42 [around 1917], and we just lived a normal life there [in Dunlap].

Mr. Gault [the teacher at Garwood School] was a strong man, about 6 foot, 2 inches tall. I still have my school record, and I saw that one of the questions they asked him was, "What two subjects do you stress?" He said, "morality and obedience." Can you imagine in today's society if he did that? They'd drive him out of town. And he *got* [respect]. You didn't sass Mr. Gault. I remember him whipping a ten-year-old boy there, named Roberts. I don't know what he did, but Mr. Gault took him over there by a [coal] pile. Man, the smoke was flying there for a while. Little Roberts was screaming his head off. When he let him go, Roberts flew out of the school and went down and told his 18-year-old brother that Mr. Gault had whipped him. This boy come up there with his shirt sleeves rolled up. Man, he was going to battle! He came into that school, and he went up to Mr. Gault and said, "Listen, you, what do you think you're doing whipping my brother?" Mr. Gault grabbed him and backed him up against the wall there (he was skinny kid, only weighed about 110 pounds), and nearly broke his head through that wall. He told Mr. Roberts he'd better shut his big fat mouth. And Mr. Roberts went out of that school with his tail between his legs, and everything was alright. That's the way it went. When Mr. Gault said, "Tommy, you come to the blackboard," you said "Yes, sir," and *went*! I still say, "Yes, sir" and "Yes, ma'am" to everybody. That was the bringing up we had.

The schoolhouse was a plain wooden building with white siding, about 60 feet long and 40 feet wide. It faced the south, so when



It was not unusual for patch town families to devote every available inch of yard space to horticulture.

you walked in the front door, you walked into the southern end of the building. It was all one room. On the right side of the room they had a furnace. It didn't do much in the wintertime. It heated that corner, but the rest of the room was cold.

The superintendent lived in the old brick house at the eastern end of Dunlap, near the school. It was a two-story red brick building. It was probably a farm building. It sure wasn't built the same time as Dunlap. I still remember the red bricks were old.

We lived in 26 different places while I was growing up. Pap sometimes felt that it would be easier someplace else. It didn't cost anything to move. The new company you went to was glad to get a man. Workers were needed so bad. The companies were desperate. That's the reason we moved so often. If Pap felt that maybe someplace else was easier, he'd go right over the hill and get a job [with a different company]. They would send a team of horses with a wagon over to our house, back it up against the house, and go in there and get the coal stove. Pap would have it disconnected from the flue that carried the gasses off into a chimney into the wall. They'd drag that stove out and put it up under the driver's seat. That was the very first thing. Then they had two or three beds. They were kind of flimsy. They had bedsteads and they came apart easy. They'd put those on the wagon. Then they'd have two tubs full of pots and pans, a couple of mattresses (they were thin, too, only about 3 inches thick) and bed springs (they were bare, didn't have any covers on them). We had a table and four chairs, and a trunk full of clothes. Now that's all the furniture we had. They'd load up the wagon with that, and use Mother's clothesline to tie it all together. She'd sit on

the seat with the driver, and we'd all pile up on the wagon—us kids and Pap—and off we'd go. It only took about half an hour to ride over to our new home. Then it only took 15 minutes to unload everything, put everything in place, build a fire in the stove, and start cooking supper. The next day Pap went to work. It was a simple thing.

That was still the horse and buggy days. Only two families in town had a horse and buggy. Marko, the yard boss, had a horse and buggy, and the Bish family, they had a horse and buggy [*as noted in a 1920 census enumeration, yard boss Marko Sinkovik was one of nine boarders—all Austrian immigrants—living with an Austrian couple in the house beside the Murphys; the family of coke-drawer Andy Bish lived in Dunlap's westernmost duplex*]. On Saturdays, they had to shine their old horses up, hook them onto the buggies, and go to Brownsville.

The beer wagon came to town every Thursday. It was loaded with 4-gallon and 8-gallon kegs of beer. Everybody drank beer. The 4-gallon kegs were three and a half dollars, and an 8-gallon keg was seven dollars. Almost every house in town used beer. Where they had more boarders, they got the 8-gallon keg. If they had less, they bought the 4-gallon keg. When they got the keg of beer, they emptied it all into bottles. They had a thing that they used. The barrel had a cork pressed into the opening, and they put the beer in there and they pressed this cork in there. They had a tool that you put directly over that cork, and you drove it in with a wooden mallet. This tool filled that hole up and it drove the cork into the beer. There was no beer lost at all through that [process]. There was a double hose running off this unit, coming down, and there was a spigot on the other end. Then the beer keg was put up on a bench, and emptied bottle for bottle. These bottles were fifths. If took 20 of them to empty out a 4-gallon barrel. Then they put these bottles under the house. That was the only refrigeration they had. It was cool down there—about 60 degrees—and that's where they kept it. The going rate was 25 cents a bottle. When the miners came up from the mine, they had to have their beer. They always liked a couple of bottles of beer. Mining coal and pulling loads of coke took a lot of energy. The miners would just sit there, pretty heavy, and beer was what they had to have. Water didn't do it, somehow. You got a little energy out of the beer. It had a little bit of a kick to it, and the man felt good about that. The first thing a man did before he washed up was to drink one or two beers, and then he'd sort of recuperate a little bit, get a little strength back. Then he'd go about the process of washing. Every miner when he came out of the mine, of course, had to wash. The housewife washed the miners' backs, as well as her husband's back. She took care of the cooking and all of the work around there, and in the morning she fried the breakfast for everybody and sent all of the men off to work. Everybody carried a dinner bucket.

Miners used checks when we loaded the coal. We'd put a check on the car to show who had loaded it. When we worked in pairs, I'd put a check on one car and my buddy would put a check on the next one.

The three houses we lived in while we were in Dunlap [Houses 15, 13, and 42] were all the same type of house—just the regular patch house. Regular houses were almost always made of eight rooms, split in the middle: two upstairs rooms, and two downstairs rooms. The first downstairs room was a kitchen. The next was the living room, and the two upstairs rooms were generally used as bedrooms. That was the layout. Then there were the three-room shanties and two-room shanties. The three-room shanties had about 22 or 24 posts holding them up. They mounted the shanties on these posts. The shanties didn't have any foundation—the *posts* were their foundation. The posts were put in line and they were the right height. Then they put boards

across the back, and they put two-by-eight flooring boards across them. The two-room shanties were also mounted on posts. But the eight-room [double] houses, they put permanent stone foundations under every one of them, and that's where the stone quarry came in handy. They quarried the stone [for the foundations]. They used to keep a horse and wagon there to haul the stone to the destination where they were needed. That's where the masons came in. They dug the foundations out where they were supposed to dig them out and then they built these foundations out of stone up to a certain level, and then they used that level to build the houses on. That was a continuous process throughout the whole coke region. Their aim was to put up as many houses as they could, as fast as they could. [The coal and coke companies] had a slow start because manpower was limited. There were men to work, but they couldn't come down to work where there wasn't any place to live. As fast as the companies built houses, people moved in. They built company stores, too, because the people had to have food. Everything was built in a hurry, in a big rush.

The wall dividing one family from another in the double houses was made out of plaster and lath. We didn't have drywall in the old days. We only had wet wall, plaster. Every home was built by putting lath down on two-by-fours and putting plaster on the lath.

It got hot on the cokeyard in June, July, August. People actually fell out, it was so hot. They just tuckered out. They'd lie there for a while, then get up and continue on. You had to deal with the heat. The work was there, and the job had to be done. When we lived in Dunlap, I used to carry my dad's lunch pail down in the morning, about 7 o'clock. Mother would make lunch for him. Sometimes it was still dark. I had to kind of be careful there, walking. It was dark! There was a path going down. Dunlap was kind of on a field, and the workers had to go way down to the mine and the ovens. We had a path that we followed down. Once you got to the top of the coke yard, there were permanent steps going to the lower level. I'd get to the top of those steps and holler, "Hey Pap!" "Okay," he'd say. I had the lunch pail in my hand, and I would slowly go down the steps. He'd open up whatever oven he was working on and hook a hose to it. Then while he ate, I would just move the hose around to different places—over here a while, and over there a while. It took about twenty or twenty-five minutes to get it watered down. That kind of helped him out. I was only about 9, 10 years old [circa 1915-16].

Some of the housewives brought lunch down to their husbands and stayed with them till they were done for the day, and then went home together. Now, of course, that wouldn't be allowed. You have to have a permit. I think there were four women who did this. In those days, women didn't wear pants like they do today. That wasn't considered proper. Women always wore dresses. These women would go down to the coke yard around 7 o'clock in the morning. Their husbands had started work at 2 o'clock. He finished his one oven, and he's on his second oven. It took about three-and-a-half hours to pull an oven. Pulling coke and working on a coke yard took a lot of energy and a lot of effort. The women would bring lunch down to their husbands and then stay down there with them until they finished that oven up. He would pull the coke out with his "beaver," a bar about 10 feet long with a head on it. The coke fell down on the ground. Then the women got a coke fork and forked that coke over into the wheelbarrow, and their husbands would wheel it onto the railroad car. That was her job. She did that part of it—just putting the coke in the wheelbarrow. And he did the pulling. That was a big help. And the women wore dresses the whole time. It looked kind of odd.

We didn't have any [substantial] fences in Dunlap. It was all wide open territory. If anybody wanted a garden, he'd put up one of these chicken wire fences, and fence in about a twenty-by-twenty-foot section. Every yard had room enough for a garden if they wanted to put a garden in. A lot of people did, for their own benefit. Food was expensive. There were about three people that had cows. We had a cow at one time there, and Mother always had chickens—fresh eggs, two or three eggs a day. We built a chicken coop next to the outhouse. We didn't need a permit. And people had pigs. We built a pigpen—put up a little fenced area with a little house, and threw a couple of pigs in there. Come November, when winter came in, we had fresh pork and good old bologna and sausages.

Pap would smoke meat, too. We had a smokehouse real close to the house. Pap made some of the best smoked meat you ever tasted. People back then really knew how to smoke meat. I remember my dad-in-law, he'd take pine wood, oak wood, any kind of wood he could get, and make a little fire in a recess about 10 feet away from the smokehouse. He had a metal pipe—I don't know where he got it—and laid it between the fire pit and the smokehouse, on an upward angle. The smoke fed in there and traveled through the pipe into the smokehouse where the meat was. He didn't want the heat going in there, just the smoke. The thinner pieces of meat smoked in about a week. The heavier pieces took longer. He'd smoke the two big hams about two weeks to get them done. He locked up the

A coke-drawer pulls a cooled oven, circa 1910.

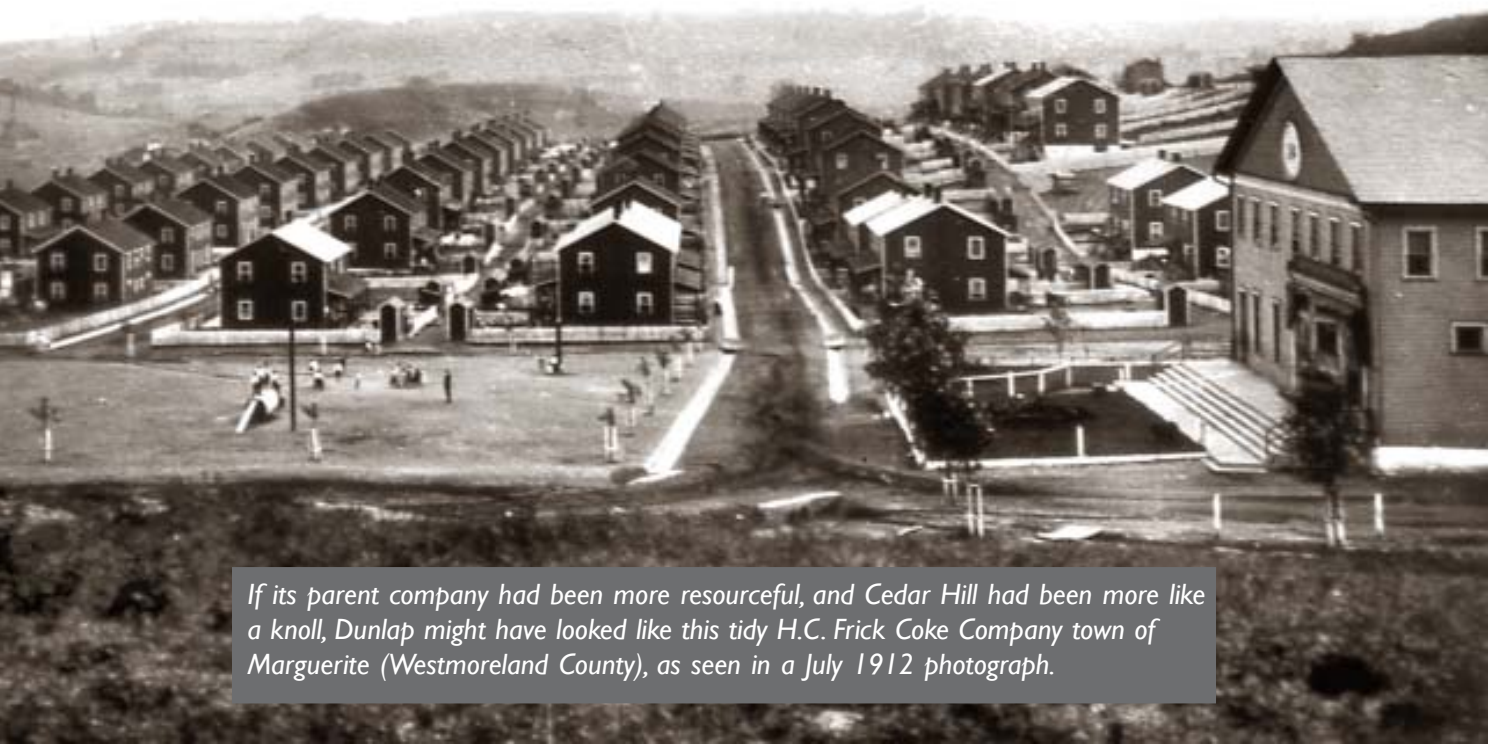
smokehouse at night, because he didn't want anybody "borrowing" the meat. That was the standard procedure for smoking in Dunlap or any place you killed hogs.

We didn't grow many vegetables in our garden. Maybe 100 pounds, or so. My dad used to grow corn. In the fall, he'd let it ripen real good. He'd peel it and take it down to have it ground for corn meal. Every year he took about a 100-pound bag down there to be ground up. That made some good old corn meal polenta, corn mush. My mother fried onions and lard and sprinkled it on there and mixed it up. Pap used to like sauerkraut, too. We raised our own cabbage, cut it up, put the salt to it, and mashed it up with the old masher, put a big stone on top of it, let it cure about two or three weeks, then dig down in there for some good old sauerkraut.

The Dunlap company store was down there between the railroad and the creek, beside the boarding house. When you went down there to buy something, they made two slips: an original and a copy. Say you wanted two pounds of sugar. They had it in a bin, not in packages like today. They'd take a bag, scoop some sugar in, and put it on the scale till they had two pounds. Then they had a ball of string on the wall. They'd wrap the bag up with that string, and mark on it "2 pounds of sugar, 20 cents." Or "2 pounds of beans, 18 cents." Nothing was packaged in those years. Everything was loose—potatoes, coffee, everything. There was no ground coffee in the old days. Everybody had a grinder in their house. You bought a pound of coffee for around thirty cents, and you brought it home, you ground up so much of it, put it in the coffee pot, and made your coffee. Now some things came in cans, like sauerkraut, tomatoes, and Eagle brand milk. In those years, canned milk was the only kind you had, unless you had a cow.

In Dunlap, we were all coal miners and coke drawers. We just practiced our trade. We got along well, even though we were different ethnic groups. Our recreation there was penny ante cards. We worked six days a week. Saturday was a straight day—no time-and-a-half. Sunday was a day of rest. You always spent time outside smoking your pipe. Pipe smoking was something big. It was one of our few recreations, along with drinking beer. Everybody smoked. A lot of them smoked cigarettes, but some had big pipes that they treasured. Most of the people that came "across" [from Europe] had a big pipe of some kind. That was their favorite thing to do. We only paid about a dime for tobacco. We liked a certain kind out of Louisville, Kentucky, made by John Finzer and Brothers. You could get cigarette tobacco that was stronger—a whole jar for only a nickel. They gave you a pack of cigarette papers with it. You could get a pack of cigarettes for 20 cents, but that was a little too much. We treasured every nickel we had. So we used to roll our own cigarettes, because it was cheaper.

There are things that took place back years ago that will never be repeated. I still remember living down in Dunlap. I can still



If its parent company had been more resourceful, and Cedar Hill had been more like a knoll, Dunlap might have looked like this tidy H.C. Frick Coke Company town of Marguerite (Westmoreland County), as seen in a July 1912 photograph.

see 240 ovens burning there, and there's a steady stream of smoke going from each oven, like a chimney, straight up into the sky. We're sitting up there on a nice warm day and watching that stream there—all of this smoke going straight up into the clouds. It goes up about 1,100 or 1,200 feet, then it kinds of dissipates. It sort of mixes in with the air and fades away. When the sky was overcast, at nighttime, I could see Alicia, I could see Allison, I could see Thompson 1 and Thompson 2, I could see Orient, I could see Dearth, I could see Searight, I could see Continental 1. Every place there was a group of ovens burning, there was a red glow against the sky. Those are scenes that are never going to be seen again in the history of the world.

The Garwood School

The "Garwood School" (a.k.a. "Dunlap School") recalled by Mr. Murphy was in operation at least as early as October 1913. The following names of 26 "Garwood" students (12 boys, 14 girls) and their teacher were published in the October 17, 1913 edition of Uniontown's *Morning Herald*:

Livingston, Sarah (teacher)
Allton, Elzie
Cavanaugh, Raymond
Dawson, Thomas
Johnson, Ida
Johnson, Walter
Junk, Paul
Kornko, Lizzie
Ritz, Bessie
Ritz, John
Roberts, Eva
Roberts, John
Roberts, Sarah
Ruane, Fred
Ruane, Nellie
Sergent, Alice
Sergent, Edward
Sergent, Leroy
Snear, Katie
Shovel, Mary
Vamosh, Margaret
Varmish (Vamosh), Rosie
Younkin, John

The following month, four additional students were identified in a list of Garwood School attendees: Ida Brooks; Gladys Fellabaum; Susie Louise; and Harry Younkin. Only three of the school's thirty students in the fall of 1913—Katie Snear, and brothers John and Harry Younkin—had been enumerated in the April 1910 "Garwood Works" census, which suggests that their classmates (the overwhelming majority of the student body) had moved into the area within the past 2½ years. Ten-year-old Snear was the daughter of Hungarian parents who had come to America in 1908. Her father John worked as a blacksmith in the Garwood mine. The Younkin brothers were among the few Dunlap children in 1910 not born to immigrant parents. Their Pennsylvania-born father Phillip was an engineer in charge of the Garwood mine shaft.

In a list of Garwood School attendees published on January 26, 1914, eight additional students were identified:

Boolash, Mike
Bricker, Harry
Bricker, William
Burwell, Pete
Crawford, George
Crawford, Jarret
McKnight, Harry
McKnight, Leo

Sharp fluctuations in the Garwood School's student body bespoke a fluctuating Dunlap population. As Tom Murphy has noted, it was common practice in Fayette County's patch towns for individuals and families to relocate frequently and at a moment's notice in response to changing economic and employment circumstances. These circumstances took a dramatic downward turn at Garwood Works in May 1914 when the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company succumbed to a year-long industry-wide depression and suspended operations along Dunlap Creek. They had plenty of company in their

misery, as related in the following January 1914 newspaper account, under the heading "Production of Coke in This Region Has Been Cut Down Almost One-Half Since Last March 1—8,000 Men Laid Off in Two Months":

> The astounding depth to which the business depression of the United States, and especially the iron and steel business has sunk in the past six months makes one of the stupendous business stories of the past 50 years," said *The Daily Iron Trace* in its issue last Friday. It points out that 1,000,000 mill men and 123 furnaces are idle at the present time.
>
> . . . The coke industry in the Connellsville region in western Pennsylvania, the Pocahontas, Wise county and New River districts of West Virginia, as well as the southern coke making district, has been deeply affected. In the Connellsville district alone, a total of 8,000 workmen have been laid off in the past two months. Special passenger trains early in December took hundreds of these idle coke workmen to eastern seaports for their return to Europe. When they begin to return the industrial depression will have passed, for they are as unfailing harbingers of approaching prosperity as are the birds of spring.

The economic depression kept Garwood Works closed for over a year. How the lack of employment affected Dunlap's population during this period has not been ascertained.

Rush to Meet Renewed Demand

Operations at Garwood resumed with a rush in June 1915, as virtually every coal-and-coke works in the Connellsville region quickly ramped up to meet renewed demand. The situation was described in the *Report of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania* for 1915 as follows:

> The year opened with most unfavorable conditions, but towards the middle of the summer the bituminous trade began to feel the effect of the foreign orders for war munitions that called into activity nearly all available plants in the eastern part of the country. Any concern that was able to manufacture powder, shells, guns or other supplies needed by the foreign countries, was placed in operation and work was pushed with feverish activity. The demand for bituminous coal to supply the needs of the plants engaged in this newly developed trade became so urgent that part of the output was diverted from its usual channels, and, as a result, the anthracite trade was benefited by the demand that arose for the smaller sizes of coal. As the year progressed, the industry became still more active and the year terminated with both regions producing very heavily and with prices at abnormal figures.

The rosy economic picture in the Brownsville vicinity was summarized as follows in a November 1915 *Morning Herald* article titled "Boom Period for the Three Brownsvilles":

> With every works in the river division running almost to capacity and with unequaled train service drawing trade from miles around, it may be safely said that Brownsville is enjoying a prosperity which surpasses any industrial boom in the history of the Three Towns. Everybody is working, there is plenty of money in circulation, at least in this territory, the local stores report a good business, and in fact a state of industrial contentment seems to have settled over the Brownsvilles and this winter promises to be the best winter season enjoyed for many years. The last coke works in this region resumed operations last week.

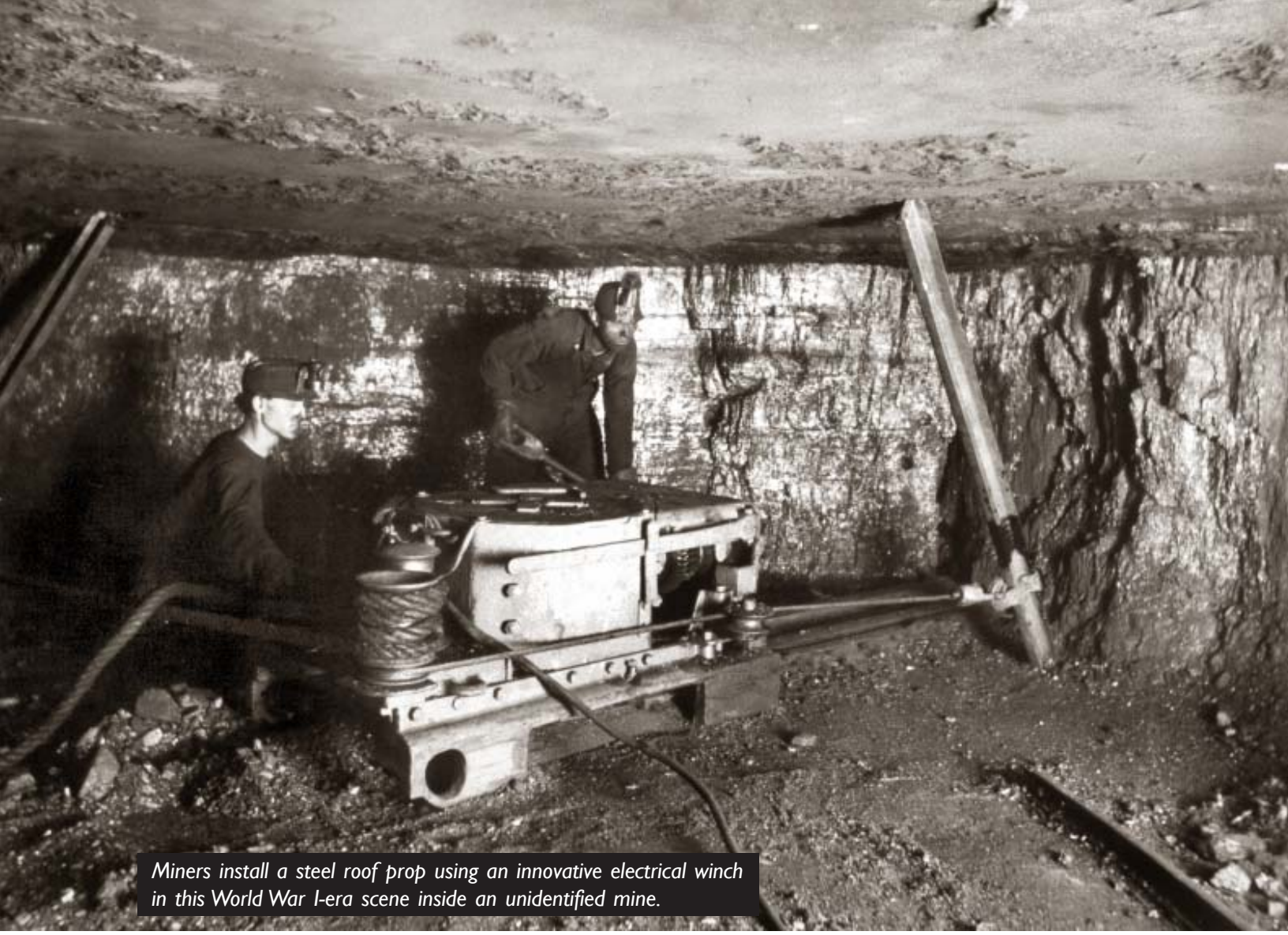
***Left**: Miners ride a mine motor pulling a trip of loaded coal cars out of an unidentified Connellsville Coke District mine around 1910.*

Demand for Connellsville coke was so high in the fall of 1915 that companies were forced to compete for employees. Under the headline "1,500 Coke Ovens Idle Because of a Labor Scarcity," a Uniontown journalist reported that "out of a possible 10,000 coke ovens in the Brownsville region, 8,500 are at present in operation, and the entire remaining 1,500 ovens would be fired on a day's notice if the producers could secure the necessary labor to operate them. In a nutshell, that is the industrial situation in the Brownsvilles. Never in the history of the Three Towns . . . have conditions been better nor the future outlook brighter. Whether this industrial boom has been caused by the European war, Brownsville has no knowledge. Neither does it care. The Brownsvilles are perfectly satisfied to greet this enormous increase of business without asking the whys and the wherefores. But this boom is not the spasmodic kind, here today and gone tomorrow, if well informed local followers of the situation can be quoted as an authority. The boom is here and it's going to stay. From reliable authority it can be stated that all coke producing companies in this region are booked up with orders for months ahead."

Orders for coke continued to increase in 1916 as war in the European theater escalated and broadened. Existing mines operated at peak capacity, and new mines were opened, contributing to a bumper year of "bituminous production, exceeded only once [before], in 1913," according to a year-end review. Data recorded in the *Report of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania* for 1916 showed the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company's Garwood mine and coke works operating six days per week throughout the year, with 44 employees engaged "inside" (within the mine workings) and 48 occupied "outside" (primarily in the coke yard). Between them, these 92 employees managed to extract 130,000 tons of coal and convert them into 75,000 tons of coke through the facility of 119 ovens. Amid all of this dangerous activity, there was only one accident, and it was non-fatal. A *Department of Mines* record-keeper noted that on June 14, 1916 "Fred Wida, Polish, machine runner, 41, married, [at] Garwood [had his] leg broken by fall of slate on main entry." Suggesting that accurate biographical details could be elusive in the fluid milieu of patch town populations was a corresponding newspaper account, published a day after Wida's accident in the *Morning Herald*, under the heading "CAUGHT IN SLATE FALL"

> Fred Bidy, age 34, of Dunbar, who is employed by the Etna Connellsville Coal and Coke company, was injured last evening when he was caught by a fall of slate while at work. He was taken to the local hospital where it was found that he had a fracture of his right leg and possibly internal injuries. His condition is not considered serious.

America's joining of the "Great War" in April 1917 pushed Fayette County's coal and coke production to unprecedented heights. "The year [1917] was without parallel in the entire history of the coal mining industry," the *Report of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania* for 1917 concluded, "not only on account of the remarkable output of coal and coke, but also on account of the conditions more or less chaotic that prevailed, due to war demands and restrictions. The conditions were so abnormal and impelling in their character as to make it impossible for the operators to cope with them with entire success. . . . The year's activities were hampered somewhat by labor shortage, strikes, disturbances over wage scales and by an inadequate car supply. Strikes occasioned very little trouble, but in most districts the shortage of labor and cars was keenly felt, although in some instances the handicap of labor shortage was overcome by increasing the number of working hours. The coke output, as great as it was, would have been several million tons greater had labor been more plentiful. During the summer months it was almost impossible to obtain coke drawers, and the conditions became so acute and the prospect seemed so hopeless that some of the companies changed their ovens from hand to machine drawn types. The hindrances to the trade, however, serious as they were at times, had the



Miners install a steel roof prop using an innovative electrical winch in this World War I-era scene inside an unidentified mine.

effect merely of curtailing somewhat the volume of production."

Brisk Business at Garwood Works

Etna-Connellsville's Garwood Works maintained its feverish pace of production in 1917, running six days a week for 52 weeks for the second year in a row. In the midst of the industry-wide labor shortage, however, the number of employees at work "outside" (primarily coke-drawers) fell to 29. As the labor shortage eased with the end of war and the return of veterans, Pennsylvania's coal-and-coke industry set new production records in 1918, and followed that up with another banner year in 1919. Business remained brisk at Garwood Works during this period, with miners and coke-drawers on the job 306 out of the possible 365 days of 1918.

Census data suggest that the employment and production surge at Garwood Works during and following World War I was matched by population growth in adjoining Dunlap. The number of Dunlap residents identified in a January 29, 1920 census enumeration was more than double the amount enumerated a decade earlier. Where there had been 14 households in 1910, there were now 28.

A comparison of data compiled during the 1910 and 1920 Dunlap enumerations reveals that as the village's population doubled during this period, some demographic characteristics remained largely unchanged, while others shifted dramatically. Characteristics that remained largely unchanged included:

- The population was entirely Caucasian
- The population was divided evenly between adults and children
- Adult males continued to outnumber adult females 2 to 1
- The percentage of adults born in Europe (approximately 78%) remained steady

Characteristics that changed dramatically as the population doubled between 1910 and 1920 included:

- The percentage of U.S.-born children rose from 71% to 96%
- The large Italian contingent (50% of all adults in 1910) disappeared entirely
- The percentage of adults born in the Austro-Hungarian empire swelled from 20% to 53% of the adult population
- A sizable Polish contingent took up residency in Dunlap (15% of adults in 1920 were Polish)

The 1920 data further reveal that 40% of the employed men of Dunlap made their livings as miners, and 33% worked as coke-drawers. The remaining employed men were occupied as follows: mine foreman (1); motorman in mine (1); fire boss (2); "shooter" (explosives handler?) (2); laborer in mine (1); clerk in company store (2); driver in mine (2); carpenter (1); fireman in boiler house (2); general laborer (1).

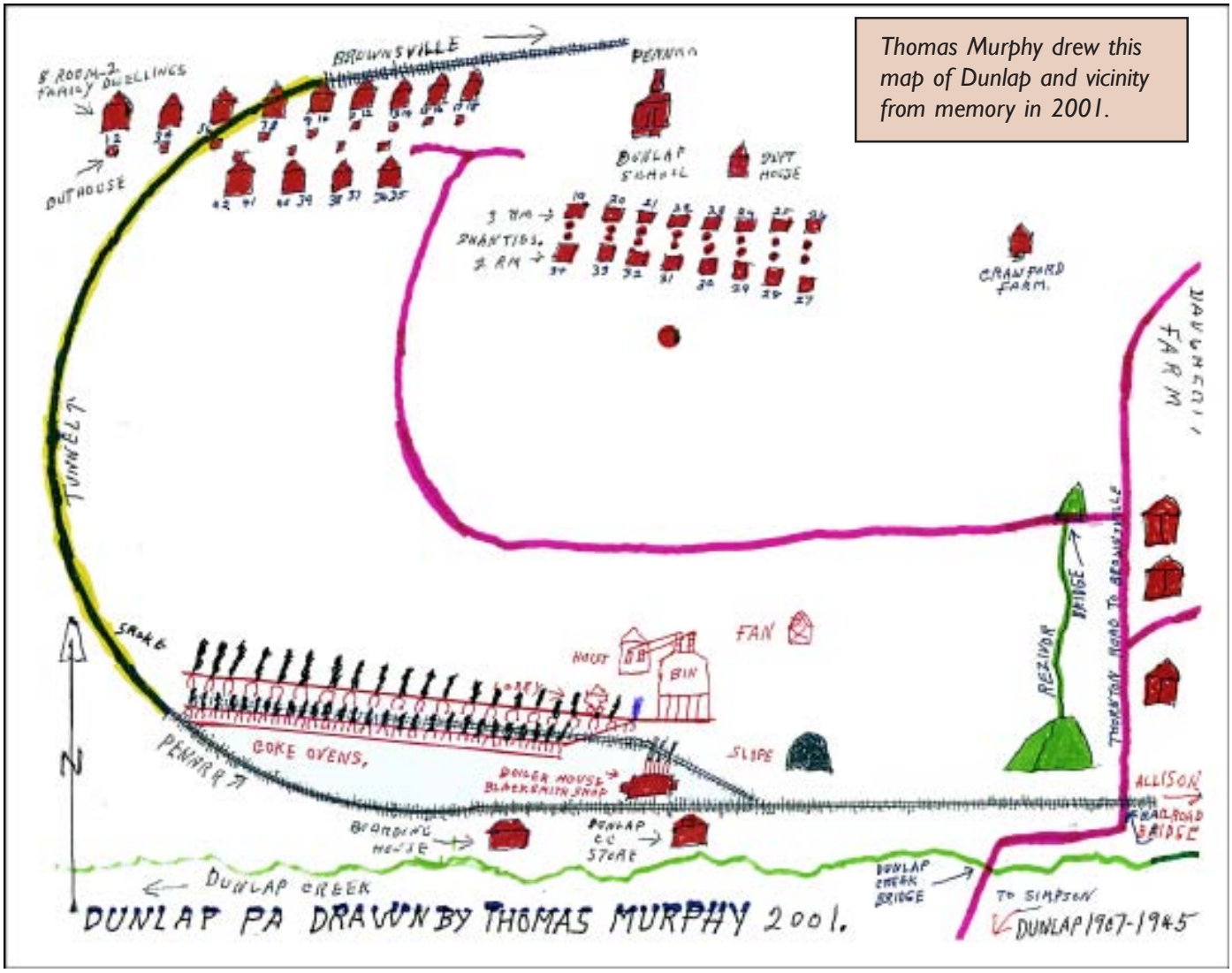
Because the 1920 enumerator recorded the house number of each of the 28 households he enumerated in Dunlap, and because Tom Murphy provided CHRS with a map indicating the locations and numbers of Dunlap's 42 dwellings (as he recalled them; **facing page**), demographic data pertaining to the occupants of CHRS House Lots 1-9 can be isolated and analyzed (Dunlap Houses 4 and 11 appear to have been vacant at the time of the enumerator's visit; the enumerator recorded no data for 14 of Dunlap's 42 housing units [duplexes as well as shanties], suggesting that over one-third of the village's housing units were vacant as of January 1920).

The absence of African-Americans in Dunlap in 1920 was not typical. In the neighboring patch town of Simpson, for example, 36 of the 124 residents in 1920 were African-American. In nearby Superior (another patch town across Dunlap Creek in Luzerne Township), 20 of 137 residents in 1920 were African-American (United States Bureau of the Census 1920). It is also noteworthy that Dunlap had been occupied exclusively by Caucasians when the 1910 census was enumerated (United States Bureau of the Census 1910). How or why this exclusivity was adopted and enforced has not been determined. No doubt the owners of the dwellings—the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company in 1910 and the Etna Connellsville Coke Company in 1920—were able to control the rental of company-owned dwellings through their Boarding Bosses. There may thus have been at least an unofficial company policy not to rent to non-whites. It is also possible that Dunlap acquired a reputation of being unfriendly toward non-whites, and this deterred blacks from seeking residency there.

Tom Murphy's family was among those recorded in the 1920 Dunlap enumeration. According to the census-taker, 46-year-old Pete Murphy was head-of-household in House 13. He had emigrated from Austria in 1910, and was making his living as a coke-drawer. He lived with his 37-year-old wife Frances and four children: Tom (14 years of age), George (5½), John (4), and "Caddie" (Katy, 2½). Tom was the only child who had been born in Austria. He had come to America with his mother in 1911, and here joined father Pete. In a 2001 interview Tom Murphy confirmed that he and his parents were Croatian by birth (Croatia being part of the Austro-Hungarian empire in 1911), and had come to the U.S. bearing Croatian names. Soon after their arrival in America, they decided to adopt names that "sounded more American." Pete and Frances Murphy subsequently gave their American-born children "American-sounding" names.

"Extreme Dullness of Trade"

The fortunes of Etna-Connellsville's Garwood Works—and, by association, the village of Dunlap—fell sharply after 1920. The year 1921 was characterized "by extreme dullness of trade" throughout southwestern Pennsylvania's coal fields. In 1922, "disastrous strikes lasting practically from April 1 to September 11," reduced coal and coke production in Pennsylvania "to the lowest figures since 1902." Because statistics for individual coal-and-coke works were no longer published in reports of the Department of Mines of Pennsylvania following a switch to biennial state-wide reports in April 1919, the disposition of the Garwood Works during some years of the 1920s is not entirely clear. The Etna-Connellsville operation apparently struggled through strike-ridden 1922, and it was active on a least a sporadic basis in 1923, but it was shut down for all of 1924. Mining and coke production resumed on a limited basis at Garwood in 1925, but the employment picture remained gloomy throughout the Connellsville Coke District. In a recap of 1925, the Secretary of Mines noted that "the industry suffered from the adverse conditions of the preceding year; it was slow to recover from the difficulties and financial strain of that period. As a result, the trade for three-fourths of the year was dull, but improved in the last quarter and thus avoided a repetition of the poor showing of 1924. Indications do not point to a very heavy production in the near future."



Thomas Murphy drew this map of Dunlap and vicinity from memory in 2001.

It has not been determined if or to what degree Garwood Works was operational in 1926, but in the spring of 1927 the Garwood mine was characterized in a newspaper article as having "not been working fully, but coal was still being loaded." The remainder of this article described another fatal accident at the Garwood mine, occuring on April 1, 1927:

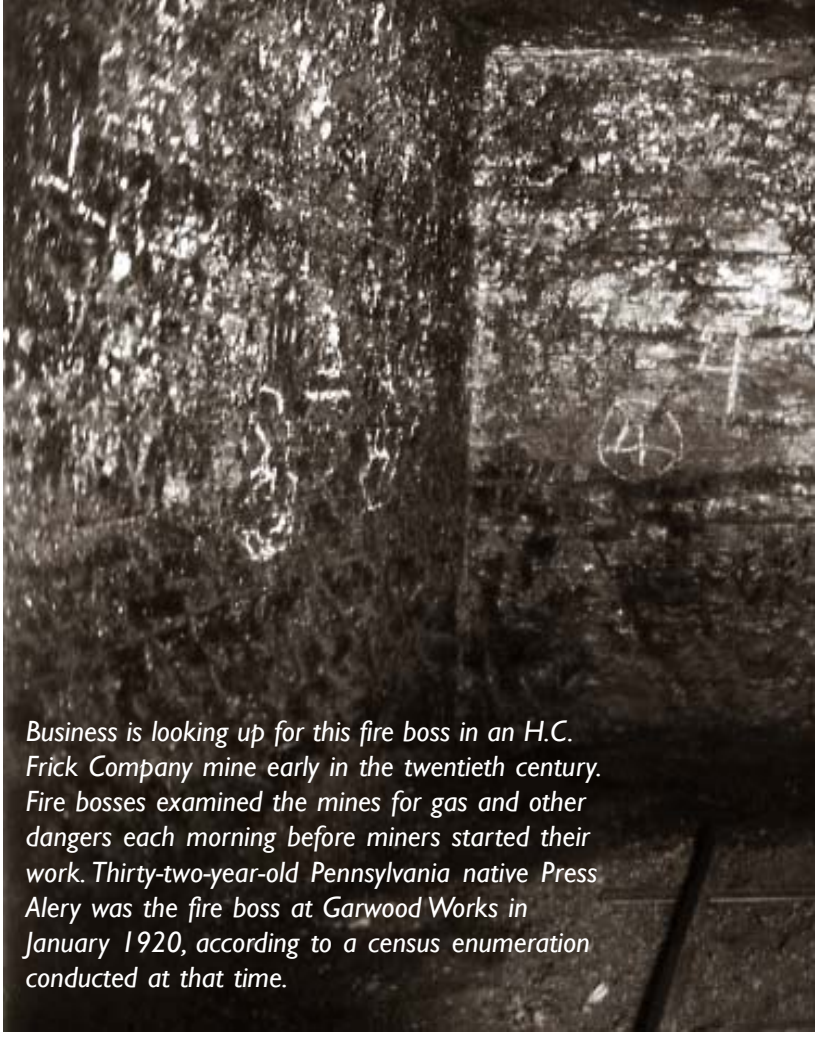
Falls to Death From Tipple

Apparently losing his footing as he gained the top of the tipple at the Garwood mine of the Etna Connellsville Coal and Coke Company, near Brownsville, yesterday afternoon, Jesse Warren Jeffries, aged 38 years, of the Morgantown road, near Uniontown, slipped and fell 75 feet to the ground suffering several fractured ribs, a fractured skull and a fractured pelvis. He was rushed to the Uniontown Hospital but died yesterday afternoon at 4:15 o'clock.

Mr. Jeffries went to the Garwood mine about six months ago to install an electric system. Since that time the superintendent of the mine had left and he had been placed in charge holding the title of electrician and mechanic. The mine had not been working fully but coal was still being loaded.

One version of the accident was that the top rung of the ladder leading to the top of the tipple broke, precipitating Mr. Jeffries to the ground.

By New Year's Day 1928, Garwood Works was closed again, and it remained idle for the remainder of the year. A note in the September 17, 1928 issue of the *Brownsville Telegraph* concerning the opening of a local mine reported that the mine "has not worked since April 1927 when many mines shut down in this district because of labor trouble." Census data indicated that Dunlap was drastically depopulated during the 1920s. When a census enumerator climbed to the village atop Cedar Hill in April 1930, he found only six households and 14 residents there.



Business is looking up for this fire boss in an H.C. Frick Company mine early in the twentieth century. Fire bosses examined the mines for gas and other dangers each morning before miners started their work. Thirty-two-year-old Pennsylvania native Press Alery was the fire boss at Garwood Works in January 1920, according to a census enumeration conducted at that time.

At Home in Dunlap, April 1930

Biographical details recorded in the course of this enumeration offer a glimpse into Dunlap's six households as of April 1930 (the enumerator did not record individual house numbers on this occasion, so it is not possible to say which of Dunlap's dwellings were occupied by the six households). The first enumerated household comprised 62-year-old coal miner George Rial and his 61-year-old wife Mary. Both had been born and raised in Czechoslovakia by Russian-speaking Czech parents. Married around 1888, the Rials spent their first decade together in Czechoslovakia before George emigrated to the United States in 1898. Mary joined him in America the following year. As of 1930, neither of the Rials had been naturalized. In his occupation as a miner, George had learned to speak English, but Mary was still only conversant in Russian.

The occupants of the second Dunlap dwelling recorded in the April 1930 enumeration were southern blacks: 31-year-old miner Walter Higgs and his wife of five years, 26-year-old Willie. While Walter had been born in Kentucky, Willie was a native of Virginia. Neither of the Higgs were able to read or write. The presence of African-Americans in Dunlap—which had been exclusively Caucasian when the 1910 and 1920 censuses were enumerated—may be additional evidence that the village was experiencing corporate neglect. For reasons that have not been uncovered, Dunlap was no longer off-limits to blacks in 1930.

The third Dunlap household comprised 52-year-old unemployed miner Walter Paulk. A native of Poland, Paulk had come to the United States in 1903, around the time of his marriage. He was still identified as a married man in April 1930, but no data pertaining to his now-absent wife was recorded. Paulk had learned to speak English in the quarter-century following his immigration to America. His unemployed status may have been a result of an injury he had suffered six months earlier. The details of the accident had been recited as follows in an October 18, 1929 entry in the *Register of Mine Accidents-Bituminous District*: "Garwood, Etna Connellsville Coke Co., Walter Paulk, non-fatal, inside, Polish, 50, married, p. miner, fall of slate—face of pillar."

Two middle-aged bachelor miners occupied the fourth Dunlap household in April 1930. Fifty-year-old Matt Schomonsky was a native of Yugoslavia who had grown up speaking Croatian before emigrating to America in 1907. Not yet a naturalized citizen, Schomonsky had learned to speak English since his arrival, but could not read or write the language. His "lodger," 55-year-old Czechoslovakian Mike Dibish, had spoken Slovak in his native land before coming to the United States in 1910. Mike's facility in English now included the abilities to speak, read, and write.

The fifth Dunlap household was presided over by 47-year-old miner Joe Letavec, a widowed native of Czechoslovakia who had immigrated to the U.S. in 1901 and was now a naturalized citizen. Joe lived with three of his children: 21-year-old Joe Jr., 16-year-old Annie, and 15-year-old Steve. All of the senior Joe's children had been born in Pennsylvania. Only Joe Jr. had joined the work-force by April 1930. He went into the mines with his father.

The sixth and final Dunlap household comprised three persons representing three generations. Forty-two-year-old miner William Lilley was head of the household. He had been born in Pennsylvania to Pennsylvania natives, and had learned to read and write in the Commonwealth's schools. Around 1926 he had married a West Virginia woman named Jane who was 18 years his junior. Jane hadn't learned to read and write as of April 1930. She and William shared their home with William's retired 83-year-old father, Taylor.

The Letavec Family: Last Residents of Dunlap

Additional biographical details concerning the Letavec family of Dunlap are recalled by several of the family's contemporaries, as well as one of Joe Letavec Sr.'s granddaughters, Frances Tarquinio. Ms. Tarquinio, a daughter of Joe Letavec Jr., confirmed in a November 2004 interview that her grandfather, whose full name was Joseph John Letavec Sr., had been born in Czechoslovakia, as had his wife Maria Kvortek (whose surname was anglicized by some members of the family as "Quarrick"). The Letavecs were living in the patch town of Oliver (north of Uniontown) on New Year's Day 1908 when Joseph John Letavec Jr. was born. Ms. Tarquinio believes the family moved to Dunlap around 1912 (CHRS researchers found no persons with the Letavec surname enumerated in all of Fayette County in 1910; nor were any Letavec children included in the ca. 1913-14 lists of Garwood School students cited above; nor were any persons with the Letavec surname included in the 1920 Dunlap census enumeration). According to Letavec family oral tradition, Maria Letavec gave birth to daughter Annie in Dunlap around 1914, and to son Stephen there on March 12, 1915. Maria died shortly after Stephen's birth, at the age of 32.

Longtime Redstone Township residents Jim Meese (born in 1923) and his older brother George (1920) also remember the Letavecs as the last residents of Dunlap. The Meese family moved to a farm several hundred yards east of Dunlap in 1922, and Jim Meese lived within a half-mile of Dunlap for the next 80-plus years of his life (excluding a period of military service). In a March 2004 interview, the Meese brothers offered the following recollections of activities and persons in the Dunlap vicinity from the late 1920s through the 1940s:

A circa-1934 snapshot documents a meeting of "Dunlap boys" beside the three-room Letavec residence on Cedar Hill. Clockwise from top right are Joe Letavec Jr., "Kisko" (probably Alex Kisko), Steve Letavec, and Pete Jellots. The profile of Joe Letavec Sr. is visible on the back porch of the Letavec house in this eastward view. Other Dunlap "shanties" and privies are visible in the distance.

Jim Meese: There were shanties down below the double houses. Single guys lived in them shanties. There weren't many double houses or shanties left in the Thirties.

George Meese: The only two families that lived up there in the double houses were the Jellots and the Bosleys. I think they lived in the houses closest to the schoolhouse, up on top of the hill. Hank Letavec and Joe lived in one of them shanties, and Ray Roser lived in one of them.

Jim: We went to grade school over at West Point. By the Depression, the school down at Dunlap had closed.

George: [The Dunlap schoolhouse] was tongue-in-groove siding. I can remember that school being there. It was maybe 15 by 30 feet. Just like a shed. It had a gable roof on it. One-story. One room with a pot-belly stove in it. Seems to me it had a foundation of ceramic block, terra cotta. Those were the cheapest buildings materials you could get. They used that for a lot of building back then.

Jim: Most of the foundations back then were built of ceramic block, before they started making cement block.

George: If you worked in the coal mine, you dealed with the company store. When you dealed out of the company store, you were obligated to them, no matter what, because you couldn't work hard enough to feed yourself. I can remember the store there at Dunlap, between the railroad tracks and the creek. The last ones I remember working down there was Harry Hennesy and Frances Hardsock, Jack Hardsock's mother. Her husband got killed in a mine at Braznell or somewhere back in the early Twenties.

Jim: Brownsville wasn't much associated with Dunlap. Dunlap is in Redstone Township, and the creek divides the townships. We're right out on the edge of Redstone Township, and we don't amount to much, as far as the Township is concerned. Their main thing around here is [the town of] Republic and them big patches over there.

George: They started the "mush ball league" back about 1935, using a big outseam ball. That's the kind of a ball team we had there in Dunlap. It was just us kids that gathered up and had a ball team. In town, they was a little more organized. We finally got old man Daugherty down there—he had a store [on his farm along Simpson Road southeast of Dunlap]—he bought us one ball or something a year. We played two or three years in that league. Only the catcher had a glove. The pitching was as hard as you could throw it underhand. About the same rules as fast-pitch softball. The diamond was smaller, though, about the same size as a Little League diamond. Those balls, once you hit them three or four times, they started getting all mushy and soft. That's why we started to call them "mush balls." We cleared off a place there [along the west side of Simpson Road, north of the Garwood reservoir] and cleaned it off to make a ball field. The road up to Dunlap went right up beside it. There was no outfield fence. We didn't have no money for fences. We didn't have money for nothing! There was no backstop either. You sort of hit a little uphill [in the direction of the Garwood schoolhouse]. They had some leveler fields down around Brownsville. We played in the Brownsville City League. The *Brownsville Telegraph* used to list the games and the names, and who won, that sort of thing. I think they even called it "The Telegraph League." We called ourselves "the Daugherty A.C.'s." Mr. Daugherty used to dig up limestone, crush it, and sell it. He was supposed to sponsor us, but he only gave us one ball a year. We only had one bat: a piece of hedge wood down there along the road. We made our bats. We couldn't afford a bat. The Brownsville teams had better equipment. We walked a lot of times from here into town, to play ball. . . . Hank Letavec was on our team. [Other members of the team were] Sam Lambeau, Bosley, Pete Jellots, and Andy Jellots. Andy was little, but he played part of the time. And then there were some guys from Superior that played on our team. Milton McVickers (a very big, tall fellow). The Jellots lived in one of them big double houses. They didn't have no money to rent no place else. They just lived there. There was no one collecting rent. I don't know where the others went.

Jim: You'll never know what happened to those people [who lived in Dunlap in the early years of the Depression]. Some of them was just turned loose. Some of them went into them coke ovens down there to live. Some of them built little shanties out of anything they could pick up.

George: The Century coke ovens was full of people, down here. I don't remember there being a lot of people in the Dunlap ovens. In later years, there was one old guy down there, when we was working in that tunnel. . . . I don't ever remember the ovens at Dunlap operating. Simpson was closed down, [too]. I don't remember anyone working at Simpson. Do you remember when that Pete Jellots got married? He married that Sarah Rehak. They moved into a couple rooms at the top of the Dunlap store. They lived there right after they were married, for a short time. That must have been about 1936-38.

Jim: That was about the time that the store closed, and Daugherty opened a store in that house down there [along the east side of Simpson Road], where the turkey farm is now, where the stone WPA wall goes around.

George: By 1930, there were probably only about 10 or 15 people still living in Dunlap. Those people, if they were working somewhere where they thought it was dangerous, or the mine was going to blow up, they'd just quit, and go find someplace else. There were three Jellots that lived up there: Andy, and Pete, and Joe. Joe and Pete were men, like 20-21. Andy was about my age. Those three guys were living in one of them double houses. If a house was abandoned, people would come and take what they wanted, or move in. If they wanted to repair a house, they'd go tear something off of another house and put it on their's, to make it half-livable for them to keep warm and dry for the winter. Back then, nobody had any money.

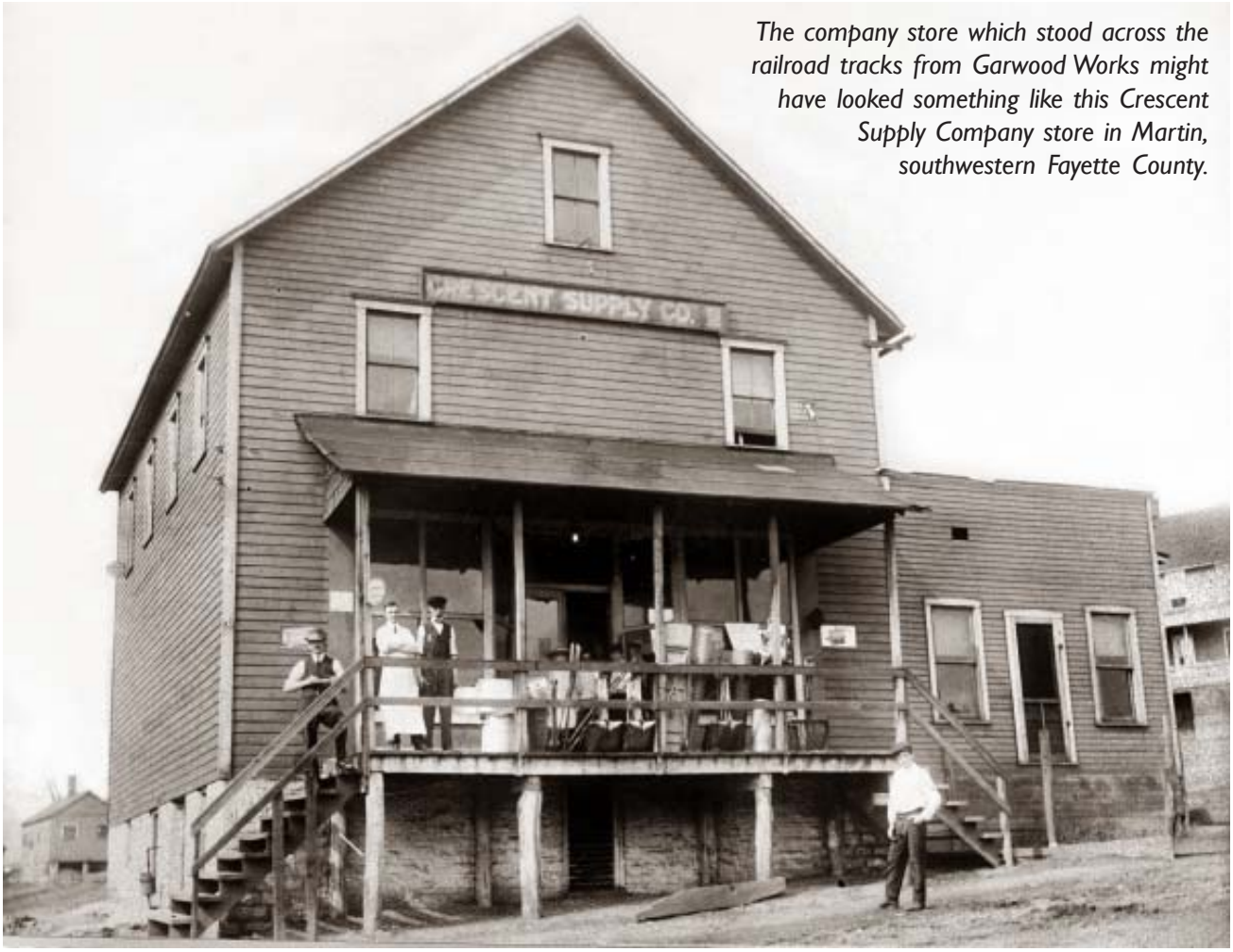
Jim: When the people that lived in Dunlap wanted to go to Brownsville, they went down over the hill to Century and walked the railroad track. I don't think there's any trace of the path they used to get down over the hill. It was just over on this side [northeast side] of the tunnel.

George: Years ago, the road that wound up around the edge of our field, up above the coke ovens, that was a half-decent road to go up in there.

Jim: Yeah, that was a pretty good road, when Bosley had that old Model A Ford.

Jellots and Bosley Families

The Jellots family recalled by Jim and George Meese must have moved to Dunlap a year or two after the 1930 census enumeration was conducted. Nick and Rosa Jellots were living with their seven children in Dunlap on Wednesday evening, November 29, 1934, when their eldest son, 25-year-old miner Mike Jellots, "was injured seriously . . . in an accident at the Gar-wood mine of the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company," as reported in the November 30, 1934 edition of the *Brownsville Telegraph*. The article continued: "At General hospital here today, where he is being treated for back hurts, attachés pronounced his condition as fair." Mike Jellots never recovered from his broken back. He remained bedfast in the Brownsville General Hospital from the day of his accident until his death from complications three years later, on November 13, 1937. In an obituary published in the *Morning Herald*, it was noted that "Brief rites will be held in the family home at 2:30 Tuesday afternoon followed by additional rites in St. Mary's R. C. church for Michael Jellots, aged 27, who died Saturday in the Brownsville General hospital. His death ended his three-year-long-stay at the hospital where he has been since November 29, 1934, after receiving a broken back in a slate fall at the Etna-Connellsville Coal and Coke company's Dunlap mine. In addition to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Jellots, of House 2 at Dunlap, he leaves a brother, Paul, at Weirton, W. Va., and the following brothers and sisters at home: Joseph, Peter, Mary, Andrew and Helen. He was a model patient of the hospital, attachés said, and 'caused little trouble and did not mood over his misfortune'."



The company store which stood across the railroad tracks from Garwood Works might have looked something like this Crescent Supply Company store in Martin, southwestern Fayette County.

The Bosley family that Jim and George Meese recalled as living in Dunlap in the mid-1930s also suffered a mine-related tragedy in 1934. Genealogical records and newspaper accounts indicate that Pennsylvania-born widower Albert Bosley (his wife Martha had passed away in 1925) moved his family to Dunlap a year or two after the 1930 census enumeration was conducted (Bosley was working for the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company as early as March 21, 1933, on which day he was injured in a fall in the Garwood mine's manway). As of June 1934, the Bosley household in Dunlap comprised 52-year-old Albert and five of his eleven children (two children had moved away, and four had died in infancy). On the afternoon of Friday, June 16, 1934, Albert Bosley was working as a timberman in the Garwood mine when a section of slate dislodged from the tunnel roof and fell on him. The accident and its aftermath were described as follows in a *Brownsville Telegraph* article published the next day:

Albert Bosley, 52, Fatally Injured in Garwood Slate Fall

Albert Bosley, age 52, Dunlap, died in Brownsville General Hospital at 1:35 a.m. today—11 hours after he was crushed under a fall of slate in the Garwood mine of the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company.

Bosley, a timberman, suffered an injury to his right leg and a crushed chest. He was admitted to the hospital at 3:20 p.m.

He leaves the following: children, Frank, at home; John of Cleveland, O.; George, Harold, Myrtle and Emmajean, all at home and Mrs. Dorothy Ross of Cokeburg junction; two grand children John Carol Bosley and Charles Edward Delauder; three sisters: Mrs. Annie Garlette of Connellsville; Mrs. George Rushman of Footedale and Mrs. Charles Barkley of Hayes Works, Pa; a half sister, Mrs. Rose Young, McKeesport; a brother, Henry Bosley of Isabella and a half brother, Ed Sipo of Brownfield.

The body will be removed to the home tonight. Arrangements are not complete but it will not be before Monday. Burial will be in Mt. Olive cemetery, near Connellsville.

Other articles published in Brownsville and Uniontown newspapers during the late 1920s and early 1930s provide additional evidence that life in Dunlap, and employment at Garwood Works, could be perilous:

Dunlap Child Dies of Injuries
After Fall Through Walk
[July 29, 1929]

Iva Jane Easter, 13, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Easter of Dunlap, succumbed in the Brownsville general hospital Saturday from injuries received last week when she fell through a boardwalk which was said to have been unprotected with a railing.

The child was taken to the hospital after she became violently ill at her home. She suffered internal hurts. She was taken to the hospital Friday.

Surviving her are her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Easter, and the following brothers and sisters: Glenn, Virginia, Lola, Harriett and Dorothy.

———————————

Dunlap Woman Is Injured In Fall
[September 24, 1929]

Mrs. Blanche Brenton, 45, of Dunlap, is recovering in the Brownsville general hospital today from severe injuries of the right hip sustained yesterday when she fell at her home. She was admitted to the hospital yesterday afternoon.

[By April 1930, Blanche and her husband Carl would have moved to another patch town in Redstone Township, where Carl found work as an engineer in a coal mine. As noted below, Carl Brenton would make the news himself on May 14, 1935 as he lost a hand in a pumping room accident at Garwood Works.]

———————————

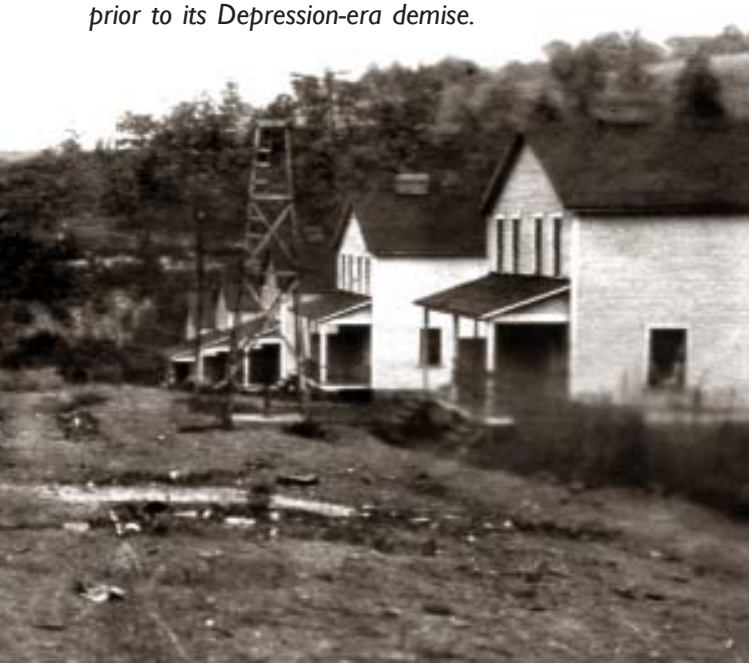
Garwood Miner Dies Under Slate Fall
At Simpson Mine
[December 5, 1929]

Caught under a fall of slate while at work in the Garwood mine near Simpson this morning, John Bobnock, 48, of Garwood, was fatally injured. He was dead when fellow workmen extricated him from beneath the fall.

Bobnock suffered a broken neck and a crushed chest. He had resided alone at Garwood. The fatality was the first since the resumption of activities about a month ago.

The body was removed to the Kisinger funeral parlors here to be prepared for burial. Bobnock was unmarried.

A dreary streetscape in an unidentified Connellsville Coke District patch town evokes the atmosphere that likely prevailed in Dunlap prior to its Depression-era demise.



Recover Garwood Man's Body
After 24 Hours; Killed
[December 9, 1930]

Braden Workman, 44, of Garwood, near Simpson, was fatally injured under a fall of slate while at work in the Garwood mine of the Etna-Connellsville Coal company yesterday morning. His body was not removed from the workings until this morning, Workman having been buried beneath the fall for approximately 24 hours. He was employed as a coal loader.

He leaves his wife, Mrs. Anna D. Workman and 10 children: Mrs. Leroy Jennings of Superior; David, Margaret, William, Braden, Jr., Violet, Helen, James, Alberta, and Leroy, all at home. In addition there are four sisters and three brothers: Mrs. Jean Leichlighter of Rices Landing; Mrs. Rudolph Byers of New Geneva; Mrs. Bennie Shimahock and Mrs. George Martin, both of Footedale; Irwin of Mansfield; David of Searights and James of Uniontown.

The body was brought to the morgue of Deputy Coroner A.W. Kisinger here today where it will be prepared for burial. It will be moved to the home, House No. 26, Garwood, tomorrow morning. Funeral arrangements were to be completed later today. A daughter of the victim is ill at home, suffering from typhoid fever.

———————————

Dunlap Miner Injured
[May 25, 1931]

Sanko Kasonic, 49, Dunlap, was admitted to the Brownsville General hospital this afternoon suffering from lacerations of the head and an injured right leg, sustained in an accident in the Etna-Connellsville company's mine at Dunlap. His condition was described to be good.

[May 25, 1931 entry in *Records of the Department of Mines and Mining Industries, Register of Mine Accidents–Bituminous District 1931*: "Garwood, Etna Connellsville Coke Co., Fayette, Stanks Kasomic, non-fatal, inside, alien, Austrian, 48, widow, m. miner, 1 year at occupation, fall of slate heading."]

———————————

Garwood Miner In Hospital; Injured
[June 29, 1931]

Mike Ikavich, 42, of Alicia, employed in the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company's mine at Garwood, suffered an injury to the left leg in an accident while at work early today. He was admitted to the Brownsville General hospital for treatment at 6:30 a.m.

[June 29, 1931 entry in *Records of the Department of Mines and Mining Industries, Register of Mine Accidents–Bitumi-*

nous District 1931: "Garwood, Etna Connellsville Coke Co., Fayette, Mike Ekwich, non-fatal, outside, alien, Slavish, 42, widow, m. miner, 13 years at occupation, fall of person outside."]

———————————

S. Brownsville Man Hurt
In Mine Mishap
[January 14, 1932]

Tony Paul, 48, of Coal Road, South Brownsville, was admitted to the General hospital here at noon today suffering from an injured right leg, received in an accident at the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company's Garwood mine.

[January 14, 1932 entry in *Records of the Department of Mines and Mining Industries, Register of Mine Accidents–Bituminous District 1932*: "Garwood, Etna Connellsville Coke Co., Fayette, Tony Paul, non-fatal, inside, citizen/alien not ID, Italian, 47, married, m. miner, 1 year at occupation, fall of slate—room."]

———————————

Thompson 2 Man Is Badly Hurt In Fall
Of Slate At Garwood
[September 29, 1932]

His left hand badly crushed in a fall of slate at the Garwood mine last night, Louis Steicher, 38, of Thompson No. 2, was brought to the Brownsville General hospital where it was found necessary to amputate two fingers of the hand. His right foot was also injured. His condition is not considered serious.

[September 28, 1932 entry in *Records of the Department of Mines and Mining Industries, Register of Mine Accidents–Bituminous District 1932*: "Garwood, Etna Connellsville Coke Co., Louis Stajier, non-fatal, inside, alien, Slavish, 36, single, m. miner, 1 year at occupation, fall of slate pillar work."]

———————————

Grindstone Miner Hurt At Garwood
[September 14, 1933]

An accident at the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company's Garwood mine early today resulted in the injury of Nelson Fletcher, 23, of Grindstone. He sustained a compound fracture of his right leg. His condition was good at General hospital here.

[September 14, 1933 entry in *Records of the Department of Mines and Mining Industries, Register of Mine Accidents–Bituminous District 1933*: "Garwood, Etna Connellsville Coke Co., Fayette, Nelson Fletcher, non-fatal, inside, citizen, American, 23, single, m. miner, fall of slate entry."]

———————————

Touches Live Wire In Mine
Filbert Man Badly Burned
[June 13, 1934]

Stunned when he came in contact with a live wire at the Garwood mine of the Etna-Connellsville Coal company yesterday, John Velosky, 22, of Filbert, is recovering today in Brownsville General hospital.

Velosky, a coal loader, touched the line with his right hand, which was painfully burned. His condition is good, hospital attaches said.

[June 12, 1934 entry in *Records of the Department of Mines and Mining Industries, Register of Mine Accidents–Bitumi-*

nous District 1934: "Garwood, Etna Connellsville Coke Co., Fayette, John Velosky, non-fatal, inside, citizen, American, 22, single, m. miner, burned by electricity—contact with machine feed wire—entry."]

———————————

Superior Man Loses Hand
in Accident At Garwood Mine
[May 14, 1935]

Paul [actually "Carl"] Brenton, 50, of Superior, a pumper at Etna-Connellsville Coke Company's Garwood mine, lost his left hand early today in an accident at the plant.

He caught the member in a gear of a pump which was being relocated in the mine. His hand was so badly mangled it had to be amputated at Brownsville General hospital.

In spite of the ordeal, attaches described the patient's general condition as good.

[May 14, 1935 entry in *Records of the Department of Mines and Mining Industries, Register of Mine Accidents–Bituminous District 1935*: "Garwood, Etna Connellsville Coke Company, Fayette, Carl Branton [*sic*], non-fatal, inside, citizen, American, 50, married, pumper, hand caught in pump gears pump room."]

The foregoing accounts of industrial accidents at Garwood Works during the period 1929-1935 represent only that fraction of accidents on which local newspapers reported. A review of *Records of the Department of Mines and Mining Industries, Register of Mine Accidents–Bituminous District* reveals that approximately twice that number of report-worthy accidents actually occurred at Garwood over that span of years.

Other newspaper accounts from this period indicate that as Dunlap's population dwindled to a few souls during the strike-ridden Great Depression, African-Americans retained their recently established foothold in the village:

Constable Finds Simpson Still
In Inquiry On Fight
[November 28, 1931]

Investigating a fight at Dunlap on Tuesday, Constable John Drennon of Brownsville, entered a home above Simpson tunnel and discovered a 20-gallon still, a barrel of mash and a small quantity of liquor.

Arrest of William Martin, 40, Negro, in whose home the liquor and still were found, followed on Wednesday and last night he was held for court under $1,000 bail at arraignment before Squire V.V. Trotter. He failed to furnish bond and was committed to the county jail.

———————————

Dunlap "Family Row"
Ends With Shotgun Shooting
[November 2, 1935]

James Sled, 25, Dunlap Negro, is in Brownsville General hospital with gunshot wounds of the right hip while Arthur Patrick, 25, Negro, is being held pending further investigation into the shooting which climaxed a "family row" yesterday afternoon. Sled, who boards with the Patricks, and Patrick broke into an argument over the latter's wife, state police said. The quarrel finally ended when Patrick, 20 feet away, fired a 12 gauge shotgun at Sled, the pellets striking him in the right hip. Sled was admitted to the institution, where his condition is fair, at 2:50 p.m. and shortly after State Trooper Charles Hanna of the Fayette county detail had Patrick under arrest.

White Woman, Negro at Dunlap
Arrested On Morals Charges
[September 29, 1932]

Mrs. Ellen Christopher, 18, white, and Russell Bush, 22, Negro, both of Dunlap are in the county jail awaiting preliminary arraignment on morals charges. The woman is charged with adultery and Bush with fornication and sodomy. The pair were arrested by County Detective Jack A. Hann as they were making preparations to flee from the county.

End of Etna-Connellsville Coke Company

Industrial accidents at Garwood Works would be reported in *Records of the Department of Mines and Mining Industries, Register of Mine Accidents–Bituminous District* as late as August 15, 1936, when 53-year-old Hungarian John Germiski was injured in a slate fall. No references to activities at the Works and/or the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company were included in subsequent Department of Mines and Mining Industries records, suggesting that 1936 was the final year of mining and coke-making at Garwood. By that time, "part owner, director, and president of the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company" George W. Campbell had died (on August 3, 1929), and the Etna-Connellsville Coke Company was in default on a Fayette County tax payment of $759.14. The Company's legal predicament, and its resulting forfeiture of the site of Dunlap and the Garwood mine in the 1940s, was recounted in a 1948 deed as follows:

> Whereas there were levied and assessed for the year 1932 against Etna Connellsville Coke Company . . . taxes amounting to $759.14, which said taxes were returned unpaid to the County Commissioners within the time prescribed by law and no liens have been filed to secure the same; and whereas, the said taxes were not paid within the time prescribed by law for the payment of the same, and said seated lands were advertised and sold at public sale by the County Treasurer of said Fayette County to the County Commissioners of Fayette County for $765.39 on April 30, 1940, after notice thereof as required by law; and whereas, the owner of said seated lands failed to redeem the same within the time prescribed by law, and said County Commissioners sold the same at public sale on February 1, 1945 to [Pasquale Vecchio of the Borough of Brownsville] for $225.00 after having given notice of such sale by advertisement as required by law, he being the best bidder and that amount being the highest and best sum bid therefore.

An aerial photograph of western Redstone Township taken on September 25, 1938 revealed that all but a handful of Dunlap's dwellings had been removed or demolished by that date (**page 5**). Only two of the nine duplexes that had lined the crest of the ridge were still standing, along with their privies. Also discernible on the photograph were several single-story structures standing in the eastern half of the decimated village. Tom Murphy identified these structures as either two-room or three-room shanties.

Frances Tarquinio has provided additional anecdotal and photographic evidence that one of the last three-room shanties standing in the eastern half of Dunlap was occupied by her grandfather Joe Letavec Sr. and her uncle Steven Letavec. Born in December 1937, Ms. Tarquinio remembers visiting her grandfather and uncle in Dunlap during the early 1940s, when they were the only persons living in the largely dismantled village. Ms. Tarquinio and her parents typically walked to Dunlap by following the Monongahela Railroad out of Brownsville, then, after passing through the patch town of Century, climbing a steep path up Cedar Hill to the Letavec home in Dunlap. There, young Frances was impressed by the large framed images of "Jesus, the Pope, [late Austrian emperor] Franz Joseph, and [United Mine Workers of America president] John L. Lewis he had lined up on his kitchen wall."

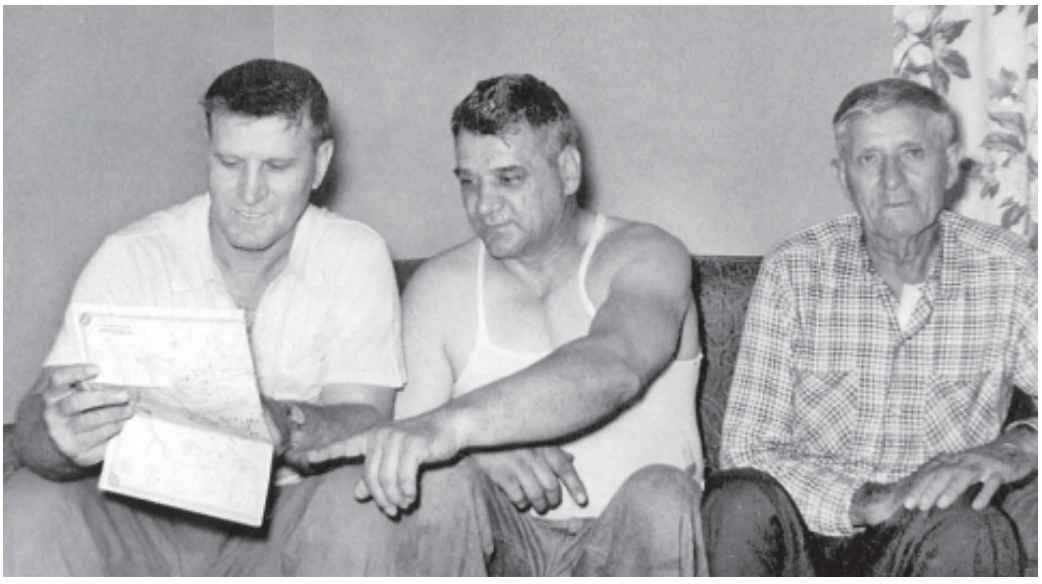
Ms. Tarquinio owns several photographs taken in the vicinity of the Letavec residence in

Relaxing outside Joe Letavec Sr.'s Dunlap home around 1941 are (from left): Stephen Letavec, Joe Letavec Jr., Frances Letavec, Rosemarie Fischetti, Mary Fischetti holding Stephen Letavec Jr., Joe Letavec Sr., Martin Fischetti (front).

the mid-1930s and early 1940s. One of the photographs was taken in the rear of the residence, with Joe Letavec Sr. partly visible as he stands in the shadow of the dwelling's back porch (**page 48**). He is looking toward a group of young men posing around a mid-1930s Chevy coupe. Handwritten annotations on the photos identified the three men as "Pete," "Dad," "Steve," and "Kisko." According to Ms. Tarquinio, "Pete" was probably the Letavecs' neighbor Peter Jellots, a brother of Mike Jellots, and a resident of Dunlap's House 2 at the time of Mike's death on November 13, 1937. "Dad" was Ms. Tarquinio's father Joe Letavec Jr., and "Steve" was Ms. Tarquinio's uncle Stephen Letavec. "Kisko" was probably neighbor Alex Kisko, the oldest son of Simpson Road residents Frank and Lizzie Kisko, according to the 1930 census enumeration.

As Ms. Tarquinio recalls it, the junior Joe Letavec moved out of Dunlap in 1935, at the time of his marriage to Verna Bury. His brother Steve lived with father Joe another seven years, before moving to Republic around 1942 when he married Julianna Smyksy of Superior. That left Joe Letavec Sr. as Dunlap's sole surviving resident. He lived alone for a while, then moved in with family members for the remaining years of his life, which ended in 1958.

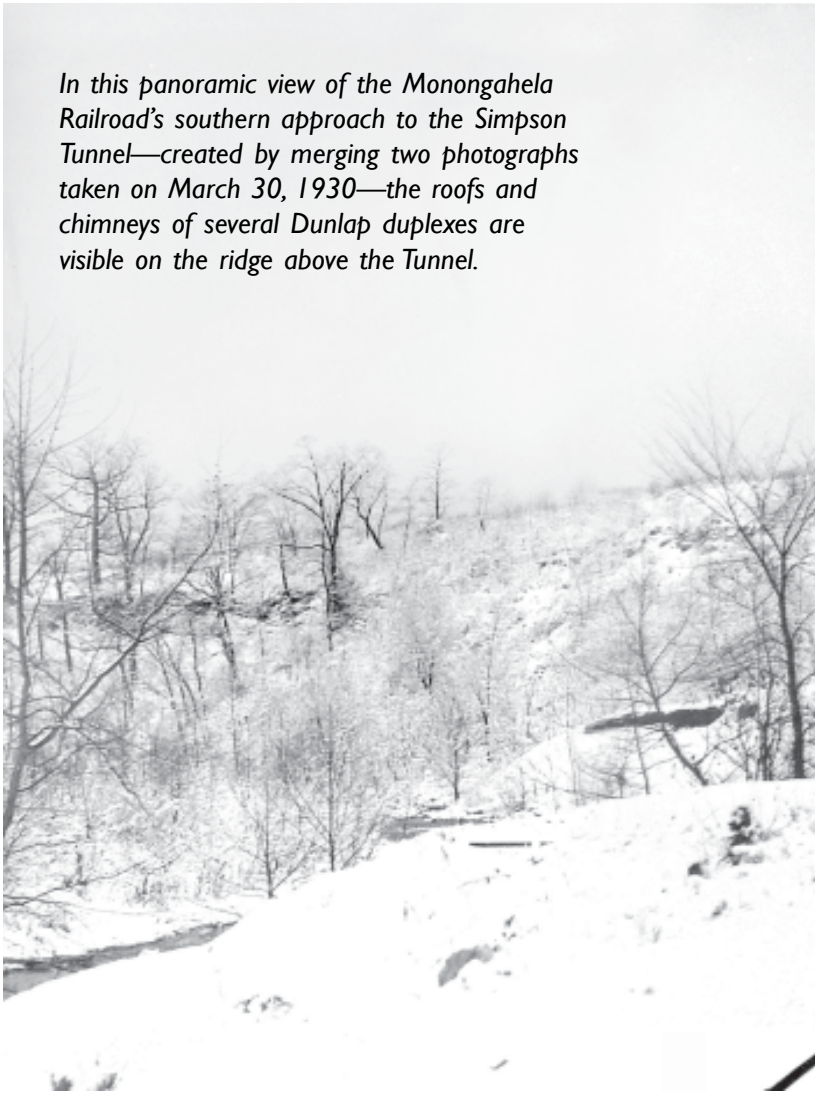
Dunlap's last three residents—Stephen Letavec, brother Joe Jr., and father Joe Sr.—swap stories of their former home during a mid-1950s get-together.



Joe Letavec's departure from Dunlap may have been occasioned by the purchase of the 33.27-acre Dunlap tract by Brownsville resident Pasquale Vecchio in February 1945. For some reason, a deed reflecting this purchase was not drawn up until several years later. On November 9, 1949, Vecchio conveyed the tract to David C. Ropp and Charles Ropp of Centerville, Washington County. The Ropps held the property jointly until David Ropp's death on January 24, 1960. In the wake of David's passing, his widow and Charles Ropp conveyed the property to Evelyn Rockwell Canistra of Menallen Township, by a deed dated September 8, 1960.

Mrs. Canistra was the sole owner of the tract for the next 34 years. As she related in a recent interview with one of her Fayette County neighbors, she "always considered the property to be jointly owned by her husband, Anthony (Tony)" (now deceased). Details of activities on the Dunlap tract during the 1960s and early 70s were provided by Mrs. Cansitra as follows:

> They bought 39.61 surface acres bisected by Dunlap Creek, and 155 acres of subsurface coal. In 1960, the Canistras established Dunlap Coal Company to mine the 9-foot vein of low sulfur (high in BTU's) Pittsburgh coal. They principally sold the coal to local residents for home heating, and buyers normally came to the mine to procure their coal, hauling it home in pickup trucks and trailers.
>
> Opening the mine required a substantial capital investment for the building of a tipple, scales, narrow-gauge track for mine cars, and an electric-hoist engine for pulling mine cars. There was an old vertical mine shaft at the site, but Dunlap Coal opened a slope entrance to the mine and used that entrance for all their operations. Mrs. Canistra remembers that the vertical shaft collapsed while they were operating the mine, but nobody was in the mine at the time, so there were no injuries as a result of the collapse.



In this panoramic view of the Monongahela Railroad's southern approach to the Simpson Tunnel—created by merging two photographs taken on March 30, 1930—the roofs and chimneys of several Dunlap duplexes are visible on the ridge above the Tunnel.

Typically, Dunlap Coal had 4-7 workers, including Tony Canistra and son Sam, and they normally worked a Monday through Friday week. One worker remembered by Mrs. Canistra was Jimmy Davis, an African-American miner, who lived nearby, in Superior "coal patch." Without a vehicle, Davis would walk to work each day, crossing the Simpson Road Bridge across Dunlap Creek. Davis tended the horses used in the mine to pull coal cars out to the electric hoist at the foot of the slope entrance. The horses were stabled fairly close to his home. Occasionally, after work or on weekends, Davis would

"walk to town" (Brownsville) via the inactive Monongahela Railroad track, through Simpson Tunnel.

Mining was difficult for Dunlap Coal because the mine was fairly deep, and flooding was a constant problem. Following operation for a little over a decade, the company ceased operation because of the flooding, being forced to abandon considerable equipment in the mine. The Canistras retained the mining company records, and Mrs. Canistra currently has an extensive collection of coal-mining records relating to western Fayette County.

On August 4, 1994, the Dunlap tract's record of ownership was formally changed to reflect joint ownership by Evelyn and Anthony Canistra. Six years later, by a deed dated July 5, 2000, the Canistras placed the property into the Anthony and Evelyn R. Canistra Trust. The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission acquired a portion of the tract in 2006, as right-of-way for the proposed Mon/Fayette Expressway.

CHRS, Inc. field technicians at work on the Dunlap Village Site. Clockwise from top left:

Setting up a test unit, August 2004

Excavating a privy, November 2004

Screening soil for artifacts, December 2004

Stripping topsoil, August 2005

Excavating another privy, May 2005

CHAPTER THREE

What the Ground Divulged

While CHRS historians collected bits of Dunlap's story from scattered records and repositories, the firm's archaeology department proceeded with data recovery fieldwork on the Dunlap Village Site, in accordance with the Phase III work plan. The strategy and techniques employed over the course of the eighteen-month investigation (summer 2005 through winter 2006-07) were described in a section of the Phase III report entitled "Methods." A subsequent section detailing what the investigation had yielded was headed "Field Data." The archaeologists' methodical approach (something like peeling back layers of an onion to discover not only what's *between* the layers but what's embedded *in* them), as well as the raw data uncovered through these means, was communicated by the Phase III report authors through technical terminology and data tables befitting a rigorous social science study. For readers unfamiliar with archaeological jargon, the "Methods" and "Field Data" sections of the Phase III report are summarized below in layman's language.

Scope of Fieldwork

Historic maps, aerial photographs, and informants left little doubt that Dunlap had occupied most of the surface of the 33.27-acre parcel conveyed by John and Gertrude Simpson to the Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company in June 1907. Only a portion of the village was located within the proposed right-of-way of the Mon/Fayette Expressway, however, so only this swath—approximately 780 feet from east to west, and 240 feet from north to south—was threatened by the highway's construction. Like the Phase I/II fieldwork conducted a couple of years earlier, the Phase III fieldwork would thus be limited to a 3.13-acre Area of Potential Effect (APE) encompassing the northwestern corner of Dunlap, where nine double-houses and associated privy-and-coal-bunker structures had once stood. By the time CHRS field technicians launched their Phase III investigation, this area had been cleared of its densest undergrowth, the APE had been divided into a grid of 20-foot squares, and the exposed surface features—principally house and outbuilding foundations—had been mapped in relation to the grid.

Shovel Test Pits and Test Units

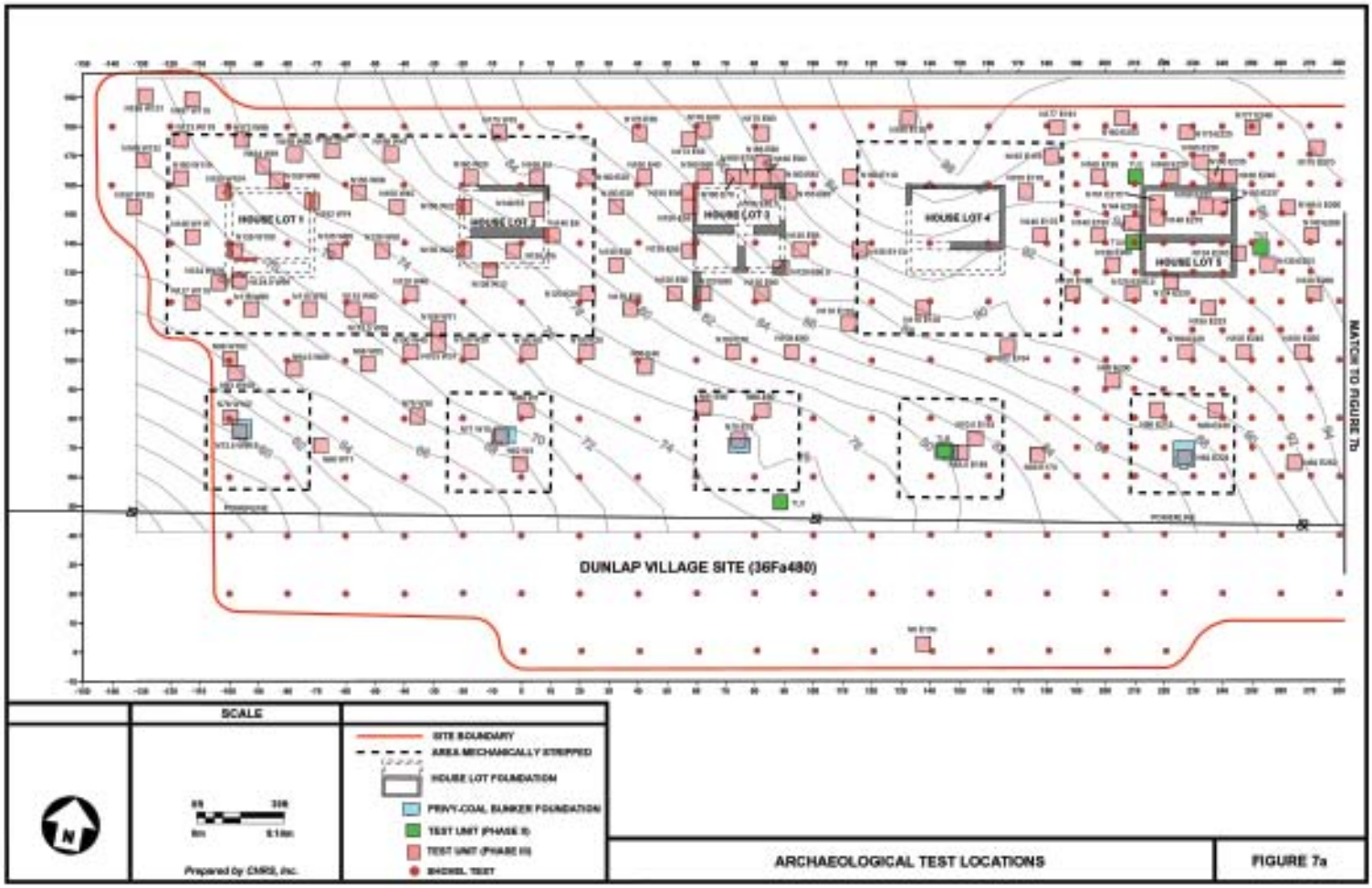
In some respects, CHRS's data recovery strategy simply extended and intensified the testing methods applied during Phase I/II fieldwork, when the excavation of 82 shovel test pits (STPs) and nine larger test units (TUs) had yielded more than 11,000 artifacts.* The Phase I/II STPs had been excavated at 40-foot inter-

*__Shovel Test Pits (STPs)__ are round, approximately 2 feet wide, and are excavated using hand tools.

__Test Units (TUs)__ are square, variously sized (typically 3 feet or 5 feet), and are also hand excavated.

__Artifacts__ are portable objects made, modified, and/or used by people; artifacts measuring at least a quarter-inch in any dimension are separated from excavated soils through the sifting of the soils through metal mesh screens.

__Features__ are non-portable elements of an archaeological site, such as privy shafts, walls, posts, and stone hearths; because they cannot be removed intact, features are drawn, photographed, and mapped.

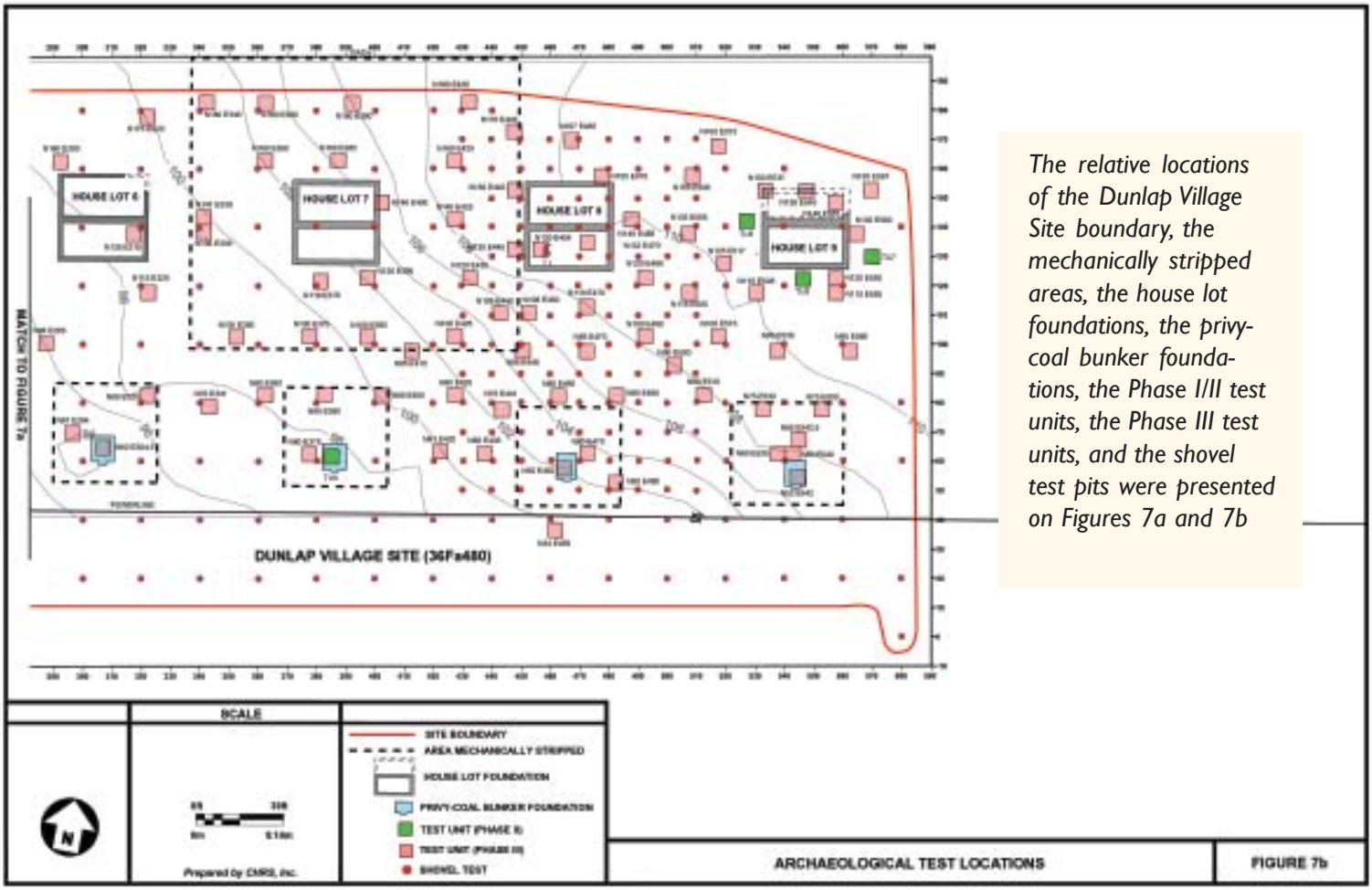


vals, a sampling frequency often used in preliminary investigations of large areas with at least moderate historic archaeological potential. Having switched to data recovery mode, the archaeologists tightened the testing grid to 20-foot intervals in most areas, and to 10-foot intervals on a couple of the house lots. Under this regime, they ended up digging 507 additional STPs. Data gleaned from the STPs and the geophysical surveys then served as the basis for the strategic placement of 214 five-foot-square test units "near soil anomalies, artifact concentrations, features, and foundations," as explained in the Phase III report.

Stripping

After the STPs and TUs had been excavated, a final "stripping" technique was employed in order to expose additional features and unearth additional artifacts. Stripping is by nature a terminal technique, as peeling back the upper soil strata over a wide area—typically with a blade-equipped backhoe or similar piece of equipment—effectively destroys that portion of an archaeological site. It is only conducted if the site is slated to be destroyed anyway. Roughly one-quarter of the Dunlap Village Site was flagged for stripping: the areas around four house foundations, and 30x30-foot aprons around all nine privy foundations. As explained in the Phase III report, "Dunlap Village was occupied for more than thirty years. [CHRS archaeologists] hypothesized that during this period, privy maintenance would have resulted in the excavation of at least two privies on each house lot. It was anticipated that any earlier privy shafts would be encountered [through stripping] in the general vicinity of the existing privy foundations."

As hypothesized and hoped, stripping brought to light thousands of additional artifacts and hundreds of additional features, including approximately one-dozen collateral privy shafts.



The relative locations of the Dunlap Village Site boundary, the mechanically stripped areas, the house lot foundations, the privy-coal bunker foundations, the Phase I/II test units, the Phase III test units, and the shovel test pits were presented on Figures 7a and 7b

Thirty-one of the features deemed most likely to yield important data, or to contain valuable artifacts, were subjected to a final round of investigation. By the time the archaeologists completed their probing of the Dunlap Village Site in the fall of 2006, they had recorded 378 features and bagged roughly 225,000 artifacts.

Processing Artifacts

With the completion of fieldwork at Dunlap, the Phase III investigation moved into the laboratory. Nearly a quarter-million artifacts had to be processed before analysis could begin. Hundreds of man-hours went into washing, sorting, and cataloging by function and/or type the mass of materials disinterred from Cedar Hill. Through this painstaking process, the artifacts were divided into eight standard "functional" groups: **kitchen-related** objects; **architectural** objects; **furniture-related** objects; **personal** items; **clothing**; **arms-related** objects; **tobacco-related** objects; and **activity-related** objects. Laboratory technicians created a digital catalogue of the artifacts and added this information to the vast aggregation of "Field Data" now ready for comprehensive analysis.

Field Data and Artifact Analysis

In the "Field Data" section of the Phase III report, the authors described in meticulous detail the condition of the Dunlap Village Site when data recovery commenced. Most of the description was devoted to the locations, measurements, composition, condition, and photographic recording of the nine double-house foundation remnants and associated privy foundation remains. This was followed by an explication of the soil layers encountered, what was revealed through stripping, and characterizations of the 378 identified features, with particular attention to the 31 features subjected to the most intense scrutiny. Replete with annotated

Each of Dunlap's primary privies yielded a bonanza of intact glass containers. Beer bottles predominated, with about half of them embossed with the "Brownsville Brewing Company" mark. Among the other common castaways were condiment bottles (mostly ketchup/catsup), glass tumblers, and soda bottles.

photographs, maps, and data tables, the "Field Data" section of the report stretched to 80 pages.

Then the report authors turned to an analysis of the roughly 225,000 artifacts unearthed at the Dunlap Village Site. They opened this section of the Phase III report with the following summary of the washed and sorted "artifact assemblage":

> Kitchen-related artifacts constituted the largest category of artifacts recovered from the site. More than 70% of the artifact assemblage comprised ceramics, bottle and vessel glass, and metal utensils. Within the kitchen assemblage, bottle glass predominated. Eighty-one percent of the kitchen assemblage was bottle glass. Ceramics made up about 16% of the kitchen assemblage, vessel glass 2.3%, and other items 0.3%. Three-quarters of the ceramic assemblage comprised whitewares. The remaining ceramic paste types were stoneware (15.6%), porcelain (6.1%), redware (2.2%), and other types (0.1%).
>
> Architectural items constituted a little more than 19% of the artifact assemblage. The majority of this material (73.7%) was window glass. Nails and other items (spikes, building hardware, etc.) made up the remainder of this category. Furniture-related items and activity-related items were the next most prevalent functional groups. Slightly more than 4% of the assemblage fell into these groups. A little more than 1% of the assemblage was made up of clothing items (buttons, buckles, etc.). Personal items and arms-related items constituted about 0.1% of the assemblage. Very few tobacco-related items were found. Only 0.02% of the assemblage was tobacco related.

These paragraphs introduced an 80-page analysis of the artifact assemblage, supported by scores of annotated photographs, tables, charts, and maps. In this section, the authors discussed at length the significance of the functional groups, how the groups were represented, and

where certain types or subsets of artifacts were concentrated across the Site (artifact distribution). Artifacts were appraised in terms of what they were made of, how and when they were made, who made them (in instances where manufacturers' marks were discernible), how they were used, where they were unearthed, and what assortments of artifacts they had been found among. Each functional group was assessed in turn, and then artifacts standing out as unusual or representative or particularly significant in some other way were treated individually. Along with the authors' observations, hypotheses, and conclusions, the artifact data was presented in tabular format, so they would be accessible and useful for comparative purposes to archaeologists engaged in subsequent investigations. The tables bore such "only-an-archaeologist-would-love" titles as "Types of Decoration—Whiteware," "Percentage of Nails by Penny Weight," and "Bottling Works by Occurrence of Manufacturer's Mark."

A Large and Diverse Collection

Sorted into functional groups and examined with practiced eyes, the vast array of objects painted a picture of activities atop Cedar Hill in the early decades of the twentieth century. Most of those activities had taken place in and around the kitchen, as housewives spent the majority of their waking hours engaged in domestic chores, while men were occupied during workdays with mining and coke-making, and children attended school. Kitchen-related artifacts discovered at Dunlap included plates, platters, saucers, crocks, bowls, pitchers, pots, basins, tureens, beverage bottles, condiment and medicinal bottles and jars, tumblers, mugs, utensils, tea cups, saucers, creamers, candy dishes, spittoons, and lunch pails. In whiteware alone, at least 37 manufacturers were represented, 15 of them from the pottery district centered on East Liverpool, Ohio, roughly 75 miles northwest of Dunlap. Amid the 118,000 pieces of bottle and vessel glass, there were enough clues to identify about four-dozen manufacturers and/or bottlers. The largest group of identifiable glass shards were

Kitchen-related glasswares were present in all shapes and sizes. A few containers bore identifying marks ("White House Vinegar," second from bottom; "Connellsville Bottling Works, left center). Some vessels had highly suggestive forms. Many had neither.

former beer bottle components. Indeed, 133 largely intact beer bottles with manufacturers' marks were recovered from the Site, with every house lot divulging at least a few of the containers. Half of these bottles had once been filled with products of the Brownsville Brewing Company. Among the other beverages and beverage producers/bottlers represented in Dunlap's glass artifact inventory were the Dr. Pepper Bottling Company (Uniontown), Summit Club Beverages (Uniontown), the Farmers Cooperative Dairy Association of Brownsville, Greggs Beverages (Brownsville), Hires Household Extract, Mulo Neer Beer, the Nehi Bottling Company, Nugrape Imitation Grape Juice (Brownsville), Thomson and Taylor's Root Beer Concentrate, Thomson and Thomson Root Beer Concentrate, the Uniontown Sanitary Dairy, the Continental Distilling Corporation (Philadelphia), Fratelli Branca (Milan, Italy), and Hiram Walker & Sons, Inc. (Detroit).

Food and Medicine Containers

Of the thousands of glass food bottles and jars represented in the artifact inventory, 92 bore manufacturers' marks. These included containers once filled with Pride of Long Island Brand Tomato Catsup; French's Mustard; Gulden's Mustard; H.J. Heinz Company ketchup, oil, and peppersauce; Karo Corn Syrup; L+S Pickles; Sisley's Catsup; Pompeian Olive Oil; P.J. Ritter Conserve Company (Philadelphia) ketchup; and Phoenix Brand spices, teas, and extracts. There were also makers' marks representing Armour and Company (Chicago); the Beech Nut Packing Company; the Great Atlantic-Pacific Tea Company; Knapp Extract Company (Cleveland); McCormick & Company (Baltimore); the Lusk Mustard Company; and Simon Fischer imports (Pittsburgh).

Medicinal bottles and vials were also widely represented. The manufacturers and/or former contents of 95 of them were identifiable. Slightly more than a quarter of the identifiable containers had once been filled with products intended for cold relief. That included rubs

"GREAT SEAL TALCUM POWDER, NEWARK, OHIO"

"BLACK CAT STOVE ENAMEL, NEW YORK, NY"

"SOLUTION CITRATE MAGNESIA DOSE - ADULTS ONE HALF TO ONE BOTTLE AS DESIRED; CHILDREN IN PROPORTION TO AGE"

(Musterole, Ely's Cream Balm, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, Vicks Vaporub), gargles (Tonsiline), and catch-all cough syrups, tonics, and bitters. As many of the latter were bolstered by alcohol or other "pick-me-ups," it was not surprising to find a wide variety represented, including Dill's Cough Syrup (Norristown, Pennsylvania); Dr. Drake's German Croup Remedy (an opium based concoction, manufactured in Ohio); Ozo Remedy Company syrup (New Brighton, Pennsylvania); Joseph Triner bitters (Chicago); and Liquozone tonic (Chicago).

Another quarter of the identifiable medicinal containers were associated with stomach, bowel, or bladder disorders. Of these, the most prevalent were laxatives and diarrheics, including California Fig Syrup, Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, Castoria, Magnesia, Nujol (raw petroleum for cancer or constipation), Bowmans White Pine Compound, Foley & Company's Bladder and Kidney Cure, and Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root Kidney Liver and Bladder Cure. Pain killers and liniments constituted the next largest category of medicines. Predominance in this area was held by F. AD Richter & Company's "Pain-Expeller For Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, Colds, Etc.," Desinol, and Sloan's N&B Liniment.

Rounding out the bottle collection unearthed at Dunlap were containers formerly filled with nail polish, cold cream, lotion, hair tonic, shampoo, talcum powder, complexion salts, sewing machine oil, glue, bleach, stove and floor polish, and stove enamel.

Other Artifacts

Beyond the bounty of kitchen-related artifacts, archaeologists were confronted with legions of objects associated with architecture, furniture, personal use, clothing, arms, tobacco use, and other activities. The most prevalent items in each of these functional groups are listed on the next page:

Whiteware and porcelain ceramics decorated with decals, transfer prints, glazes, gilt bands, and painted stripes lent a touch of gentility to mealtimes.

Architectural
stone
ceramic block
brick
concrete
slate
window glass
nails
corrugated metal
strap hinges
barrel hinges
latch bars
locks
lock plates
door knobs
door handles
door knockers
porcelain and glass electrical insulators
pipes
spigots

Furniture-related
lamp chimney glass
wick keys
wick housings
lamp hanging rings
lamp shades
lamp stands

Personal items
copper alloy brooch with rhinestones
plastic hair combs
onion-shaped glass perfume bottle
shaving razor blade

Clothing
ceramic buttons
glass buttons
milk glass buttons
shell buttons
bone buttons
wood buttons
plastic buttons
vegetable ivory buttons
metal buttons
belt buckles
leather belt fragments
shoe leather
copper eyelets
grommets

Arms-related
[negligible]

Tobacco-related
kaolin pipe stems
plastic pipe stems
bone pipe stems
wooden pipe bowl
stoneware pipe bowls

Activity-related
harmonica parts
clock and watch parts
flat irons
straight edge razors
shaving mugs
drill bits
scissors
axe head
shovel blades
trowel blades
hoes
pitch fork head
stoneware marbles
clay marbles
glass marbles
tin cast horse
cast metal horse pulling a fire truck
cast iron racing horses
toy guns
toy airplane
porcelain doll parts
ice skate blades
horse shoes
dog tags
tokens
miners' checks

*Among the particularly evocative artifacts singled out for discussion in the Phase III report were (clockwise from top) a doll face, doorknobs, miner's checks, firetruck and pistol novelty candy bottles (popular in the 1920s), a Simon Fischer Lekvar vessel with lid (*lekvar *is a thick fruit puree), padlocks, and (in center) a compote dish pedestal with elaborate pressed glass design (the processing directions are still present, indicating the dish was never finished, and was probably sold as a factory second) (objects not to scale).*

Analyzing Animal Remains

The artifactual field data was augmented by information derived from analyses of floral (plant) and faunal (animal) remains collected across the Dunlap Village Site. Aside from a few bits of eggshell, evidence of live and butchered animals on the Site took the form of bones and bone fragments disinterred from the nine principal, intact privy pits. The predominant animal species represented in this way comprised chicken, rabbit, swine (domesticated pigs), cattle, cat, mouse, woodrat, muskrat, opossum, groundhog, dog, turkey, duck, and fish. Nearly three-quarters of the food species bones extracted from the privies were from chickens. Rabbit and pig bones each accounted for about 10% of the assemblage. None of the other species accounted for more than 3% of the bone data.

Beyond the *species* of animals present when Dunlap's privies served also as refuse pits, analysis of bones in terms of the *body portions* they represented revealed how some of the food species had been raised, butchered, and/or consumed. The extensive collection of chicken bones, for instance, included all parts of the skeleton in relatively equal proportions, indicating that most of the chickens consumed in Dunlap were butchered on site. The presence of eggshells and rooster leg bones (with their telltale spurs) indicated that at least some of the butchered chickens had been raised in Dunlap. It was also obvious from the varying sizes of the bones (from both male and female chickens) that birds of all ages were butchered.

Many more cultural inferences could be drawn from the variety of meat cuts represented by swine and cattle bones. Even in the limited number of cattle bones retrieved from the privies, analysts could discern that "beef meat cuts vary between the households and include a variety of cuts. Inexpensive cuts such as chuck, frontshank, and neck are present, as are more expensive cuts such as round. For the most part the bones reflect moderate size cuts of meat." In the broader view, "the low quantity of cattle bone material present at the site, and the limited distribution of cuts present, indicate that cattle were not butchered on or near the site. The relatively low percentage of beef bones at the site suggests that fresh beef was not as an important source of food for the inhabitants as chicken and swine, [the latter constituting] the largest quantity of available meat of any animal on the site."

Analysis of swine bones revealed that "Picnic Shoulder was the most prevalent meat cut, followed by pig feet. It is possible that some of the pig feet came preprocessed and pickled in jars." Following a review of other distinguishable pork cuts, the faunal analyst ventured that:

> Pork, like beef, appears to have been purchased elsewhere and brought to the site. . . . Although socio-economic status cannot easily be inferred from faunal remains, the cuts of meat chosen are suggestive. The cuts of pork are generally of poor quality. Forty-one percent of the swine bones represent jowl, feet, and rough back. . . . The choice of cuts indicates families of limited means, who acquired pork in forms which could flavor vegetables, stews, and other dishes more often than they were used as a major portion of the meal.

By way of summation, the faunal analyst observed: "The domesticated animal meats suggest that the inhabitants of Dunlap Village enjoyed fresh meat in limited quantities. The presence of several wild species such as rabbit, muskrat, oppossum, duck, and fish indicate that the domestic meat diet was probably supplemented with wild game. The size of the wild animals suggests that the Dunlap villagers hunted and fished probably as a recreational matter rather than to supplement the limited domesticated animal meats in their diet."

Floral Analysis

An analysis of plant remains collected from the Dunlap Site yielded so much suggestive data that the findings filled a separate report titled *Pollen, Starch, Parasite, and Macrofloral Analysis of Samples from The Dunlap Village Site, 36Fa480, Pennsylvania*. In a summary of this document presented in the Phase III report, the authors itemized the great "variety of plants [that] grew in the area at the time of occupation," then moved on to a discussion of how the assembled evidence constituted "a large signature from the environment." This section read as follows:

> Recovery of pollen and macrofloral evidence of flour, corn (including probable corn meal), cloves, figs, sweet potato, tomatoes, lentils, apples, poppy seeds, cherries, peach and related fruits, raspberries/blackberries, elderberries, and grapes from the privies indicates that the diet of the occupants of Dunlap Village included a variety of baked goods, vegetables, and fruits. Regular evidence of Cerealia (wheat, oats, rye, or barley) pollen was observed in both

yard and privy samples, indicating that making and consuming baked goods and probably other foods with flour was a common activity. An uncharred poppy seed in [one] primary privy might indicate that some of the baked goods were seasoned with poppy seeds. *Rubus* and *Sambucus* seeds were present in each privy examined, *Ficus* seeds were noted in [almost all of the privies], and *Vitis* seeds were present in [all but two intact privies], indicating that raspberries/blackberries, elderberries, figs, and grapes often were eaten by the residents of Dunlap Village, whether fresh and/or as jam, jelly, or preserves. Cherry pits were noted most often in the yard samples and only once in [an] intact privy, suggesting that cherry pits were not often swallowed or discarded with kitchen trash in the privies but rather discarded in the yard areas. . . . Recovery of clove pollen in [one] privy suggests that ham was prepared, since this is the most common use of whole cloves. Alternatively, clove pollen might have been present in ground cloves included in baked goods, such as pies or cakes. *Capparis*-type pollen in [one] house lot also suggests use of capers as a seasoning

Site-Specific Inferences

In concluding their discussions of each cluster of field data, the authors of the Phase III report drew site-specific inferences from the assembled evidence. In many instances, their interpretations leaned heavily on information presented in the preceding "History of Dunlap Village and Garwood Works," with frequent references to the reminiscences of former resident Tom Murphy. The nature of the site-focused conclusions are suggested by the following samples:

> Based upon the distribution of all artifact groups across the Site, Mr. Murphy's recollection that the area surrounding the privies was one of the primary dumping locations was largely correct. The trash was not thrown "everywhere," however. It appears to have been disposed of to the outer edges of the yard areas that lay between the houses, leaving the area between the yards relatively free of debris. . . .
>
> The ceramic artifact concentrations appear to coincide with the bottle glass concentrations, suggesting they represent trash dump areas on each house lot. The bottle glass distribution suggests that while specific dumping areas were identified by the individual households, there was a certain amount of overlap between the dump of one family's occupation and the next family's dump area. In addition, it would appear that bottles may not have always been subjected to formal dumping on each property and may have been discarded haphazardly. . . .
>
> The paucity of electrical items adds credence to Mr. Murphy's contention that electricity "was a big thing" because of its scarcity at Dunlap Village. . . .

The presentation of field data and drawing of site-specific inferences laid the groundwork for the culminating sections of the Phase III report, in which the authors considered the implications of the archaeological investigation across a broader cultural framework.

A complete oil lamp (well and stand) was among the few furniture-related items recovered from the Dunlap Village Site.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

*CHRS, Inc. researchers gained perspective on Dunlap's rise and fall by comparing census data recorded there in 1910, 1920, and 1930 (**right**) with sets of data compiled in the neighboring patch towns of Simpson and Allison. The 1930 data, and an aerial photograph taken in September 1938 (**above**), reflected Allison's continued growth and the inexorable decline of its two neighbors to the west.*

CHAPTER FOUR

Putting It All Together

While Phase III archaeological surveys are sometimes referred to as "data recoveries," they are expected to push beyond the collection, processing, analysis, and presentation of site-specific data to considerations of what the accumulated information might mean in a broader cultural context. In the preceding chapter we have seen attempts to draw inferences from field data, often in light of commentary provided by informants, historical documents, and the authors of pertinent archaeological studies. The scope of these inferences was necessarily limited to the Dunlap Village Site, however, and the question of Dunlap's standing in the cultural milieu of early-twentieth-century Fayette County remained largely unaddressed.

Several sections of the Phase III report took up the challenge of placing Dunlap within "a bigger picture." The first attempt was described at the conclusion of the historical overview, as the authors examined Dunlap and two neighboring patch towns through the binoculars of decennial federal census records and industrial statistics. Here's what they discovered:

Comparative Company Town Data and Analysis

Census records provide a basis for comparing Dunlap's population with populations enumerated on concurrent occasions in neighboring coal-and-coke company towns. For comparative purposes, demographic data pertaining to Dunlap residents is analyzed below alongside corresponding data for two patch towns: one of equivalent size and similar corporate genesis (Simpson), and a larger company town, owned and managed by one of the region's dominant coal-and-coke corporations (Allison). Where industrial data are available for the corresponding mines and cokeyards, those data are also considered.

Simpson and Katherine Works

The village of Simpson grew up beside the Union Connellsville Coke Company's Katherine Mine and Coke Works, across Dunlap Creek from Garwood Works, in Luzerne Township. Simpson took its name from the adjacent stop on the Connellsville and Monongahela Railway (CMRR), which was located beside the Railway's crossing of Simpson Road (the Simpson station also served Garwood Works and the residents of Dunlap). Like Garwood Works, Katherine Works was established by a group of local businessmen—the Union Connellsville Coke Company of Uniontown—shortly after the opening of the CMRR through the valley of Dunlap Creek. The Company began drilling a shaft along Simpson Road early in 1908. The following year, Union Connellsville employees produced 12,281 tons of coal and 4,498 tons of coke in 75 ovens (compared to 10,858 tons of coal and 6,591 tons of coke produced in 15 ovens at Garwood Works). A photograph of the northern section of Simpson, taken in June 1929 (**page 16**), reveals a collection of double-houses, shanties, and privies similar in massing and composition to the duplexes and shanties of Dunlap, as documented photographically and through oral history.

Beehive vs. Rectangular Coke Ovens

One of few major technological disparities between Katherine Works and Garwood Works was the installation and operation at Katherine of rectangular coke ovens, a purported technological improvement over traditional beehive ovens (such as those in service at Garwood). As reported in a 1914 *Weekly Courier* profile of coking operations in the Connellsville District:

> [Beginning in 1909] several operators in the Connellsville coke region, particularly W.J. Rainey, adopted the rectangular type of oven in preference to the usual beehive type. Coke made in a rectangular oven is machine coke, as none of the oven is drawn by hand. . . . In drawing the oven the coke is pushed slowly out of it [by means of a mechanical ram] in a solid mass instead of being drawn out in chunks, as in the case of a machine-drawn beehive oven. The advantage of the rectangular oven is in the saving of labor. The same number of men can draw a greater number of rectangular ovens in a given time than they can handle beehive ovens. The rectangular oven shows to advantage during the summer, when the days are hot, because it is easier on the men. Another advantage of the rectangular oven is that it takes a larger charge. The average rectangular oven produces from 5¼ to 5½ tons of coke against 4½ tons for the beehive oven. There is no difference in the coking process between the two types of oven.

Historian Carmen DiCiccio has reported that "the early successes of rectangular ovens prompted other coke operators in the Connellsville and Klondike districts to construct these ovens. The last beehive coke plant constructed in the Connellsville region was built at the H.C. Frick Company's Phillips mine near Uniontown in 1907, and from that year until 1910 rectangular ovens were the only coke ovens constructed in the district." The Dunlap-Connellsville Coke Company's Garwood Works appears to have been overlooked in this assessment. Its first 50 beehive

ovens were completed and fired in August 1908, according to a contemporary newspaper account. Another 69 beehive ovens were added to this arsenal over the next few years. Garwood Works may thus stand "as the last beehive coke plant constructed in the Connellsville region." In any case, it stood on the conventional side of this technological divide, while Katherine Works, with its rectangular ovens, stood with the innovators.

Allison

Standing also on the side of innovation were the founders of Allison, a company town built by the W.J. Rainey Coke Company beside its Allison Works, several hundred yards up Dunlap Creek from Dunlap and Simpson. Land for both the Works and the company town was acquired in the fall of 1907, but it was not until 1911 that the first 117 rectangular ovens were fired there. Another 176 rectangular ovens were installed during the next few years in what came to be designated "Allison No. 1," to differentiate it from a second Rainey plant ("Allison No. 2"; a.k.a. "Luzerne Works") built across the creek in Luzerne Township. The "Allison" demographic

By the summer of 1911 (when this photograph was taken somewhere in the booming Connellsville Coke District), coke companies were building ovens in the new rectangular configuration. This shape allowed coke to be pushed out of the oven in a solid mass by a mechanical ram, rather than drawn out in chunks, as was the case with the beehive oven.

data discussed below pertain to Allison No. 1. This data should be considered in light of the fact that Allison No. 1 was one of three W.J. Rainey company towns operating in the Connellsville Coke District's "Klondike" region as of 1916, and it was just one of eleven W.J. Rainey company towns scattered throughout the broader Connellsville Coke District at that time.

1910 Data

Census data compiled in 1910 indicate that as of that year Simpson was more developed than Dunlap, with a larger population, more families, more dwelling units, a larger percentage of adult males, and significantly more resident miners. Industrial data recorded for Simpson's Katherine Works and Dunlap's Garwood Works in this year shed light on these demographic disparities. The Katherine mine and 72 rectangular coke ovens provided work for 119 employees, while Garwood's mine and 57 beehive ovens provided employment for only 53 men. Additionally, a greater percentage of Katherine's employees were engaged in mine work (62%) than were Garwood's employees (33%). Under those conditions, almost four times more coal was mined at Katherine than at Garwood, and three times more coke was produced. These statistics are likely attributable, at least in part, to the operation of mechanically-drawn rectangular ovens at Katherine (wherein greater quantities of coke could be produced by fewer workers) as opposed to the operation of smaller-capacity manually-drawn beehive ovens at Garwood.

In contrast to the two smaller company towns, much larger Allison had higher percentages of male boarders (33%) and adult males (77%). Its percentage of coke workers (16%) was closer to Katherine's low (6%) than to Garwood's high (33%), and its percentage of miners (9%) was much lower than the other two company towns. These statistics could be attributable to the fact that the first construction phase at Allison Works was still underway in 1910, whereas the initial construction phases of the smaller towns were already complete. None of Allison's rectangular ovens were finished and fired by the close of 1910, and few of its 28 employees were engaged in mining. The census enumerator identified many of Allison's non-mining males simply as "laborers." It is likely that a significant number of these "laborers" were engaged in constructing both Allison Works (including its initial 117 rectangular coke ovens) and the associated village. This likelihood is supported by census data indicating that more than half of Allison's adults had been born in Italy, a country renowned for exporting railroad builders and stonecutters of the caliber necessary to produce batteries of coke ovens and their rail-equipped cokeyards. The adult population of Dunlap at this time also included a relatively high percentage of Italians (50%). Not surprisingly, the neighboring coke yard at Garwood Works was being augmented at

this time by 26 beehive coke ovens. In Simpson, by contrast, Italians constituted only 8% of the adult population, in spite of the fact that the "improvements" to the Union Connellsville Coke Company's Katherine Works in 1910 included "10 permanent stoppings, one lamp house, one blacksmith shop, one oil house, one granary, one stable, 10 new dwelling houses, 65 new coke ovens . . . extended larry track, pusher track on coke yard and railroad sidings." Perhaps most of the Italian men engaged in construction at Katherine Works lived in neighboring Dunlap and Allison, which had predominant Italian populations (and Allison had an unusually large population of single Italian boarders). It is also noteworthy (as will be seen in the light of subsequent census data) that no African-Americans lived in any of the three company towns in 1910.

1920 Data

Census data recorded in 1920 indicate that Simpson's population grew the least (42%) of the three company towns during the boom years encompassing World War I. Dunlap's population more than doubled, and Allison's tripled during that period. Simpson's lackluster expansion presaged an early demise. Factors that would drive the Connellsville Central Coke Company out of business during the 1920s may have already been at work at the dawn of the decade.

Italians abandoned Dunlap and Simpson during the 1910s, perhaps because the kinds of jobs they excelled at—stonecutting and railroad building—were in short supply after all of the coke ovens and rail connections had been built. Allison, with its much larger population and more diverse employment possibilities, retained a significant percentage of its Italian population (25%). Whereas African-Americans were apparently still not welcome in Dunlap as of 1920, they constituted 30% of Simpson's population, and 18% of Allison's. In light of the lower socio-economic status of blacks in Appalachian coal communities, their sizable presence in Simpson might be additional evidence that the village was perceived to be in decline.

The percentage of single male boarders in Allison's population had dipped by 1920 to a level comparable with Dunlap's and Simpson's. The factors in this reduction might include: men who had been single male boarders in 1910 were married and raising families by 1920; Italians had constituted the majority of single male boarders in 1910, and as the number of Italians dwindled (perhaps in proportion to stonecutting and railroad building employment), the number of single male boarders decreased accordingly.

While the populations of Dunlap, Simpson, and Allison grew more ethnically diverse during the 1910s, they did so along slightly different lines. On one hand, all three villages absorbed significant contingents of Austrian-born adults before, during, and after the war that ended the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Indeed, Austrian-born adults outnumbered all other adults in Dunlap 3 to 2 by 1920. Half of Simpson's adults were

As of January 1920, twenty Dunlap residents—one-third of the village's working adults—tended the beehive ovens at Garwood Works. In neighboring Simpson and Allison, only 10-15% of

Austrian-born in 1920, and one-third of Allison's adults could say the same. On the other hand, Simpson admitted a large number of African Americans during the 1910s, while Allison welcomed relatively few, and Dunlap took in none at all.

Something that remained relatively unchanged during the 1910s was the relative proportion of miners to coke workers in the three company towns. In the works adjoining Allison and Simpson, rectangular coke ovens required relatively less manual labor, and thus only about 15% and 10% of employed males in the company towns were so employed, respectively. Meanwhile, in the beehive oven-equipped cokeyard beside Dunlap, squads of skilled coke-drawers were still critical contributors to the overall enterprise. It comes as no surprise that fully one-third of Dunlap's employed males were engaged "on the cokeyard."

the labor force was required to keep the rectangular ovens going. Beehive ovens account for the large number of workers in this circa-1910 scene "on the cokeyard"

1930 Data

Census data recorded in Dunlap in 1930 serve primarily to document the village's depopulation during the 1920s. As discussed in "History of Dunlap Village and Garwood Works" above, the village was on the verge of abandonment in 1930, and neighboring Gar-wood Works was also in its last throes. Simpson appears to have already been abandoned, and its Katherine Works shut down. No residents of Simpson were identified in the 1930 Luzerne Township decennial census, and the Simpson site was depicted as devoid of structures on a USGS map surveyed in 1930-31.

The population of Allison, by contrast, increased nearly three-fold during the 1920s, as had its number of households. If it hadn't already graduated from village status to town status by 1920, it certainly did so by 1930. The passage of time had "Americanized" Allison. In 1920, three-quarters of Allison's adults had been characterized as foreign-born. Ten years later, foreign-born adults barely outnumbered American-born adults in the town. With the population of American-born children figuring into the equation, native Americans outnumbered foreign-born citizens in Allison by a ratio of 3 to 1.

Under the management of the W.J. Rainey Coke Company, Allison acquired a momentum that enabled it to remain viable in the face of flagging industrial fortunes during the Great Depression. It even managed to survive the post-World-War-II collapse of the coal-and-coke industry in Fayette County. Dunlap and Simpson, by contrast, did not enjoy the support of stable and long-lived parent companies. They were not parts of extensive corporate networks. When their owners fell on hard financial times during the 1920s, the isolated villages suffered immediately. Dunlap can only boast that it died a little slower than Simpson.

Wider Implications

Drawing on nearly three decades of experience, CHRS, Inc. President Kenneth J. Basalik concluded the Phase III report with an extended "Discussion" of the Dunlap Village Site from

both regional and macro-archaeological perspectives, then followed that presentation with a more theoretical set of "Conclusions." Dr. Basalik noted at the outset of his "Discussion" that "Dunlap Village is a unique archaeological site in many ways. The village is twentieth century in date, but was occupied for only a short period of time. Its location atop Cedar Hill appears to have protected it from substantial post-depositional impacts. There is no evidence of wide-scale disturbances or use of the site for more modern dumping. Dunlap Village possesses extraordinary integrity for a twentieth-century site."

In considering the "The Physical Landscape" of Dunlap, Dr. Basalik ticked off the many ways in which "the setting and layout of Dunlap Village corresponds to those of many other coal-and-coke patch towns in the area." He then gave equal attention to what made Dunlap physically distinctive, including its ridge-top location, the topography-induced arrangement of yards and privies in front (rather than to the rear) of the duplexes, and the correlated absence of an orienting roadway.

Under the heading "Village Inhabitants," Dr. Basalik reiterated the results of the "Comparative Company Town Demographic Data and Analysis" before offering the following observations:

> For most of its period of occupation, Dunlap appears to have been a relatively harmonious community. While newspaper accounts detail societal conflicts at Simpson and other patch communities, the majority of articles until the 1930s about Dunlap residents deal with injury and deaths suffered by the inhabitants. If there were distinct social or ethnic enclaves in Dunlap, they did not produce different patterns of domestic refuse through time. Until the 1930s, Dunlap Village's population structure varied as to ethnicity, but otherwise remained unchanged. Mostly married couples, most with children, lived in the double houses with an occasional boarder. The number of people present, the number of boarders at any given point in time, and the ethnic group which predominated, all varied through time. So, to whom does the archaeological material at Dunlap Village belong? Given the mobility of the workforce during the early twentieth century and the changed demographics of the population, it is impossible to associate the deposits with a given individual, family, or even a single ethnic group. The inhabitants of Dunlap Village do have some commonality: they all lived a period of their lives in a company patch town. Although no narratives other than Tom Murphy's exist for Dunlap, narratives of other patch towns are eerily similar. They speak of crude facilities, cheap rents, limited financial means. The patch was a waystation where, as Enman states, "one shared objective was to own a house outside the company town, or to return to the homeland comparatively wealthy."

Dr. Basalik's discussion of the "Use of the Landscape" focused on trash disposal across the Dunlap Village Site, which he characterized as "similar from one house lot to the next." Noting that "the archaeological record shows that nearly every household dumped its trash on the ground near its privy," and adding that "in several cases a greater quantity of material was dumped behind the privy than beside it," the author went on to describe how "Dunlap is unusual in trash discard for the region":

> Other industrial communities archaeologically examined in Pennsylvania exhibit relatively clean yard areas, and oral histories often discuss how "the miner and company worked together to keep houses and yards neat, clean and orderly." Unlike other coal and coke communities, the companies that owned Dunlap do not seem to have provided for fencing between household or house lots. The absence of fence lines is clear in the archaeological record. The use of inexpensive ceramic block instead of stone or cement to repair foundations indicates that the companies did not supply stone or high quality building materials to maintain the double houses. . . . Given the limited area owned by the companies, it is unlikely that they provided an area

The labor shortage and demand for steel during World War I were so acute that men and boys who had never worked "on the cokeyard" pitched in to serve as coke-drawers.

for dumping trash nearby the double houses studied. The shallowness of the soils would not make the privy shafts an ideal dumping area either, as they would quickly fill up and need to be either cleaned, or a new shaft dug. It can be hypothesized that the pattern of dumping at the site reflects the relative lack of interest of the companies in maintaining the buildings in a clean and orderly manner. The companies' attitude—combined with limits on space, the limited period of occupation of each household, and the lack of any other means of trash disposal—resulted in the accumulation of large quantities of trash in the yard areas of the residences. The apparent dump locations near the privy, along the border between yards reflect the need to maintain some relatively clear open space for the planting of gardens, keeping of animals, and household maintenance activities (laundry, preliminary preparation of garden vegetables, smoking of meat, etc.).

"Other Archaeological Inferences"

Under the heading "Other Archaeological Inferences," Dr. Basalik continued to integrate field data and historical records in ways that shed light on Dunlap's significance as an early-twentieth-century archaeological site. The nature of these inferences is suggested by the opening sentences of a handful of passages:

> Given the high percentage of Italian-born workers living in Dunlap in 1910, and the high percentage of Austro-Hungarian-born workers residing there in 1920, it was anticipated that there would be ethnic patterns and signatures in the archaeological record reflecting the maintenance of social and/or ethnic

identities. With a few exceptions, this did not seem to be the case. The majority of artifacts recovered were not clearly associated with any ethnic group. . . .

There is some evidence that the residents of Dunlap Village had adopted other American ideologies of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The prevailing ideological conception in North America by the end of the nineteenth century has been referred to as the "Cult of Domesticity." This Victorian-period perspective views the home as an oasis of virtue, comfort, and perfection in an otherwise rough world. Wives, as keepers of the home, were supposed to reflect this perfection. The view was embraced in early nineteenth-century urban centers in New York City, and expanded into rural areas as the nineteenth century progressed. . . . While families living in Dunlap may not have had the wherewithal to adopt the ideology completely, they were certainly influenced by it. . . .

The high percentage of teawares in Dunlap Village is an indication that, on some level, these families strove toward what was becoming the family ideal. . . .

The ceramics at Dunlap Village are highly decorated. Although the decorated wares are not the most fashionable or expensive wares in terms of economic scaling, they were likely used to reaffirm the families' desire for middle class gentility. . . .

Another aspect of the striving for middle class cultural "norms" can be seen in the relative size of the plates. . . .

Pottery types and bottle glass provide evidence that Dunlap Village was integrated into the market economy. . . .

The predominance of bottle glass suggests that processed foodstuff were an important element in the inhabitants' diet. . . .

Although of limited means, the occupants of Dunlap Village strove to reflect middle class norms, and to participate in the consumer society of the early twentieth century. . . .

Dunlap Village was in some ways atypical of an early twentieth-century patch town. Research indicates that patch towns were becoming more sanitary and attractive during this period, with roomier residences and gar-

*The Victorian view of the home as an oasis of virtue, comfort, and perfection in an otherwise rough world (the "Cult of Domesticity") was in full flower across North America by the turn of the twentieth century, reaching even into southwestern Pennsylvania "patches" such as Hecla No. 1 (Mt. Pleasant Township, Westmoreland County, **left**). Dunlap's families may not have had the wherewithal to adopt the ideology completely, but the archaeological record indicates they were clearly influenced by it.*

> dens. . . . Dunlap Village was much poorer than the average patch town of its day, as evidenced by the treatment of expired workers, the lack of readily available fresh water, and other factors. . . .

"Conclusions"

Wrapping up the Dunlap Village Site Phase III Archaeological Survey report, Dr. Basalik touched on numerous theoretical topics for the benefit of fellow archaeologists and social scientists. In his concluding paragraph, however, he offered a more prosaic summary of Dunlap Village's significance as an archaeological site:

> Dunlap Village (36Fa480) is a unique archaeological site. The village is twentieth century in date, but was occupied for only a short period of time. Its location atop Cedar Hill appears to have protected it from post-depositional impacts. There is no evidence of wide-scale disturbances or use of the site for more modern dumping. Dunlap Village possesses extraordinary integrity for a twentieth-century site. As a result of the work performed in this study, the community has been partially resurrected from oblivion. Archaeological research has provided details as to the lifestyle of those who worked the mine and coke works and lived

in Dunlap Village. Comparisons to other towns in the region and elsewhere have shown that Dunlap, while reflecting some of the traits exhibited in other areas, had a more transient population and left less of a mark on the landscape than those communities which have been more thoroughly studied historically. Dunlap has produced baseline data concerning domestic sites dating from the first third of the twentieth century which can be used as comparative material for future researchers exploring sites with less integrity. Only a portion of the site has been excavated. The portion of the site examined contained only a portion of the double houses. Elements of the infrastructure of the community such as the store, the school, and a possible water source all lay outside the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the project. How these elements functioned within the village and what changes these endured has not been a part of this study. Also lying outside the project's APE is the large number of two- and three-room shanties. How the material culture of the inhabitants of these buildings differed from those of the larger, family-oriented buildings within the APE, is likely to remain unknown. Also, the remains of the manager's residence and the industrial complex itself have not been examined in detail. These elements, and the various paths and walkways used and visited by the inhabitants of the Dunlap Village Site, are still extant and should warrant further study. The archaeological study has provided information concerning the site and its general place in the region. The archaeological material alone, however, cannot provide a full picture of the community. How the workers of Dunlap interacted outside of the village and what interactions took place between villages and towns is only hinted at by oral interviews which discuss Dunlap's participation in inter-village baseball games. The wider picture of the integration of the rural industrial and rural non-industrial communities is a focus for further studies.

FOR FURTHER READING AND RESEARCH

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