



Life in Nuttallburg

The size of this foundation—larger than most—indicates that the building that stood here was probably the home of a more-prominent family. Everyone in Nuttallburg lived close together, but mine owners and managers had larger homes. Some historians speculate that the house at this site may have been the family home of Nuttallburg’s founder, John Nuttall.

Life in Nuttallburg was typical of life anywhere, except that it was tightly contained. People here worked, played, shopped, and attended school and church together. They planted flowers and vegetable gardens, anticipated mail at the post office, and gossiped at the company store. They celebrated births and mourned deaths. The mine operated for 85 years, so some miners and family members probably lived their entire lives here.

Nuttallburg Memories

The village had a band . . . it was a very fine band.

It was a peaceful pretty sight to look down into the gorge day or night; after dark the gorge was given a rosy tint by the coke oven flames.

In a slate cliff, back of our house . . . a pair of copperheads had their little den. Some one of us was within one foot of a copperhead many a time with never a strike. . . .The copperheads earnestly desired to live and let live.

There were hundreds of sweet paw paws in the village. . . . Blackberries were everywhere, followed in season by their poor relatives the dewberries. . . . All along the riverbank the persimmon trees grew.

These quotes are from John Nuttall II, grandson of Nuttallburg’s founder, John Nuttall. John Nuttall II spent much of his boyhood here. In 1961 he documented his memories in a book, *Trees Above With Coal Below*.

A Few of Nuttallburg’s Residents

