

# A QUIET BOOMTOWN: JAMISON CITY, PA., 1889-1912

By Craig A. Newton and James R. Sperry

The Society has re-published *A Quiet Boomtown: Jamison City, Pa., 1889-1912* written by Craig A. Newton and James R. Sperry in 1972 tells the history of Jamison City, located nine miles north of Benton, in the northern reaches of the Fishing Creek Valley near Columbia County's border with Sullivan County. The completion of the Bloomsburg & Sullivan Railroad from Bloomsburg to Jamison City in 1889 became an important economic stimulus to area. The railroad gave life to Jamison City that grew up depending on the lumbering and tanning industries. To a far lesser degree and for only a short period of time, one of its hotels, Proctor Inn, gained a reputation as a place that attracted vacationers.

By 1894 the population of the community had reached its peak, approximately three hundred residents. The authors have written a well researched account describing the many facets of its growth and community life. For this reprinted edition, Craig A. Newton has expanded the book by adding a new chapter entitled, "Postscript: 1912-1927."

Boomtowns often have short life spans, and this was true for Jamison City. Its economy built of harvesting lumber could only sustain the community for a limited period of time. The tannery business would also disappear. When the boom fever broke, the community would lose its people and gradually recess into the shadows of history.

The book has an index, endnotes, and an appendix listing the residents of Jamison City for the period 1889-1893, based on tax records, land deeds, and newspaper sources.

This fascinating account of local history is now available in a soft-bound edition at the Society.

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