

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE TRAIL

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Minsi Trails Council. BSA
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HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM

7/1/2023 Edition

HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM

This historic trails program was developed by the Minsi Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America to provide additional outdoor program activities as well as an insight into our American heritage. Its purpose is to promote citizenship training and physical fitness. This is accomplished through an exciting hiking program that features recognition for achievement.

In order that we might understand the story of our trails we must go back in time and relive the events that shaped our nation over 250 years ago. Our trail emblem is symbolic of those events in history that played such an important role in our nations development.

Upon examining the emblem we see the profiles of three figures, each symbolic of the people that shaped our land. The Native American is a symbol of our earliest history. The Pioneer represents the hardy men who opened up the frontier and the Continental Soldier is a reminder of the sacrifices endured so that we might be free.

The Liberty Bell was housed in Allentown during the British occupation of Philadelphia and is our National symbol of freedom. The Moravian belfry is representative of the Moravian influence in this area and is symbolic of our religious heritage. The Easton flag was the first stars and stripes flag. It was flown at the reading of the Declaration of Independence in Easton, PA on July 8, 1776.

The trail segments symbolize the various aspects of our early history. The tri-cornered hat is representative of the Colonial period and as such is the symbol of the **Colonial Trail**. The Durham boat represents the extensive use of the canal system of the early nineteenth and twentieth centuries and is a symbol of the **Durham Trail**. The Paschal Lamb of the **Moravian Trail** symbolizes the Moravian influence in our valley. The Peace Pipe of the **Uncas Trail** symbolizes our Native American Heritage and the powderhorn of the **Sullivan Wilderness Trail** is symbolic of the early struggles of our country. The hammer and pick ax symbolize our industrial heritage for the **Industrial Heritage Trail**. The Moravian Star is another symbol of our Moravian cultural heritage and represents the **Nazareth Trail**. The bull's eye is the symbol of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. which owned the Lehigh and Delaware canal and represents the **Towpath Trail**. The ore car represents the **Quarries Trail**. The mountains and the river represent the Delaware Water Gap, the gateway to the Poconos and is the symbol of the **Gateway to the Poconos Trail**.

The trail medal features a bronze medallion suspended from a red, white and blue ribbon. The medallion consists of the three figures on the emblem and also a fourth, that of a Moravian woman. This latter figure is in honor of all the Colonial women and their extensive contributions to our land.

Thus, the emblem and medal are symbolic of the men and women who settled our Country and guided its destiny. We are the inheritors of their dream. As you journey along these trails, may you be inspired with the same love for and devotion to our nation as were our forebearers.

REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAIL AWARDS

1. Only current registered Scouts BSA, Venturers, Explorers, Unit Leaders, Cadette or older Girl Scouts and Leaders may receive the trail medal. For those groups traveling more than 500 miles, a national tour permit is required.
2. Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Junior Girl Scouts and any other individuals who hike the trails may purchase the patches and segments only for which they qualify. Any three of the required five trails for a medal may be completed as a Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, Brownie, or Junior Girl Scout.
3. Awards may be purchased at the Minsi Trails Council Scout Shop. Rockers (depicted on the back cover and shaded for the hike in this pamphlet) are available for each hike. Upon completing the first hike you may also purchase the round center patch.
4. Qualifications for the trail medal is to hike, in full, any five of the Minsi Trails Council, B.S.A., Historic Trails. Trail medals may also be purchased at the Minsi Trails Council Scout Shop.

TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

1. The Scout Oath and Scout Law apply at all times
2. Safety is a major concern. Use proper hiking methods, precautions and common sense (see Scouts BSA Handbook for additional information). Individuals need to check weather and safety conditions prior to hiking the trails. Note that some trails are in hunting areas, please check local hunting dates. Additionally, leaders should be familiar with the [Guide to Safe Scouting \(GSS\)](#) as well as course SCO_800 Hazardous Weather Training, available at my.scouting.org. The BSA also has the S.A.F.E. program which provides a concise checklist for running safe activities: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe/>
3. No trespassing on private property. Respect the rights of others.
4. All the hikes have been prepared as day long hikes. Toilet and overnight facilities have not been provided.
5. Knowledge of basic compass, map reading and hiking procedures is necessary.
6. Scouts are encouraged to be in uniform and carry their current registration cards.
7. Two responsible adults (21 years or older) are necessary for any group of hikers younger than 21. If the group exceeds ten youths, it is recommended that there be an additional adult for every additional five youths. These adults must be current with BSA Youth Protection Training and Pennsylvania ACT 15 requirements. If female youth are hiking at least 1 female leader must be in attendance on the hike as well per BSA guidelines.
8. Trail lunches and a garbage bag to be carried out should be taken with you.
9. Most of the hikes note museums and buildings which may be visited. The hikes, due to time constraints, do not lend themselves to visitations during a hike. Should you want to visit any of the museums or buildings noted, please make arrangements with the appropriate groups prior to your visit.
10. The Historic Trails Committee has attempted to provide areas where parking should be sufficient at both the beginning and end of each trail. Be sure you have sufficient and safe transportation at both the beginning and end of the trails.

THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE TRAIL

(Approximately 10 miles)

The Lehigh Valley can be called the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution in America. Between the years 1820 and 1900 the Lehigh Valley became a national leader in such areas as canals, railroads, iron, steel, silk and cement.

Many significant structures and sites from this period of development can be seen today. They are important because, without the development of these industrial and transportation facilities, America would not be a leading urbanized and industrial nation which is populated by the descendants of people from many other nations who came here to work and live.

The Industrial Heritage trail starts near the corner of Laubach and Siegfried Avenues in Northampton at the flag pole in front of the Northampton Banquet and Event Center.

START OF TRAIL

- **At the flag pole in front of the Community Center take a reading of 180 degrees and proceed down Laubach Street. Just past Northampton Municipal Park you will see the ATLAS Cement Museum.**

The **ATLAS Cement Memorial Museum** houses a unique collection of artifacts, photographs and video related to the one-time cement giant. The museum is a unique depository of the influence that was brought to bear on the Lehigh Valley by the largest cement plant in the history of the world. Through its collection of artifacts, it tells of the impact of the more than 5,000 workers who were employed in the five plants built here between 1889 and the closing of the last plant in 1982.

These plants made cement for some of the most famous American projects of the 20th Century, including the Panama Canal, the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center and the Holland Tunnel in New York City. The work force included thousands of immigrants from Europe who brought with them the hallmarks of their unique cultures. Those beliefs and traits have enhanced the heritage of our communities in the Lehigh Valley. Open the second and fourth Sundays of the month from May through September, and by appointment during the offseason. Call (610) 262-2576 for more details.



The ATLAS Cement Memorial Museum

- **Continue south on Laubach Street to Main Street, Northampton. At the intersection take a reading of 120 degrees and continue along Main St, crossing the Hokendauqua Creek, to the first traffic light.**

Remains of the old Lehigh Canal may be viewed after crossing Hokendauqua Creek and then turning right at the intersection of West Tenth Street and Main proceeding down Canal Street for about 600 feet to the area where the creek meets the Lehigh River.



Remains of the Lehigh Canal – can also be viewed from the Heritage Trail Pedestrian Bridge

Built to carry coal, the Lehigh Canal was completed in 1829 and functioned until 1932. It also played a large role in the development of the iron industry in the Lehigh Valley.

- **Return to Main St. and at this intersection take a reading of 165 degrees and follow Main St. toward Catasauqua for 0.7 mile. At the intersection of Fourth and Main Streets are located the Allen Union and St. John Cemeteries. Take a reading of 80 degrees at this intersection and proceed for 0.3 of a mile to Howertown Road. At the intersection of Fourth and Howertown Road take a reading of 180 degrees and proceed for 1.2 miles to Pine Street in Catasauqua.**
- **At the intersection of Howertown Road and Pine Street take a reading of 240 degrees and proceed down Pine Street.**

At the corner of Pine and Fifth avenue stands the **Dery Mansion**. Built by silk magnate August Dery, this structure is one of the most elaborate private residences in the Lehigh Valley. It was especially important for its architectural design (Italian Renaissance), particularly, its indoor heated swimming pool and elaborate ballroom. The ballroom was used until 1987 for formal parties and weddings.



The Dery Mansion

- **Continue down Pine Street to the corner of Pine and Fourth Street. Take a bearing of 150 degrees and proceed down Fourth street to Strawberry Street.**

At the corner of Pine and Fourth Avenue stands the home of David Thomas (now the Binder Apartments). David Thomas was a Welsh iron master, who, under the sponsorship of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, developed the first successful anthracite fuel iron works in America during 1839-1840.



Home of David Thomas

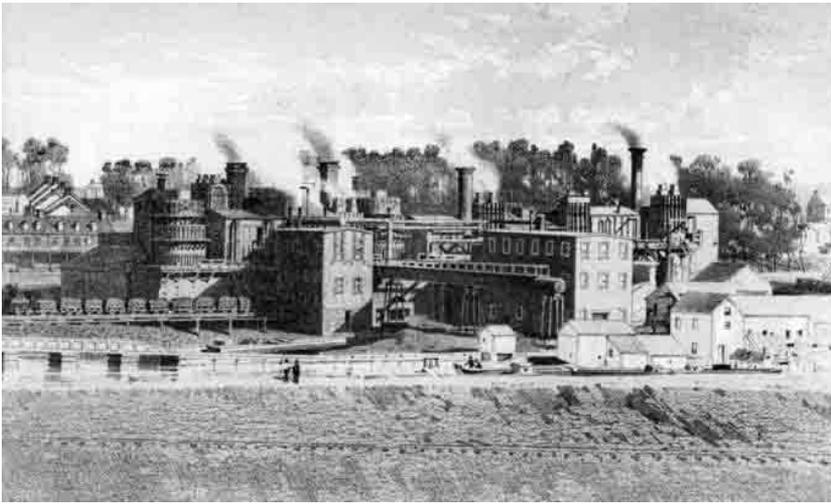
- **Walk to the corner of Fourth and Strawberry Streets (a narrow street south of the David Thomas Home), take a bearing of 60 degrees proceed to Fifth Street.**
- **At the corner of Fifth and Strawberry Sts. turn right and continue on Howertown Road which eventually merges with Second Street. Continue straight on Second St. to a “T” with Race St. At this point take a reading of 240 degrees and follow Race St. to Lehigh Street.**
- **At Lehigh Street take a reading of 150 degrees and proceed 200 feet. After crossing the mill race bridge take a reading of 120 degrees, directly to the George Taylor House. Follow the roadway to the house.**



The George Taylor House - 1765

A colonial iron master and patriot, George Taylor is the Lehigh Valley's only signer of the Declaration of Independence. Although most of his time was spent at his Easton home and the Bucks County's Durham Iron Works, he did build and briefly live in this colonial structure (1765-1768). The home was considered his summer residence, although he seldom used it. For more information visit: <https://gtha.vipmembervault.com/>.

- **From the George Taylor House return to the corner of Race and Lehigh Streets.**
- **At this juncture proceed 140 feet at a reading of 50 degrees to the east side of Front Street.**
- **Your next bearing is 320 degrees. Proceed 0.3 of a mile to the site of the Crane Iron Works. (on your left)**



Lehigh Crane Iron Works - c. 1860

Image from <https://explorepahistory.com>, courtesy of the Pennsylvania Canal Society Collection, Canal Museum, Easton, PA

HISTORIC MARKER on Front St.

The first long-term commercially successful anthracite iron furnace opened July 4, 1840, here in Catasauqua. Built for the Crane Iron Co. by David Thomas, it soon made ___ tons of pig iron a week. By 1868 the works had 6 furnaces. Production ceased in _____.

This iron works were the first commercially successful, anthracite fueled iron works in the United States. Its success triggered an iron boom in the Lehigh Valley, which within thirty years made this region the leading iron producer in America. More information on the Crane Iron Works can be found here: <http://historiccatasauquahcpa.org/crane-iron-works/>.

- **Proceed to the Pine Street Bridge, continue** (past bridge on the left is the site of a rolling flour mill and brick mill.) **Proceed to Front and Chapel Streets, take a reading of 60 degrees. Proceed to Second and Chapel and take a reading of 320 degrees and proceed to Eugene Street. At this point proceed 0.3 of a mile at a bearing of 260 degrees crossing the Lt. Col. James Lynch Memorial Bridge and continue to Front and Lehigh Streets in Hokendauqua.**

On your left is the Zephyr Apartments, formerly the Whitehall High School, built in 1918. This building was in use until 1958 when the new high school

was built.

- **Along the west side of Front St. take a reading of 350 degrees and continue for approx. 590 feet to E. Church St.**
- **Opposite the First Presbyterian Church, turn and proceed 100 degrees east for 250 feet to the Ironton Rail Trail foot/bike path.**
- **Follow the Ironton Rail Trail at a bearing of 10 degrees in a northerly direction.**

The Ironton Rail Trail follows an old railroad bed of the Ironton Railroad (1859 - 1976). The Ironton Railroad carried quarry stone to cement kilns in what is now Saylor Park. Next to the Ironton Railroad bed is the railroad bed of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. More information and history of the Ironton Rail Trail (which you are hiking on) can be found at their website: <https://www.irontonrailtrail.org>



Ironton Railroad

- **Stay on the path for approx. 1.5 miles. Along the way you will pass under an old railroad trestle bridge. Continue on to Saylor Park.**



Saylor Park - Copley Cement Plant Vertical Kilns

Saylor Park is built around the remaining vertical kilns of the Copley Cement Plant, 1892-1893. It is named for David O. Saylor, who between 1866 and 1884 did much to make the Lehigh Valley a major cement manufacturer. At the entrance to the park are **Stone Monuments** presented as safety awards. “ _____ follows Wisdom.”

- **From the park, continue westward on the trail across 2nd Street** (before you cross the road note the historic marker located up the hill on your right, which relates to the cement industry.)
- **Continue on the trail until you come to another road intersection (N. Ruch and W. Copley Streets). Cross the intersection and follow the path in a westerly direction (250 degrees). When you reach a fork in the trail take a bearing of 225 degrees to follow the IRT Spur Trail.**



Ironton Railroad Caboose #6 purchased from the Reading RR in 1956

Before you reach the overpass for MacArthur Road, the area to the right is the site of Fort Deshler. Fort Deshler was a fortified farm which gave protection to settlers against Indian attacks during the French and Indian War (1755-1764).



Fort Deshler c. 1895 (Wikipedia)

- Continue along the Ironton Rail Trail past remains of industrial buildings to Chestnut Street. Cross the road and continue on the path past a quarry on the right. Continue along the path to S. Church St. Cross this road and continue in a westerly direction on the path crossing Bridge St. until you reach the intersection with Reliance St.



Share of Ironton Railroad, issued April 21, 1924

- **Take a bearing of 320 degrees and proceed across the single lane bridge to the Troxell-Steckel House.**



Troxell - Steckel House - 1756

The Troxell-Steckel House is one of the finest remaining examples of Pennsylvania German architecture (c. 1756). It is now administered along with several adjacent buildings as a museum complex by the Lehigh County Historical Society.

- **Return to the Ironton Rail Trail follow the trail at a bearing of 60 degrees back to Bridge St. Cross Grand Road and follow Bridge St at a bearing of 20 degrees. In 0.2 of a mile, you will reach a World War I memorial on your left.**



Monument erected in 1923 in Honor of _____ who served in the World War I.

END OF TRAIL

Start of Industrial Heritage Trail: In Northampton take Route 329 to the cross streets of Siegfried Avenue and Laubach Avenue. Look for the Community Center / Banquet & Event Center parking lot or the Northampton High School parking lot nearby.

End of Industrial Heritage Trail: At the intersection of Route 145 and Route 329, turn west into Egypt for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, then south one block on Church St. to Park Street. Street parking is available on Park Street.

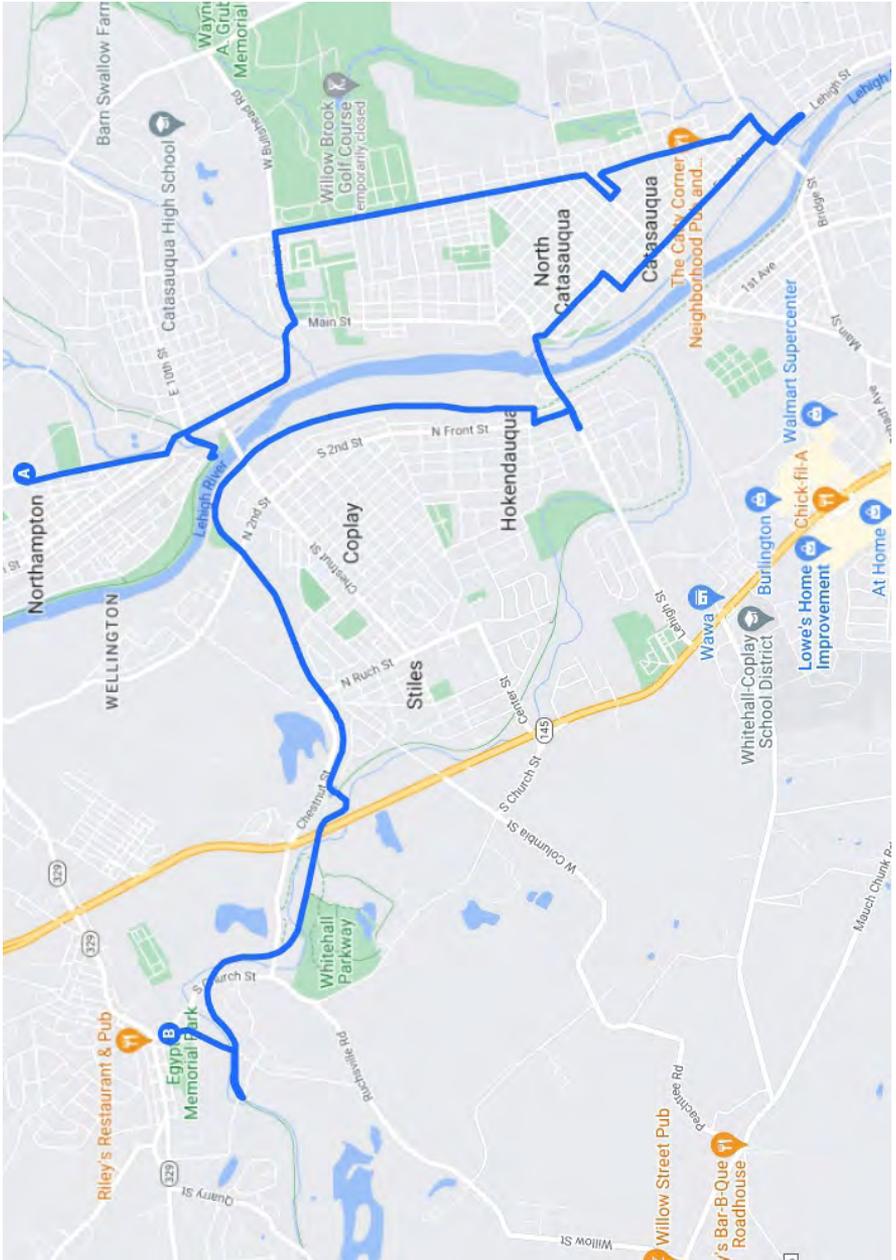
To view an online version of the map on the following page please [click here](#).

You may also open the online map using this QR Code:



Please note: There are some limitations with Google maps. While the online map is fairly accurate, it only can trace roads / mapped walking paths. Use it as a guide, but it's not 100% accurate.

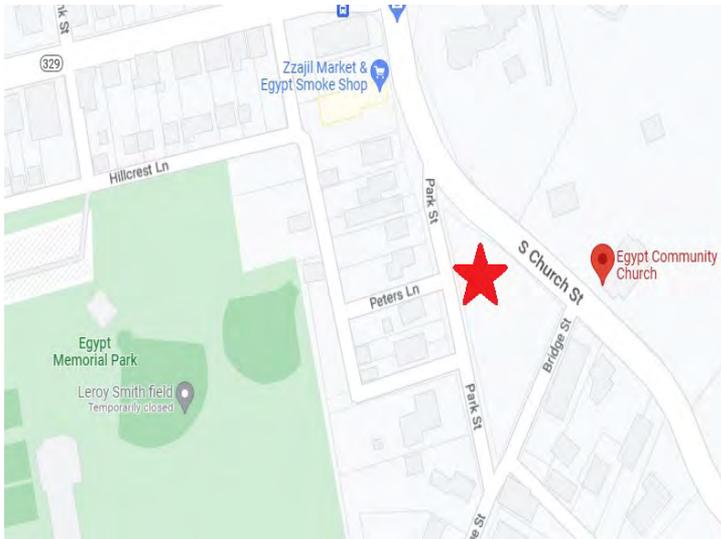
THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE TRAIL



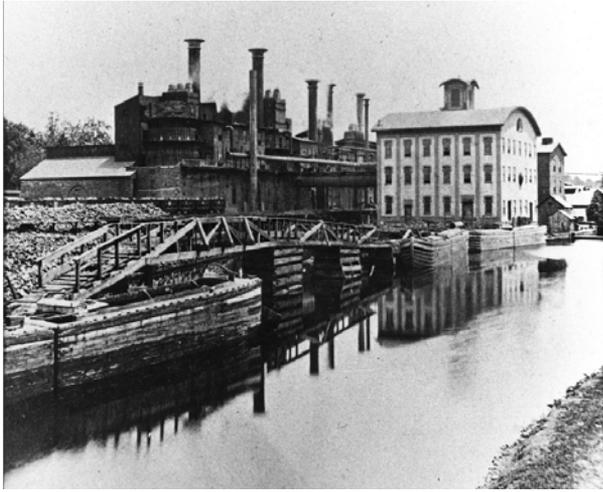
Approximately 10 miles



Start of Trail - 1601 Laubach Ave, Northampton PA 18067



End of Trail - near 4122 S. Church Street, Whitehall, PA 18052



Lehigh Crane Iron Co. - 1968

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL HISTORIC TRAILS COMMITTEE

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Arnold F. Traupman - Activities Committee Chairperson
Darren S. Woodruff
Richard D. Christ - Council Executive

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Nicholas N. Brown
Ed Erickson
Wayne E. Gross
James Haycock
Elwood Johnson
James L. Turnbach
John Maxwell - Council Executive

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W. Gordon Conn - Asst. Trails Coordinator
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Special thanks to Scouts BSA Troop 1600, Orefield PA for their assistance in this 2023 refresh of the Industrial Heritage Trail.

SPONSORS

COLONIAL TRAIL - Kiwanis Club of Allentown
DURHAM TRAIL - Hellertown Lions Club
GATEWAY TO THE POCONOS
INDUSTRIAL TRAIL
MORAVIAN TRAIL - Rotary Club of Bethlehem
NAZARETH TRAIL
QUARRIES TRAIL
SULLIVAN WILDERNESS TRAIL - Kiwanis Club of Stroudsburg
TOWPATH TRAIL
UNCAS TRAIL - Rotary Club of Easton

We wish to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support in launching this Historic Trails Program.

B.S.A. Troop 10, Advent Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA
B.S.A. Troop 14, St. Matthews Evan. Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, PA
B.S.A. Troop 18, Rosemont Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, PA
B.S.A. Troop 86, United Methodist Church, Stroudsburg, PA
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Mrs. Joyce Pharo, *Director of Moravian Museum*
Donna & Carl Raub
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Mr. Edward D. Riebman
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Mrs. Erika N. Still
Mr. Ronald R. Strisofsky, Jr. *Eagle Scout BSA Troop 54, Northampton. PA*
Mr. Richard Szarko. *Eagle Scout. BSA Troop 14. Bethlehem. PA*
Mr. David Wheeler. *Eagle Scout. BSA Troop 200. Hokendauqua. PA*
Mr. Larry Zaccaro
Mrs. Oliver B. Zug, *Historic Bethlehem*
First United Presbyterian Church, Hokendauqua. PA
GFWC Nazareth Women's Club
Hellertown Borough & Emerson Mills, Burgess
Hugh Moore Park Commission, Easton
Frank Huth & Son, Inc.
Ironton Railroad & Thomas Iron Co. Museum, Coplay
Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
Lehigh County Historical Society
Minsi Trails Council Executive Board
Monroe County Historical Society, Stroudsburg, PA
Moravian Church of North America
Moravian Hall Square Museum & Craft Shop
Moravian Historical Society
Moravian Museum of Bethlehem
Nazareth Business and Professional Woman's Club
Nazareth Chamber of Commerce
Nazareth Heritage, Inc.
Nazareth Lions Club
Nazareth Lioness Club
Nazareth Rotary Club
Northampton County Historical Society
Old Freemansburg, Assoc., Freemansburg, PA
Pocono Mountain School District
Slatebelt Museum, Mount Bethel, PA
Urban Research & Development Corp.
Witachsoman Lodge 44 Order of the Arrow
Woman's Club of Catasauqua, PA

Monroe County Architecture 1737-1979 - C. J. Klofach
Portland Commemorative Book 1976, J. Loyd, E. Kline
Stroudsburg Walking Tour

NOTES

Scout's Name:

Hike Leaders:

Unit:

Date of Hike:

Weather:

Number of participants:

Interesting things you saw:

For additional information, contact: Minsi Trails Council, B.S.A.
P.O. Box 20624
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System Map of the Ironton Railroad, showing interconnection points with the Lehigh Valley Railroad, Jersey Central RR and the Catasauqua & Fogelsville (Reading Railroad). Map and credit from this location: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ironton Railroad Map.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ironton_Railroad_Map.svg)

