

All Aboard!

Apprentices Steam Into History

By: Carol True



In April of this year the Apprentice Program began work on a four-season rail car that was to become the third car in New Freedom's Civil War train attraction called "Steam Into History." Bob Kinsley wanted to offer Kinsley's assistance on this local build that would provide practical experience for the Carpentry Apprentice Program while supporting the economic development of the York County community.

✉ ctrue@rkinsley.com

The project began in the yard of Rail Mechanical Services, Inc. (RMS), where the car received expert attention as the undercarriage of the flatbed train car was restored to current Federal Railroad Administration regulations. Steve Taylor, instructor for the Kinsley Apprenticeship Program, and his group of apprentices began work on the passenger coach. They worked closely with designers to ensure the coach reflected the design of an 1860's railway car and provided the skill to achieve the desired result. Research to find a car from this time period included a trip to the B & O Railroad Museum in Maryland which houses a pair of coaches from the same era. While coaches from the 1850-1860 eras were built from wood, this coach has a steel skeleton, giving it the strength it needs. The wood used on the project was reclaimed from a barn razing. Planks from the barn were used to construct the floor and benches, which lends a warm and rustic feel to the coach. A review of historical data, researched by Dave Wilky and Seth Noll, ensured that the design and color of the car was consistent with coaches of its time.

The transformation from a humble flatbed rail car to a completed coach boggles the mind. Many manhours and a great deal of work and skill were put into the project by our dedicated apprentices, the skilled mechanics at RMS, and countless volunteers who were devoted to the project. The transformation is extraordinary. Carol True, Director of Education at the Kinsley Education Center, had the privilege of being a passenger in this car on the day of its maiden voyage. Photographs were taken the day it was moved from RMS's yard in Columbia, PA to its new home in New Freedom, PA in York County.

We at Kinsley are proud to show our commitment to our community and we are proud of the support of the Kinsley family in these endeavors. Kinsley continues to have an unending determination to quietly make a difference for York County.



Flat Car Before It Became Coach



Kinsley Apprentices Working on the Rebuild



Progress of Coach



Completed Coach