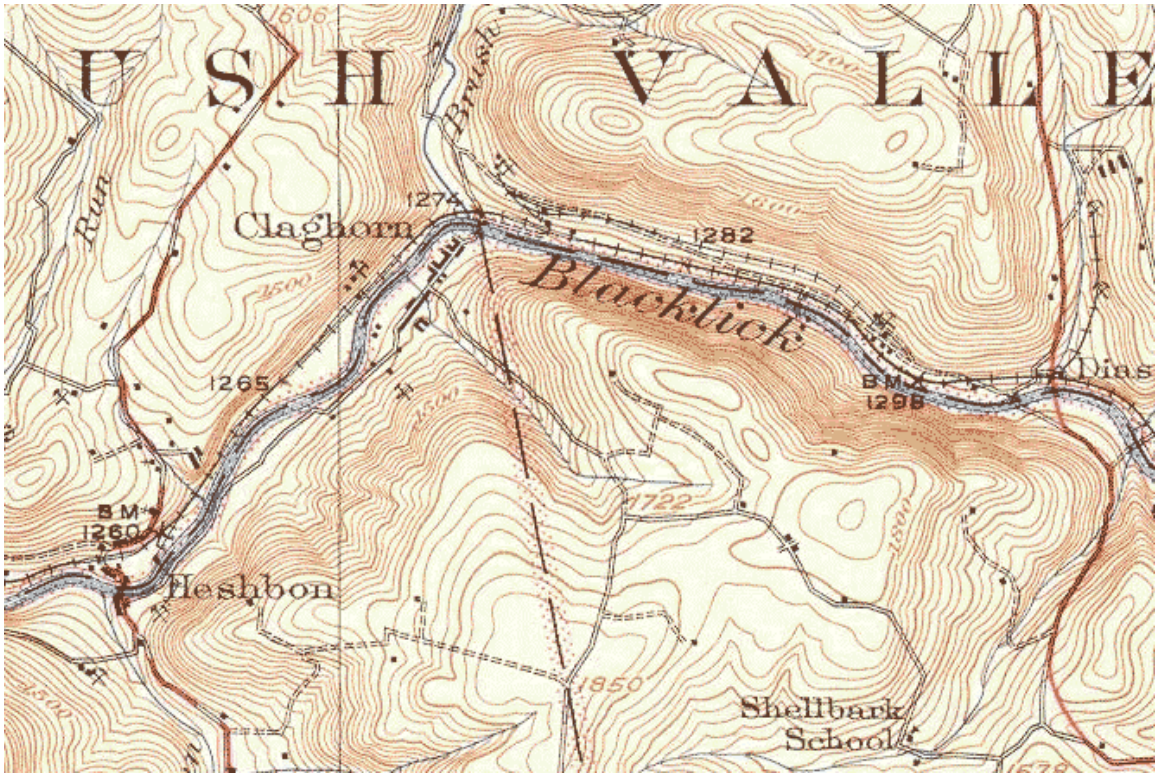


'The Ghost Town of Claghorn'
Indiana County, Pennsylvania

Named for Clarence Claghorn, superintendent of the Lackawanna Coal and Coke Company of Wehrum, the town was started and abandoned in 1903-04 due to an economic downturn. In 1916, the Vinton Colliery Company purchased Claghorn, opened 6 mine drifts, and constructed 84 houses, a three story 22-room hotel, a combination school/theater, and company store. All of the town's streets were lined with wooden sidewalks.

Freight and passenger service was available on the Ebensburg & Blacklick Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. At its peak the town population numbered 400, 150 of whom were miners. Due to the shallow 30-inch coal, frequent rock channels, and labor problems, the mines closed in 1924. Houses continued to be rented until after World War II when the Vinton Coal and Coke Company sold demolition rights to the Kovalchick Salvage Company.

The existing three-arch reinforced concrete bridge, located at the confluence of Blacklick Creek and Brush Creek, was built by Indiana County in 1917 at a cost of \$19,000. The bridge connected the town and the mines on both sides of the creek. The highway bridge, now abandoned, has survived several major flood events, including the 1977 Johnstown flood.



Shown above: portion of the ca.1922 USGS map: New Florence, PA quadrangle.

The map shows the location of the former coal patch towns of Claghorn, Heshbon and Dias on Blacklick Creek in West Wheatfield and Brush Valley Townships, Indiana County, PA.

The railroad shown on the map is now the Ghost Town Trail.

(Map courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. and the website: www.patheoldminer.rootsweb.ancestry.com)

Historical information provided by Denise Dusza Weber.

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