Can you imagine a kitchen table in a 19th century lumber camp? Almost certainly made of wood but probably not as “loved” as my grandmother’s table was.

Imagine being the man waking up with the sun in the middle of a frigid winter to slide logs down the South Mountain to the Driftwood Branch of the Susquehanna River? We can only imagine what it was like for his family to be without their husband or father during these cold winter months while he was away working or the worry they felt about him doing such a difficult, dangerous job. Their memories were probably fraught with anxiety as they recall waiting for him to return home and happy when he came back safe and sound. It makes one wonder what people will sentimentalize 100 years from now?

Look around you and see how many things are made of wood. Think of the memories that were made around these items and how many lives they touched. If you can’t smile from at least one memory involving an item made of wood, you need to go shopping for some memories.

Godspeed,

Holly Komonczi
Executive Director
The Lumber Heritage Region is a prime place for all types of winter adventures. The dense forest is a great place for winter hiking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing. But it hasn’t always looked this way.

Picture a wasteland, instead, with only a few dead trees and underbrush on the hillsides. That is how the LHR looked during the late eighteen and early nineteen hundreds when Pennsylvania was a leading supplier of lumber for a growing nation.

These barren hillsides were created by men in camps living their lives outdoors in the forests in the dead of winter. They worked at least 10 hours a day, six days a week. They slept on crude straw mattresses with just a blanket, no sheets, and coped with lice and bed bugs. They rarely washed themselves or their clothes. They moved from one camp to another if the food wasn’t good enough, eating in silence so arguments wouldn’t break out among the men. Many spent their spare time consuming libations.

While in the camps you would regularly hear terms like woodhick (another word for lumberjack), log-driving (floating logs downriver to lumber mills) and bark peeling (harvesting the hemlock tree’s bark for its tannic acid content that was used by the early tanneries). You would also see the lumbermen’s tools, from double-bitted axes and two-man crosscut saws to cant hooks. These were the tools used to harvest the trees.

In the winter months roads were plowed of snow and sprinkled with water; they then froze into smooth, glassy ways. Over these paths, the logs were hauled on sleds. The cutting went on through the winter season. The logs were taken to the banks of river, where they were piled twenty to thirty feet high, awaiting the spring thaw. When the river melted, the logs were pushed into the swollen rivers and floated to the mills.

A good number of these logs went down river to the Susquehanna log boom in Williamsport. This log boom would catch and hold floating timber until it could be processed at one of the nearly 60 sawmills along the river. These mills produced the lumber that built America and created great wealth for the lumber barons who lived there on the city’s famous Millionaire’s Row. This north central Pennsylvania town was once considered “The Lumber Capital of the World.”

Today with the great work of Pennsylvania conservationists, as well as the role played by industry initiatives relating to regeneration and best management practices, over 60 percent of Pennsylvania is covered by one of the most valuable hardwood forests in the world.

Lessons learned from these early lumbermen led the way to new harvesting techniques and helped ensure that Pennsylvanians would no longer allow their acreage to look like the state’s barren hillsides at the turn of the 20th century.
"The 2020 Census is your census and its success depends on you," said Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham. "It's a once-in-a-decade chance to inform how billions of dollars in funding are allocated for critical public services like hospitals and healthcare clinics, schools and education programs, roads and bridges, and emergency response for the next 10 years."

In March, most households in the U.S. will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You are encouraged to respond as soon as possible. The Census Bureau will begin following up with homes that have not responded in May 2020.

Your personal information is kept confidential, bound by federal law to protect your information, and your data is used only for statistical purposes.

There are 3 ways to complete the 2020 Census:

• Online
• By phone
• By mail

For the first time, all people living in the United States will be able to respond to the census online, which will appeal to a great deal of the public who regularly use the internet. The census questionnaire can also be completed by phone or by mail. Guides and assistance will be offered in 59 languages, so everyone has a chance to respond.

Counting every person living in the United States is a massive undertaking, and efforts begin years in advance. Here's a look at some of the key dates along the way:

March 12 - 20: Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau

March 30 - April 1: The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments.

April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home.

April: Census takers will begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people.

May - July: Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.
SINCE 1977, PINE CREEK LUMBER HAS BEEN CONVERTING PENNSYLVANIA'S FINEST TIMBER INTO A BROAD VARIETY OF USES.

Pine Creek Lumber saws approximately 112,000 boardfeet (265m³) of Hardwood Logs per week, with a strong emphasis on Red Oak, Cherry and Soft Maple. Additionally, Pine Creek Lumber hosts inspections for both domestic and international log buyers. Containers are loaded on-site for fastest transit.

A DIVISION OF

LUMBER HERITAGE REGION

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

We’re all familiar with the terms “hardwood” and “softwood” but have you ever wondered how the hardness of wood is measured? The Janka test calculates the hardness of wood by measuring the force needed to embed a steel ball halfway into a piece of wood.

FEATURED PARTNER

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THE LHR IS A 15 COUNTY REGION IN NORTH WEST/NORTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA THAT ACCENTUATES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LUMBER INDUSTRY FOR THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. THE GOAL OF THE HERITAGE REGION IS TO MARKET ITS ASSETS TO POTENTIAL VISITORS, TO SERVE AS A RESOURCE TO THE PA HARDWOOD INDUSTRY, AND TO KEEP THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE REGION IN THE FOREFRONT.