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"In the woods is perpetual youth." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Anniversaries
This spring, as you walk the many hiking trails in this area, you might hear echoes of Emerson's "perpetual youth"--many of those trails were built in the 1930s by young men enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This year is the 80th anniversary of the CCC, a Depression-era program created to provide employment in conservation projects across the country, and this area was a center of CCC activity, with ten camps in Clinton County alone. Accordingly, the central focus of this issue is the CCC, featuring articles that discuss the program from the national
level to the local. If this whets your appetite to learn more, Neil Maher, author of *Nature's New Deal*, will be on campus Monday, April 22, to talk about the CCC.

This issue also celebrates the fifth anniversary of *The Hemlock*. In March of 2008 the newly-formed Environmental Focus group began publishing this online journal as a way of strengthening the sense of place at Lock Haven University. As I look back on our previous 28 issues, I'm first of all amazed that we were able to publish 6-8 issues some years--the days must have been longer then (or we spent less time assessing what we were doing). I'm also grateful for the outstanding contributors we've had through the past five years. Our articles have been written by faculty and students from nearly every department on campus, as well as staff and members of the local community. I've also appreciated the many words of encouragement that I've received from our readers. Hopefully, *The Hemlock* has added to our collective sense of the richness and beauty of central Pennsylvania, and hopefully, we'll continue to celebrate this region for many years to come.

**Trout Fishing in the Past**  
~ Zach Fishel (LHU English Alum)

As the coals died down,  
I’d split the flesh of rainbows,  
wrapped in a silver lining.  
Squeezed lemons and  
onion julienned against  
the wooden tables  
where my uncles played cards,  
sopping up bacon grease from  
breakfast or bourbon  
the night before.  
The fish would flake,  

eyes glazed,  
yellowed yukons  
so fickle in the afterglow
of a touch, sucked from the bones and forgotten.


~Bob Myers (LHU English Professor)

When I finished reading this book last summer, I immediately wanted to invite the author to campus. I was drawn to the topic because I’ve been intrigued by this area’s CCC history ever since I realized that the Lick Run parking lot had been the courtyard of a large CCC camp. Also, the concept of a popular government conservation initiative is appealing at a time when anything administered by the state--liquor stores, the postal service, public education--is the target of vicious anti-government hysteria. Apparently there was a time when many Americans believed that the government could do good things. And finally, I was impressed with Professor Maher's prose. It's no easy feat to make a thorough history read like the best kind of narrative. Fortunately, LHU will have the good fortune to have Professor Maher talk to us about the CCC on Monday, April 22nd at 7 pm in Ulmer Planetarium--Earth Day 2013.

From 1933 to 1943 the CCC was the most popular program created under President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “New Deal.” Designed to help unemployed, unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 25, the CCC created over 5,000 camps across the country, eventually enrolling 3 million young men. During that period the CCC performed reforestation and soil conservation, and they built hiking trails, campgrounds, visitor centers, lodges, cabins, and roads.

Maher begins by showing how the idea of the CCC emerged from Roosevelt’s experiences with the Progressive conservation movement and the Boy Scouts. He then discussed how the CCC expanded the concept of conservation to include recreation, wilderness preservation, and
ecological balance. The popularity of the CCC solidified support for Roosevelt’s liberal coalition by locating camps in regions of the country predisposed to oppose the New Deal (the West, the Dust Bowl, and the South).

The CCC was not without its critics. In the mid-1930s environmentalists such as Aldo Leopold and Bob Marshall criticized the recklessness of CCC projects (especially road building), and in the late 1930s conservatives attacked the CCC as a threat to American values. In the early 1940s the program became a victim of shifting federal funding due to America's mobilization for the upcoming World War II. Maher's chapter on the legacy of the CCC after 1942 is especially interesting. He argues that former CCC enrollees were pioneers in establishing nongovernmental grassroots groups that would carry on much of the conservation work begun by the CCC. For example, in 1957 the National Parks Association created the Student Conservation Program to help maintain the national parks.

At the 2001 CCC Alumni reunion, 300 former enrollees gathered at the original CCC site in the George Washington National Forest. Maher notes, that "they came because they believed, in their minds and in their muscles, the slogan they chose for the banner of their alumni newsletter, which read in big, bold letters 'Before Earth Day There Was the CCC.'" Please join us on Earth Day to hear Professor Maher talk about this pioneering conservation program.


~John Reid (LHU Physics Professor)

In the last quarter century or so I’ve spent a fair bit of time in the woods of Central Pennsylvania: driving the back roads, fishing, camping, hiking--a lot of hiking. Often when I hike, I’m not following any trail, just wandering and exploring. One of the main reasons I settled here is because of the woods. Their vast wilds attract me.
But I’ve learned over the years that these woods are haunted. Just about every square foot has experienced humans. I am profoundly ignorant of the activities of the Native Americans and the first pioneer explorers, though I do sometimes recognize their influence on names of towns, rivers, mountains, and the like. In my wanderings I have come across plenty of evidence of human activity. Far back from today’s towns, although I have yet to find a single arrowhead, I have seen such things as small gauge rail, mounds and trenches from clay mining, ruins of iron furnaces amidst ruins of bygone boom towns, the foundation of the Queen’s Mansion, and even, maybe, remnants of some of Prince Farrington’s stills.

The trees themselves also hold a remarkable tale. It boggles my mind to know that just about every square inch of Pennsylvania forest was made barren from the logging of the 19th century. The birth of Pennsylvania forestry resulted from these irresponsible logging practices.

It was among an odd stand of evergreens that I discovered the ruins of the CCC camp at Farrandsville. I’d heard that there was a camp there, and aside from noticing the old fireplace just off the trail, I thought little of it. Then one day I found a 20 ft. diameter ring of very tall trees around a small mound of grass. The wonderful people at Ross Library welcomed my curiosity and handed me several books. Among them I found an aerial photograph of the Farrandsville CCC camp taken in the 1930s, and I was amazed. The now desolate area was then teeming with activity. A whole complex was there; A dozen or so buildings, some long, probably barracks, office buildings, a bridge, hedges, etc. And a very tall flag pole, which was on a small mound in the center of a 20 ft. diameter ring, surrounded by newly planted very small trees.

I wanted to know more.

One of the books the librarians gave me was Speakman’s book. And between its covers, amongst the rich and thick history of these woods I wander, one slice of time is brought to life.
The book tells the story of the CCC from its promising conception, through its prosperous and productive years, to its gradual demise. The CCC existed from 1933 to 1942. Its goals were to help restore the forests and promote conservation, and also to provide a partial answer to the dilemma of the Great Depression. The first objective is somewhat straightforward and easy to defend, the second, not so much. To quote Speakman’s explanation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s view:

…this work was not only going to repair much of the damage that greed and neglect had inflicted on the natural resources of the country, but it was also going to restore the physical and mental health of young men ravaged by idleness and poverty.

The book does a thorough and enjoyable job of explaining these years. It is full of facts and statistics, but they far from burden the reading.

We get to know many people connected to the CCC, from the U.S. President and his staff, to Pennsylvania governors, directors, all the way to the “enrollees.” We read about the times they were in and the ways in which this affected their decisions. One significant example is the racial segregation: these were the days of “separate-but-equal.” There were “white” CCC camps and “black” CCC camps. Speakman gives this topic considerable attention and it makes for quite interesting reading.

He includes letters from enrollees. They range from constructed propaganda to promote the program to heartfelt expressions of excitement and disappointment.

If you are looking for details of local CCC activity you will have to look carefully. Although he has an appendix that lists all the camps, their locations, and their main activities, the book’s emphasis is on an overview of the CCC throughout the state. Having said that, Speakman does include plenty of examples from specific camps. He takes you all over the state and sometimes this journey is close to home. Occasionally we find ourselves in Renovo or Waterville for example. He talks about the 1936 rains which overflowed the Susquehanna and brought floods to many towns, and how local CCC camps were called upon to help clean up.

Pennsylvania’s CCC was a significant component of the national program. At times PA had the
highest or second highest number of enrollees across the nation. Likewise for the number CCC camps. The large amount of state land in dire need of restoration contributed to it having good potential for helping to develop an ill-defined program.

A lot changed between 1933 and 1942, and Speakman’s book puts the CCC, especially PA’s CCC, in that perspective.

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Clinton County
~ Rich Wykoff (LHU Alum and President of The Greater Renovo Area Heritage Park Assoc.)

With the song "Happy Days Are Here Again" still ringing in their ears, citizens across the United States tuned in their radios on March 4, 1933 to listen to newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt deliver his famous "The Only Thing We Have to Fear Is Fear Itself" inauguration speech. The Great Depression had just peaked with one in four people unemployed, thousands of homeless families camped in Central Park, and the average family income having fallen from $2300 to $1500 per year. Factory workers earned about $17 per week. The country was in dire straits and hopes of climbing out of the financial morass were placed squarely on the shoulders of the new president.

FDR quickly proved himself ready for the task of handling the worst financial disaster in the nation's history, as 43 agencies were created to stem the rising tide of poverty and stimulate job growth around the country. Acronyms like SEC, CCC, WPA, NRA, FERA, AAA, NLRA, SSA became known as Roosevelt's "Alphabet Soup." Many of these programs have remained in effect for nearly 80 years. One of the most effective of the programs, with perhaps the shortest life span (about nine years), was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). On March 31, 1933, twelve days after his inauguration, President Roosevelt signed the Federal Unemployment Relief Act into law, and the CCC was born.
The CCC was slated to become one of the largest "jobs programs" ever created by the federal government and was met with great skepticism and opposition by political opponents and labor organizations. FDR's plan was to combine the resources of the War Department, the Department of Labor, the Interior Department, and the Department of Agriculture. Roosevelt put Robert Fechner, former vice president of the American Machinists Union, in charge as director, and the Army took charge of running the camps. The federal services developed the projects and supervised the CCC workers when they were on the job. Enrollment in this program was limited to unmarried and unemployed young men 17 to 25 years of age. Enrollees were paid a dollar a day and enjoyed a routine similar to an Army enlistee. Each month $25 was sent home to the enrollee's family.

To say the CCC program was a well-oiled system would be an understatement. Within five days of the law's enactment, 25,000 young men from sixteen cities were enrolled. On April 17, 1933, the first CCC camp, Camp Roosevelt, was opened in the George Washington National Forest in Virginia. Pennsylvania had 97 camps with 19,400 men. At the beginning of May 1933 the first supplies and materials for building CCC camps in Clinton County arrived at North Bend and other train stations in Mill Hall, Lock Haven, and Jersey Shore. In all, there were ten CCC camps operating in Clinton County from 1933 through 1941 employing approximately 200 men each. The Clinton County camps were: S-66 Loganton (Long Run), S-75 Hyner, S-77 Shingle-Branch (North Bend), S-114 Tea Springs, S-122 Two-Mile (sometimes referred to as Westport), S-133 Hammersley Fork, S-78 Cooks Run (sometimes referred to as Keating Camp), S-66 State Camp, S-127 Pine Camp (Rauchtown), and S-120 Farrandsville (which was made up of all unemployed WWI veterans).

Projects ranged from building fire trails and roads to local state parks and dams. Farrandsville CCC camp built the Hazard and Carrier roads. Two Mile CCC camp built the Kettle Creek State Park, including a dam that is still used 80 years later. Loganton worked on several projects including the Loganton fire tower and cabin. Hyner built the road to Hyner View. Millions of trees were planted throughout the county by "Roosevelt's Tree Army" and can be easily seen today as tall pine plantations lining roadways. Camps were called into action to fight wildfires that were a common threat in fall and spring. When the flood of 1936 ravaged Lock Haven, Renovo, and surrounding communities, CCC camps aided in cleanup and removal of debris and
garbage.

Much of the local history of the camps is documented in the archives of the Renovo Record, Lock Haven Express, and Grit. The camps also had newsletters that were printed periodically. The CCC program also published a few issues of camp yearbooks with images and information about camps. Some of the most interesting and undocumented information about the camps in Clinton County and elsewhere rests in the memories of the enrollees, their families, friends, and the people who interacted with the CCC boys when they came to town on weekends to dance, meet girls, see a movie, or have a beer. Communities came out to watch the baseball games played between camps at North Bend field, Farrandsville, South Renovo, and Monument, to name a few. Ask a CCC vet about the camp teams, and they will talk about great ball players who had talent worthy of the major leagues.

Enrollees came from all over the United States. Many of them married and stayed in the area. Red Franklin, currently mayor of South Renovo, came from Alabama to the Cooks Run camp. He married a girl from Bitumen and stayed in the Renovo area. Red was an outstanding baseball player who had a shot at playing in the major leagues. Clyde Haupt was a licensed ham radio operator who sent regular reports from Cooks Run and other camps to Washington, D.C. using Morse Code. He was an accomplished musician and played in local big bands. Buck Hanna, retired teacher in Lock Haven, knew a CCC Boy who decided to stay in Lock Haven after his enrollment ended at the Farrandsville camp. Buck and his family enjoyed frequent visits to a restaurant this young man established in downtown Lock Haven--The Town Tavern. Frank Bobanick was the engineer for the Kettle Creek State Park and dam project at the Two-Mile camp. He married a local girl and raised a family in Bitumen. Leonard Parucha was the newsletter editor for the Shingle-Branch camp near North Bend. His stories are priceless. Leonard spent much of his time writing about the camps and was our local expert on Clinton County CCCs. In his 70s, he received a journalism degree from Lock Haven University and wrote a retrospective on his life entitled "Retiremeniscing." These are the stories we desperately need to collect and add to the record of the CCC experience here in Clinton County. Unfortunately, our local CCC Boys are now in their 90s. In another 5 years we may have to face the finality of our personal connection to their era.
For the past five years the historical and heritage groups in Clinton County have been working together to collect and preserve the physical and personal evidence that remains to tell the stories of the ten camps. To showcase the legacy of the camps and the impact of the CCC program in Clinton County, we have developed a three point plan for commemorating the camps. A site is being developed in Heritage Park in Renovo as a permanent location to gather and learn about the camps. The main feature of the site is a 30 ft. by 40 ft. CCC style pavilion with appropriate interpretive signage, a map of the locations of the camps, three life-size black walnut statues of CCC boys, a performance stage, and CCC camp style archway. The statues, created by local artist Kraig Brady, are finished and currently on display at the Clinton County Courthouse, the Garden Building, and the Clinton County Economic Partnership. We begin work on the pavilion this summer. Our research continues to provide us with new material for presentations given to area organizations and schools. That research includes collecting oral histories from CCC veterans and community members, scouring library archives, and visiting with those who have collections of CCC memorabilia.

2013 is the 80th anniversary of the CCC program. Beginning in April and continuing through September, there will be a monthly event that celebrates the Clinton County camps. The schedule will be available in newspapers, on community calendars, and on the websites for the Clinton County Historic Society, the Greater Renovo Area Heritage Park Association, Facebook, and Clinton County Economic Partnership. One of the most important features of the 80th Anniversary celebration will be the placement of a stone marker near the location of the flagpole at each of the CCC camps. Thanks to the work and guidance of retired DCNR forester, John Eastlake, we have been able to locate the bases for the poles. Each stone will be engraved with the CCC logo, project number, camp name, and company number (s).

For more information about the CCC program see the following resources: CCC Legacy; Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania DCNR CCC Years; Farrandsville, Pa CCC Camp
The Farrandsville CCC Camp
~Lou Bernard (Curator, Clinton County Historical Society)

If you drive to Farrandsville, along the north side of the Susquehanna River, and go to the end of the road, you’ll come to parking area adjacent to a path through the forest (see Hemlock Hike "Lick Run"). While it's just ruins now, this was once a busy place.

During the Great Depression, Eleanor Roosevelt suggested that a series of camps be set up to provide men with income. Her husband, the president, took her suggestion and instituted the program. This is how the Civilian Conservation Corps was created. The CCC was an organization of quasi-military forest rangers, under the direction of the Army. Living in camps, the men earned money to send home to their families. They were given uniforms, fed, sheltered, and provided with useful work. These men built roads, bridges, dams, and state parks; and they put out fires, found lost hikers, and helped out in the community. Whatever was needed near the camp, the CCC did. One of these camps was in Farrandsville.

If you follow the trail to the left a short distance, you'll see the remains of an old chimney, which was part of one of the buildings. Further back into the forest, if you’re determined, you can see a few cornerstones that nature didn’t put there. These are the remains of the Farrandsville Camp S-120-PA, home to Company 1396, which began on July 10, 1933.

Two hundred men, mostly veterans of World War One, arrived and began to build the camp. Their first job was to clear out all the rattlesnakes. For the first six months, most of the men lived in tents as the barracks were being built. The unit was commanded by First Lieutenant Thomas Larner. The Contract Surgeon was George Green, who had commanded the 305th Ambulance Corps in the
First World War. Green was responsible for integrating the Army; his unit was home to William Raymond, the first African-American soldier to serve with white men.

The CCC men built two roads leading from Farrandsville, each thirteen miles long. Carrier Road and Hazard Road both begin in Farrandsville, and both were constructed early on by the CCC. They built fire trails and cleaned roadsides, and in 1935, Farrandsville won the Sub-District 9 Trophy for their outstanding work.

On March 17, 1936, the city of Lock Haven flooded. Farrandsville CCC was sent in by a gasoline-powered scooter on the Pennsylvania Railroad line to help with the rescue efforts. They worked hard at helping the city of Lock Haven. The first duty was to clear and open the sewers so that the floodwaters could be drained. After that, a Red Cross aid station was set up at the silk mill on North Fairview Street (the site of LHU's new dorm), and the CCC brought in supplies. They delivered hundreds of mattresses, blankets, cots, and added five stoves and a supply of wood to the shelter. After the Red Cross was supplied, the next immediate priority was cleaning the basements of local homes. The Lock Haven Express stated in a special section about the flood: “The CCC Companies….worked diligently, cheerfully, and efficiently in the task of clearing away flood wreckage.”

The camps provided and income for men who badly needed to feed their families. These men, in turn, provided valuable services to the community. They came and victims of the Depression. They left as heroes.

LHU alum Rich Wykoff has put together an excellent collection of photographs of the camp, including the one above.

**Hike of the Month: CCC Trail (Haneyville ATV Trail)**

~Bob Myers

Since our focus this month is the CCC, it seems only appropriate that the hike of the month should be a trail built by the CCC. The Waterville CCC camp (S-82) in Lycoming County built many hiking trails that are now part of the Haneyville ATV Trail, a 17-mile network of trails that
have been set aside for ATVs. You can obtain a map of the complicated web of trails at the DCNR site. This hike follows the CCC Trail, making a nice 3.5 mile loop through the Tiadaghton State Forest. Some hikers have mixed feelings about the ATV Trails, but I think it’s better to center ATV activity on this type of trail rather than on more fragile areas. Depending on the time of day and the season, you might not see anyone (I didn’t). In any case, if you hike this trail, please show respect for the ATV riders’ rights to enjoy our state forest.

To get to the trailhead (18 miles, about 30 minutes), follow Water Street to the Jay Street bridge, and turn left onto PA664 North. Go 17 miles to the stop sign and turn right onto PA44 South. Go 1/8th of mile, turn left at the Haneyville ATV Trail sign, and park in the lot. This was the center of the Waterville CCC camp from 1933-1941.

Walk to the northeast corner of the parking lot (the far right of the wooden fence that is in front of the pavilion). You’ll see a small stone cabin that was clearly built by the CCC. One trail runs north, up a hill—this is the trail you’ll return on. Instead take the trail that goes to the right (southeast), following the green diamonds. You’ll pass through a stand of Norway Spruces, a nonnative tree that is one of the trademarks of the CCC. The trail soon begins to climb gradually. You’ll pass an intersection with a “23” sign—keep going straight on the CCC Trail.

Eventually, you reach the top of the plateau, in a mixed hardwood forest. The trail descends to Zinck Fork, a pretty stream. Pass the “6” intersection, and when you reach the next intersection, at the bottom of the hill, look for a trail to the left with a yellow “Closed to ATVs” sign—take that trail, which climbs along Zinck Fork amidst hemlocks and white pines. At a log bench you’ll see a “5” sign—keep going straight, up the hill. Pass the “4” sign, bearing to the right. Eventually, you’ll reach the “3” intersection—take this left and follow the Furnace Trail. The Furnace Trail will take you back to the parking lot, passing the “2” and “1” intersections. Just before the parking lot, you’ll reach a 4-way intersection with “22” and “24” signs—keep going, straight down the hill, and you’ll be back at the stone cabin.
Pennsylvania Culture Festival
Lock Haven University's Environmental Focus Group is pleased to announce the 4th Annual Pennsylvania Culture Festival. The series of events celebrating the culture and environment of Pennsylvania will be held on campus during the week of April 20-27, 2013. All events are free and open to the public. For more information about any event, contact Bob Myers (rmyers3@lhup.edu or 570-484-2236).

On Saturday, April 20th, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. the Facilities-Maintenance Department is hosting a recycling day. You can drop off your items at the Hursh-Nevel Building. Items that can be recycled that day are cans (bi-metal & aluminum), glass, plastics, office paper (magazines, junk mail), newspaper, corrugated cardboard, batteries, all electronics (computers, printers, televisions, cell phones, stereo’s, dvd players), appliances, used motor oil, metal, and tires. All items must be sorted. If you have any questions please contact Colleen Meyer (570-484-2949 or cmeyer@lhup.edu).

On Saturday morning, April 20th LHU student groups will be working with the Beech Creek Watershed Association to conduct a streamside/roadside cleanup. For more information contact Jamie Walker (jrwalker@lhup.edu).

On Monday, April 22nd, at 5:00 p.m. in Ulmer Planetarium, Russell Zerbo, of the Pennsylvania Clean Air Council, will discuss environmental activism. This event is sponsored by the Environmental Club.

On Monday, April 22nd, from 6:00-7:00 in Ulmer Planetarium, the Environmental Club and the Environmental Focus Group will host a reception with refreshments and conversation.

On Monday, April 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. in Ulmer Planetarium, Neil Maher will discuss the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Professor Maher is the author of Nature’s New Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Roots of the American Environmental Movement (Oxford Univ. Press, 2009). This event is sponsored by the Environmental Focus Group.
On Wednesday, April 24th, students from the Environmental Studies minor will be presenting the results of their capstone projects as part of LHU’s Celebration of Scholarship (time and room to be announced).

On Friday, April 26th, at 3:00 p.m. the Environmental Focus Group will plant a tree on campus (near the Facilities Building) in honor of Annette Miller. Lenny Long (llong@lhup.edu) is coordinating this event with Keith Rroush.

On Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the LHUP Biology Club will celebrate Earth Day on Russell Lawn (rain location—Rogers Gym). There will be displays, music, speakers, raffles, nature films, and activities for children (face painting, bird feeder making). For more information, contact Biology Club advisor, Barrie Overton (boverton@lhup.edu).

Rafting Adventures
~Mary Jones (LHU English major)

On October 12th, 2012, the Lock Haven Outing club, led by James Johnston, took their biggest trip of the year: white-water rafting in the Upper Gauley, West Virginia. Ranked one of the most challenging white-water experiences in the world, the Gauley river is about a six-hour drive through beautiful mountains and small towns. The adventure began when we arrived at the River Expeditions camp grounds on Friday evening. The club set up their tents in the dark before resting around the campfire, roasting marshmallows. We woke up at six o’clock in the morning in order to check in, eat, and change into the rented wet suits. All of the chaos was worth it though, when we got on the water. The river is set in between two cliffs covered in trees that were amazingly colorful. On the Upper Gauley, previous rafting experience is recommended due to the technical, level-5 rapids, such as Pillow Rock,
Insignificant, Iron Ring, and Sweet Falls. If you are a beginner and want to try white-water rafting, the Lower Gauley, which River Expeditions also runs, is the way to go. The Lower Gauley is characterized by its own pristine wilderness, rugged canyon walls, and rapids that, while exciting, are a lot easier to maneuver for beginners.

River Expeditions also offers overnight trips, where you raft for a day, then pull over and set up tents for the night. The raft guides make dinner and breakfast the next morning before you get back on the water. If rafting isn’t your style, they also offer other attractions, such as rock climbing, mountain biking, fishing, zip lining/canopy tours, horseback riding, bridge catwalk tours, jet-boat rides, paintball, golfing, and ATV tours. For more information on any of this, visit www.raftinginfo.com.


~Robert Gary Žakula, MA (LHU Alumni; pursuing a Ph.D. at Binghamton University)

William Penn envisioned a “green country towne” along the banks of the “great Delaware River.” Penn’s dream city, Philadelphia, rapidly developed from his 1,200 square mile apportionment and engulfed the surrounding streams and low-land forests. Historian Michael J. Chiarappa states, “[A] place appointed as nature’s entrepôt, it would unite the best of what the city and its rural appendages offered,” (161). Utilizing the area’s waterways and productive resources, Philadelphia flourished as a key port and place of exchange. In the early Republic, it was a city of “firsts,” most notably the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of 1787, as well as the nation’s first library, medical college, hospital, and bank. Naturalist Charles Wilson Peale built America’s first natural history museum in Philadelphia. Peale’s display of a mastodon skeleton symbolized the strength of the growing nation, but also lent homage to the continent’s superb natural landscapes and specimens. Attracted to Philadelphia’s intellectual culture, scientists, politicians, writers and painters converged on the city to study and advance America’s natural history. According to historian Brian C. Black, Philadelphia’s tangible growth and “environmental imagination” gave rise to both a major metropolis and environmentalism as a prominent intellectual pursuit (10-11).
Contributing to the field of environmental history, Black’s and Chiarappa’s *Nature’s Entrepôt* traces Philadelphia’s “patterns of development from its founding to the present” (11). To chronicle the “First City,” the editors assembled over a dozen scholars, ranging from historians, geographers, sociologists, to urban planners. This collaborative volume examines Philadelphia’s changing environments, reconfiguration of natural places into urban spaces, building practices, environmentalism, resource conservation, and cultural and economic exchange. These themes complement urban environmental scholarship and augment our understanding of metropolitan settings as critical environments. *Nature’s Entrepôt* therefore follows an intellectual paradigm that seeks to put “the environment back into the city, or at least into the history of the city” (2). Additionally, the compiled essays uphold a common thread in environmental history in that “humans take a considerable toll on the natural environment” (2). At the same time, however, the book continues recent studies that assess concerted efforts to create sustainable urban cores.

Black and Chiarappa organized *Nature’s Entrepôt* in four parts that chronologically document Philadelphia’s growth. The editors assign each series of chapters an environmental theme. Part one discusses oversight on early construction, the preservation of green spaces and the evolution of the Fairmount Park system, and how urban environmental settings contributed to the area’s yellow fever epidemics. The chapters in part two examine commercial growth. Readers may find Donna J. Rilling’s early “green businessmen” intriguing; known as “bone boilers,” these manufacturers turned livestock carcasses into reusable items. Part two also addresses waterway technology and trade, as well as suburban industrialization. Part three explains how Philadelphia’s expansion changed the natural landscape, including sewage infrastructure, destruction of the area’s water cycle, and suburban sprawl. Michael J. Chiarappa shows how Philadelphians used marine resources to expand economic and cultural influence. Lastly, the chapters in part four address contemporary ecological issues in Philadelphia, such as the failures and successes in urban planning, environmental justice, and food supply. Ann Norton Greene’s
essay on urban wildlife and the history of Wissahickon’s “deer war” presents unique perceptions on coexistence. The scholars in *Nature’s Entrepôt* not only document Philadelphia’s history through an environmental lens—they demonstrate the efforts and challenges to sustainable development in the “First City.”

*Nature’s Entrepôt* is a well-researched and welcomed volume on urban environmental history. Academics of various disciplines and graduate students alike, as well as independent researchers, will find this work accessible and useful as a whole or as individual case studies. The book contains interesting anecdotes to use in future research or teaching about city environments. Many of the essays include early survey and census maps, historical photographs, depictions of buildings and neighborhoods, and urban planning grids. These are fascinating representations of Philadelphia’s progression as a city, but also visual testimony to the maintenance or devastation of the area’s natural landscape. The themes and chapters presented in this volume effectively tell the story of the city’s development, despite such diverse and narrow content. On this note, there are limited connections between Philadelphia’s growth and the rest of Pennsylvania—not to mention other metropoles or the national story. Nonetheless, the book’s limited geographic scope does open avenues for comparative scholarship on urban environments in other American cities. The scholars in *Nature’s Entrepôt* have contributed deftly written, analytical essays on Philadelphia’s “natural” history, all the while keeping their sights on the city’s future.

**Campus History as a Lesson in Stewardship**

~Joby Topper (LHU Librarian)

I recently compiled a timeline of the university’s buildings and grounds and shared it with several colleagues. They seemed to enjoy reading it and suggested that I summarize it in an essay for *The Hemlock*. Only then did it occur to me how my research accords with the mission of the Environmental Focus Group “to help the LHU community develop a deeper sense of place.” Reading about this campus and the people who have cared for it for 142 years has made me much more conscious of my role as steward. When I really get to know a place—whether it’s my home, my favorite hiking trail, or my favorite coffee shop—I tend to pay more attention to how it is being treated. In this brief essay, I can only offer you a few remarkable episodes from the history of our campus. If something in this essay sparks your interest, appeals to your local pride,
and motivates you to read more about Lock Haven University, then I’ll be a very happy librarian.

Like many places, our university’s natural environment has offered great advantages and serious challenges to its human inhabitants. In the earliest days of the school’s history, our faculty, staff, and students were perched atop Normal Hill near the present site of North Hall. They enjoyed a spectacular view of the river and the surrounding hills. They were safe from the floods that periodically swept through the city. But the fire of December 9, 1888 proved that the school’s location at the top of the hill had at least one major disadvantage. The fire company’s steam engine was unable to pump water from the pipes at the intersection of Fairview and Main to such a high point on the hill with enough force to douse the flames. To their eternal credit, the firemen then focused their energy on helping students and faculty escape before the fire engulfed the building. Of the hundred or so students and faculty who were in the building, no one was killed or even badly injured, despite the fact that the school had no fire escapes.

Within two weeks of the fire, the trustees rented the old Montour House at the corner of Jay and Water Streets (now called “Lindsey Place”) and made it a temporary home for the school. With fire safety in mind, the trustees decided to rebuild the school at the base of Normal Hill where Russell Hall, Stevenson Library, and Rogers Gym stand today. They understood the increased risk of flood damage to the new school property; but they had no way of knowing that, within six months of the fire, the city would be hit by one of the worst floods in its history. The Flood of June 1, 1889 (notorious for its devastation of Johnstown) crushed downtown Lock Haven. The river crested at 29.40 feet—the highest flood mark in the city’s history up to that time. In 1889, unlike today, the school’s spring term continued throughout the month of June, so students were still living at the Montour House when water, mud, and debris filled the basement and first floor. Luckily, no one was seriously injured. The house was cleaned over the summer, and classes resumed there in September. Nine months later, on May 6, 1890, the students and faculty—some of whom had experienced the Fire of December 1888 and the Flood of June 1889—marched from the Montour House to the newly opened school building at the base of Normal Hill.

In time, the students and faculty grew to appreciate the relative safety of their new location. On lower ground, they were within range of the fire department’s pumps, unlike the original building on the hill. And, in the context of flooding, the location of the campus—in its height
above the river and in its position on the west side of the city away from the river’s natural flow — was fortunate compared to downtown Lock Haven. I’m proud to say that our predecessors shared their geographical advantage with their less fortunate neighbors. During the floods of 1936, 1946, 1950, 1964, and 1972, students, faculty, and staff opened dormitories, gymnasiums, and dining halls to accommodate emergency service personnel and flood victims. Some participated in rescue efforts downtown. But I digress. These stories deserve their own separate essay.

Our predecessors also recognized the natural beauty of the campus and, of equal importance, assumed responsibility to maintain it. In 1923, Levi J. Ulmer, professor of biology and geography, founded the school’s Naturalist Club and served as its first faculty adviser. Lillian E. Russell, supervisor of junior high school social studies education, joined him as co-adviser of the club in 1926. During the 1930s, members of the Naturalist Club and the WPA blazed a “Nature Trail” through the campus woodland to facilitate studies of the various flora and fauna on the school property and, at the same time, to encourage students and faculty to enjoy some fresh air and exercise. (Traces of the old Nature Trail can still be seen today.) In 1937, the Club made the college woodlands an animal sanctuary and secured pledges of cooperation from local hunters. In 1942, shortly after Ulmer died, the 105 acres of woodland surrounding the Nature Trail was named “Ulmer Memorial Forest” in honor of his devotion to the enjoyment and preservation of the area.

As of 1942, the Ulmer Memorial Forest was the only feature of the campus named in someone’s honor. The library was “the college library.” The gym was simply “the college gym.” The naming of our buildings and fields did not start in earnest until 1952, just a few months after the demolition of the old Model School (i.e., the public elementary school on campus where college students did their student teaching). The timing was no mere coincidence. Built in 1898, the old Model School, with its impressive bell tower and illuminated clock, was the signature structure
on campus. It was often featured in the college yearbook, in the college catalog, and even on Lock Haven postcards. But it was built on top of an underground spring; and by the mid-1930s, its northwestern corner was noticeably sinking. Cracks began to form in the foundation and on the exterior wall. The building was condemned in 1939. In 1943, President Richard T. Parsons announced that it would be demolished. His plan struck a nerve in the college community. Many students and alumni, along with several trustees, argued that the Model School, or at least its bell tower, ought to be preserved because of its historic and symbolic value to the campus. After nearly ten years of wrangling, the Model School was finally torn down in March 1952.

Parsons made the decision to demolish the Model School, but he seems to have sympathized with those who called for historic preservation. He agreed to salvage the tower bell; it hangs today in the tower of the Durrwachter Alumni Center. He also formed a committee of trustees, faculty, and alumni for the purpose of naming the college buildings and athletic fields in honor of men and women who had given “distinguished service to the college.” The eleven honorees (whose biographies I highly recommend but cannot share here for lack of space) were announced in January 1953: Cornelius M. Sullivan, S. Dare (“Whitey”) Lawrence, George B. Stevenson, David W. Thomas, William R. McCollum, James H. Rogers, Philip M. Price, M. DeTurk High, Archibald P. Akeley, and, last but not least, Levi J. Ulmer and Lillian E. Russell, the aforementioned co-advisers to the college Naturalist Club.

The history of the university’s buildings and grounds is, for me, a lesson in stewardship. As this history continues to unfold, each succeeding generation inherits the consequences of decisions made by its predecessors. What we choose to construct, refurbish, or demolish; the location and type of land that we purchase and the purpose that we assign to it; the names we give to our buildings and fields—all of these decisions shape our legacy. I, for one, would like to be remembered as a thoughtful steward.

Environmental Focus Group
Bob Myers (Chair), Md. Khalequzzaman, Lenny Long, Jeff Walsh, Lee Putt, Ralph Harnishfeger, Barrie Overton, Melinda Hodge, Melissa Becker, Todd Nesbitt, Sharon Stringer, Jamie Walker, Colleen Meyer, Steve Guthrie, Brad Dally, John Reid, Lynn Bruner, Elisabeth Lynch, Kevin Hamilton, Keith Roush, Laxman Satya, Steve Seiler, Elizabeth Gruber, and Joby Topper. The
committee is charged with promoting and supporting activities, experiences, and structures that encourage students, faculty, and staff to develop a stronger sense of place for Lock Haven University and central Pennsylvania. Such a sense of place involves a stewardship of natural resources (environmentalism), meaningful outdoor experiences, and appreciation for the heritage of the region.