



WYOMING VALLEY: AN AMERICAN SAGA

By

**Norman C. Rothman, Ph.D.
Department of History, UMUC**

June, 2009

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Abstract

This study examines a region of Northeast Pennsylvania and traces the ideological, sociological, and technological evolution that it has undergone from prehistoric times to the early part of this twentieth-first century. It is historical in approach and studies the changes that the region has undergone in four major time periods: The Native American Eras, the Colonial and Early National Period; the Age of Coal; and the Post-Industrial Period. It finds that the area reflects closely the changes of the country as it has moved successively from a subsistence rural agrarian culturally homogenous locality to an increasingly urban industrialized religiously and ethnically diverse locale to a community struggling to meet the changes that other American communities in the Northeast and Middle West must meet in a post-industrial changing American landscape characterized by changing residential, commercial, and demographic patterns. As such, it mirrors where we have been, where we are, and where we may be going in a shifting ideological, sociological, and technological set of circumstances. It is a retrospective study, a snapshot of the present, and a possible blueprint for the future.

Keywords:

Wyoming Valley

Delaware

Pennamite

Anthracite

United Mine Workers

Pennsylvania Industrial Assistance Corporation



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

Introduction: Historical Overview

Historically, the region described in the following section mirrors the experience of the country. The historical phases of human habitation reflect the history of our country. The original Native American settlers of the dominant Algonquin and Iroquois groups in the fertile Wyoming Valley was typical of the type of settled village culture prevalent in much of pre-Columbian America east of the Mississippi River in terms of house types (long houses, wooden and thatched roofs with deerskins), crops (beans, maize, tobacco), leadership patterns (headship, councils); and means of exchange (beads, wampum); and hunting, fishing and mining patterns (see historical epochs). The colonial period also typified patterns of colonial settlement with Valley being a scene of contention between settlers from Pennsylvania and Connecticut with ethnic groups, dialects, housing types, and religions being representative of the middle colonies and northern colonies respectively. The food crops grown and the agrarian lifestyle mirrored colonial America.(see below). The early national period also reflected national patterns as macadamized roads based on long established paths was followed by canals and then by railroads in the era of internal improvements. The increasingly urban and industrialized nature of the country finds its local counterpart in the rise of anthracite coal which the region supplied to the country during the heyday of this fossil fuel between the mid-nineteenth century and 1920. The arrival of immigrants attracted by the coal fields reflected the changing demographic nature of the country as immigrants from western and northern Europe were replaced by immigrants from southern and eastern Europe who brought with them various elements of culture especially language and religion (the historical section examines this development in detail). The slow decline since then is emblematic of many areas in the Northeast and Midwest as regions cope with the post-industrial age (examined below).

Introduction: the Setting and Basic Themes.

This study traces the sociological, ideological, and technological changes over the past millennia in a region of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Wyoming Valley is the population center of Luzerne County – a county which occupies 892 square miles and has just over 310,000 people according to the most recent census. It is physically divided into three major areas—the Allegheny Plateau, the Appalachian Ridge, and the Valley Region. The Susquehanna River bisects the county. Culturally, there have been six regions in the county: The Back Mountain region; Wyoming Valley; the Western Poconos; Mountaintop; the Hazleton area (the county's second city located in the extreme southeast and its hinterland); and the Northwest Highlands and Susquehanna Valley.¹

Each of these regions has a distinct heritage. The Back Mountain area of Luzerne County is located in the Northeastern part of the county, and includes a somewhat prosperous farming community and the Harvey's Lake resort area. The low plateau area north and northeast of the central community of Dallas is still the site for dairy farms and



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

fruit orchards. The majority of people are of Yankee descent since the initial settlers to the area came from New England. The predominant religion is Methodism, and the residents tend to be Republican. One could view this area as a cross section of conservative American rural values. Today, it is the fastest growing area in Luzerne County (which has shown an overall population decline in recent decades). It could be characterized as a “yuppie” area as significant numbers of affluent educated professionals have moved to the community, which has also experienced a natural upsurge of new businesses. The negative side of this development has been the rise in taxes and overextension of community services. Perhaps inevitably, increased tension is evident between the new suburbanites and older rural residents. Ironically, the relative prosperity has helped to bridge any residual resentment felt by the original inhabitants.²

Two other regions of the county have experienced an economic upsurge since World War II. The first area, the western Pocono region in the southeast of the county, has shared in the general growth of the Poconos (the only section of Pennsylvania that has seen consistent population growth over the past half of the 20th century). Along with the eastern Poconos in adjacent Pike and Monroe counties, it has become a bedroom community for people who have high paying jobs in New York City and New Jersey and commute daily. Similar situations exist in Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia and in Manchester, New Hampshire, where the relatively low cost of living and taxes have made these communities popular destinations for workers in Washington, D.C. and Boston, Massachusetts, respectively. These areas have become attractive residential areas for those who want a combination of high salaries and affordable living costs. As in other parts of the Poconos, vacation homes and recreational facilities for honeymooners and tourists abound. This current condition is quite a contrast to the traditional role of this area as a somewhat isolated highland region settled by both English and German speakers by 1800. Before World War II, this region was a mixed area of timber production, coal mining, and hillside farming.

To the west of this region is another area of growth – Mountaintop. This area of high rolling hills and valleys was an area of small population inhabited by German Protestants mostly from southeastern Pennsylvania until World War II. The subsequent completion of the highway system (Interstates 80 and 81) and the development of Crestwood Industrial Park caused a marked positive transformation in this area. The resulting rise in suburban housing and high tech industries which developed around the central community of Mountaintop had an even greater impact than that experienced in the Back Mountain area.³

The other areas of the county did not experience the socio-economic change experienced by the aforementioned areas. The Northwest Highlands and Susquehanna Valley region in western Luzerne County remained separate from the anthracite coal culture which dominated the county between 1825 and 1950. It continues to be a sparsely-populated region of farmers, loggers, and hunters, small towns, and rural life reminiscent of 18th and 19th century America. However, this area has also experienced inevitable change. Large-scale dairy farms have expanded, and the highland sections are now seasonably visited by both vacationers and sportsmen. The river valley section of



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

this region is part of the Susquehanna River watershed and has seen its economy expand following the construction of the Susquehanna nuclear power plant by Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.⁴

The previously discussed sub-regions have never contained more than 30 percent of the population (although their population share has grown from a very small base). The dominant regions are the Hazleton area and Wyoming Valley. Both regions have waxed and waned with the coal culture that, in turn, has led to a wide variety of economic classes and ethnic groups which will be discussed in great length later in this chapter. Hazleton, the second city of the county, is located over 25 miles from central city Wilkes-Barre at the highest summit in the state. It is separated from the Allegheny Plateau section of the county (the site of Wilkes-Barre) by the Appalachian Ridge. This natural geographic division has created a sense of separation from the rest of the county and a greater sense of identification with the anthracite region in the southern portion of the county. As a result, there have been attempts over the years to form a new county of which Hazleton would be the center, just as Scranton became the nucleus of Lackawanna County when it was separated from Luzerne County in the 19th century. Many communities in the Hazleton area began their existence as “coal patch” or company towns. This was an area of great industrial unrest from the age of the Molly Maguires (immigrant coal miners who resisted the coal mine owners in the 19th century) to the period of John L. Lewis and the great strikes of the United Mine Workers Union between 1902 and 1936. After World War II, the Hazleton area decline was partly offset by an economic revitalization program called Can-Do which attracted new industries especially around the Valmont and Humboldt industrial parks located near Interstates 80 and 81. The city has been in the news recently over a large-scale Hispanic immigration which became a national controversy concerning the right of a local authority to expel elements of a population in terms of challenges to legal citizen status.⁵

The population center of the county (and the focus of this study) has always been the Wyoming Valley that has had (even when in decline) the bulk of the population, as well as the most cultural and economic activities. Located in the central to northern sections of the county, it extends 17 miles from north of Pittston to south of Nanticoke. Horizontally, it extends three to six miles on either side of the Susquehanna River.⁶ Historically, and currently, the economic and cultural hub is the city of Wilkes-Barre; however, the bulk of the population of the Valley’s approximately 200,000 people reside in small to medium towns. These towns were first dominated by farming, and then by coal mining between the founding of the county in 1786 and World War II.⁷ It epitomizes the American pattern of European encroachment on Native Americans, rural and agricultural America, industrialization, immigration, economic boom and bust, and cultural and ethnic diversity so characteristic of our national fabric.



HISTORICAL EPOCHS

Native American Era

The historical timeframe of the Native American era can be divided into five periods: 1) the paleo-Indian Period, 2) the Archaic period, 3) the Traditional Period, 4) the Woodland Period, and 5) the Historical Period. As elsewhere, nomadic hunters existed in Wyoming Valley as the glaciers of the Ice Age began to retreat. There is evidence of the mammoth and mastodon and the use of high quality flint implements placed on pointed spears in the Wyoming Valley. During this period, which lasted from 10,000 to 8,000 B.C.E, nomads hunted large bear and wolf that also appeared at this time.⁸

The final retreat of the glaciers occurred between 8000 and 7000 B.C.E. New forms of animal and plant life that accompanied ecological changes appeared in the Wyoming Valley. This Archaic Period (7000 to 1000 B.C.E) witnessed fir and spruce trees give way dense deciduous forests of oak, hickory, birch, and chestnut. The products of these forests--acorns, hickory nut, and chestnuts (as well as other nuts and berries)--became the staple diet of local residents. New species of animals such as the white-tailed deer, elk, turkey, and the small bear also appeared. Rivers began to flow and rise as the temperature increased, and the dominant waterway of the Northeast, the Susquehanna River, flowed into the newly-formed Chesapeake Bay. Water brought fish such as shad and roe.⁹ The present Wyoming Valley was formed by the Susquehanna River flowing through the outcroppings of the Allegheny Mountain range. The flow of the main branch of the Susquehanna River and its Lackawanna River tributary along with surrounding mountain ranges made the Wyoming Valley attractive in terms of both soil fertility and strategic location. The Iroquois and Algonquin, British and French, and the Pennsylvania and Connecticut Yankees were soon to vie for the attributes of region.

The availability of new food sources encouraged a wider variety of tools such as fish nets weighted with notched flat river stones, axes, gouges, chisels, and adzes. By the end of the period, hunters and gatherers were using implements made of stone, bone, wood, antler, and chestnut. Copper was also used as it could be hammered into a wide variety of shapes such as crescent-shaped knives, socketed axes, and both square and rounded gouges.¹⁰ The use of copper is evidence that there was some degree of long distance trade with the population of the Lake Superior region or what is today Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The increasingly temperate climate also encouraged sociological change. Inhabitants gathered in larger encampments and became semi-nomadic as they migrated in and around the Valley to summer fishing camps and winter hunting camps. The residents did not yet grow corn or maize, but they used tools such as stone mullets and pestles to grind dry acorns and hickory and to store this food in pits—indicating a move away from a totally nomadic existence.¹¹



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

The aforementioned trends intensified during the Traditional Period (1000 B.C.E to 1000 C.E.). Hunting and fishing tools became even more pointed using available minerals such as rhyolite and soapstone; these minerals were also used to make cooking vessels. Animals such as deer and bear were used for clothing, food, and shelter--further evidence that residents were making increasing use of the environment. The creation and use of clay vessels for storage demonstrated increasing sophistication. Horticulture began and the use of the bow and arrow became quite common.¹²

The Woodland Period (1000-1575) saw the arrival of sedentary agriculture characterized by the cultivation of corn. Corn became a primary staple in the diet of inhabitants whether as solid food or fermented in liquid form. Villages had designated areas for cooking, weaving, smoking fish, and tanning hides. Using pottery for cooking and storage became quite common. Other changes in terms of building were prompted by the Valley's many perceived advantages. The Wyoming Valley experienced conflict because of its location, fertile soil, and plentiful fur-bearing animals. Villages had to be fortified by using long logs or palisades. The inner walls or stockades were created with logs that were 3-8 inches in diameter and 12-15 feet height that were imbedded 8-19 inches into the ground. These stockades protected the houses, cooking areas, cornfields and gardens. The outer walls were the palisades that could extend 270 feet east and west and 210 feet north and south.¹³

The early inhabitants of the Wyoming Valley have been identified with the Susquehannocks—a people related to the Iroquois—who had disappeared by 1575. A number of reasons could have led to their disappearance. The Iroquois Confederation was formed about this time, and this group may have lost out in a power struggle. Slash and burn agriculture was practiced, and the soil may have become temporarily exhausted. The period between 1000 and 1400 is often called the “little ice age” due to cooling temperatures; this change may have adversely affected living conditions by shortening the growing season. Epidemics of smallpox and typhus introduced by European explorers for which Native Americans had little immunity may also have served to decimate the population. The period of 1575 to 1675 also saw the “beaver wars,” a struggle among various Native Americans to control the valuable fur trade initiated by the French explorers and traders.¹⁴

The Historic Period (1675 to 1775) experienced a great influx of Native Americans who pursued a settled existence. The fertile Wyoming Valley located along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River tempted the Iroquois who were located in adjacent upstate New York. Although the Iroquois were the most powerful Native American confederation in North America at the time, this union of six Native American groups (Onadega, Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, and later the Tuscorora) lacked the population to settle Wyoming Valley. Instead, they encouraged other groups (even if they were from the rival Algonquin culture) to locate there. Therefore, various groups that had been displaced in part by the fur conflicts and in part by the onrush of Native American settlers, such as the Shawnees, Lenni Lenape (later known as Delaware), Mohicans, Mohegans, Tuscorora, and Nanticokes, all settled in the Wyoming Valley. The Shawnee were prominent in the western part of the Valley, while the Delaware were



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

prominent in the eastern part. It was the Delaware who gave the name to the area, “Maugh-wau-wame”, meaning large plains that later became known as Wyoming. The Iroquois called the valley their longhouse or “entrance.”¹⁵

The Shawnee--partially influenced by their Iroquoian Susquehannock predecessors --lived in fortified villages and were ruled by a chief. At the center was a longhouse (30 to 100+ feet) with a door at each end of a corridor down the middle and bunks at each side. Each family lived around a hearth with a smoke hold above it in the corridor. Several families would live in the corridor separated by partitions. There were several longhouses in each village.¹⁶

The Delaware, who came to dominate a large portion of the Wyoming Valley by 1700, adopted much of the moccasin and deerskin clothing worn by other Northeast Native Americans. Their major food was corn and other grains supplement by fish, animals and plants. Unlike the settlements of the Iroquois, the Delaware encampments were open. They often consisted of half a dozen or more houses in cloistered or connected houses or in separate detached arrangements. The Delaware looked for three elements in their settlements—a good water supply, good drainage, and warmth for the winter. They were seasonably migrant, and lived in cabins for hunting near the village between October and April. In the spring they would fish and collect nuts and berries. They would hunt fox, beaver, and raccoons. They would tap the trees for sap during the spring. They would grow corn between April and October. When the soil became depleted from growing corn and using the trees for firewood, the Delaware would re-fertilize the soil with fish scraps. The roofs of both the village and cabins were arched. The habitations would be at least five feet high to provide wind resistance. Vertical poles were pounded into the ground and bound together by horizontal poles where they covered by long pieces of bark and held in place by strips derived from the linden tree or hickory twigs. Light poles crisscrossed on the outside to hold the bark together. The buildings were 30 to 100 feet in length and 20 to 25 feet wide. By the 18th century, the Delaware had developed small and rectangular log houses with moss or earthen roofs and bark on the outside. They would get hot water by pouring water on hot stones. Their winter cabins were reinforced by rock.

The diet of the Delaware consisted of corn, beans, squash, fish, fowl, and fish. Sap was taken from trees and boiled for sugar. Meat was roasted on wooden spits, boiled in earthen pots or broiled over coals. Corn could be prepared in a dozen ways such as boiling, roasting, pounding, grinding, and mixing with other foods. Fruits such as crab apples, plums, cranberries, and huckleberries were cultivated. Corn was harvested using hoes made from deer shoulder blades or tortoise shell. Deer and bear served the dual purpose of food and clothing. Fish were caught by fishhooks made from dried bird claws or dragnets made from hemp or fish traps. The fur trade thrived in the region, and the primary vehicle of commerce was the canoe made of elm or hickory bark or the dugout that built from cedar, poplar, or other trees. The Delaware also constructed a number of footpaths, most notably the Wyalusing Path, which connected the North branch of the Susquehanna that ran directly through the Valley to the West Branch of the Susquehanna northwest of the Wyoming Valley.¹⁷



The Colonial and Early National Periods: 1750-1840

The Colonial Period began in 1762 with the arrival of settlers to Wyoming Valley from Connecticut after they finalized an agreement with the six nations of the Iroquois. This agreement was disputed by the government of Pennsylvania that claimed this area was part of the original charter granted to the Penn family. As a result, the next quarter of century saw a series of struggles among Yankees (Connecticut and other New England areas), Pennsylvania settlers, and Iroquois and their local Delaware surrogates for possession of the Wyoming Valley. The Connecticut settlers had the advantage (in holding their ground) during the Yankee-Pennamite War of 1769-1770. Peace lasted until the Revolution War broke out in 1776.

The famous Battle of Wyoming in 1778 saw 200 settlers perish after battling the Tories, British rangers, and Native Americans who viewed both Yankee and Pennamite settlers as threats. This loss was avenged during Sullivan's March in 1778-79 in New York and Pennsylvania. During the March, the Native Americans were driven out of Wyoming Valley after 40 of their villages were burned. However, a number of Native Americans continued to reside in the mountain areas around Wyoming Valley until the early 1800's. Connecticut gave up its claims to the area as part of the renunciation of land claims during the early national period, and the Decree of Trenton in 1782 assigned the Valley permanently to Pennsylvania. A subsequent attempt to forcibly evict Yankee settlers led to a second Yankee-Pennamite War in 1784. Finally, a compromise in 1786 was reached whereby the authority of the state was recognized, as were the property rights of Yankees. At the same time, the establishment of Luzerne County as a legal entity ratified the voting rights of all settlers and local self-government.¹⁸

By 1800, the elements of diversity that characterized the Valley and indeed the nation were evident. Connecticut and New England settlers dominated the northern part of Wyoming Valley. The Yankee dialect and New England house and barn style prevailed. Congregationalism was strong, but the Second Great Awakening of the 1780's and the influence of Wesleyanism led to the spread of Methodism. Likewise, the influence of the Scottish Enlightenment led to the conversion of German Congregationalists to Presbyterianism. Large segments of German, Scotch-Irish, and English-speakers from Southeast Pennsylvania moved to the more southern portion of the Valley. This resulted in the residents of the southern half of the Wyoming Valley such as Wilkes-Barre and Kingston having a midland dialect, the dialect spoken by 75 percent of Americans today. This dialect spread via the Ohio and Mississippi River system from Maryland and Pennsylvania to the west coast in the 19th century. Even today, there is a dialect divide with people of the northern part of the valley sounding like New Englanders and East Coast New Yorkers and Jerseyites, while residents of the lower valley speak "general American." Barn and house motifs were more complex in the southern Valley with Middle Atlantic and Pennsylvania-German styles being present along with Yankee elements. In the lower valley, characteristics of the Lutheran and German Reformed styles were also evident.¹⁹



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

During the early 19th century, the basic occupation was agriculture. The Valley was composed of more than a dozen townships. A typical township consisted of a retail area with a couple of blacksmith shops, a wheelwright store, and a general store. Agriculture grew from 10 percent of the land in 1788 to 50 percent in 1850. The average farm was composed of 30 acres and cultivated a variety of crops. The settlers from New England and Pennsylvania had adopted the Native American custom of using corn in a variety of ways. They would grind it into bread, cook it as hominy, or liquefy it into mush. The residents learned how to grow beans, succotash, and squash from the Native Americans. Corn was used to feed the family, hay was gathered feed livestock, and barley and rye were grown to make whiskey. The latter became a common form of currency and exchange in frontier and rural areas in the period before 1850.

Households were basically self-sufficient. They produced their own food and clothing. Tea, some spices, salt, and molasses were made from environmental resources. People dressed in homespun clothing obtained from deer hunted from nearby mountains. They also wore linen clothing made from flax.²⁰ The spread of the cotton gin, which separated seed from fiber 300 times faster than by hand, encouraged the use of the spinning wheel that was made by the local wheelwright. The availability of water power led to the spreading use of looms; by 1810 there were 259 looms which produced over 50,000 yards of cloth.²¹ Woolen and leather clothing were made from cattle and sheep.

Animals and plants served multiple purposes. Leather for clothing and shoes was obtained from cattle, as were dairy products and meat. Sheep were sources of mutton and venison, respectively. Vegetables were grown for soup, spices, and condiments. Apples were grown for fruit, cider, and apple butter. Dye was produced from plants. Juice and flavored flowers for tea was made from iris and violet leaves. Wheat was grown for flour. Shad was obtained from the Susquehanna and Lackawanna Rivers. Trees were tapped for maple syrup just as it was the practice of the Native Americans. Tallow for candles and honey for food were obtained from bees. The farmers would cut down trees of oak, hickory, and pine. The local saw and grist mills would produce wood for housing and furniture needs. Sand from local riverbanks was converted into silica and sent to Philadelphia for conversion into glass. Looms produced fabric for carpets and drapes. Bricks were made from local clay and limestone from lime. The local blacksmith would transform iron and other materials into tools, axes, knives, needles, mortar from lead, and pins. Local or itinerant cobblers, shoemakers, and tanners would produce shoes and other footwear.

In sum, because of the bounty of the land, people in the Wyoming Valley circa 1825 were not that different than their Native American predecessors. A typical household had supplies of meat, fish, clothing, and milk/dairy products. Potatoes, tomatoes, soup, spices, condiments, beer, sugar, spiced fruits, puddings, and fruit-filled cakes and pies came from local plants and harvested crops.²² The above description illustrates a localistic, self-contained and self-sufficient culture and society at the dawn of the industrial era.



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

During this period, people worked from sunrise to sunset. School was offered after work chores were completed and after harvest during the summer. Only children too young to work in the fields (ages 8-10) could attend school. They were taught the basic reading, writing, and numbers from the New England Primer and later the McGuffie Reader. The schoolmaster would board at local homes. There were no great class distinctions. Most professionals, physicians, lawyers, ministers, or teachers, were expected to work the fields at some time. Women would meet to quilt, spin and weave. There were communal gatherings for corn husking and barn building. Quite often, different religious denominations such as Presbyterians, Methodists, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Congregationalists, Baptists, and Lutherans, would share the same buildings, and even the same altar.²³ It was an egalitarian society.

The Age of Coal: 1850 to 1950

By 1850, Wyoming Valley was undergoing a transformation as it quickly became the center of the anthracite coal (hard coal) industry for the nation. Its transportation, social, ethnic, economic, and religious patterns were significantly affected. The transportation changes followed national cycles in road, water, and railroad development. A number of existing Native American pathways in and out of the Valley facilitated the outflow of coal and the arrival of both goods and immigrants. The Lackawanna Path connected Pittston in the northern part of the valley to Windsor, New York; the Lehigh Path went from Wilkes-Barre to Bethlehem in the Lehigh Valley; the Wyoming Path from Sunbury in neighboring Columbia County in Wilkes-Barre; and the Nanticoke Path went all the way from Calvert, Maryland to Nanticoke in the southern part of the Valley.²⁴ These paths were used by fur traders before the American Revolution. Pennsylvania developed a highway tax for road construction as early as 1772. Roads were created by Sullivan's troops in 1779 and are still part of the state's highway system. The use of crushed stone that abounded in the Valley led to the creation of macadamized roads 1830. The Valley was fully served by turnpikes and toll roads by the middle of the 19th century.

The Valley was well suited for water transportation. By the first decades of the 19th century, flatboats often called "Susquehanna arks" were being used. These arks were disposable vessels that were built at the point of embarkation and then filled with coal, lumber, grain, and other bulk commodities. The arks would proceed downstream to their destinations where they were unloaded and then dismantled for lumber. During the winter months, however, the roads were closed, and parts of the Susquehanna River were so shallow that shippers had to wait for the spring thaw. Consequently, the Valley turned to both the canal and the railroad as coal production increased. Building of the North Branch Canal began in 1828; by 1834 it reached Pittston. At its height, this canal could accommodate barges carrying 260 tons of goods. Another major canal was the Delaware and Hudson that connected the Pennsylvania coal fields to New York.

A dominant mode of transportation appeared as the Lehigh and Susquehanna Railroad was completed in 1846. It served to connect the area's coal fields to the



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

southeast part of the state. It was joined before the Civil War by the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Railroad and the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg Railroad which shipped coal to iron furnaces in central Pennsylvania. The most powerful and extensive part of the railroad system was the Lehigh Valley Railroad. It was built to take advantage of the Hazleton area coal fields, and was connected to the Wyoming Valley when it reached Wilkes-Barre in 1867. Two years later, the Lehigh Valley Railroad was extended to Waverly, New York. This railroad owned coal lands in both the Hazleton and Wyoming Valley areas.²⁵

The importance of the railroad industry was intertwined with the anthracite coal industry and became a significant force. When anthracite mining began to decline after 1925, so did the railroads. Coal was the mainspring for the building of these transportation systems as it was for other changes in the latter part of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. The Wyoming Valley produced over half of the state's coal, and

Pennsylvania was the nation's leading producer of coal by 1875. It was said that a person could walk underground from Nanticoke (the southern end of the Valley) to Pittston (the northern end) without ever leaving a mine.²⁶

Coal was an important impetus for the Industrial Revolution in the latter part of the 19th century. Between 1850 and 1910, American energy from coal increased from 10 percent to nearly 80 percent. As late as 1950, it remained the most important source of domestic energy. In terms of availability, the United States remains the Saudi Arabia of coal. Before 1930 and the rise in the use of automobiles and airlines which used lighter fossil fuels such as oil and gas, coal was the fuel for home heating, rail locomotion and factories. Coal was the coking substance to turn iron ore into steel via the Bessemer and especially the open-hearth process. As iron and steel were the key elements of the Industrial Revolution, coal was king for many years. And, in the hierarchy of coal, anthracite was the most desired. It has the highest carbon level, a low moisture content, and results in very little waste. Therefore, anthracite is the cleanest and most efficient of coal fuels.²⁷ The largest known source of anthracite in the United States, indeed the world, is in Northeastern Pennsylvania which has three extensive fields. The largest of these fields lies beneath the entire Wyoming Valley.²⁸ With the decline of the rail, iron and steel industries the coal industry, especially the anthracite coal industry, deteriorated dramatically. It is costly to mine, involves hazardous conditions and causes environmental complexities and issues. However, during its heyday the coal industry (or anthracite coal industry) was at the center of the emerging American economy.

By 1880, 92.2 percent of employment in Wyoming Valley was related to anthracite coal mining and associated industries. Much of Wyoming Valley (along with the rest of Luzerne County and other areas of Northeastern Pennsylvania) had become an extended company town wherein one industry dominated the economy and influenced other facets of the community including availability of services and politics. In fact, there were two types of communities. There were existing communities such as Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, Pittston, Nanticoke, and Plymouth--all of which are situated on the Susquehanna River and surrounded by fertile farmland--that pre-dated the coal boom.



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

Other towns were founded solely because of their proximity to mine shafts and breakers, such as Hughestown, Swoyersville, Shickshinny, Port Griffith, and Pittston Junction.²⁹

The company towns existed to provide housing for workers in the mines, but the lifestyle and ethnic composition of other communities were also altered. The company towns lived up to, or perhaps lived down to, their reputation as feudal estates wherein the coal mine owners controlled the employment and many of the necessities of daily life. The mining companies owned all homes and often charged exorbitant rent to the workers. They operated the proverbial company store that usually had a monopoly in the community; the mining companies were able to, by virtue of their contract with the workers, force their employees to buy only at their store. However, the living situations in both company and “free” towns were basically and dismally similar, especially before 1900. There was no workers’ compensation and almost no insurance. Mine worker deaths and disabilities were not uncommon, and such events could devastate a household. Community sanitation was non-existent; outdoor toilets and open sewers were the norm. Although there were no tenements as they existed in large cities at this time (1875-1910), mining community homes were small and crowded together so as maximize space and minimize the distance between home and work. Men worked from dawn to dusk; women were confined to home and bound by the responsibilities of large families. They also worked long hours without the conveniences that characterized American households after 1920.³⁰

The large-scale mining operations altered the ethnic composition of Wyoming Valley. The first immigrants to the Valley were from the British Isles, particularly Southwest England (Celtic Cornwall and Dorset) and South Wales. These people had abundant mining experience but lacked work due to the exhaustion of older mines. The British Isles were a major source of immigrants before 1870. The new English immigrants differentiated themselves from earlier settlers through their adherence to Methodism (even today there are a dozen Primitive Methodist churches in Luzerne County).³¹ The Welsh had greater differentiation since they all did not speak English. It is estimated that 11 percent of all Welsh immigrants settled in Luzerne County, with especially large numbers in Wyoming Valley. They established dozens of Congregationalist, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist churches. Both groups came to dominate the school systems especially in the southern Wyoming Valley communities of Plymouth and Kingston. There were also Welsh sections in Plymouth, Pittston, Nanticoke, and the Parsons and Heights sections of Wilkes-Barre.³² The great emphasis on abstinence in both the Welsh and new English populations, as well as their conflicts in their conflicts in the British Isles, often put them at odds with the largest immigrant group before 1870—the Irish.

The Irish began arriving during the age of canal building in the 1820s, and by 1870 they constituted 10 percent of the population in Wyoming Valley.³³ The Irish Potato Famine of 1845-49 led to a large scale exodus from Ireland, and the coal mining Northeast Pennsylvania was a frequent destination. As with the Celtic English and the Welsh, the Irish brought their church with them. Roman Catholic churches were established as early as 1842.³⁴ Although they were the largest immigrant group, the



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

Welsh and English establishment prevented the Irish from gaining political and economic power commensurate with their numbers.

As in the case of the English, “new Germans” began to arrive in Wyoming Valley in the 1840’s as they were relocating throughout America. They reflected a diversity of economic, geographic, and religious backgrounds. Unskilled laborers, farmers, craftsmen, and merchants were all part of the immigrant pool. A dozen German language newspapers were established by 1900 in the Valley.³⁵ Between 1837 and 1880, new houses of worship were established in Wilkes-Barre such as Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Reformed Jewish, Evangelical, Reformed (Calvinist), and United Brethren.³⁶ German Protestants and German Jews who tended to concentrate on business and commerce assimilated fairly quickly. The majority of immigrants came from eastern and southern Europe after 1880, as was the case in the rest of the country. Over 100,000 immigrants arrived in Wyoming Valley between 1880 and 1920. In addition to ample work for men in the coal mining industry, jobs for women and children in the textile industry also became more plentiful.

An estimated 26 separate languages were spoken in the Valley by 1905.³⁷ In terms of numbers, the majority of new immigrants were Polish, Italian, Slovak, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Jewish, Ruthenian (close relatives of the Ukrainians who lived mostly in the Carpathian Mountains), Hungarian, Lebanese, Syrian, Greek, Slovenian, Croatian, Serbian, and Tyrolian.³⁸ The largest single group were the Polish immigrants who were a composite group emanating from the Prussian, Austro-Hungarian, and Russian-ruled sections of Poland. Approximately 30,000 people of Polish extraction lived in Wyoming Valley by 1900; today 15-20 percent of Valley residents are of Polish heritage. People of Polish extraction worked in a variety of occupations from miner to farmer to merchant. The immigrants from Prussian Poland reflected the more advanced education levels and were the original leaders of the community. By 1900, however, leadership was dispersed, as were residents of Polish extraction, throughout the county.³⁹

At least 14,000 immigrants came from Italy between 1890 and 1910. Many of them settled in the Pittston area.⁴⁰ They were followed in numbers by Lithuanians and Slovaks. Most but not all of the immigrants were Roman Catholics. Ukrainians and Ruthenians followed the Uniate and Orthodox churches.⁴¹ Lebanese, Syrians, and Greeks established Lebanese Maronite, Syrian Antioch Rite, and Greek Orthodox Churches, respectively.⁴² Although the earlier German Jewish immigrants had been Reformed and Conservative, approximately 3,000 newer Eastern European Jews followed the Orthodox denomination. Although many immigrants came to Wyoming Valley to escape political and religious persecution or military service, most came for economic reasons.⁴³

Even though men were the first arrivals, their wives and children soon joined them. The women would work in the textile and garment factories to supplement the family income. Typical of first generation ethnic groups, individuals from the same group would live in the same area. Poles from Galicia, for example, settled in lower Plymouth while Northern Italian immigrants—many of them Protestant—settled in Pittston.⁴⁴ There were ethnic tensions which carried over into the religious communities. Italian resentment of the Irish domination of the Catholic hierarchy led many Italian



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

immigrants to convert to Protestantism, especially the Pentecostal denominations.⁴⁵ Similar dissatisfaction among Polish parishioners led to the formation of the Polish National Catholic Church which established a number of churches in Wyoming Valley.⁴⁶

The ongoing abuses in the mines led to the formation of the United Mine Workers Union. A series of strikes between 1900 and 1935 helped to institute worker's rights. Nonetheless, labor unrest contributed to the decline of the anthracite coal industry between 1920 and 1945.⁴⁷ Operators switched to southern Appalachian coal fields where labor was non-union. Coal operators passed increased costs associated with higher wages and workers benefits to the consumers. The railroads were also in decline and charged high shipping costs that served to further estrange consumers. The populist and progressive movements that highlighted mining abuses in coal mining gave the industry a bad reputation. Thus, when immigration quotas were established in 1924, Luzerne County ceased to be a destination for many immigrants. The deadliest blow to the anthracite coal industry was the technological advances that made gas and oil so much cheaper, more efficient, and cleaner. Economics and a new emphasis on environmentalism combined to bring an end to King Coal and especially its anthracite component. Although World War II saw a brief revival of the coal industry, by the end of 1950's only 5,000 men were employed in the mines as compared to 140,000 in 1900.⁴⁸ The area population declined and then began to stagnate between 1930 and 1950. Clearly, a new rationale for Wyoming Valley was needed.

Since World War II

Popular culture swept the Wyoming Valley as elsewhere during the middle decades of the 20th century—telephones, radio, television, automobile, movies, sports, etc.--all became common. Its residents experienced the hardships of the Depression and the tragedy of war along with the rest of the nation; however, the Valley did share an expanding population base. Between 1940 and 1960, the population of Luzerne County fell from 441,000 to 346,000 and continued to fall thereafter albeit at a slower pace. Since World War II, Wyoming Valley has seen its population decline from 350,000 to approximately 225,000. At its lowest point the unemployment rate was as high as 16.8% in 1958.⁴⁹

The area had to find other economic lifelines if it was to stop the population hemorrhage and survive. Between 1960 and 1980, local organizations such as the Committee of 100, the Industrial Fund, and the Chamber of Commerce of Wyoming Valley were aided by redevelopment efforts that began in the 1960s. The Pennsylvania Industrial Assistance Corporation and the Great Society programs of President Johnson, such as the Appalachian Regional Development Act and the Public Works and Economic Development Act, became operative. The Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania was established to assist in obtaining funds for Wyoming Valley from the federal and state programs initiated by this legislation.⁵⁰ Industrial parks such as Valmont in Hazleton and Crestwood in Mountaintop were established and



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

attracted employers such as RCA and Eberhard Faber. The Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike connected the area with Philadelphia while the completion of interstate highways 80 and 81 helped to connect the area to the New York/New Jersey area as well as points to the West. The result of these efforts were apparent by 1969 as unemployment fell to 3.9 percent and has rarely been above 7 percent since that time.⁵¹

The jobs that were created, however, were mostly low-paying blue collar jobs; it seems that one form of low paying unemployment (mining) was replaced by another. The Hurricane Agnes flood of June 1972 had significant social and economic impact on Wyoming Valley due to the catastrophe of the Susquehanna River overflowing its banks into much of the Wyoming Valley. Over 100,000 residents (nearly half of the population) were displaced for months. Damage was estimated at one billion dollars not considering the huge losses caused by temporary business interruption and loss of jobs. Billions of dollars in aid were funneled into the Valley by virtue of the Agnes Recovery Act and the Small Business Administration loan program and helped to revitalize the Valley. The latter provided loans at one percent interest and included a \$5,000 forgiveness clause.⁵²

The aftermath of the Agnes flood and its recovery facilitated two trends in Wyoming Valley: suburbanization and the decrease of ethnic identity in favor of local allegiance. Many people moved out of the flood plain along the Susquehanna River and into outlying communities such as Back Mountain. These outlying communities saw a modest increase in population, while municipalities such as Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, Pittston, Plymouth, and Nanticoke continued to experience significant decreases in population.⁵³ The suburban areas tended to be settled by successful professionals, and the cost of real estate reflected this new reality.

The second trend was the loss of immigrants coming to Wyoming Valley. This development led to a decline in ethnic identity due to lack of reinforcement from additional immigrants. As late as 1960, it was not uncommon to hear Polish and Italian still spoken by local residents. This practice had disappeared by 2000. Out-migration by young people of the Valley seeking a better future in conjunction with marriage among various ethnicities has tended to diminish feelings of ethnicity. However, there are still over 150 ethnic churches in the area, and ethnic pride is reinforced through cultural heritage festivals throughout the Valley.⁵⁴ Running for political office involves consideration of ethnic balance. The ethnic composition reflects European ethnic groups of old; even today, the Asians, Hispanics, and African Americans number a miniscule 8,000 out of 220,000.⁵⁵

The population of the Valley has aged as younger people have sought economic opportunity elsewhere. The once thriving garment and textile factories remain vacant as companies have gone to overseas markets in search of cheaper labor. The population would have diminished even more were it not for the tendency of aging residents to remain. As a result, Luzerne County (including Wyoming Valley) has the greatest percentage of people over 65 outside of three Florida retirement counties, and lowest concentration of young people under 35 are found in the combined cities of Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton. The decline continues. By July 2002, the population of Wilkes-



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

Barre, the center of Wyoming Valley, was down to 42,021, a decline of 2.6 percent.⁵⁶ Today, Wyoming Valley faces problems common to other declining areas that have experienced significant unemployment and underemployment. The downtown business sections of cities such as Pittston, Nanticoke, and Wilkes-Barre have been challenged by shopping malls that cater to suburbanites. The arrival of recent immigrants and migrant workers, although relatively few, has prompted social and economic tensions. The new arrivals tend to have a larger percentage of population below the poverty level. These tensions have resulted in occasional racial incidents. Solutions to the socio-economic situation include an Earth Conservancy which seeks to convert former coal lands into a 16,000 acre technology park and a consolidation proposal which would transform the Wyoming Valley into the third largest metropolitan area in Pennsylvania with a population of over 200,000.⁵⁷

Conclusion

Wyoming Valley has experienced a series of conflicts throughout its history with consequences that affected its technological, sociological, and ideological subsystems mentioned in the introduction. As such, it is a microcosm of the changes in America. In the Paleo-Indian and Archaic periods, the nomadic hunters and gatherers took on the mammoth and mastodon. In the transitional and Woodland periods, the sedentary horticulturalists and agriculturalists gained the upper hand over the time span of two millennia. The historical period saw a struggle between the Iroquois and Susquehannocks for control of the beaver trade and for strategic control in the Wyoming Valley. The period of 1763-1783 witnessed a struggle between settlers and the Iroquois (ultimately backed by the British during the Revolutionary War) for control of the fertile area. A concurrent struggle involved the dispute between Pennsylvania and Connecticut/New England settlers for control of Wyoming Valley between 1763 and 1786. The struggle reached such intensity that as late as 1774 on the eve of the Revolutionary War, Ethan Allen of future Green Mountain Boys of Vermont fame visited the Valley and exhorted the Connecticut Yankees to drive the “Pennamites” out of Wyoming Valley.⁵⁸

In the 19th century, the farmers gradually lost control of the land to the coal mining companies who took more and more of available acreage; farming was gradually confined to the Susquehanna Valley and Back Mountain regions of the Luzerne County. The first part of the 20th century saw the struggle of the coal companies, along with the textile and garment factory owners, against the labor unions. The coal operators also lobbied against the advent of other large employers, such as Ford, that could siphon off workers from the labor pool. They were all too successful in this endeavor in the 1930s, and the decline of coal mining left Wyoming Valley without a major economic base.

The last half of the 20th century has seen the Valley trying to fill the vacuum left by the departure of coal and the general decline of manufacturing especially in textiles. If ever a region was said to be a victim of its environment, it is Wyoming Valley. The early version of globalization processes with regions being affected by changing consumer



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

tastes, newer productive processes, and relatively lower production costs in other world regions affected the Valley even before the post-industrial age. The natural rent indigenous to the Valley by virtue of its location, fertile soil, and mineral resources was augmented by the technological breakthroughs of the Industrial Revolution which gave a new ecological rent through the increased utility of coal. However, the exploitation of the coal fields led to a degradation of the environment and an anti-ecological rent. This degradation in conjunction with growing economic globalization, more readily available oil and gas energy alternatives, and cheaper textile labor outside the area led to economic disruption in Wyoming Valley and the search for a new economic base.

Technological rotation evident in historical evolution has been clearly reflected in the Valley. Residents of Wyoming Valley originally used the environment to feed, clothe, and house themselves. Native Americans, first as hunters and gatherers then as agriculturists, utilized the forest and its plants and animals for food and clothing. Lumber from the forests provided logs for housing and fortifications. Later, the fertility of the soil yielded such products as corn and squash. Fish from the Susquehanna, especially shad, supplemented to the diet. The farmers of the late Colonial Period and 19th century used the environment to feed themselves by providing everything from “soup to nuts” including desserts. They were able to clothe and house themselves from the animals and trees of the forest. They also grew flax that was used to make linen, and herded cattle and sheep that provided wool and leather (as well as dairy and meat products). Silica derived from sand on the banks of the Susquehanna River provided glass for decorative and utilitarian purposes. The advent of weaving and spinning provided indoor decorations as well as clothing. Along with lumber, local clay, limestone, and rock quarry deposits provided material for housing. The ensuing advent and rise of coal mining and textile manufacturing removed people from the direct use of their surroundings for basic food, shelter, and clothing. However, the use of a basic element (in this case, anthracite coal) indirectly provided the essentials especially in the coal mining towns. The post-coal mining and textile manufacturing period has seen the rise of tertiary modes of production and an increase in employment in the service industries similar to that experienced throughout the nation.

The sociological evolution of Wyoming Valley also reflects the general evolution of society and culture and parallels technological changes affecting the nation in general. The hunter-gatherers were nomadic or semi-nomadic, composed of small bands bound by immediate kinship, with only temporary abodes. Their semi-sedentary and sedentary agricultural successors organized themselves into small fortified villages, and the kinship unit extended to lineage and ultimately to lineage/kinship units which formed the basis for political structures. Fixed domiciles became common. The colonial and early national period in the Valley was similar to other areas with increasing complexity of organization based on origin (Yankee/English vs. Pennamite/German, for instance) and community identification. The onset of European immigration signified the replacement of communal land usage with individual land ownership. The industrial and post-industrial eras have seen the trends identified with modernization evident in all aspects of



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

life—increase in scale, mass education, political mobilization, and the revolution in mass media.

The ideological subsystem expressed in language and religion in Wyoming Valley follows the general pattern and reflects the language and beliefs of successive inhabitants. Native American beliefs and languages gave way to Pennsylvania German Lutheran and Connecticut English-speaking Congregationalists. Progressive waves of new arrivals brought their linguistic and belief patterns. There were Italian-speaking Catholics (for the most part), as well as Polish and other central and eastern European immigrants who brought their languages and beliefs with them (Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Catholic, Uniate, Orthodox). The Lebanese, Syrians, and Greeks also brought their languages and variations of Christianity, as did the Jews and Germans. Languages such as Yiddish, Polish, and Italian were commonly spoken as recently as 40 years ago. A level of language homogeneity has been achieved, particularly since Wyoming Valley is no longer a prime destination for immigrants. However, ethnic-based churches and synagogues continue to uphold traditional beliefs and associated customs. As the country has become more susceptible to mass communications and mass media, folk and ethnic traditions have blended into popular culture as they have throughout much of the nation.



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

Notes

1. John Orlandini, *The Ancient Native Americans of Wyoming Valley* (Kingston, self-published, 1996) pp. 3-4.
2. Paul Zbick, *Luzerne County: History of the People and Culture* (Wilkes-Barre, Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, 1994) p. 15.
3. *Ibid.*, pp.16-17.
4. *Ibid.*
5. Sheldon Spear, *Wyoming Valley Revisited*, (Shavertown: Jemags,1994); local media covered the situat
6. Sally Taylor Lottick, *Bridging Change*, (Wilkes-Barre: Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, 1992), pp. 69-71.
7. Orlandini, pp. 10-14.
8. *Ibid.*, pp. 22-24.
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Ibid.*, pp. 24-29.
11. *Ibid.*, pp. 30-34.
12. *Ibid.*, pp. 35-36.
13. Francis Jennings, "The Iroquois and their Neighbors" in *Indians of North America, 1600-1800*, ed. by Daniel Richter and James Merrill (Syracuse: University of Syracuse Press, 1987), pp. 75-93.
14. *Ibid.*
15. Paul A. Wallace, *Indians in Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and
Museum Commission, 1968), pp. 16-71.
16. *Ibid.*, pp. 114-121.
17. Robert Grumet, *Indians of North America: The Lenape* (New York: Chelsea, 1989), pp. 13-22.
18. Mary H. Joyce, *Pioneer Days in the Wyoming Valley* (Pittston: self-published, 1928), pp. 32-117.
19. Zbick, Chapter 2.
20. Edward Hanlon, *The Wyoming Valley: An American Portrait* (Wilkes-Barre: Winsor,1983), pp. 40-42. *History of the Certified Township of Kingston*, (Kingston: Kingston School District, 1929) passim
23. E. Johnson, *History of Pittston*, (Pittston, self-published, 1912), pp. 120-150.
24. Zbick, pp. 34.
25. *Ibid.*, pp. 34-36.
26. Hanlon, pp. 56-57.
27. *Ibid.*, p. 58.
28. *Ibid.*, pp. 58-59.
29. *Ibid.*, pp. 74-90.



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

30. Ibid., pp. 94-96.
31. Zbick, pp. 51-60.
32. Ibid.
33. Ibid.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
37. Ibid.
38. Ibid.
39. Ibid.
40. Ibid.
41. Ibid.
42. Ibid.
43. Ibid.
44. Ibid.
45. Ibid.
46. Ibid.
47. Sheldon Spear, *Chapters in Northeastern Pennsylvania History* (Shavertown, Jemags, 1999), Chapters 1, 10.
48. Spear, pt. 5.
49. Zbick, pp. 50-55.
50. Hanlon, pp. 90-105.
51. Census Reports, 1970, 1989, 1990, 2000.
52. Hanlon, pp. 110-120.
53. Census Report, 2000.
54. Zbick, pp. 104-5
55. Ibid., p. 106.
56. See January 15, 2003 issue of Scranton Tribune; July 19, 2003 issue of Times-Leader (Wilkes-Barre).
57. Zbick, pp. 102-103.
58. Lottick, p. 59



Wyoming Valley

Bibliography

- Brewster, William. History of the Certified Township of Kingston. Kingston, 1929.
- Dublin, Thomas. "After Anthracite: The Attempt to Redistribute and Diversify the Economy after the Decline of Mining," in Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Conference of the History of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1997, pp. 74-102.
- Grumet, Robert. Indians of North America: The Lenape. Newark, 1952.
- Hanlon, Edward. The Wyoming Valley: An American Portrait. Wilkes-Barre, 1983.
- Jennings, Frances. "Pennsylvania Indians and the Iroquois" in Indians in North America, edited by Daniel Richter and James Merrill. Syracuse, 1968.
- Johnson, E. History of Pittston. Pittston, 1912.
- Joyce, Mary H. Pioneer Days in Wyoming Valley. Pittston, 1928.
- Kraft, Herbert. The Lenape: Archaeology, History and Ethnography Newark, 1986.
- Lottick, Sally Teller. Bridging Change. Wilkes-Barre, 1999.
- Meyer, Wilbur. Historical Album of Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley in Luzerne County, 1929-1976. Wilkes-Barre, 1976.
- Miner, Charles. History of Wyoming. Philadelphia, 1846.
- Miner, Lewis. Valley of Wyoming. New York, 1866.
- Orlandini, John. The Ancient Native Americans of Wyoming Valley. Kingston, 1996.
- Spear, Sheldon. Chapters in Wyoming Valley History. Shavertown, 1989.
- _____. Wyoming Valley History Revisited. Shavertown, 1994.
- _____. Chapters in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Shavertown, 1999.
- Wallace, Paul. Indians in Pennsylvania. Harrisburg, 1961.



University of Maryland University College

UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017

Wyoming Valley: An American Saga

Wolenski, Kenneth. “Min Matheson and the ILGWU in the Wyoming Valley,” in Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Conference of the History of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1994, pp. 94-116.

Zbick, Paul. Luzerne County: History of the People and Culture. Wilkes-Barre, 1994.

Periodicals and Public Documents

Scranton Tribune, 2003.

Times-Leader of Wilkes-Barre, 2003

Proceedings of the Annual Conference of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1989-1997.

Proceedings of the Historical and Geological Society of Wyoming, 1970-72;1980-89.

Census Reports of Luzerne County, 1920; 1930; 1940; 1950; 1960; 1970; 1980; 1990; 2000.