

Lumber Heritage Quests: Celebrating America

Historian Quest

Cambria County Historical Society - Cambria

The Cambria County Historical Society, headquartered in Ebensburg, preserves the county's rich and varied past. Housed in the 1840s A.W. Buck House, the museum features period rooms, rotating exhibits, and archives that tell the story of Cambria's communities.

Exhibits highlight the region's industrial heritage as well as family life, culture, and the county's role in Pennsylvania history. The Society also maintains extensive genealogical resources for those exploring local family roots.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked website contains visitor information. <https://www.cambriacountyhistorical.com/>

CCC Wayside Memorial Spring & Picnic Area - Cameron

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a keystone program in American history, active from 1933–1942.

The CCC Wayside Memorial Picnic Area, known locally as Memorial Springs, is located along Route 120 (the CCC Memorial Highway) in Cameron County. It was built to honor eight members of CCC Camp S-132 (Hunts Run) who tragically lost their lives fighting the Pepper Hill Fire of 1938 in southern Cameron County.

This site is both a wayside stop and a memorial, reflecting the risks CCC enrollees faced as they worked to restore forests and protect communities during the Great Depression.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

The Spring & Picnic area are just South of Emporium off of a segment of Route 120 known as the CCC Memorial Highway.

Look for the pull offs and Historic Marker.

We recommend visiting May-October for best weather, but the site is open in the off season too.

Just a short drive away, the Little Museum in Sterling Run preserves more of Cameron County's stories, including the CCC's impact on the region (open seasonally).

Though the Wayside Memorial is just outside of Emporium, the tragedy of the Pepper Hill Fire occurred further South in the county.

Linked is the story and map of the fire.

https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/PDFProvider.ashx?action=PDFStream&docID=1742263&chksum=&revision=0&docName=3_Pepper+Hill+Trail+System2013&nativeExt=pdf&PromptToSave=False&Size=1437398&ViewerMode=2&overlay=0

Centre Furnace Mansion - Centre

The Centre Furnace Mansion, built in 1830, was home to the ironmaster Moses Thompson and stands as a reminder of the iron industry that fueled early Pennsylvania.

Outside of the mansion the remnants of the first Iron furnace in Centre County, PA can be seen. Iron furnaces like this relied heavily on nearby forests: it took an acre of timber each day to produce the charcoal needed to keep a furnace running. The demand for wood changed the region's landscape, tying timber and ironmaking together in powerful ways.

Today, the Mansion and its grounds are preserved by the Centre County Historical Society, offering a look into local industry, architecture, and community life.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked Website Contains Visitor Information <https://centrehistory.org/visit-us/visit/>

Clearfield County Historical Society - Clearfield

The Kerr House Museum, home of the Clearfield County Historical Society, is located in a beautifully preserved 1800s Victorian home in Clearfield. Inside, visitors will find rooms furnished in period style alongside exhibits that highlight the county's layered history — from its lumber boom and river rafting era to industries like coal, railroads, and more.

During the 1800s, the West Branch Susquehanna River was the highway of the lumber trade. Thousands of rafts carrying timber from Clearfield's forests floated downstream to markets, making the county a key player in Pennsylvania's lumber heritage.

The museum also preserves stories of community life, local families, and the development of Clearfield as both an industrial hub and a crossroads of the Lumber Heritage Region.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked Website contains visitor information! <http://www.clearfield-county-historical-society.net/>

Eldred World War II Museum - McKean

The Eldred World War II Museum tells the powerful story of how one of many small Pennsylvania towns connect to one of the largest global events in history. Eldred was home to a munitions plant during the war, and today the museum honors that legacy with exhibits on the home front, military service, and the worldwide struggle for freedom.

Artifacts, personal stories, and immersive exhibits highlight both the global scale of World War II and its local impact here in the Lumber Heritage Region.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked Website Contains Visitor Information <https://www.eldredpawwiimuseum.com/>

Forest County Historical Society - Forest

The Forest County Historical Society Museum, located in Tionesta, preserves the county's rich history, with special focus on the industries and people that shaped this part of Pennsylvania. Inside, you'll find exhibits on community life, local industries, and artifacts reflecting the county's past.

Step outside to see the lumber camp replica, which brings to life the work and daily routines of loggers during the lumber boom.

Be sure to look for our Lumber Heritage Trail sign and download the LHT app to discover more in the Lumber Heritage Region!

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked Website contains visitor information. <https://forestcountypahistory.org/exhibits-museum/>
Please note the seasonality of hours!

Freedom Road Cemetery - Lycoming

This cemetery is the resting place of nine Civil War Veterans and Daniel Hughes, a Free Black man who bravely aided Freedom Seekers on the Underground Railroad.

With his wife, Ann Rotch, and their 16 children, Hughes sheltered many Freedom Seekers on his property and used his lumber barge journeys from Williamsport, PA to Havre de Grace, MD as cover, guiding people on their dangerous journey to freedom on his return trips.

He donated the land to serve as a cemetery for Black Civil War veterans. It later became known as Freedom Road Cemetery, where he was laid to rest in an unmarked grave, honoring his wishes.

After your visit, we recommend exploring downtown Williamsport!

For more info, the link below provides a good overview. For deeper research, explore the sources listed at the bottom of the article -

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Hughes_\(underground_railroad\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Hughes_(underground_railroad))

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked is the Site Listing on Google Maps <https://maps.app.goo.gl/cB9MRfoGYjA7wJXp7>

Heisey House Museum - Clinton

The Heisey House Museum, built around 1831, is home to the Clinton County Historical Society. Exhibits explore the many layers of local history and their broader impacts, with military and community heritage featured throughout the collections.

Located along the West Branch Susquehanna River, a waterway central to the lumber industry, the museum preserves the stories of the people and events that shaped Clinton County.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked Website Contains Visitor Information

<https://www.clintonpahistory.org/heisey-house-museum.html>

Jefferson County History Center - Jefferson

The Jefferson County History Center, located in downtown Brookville, explores the people, industries, and traditions that shaped the region. Its exhibits range from prehistoric fossils to Native heritage, pioneer life, and the era of the lumber boom that transformed the county's forests and towns.

The Center also highlights railroads, river travel, military history, and community life, giving visitors a broad view of how Jefferson County has evolved over time.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked Website Contains Visitor Information <https://jchconline.org/>

John G. Schmick Heritage Center- Indiana

The John G. Schmick Heritage Center in Smicksburg preserves the cultural and community history of this small town, which is well known today for its Amish community and heritage tourism. Exhibits highlight the influence of German immigrants, local artisans, and the evolving rural traditions that shaped life in Indiana County.

The Center also tells the story of industries like farming and lumber that supported the community, while celebrating the lasting cultural identity that makes Smicksburg unique.

Be sure to look for our Lumber Heritage Trail Sign and download the Lumber Heritage Trail App to discover more to explore in the LHR!

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked website contains visitor information!

<https://www.visitsmicksburg.com/smicksburg-heritage-center/>

PA Lumber Museum - Potter

PLAN YOUR TRIP - CHECK WEBSITE FOR SEASONAL HOURS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Discover the story of Pennsylvania's forests and related industries.

Be sure to look for our Lumber Heritage Trail Sign in the Parking Lot and download the Lumber Heritage Trail App for additional discovery!

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked Website Contains Visitor Information <https://lumbermuseum.org/>

Ridgway's "Lily of the Valley" Self-Guided Walking Tour - Elk

The "Lily of the Valley" Historic District in Ridgway, PA reflects a period when lumber baron wealth from the booming timber and forest-related industries transformed downtowns. Their prosperity can still be seen in the Victorian homes, churches, and civic buildings that line the streets. These echoes of an era are seen throughout many towns and cities in the Lumber Heritage Region.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked Website Contains Visitor Information

Take the self-guided walking tour to discover these landmarks and the stories behind them. The Ridgway Walking Tour is linked.

<https://visitpago.com/wp-content/uploads/Ridgway-Lily-of-the-Valley-Walking-Tour-2019-Brochure.pdf>

More information is also available at the Ridgway Chamber of Commerce - 300 Main St, Ridgway, PA 15853

Sutton-Ditz House - Clarion

The Sutton-Ditz House Museum, operated by the Clarion County Historical Society, preserves the story of the county through its exhibits and collections. Built in the mid-1800s, the house reflects the prosperity of Clarion during a period shaped by lumber, iron, oil, and glass industries, which transformed the region and its communities.

Inside, visitors can explore exhibits ranging from Victorian-era furnishings and decorative arts to archives documenting Clarion County's role in Pennsylvania's industrial and cultural development. The museum also highlights the county's ties to the lumber heritage that defined much of north-central Pennsylvania.

This site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked Website includes visitor information! <https://www.clarioncountyhistoricalsociety.org/>

Tioga County Historical Society - Tioga

The Tioga County Historical Society Museum, located in Wellsboro, preserves the rich history of Tioga County and its people. Exhibits include artifacts from the lumber and coal industries, military history, local families, and community life.

Wellsboro itself was shaped by these industries and by the forests that surrounded the town.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

Linked website contains Visitor Information

<https://www.visitpa.com/listing/tioga-county-historical-society/175/>

Wilder Museum of Warren County History - Warren

The Wilder Museum of Warren County History (open seasonally, May through September) preserves the stories of the county and its communities. Its collections include exhibits on the lumber era, early industries, the oil boom, river and rail transportation, military history, and everyday life in Warren County.

The museum is operated by the Warren County Historical Society and is a hub for connecting visitors with the region's industrial and cultural roots. Exhibits highlight how lumber and natural resources shaped the county, while also telling the stories of the people who built lives and communities here.

PLAN YOUR VISIT:

The linked website contains visitor information.

https://www.warrenhistory.org/Wilder%20Museum/wilder_museum.html

Please note the seasonal hours!

