

UPPER OHIO VALLEY STEEL DOCUMENTARY

Traveling Exhibit Project

b) A Project Summary

The “Traveling Exhibit Project” is a project associated with the Upper Ohio Valley Steel Documentary, an effort to document the history of the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation, as those facilities disappear and are repurposed for alternative economic use. Specifically, the two large plants located at Steubenville, Ohio and Mingo Junction, Ohio have been sold to scrapping operations, both of which have been cooperative in allowing the Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County, with a \$ 10,000 Grant from the Charles M. Pugliese and Thelma M. Pugliese Charitable Foundation; to photograph the plants using archival photography with interest to industrial and architectural purposes to preserve this piece of American and Local History.

Steelmaking has been present in Steubenville and Mingo Junction since the arrival of LaBelle Iron Works, and the creation of the Mingo Iron Works in the 1860’s. The LaBelle facility was acquired by Wheeling Steel during its formation in 1920, and became its principle source for pig iron and steel. The Mingo Iron Works grew, and became part of Laughlin Steel Company, which, in turn, was acquired by Carnegie Steel, which became a subsidiary of U.S. Steel, in 1901. Wheeling Steel purchased the entire facility at Mingo Junction in 1945. In 1917, a coking facility was constructed in Follansbee, WV directly across the Ohio River from Steubenville, and connected to the LaBelle Mill by a railroad bridge.

Wheeling Steel merged with Pittsburgh Steel in 1968 to form the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation, which had significant operations in the Upper Ohio River Valley. With the bankruptcy of Wheeling-Pittsburgh in 2005, a Blast Furnace of 105 years ended production, and the properties went through various ownerships. Finally, Frontier Industrial Corp. of Buffalo, NY purchased the Mingo site, and Strauss Industries, Inc. of Wheeling, WV purchased the Steubenville site; both from RG Steel. Both sites are being selectively demolished and/or repurposed for other economic purposes.

The Traveling Exhibit Project will take those photos and produce an exhibit of 31 High-Resolution, Archival-Digital Prints for the exhibit to be shown at sites in the Steubenville area, the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor (Ohio Historical Society), as well as the Heritage Ohio organization, which works with the Main Street – Ohio organization for placement of exhibits.

It is the goal of the project to preserve the history of this important steelmaking site, and its impact on both the local area and our nation. He hope to incorporate the social impact on the communities and the people of the area, as the sites move to new purposes. Beyond the library system, the people involved in the project appear elsewhere in the grant application.

c) Application Narrative

1. Documentation of need for the Project: What is the proposed project's significance to industrial heritage?

A prospectus, prepared by Benjamin Halpern, revised January 2, 2013

Steel has been produced in, and around the northern valley of the Ohio River for more than two centuries. The history of the region between Pittsburgh, PA and Cincinnati, OH, has become synonymous with the history of heavy industry, steelmaking, and transportation in the United States. Four municipalities on the Ohio-West Virginia border, about half-way between Pittsburgh and Wheeling that have become linked physically, through ground and river transportation, and economically, through the presence of the steel industry are Steubenville and Mingo Junction, Ohio and Follansbee and Weirton, West Virginia. Steelmaking was present in Steubenville and Mingo Junction since the arrival of LaBelle Iron Works, and the creation of Mingo Iron Works in the 1860's. The LaBelle facility was acquired by Wheeling Steel during its formation, in 1920, and became its principle source for pig iron and steel. The Mingo Iron Works grew, and became part of the Laughlin Steel Company, which, in turn, was acquired by the Carnegie-Illinois subsidiary of U. S. Steel, in 1901. Wheeling Steel purchased the entire facility at Mingo Junction in 1945. Iron ore, coal, and limestone were mined and quarried locally to meet the initial needs of the operations, and soon, as the need for raw materials outpaced the supplies, they were transported to the mills by rail and barge. In 1917, a coking facility was constructed in Follansbee, WV, directly across the river from Steubenville, and connected to the LaBelle Mill by a railroad bridge. The mill would flourish, producing a wide variety of steel products, and employed a multitude of people of different nationalities who came to the United States in search of new opportunities.

A few miles upstream, E. T. Weir located a steelmaking operation and tin-plate mill north of Holliday's Cove, WV that, together with its company town, would soon occupy the entire bluff and flood plain including the Cove. In time, the mill would employ more than 14,000 workers, and the company would expand its operations to both sides of the Ohio River. In 1929, Weir's steelworks became part of a conglomerate that formed National Steel, and Weirton Steel operated independently, as a division of the larger works. Following the Great Depression, the resolution of a contentious strike, and a significant contribution to the victorious war effort in WW II, Weirton Steel would flourish. In 1947, the company town would incorporate, encompassing Holliday's Cove, Marland Heights, and Weirton Heights in the new city of Weirton, WV.

During the Twentieth Century, both mills would feel the growing pains of the industrial nation, as periods of labor unrest, and the growth of labor unions gave rise to a new middle class who would rise to prominence in the region following their contribution to the Allied victory in World War II. The second half of the Twentieth Century saw periods of growth and decline in the demand for steel products, including those made at the North Ohio mills. A merge with Pittsburgh Steel would save the Wheeling mills in and around Steubenville, and skilled management, coupled with a dedicated workforce kept the Weirton Works profitable. The end of the Twentieth Century yielded hard times for the domestic steel industry. Deregulation of steel imports allowed cheap imports to flood domestic markets. Changes in the technologies of packaging, the replacement of steel in many automotive and building applications by lightweight composites forced a steep decline in the demand for steel. Foreign ownership would intervene, and both mills ceased their production of new steel. By 2010, only the tin-

plate mill in Weirton, and the coking facility, known as Mountain State Carbon, in Follansbee would remain active. Together, both facilities would employ only a small fraction of the region's workforce.

By 2007, Arcelor-Mittal, the new owner of Weirton Steel, would begin the demolition of its coking facility and hot-mill, and began preparing the vacated land for new use. Both the corporation and the labor union representing the remaining workers began working in earnest to attract new ventures to the region that it hopes will provide gainful employment, once again, to its inhabitants. The beginning of the great recession of 2007 would place any new development in Weirton on hold, and lead to a temporary shut-down of operations at the Steubenville facilities. The fate of the facilities in Steubenville became less certain, as they would change hands again, and remain idle, with the hope that an upturn in the nation's economy would bring about a new demand for steel. The mill in Steubenville, proper, or North Mill, would remain cold, and around 2011, demolition would begin. The mill in Mingo Junction, or South Mill, remains in standby status for its new owner, RG Steel.

The year 2011 would bring about a renewed interest in industrial development of the land vacated by the Weirton hot mill. Following several failed attempts to attract new development to the old site, there began a new interest in developing an industrial port, to handle a wide variety of manufacturing focused on modern technologies. At the same time, due largely to concessions in demands by the labor union, and increasingly high standards for production agreed to by labor and management, alike, the Arcelor –Mittal tin plate facility became more profitable and began to hire new workers. By 2012, with site preparation proceeding in earnest, and the possibility looming, of a resurgence of the local economy focused around the extraction, refinement, and shipment of shale gas, change appears to be coming fast to the Ohio Valley.

As new economic growth brings change and new life in historic proportions to this dormant, but once vibrant region of America's industrial heartland, the time is ripe to document this change as it takes place. Such a documentary would include photography to show the nineteenth and twentieth century factories, architecture, and transportation infrastructure, as they give way to modernization, in a context yet to be imagined. The stunning juxtaposition of the industrial landscape, together with the commercial and residential architecture that line the bluffs and have stood the test of time, before much change takes place, could lead to a compelling set of still and video photographic images. Photography of the people who once worked in the mills, and still remain in the region, as well as the visionaries who seek to restore the region's economy, coupled with their oral histories will help provide an interpretive background for the landscape photographs. Further interpretation will require a careful study of the region's economic and cultural histories, and, it is hoped, will link the materials produced from this collaboration, with those already housed in historical archives. The overall goal is to produce a study that leads to a more thorough understanding of the evolution of the Upper Ohio Valley as a national center for industry and commerce, with a future that is still being defined.

2. What research methods will you employ?

The Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County has a Local History and Genealogy Department that has been an active participant in this project. Resources date to the settlement of the area in both print copy and the Digital Shoebox Project. The resources of Youngstown State University and its collaborative effort of the Youngstown Museum of Industry and Labor

through the Ohio Historical Society has been a source of local steelmaking information. Resources of the Wheeling National Heritage Area have produced information about the corporate structure of Wheeling Steel Corporation as the headquarters building was located in the City. Finally, the collection of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection at West Virginia University contains journals and papers of the WP steel structure; and will be the home for the archival copies of our photographs. Much of the research work has been completed within the photographic processes, additional work is being contributed through the resources, both material and human, of the committee.

3. Who is responsible for your project?

UPPER OHIO STEEL DOCUMENTARY - PARTICIPANTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Benjamin Halpern
1116 West Green Street
Champaign, IL 61821
217-356-5167
halpernphoto@gmail.com | Project Coordinator and
Photographer |
| 2. Thomas Leary, PhD, Professor of History
Youngstown State University, Department of History
1 University Plaza
Youngstown, OH 44512
And
Director, Youngstown Museum of industry and Labor
Youngstown State University and
Ohio Historical Society
330-941-1611 (W)
330-509-8793 (C)
teleary@ysu.edu | Historian

Exhibit Curator |
| 3. Donna Deblasio, PhD, Professor of History
Youngstown State University, Department of History
1 University Plaza
Youngstown, OH 44512
330-941-3158
dmdeblasio@ysu.edu | Oral Historian, field research |
| 4. Dennis Jones, President
Weirton Area Museum
P. O. Box 517
Weirton, WV 26062 | Historian, Museum Curator,
Expert on Weirton Steel |

304-479-7266
dennis143@comcast.net

5. David Javersak, PhD
Professor of History, Emeritus
West Liberty University
Wheeling, West Virginia
304-232-8389
djaversak15@comcast.net
Historian, Weirton Site Historian

6. Jeremy Morris, Executive Director
Wheeling National Heritage Area
1400 Main Street
Wheeling, WV 26003
304-232-3087
jmorris@wheelingheritage.org
Historian, Grant manager

7. Alan Hall, Director
[Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County](http://PublicLibraryofSteubenvilleandJeffersonCounty.org)
407 S. 4th Street
Steubenville, OH 43952
740 282-9782
alanh@oplin.org
Historian, Grant manager

8. Frank Quinn, Associate Director of Revitalization
Heritage Ohio
846 ½ East Main Street
Columbus, Ohio 43205
614-258-6200, x-30
fquinn@heritageohio.org
Consultant on Exhibit Funding and Venues in Ohio

9. Franco Ruffini, PhD, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
800 E. 17th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43211-2474
614-298-2002
fruffini@ohiohistory.org
Historian, consultant

10. Carrie and Michael Kline
114 Boundary Avenue
Elkins, WV 26241
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Oral History, Folklore, and Cultural History

11. John Cuthbert, PhD, Director
West Virginia and Regional History Collection
Charles C. Wise Library
West Virginia University
Archivist

1549 University Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26506
304-293-3536
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12. Emory Kemp, PhD Historian and Consultant
929 Riley Street
Morgantown, WV 26505
304-599-4838
elkemp31@aol.com
13. Lois Rekowski, Librarian Librarian
Eastern Gateway Community College
4000 Sunset Blvd.
Steubenville, OH 43952
740-264-5591
lrekowski@egcc.edu

4. What tangible products do you expect to produce with this project?

The Project will produce 31 exhibit-sized photos that will be used as a traveling exhibit to promote the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation and its contribution to the area and the nation. The exhibit will be shown in the Steubenville area, as well as at the “Steel Museum” in Youngstown (Youngstown Museum of Industry and Labor) and will be scheduled through the Main Street – Ohio Program.

We feel that the exhibit will travel for several years and will remain the property of the Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County for continued use. Storage cases will be purchased by the library for transit, and the digitized photos will be at the WV and Regional History Collection at WVU for additional library uses.

d) Budget

Receipts

Society for Industrial Archaeology Preservation Grant	\$ 3,000
Allocation from Library System Local History Department	\$ 1,500
Purchase of Storage/Shipping Containers for Photo Exhibit By Library system	\$ 800
In-Kind Services by Staff of the Local History Department For Research and Preparation of Photo Exhibit	\$ 1,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 6,300

Expenditures

Larger-frame photographs

High-Resolution (16" x 20" scan, @ 300 dpi, TIFF, RGB, PC or MAC) digital scan of each image, Including any significant image preparation. \$ 65.00
Using PHOTOSHOP, or similar professional software and trained personnel.

Archival digital print, 11" x 14" image, including caption, on 14" x 18" semi-gloss substrate, Archivaly mounted on 3/16" FOME-COR backing. \$ 40.00

Black, aluminum, 14" x 18" frame assembly, including laser-cut, archival matte overlay, completely Assembled, including hanging wire. \$ 45.00

TOTAL \$ 150.00 each

Smaller-frame photographs

High resolution (11" x 14" scan, @ 300 dpi. TIFF, RGB, PC or MAC) digital scan of each image, Including any significant image preparation. \$ 60.00
Using PHOTOSHOP, or similar professional software, and trained personnel.

Archival digital print, 8" x 10" image, including caption, on 11" x 14" semi-gloss substrate, archivaly mounted on 3/16" FOME-COR backing \$ 30.00

Black aluminum, 11" x 14" frame assembly, including laser-cut, archival matte overlay, completely assembled, including hanging wire. \$ 35.00

TOTAL \$ 125.00 each

TOTAL CHARGES TO ASSEMBLE EXHIBIT:

25	Large framed photographs @ 150.00	\$ 3,750.00
6	Smaller framed photographs @ 125.00	\$ 750.00
	TOTAL	\$ 4,500.00
	Purchase of Storage/Shipping Containers for Exhibit	\$ 800.00
	In-Kind Services by Staff of the Local History Department for Research and Preparation of Photo Exhibit	\$ 1,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 6,300.00

e) Support Materials

- Letter of Support from Lois Rekowski at Eastern Gateway Community College
- Letter of Support from Dr. Thomas E. Leary, Ph.D. of Youngstown State University
- Letter of Support from Dr. John Cuthbert, Ph.D. of the West Virginia and Regional History Collection of WVU, Morgantown, WV
- Letter of Support from Frank Quinn of Revitalization Heritage Ohio

Resume of Benjamin Halpern, Photographer

BENJAMIN HALPERN, PHOTOGRAPHER

halpernphoto@gmail.com

1116 West Green Street	and	P. O. Box 136, 263 Cattail Road
Champaign, Illinois 61821		Livingston Manor, New York
12758		
217-356-5167		845-439-5078

SPECIALTIES: On-location photography of architecture, agriculture, heavy equipment, landscapes, and factories.
*HABS/HAER documentary photography
*On-location portraits of people in work environment
*Black and White Archival, and Color photography

EQUIPMENT: High-quality, professional line of 35mm, medium-format, and 4” x 5” cameras,
and accessories to cover a wide range of applications.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Master of Science in Electrical Engineering
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October, 1982.

Bachelor of science in Electrical Engineering
Rensselare Polytechnic Institute, May, 1980.

EXHIBITS: **“Railroad Workers: A Tribute to the Men and Women Who Keep the Trains Running”**, Illinois Terminal, Cahmpaign, Illinois, January, 2011 - January, 2012.

Steamtown **“Illinois Terminal: A New Concept in Public Transportation”**,
National Historic Site, April - July, 2010, and Illinois Terminal,
Champaign, Illinois, January, 2009 – January, 2010.

Illinois

Labor,

Steamtown

“Twilight at the Tower: The Final Years of Tower Operation on the Central Railroad”, Youngstown Centre for the Study of Industry and Youngstown State University, December, 2010 - March, 2011, and National Historic Site, April – May, 2008.

Synagogue,
Illinois Levis Faculty

“Agudas Achim: Spiritual Home to Five Generations”, Central New York City, January – March, 1998, and University of Center, Urbana, Illinois, April – May, 1997.

Rural,

Illinois
1988.

“ Farming and Rural Life in East-Central Illinois: An Overview of Midwestern Agriculture During a Time of Transition”, University of Foellinger Auditorium Art Gallery, September – October, 1988.

Library,

“Livingston Manor, New York: My Home Town”, Champaign Public Champaign, Illinois, April, 1987.

HIGHLIGHTS OF Color and Black and White photography of buildings and sites for clients in
PROFESSIONAL Central Illinois and Upstate New York, since 1989. A partial list of clients is
EXPERIENCE: available.

Historic
Engineering Record. Clients
University of Illinois, and AMEREN

Photography of Historic buildings and sites in the United States for the American Building Survey and Historic American include the United States Air Force, The Electric Power Company.

Illinois,
College, and Genesee

Color Photography of Major Campus Buildings at the University of Eastern Illinois University, John Wood Community Community College.

MAJOR PROJECTS: Documentation of Bagnell Dam and Osage Hydroelectric Generating Facility, Lake Ozark, Missouri, for AMEREN and the Historic American Engineering Record, August – September, 2009.

College,

Color documentary of entire new campus of John Wood Community Quincy, Illinois, June-August, 2002.

County, Color documentary of important sites of Jewish history in Sullivan
New York, under a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities,
June, 1996.

Illinois Documentation of historic buildings on the Agricultural Campus of the
University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign, for the University of
Archives, November, 1994 – May, 1995.

Documentation of thirty-five buildings within the WWII Historic District
of Chanute AFB, Rantoul, Illinois, for the United States Air Force, and the
Historic American Building Survey, October, 1993 – May, 1994.

Cavalier Documentation of the Stanley R. Mickelsen Safeguard Complex in
County, North Dakota, for the United States Air Force, and
the Historic American Engineering Record, October, 1992 – January,
1993.

University Documentation of historic buildings on the engineering campus of the
Building Survey, of Illinois, Urbana Illinois, for the Illinois Historic American
December, 1991 – July, 1993.

Resume of Alan C. Hall, Director, Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County

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EDUCATION: West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV
BS. Ed. Education, 1976
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH
MLS in Library Science, 1977

Certified Public Librarian, State of Ohio

WORK EXPERIENCE	Washington County Public Library Marietta, Ohio 1970-1975
	Delphos Public Library - Director Delphos, Ohio 1977-1983
	Public Library of Steubenville and Jefferson County - Director Steubenville, Ohio 1983-
Achievements	Ohio Library Association, Librarian of the Year, 1989
	Ohio Library Association, President, 1993-1994
	Member of the Board, 2006- Historic Interpreter, 1998- Historic Fort Steuben Project Steubenville, Ohio
Publications	Weekly Newspaper Column Steubenville Herald Star, 1985-
	Indexed and Edited various Local History Books (16 total)
	Co-Authored Images of America Book – “Steubenville” 2005