



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

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TENNESSEE VALLEY IA *SIA's 2025 FALL TOUR RECAP*

The SIA's 2025 Fall Tour covered all new ground as the first visit by the society to East Tennessee. Fifty SIA members gathered from Sept. 25 to 27 to explore the "hollers" of Knoxville and the Tennessee Valley, featuring Manhattan Project history, hydropower, tile, marble, and some local food production.

Thursday's tour began with the group heading north to **Norris Dam** on the Clinch River. This was the first of 29 dams on the Tennessee River system operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), which was created as part of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. The current headquarters of the TVA is about two blocks from the Fall Tour hotel, Embassy Suites by Hilton Knoxville Downtown. Although the dams primarily function as power plants, they also are important for flood control, and their lakes provide recreation and water for irrigation and industry.

Because the water intake at Norris Dam is low, the water

that flows through the dam is cold, around 46°F all year. The water is aerated before it spills out of the dam, which makes the water downstream a good environment for fish. We saw a man fishing from the riverbank, right below a large caution sign that warned that "violent surges occur suddenly." There are warning lights that flash and sirens that sound when gates are opened, releasing extra water. Someone near the bank would have to scramble uphill quickly!

Norris Dam is named for Senator George Norris of Nebraska, who opposed privatization of power generation and thus was a strong supporter of the TVA. Construction of Norris Dam began in 1933. By the time it was completed in 1936, the TVA had purchased over 150,000 acres of land, much of it farmland. The land was cleared and around 3,000 families and over 5,000 graves were relocated. When its turbines went online, Norris provided power to families who had never had electric lights or used electrical devices. Now they could have refrigerators, washing machines, and other

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Erik Nordberg

SIA's Fall Tour group gathers at Brushy Mountain Penitentiary.

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appliances. However, nobody knew how to use them! The TVA ran classes to teach people how to use their new devices effectively and safely. The TVA also fostered education for its workers. The unskilled laborers worked shifts of six hours of construction and two hours of vocational training. When the dam was finished, the laborers were prepared to move into new jobs.

Half of the group toured Norris Dam, escorted by TVA personnel. We visited the control room, where old-fashioned dials share wall space with digital readouts and computer screens sit on desks. So much is automated that it takes only a few people to run the whole operation. No dam is autonomous; they work together to react to changing situations. Lakes are gradually lowered in early spring in anticipation of spring rains and meltwater from the mountains. By coordinating controls, the TVA makes sure no area gets overwhelmed.

Over a million cubic yards of concrete went into the construction of the dam, and we got to see inside it. Hallways called galleries run through the massive structure. At inter-

vals along the gallery we saw where pipes had carried cooling water through the concrete to keep temperature constant as it cured. As land was cleared, trees were taken to a temporary sawmill to make lumber for forms. We could see the impression of the wood grain on the walls and ceiling of the gallery. When we reached the far end, we saw the stairs that lead up the level of the road that runs across the dam. Fortunately, we didn't have to climb them, but instead retraced our steps back to where we entered the gallery.

The second group crossed the dam along the crest road, heading for **Rocky Top** (Anderson County). Known as Lake City following the completion of Norris Lake and Dam in 1936, the town changed its name to Rocky Top in 2014 in hopes of increasing tourism. This was the town's second re-branding; it was originally known as Coal Creek.

We visited the **Coal Creek Miners Museum**, a family-run nonprofit museum, where we were greeted with lemonade, tea, and cookies. Our museum guide showed a brief video outlining the history of coal mining in Coal Creek, the Coal Creek War, and the Fraterville Mine Disaster. After the video, the host guided our group through the exhibits and artifacts, providing context and personal stories to connect us with their rich coal mining heritage, both good and bad.

In the early 1890s, coal mine owners in Anderson County began firing their paid coal miners and replacing them via the convict leasing system. Convict leasing became common in the south after the Civil War. This highly lucrative system benefited both the private companies and the state governments, but took wages from the experienced miners and their families. The vast majority of the convicts subject to prison labor were Black, insinuating a loophole for the continuation of slavery. Our tour guide emphasized that many of these convicts were found guilty of only minor violations before being sentenced to hard labor and unreasonable hours.



Kathryn Fox

Norris Dam.

The *SIA Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Society for Industrial Archeology. It is sent to SIA members, who also receive the Society's journal, *IA*, published biannually. The SIA through its publications, conferences, tours, and projects encourages the study, interpretation, and preservation of historically significant industrial sites, structures, artifacts, and technology. By providing a forum for the discussion and exchange of information, the Society advances an awareness and appreciation of the value of preserving our industrial heritage. Annual membership: individual \$50; household (joint) \$55; full-time student \$20; institutional \$75; contributing \$100; sustaining \$150; corporate \$500. For members outside of North America, add \$10 surface-mailing fee. Send check or money order payable in U.S. funds to the Society for Industrial Archeology to SIA-HQ, Dept. of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931-1295; (906) 487-1889; email: sia@siahq.org; website: www.sia-web.org.

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The *SIA Newsletter* welcomes material and correspondence from members, especially in the form of copy already digested and written! The usefulness and timeliness of the newsletter depends on you, the reader, as an important source of information and opinion.

TO CONTACT THE EDITOR: Marni Blake Walter, Editor, *SIA Newsletter*, 11 Esty Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467; sianeditor@siahq.org.

Miners in Anderson County fought back, attacking prison stockades and mine property. Coal Creek and Briceville, approximately five miles southwest, saw the majority of the violence. Miners traveled south from Jellico (Tenn.) and Kentucky to join in support of the uprising.

The Coal Creek War lasted 16 months, ending in Aug. 1892. That same year, the state recognized that all money earned through convict leasing was subsequently lost by keeping an active militia to combat the uprisings. They created a new system, whereby the state purchased land in neighboring Morgan County and built Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, completed in 1896 and another stop on the SIA Fall Tour (see below). The Brushy Mountain prisoners would mine the state's land, and the state's contracts with private companies were allowed to expire.

Not long after the Coal Creek War and the end of the convict lease system in Anderson County, Coal Creek was again rocked by disaster. In 1902, a mine near Fraterville, a village two miles southwest of Coal Creek, suffered a catastrophic explosion. Known as the Fraterville Mine Disaster, over 200 miners were killed, many of whom died instantly from the explosion, but others died from methane gas poisoning while trapped inside the mine, during which they scrawled messages to loved ones on the walls.

Next we drove to the **Fraterville Miners' Circle**, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located in Leach Cemetery. Of the mine disaster's casualties, 89 are buried in concentric circles around an obelisk that was erected shortly after their interment. Our local guide shared stories from the families and descendants of those lost to the tragedy.

Our next stop was **Benton's Country Hams and Bacon**. A family-run business since 1973, Benton's cures and smokes pork using the same historic Appalachian methods that founder Allan Benton learned from his grandparents. The basic process involves salt, sugar, smoke, and time—absolutely no nitrites.

Processing the 18,000 hams they produce each year begins with hanging for two months at 38°F. Allan told us this dry-curing process is like the “old days” when hogs were killed around Thanksgiving, so they stayed cold during hanging

because of the weather. After hanging, the hams are rubbed with a mix of salt, brown sugar, and a little pepper and allowed to cure for 35 days. Then they're hung on racks that are rolled into the “smokehouse,” which is not a separate building, but a room filled with smoke from a firebox that's accessed from outside. Hickory wood is fed into it for three to four hours each day, and that generates plenty of smoke for the process. Allan opened the smokehouse door and thick smoke billowed out. We all smelled like hickory smoked bacon for the rest of the day!

After the hams are smoked for a few days, they're aged for eight to ten months. That's for a “country ham.” Allan entertained us with his experiences learning to make a prosciutto-like product, which requires aging for at least 20 months. Because the ham ages for so long, it can get too dry, so they use heritage breeds which have more marbling of fat. We got a sample of this product and it was delicious.

For most hams, the rack has a tag with the date of curing and smoking. But some hams had individual tags with special numbers on them. That's because Benton's cures and smokes hams for local farmers who raise a few hogs and bring the hams to Benton's for processing.

The bacon process is similar but faster because a slab of bacon is thinner than a ham. Bacon gets the same rub, but is cured for only about 10 days before being smoked. After smoking it goes to the slicing machine and is vacuum packed for sale. They ship all over the country, or, if you're in the area, you can stop in and buy some right at the smokehouse.

Half of the group had an excellent process tour of the tile manufacturing facility **Del Conca USA** in Loudon. Tennessee has become a significant producer of tile products for residential and commercial applications because of its abundant natural resources of ball clay, feldspar, and silica. Access to rail and interstate highway routes, as well as sources of low-cost energy, have made the state a magnet for foreign investment.

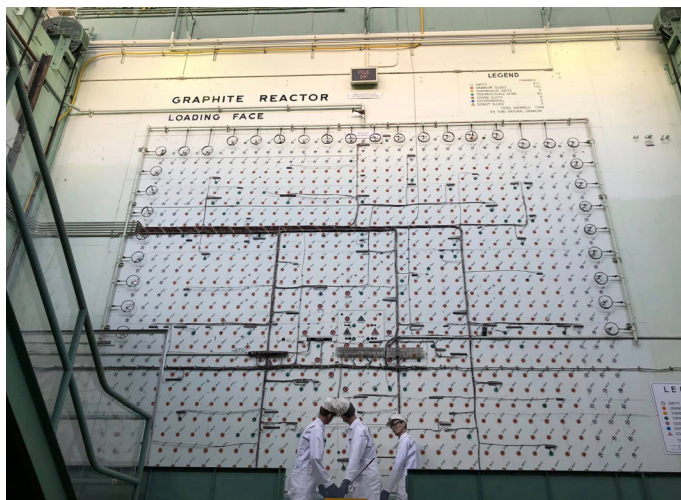
Italian company Ceramica del Conca opened the Tennessee facility in 2014 as its North American production site. The tour began in Del Conca's administrative building with an overview of company history, production techniques, and a visit to the company's showroom areas. While most of their

(continued on page 12)

James Bouchard



X-10 graphite reactor control room.



X-10 graphite reactor loading face.

Enik Nordberg

CALL FOR PAPERS

SIA 54th Annual Conference • Norfolk, Virginia

The Society for Industrial Archeology invites proposals for presentations and poster displays at the 54th Annual Conference in Norfolk, Va., May 28–31, 2026. The presentation sessions will be held at the conference hotel, the Hilton Norfolk The Main, on Sat., May 30, 2026.

We invite presentations on all topics related to industrial archeology, industrial heritage, history of technology, social change related to industry, and historic industrial structures and bridges. Papers about regional industries and transportation in the Hampton Roads area and Southeast are particularly encouraged—including shipbuilding, maritime heritage, and defense industries. Recognizing that 2026 marks the Semiquincentennial of the U.S., we welcome submissions that explore colonial industries within this broader historical context. We also encourage presentations on challenges facing industrial heritage and on the contributions made to our field by industrial museums. Poster displays are also encouraged and may present works in progress or finished projects. All presentations and poster displays should offer both interpretation and synthesis of data.

The deadline for proposals is Jan. 10, 2026. <https://www.sia-web.org/2026-sia-annual-conference-norfolk-virginia/>

Presentation Formats: Proposals may be for individual presentations 20 min. in length, a group of three or four presentations on a common theme filling a 90-min. session, a 90-min. panel discussion with 2–5 discussants (a formal moderator is encouraged though optional), or a poster presentation. SIA will provide laptop computers, data projectors, screens, and microphones with speakers as needed in each presentation room. Posters will be on display all day Saturday with a dedicated time in the afternoon for poster

presenters to be present for discussion.

Proposal Formats: Proposals should be submitted online unless special arrangements have been made. Each proposal must include:

1. The presentation title (you will indicate the type of presentation—single paper, session proposal, or poster—on the submission form).
2. A 300-word abstract that outlines the scope, findings, and conclusions of the presentation.
3. Contact information, including name, affiliation (if appropriate), email address, mailing address, and telephone number for each presenter.
4. A brief biographical statement of 150 words for each presenter.
5. The software (incl. version) used to create your presentation and any additional audio-visual requests beyond the standard equipment listed above.

For 90-min. themed sessions or panel discussions, the organizer should submit a session title and a brief description of the theme, along with all above information, together as a group, as prompted on the online submission form. If any of these items is missing, the proposal cannot be considered. Note that the above word counts apply separately to each presenter in a group.

All speakers are expected to pay the registration fee (for either the full conference or one-day rate).

For questions please contact: Marty Johnston, Univ. of St. Thomas, SIA Presentations Committee Chair, mejohnton@stthomas.edu.

Now Accepting Applications

Eric DeLony Industrial Heritage Preservation Grant Fund

Application Deadline: Mar. 1, 2026

The SIA offers grants from the Eric DeLony Industrial Heritage Preservation Grant Fund of \$1,000 to \$3,000 for the study, documentation, recordation, or preservation of significant historic industrial sites, structures, and objects. Funds may be used for a range of projects including, but not limited to: increasing public awareness of preservation efforts, photography, videography, preparing inventories, and developing measured drawings of extant significant industrial sites, structures, maritime facilities, and industrial artifacts. Grant recipients must agree to prepare a written summary of their project suit-

able for publication in the *SIA Newsletter* or the SIA's scholarly journal.

Grants are open to qualified individuals, independent scholars, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions. Organizations are preferred over individuals. Substantial participation from state, county, or local history organizations is encouraged.

For more info, contact Grants Committee Chair Duncan Hay, duncan.e.hay@gmail.com, 617-469-8477; for application instructions and past grantees: www.sia-web.org/activities/preservation-grants.

Plan to Attend SIA's 54th Annual Conference Norfolk, Virginia, May 28–31, 2026

SIA members should start to make plans to attend the 54th Annual SIA Conference in Norfolk, Va., May 28 through 31, 2026. Along with the highlights mentioned in the Summer 2025 SIAN, additional tour sites have been confirmed.

Thursday's all-day tour will include the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Environmental Center, the country's first Platinum LEED 3.0 self-sustaining building, which uses rainwater for drinking, and is powered by solar and wind. Joint Base Fort Story houses both a 1791 Aquia stone lighthouse and a neighboring 1881 cast-iron lighthouse which have recently been preserved. After crossing the 23-mi.-long Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, we will explore the Barrier Islands Center and Cape Charles Museum, which celebrate the watermen who worked on the barrier islands and the former PRR ferry terminal connection to Virginia's Eastern Shore.

An exciting addition to Friday's tours is the 150-year-old Colonna's Shipyard, the oldest family-owned shipyard in the U.S. The 120-acre site includes an active marine railway, three dry docks, and a 1,000-ton marine travel lift, once the largest in country. Other sites include the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Newport News Shipyard Experience tour, and Seafood Industrial Park, home to several seafood processors, crabbers, boat building and repair concerns, a machine shop, marine towing, and marine construction businesses.

We are also negotiating with The Slover Library for the Saturday banquet, located a short walk from the conference hotel, the Hilton Norfolk The Main. Housed in the 125-year-old Seaboard Building, which was built in 1900 as a post office and federal courthouse, The Slover includes a glass atrium meeting space and high-tech library complex which also houses archives of Hampton Roads' history in the Sargeant Memorial Collection.

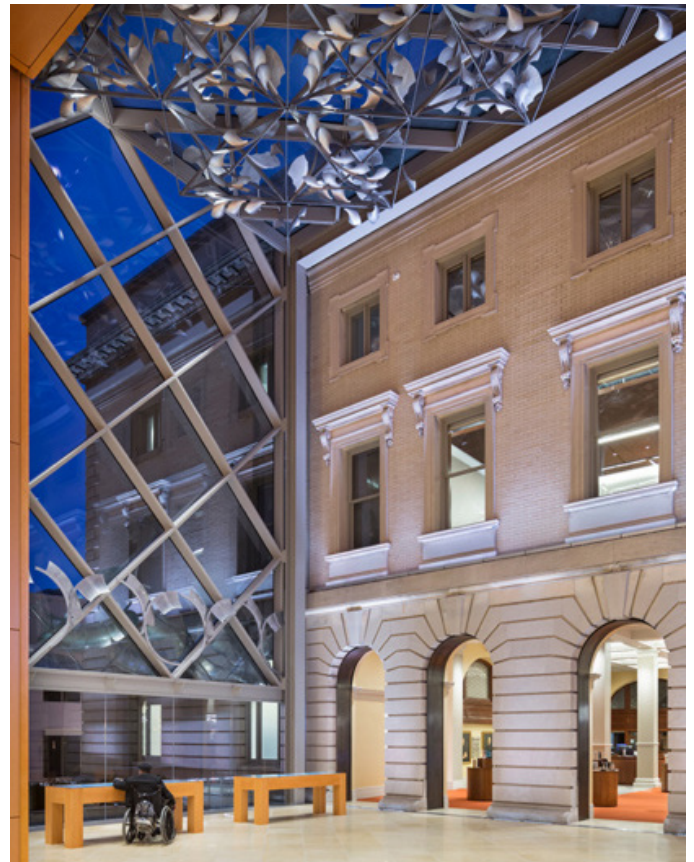
SIA conference registration should be opening in late Feb./early Mar. 2026. We look forward to seeing you in Norfolk!

Christopher Marston

Colonna's Shipyard



150-year-old Colonna's Shipyard services a variety of commercial and military vessels in its drydocks.



Newman Architects

The three-story atrium of the Forum at The Slover Library is slated to host the Saturday banquet.

Student Travel Scholarships. The SIA awards travel scholarships to full-time students and professionals with fewer than three years of full-time experience. The scholarship stipends are intended to help students offset expenses associated with attending SIA events (e.g., airfare, hotel, registration, etc.). To be eligible for a scholarship, the applicant must become a member in good standing. Student memberships are \$20/year. Applications should consist of 1) a letter demonstrating a commitment to IA from the student, and 2) a letter of reference from a faculty member or an individual active in the SIA. For information or to apply for the 2026 Annual Conference in Norfolk, Va., May 28–31, please contact Scott See, Scholarship Committee chair: sfsee@mtu.edu, 906-482-1822. Deadline for applications is **Mar. 31, 2026**.

A New Breaker for the Historic Anthracite Landscape at Eckley Miners' Village

Modest coal use existed in the American colonies for hundreds of years along with charcoal, wind, and waterpower that drove and sustained industrial production. But the opening and early 19th-c. exploitation of northeast Pennsylvania anthracite coal triggered a significant shift for the new United States. The vast and relatively accessible energy source led to the rapid growth of steam engine production, the exploitation of extensive iron reserves, new expansive means of manufacturing, and new forms of home heating. Over the course of 250 years, millions of men worked the thousands of collieries producing hundreds of millions of tons of anthracite.

Constructed forms related to mining dominated the landscape of Pa.'s Anthracite Region during the 19th c. Two of the most imposing and prominent included the large refuse piles called culm banks and the processing plants called breakers. Vast transportation and rail networks, worker housing, churches, stores, and social buildings all surrounded these forms, in urban areas or around company-controlled villages or patchtowns.

Through the 19th c., mines connected directly to the mostly wooden breakers. Miners hauled coal from below ground to the tops of the breakers, which broke, crushed, and screened coal into marketable sizes. In the visually dominating structures, boys, injured miners, or those too infirm to work underground picked slate and waste from the coal as it passed by in chutes. Smaller discarded materials and coal too small to sell were conveyed or sluiced to culm banks nearby. In the 20th c., the scale and technology of mining increased dramatically, and often a single very large breaker serviced multiple mining operations.

However, as production slowed from WWI through WWII, mine operations shrunk, surface mining heavily outpaced underground extraction, and breakers got smaller again. As late as 1995, many of the last wave of large concrete and steel breakers still stood in northeast Pa. One-by-

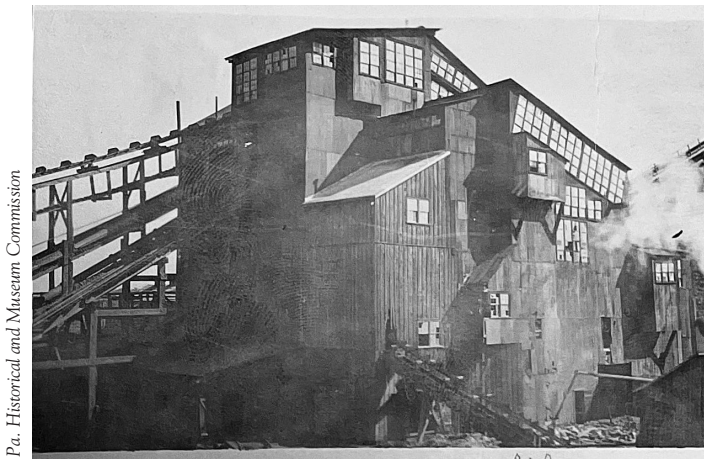
one, however, owners demolished them for scrap or liability concerns and by 2016, none were left.

Eckley, a large patchtown in the anthracite middle field near Hazleton, Pa., had its origins in 1854. The site cycled through several owners and breakers over a century of coal mining and processing and in 2025, tenants still live in the former company housing. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) took possession and renamed it Eckley Miners' Village in 1970 after its use as movie set for the film *The Molly Maguires*, shot in 1968. For the film, set during 1870s labor unrest and violent reactions to working conditions, the filmmakers re clad 1850s era housing with new but historically appropriate worn siding, buried telephone lines, hid other modern updates to houses, and, because no patchtown existed without a processing plant, built a breaker. Crews constructed the five-story breaker with an intended three-month lifespan. It served as the primary backdrop for the opening scene and as a secondary backdrop for others. Despite its temporary nature, the structure sur-



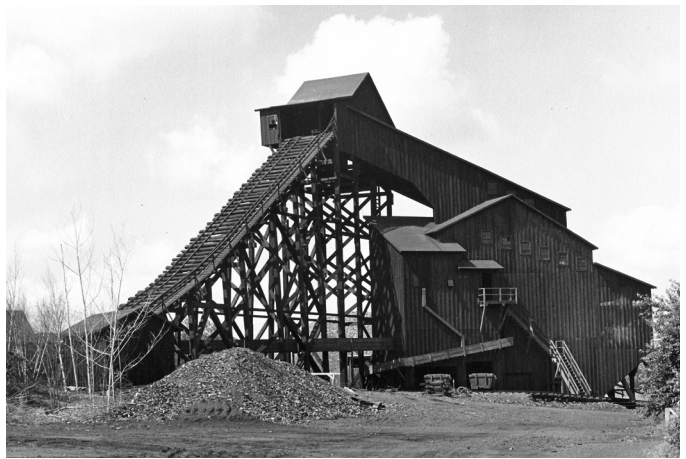
Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

Rendering of the new breaker at Eckley that will serve as a museum collections storage and processing facility.



Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

The Eckley breaker from the 1890s–1930s from a 1915 insurance survey.



Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

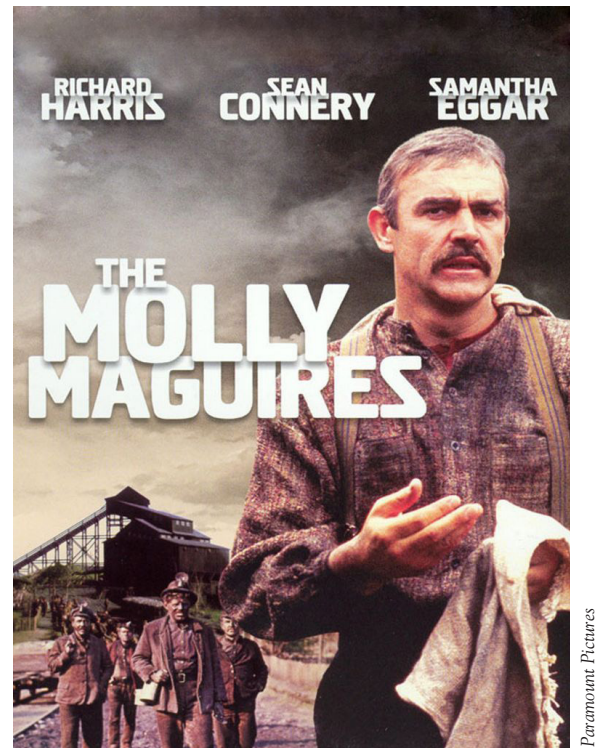
*The Paramount Studios breaker built for the 1970 film, *The Molly Maguires*, shot in Eckley, Pa.*

vived for over 55 years and existed as a visual reminder of corporate control, industry, and work at the now interpreted and preserved historic site.

Not unexpected, however, the movie-prop breaker and adjoining trestle received a decidedly unfavorable engineering assessment in 2024 and for safety reasons, had to be demolished. This action led to a challenge for interpretation. Not only had a breaker sat on the site in some form since 1854, the collection of houses, sheds, churches, and museum buildings now missed a key component of anthracite patchtown identity. Eckley staff and PHMC all understood that losing this structure would compromise the interpretive landscape, and breaker-replacement discussions had started several years earlier. With favorable timing, Eckley's capital-funding round came up just as structural concerns were mounting. Evaluating the needs of the site as a historic industrial landscape and a collecting and interpreting museum, PHMC agreed to the construction of a large new structure that would return a significant visual feature to Eckley and provide much-needed museum support functions.

The new Eckley breaker will be designed to reflect the actual breaker that was on site from the 1890s to the 1930s. It will sit near the location of its predecessor and will be aligned on the coal seams to accurately demonstrate how breakers worked and integrated with geological resources and

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The Molly Maguires VHS cover image.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2026 SIA General Tools Award

The SIA is seeking nominations for the General Tools Award for Distinguished Service in Industrial Archeology. The General Tools Award Committee invites and encourages nominations from any SIA member in good standing.

The General Tools Award is the highest honor the SIA can bestow. It recognizes individuals who have given sustained, distinguished service to the field of industrial archeology. The award is presented at the SIA's annual business meeting.

Here's what we're looking for: (1) the recipient must have given noteworthy, beyond-the-call-of-duty service, over an extended period, to the cause of industrial archeology; (2) the type of service for which the recipient is recognized is unspecified, but must be for other than academic publication; (3) it is desirable but not required that the recipient be, or previously have been, a member of the SIA; (4) the award may be made only to living individuals. Teams, groups, agencies, firms, or any other collective entities are not eligible.

The process is easy, and we will help. Just write a 2–3 page statement about the nominee's qualifying accomplishments. If you think someone deserves the award but you only know one aspect of the person's work, just write a partial nomination with suggestions of others who might know more about the candidate's career. Or collaborate with another member or two. You may add supplementary material (the candidate's resume, for example). Be sure to include your name,

address, phone number, and email.

The first recipient of the General Tools Award was Emory Kemp, in 1993. Since then, 29 others have received the award. The five most recent recipients are: Mary Habstritt (2025), Mike Raber (2024), [no award given in 2023], Louise Trottier (2022), Vern Mesler (2021), and Brian Shovers (2020). For more information on the award, examples of successful nominations, and a full list of recipients: www.sia-web.org/activities/awards/general-tools-award. Please check the list to avoid nomination of prior recipients.

The General Tools Award was established in 1992 through the generosity of Gerald Weinstein [SIA], then chairman of the board of General Tools & Instruments Co. LLC. Initial funding was provided by the Abraham and Lillian Rosenberg Foundation. The Rosenbergs founded General Hardware, the predecessor to General Tools. High Road Capital Partners acquired General Tools & Instruments in 2014 and have been pleased for the SIA to continue using the General Tools name on the award. The award consists of a citation, a commissioned sculpture ("The Plumb Bob"), and a cash award.

Please contact Christopher Marston, Chair, General Tools Award Committee if you are interested in making a nomination for 2026 (chmarston29@gmail.com, 301-502-1217). Nominations are due on **Mar. 31, 2026**.

Report on the 19th TICCIIH Congress

The 19th Congress of TICCIIH (The International Committee for Conservation of Industrial Heritage) was held Aug. 24–30, 2025 in Kiruna, Sweden, with the theme of “Heritage in Action: Legacies of Industry in Future Making.” Around 60 countries were represented among participants and presenters, mostly from Europe but also from Asia, the Americas, and a few other places.

The star of the conference was the city of Kiruna (accent on the first syllable). A thoroughly modern city of around 20,000 people, Kiruna lies north of the Arctic Circle amid boreal forest and clear alpine lakes. In August, the nights are quite short and the air is crisp enough to require a wooly cap. A city came to be built in this harsh remote location in the early 1900s, due to its rich iron ore deposits. Kiruna is now the site of one of the world’s largest iron mines, and it is also home to the Swedish Space Agency.

Archeological evidence in the area goes back 6,000 years. For at least the last several hundred years, historic records show the inhabitants were indigenous nomadic Sámi (historically called Lapp) reindeer herders, and sedentary farmers of the Tornedalian community, whose language is closely related to Finnish. Legends indicate the Sámi people were long aware of the area’s magnetite iron deposits, and these came to the attention of Swedish officials in the 1700s.

All that was needed to exploit the resource was a way to transport ore to market. In 1902, a 100-mi. rail line was completed from Kiruna to the ice-free port of Narvik in Norway. The mines and the railway have operated continually since then. Early in WWII, there was an epic battle over control of Narvik and the Kiruna railway, as the British unsuccessfully sought to choke off Germany’s main source of iron ore.

The most interesting aspect of Kiruna is that it is rapidly being moved. Buildings in the old western part of the city are being demolished or moved, while a new city center is being created on the eastern edge of town. The iron mine on which the city depends is gradually collapsing downward, as material is continually removed and shipped away. A major part of the city is built on the “hanging wall” of the mine, and thus has become unstable. It is more cost-effective to rebuild the city than to stabilize the ground on which it stands.

On the first day of the conference, attendees enjoyed a bus tour of the city, with an explanation of the move. In the midst of the conference, Kiruna’s 1912 church and bell tower, one of Sweden’s largest wooden structures, was moved (whole!) to its new location in the new city center.

On the second day, attendees were given a guided tour of the mine itself, with a more thorough explanation of the mine’s peculiar geology. This involved riding in a bus from ground level, down a very dark road, and disembarking for a walking tour thousands of feet below the surface.

On the fourth day of the conference, attendees had an opportunity to travel by bus along the route of the railway to the snow-capped mountains of Abisko National Park on the border with Norway. Since the early 20th c., the railway has operated strictly on electricity, rather than liquid fuel, as the most effective way to power long ore trains over high mountains.

Attendees also had various opportunities to taste local foods such as reindeer, and listen to traditional music of the Sámi and Tornedalian people.

Ron Petrie

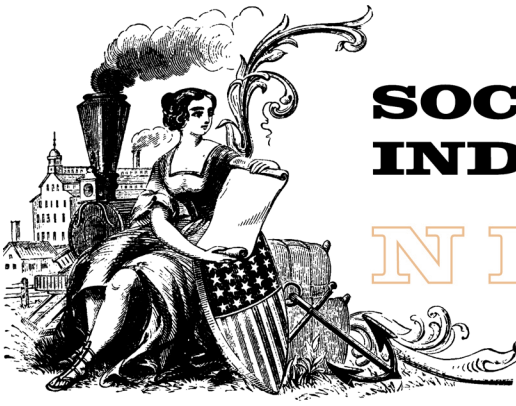
SITES & STRUCTURES

Anna Hunt Marsh and Charles Dana Metal Truss Bridges, Hinsdale, N.H., were recently listed on the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance’s 2025 Seven to Save list. Spanning the Connecticut River between Hinsdale and Brattleboro, Vt., these two Parker high truss bridges are rare survivors designed by noted engineer John Storrs. Built in 1920 and 1926, they are among only four of their type remaining in N.H., but are now closed to traffic. Advocates hope to find funding so the structures can be renovated as part of a planned new greenway, preserving their engineering legacy while boosting recreation and local development. Info: www.nhpreservation.org/blog/2025-seven-to-save-listees.

Roebling Prestretcher Equipment & Buildings (Buildings 92 & 93), Roebling, N.J., join Preservation New Jersey’s endangered list. The Roebling wire rope prestretcher and its buildings are the last remaining industrial structures from the John A. Roebling’s Sons steel and wire mill, which operated from 1905 to 1974. The company pioneered suspension bridge construction, as the builder of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883, and fabricated the cables of the George Washington Bridge (1931) and the Golden Gate Bridge (1937). The prestretcher machine was

invented by Roebling engineers in 1928 to stretch the elasticity out of the massive 3,750-ft. wire ropes spun for the George Washington Bridge. The town of Roebling is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. The EPA has demolished nearly every building on the property and now seeks to demolish Buildings 92 & 93 that house and provide the original context for the prestretcher. Preservation New Jersey urges the EPA to allow for the prestretcher and Buildings 92 & 93 to remain on-site so future generations can view this industrial feature in its original context. Info: preservationnj.org/10-most/roebling-prestretcher-equipment-buildings-buildings-92-93.

Walsh Family Bridge (Saddle River, N.J.), the state’s first new covered bridge in over 100 years, opened in Oct. with a community celebration. The new bridge connects 12 acres of Rindlaub Park with an additional 11 acres of landlocked open space across the Saddle River. Former Mayor Al Kurpis led the effort to include the “old New England-style structure.” The 80-ft.-long covered bridge was built in Texas and shipped in pieces to Saddle River to minimize the environmental impact on the nature reserve. Info: TheRidgewood-Blog.net, Oct. 14, 2025. ■



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

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COMPILED BY

Mary Habstritt, New York, N.Y.; Patrick Harshbarger, Wilmington, Del.;
Daniel Schneider, Lake Linden, Mich.; and Marni Blake Walter, SIAN editor, Westmoreland, N.H.

GENERAL INTEREST

- ◆ **The Chronicle of the Early American Industries Assoc.**, Vol. 77, No. 2 (June 2024) includes Geoff Hoerauf, "With Hives of This Construction . . .": Early Nineteenth-Century Beehives and Shelters; Rachel Middaugh, Simeon Allen: Bespoke Shoemaker; Walter W. Jacob, *The Stanley Marsh No. 100 Combined Miter Machine and Picture Frame Vise: Part 1*. Vol. 77, No. 3 (Sept. 2024) includes Tyler Rudd Putman, *Furnishing an Early American Sail Loft*; Philip Reid, *The Schooner Sultana and the British American Maritime Industry, 1768–1773*; Carrie Blough, *Oysters: Commeraw, Cards & Cookery*; John Davis and Sally Fishburn, *John Davis's Backstaff*.
- ◆ Emma Goldberg, **A Mill Town Lost Its Mill. What Is It Now?** NYT (July 21, 2025). www.nytimes.com. As a paper mill that dominated life and landscape in Canton, N.C., for over 115 years is demolished for new development, residents and local officials ponder the town's identity and future.
- ◆ **TICCIH Bulletin No. 109** (3rd Quarter, 2025) includes Miles Oglethorpe, *Looking Back at an Extraordinary Personal Journey*; TICCIH news: Marion Steiner, *Moving Forward—Managing Change*; Join Our Global Members Meeting on 22nd July 2025; Board Elections 2025: Key Questions & Answers; Last Chance to Register for the TICCIH World Congress 2025 in Kiruna, Sweden; opinion: Kieran Gleave, *The Need for Nuance in Future Industrial Heritage Research in the UK and Internationally*; worldwide reports: Houda Kohli Kallel, *Tunisian Industrial Heritage Structure: The Oil Mill, A Discussion Between Past and Present*; Peter Ovenstone, *Declaration of Katowice: On the Future of Working and Mobile Heritage*; Hercules Fassourakis, *Vida's Evaluation Study of the Piraeus-Athens-Peloponnese Railways (SPAP), Historic Building Complex as Elements of Greece's Industrial Heritage*; Katriina Etholén, *Senju Ōhashi Bridge, the Oldest Tied-Arch Bridge in Japan*; Jorge Magaz Molina and Ángeles Layuno Rosas, *A Survey of Fossil-Fueled Power Station Conservation: Assessing the Regression of Industrial Heritage in Southwest Europe*; István Gergely Szűts, *200 Years of History in a 140-Year-Old Kiln in Hungary: Herend Porcelain Manufactory*; Sandra Pichlak-Czop, *Transformation of Post-Industrial Areas into Green Spaces in the Context of Sustainable Development of the Upper Silesian Agglomeration in Poland*; Alisson Bertão Machado and Edilson Aparecido Chaves, *From Factory to School: Industrial Heritage and Historical Education in Curitiba, Brazil*; Anne-Cathrine Flyen, *The Polar Archipelago of Svalbard in Norway: Historical Exploitation and Industrial Cultural Heritage*; Lisa Guglielmi, Federica Pompejano, and

Marta Casanova, *The Former "Nuova Direzione" Office Building in Ferrania (Cairo Montenotte, Savona), Italy: Considerations on Balancing Architectural Preservation and Energy Retrofitting in Industrial Heritage Buildings*; Humberto Morales Moreno, Sianya Alanis González Peña, and Celina Peña Guzmán, *The Laguna Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Veracruz, Mexico*; Knut Markhus, *Recognizing Hydropower Heritage: New Listings in Norway's Industrial Landscape*; José Antonio Sáez Calvo, *Unfinished, Forgotten, Reframed, and Reused: An Experience in the Dominican Republic*; obituary: Adriaan Linters (1951–2025); conference news: Julián Sobrino Simal, *IX TICCIH Spain Congress: Industrial Movable Heritage as Living Memory*; Davy Herremans and Liesbet Daeninck, *Register Now for the Big Stuff Conference 2025*; Edoardo Curra, *General States of the Industrial Heritage (AIPAI)*; book reviews and news: Patrick Viaene, *Gueules Noires: Portraits de Mineurs à Travers l'Europe*, by Bernard Bay and Fabienne Foucart; *A Book on the Internationally Significant Industries of the Swansea Valley Wins UK National Awards* (the winning book is *Arteries of International Sustainable Industry: The Swansea Canal and Its Early Railways*, by Stephen Hughes); and Photo Focus on Industrial Heritage feature: German Simonson, *Creating Beautiful Photos of Utilitarian Industrial Subjects*.

TEXTILES

- ◆ J.N. Cheney. **The Little Falls Textile Strike**. *New York Archives* (Fall 2025), pp. 18–23. Avail.: www.nysarchivestrust.org/new-york-archives-magazine. In 1912 textile workers in Little Falls, N.Y., struck against cuts to wages and hours that resulted from new regulations following the Triangle Shirtwaist fire in 1911.
- ◆ **The Little Falls Textile Strike**. *New York Archives Jr.* (Fall 2025). Avail.: considerthesourcenyc.org/new-york-archives-jr. To accompany J.N. Cheney's article, readings and learning activities for young people in grades 4 to 8.

LANDSCAPES & INTERPRETATION

- ◆ **The Lay of the Land, The Center for Land Use Interpretation** (Spring 2025) includes *CLUI Takes a Wide View of Remote Sensing* (Relating to a CLUI exhibit on remote sensing at its gallery space in Los Angeles); *The Eros of Landsat: The Embodiment of Remote Sensing* (the federal government's Landsat program and EROS, its location in Sioux Falls, S.D.); *Bus Trip to the Desert Research Station* (a bus tour to the CLUI's Desert Research Station outside Culver City, Calif.); *Sky High*

in *Sioux Falls: Ravens and Aerostars* (a second, privately owned remote sensing operation located in Sioux Falls); *Garden City: Thoughts on Visiting the Completed City in Nevada* (a massive earthwork sculpture in the Nevada Desert); *Gone with the Wind: Property Lost in the L.A. Fires* (with historic photos that burned in the L.A. wildfires).

MINES & MINING

- ◆ Fredric L. Quivik [SIA]. **Smoke and Tailings: An Environmental History of Butte and Anaconda, Montana, 1880–1930.** Univ. of Nev. Pr., 2025. 456 pp., illus., tables. \$69.95 hardcover and ebook. Explores the environmental history of the copper-smelting industry in Butte and Anaconda, Mont., blending environmental history and the history of technology. Quivik integrates these disciplines with political, legal, and business history to provide a comprehensive analysis of the industry's environmental legacy. The nuanced study shows how innovations both alleviated and exacerbated the environmental challenges of mining, milling, and smelting in Butte and Anaconda, the largest Superfund complex in the U.S. See feature in this issue.

WATER TRANSPORT

- ◆ Duncan Hay [SIA]. **Ideas Borrowed, Ideas Adapted.** *New York Archives* (Fall 2025), pp. 24–29. Avail.: www.nysarchivestrust.org/new-york-archives-magazine. Discusses how improvements to the New York State Barge Canal were influenced by European designs with particular focus on the innovative bridge dams on the Mohawk River completed in 1915.
- ◆ Bill Orzell. **Feeding the Erie Canal: Rome Summit Level Reservoirs.** *New York Almanack* (Oct. 19, 2025). Avail.: www.newyorkalmanack.com. Describes the need for reservoirs to maintain water levels on the Erie Canal and the Barge Canal, why they were placed where they were, and their benefits to nearby communities including flood control.
- ◆ Bill Orzell. **New York State's Canal Heritage: An Engineering Family Tree.** *New York Almanack* (Oct. 16, 2025). Avail.: www.newyorkalmanack.com. Describes each generation of New York State's canal system, the Erie Canal comprising the second generation of five.

WATER CONTROL & RECLAMATION

- ◆ 'Diamond Reef is No More': **Clearing New York City's Harbor Reefs.** *New York Almanack* (Nov. 4, 2025). Avail.: www.newyorkalmanack.com. Reprint of *Scientific American* article on

the use of coffer dams, steam drills, and explosive blasts to remove obstructive stone reefs at Hell's Gate in New York's East River.

RAILROADS

- ◆ Anthony F. Hall. **They Came by Train: Lake George Railroad History.** *New York Almanack* (Oct. 20, 2025). Avail.: www.newyorkalmanack.com. The Delaware & Hudson RR laid track to the popular vacation destination of Lake George in 1882. From the D&H station, tourists had easy access to steamboats that could take them to hotels and resorts along the lake. Many of the hotels and steamboats were owned by the D&H. The Fort William Henry Hotel, opened in 1912 to replace an earlier one lost to fire, still stands and is now owned by the Lake George Steamboat Co., an excursion line.
- ◆ Ken Kobus [SIA], Frank Napoleon, and Steve Titchenal. **Conway Yard: Keystone of the Pennsylvania Railroad.** Pa. RR Technical and Historical Society, 2025. 166 pp., illus., CD. \$70 for PRR&HS members, \$80 for non-members. The PRR's Conway Yard was one of the most important railroad yards in America. This book explores why the rail yard was built and studies the complex series of PRR lines that fed coal, coke, steel, and other products from the Pittsburgh region into and out of the yard. Two distinct phases of the yard's evolution are examined: the beginnings in 1883 and the modern yard circa 1957, including the scrap dock, reclamation plant, river-to-rail terminal and computer-controlled humps. The story involves junctions, the meeting places between divisions or railroads owned, held, or controlled within the Pennsylvania system. See feature in this issue.
- ◆ Clay Risen. **Ross Rowland, 85, Dies; a Railroad Preservationist by Way of Wall St.** *NYT* (Aug. 1, 2025). www.nytimes.com. After founding one of the largest commodities brokerages in New York, Ross E. Rowland Jr. fulfilled his dream as one of America's foremost steam-train buffs. The son, grandson, and great-grandson of railroad workers, he started the High Iron Co. in 1966, which offered trips around the Mid-Atlantic in authentic rail cars pulled by vintage locomotives, including the Chesapeake & Ohio No. 614. He later created the American Freedom Train, a traveling museum with items from the Smithsonian Institution, that cruised through all 48 contiguous states in 1975 and 1976 in celebration of the country's bicentennial, among several additional projects. Includes historical photos.

AUTOMOBILES & HIGHWAYS

- ◆ Charles K. Hyde [SIA]. **Arsenal of Democracy: The American Automobile Industry in World War II.** Great Lakes Books Series, Wayne State Univ. Pr., 2025. 264 pp. New in paperback, \$26.99. Throughout WWII, Detroit's automobile manufacturers accounted for one-fifth of the dollar value of the nation's total war production, and this output directly contributed to the allied victory. Hyde details the story of the industry's transition to a wartime production powerhouse and some of its notable achievements. Examines the role of individual automakers in producing vehicles, weapons, and other war products and the innovative relationships with the federal government and related groups that helped make it possible, as well as the contributions of previously underused workers, namely African Americans and women, in the war effort.

BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

- ◆ Editorial Staff. **Last Remaining Fire Tower in Rensselaer County Gets Restored.** *New York Almanack* (Nov. 4, 2025). Avail.: www.newyorkalmanack.com. Report of work conducted

(continued on page 19)

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Sarah Anderson, Knoxville, Tenn.; Marc Belanger, Reno, Nev.; Diana Bouchard, Montreal, Que.; James Bouchard, Montreal, Que.; Arlene Collins, Calumet, Mich.; Luther Dietrich, Earlysville, Va.; David Dunning, Elkins, N.H.; Kathryn Fox, Summit, N.J.; Mary Habstritt, New York, N.Y.; Patrick Harshbarger, Wilmington, Del.; Neill Herring, Jesup, Ga.; Ron Klodenski, Newburyport, Mass.; Christopher H. Marston, Silver Spring, Md.; William McNiece, Indianapolis, Ind.; Anthony Meadow, Santa Fe, N.M.; Erik Nordberg, Martin, Tenn.; Ron Petrie, Lakewood, Ohio; Carol Poh, Cleveland, Ohio; Fredric Quivik, Saint Paul, Minn.; John Reap, Sun City West, Ariz.; Terry Reynolds, El Dorado, Az.; Daniel Schneider, Lake Linden, Mich.; David Simmons, Galena, Ohio; Melinda Simmons, Galena, Ohio; Mary Starbuck, Kent, Ohio; Robert M. Vogel, Washington, D.C.; Suzanne Wray, New York, N.Y.; Helena Wright, Washington, D.C.

With Thanks.

Louise Trottier (1943–2025)

Louise Trottier, a long-time SIA member and distinguished historian of technology, died in her home province of Québec on May 9, 2025, at the age of 81. She is survived by two sisters, two brothers, their spouses, several nieces, and a nephew, as well as many other relatives and friends. Hers was an industrial family—they owned the Trottier Foundry—so she was familiar with industrial operations from her youth. Her academic preparation and employment history involved her with science and technology collections and cultural and industrial heritage projects for nearly six decades. Throughout her career she made significant contributions to the preservation of scientific and technological heritage in Québec and across Canada. She is considered a pioneer in promoting industrial heritage in Canada. Ultimately she was recognized with the Order of Canada from the Governor General in 2021, and by the SIA which awarded her the General Tools Award in 2022. For a full account of her career see the General Tools Award statement published in *SIAN*, Vol. 51, No. 3 (Summer 2022), pp. 5–6 (www.sia-web.org).

Louise earned degrees in history and museum studies, and she followed a career path that included artifactual research and curation at museums and historic sites. Early on, as a historian with Parks Canada, she researched the technical and social evolution of the St. Maurice Iron Works, a site dating back to 1730. It had recently become a National Historical Site, and it also was the first Parks Canada site to be designated an Industrial Heritage Site. At this time, she also joined the faculty at the Univ. of Québec in Montreal, teaching courses across several fields involving cultural properties, industrial heritage, and science and technology collections.

As Curator of Energy and Natural Resources at the Canada Science and Technology Museum (CSTM) in Ottawa from 1988 to 2008, she worked on numerous exhibitions and publications, and she prioritized acquisitions, adding more than 4,000 objects to the museum's collections from the mining, hydro, and forest industries.

Continuing her career as an educator, while at CSTM Louise worked with West Virginia Univ.'s industrial archeology program to help the Univ. of Western Ontario develop a training program in IA for employees of Parks Canada and



Louise Trottier.

other Canadian museum professionals. Her numerous publications include multiple articles and two books, one of which was the first book on Québec's industrial heritage, commissioned by the provincial government.

Louise honored her French-Canadian patrimony and always sought to achieve balanced representation of technologies from both French and English Canada. In her exhibitions, she was committed to interpretations that represented numerous perspectives, such as the voices of First Nation Canadians and Chinese Canadians. She also assisted provincial museums to involve Canada's indigenous communities when developing exhibitions.

Louise spread the gospel of IA through her activities with several organizations. She co-founded the Québec Assoc. for Industrial Heritage and the Canadian chapter of The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), and she was the primary organizer of the 1994 TICCIH Congress in Montreal/Ottawa. She also helped to organize SIA Annual Meetings in Québec City (1989) and Montreal (2003), and she served a term on the SIA Board of Directors. Always a convivial presence at SIA and TICCIH gatherings, Louise had many friends in both groups. Over the years, as a welcome ambassador, she presented several stimulating papers on aspects of Canadian IA.

Her leadership in the field of Canadian IA extended to her mentorship of young scholars, especially women, who praised her support for "two generations of Canadian historians of technology and museum professionals," as cited in her nomination for the Order of Canada. In summarizing her accomplishments for the SIA's General Tools Award, the committee noted her remarkably diverse professional career in which she demonstrated command of numerous aspects of industrial heritage and her years of sustained, distinguished service, especially in interpreting the material culture of Canadian industry for broader publics and helping to bring new practitioners into the field. As stated in her Order of Canada nomination, Louise Trottier's impact will have a lasting effect on the field of industrial archeology. She truly will be missed.

*Helena E. Wright, based on contributions by
Fred Quivik and the 2022 General Tools Award committee*

TENNESSEE VALLEY *(continued from page 3)*

product is sold through retail outlets such as Home Depot and Lowe's, individuals can visit the Loudon office and place specialty orders. The company adds and removes tile patterns annually. All design work is completed at their Italian headquarters, then transferred and uploaded digitally to Italian-made production machinery at the Loudon facility.

Initial steps in the tile-making process are similar to those of mineral processing plants, with raw materials delivered and managed in bulk, reduced in ball mills, and combined in slurries for specific production runs. From there, kiln-dried powders, pressed into varying tile sizes and tactile finishes, are allowed to cure on tiered drying racks. Specialized glazes, creating finishes which mimic everything from marble to woodgrain, are baked into the porous tile on three parallel continuous-motion kilns. The plant uses sophisticated computer-controlled, laser-guided autonomous vehicles to transport most products from one working stage to another in the building—including packaging for shipment—allowing the company to focus workforce needs on maintenance, quality control, and other production needs.

The other half of the group visited another TVA-owned site, **Fort Loudon Lock and Dam** on the Tennessee River. The dam and power plant are run by the TVA, but the lock is run by the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The two organizations work together to manage water flow and flood control.

The lock is 360 ft. long and 60 ft. wide and holds 12 million gallons of water. Barges that pass through are 300 ft. long and 54 ft. wide, so it's a close fit. Our USACE guide pointed out that a truck carries around 20 tons of cargo, but a barge can carry 18,000 tons, so shipping by barge is less expensive per ton per mile than by truck. One of the commodities shipped on the barges that pass through Loudon Lock is "liquid asphalt," which is used to resurface roads. It is taken upstream to storage sites in the Knoxville area.

The lock was full when we arrived, and although there was no river traffic, they emptied the lock and opened the downstream gate for us to watch. The lock can raise or lower

a boat 70 ft. in about 20 minutes.

After picking up our friends from Del Conca, we returned to the host hotel for the opening reception. Univ. of Tennessee prof. Avigail Sachs provided an engaging presentation regarding TVA's impact on the region and their intentional use of architecture on the landscape. The talk provided a preview of a forthcoming book Avigail is co-authoring with Micah Rutenberg, titled *The Mechanized Landscape: Statecraft and Environment in the Tennessee Valley Authority* (ORO Editions).

Friday's itinerary started with a jaunt eastward from Knoxville to **Bush's Beans**, "That Beautiful Bean Company." This plant has satisfied Americans' hunger for canned baked beans with tasty sauce since 1908. The original owners' farmhouse still stands on the property. The beans are purchased dry and come in by truck or rail, in bulk or supersacks. Processing involves washing and junk removal, rehydration (dried beans double in volume when soaked), and blanching. The sauce is made from ingredients stored in tanks outside and in holding tanks and kettles on the line. Cans are filled with beans first, then sauce, and then sealed and cooked in a hydrostatic cooker (retort), which is like a pressure cooker only 10 stories tall.

As we enjoyed lunch at a shelter overlooking **Douglas Lake**, the Jefferson County historian, Bob Jarnigan, spoke about the area's history. Douglas Lake is retained by **Douglas Dam**, another site in the TVA system. The construction of the dam had a profound impact on the county, especially the town of Dandridge, which was saved from total inundation

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Kathryn Fox

Fort Loudon Lock and Dam, looking upstream.



James Bouchard

A view of the retort and water tower while arriving at Bush's Beans facilities.



Erik Nordberg

Ready to tour Del Conca USA.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2026

President, Vice President, Three Board Directors, Nominations Committee

Attention SIA Members!

This is your opportunity to help maintain the quality, strength, and diversity of leadership that has kept the SIA growing for more than five decades. We invite you to help choose the next leaders of your organization.

SIA's elected officials work for you to carry out the business of the organization. They represent the SIA to others, recruit new members, and plan the future of your Society.

In 2026, there will be six (6) openings: President, Vice President, three members of the Board of Directors, and one member of the Nominations Committee. We need candidates willing to give their time, knowledge, and experience to the SIA.

This year's Nominations Committee is asking you to identify candidates—friends, colleagues, or perhaps even yourself—who are qualified and willing to serve. (If modesty precludes self-nomination, please find someone to nominate you.) Each candidate must be an SIA member in good standing and must consent to being considered for nomination.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, January 16, 2026**. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact **Bill McNiece**, Chair, SIA Nominations Committee, 4311 Broadway St., Indianapolis, IN 46205-1811; 317-341-1809; wlmcniece@gmail.com.

Positions Open in 2026:

President (2-year term). The current Vice President will be slated for the position of President.

Vice President (2-year term). The Vice President is a member of the Board and in the absence or disability of the President performs the duties and exercises the authority of the President; and in general performs all duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the Board. To be eligible for this position the candidate must have served on the Board for a minimum of one (1) year as a voting member.

Directors (3-year term). Three (3) of seven director positions are open this coming year. The Board meets approximately four times per year (both in person and online), including during the Annual Conference. Directors govern official business and affairs of the SIA, and often chair committees that oversee operations such as publications, grants, and local chapters.

Nominations Committee Member (3-year term). One (1) of three elected members who assist with recruiting and evaluating nominees and monitoring annual elections, usually with the addition of the immediate past president as an *ex-officio* member. It is expected that members will attend the Annual Conference to count ballots, and that each member will chair the committee during the final year of their term. The Chair announces the results of the election at the Annual Business Meeting during the Conference.

All nominations will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee, which will present a slate of candidates to the

membership. Each nomination must include the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the person being nominated, the office for which the nomination is being made, and evidence that the candidate consents to being nominated. Once the slate is selected, the Nominations Committee will request a brief biographical statement and a photograph from each nominee.

For summaries of the nomination process and responsibilities of SIA officials, view the SIA Bylaws at <https://www.sia-web.org/about/bylaws/>. If you are unsure about the process or the obligation, please call or write the Nominations Chair at the address above. Current officeholders and their terms are shown below for your reference.

SIA Officers

Fred Quivik, President (2024–2026)
David Vago, Vice President (2024–2026)
T. Arron Kotlensky, Immediate Past President (2024–2026)
Steven Walton, Secretary (2025–2028)
Nanci K. Batchelor, Treasurer (2025–2028)

Board of Directors

John Mayer (2023–2026)
Mary Starbuck (2023–2026)
Christopher Fennell (2023–2026)
Jacob Kaplan (2024–2027)
Anthony Meadow (2024–2027)
Colin Batchelor (2025–2028)
Marty Johnson (2025–2028)

Nominations Committee

William McNiece (2023–2026)
T. Arron Kotlensky, *ex officio* (2024–2026)
Lynn Rakos (2024–2027)
Scott See (2025–2028)

TICCIH Representative

Ron Petrie (2024–2027)

Gear Up for an Exciting 2026 Renew your SIA Membership!

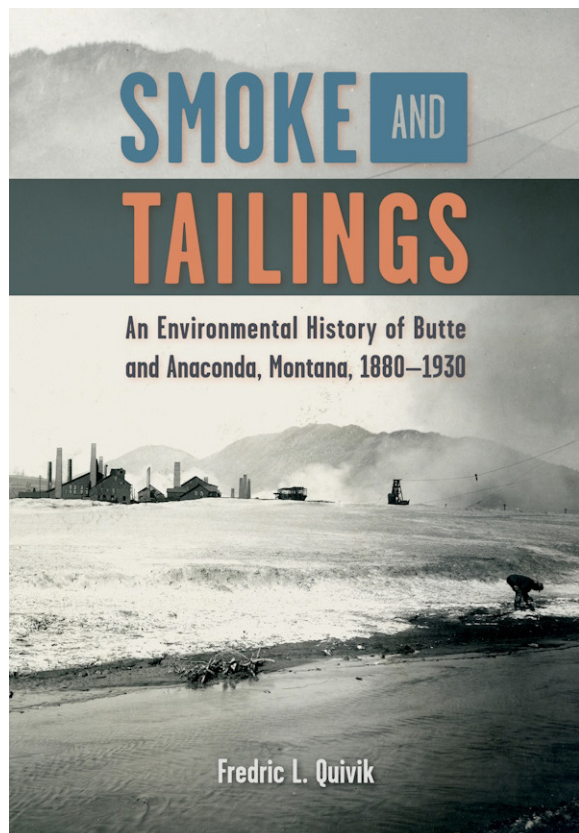
<https://www.sia-web.org/join-or-renew-online/>
for online renewal or a printable form.

Your prompt renewal helps the SIA and is
very appreciated!

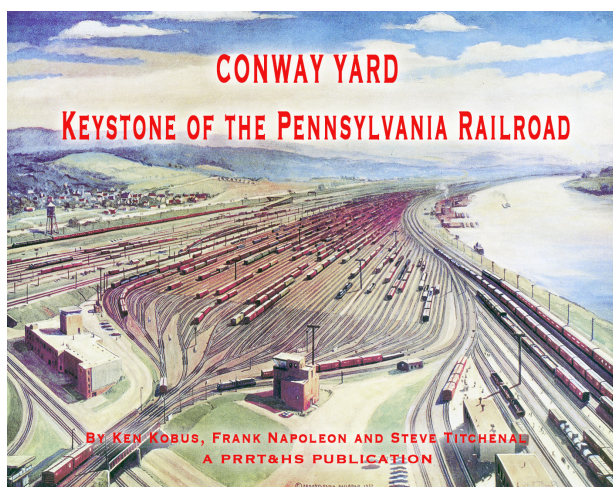
sia@siahq.org; 906-487-1889

New Books by SIA Members

Smoke and Tailings: An Environmental History of Butte and Anaconda, Montana, 1880–1930 (Univ. of Nev. Pr., 2025), by Fredric L. Quivik, SIA President and expert industrial historian in environmental litigation, including Superfund litigation involving the extractive industries.



Conway Yard: Keystone of the Pennsylvania Railroad (Pa. RR Technical and Historical Society, 2025), by Ken Kobus (SIA member and retired steelworker and mechanical engineer at J&L, LTV, and USS), Frank Napoleon, and Steve Titchenal.



Smoke and Tailings explores the environmental history of the copper-smelting industry in Butte and Anaconda, Mont. Blending environmental history and the history of technology, Quivik integrates these disciplines with political, legal, and business history to provide a comprehensive analysis of the industry's environmental legacy.

Butte's history gains new depth as Quivik examines the technological developments pioneered by local mining companies. He challenges the simplistic narrative of a powerful corporation imposing its will on helpless agricultural communities. Local communities mounted strong opposition to the industry's polluting methods; Quivik acknowledges this dynamic while also revealing efforts by the Anaconda Copper Mining Co. to address environmental issues. The company developed and implemented technical solutions to minimize resource waste and mitigate damage, driven by both economic interests and litigation pressures. While these advancements lessened some of the environmental harm, they were insufficient to prevent long-term consequences. The operations in Butte and Anaconda ultimately created the largest Superfund complex in the U.S., requiring billions of dollars in remediation.

Quivik's nuanced approach shows how innovations both alleviated and exacerbated the environmental challenges of mining, milling, and smelting. This book breaks new ground by examining the underexplored environmental impacts of tailings, offering a fresh perspective on the intersection of industry, technology, and environmental change. *Smoke and Tailings* is an essential addition to the study of Butte's industrial and ecological history. Info: unpress.nevada.edu.

The Pennsylvania RR's Conway Yard was one of the most important railroad yards in the U.S. This book explores why the rail yard was built and studies the complex series of PRR lines that fed coal, coke, steel, and other products from the Pittsburgh region into and out of the yard. PRR lines from the north funneled ore from Lake Erie ports into Conway for use in the steel mills of Pittsburgh, Youngstown, and Ohio River towns in northern W.Va. and eastern Ohio, while coal, coke, and finished steel products flowed north.

Two distinct phases of the yard's evolution are examined: the beginnings in 1883 and the modern yard circa 1957. The scrap dock, reclamation plant, river-to-rail terminal, and computer-controlled humps are documented. The story also involves junctions, the meeting places between divisions or railroads owned, held, or controlled within the Pa. system. This system of lines was a contributing factor for the building and development of the PRR's primary yard at Conway.

The book covers the Eastern Division of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Ry., the Pittsburgh, Youngstown & Ashtabula RR, as well as the Cleveland & Pittsburgh RR. Portions of the Panhandle, Conemaugh, and Monongahela Divisions located in Pittsburgh are also included. Further coverage of PRR's lake ports in N.Y. and Ohio provide broader context. An accompanying CD offers 45 large-scale maps in PDF format. Info: www.prrths.org.

CHAPTER NEWS

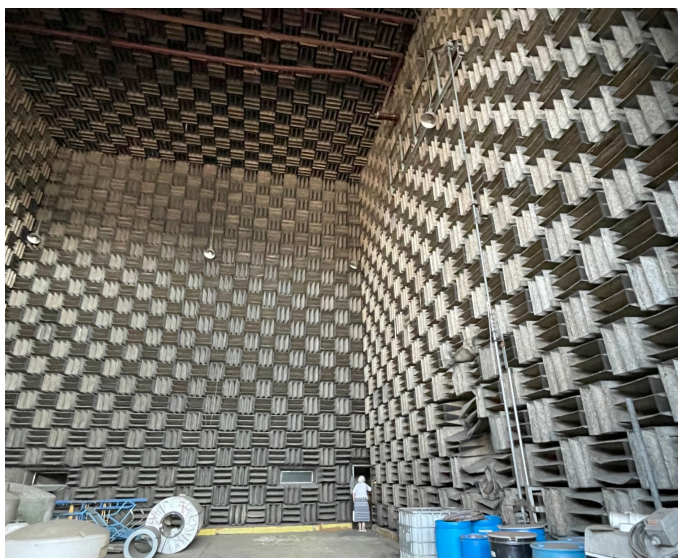
Northern Ohio (NOCSIA) toured in and around Sharon, Pa., on Oct. 4. About half of the group met first at the Sharon Hot Dog Shop for a laugh-filled lunch. After that, everyone toured Sharon's historic Westinghouse factory. With a 58-acre footprint and 1.2-million-sq.-ft. of factory floor, this gigantic plant was home to the **Westinghouse Transformer Division** from 1923 to 1984. During WWII, the factory turned out more than 10,000 naval torpedoes, responsible for sinking more than 400 enemy ships. Now this immense plant is subdivided and utilized by a variety of businesses, including specialized storage facilities. One major occupant NOCSIA visited is **WestWinn Urban Ag**, an indoor farm synergistically combining year-round production of lettuce and tilapia. After touring the Westinghouse plant, many of the group enjoyed a guided walking tour in the old industrial quarter of Sharpsville, Pa. Sharpsville developed in the 1840s around the Erie Extension Canal, which connected the Ohio River to Lake Erie through Western Pa. The canal

only operated from 1844 until 1872, when it was superseded by a railway. After visiting Sharpsville, eight stalwarts of the NOCSIA group returned to Sharon for dinner at the **Apollo Maennerchor**, a private social club. Many cities across the Northeast had "maennerchor" clubs (German for "men's chorus") before WWI, serving German immigrants for all kinds of social gatherings (not just singing)—but few of the old clubs survived two world wars and the assimilation of German immigrant communities. In Sharon, however, the Maennerchor lives on as a live music venue and German-themed restaurant. The club manager gave the NOCSIA group a tour of the club building, built in 1904, which has a restaurant on the ground floor and a cavernous dancehall and performance space on the second floor.

Ron Petrie

Oliver Evans (Greater Philadelphia) hosted a presentation on the History of Philadelphia Railroads, Sept. 10 at Parkway Central Library of Philadelphia, Pa. Presenter Bob Thomas examined how the rail system was formed, how it developed and consolidated over the years, and where it's headed. He also delved into some of the related social history of the communities and industries served and the ongoing impact of the rail lines. On Oct. 8, the chapter visited the Parkway Central Library's Print and Picture Collection for a special display of material related to Philadelphia's industrial history, including prints, photographs, and drawings. This program was presented by curator Laura Stroffolino.

Roebling (Greater N.Y.-N.J.) members enjoyed the return of the chapter's Corn Roast event on Sept. 14. Gerry Weinstein opened the doors of the Engineerium in Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., with the grill fired up and the steam engines running, for the chapter's traditional end-of-summer social. On Oct. 11, the chapter hosted its 44th Symposium on Industrial Archeology in New York and New Jersey at Stevens Institute of Technology (Hoboken, N.J.). The program included: Mary Habstritt, *Welcoming Remarks*; Leonard Miller, *The Schuylar Mine: The Cradle of the Industrial Revolution in America*; Ted Houghtaling, *Light, Heat, and Animation: John Stevens and the Dawn of the American Railroad*; David Vago, *Thomas Edison and the Railroads: How Relationships and Process Shaped Innovation*; Peter Rothenberg, *Brooklyn's Erie Basin: Origins, Canal Boats, Graving Docks and Curious Characters: Stories from RedHookWaterStories.org*; T. Cregg Madrigal, Christina Servetnick, Carl Yalden, Elizabeth Davis, and Anu Khandal, *Brick Sewer Cities: New Jersey's History Underground*; Kirk Moldoff, "Lost Annsville," *The Intersection of Art and Industry While Documenting a 19th-Century Industrial Hamlet*; and Michael Vigorito, *Professor Joseph Henry at the Staten Island Lighthouse Depot: Engineering Light and Sound for the U.S. Lighthouse Service*. The event concluded with a tour of the historical exhibits on display at the Samuel C. Williams Library, including a full-scale replica of Col. John Stevens' 1825 steam locomotive. ■



Carol Poh

Inside the soundproof room in which gigantic transformers were tested.



Justin Roebuck

This empty section of the vast Westinghouse plant will soon be filled with boats, RVs, and sports cars, to be stored for the winter.

TENNESSEE VALLEY *(continued from page 12)*

by the “Dike that Saved Dandridge.” The lake recently suffered an influx of one cubic mile of debris after Hurricane Helene passed through in Sept. 2024. TVA has cleaned it up, but tourism is still rebounding.

Most of the afternoon was spent at the **Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)**, which was founded as the “secret city” early in WWII to concentrate fissionable uranium and plutonium for the first atomic bomb. After an introduction by docents at the **Oak Ridge History Museum** and a self-guided tour of the numerous exhibits, the group met up with Ray Smith, a local historian, and visited the **ORAU (Oak Ridge Assoc. of Universities) Museum of Radiation and Radioactivity**. The museum was incorporated in 1946 but for many years served only to provide information about health physics and radiation. The museum in its present form opened in 2025. Anyone who remembers the ebullient optimism around nuclear power in the 1950s and 1960s (with a troubling insouciance about the perils of radiation) will enjoy the diversity of artifacts on display, ranging from a shoe-fitting fluoroscope (better fit!) to a plethora of radiation detectors, to a children’s home lab kit with its own

cloud chamber. A driving tour led by Smith introduced us to the diversity of housing that was built in a hurry to house as many as 75,000 workers. Oak Ridge now has about 34,000 residents, continues to be engaged in research, and is growing again thanks to the renaissance of interest in nuclear energy.

During WWII, the major production facilities at Oak Ridge were the X-10 Graphite Reactor, the Y-12 electromagnetic separation plant, and the K-25 gaseous diffusion plant (names intentionally obscure). K-25 was completely demolished, although the huge footprint was retained as a National Monument and features a museum (see below) with a scale model and descriptions and illustrations of the process. Y-12 remains a highly secured facility due to its ongoing top-secret defense missions.

With special visitors’ badges and an escort, the group visited the **X-10 Graphite Reactor**, which is normally closed to the public. Started late in 1943, X-10 was the first fully functional nuclear reactor with shielding and cooling. In addition to uranium, it produced the Pu-249 isotope of plutonium, which was used in the second bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan in 1945. After the war ended, X-10 switched to producing medical isotopes, which continued until 1963. The group visited the loading face where the fuel rods were inserted, the original control room, and associated equipment displays.

The final stop of the day was the **Brushy Mountain Penitentiary**. Brushy Mountain started as a captive coal-mining labor force (see above, Coal Miners Museum). This system became common in the post-Reconstruction South. The original wooden prison structure was built in 1896 by the prisoners themselves (mostly Black). Disease, violence, and fires were rampant. By the 1930s, overcrowded, insalubrious Brushy was being compared with Soviet labor camps, and a new sandstone building was constructed. Mining was the sole mission of the prison until the 1960s, when it was reclassified as maximum security in 1969. The most infamous



Cloud chamber kit, Museum of Radiation & Radioactivity.



Mine lamps on display at Coal Creek Miner’s Museum.



Slicing bacon at Benton’s Country Hams and Bacon.

inmate was James Earl Ray, the assassin of Martin Luther King Jr., who participated in one of the most famous escape attempts (he was recovered two days later). The prison was closed in 2009, but has been converted into a museum and the **Brushy Mountain Distillery**, where some members tasted samples. To soak in more of the atmosphere, the group ate dinner at the **Warden's Table** restaurant inside the prison.

Saturday's first tour stop was at **Sweetwater Valley Farms** in rural Philadelphia, Tenn. The farm is primarily a dairy operation of some 1,700 mainly Holstein cows. Sweetwater's robotic milking operation uses eight "Lely Astronaut" robots to milk about 480 cows three or four times daily with one to two people on four shifts, as compared to a traditional operation requiring three to five per crew. Cows wear "necklaces" equipped with RFID units, which convey data including when the cow was last milked, pounds of milk produced over time, the cow's activity rate, amount of chewing, and respiratory rate. Cows convert about 100 lbs. of food and 50 gal. of water to 12 gal. of milk daily. The cows present for feeding on their own. They receive a pelletized, vanilla treat if they present appropriately for milking. The farm has an active educational program welcoming children and families to learn about milking, agriculture, and cheese making along with visits to a cheese making facility, the robotic milking operation, and a dairy museum. Don't leave without trying one of Sweetwater's delicious milkshakes!

The next stop was the **K-25 History Center**. The K-25 uranium enrichment complex was built as part of the Manhattan Project, and was the largest, roofed building in the world at the time it entered operation in 1945. Its purpose was the gaseous diffusion of uranium hexafluoride gas with separation into U-238 and U-235 isotopes. The facility was built on the sites of about 300 homes, businesses, and 150 farms of Eastern Tenn. The massive building shut down operations in 1987 and was razed in 2008–2013. We toured

the K-25 History Center including a visit to an observation deck, from which we viewed the remaining 44-acre footprint of the K-25 building.

The next stop was the **Candoro Marble Building**, built in 1923 and used as an office and showroom for the Candoro Marble Co. until the 1950s. After a period of neglect, the ornate, neoclassical building was extensively renovated and now houses an exhibit space and artist studios. Tennessee marble—designated an International Heritage Stone in 2019—was extensively employed as dimensional stone including projects such as the grand stairs of the U.S. House of Representatives and Tennessee State Capitol, floors and walls of the Moynihan Train Hall in New York City, and in many buildings in Knoxville, "the Marble City."

At the last stop of the day, the group visited the 54-acre **Ijam's Nature Center and Quarries**, part of Knoxville's Urban Wilderness. After a history presentation on quarries and quarry workers, we took a guided walk of portions of the former **Ross Marble Quarry** and **Mead's Quarry Lake**. These sites were quarried in the 1920s and 1930s for dimensional stone. Waste stone went to lime kilns (some of which are extant) for conversion into industrial lime. After a period

(continued on page 18)



Erik Nordberg

Scale model of K-25 in the new observation area, with the footprint of the K-25 building visible in the background.



Christopher Marston

SIAers enter the ornate Candoro Marble Co. office building.



Erik Nordberg

A guide introduces the SIA group to Sweetwater Valley Farms.

TENNESSEE VALLEY (continued from page 17)

of disuse as a dump and unofficial “swimmin’ hole,” the area was rehabilitated into a park made safe for visitors while retaining its industrial flavor.

The closing banquet was held at **Kern’s Food Hall**, housed in the recently renovated, historic Kern’s Bakery. Built beginning in 1931, the bakery was a cornerstone of Knoxville until it closed in 2012. The building was listed on the National Register in 2017.

The SIA thanks local organizers Sarah Anderson and Erik Nordberg, SIA events coordinator Courtney Murtaugh, the tour guides, and the many businesses and historic sites in the Tennessee Valley who opened their doors to us and provided a welcoming, informative, and enjoyable Knoxville Fall Tour.

*Sarah Anderson, Diana Bouchard, James Bouchard,
Kathryn Fox, Christopher Marston, William McNiece,
Erik Nordberg, and Terry Reynolds*



Erik Nordberg

Quarry stone remnants at Ijam’s Nature Center and Quarries.



William McNiece

Exploring the historic quarries in Knoxville’s Urban Wilderness.

IA ON THE WEB

Industrial archeology podcast series (Spotify: <https://creators.spotify.com/pod/profile/archaeotea-podcast/episodes%C2%A0>; Apple: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-archaeotea-podcast/id1686226422>; any podcast app: <https://anchor.fm/s/e0623c80/podcast/rss>). Produced by Mike Nevell, Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England and former chair of U.K.’s Assoc. for Industrial Archaeology (AIA), with a particular focus on the industry of north-west England and beyond. A recent entry tells the story of Cheddleton Flint Mill, in Staffordshire, which was one of the recipients of an AIA Restoration Grant this year.

West Point Foundry (<https://antiquephotographics.com/west-point-foundry/>). An online blog version of an article by Jeffrey Kraus in *Stereo World* magazine (see Publications of Interest in this issue), including some stereoviews of the Foundry. The West Point Foundry Archeological Site (familiar to SIA members through the archeological studies of the site done by the Industrial Archaeology program at Michigan Technological Univ. from 2001 to 2008, led by Pat Martin [SIA]), was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2021 (SIAN Vol. 51, No. 1, Winter 2022).

IA on the Web is compiled from sites brought to the editor’s attention by members, who are encouraged to submit their IA Web finds: sianeditor@siahq.org. ■

ECKLEY MINERS’ VILLAGE (continued from page 7)

the built landscape. The new building will be large enough to convey its historic presence and clad with materials that reflect the original 19th-c. construction. However, because the building will need to meet contemporary codes, occupancy requirements, longevity, and functional and maintenance needs, it will be built primarily of steel and concrete.

To serve the museum’s needs, the breaker will function primarily as collections storage, consolidating several on-site storage areas. It will be climate controlled, well-sealed, and large enough to house the site’s two- and three-dimensional artifacts and allow for collections growth. The building will also hold processing and conservation areas and may include curatorial offices and records storage. In addition, the new building will have up-to-date restrooms and increased electrical capacity to support outdoor programs and events. From one perspective, the new breaker building will process and house the museum’s cultural resources much like the historic breakers controlled and processed the site’s coal resources. The new building, as the past buildings did, will serve as the primary facility for the site’s resource management. More info: <https://eckleyminersvillage.com/breaker-upgrade/>.

Bode Morin

IA EXHIBITS

Made in America: The Industrial Photography of Christopher Payne, featuring Payne's detailed photography of U.S. factories (and based on the recently published book of the same title), will be on view at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum from Dec. 12, 2025 through Spring 2026. The exhibition brings together more than 70 large-format photographs, which highlight the traditional craftsmanship behind the creation of musical instruments, flags, footballs, and pinball machines, as well as the intricate hand processes still critical to creating the most advanced products, ranging from microchips to the Giant Magellan Telescope. It will also feature new photographic works not seen before. The exhibition is part of the Smithsonian's celebration in 2026 of the 250th anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence. Info: www.cooperhewitt.org.

Steel Valley Visions: An American Legacy, at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art (Greensburg, Pa.), is on view through 2026 until Feb. 2, 2027. Throughout the Big Steel era in western Pa., artists captured a compelling visual record of the industry's rise and fall: the grit and glory, power and peril, beauty and brutality. At the height of the industrial boom, the region's three rivers burned bright with molten metal, and thick smoke filled the air. A century after its peak and decades after most of the mills and mines went quiet, the Steel Valley continues to inspire artists as it remains a powerful symbol of American ambition, resilience, and transformation. This exhibition brings together historical and contemporary works that reflect on the region's industrial past and its continuing influence. Info: thewestmoreland.org.

Surprises from the Archives—No. 2 Machine Shop, a pop-up exhibit at the National Museum of Industrial History (Bethlehem, Pa.; tour site, 2021 Annual Conference), will be on view through Jan. 2026. The exhibit explores archival material related to the most iconic building of the former Bethlehem Plant—the No. 2 Machine Shop. The shop was designed by John Fritz and constructed in two phases between 1889–1892. Stretching over a quarter of a mile long, the extreme length was needed to machine the large guns, forgings, and other products produced by skilled workers in this department. During its full operation, it contained lathes measuring 110 ft. long, cranes to carry loads up to 50 tons, six boring mills, giant drill presses, and other machine tools as well as a state-of-the-art metallurgical laboratory, also designed by John Fritz. Info: www.nmih.org.

Textured Stories: The Chirimen Books of Modern Japan, at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library (New Haven, Ct.), is on view through May 3, 2026. *Chirimen-bon*, or crêpe-paper books, were a type of Japanese illustrated book produced between the 1880s and the 1950s, made with textured, fabric-like paper and covering a wide range of Japan-related topics. Production of the books relied on highly skilled artisans and employed a combination of Western moveable type and traditional Japanese block printing. This exhibition introduces the history of *chirimen* books—their production and distribution, the stories they tell, the novel forms of international collaboration that brought them into being, and their legacy. Info: beinecke.library.yale.edu. ■

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST (continued from page 10)

by New York's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to restore one of 34 fire towers left in the state.

- ◆ Chris Meister. **Albert Kahn's Daylight: An Architect Reconsidered**. Wayne State Univ. Pr., 2025. 416 pp., b&w illus. \$39.99 hardcover. In Detroit, Kahn's daylight factories and commercial designs have shaped the distinctive workplaces and streetscapes of the city. Using a broad range of newly seen archival resources, Meister examines Kahn's design and production of iconic architecture, such as the Belle Isle Aquarium & Horticultural Building and the Fisher Building, alongside less-heralded projects, outlining how Kahn's ingenuity and broad networks cultivated the spread of his influence through his advocacy of daylight in traditionally dark working environments. Beyond Detroit, Meister addresses the complicated global impact of Kahn's work and establishes the architect as a vital figure for the global development of architectural modernism.

OIL & PETROCHEMICALS

- ◆ Editorial Staff. **New York State & The Origins of America's Oil Industry**. *New York Almanack* (Oct. 27, 2025) Avail.: www.newyorkalmanack.com. Reviews the N.Y. oil industry since petroleum seeps were first seen by Europeans in 1627 in Allegany County to the present, but includes other firsts in Ontario and Pennsylvania for comparison.

MISC. INDUSTRIES

- ◆ Tim Graf. **Ice Harvesting**. *Three Rivers Park District Blog* (Sept. 23, 2025). www.threeriversparks.org/blog/ice-harvesting. Describes the American ice harvesting industry from direct knowledge of the author whose family owned an ice company in Worthington, Minn. Graf has continued the tradition by teaching ice harvesting techniques at a winter festival in the suburbs of Minneapolis.

ABBREVIATIONS:

IA News = Bulletin of the Association for Industrial Archaeology (U.K.), www.industrial-archaeology.org.
NYT = *New York Times*
SCA = Society for Commercial Archeology
TICCIH = The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, <https://ticcih.org>.

Publications of Interest are compiled from books, articles, and digital media brought to our attention by you, the reader. SIA members are encouraged to send citations of new and recent books, articles, CDs, DVDs, etc., especially those in their own areas of interest and those obscure titles that may not be known to other SIA members. *Publications of Interest*, c/o Marni Blake Walter, Editor, SIA Newsletter, 11 Esty Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467; sianeditor@siahq.org. ■

SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

Department of Social Sciences
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton MI 49931-1295

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CALENDAR

2026

Jan. 7–10: Society for Historical Archaeology 2026 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Detroit, Mich. Info: <https://sha.org/>.

April 15–19: Society of Architectural Historians Annual International Conference, Mexico City, Mexico.
Info: www.sah.org.

May 13–16: Pennsylvania RR Technical and Historical Society Annual Meeting, Gettysburg, Pa.
Info: www.prrths.org.

May 28–31: SIA 54th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, NORFOLK, Va. See conference update and call for papers in this issue. Info: www.sia-web.org.

May 28–31: Mining History Assoc. Annual Conference, Pittsburg, Kan. Info: mininghistoryassociation.org.

July 30–Aug. 9: Pa. Anthracite Heritage Museum Great Britain Industrial Heritage Tour, Glasgow to Manchester.
Info: www.anthracitemuseum.org.

Sept. 16–19: National Council on Public History (NCPH), joint conference with the American Assoc. for State and Local History (AASLH), “The Work of Revolution,” Providence, R.I.
Info: <https://ncph.org/conference/2026-annual-meeting/>.

Oct. 23–24: Society for History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Meeting, online/virtual meeting.
Info: www.historyoftechnology.org.

Oct. 26–30: Assoc. for Preservation Technology International Annual Conference, Indianapolis, Ind.
Info: www.apti.org.