

YOUNGSVILLE:

By DEAN WELLS
Staff Writer

Youngsville, the "Gateway of the Pennsylvania Wilds," is located in the Brokenstraw Valley on scenic Route 6 on the western edge of Warren County.

The town was founded by Matthew Young, a Scottish school master and former Revolutionary War soldier. Young arrived in Warren County in the spring of 1796, where on a visit to Callender Irvine, son of Revolutionary War hero Gen. William Irvine.

The Irvines owned a large tract of land near the mouth of the Brokenstraw Creek.

Deciding the area was to his liking, Young traveled up the Brokenstraw by canoe and built a cabin at a bend in the creek, approximately two and a half miles from mouth.

Young was soon joined by other settlers, including the Davis, Mead and Siggins families. He constructed a sawmill in 1807 and went on to teach the first school in Youngsville. Business sprung up on the west side of the creek and a wooden bridge was erected near the site of the present day bridge on Main St. A post office was constructed and the Pony Express began making mail deliveries from Erie. The growing settlement was given the name "Youngval."

The town was incorporated into a borough in 1849, the year of Young's death. It remains a borough today.

By the outbreak of the Civil War, the town had become a thriving lumber community, shipping long rafts of lumber down the Brokenstraw Creek to the Allegheny River. The hardwood industry remains today, along with a growing wood pellet industry. Ellwood National Forge, one of the county's largest employers, is on Rt. 6, east of town.

The 2000 census placed Youngsville's population at around 1,800 people with 767 households. Median income for each household was estimated at \$32,778. The per capita income for the borough was estimated at \$16,278.

Youngsville goes by the nickname, "The Biggest Little Town on the Map," and is the home of the Youngsville Eagles.