

ENDLESS MOUNTAINS HERITAGE GUIDE

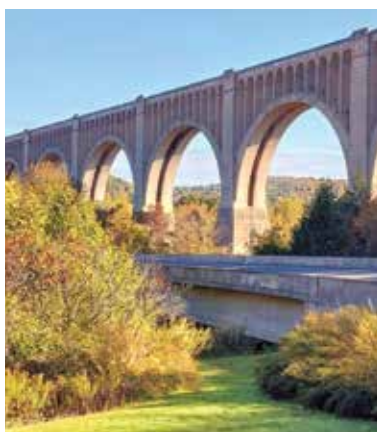


BRADFORD COUNTY

SULLIVAN COUNTY

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

WYOMING COUNTY





The Endless Mountains Heritage Region

The Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) was established in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, membership-based organization within the PA Heritage Areas Program. It is one of 12 current Heritage Areas across the Commonwealth, which are designated by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The EMHR proudly serves a 2,850-square mile area encompassing Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties and is committed to heritage and cultural preservation, outdoor recreation development, educational programming, and the management of the Susquehanna River's North Branch Water Trail. Designated as a National Recreation Trail in 2009 and an official gateway to the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, the North Branch has been named the Pennsylvania River of the Year a record six times - more than any other water trail in the state. The most recent designation occurred in 2023 when the EMHR successfully nominated the North Branch as PA River of the Year in conjunction with the organization's 25th anniversary.



Known for our unmatched pastoral landscapes shaped by centuries of farming and timbering as well as land conservation, the EMHR embraces its agricultural theme of "Living with the Land," and its mission to "celebrate, preserve, and enhance the unique rural character and cultural of the Endless Mountains." In nearly 30 years of existence, the EMHR has provided financial and capacity building support to various partner organizations and dozens of projects to fulfill that mission. Through the years, the EMHR has attained well over \$3 million in state funding that has been brought into the region to perform historical and cultural preservation initiatives, outdoor recreation development and improvement projects, scenic enhancements, and heritage asset promotion. These many initiatives have undoubtedly increased the quality of life for our residents and encourage heritage tourism across the four-county region. Having been a state-designated Heritage Area since 1998, the EMHR is currently pursuing a National Heritage Area designation under the National Park Service.



Susquehanna River
North Branch Water Trail

76 Main Street
PO Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853
(570) 265-1528
EMHeritage.org
contact@emheritage.org



SCAN QR
CODE
TO
VISIT US
ONLINE!



TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCY PARTNERS



Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency
1 Washington St., Suite B, Towanda, PA 18848
(570) 265-TOUR VisitBradfordCounty.com bctourism@bradfordco.org



Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau
5405 State Route 6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657
1-800-769-8999 or (570) 836-5431
EndlessMountains.org info@endlessmountains.org



VisitSusqCo
**SUSQUEHANNA
COUNTY**
PROMOTION & TOURISM AGENCY

Susquehanna County Promotion & Tourism Agency
31 Lake Ave., Montrose, PA 18801
(570) 767-4151 visitsusqco.com tourism@visitsusqco.com



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BRADFORD COUNTY

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Towanda

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BRADFORD COUNTY, Pennsylvania, was created on February 21, 1810, from parts of Lycoming and Luzerne Counties. Bordered on the north by New York state, the land reflects the rugged hills of the Allegheny Plateau and is landmarked by the Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers and the Sugar, Towanda, Wappasening, and Wyalusing Creeks. Originally called Ontario County, it separated from Lycoming County on October 13, 1812, and was renamed Bradford County for William Bradford, who had served as a chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and United States Attorney General.

COUNTY WEBSITE: bradfordcountypa.gov

BRADFORD

MUSEUMS



1 Bradford County Historical Society & Museum

Site Address: 109 Pine Street, Towanda

Phone: 570-265-2240

Hours: Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; first Saturday monthly, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; evening or weekend hours by appointment. Museum opens May through October. Research Library is open all year.

Website: bradfordhistory.org

Facebook: @ Bradford County Historical Society

Email: info@bradfordhistory.org

The mission of the Bradford County Historical Society is to record and preserve the history of Bradford County; to interpret the effect of world events on the county; to make the record available to the public; and to stimulate the interest of all people in the history of the county.



2 French Azilum Historic Site & Museum

Site Address: 469 Queens Road, Towanda

Mailing: P.O. Box 24, Wysox, PA 18854

Phone: 570-265-3376

Hours: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. from Memorial Day through the weekend before Labor Day.

Website: thefrenchazilum.com

Facebook: @ French Azilum
Historical Site & Museum

Email: TheFrenchAzilum@gmail.com

French Azilum was a settlement of French refugees fleeing the French Revolution in 1793. The settlement only lasted for 10 years before many of the settlers returned to France and only a few remained. One was John LaPorte who became a notable figure in national, state and local politics. Tours of his family home are available.

Continued on Page 6

CREATING A REFUGE IN THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS

The History of French Azilum

In the turbulent year of 1793—marked by the violence of the French Revolution and uprisings in Saint-Domingue (Haiti)—a bold plan emerged to create a sanctuary for displaced French aristocrats in northeastern Pennsylvania. This settlement, known as French Azilum, took its name from the French *asile* and English *asylum*, reflecting its purpose as a refuge. Backed by three influential Philadelphians—Robert Morris, John Nicholson, and Stephen Girard—the project aimed both to shelter exiles and to capitalize on the fertile lands along a sweeping horseshoe bend of the Susquehanna River in Bradford County.

French Azilum was envisioned with remarkable ambition. Its most famous structure, *La Grande Maison*, was a three-story log mansion intended as a potential home for Queen Marie Antoinette should she escape France. Although the Queen never reached American soil—her life cut short by the guillotine—the settlement briefly flourished. At its height, French Azilum earned the nickname “Versailles on the Susquehanna,” boasting fifty houses, a theater, a chapel, formal gardens, and a street layout reminiscent of European cities. More than two hundred residents created a vibrant cultural enclave unlike anything else in the wilderness of Pennsylvania.

The community's prosperity, however, was shortlived. In 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte granted amnesty to French exiles, prompting many families to return home or relocate to established French influenced cities such as New Orleans and Montreal. Without its original purpose, the settlement gradually faded.

Today, none of the original log buildings remain, yet the French legacy endures in the landscape and local identity. Visitors to the French Azilum Historic Site can tour the 1836 LaPorte House, built by the son of an early settler and showcasing French Colonial architecture and period furnishings. Nearby, the Marie Antoinette Overlook along Route 6 offers sweeping views of the valley where *La Grande Maison* once stood.

The region's French roots also live on in place names in the region: Asylum Township; Dushore, honoring settler Aristide Aubert du Petit-Thouars; and Laporte, the Sullivan County seat named for John LaPorte, a prominent descendant born at the settlement. French Azilum remains a compelling reminder of a moment when global upheaval reshaped even the quiet hills of Pennsylvania.





3 Heritage Village Farm & Museum

Site Address: 231 Gate 2 Lane
(Alparon Park), Troy

Mailing: P.O. Box 265, Troy, PA 16947

Phone: 570-297-3410

Hours: May-October; Tuesdays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Saturdays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Group Tours
Available by appointment.

Website: theheritagevillage.org

Facebook: @ The Heritage Village

Email: HeritageVillage231@gmail.com

This living history site features a collection of historic buildings, rare farm implements, and the structures reflecting two centuries of the region's vital agricultural heritage. The village consists of the Gregory Inn/Mitchell House – built circa 1822 for stagecoach travelers; Sugar Shack, Carriage House (contains the largest collection of carriages, wagons, and sleighs in the Northern Tier); Children's Church; Thomas School House; and Barbershop.



4 Home Textile Tool Museum

Site Address: 1819 Orwell Hill Rd, Rome

Hours: Seasonal; Call or visit the Facebook page
for updates

Facebook: @ Home Textile Tool Museum

Email: hometextiletoolmuseum@gmail.com

This museum honoring the agricultural heritage of the region sits on a 4.5 acre property where visitors will find a Federal style house, English Threshing Barn, Bill Ralph's tool building, the museum's entrance building, chicken coop, wood shed and gardens.



5 LeRoy Heritage Museum

Site Address: 10097 Route 414, Canton

Phone: 570-364-5003

Hours: May through September, Saturdays,
1 p.m. - 4 p.m., or by appointment.

Website: leroyheritage.org

Facebook: @ LeRoy Heritage Museum

Email: info@leroyheritage.org

The mission of LeRoy Heritage Museum is to collect items which are significant pieces of southwestern Bradford County history and to educate the residents of Bradford County, as well as visitors, on the fascinating history of this area.



6 P. P. Bliss Gospel Songwriters Museum (National Register of Historic Places)

Site Address: 969 Main Street, Rome

Mailing: P.O. Box 84, Rome, PA 18837

Phone: 570-247-2228

Hours: Tours are by appointment. Museum
open during the Rome Farmers Market

Website: ppbmuseum.org

Facebook: @ Friends of the
P P Bliss Gospel Songwriters Museum

Email: ppbmuseum@gmail.com

National Register #86000865. The museum is housed in the home Bliss bought in Rome before moving to Chicago to pursue his career as a gospel singing evangelist. It houses many items that belong to the Bliss family, along with published music, instruments, and some household items.



7 Sayre Historical Society & Museum

Site Address: 103 N. Lehigh Avenue, Sayre

Phone: 570-882-8221

Hours: Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday noon - 4 p.m., between May 2 and November 28

Website: sayrehistoricalsociety.org

Facebook: @ Sayre Historical Society

Email: sayrehistorical@yahoo.com

Sharing the history of Sayre: the original ticket booth of the Lehigh Valley Railroad station, Dr. Donald Guthrie's exam table (founder of Guthrie Hospital), uniforms, rotating exhibit room, and so much more. Train history offers visitors an insight into what it was like to travel on the Lehigh Valley Railroad.



8 Tioga Point Museum

Site Address: 724 South Main Street, Athens

Phone: 570-888-7225

Hours: All year, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12 noon - 4 p.m.

Website: tiogapointmuseum.org

Facebook: @ Tioga Point Museum

Email: tpoinmuseum@gmail.com

National Register #00000059. *The museum offers visitors an opportunity to learn about the history, culture and natural phenomena of the local area from historic times to the present. Exhibits and programs at the museum offer an understanding of the past and honor the contributions of those individuals and events that impacted the development of the region.*



9 Wyalusing Valley Museum

Site Address: 25 Main Street, Wyalusing

Mailing: P.O. Box 301, Wyalusing, PA 18853

Phone: 570-746-3979

Hours: Seasonal walk-in hours Memorial Day week end through the end of October on Saturdays & Sundays from 12 noon - 4 p.m. Other days available by appointment year round.

Website: wyalusingmuseum.com

Facebook: @ Wyalusing Valley Museum

Email: info@wyalusingmuseum.com

The Wyalusing Valley Museum preserves and shares the history of the southeast corner of Bradford County and northwest corner of Wyoming County. The exhibits include everything from thousand-year-old stone tools used by the native peoples living along the Susquehanna to the soda fountain used at the Wyalusing Cut-Rate in the 1950s. Exhibits include information about the canal, railroad, lumber industry, agriculture, military service, schools, local businesses and organizations.

BRADFORD

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES



10 Bradford County Historical Society

Site Address: 109 Pine Street, Towanda

Phone: 570-265-2240

Hours: Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; first Saturday monthly, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; evening or weekend hours by appointment. Museum opens from May through October. Research Library is open all year.

See listing under **Museums**.

BRADFORD

ARTS & CULTURAL



11 Bradford County Regional Arts Council

Site Address: 601 Main Street, Towanda

Phone: 570-268-2787

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Websites: bcrac.org, bradfordcountymovies.com

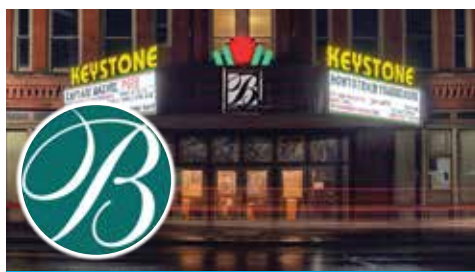
Facebook: @ bcrac

Email: info@bcrac.org

The Bradford County Regional Arts Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building and supporting a thriving regional arts community by advocating for the arts, cultivating quality arts programming, and preserving Bradford County's historic theatres as venues for performances, community events and movies.

DID You KNOW...

"Camptown Races", a popular 1850 folk song by American composer Stephen Foster, depicts a lively horse race at Camptown, Bradford County? Foster drew inspiration from the village, which he visited while attending schools in Towanda and Athens before achieving national fame for his work. The very first "foot race" was held in 1965.



12 Keystone Theatre

Site Address: 601 Main Street, Towanda

Phone: 570-268-2787

Hours: Visit website for current and upcoming schedule of events

Website: bradfordcountymovies.com/sayre-theatre

Facebook: @ The Keystone Theatre

Email: keystone@bcrac.org

Opened in the heart of Towanda's business district in 1886 as Hale's Opera House, today the historic theater continues to welcome audiences to this historic entertainment center. Administrated by the Bradford County Regional Arts Council, the theatre provides Endless Mountains audiences with the finest in entertainment.



13 Rialto Theatre

Site Address: 14 E. Main Street, Canton

Phone: 570-529-6533

Hours: Visit website for current and upcoming schedule of events

Website: cantonrialto.org

Facebook: @ Rialto Canton

Email: info@CantonRialto.org

First opened in 1912 as the Crawford Theater, in 1940 the theater was purchased and renamed the Rialto where it welcomed audiences until the late 1970's. Today, under the management of Rekindle the Spirit, the theater is a 154-seat movie house and performance space for events and performances throughout the year.



14 Sayre Theatre

Site Address: 205 S. Elmer Avenue, Sayre

Phone: 570-882-9000

Hours: Visit website for current and upcoming schedule of events

Website: bradfordcountymovies.com/sayre-theatre

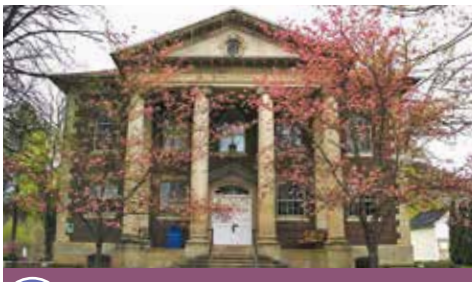
Facebook: @ the Official Sayre Theatre

Email: sayre@bcrac.org

Formerly operated as the Sayre Opera House (opened in 1914), this historic entertainment center has been restored through enormous contributions of time, talent, and treasure to Bradford County Regional Arts Council and Sayre Theatre since 1995. The theater remains a vibrant part of Sayre's cultural community.

BRADFORD

OTHER SITES OF INTEREST



15 Athens Historic District (National Register of Historic Places)

Site Locations: PA-199, Athens

National Register #04000612. This national historic district includes 97 buildings in a primarily residential area of Athens. Buildings date between 1801 and 1935, significant for Greek Revival and Queen Anne style architecture. Located within the district are the **First Presbyterian Church** (1881), **Trinity Episcopal Church** (1860-1861), and **Riverside Cemetery / Old Athens Cemetery**.



16 Friedenshutzen Village

Marker location: Route 6 and Moravian Road, Wyalusing

Commemorating a Moravian mission near this location founded by David Zeisberger in 1763, the town served as a model for subsequent missions. The village was abandoned in 1772, when pastors led some 200 native residents to another mission, Friedenstadt, on the Beaver River near Ohio.



17 Ghost Towns of Laquin and Barclay

Site Locations: Near Franklin Township

The lumber town of Laquin and the coal mining town of Barclay are ghost towns that, between 1900 and the early 1940's, enjoyed commercial success as stops along the Susquehanna & New York Railroad. By the 1960's the last buildings had disappeared from the area. Artifacts and information about the towns can be found at the LeRoy Heritage Museum.



Barclay Coal Chute



18 Knapp's Covered Bridge

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Covered Bridge Road, Towanda

National Register #80003428. Dating back to 1860, this Burr Arch Truss bridge is also known as Luther's Mills Bridge and Brown's Creek Covered Bridge. Measuring in at 95 feet long and considered to be the tallest in Pennsylvania at 30 feet above Brown's Creek, the bridge is on the National Register of Historic Places.



19 Marie Antoinette Overlook

Site Address: 72 Marie Antoinette Drive, Wyalusing (along Route 6)

A scenic view of the Susquehanna River and farmlands, overlooking the French Azilum, a French refugee settlement that was built sometime in the late 1700s or early 1800s. There is a historical marker detailing the story of the French settlement.



20 Towanda Historic District – Bradford County Courthouse

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Locations: 301 Main Street, Towanda

National Register #92000394. This Historic District is located on a hilly tract of the city and is home to structures predominantly featuring architectural styles of Greek Revival and Queen Anne, with Gothic Revival, Second Empire and Italianate styles also represented. Buildings in the downtown range in scale from the dominant bulk of the Bradford County Courthouse down to small cottage-like houses of brick or frame construction.



21 Universalist Meeting House of Sheshequin

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Address: 112 North Street, Athens

Phone: 570-888-0252

Website: uucas.org

National Register #13000742. The church was built in 1827 by local builder William Marvin. The small white frame structure with Federal-style architecture features a steeple inspired by James Gibbs's 1726 St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London.



22 Wyalusing Rocks

Site Address: 40321 US Route 6, Wyalusing

Also known as Prayer Rocks, this natural formation is an important landmark in Native American cultures. Wyalusing Rocks marked the intersection of Warriors Path (leading north to Binghamton, leading south to the Carolinas) and the east-west Wyalusing Path.

SULLIVAN COUNTY

★
Laporte

#

Numbers with
each listing
correspond to
map locations on
pages 18 & 19

SULLIVAN COUNTY, Pennsylvania, created in 1847, takes its name from Senator Charles C. Sullivan, whose leadership was instrumental in securing the legislation that established the county. The county seat, Laporte—named for John LaPorte, Pennsylvania's Surveyor General from 1843 to 1851—sits high atop the Appalachian Plateau at 2,060 feet. Across its 478 square miles, Sullivan County unfolds in a landscape of rolling mountains, quiet valleys, dense forests, open farmlands, and winding waterways. The region has long been recognized for its semi-anthracite coal and rich timber resources, and today tourism plays a central role to the local economy.

COUNTY WEBSITE: sullivancountypa.gov

SULLIVAN MUSEUMS



1 Eagles Mere Air and Motorcycle Museum

Site Address: 100 Merritt Field Road,
Muncy Valley

Mailing: P.O. Box 252, Laporte, PA 18626

Phone: 844-362-6873

Hours: Open seasonally. Tours for groups offered by appointment.

Website: eaglesmereairmuseum.com

Facebook: @ Eagles Mere Air Museum

This multi-building complex showcases classic aircraft, automobiles, motorcycles, and memorabilia. Many aviation collectibles are the only examples remaining in flying condition. With vintage aircraft ranging from 1917 to 1944 and engines from 1908, the mission of the museum is to educate the public about these wonderful machines and the brave men and women who flew them.



2 Eagles Mere Auto Museum

Site Address: 100 Merritt Field Road,
Muncy Valley

Phone: 570-946-5800

Hours: Open seasonally. Tours for groups offered by appointment.

Website: eaglesmereautomuseum.com

Facebook: @ Eagles Mere Auto Museum

This museum showcases a thoughtfully curated collection of beautifully restored antique and classic automobiles, each maintained in road-ready condition. These aren't just showpieces; they are living, breathing pieces of history, preserved the way they were meant to be.

DID You KNOW...

Eagles Mere's name means "the eagle's lake", mere being a synonym of "lake"? Englishman George Lewis bought the lake and over 10,000 acres surrounding it for \$1/acre. Originally named Lewis Lake, the rise of the resorts saw the name changed to Eagles Mere later.

Continued on Page 13

Scenic Sullivan County's Rich History as *The Perfect Getaway*

Often overshadowed by the famous "Borscht Belt" of New York's Catskills, Sullivan County, Pennsylvania, carved out its own unique niche in American resort history. Nestled in the scenic Endless Mountains, this region witnessed a transformation from a rugged frontier of logging and coal mining into a heralded destination for Victorian-era wellness and mid-century recreation.

The resort industry's roots date back to the late 19th century, thanks to the discovery of pristine glacial lakes and the "healing" properties of mountain air. The crown jewel of the region was Eagles Mere, today referred to as "Town that Time Forgot". By the 1870s, wealthy families from Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. found the area to be an idyllic escape from the smog and heat of the cities. Grand, sprawling hotels like the Lakeside and the Raymond once offered these visitors ornate ballrooms and expansive porches, catering to an elite class that arrived via narrow-gauge railroads. Smaller properties like the Eagles Mere Inn (constructed in 1878, still operating today), soon popped up offering cozier accommodations for city dwellers looking for a mountain getaway.

When many resort destinations saw a decline in popularity after the Great Depression, Sullivan County maintained a quieter, more enduring appeal. Unlike the high-energy entertainment hubs like the Poconos or the Catskills, the resorts in the Endless Mountains promoted "cottage culture" as an alluring attraction for those looking to relax – a charming mix of community, nature, and understated luxury.

Visitors today can still immerse themselves in the tranquility of the storied past. The Eagles Mere Historic District feels like stepping into 1910; exquisite Victorian cottages and a preserved lakefront remain largely unchanged. The Eagles Mere Museum provides a deep dive into the era, showcasing artifacts from the grand hotels and industrial past. The town's famous "toboggan slide" has been a winter staple since the 1880s.



Historic Village



Eagles Mere Inn



Eagles Mere Museum



Toboggan Slide



3 Eagles Mere Museum

Site Address: 288 Eagles Mere Avenue,
Eagles Mere

Phone: 570-525-3155

Hours: Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
from mid-June to Labor Day. Open
weekends or by appointment in the
off season.

Website: eaglesmeremuseum.com

Facebook: @ Eagles Mere Museum

Email: emmuseuminfo@gmail.com

This museum shares the story of "The Town That Time Forgot" through interactive exhibits. Research your genealogy or local family names, discover cottage history, view old photographs & hotel ledgers. Free admission. Purchase an original piece of ephemera in the museum gift shop.



4 Sullivan County Historical Society & Museum

Site Address: 458 Meylert Street, Laporte

Mailing: P. O. Box 252, Laporte, PA 18626

Phone: 570-946-5020

Hours: Fridays & Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
starting June 5th until August 29 and
by appointment year round (weather
and staff permitting)

Website: scpahistory.com/museum-complex

Facebook: @ Sullivan County PA
Historical Society

Email: scpahistory@gmail.com

The Sullivan County Museum is a four building complex that includes the Main Building, Baldwin House, The Barn, and The Shed. The museum offers regional history and genealogical resources; school records; photographs and postcards, as well as collections featuring local newspapers; household items, Lewis Lake Glass Co. bottles and displays that document local towns, industries and history.

SULLIVAN

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES



5 Sullivan County Historical Society

Site Address: 458 Meylert Street, Laporte

Mailing: P.O. Box 252, Laporte, PA 18626

Phone: 570-946-5020

Hours: Fridays & Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
starting June 5th until August 29 and
by appointment year round (weather
and staff permitting)

Website: scpahistory.com

Facebook: @ Sullivan County PA
Historical Society

Email: scpahistory@gmail.com

In addition to managing the museum, the Sullivan County Historical Society is a resource for the preservation, acquisition, and maintaining the historic artifacts and documents of the region's rich history. Offering resources for genealogical research and education, the group also produces special events throughout the year. The main building includes the original 34' square portion built in the 1880's, which was used in 1894 to house the Courthouse records while a new Courthouse was being built. Besides the museum, other properties the society maintains are Baldwin House, The Barn, The Wagon Shed, and nearby Celestia.

ARTS & CULTURAL



6 David A. DeWire Center – Eagles Mere Friends of the Arts

Site Address: 891 Laporte Avenue, Eagles Mere

Hours: Summers; visit website for season schedule.

Website: emfoa.org

Facebook: @officiallemfa

Email: emfainfo@gmail.com

This seasonal community arts center offers 10 weeks of summer programming at the David A. DeWire Center. Enjoy concerts and performances, create art at Endless Arts classes, and share food and ideas at Brain/Food, a weekly lecture, movie, book discussion series.

DID You KNOW...

In the 19th and early 20th century, before the growth of US highway systems, Tourist Homes along byways across the country were the popular lodging choice of travelers and business people? At a tourist home you could find clean accommodations, a hot meal, and a friendly place to bed down at a reasonable rate. Today, The Twin Spruce Tourist Home Bed & Breakfast on Route 220 in Dushore welcomes visitors to the Endless Mountains in the way these historic mainstays did "back in the day".



HISTORICAL & CULTURAL SITES OF INTEREST



7 Ghost Town of Celestia

Site Location: State Route 42, Laporte

Website: scpahistory.com/celestia

Celestia, located 1 ½ miles west of Laporte, was founded in the 1850's as a religious community by Peter Armstrong, who deeded the land to God, but God paid no taxes and the land was put up for sale by the county. The story of when "the government sued God" has become the stuff of legal legend. Today, visitors can learn the details through the work of the Sullivan County Historical Society to preserve the land.



8 Dushore Monument

Site address: Rte. 87, downtown Dushore, PA

Service memorial dedicated to the members of the armed services from Sullivan County who gave their services and lives during the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War. The monument serves as a regional focal point for local events honoring the service and sacrifices of local residents throughout the year, including annual Memorial Day ceremonies and parades.



9 Eagles Mere Historic District - Historic Landmark

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Roughly bounded by PA 42 and Laporte Avenue, Eagles Mere

Website: eaglesmerepa.org

National Register #96000718. Known for Bungalow/Craftsman and Queen Anne architecture; national historic district in the mountain lake resort of Eagles Mere was founded in the late nineteenth century and popular through the first half of the twentieth century. It surrounds Eagles Mere Lake.



10 Eagles Mere Historic Village

Site Address: 288 Eagles Mere Avenue, Eagles Mere

Phone: 570-525-3247

Hours: Individual business hours vary through the year. Check website and Facebook for seasonal information and event updates.

Website: visithistoriceaglesmere.com

Facebook: @ Eagles Mere Historic Village

Email: emhvgm@gmail.com

The Historic Village is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of many of the commercial buildings and structures located in the village center. The clock in the town center, the adjacent storefronts and nearby properties honor the town's rich history.



11 Jamison City Tannery Smokestacks

Site Location: Route 118 via Central Road, Jamison City

Site of a former tannery and lumber mill that flourished from the late 1800's to the 1920's where smokestacks still remain today, marking this location significant to Pennsylvania Industrial History. The tannery built in 1889 was run by the Elk Tanning Company until 1925 and the Fishing Creek Lumber Company that claimed to cut 100,000 board feet a day thrived in the town. A wagon-wheel hub and veneer factory were also built that made this a thriving industrial town. Due to diminishing supplies of lumber and the reduced need for leather and harnesses, operations ceased by 1925. Today, the remnants of the smokestack and a tanning building are what remain of the once robust community.



12 Ghost Town of Ricketts

Marker Location: PA Route 487 and Mehoopany Creek, Sweet Valley

The town of Ricketts served as an important lumber town named for Civil War hero Colonel Robert Bruce Ricketts of Wilkes-Barre. Downtown Ricketts was a commercial and residential center with a company store, railroad station, town hall, and hotel as well as a church, school and homes. Uptown Ricketts was the site of a mill, blacksmith forge, and homes. Mill operations ceased in the summer of 1913 and the town was abandoned. Other Ricketts land holdings became the core for Ricketts Glen State Park.



13 Sullivan County Courthouse

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Address: 245 Muncy Street, Laporte

Phone: 570-946-7351

Website: sullivancounty-pa.us

Facebook: @ Sullivan County Courthouse

National Register #78002472. County seat government building; this Romanesque Revival courthouse is one of the most prominent buildings in Sullivan County. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Construction began in June 1894 and the first court session in the new building was held in that December.



14 Worlds End State Park Family Cabin District

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Worlds End State Park, Forks Township

Website: pa.gov/worldsendstatepark

National Register #87000742. Includes 19 cabins and three latrines originally developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1941 which earned the 780-acre state park a listing on the National Register of Historic Place in 1987.

DID You KNOW...

Philip Van Doren Stern, born in Wyalusing, wrote the short story "The Greatest Gift" in 1943, which later inspired the film, *It's a Wonderful Life*?

SULLIVAN

HISTORY TOUR: BRIDGES OF SULLIVAN COUNTY



Take a drive through scenic Sullivan County to see the region's covered bridges and early history sites.

**Start on Route 220
with a stop at the
Sonestown Covered Bridge...**



15 Sonestown Covered Bridge

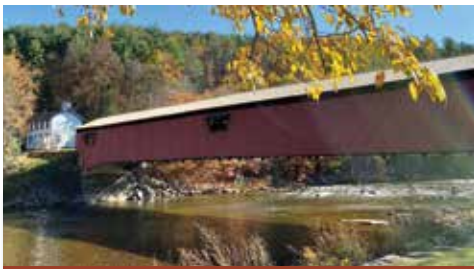
(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Champion Hill Road
(off Route 220), Sonestown

Website: endlessmountains.org/directory/sonestown-covered-bridge/

National Register #80003640. Also known as the Davidson Covered Bridge, this Burr Arch Truss bridge, the last remaining covered bridge spanning Muncy Creek, was built in 1850 by Sadler Rogers. The bridge originally provided access to a grist mill; and it remains in use today. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, at 110 feet long, the Sonestown Covered Bridge is the shortest of Sullivan County's three covered bridges.

**...Proceed south to Muncy Valley
then head north along route 42
to the Forksville Covered Bridge...**



16 Forksville Covered Bridge- Historic Landmark

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Bridge Street, Forksville

Website: endlessmountains.org/directory/forksville-covered-bridge/

National Register #80003639. Built in 1850 by Sadler Rogers, a prominent local builder. It spans 152 feet and 11 inches across the Loyalsock Creek. It is a Burr Arch Truss bridge and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and is still in use today.

*...Stretch your legs in Forksville
to see some History...*



Today, the site of the Forksville Post Office

At the Forksville Covered Bridge, get out to explore Forksville. Of special interest is the first store started in Forksville that began in an old schoolhouse in 1848 by Alonzo Potter, who later built a store "downtown". In the mid-1850's, M.A. Rogers erected a new store/mercantile building that he continued to maintain through the early 1900s. Today, this same building serves as the Forksville Post Office. Upstairs are apartments where the local Odd Fellows chapter used to meet.

*...Follow Route 87 West to see
the Hillsgrove Covered Bridge
(aka the Rinkers Covered Bridge)
along Loyalsock Creek.*



17 Hillsgrove Covered Bridge - Historic Landmark

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Covered Bridge Road, Hillsgrove

Website: endlessmountains.org/directory/hillsgrove-covered-bridge/

National Register #73001666. One of three Sadler S. Rogers-built covered bridges in the county. This Burr Arch Truss covered bridge over Loyalsock Creek in Hillsgrove Township was built around 1850 and is 186 feet (56.7 m) long. In 1973, it became the first covered bridge in the county to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

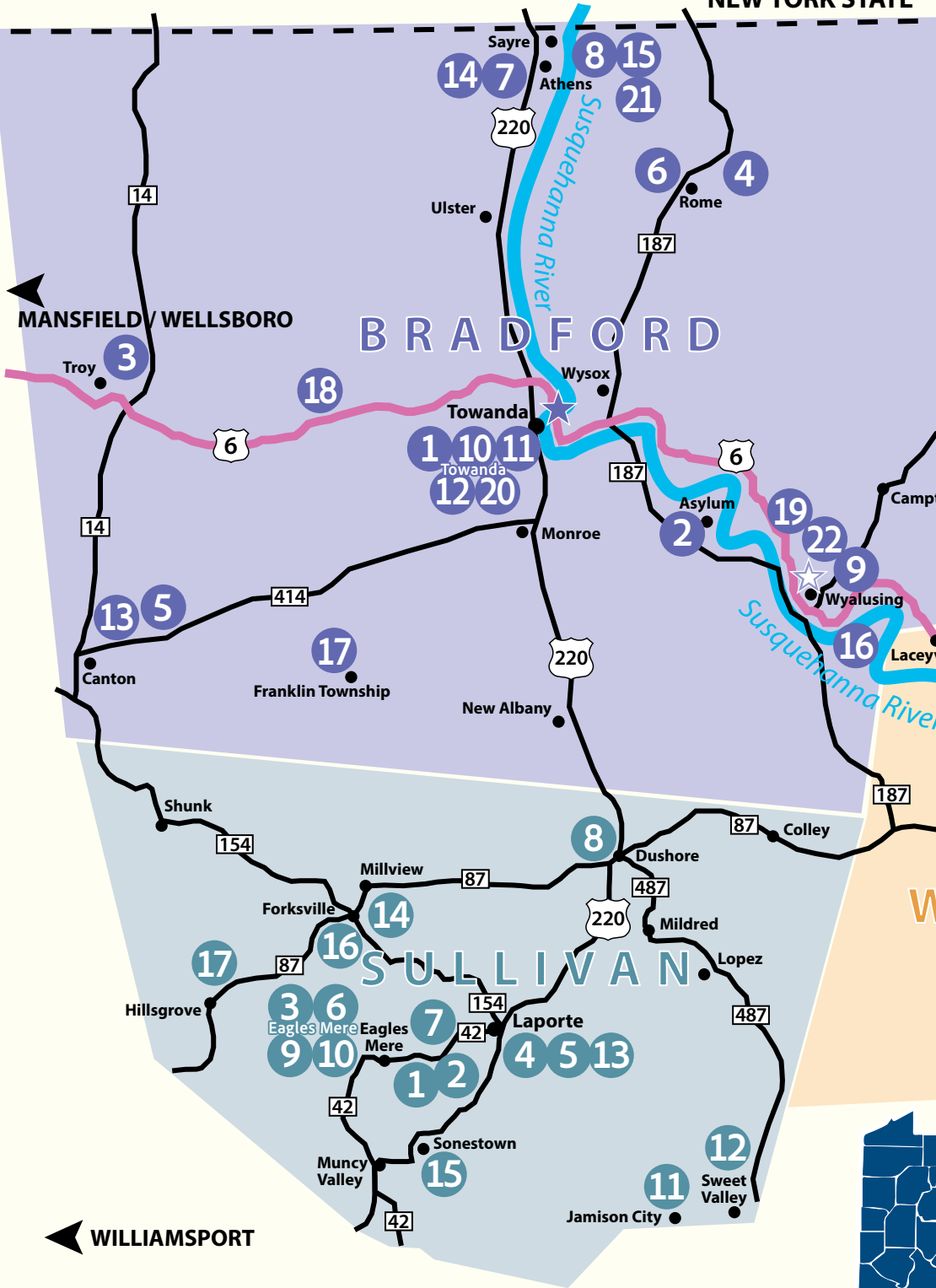
DID *You* KNOW...

The historic covered bridges were once affectionately known as "Kissing Bridges"? Before the days of automotive reliance, courting farmers and their sweethearts used to take the horse and carriage out for an evening ride. To escape the prying eyes of local residents who relaxed by sitting on their porches to catch a cool breeze, young gentlemen would stop on the bridge concealed by the bridge's walls from the prying eyes of locals to "steal a kiss" from their sweethearts.

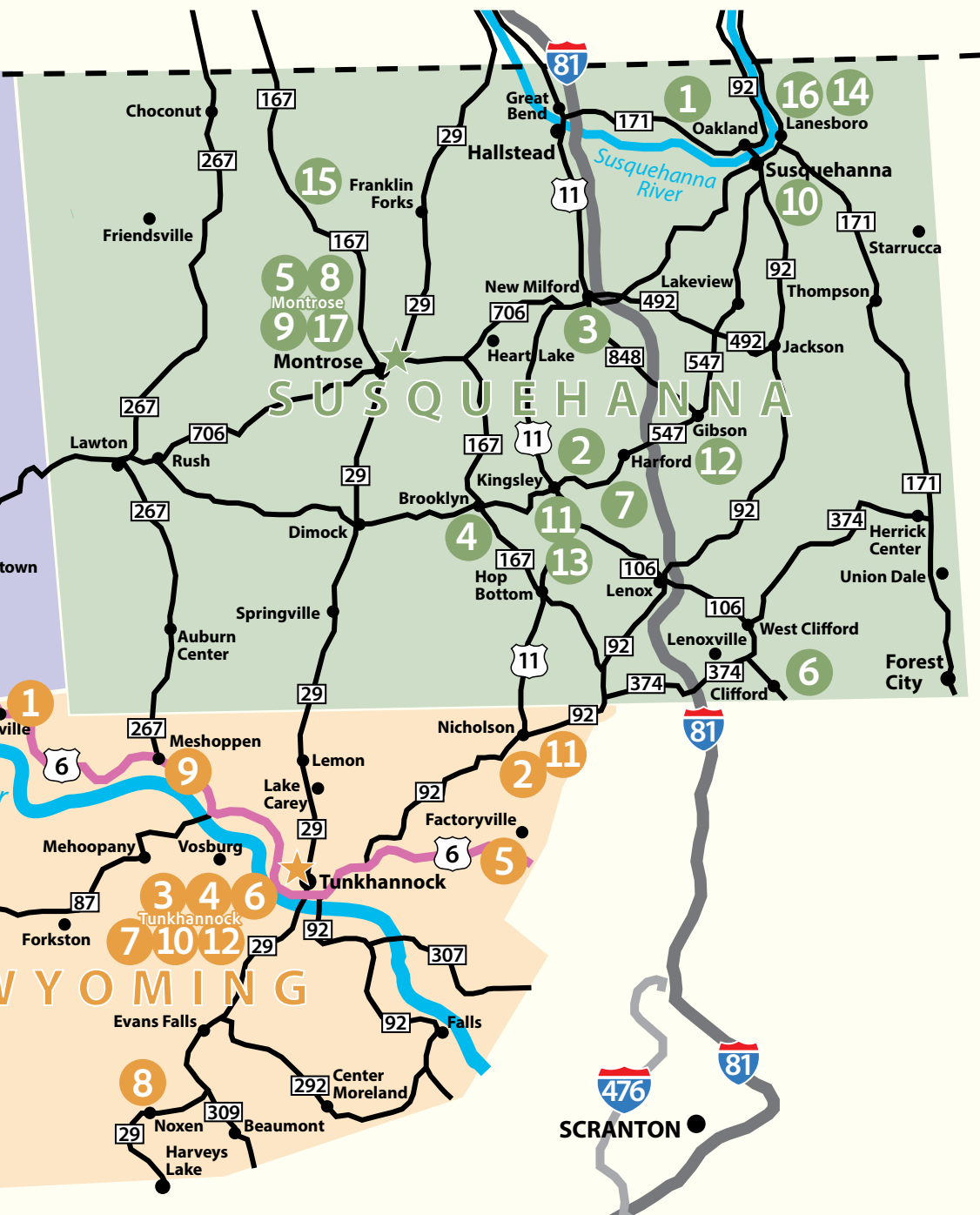


▲ WATKINS GLEN

NEW YORK STATE



◀ WILLIAMSPORT



- ☆ Endless Mountains Heritage Region office
- ★ Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency office
- ★ Susquehanna County Promotion & Tourism Agency office
- ★ Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau office

Location numbers correspond to sequence of listings (starting with #1) in each county's section.

Industrial History of the Endless Mountains:

A Microcosm of the American Experience

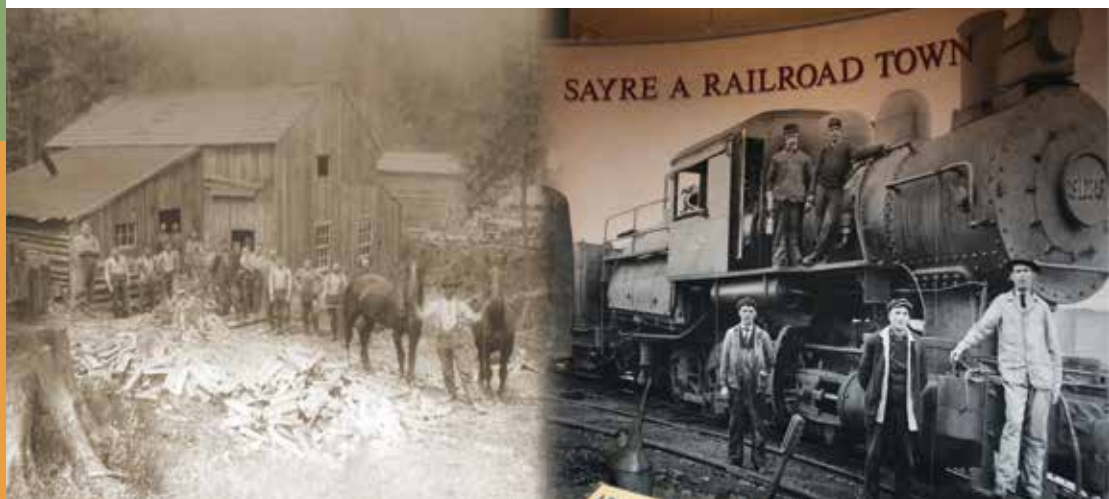
During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the region's rugged landscape served as a roaring engine of the American Industrial Revolution. Defined by its abundant timber, rich anthracite coal, and world-class railroad infrastructure, this northeastern corridor of Pennsylvania provided the raw materials and logistical backbone that built modern America.

TIMBER FRONTIER

In the early 1800s, the dense forests of white pine and hemlock in Sullivan and Wyoming counties were viewed as inexhaustible resources. The lumber industry became the first major economic driver in the area, with massive rafts of logs piloted down the Susquehanna River to shipyards in Baltimore and Philadelphia. The invention of the circular saw and the expansion of narrow-gauge logging railroads pushed deep into this wilderness. Towns like LaPorte and Eagles Mere grew around the lumber harvest. In addition to the wood as a material for construction, the region's hemlock bark fueled a robust tanning industry. By the late 1800s, Sullivan and Bradford counties were home to some of the largest tanneries in the world, producing the leather belts that powered the machinery of New England's factories and the boots worn by soldiers and laborers nationwide.

SAYRE AND THE LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD

As the timber era peaked, the "Age of Steam" transformed the landscape. No town embodies this more than Sayre in Bradford County. Chosen as the hub for the Lehigh Valley Railroad (LVRR), Sayre became a premier industrial center. In the 1870s, the LVRR constructed the Sayre System Shops, which at their height were among the largest locomotive repair and construction facilities in the world. The "Sayre Shops" were a marvel of Victorian engineering, capable of handling dozens of steam engines simultaneously. For decades, thousands of immigrant laborers and skilled craftsmen lived in the shadow of the Roundhouse, ensuring that the coal from Pennsylvania's mines reached the Great Lakes and New York City. The railroad didn't just move goods; it connected the rural interior to the global economy, making the Endless Mountains an indispensable link in the nation's supply chain.





COAL AND THE STARRUCCA VIADUCT

While Susquehanna County lacked the massive coal veins of its neighbors to the south, it became the vital transit point for the "Black Diamond." The construction of the Erie Railroad across the county's northern tier necessitated one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century: the Starrucca Viaduct. Built in 1848 near Lanesboro, this massive stone arch bridge was the most expensive railroad bridge in the world. It stands today as a testament to the region's role in overcoming geographical barriers to facilitate national trade. In Sullivan County, the discovery of semi-anthracite coal in Bernice created a unique mining pocket. This coal was prized for its clean-burning properties and fueled local industries and homes alike, further diversifying the region's contribution to the nation's energy needs.

TRANSITION TO THE MODERN ERA

As the 20th century progressed, the depletion of virgin forests led to the decline of the great tanneries, and the transition from steam to diesel locomotives eventually silenced the Sayre railroad shops. As the region economically pivoted toward manufacturing, companies like Ingersoll Rand in Athens and various textile mills providing new employment. In the 21st century, the region experienced a new industrial awakening with the Marcellus Shale natural gas boom. This echoed the extraction-based economy of the 1800s, bringing a surge of infrastructure and investment to Susquehanna and Wyoming counties.



The Legacy of the **DENNIS FARM** **Offers a Powerful Story of Family & Equality**

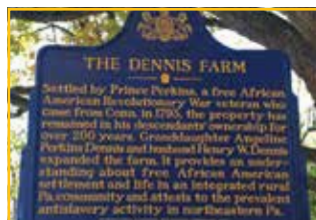
The Dennis Farm in Kingsley, Susquehanna County, is a 153-acre site honoring the history of a family whose multi-generational legacy reflects one of the first examples of landownership by free African Americans in the United States. The story of the Dennis Farm began in 1793 when a free African American Revolutionary War veteran named Prince Perkins moved his family from Connecticut to the Endless Mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania. At a time when most African Americans in the new nation were enslaved, this move to build a homestead farm on land owned outright stands as an extraordinary achievement in the post-Revolutionary era of the country's history.

Thanks to the contributions of the descendants of the family, archeologists and historians, the farm stands testament to the family's legacy. At the property, you can visit the Perkins-Dennis Cemetery, where more than forty African Americans are interred including Prince Perkins

and other notable ancestors. The farm also features nineteenth-century stone walls that are remains of early homesteads, family books dating back to the 1800s, as well as the original farmhouse.

What makes the Dennis Farm an important historic treasure in the region is that historians have noted that there is no other site in the northeast United States that combines continuous ownership by an African American family, extensive generational documentation, and remains of a farm from this period with this rich legacy.

The farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been stewarded by the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust since 2001 to preserve and interpret this extraordinary heritage site. Today, visitors can walk on the same land continuously owned and cared for by free African Americans since the eighteenth century.



SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

★
Montrose

#

Numbers with
each listing
correspond to
map locations on
pages 18 & 19

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Pennsylvania, formed in 1810, is located along the New York State southern border at the top of the Endless Mountains in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The county seat is in Montrose, PA. The county is very mountainous, with large concentrations in the east and smaller, hill-like mountains in the west. The highest mountain in the county is North Knob just west of Union Dale. Principal waterways are the Susquehanna and Lackawanna (west and east branches) rivers and Meshoppen, Tunkhannock, Snake, and Starrucca Creeks.

COUNTY WEBSITE: susqco.com

SUSQUEHANNA

MUSEUMS



1 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Priesthood Restoration Site

Site Address: 27832 State Route 171,
(Oakland Township) Susquehanna

Phone: 570-335-9580

Hours: Winter: Sundays, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Monday
through Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.;
Summer: open until 7 p.m. every day

Website: churchofjesuschrist.org

Facebook: @ Priesthood Restoration Site

The historic site offers scenic landscapes, statuary, reconstructed homes and a Visitors Center, commemorating the events surrounding the translation of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood. Visitors learn about these events by viewing a film and enjoying interactive exhibits at this scenic spot along the Susquehanna River.



2 The Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust

Site Address: 7901-8065 Creek Road, Kingsley

Phone: 570-945-8150 (Keystone College)

Hours: Spring through Fall (April 1st - October 31st) Tours offered by appointment by contacting Keystone College at 570-945-8150 or by email at thedennisfarm.org (select "Contact")

Website: thedennisfarm.org

Facebook: @ The Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust

Email: dlg.thedennisfarm@gmail.com,
lhm.thedennisfarm@gmail.com

Founded by Hope Dennis and M. Denise Dennis in 2001, The Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust (DFCLT), a non-profit 501c3 organization, was established to preserve a unique and beautiful historical site and conserve its natural resources. The mission of the DFCLT is to continue to develop the Dennis Farm as an educational and cultural resource for African American history, American history, Archaeology, Cultural Heritage tourism, Education, Environmental Conservation, historic preservation, Underground Railroad history, and understanding among races of people. See feature article on page 22 about the Dennis Farm.



3 Old Mill Village Museum

Site Address: 5774 PA-848, New Milford

Phone: 570-465-3448

Website: oldmillvillage.org

Email: omv.museum@oldmillvillage.org

A living history museum preserving the area's rich heritage, showcasing the crafts and artifacts of the late 18th through the early 20th centuries. Established on donated land, buildings of historic and local interest have been moved onto the property, and others have been built to display these treasures. During the spring, summer and autumn seasons, the Village presents events that bring different aspects of history and heritage alive.

SUSQUEHANNA

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES



4 Brooklyn Historical Society

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 58, Brooklyn,
Pennsylvania 18813

Phone: 570-498-6637

Hours: By appointment only

Website: brooklynpahistoricalsociety.net

Facebook: @ Brooklyn Historical Society

Email: davesolopalmer@gmail.com

Preserving the history and legacy of Brooklyn Township Pennsylvania families and events.



5 CASS - Center for Anti-Slavery Studies

Site Address: 395 Church Street, Montrose

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 188, Montrose,
Pennsylvania 18801

Phone: 570-278-3199

Hours: By appointment only

Email: cindyspoon@frontier.com

CASS (Center for Anti-Slavery Studies) does historical research, preservation, and public programming focused on the period between 1800 and 1900, especially activities of the anti-slavery movement prior to the Civil War and the evolvement of African American communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania.



6 Clifford Township Historical Society

Site Address: 2520 State Rte 2014, Union Dale

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 161, Clifford,
Pennsylvania 18413

Phone: 570-960-2723

Hours: Open the third Sunday of each month,
May through October from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
for Local History Museum, Hoover
School, and Baptist Church

Website: CliffordTownshipHistoricalSociety.org

Email: mnsuilmot@gmail.com

Educating visitors about local history through hands-on activities like shelling corn in a hand crank sheller, washing clothes with an old ringer, using a tread mill to run a butter churn. The society's six sites - Agricultural Museum, Baptist Church,

Hoover School, Yarns Cider Mill At The Suraci Farm, Children's Garden (known for its Dinosaur Egg and teepee), and Local History Museum – each offer an insight into a different aspect of the rich heritage of the region.



7 Harford Historical Society

Site Address: 2139 Orphan School Road, Kingsley

Phone: 570-434-2681

Hours: Harford Fair Week, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Facebook: @ Harford Historical Society

Email: harford1790history@gmail.com

Harford Historical Society is honored to preserve historical sites within the village of Harford, Pennsylvania. The Centennial Log Cabin was built in 1890 and restored in 2020. This original log cabin is complete with a fireplace taken from the first home built in Harford.



8 Susquehanna County Historical Society

Site Address: 18 Monument Street, Montrose

Phone: 570-278-1622

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Select Saturdays and evenings.

Website: susqcohistosoc.org

Facebook: @ susqcohistosoc

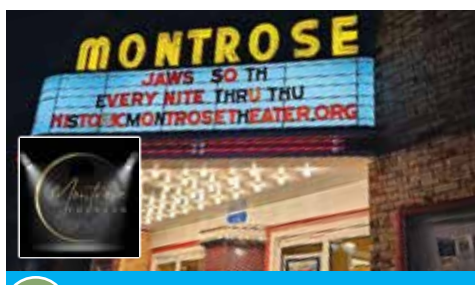
Email: info@susqcohistosoc.org

The Susquehanna County Historical Society (SCHS) enriches the community by serving as stewards

of the county's history. The SCHS is committed to preserving and promoting Susquehanna County's history by actively collecting, safeguarding, and ensuring public access to the county's artifacts and stories, and by empowering the community to understand local legacy and their own familial roots. The Society maintains a dedicated reference room for genealogical and historic research as well as a museum showcasing items from the past.

SUSQUEHANNA

ARTS & CULTURAL



9 Historic Montrose Theater

Site Address: 44 Public Avenue, Montrose

Phone: 570-762-9517

Hours: Open year-round on weekends.

Website: historicmontrosetheater.org

Facebook: @ Historic Montrose Theater

Email: tammyrcain@gmail.com

The Historic Montrose Theater has been entertaining audiences for over 100 years. See the latest movie releases and experience live events at the iconic venue that seats 125 patrons in the digitally equipped theater.

DID You KNOW...

Susquehanna County is where Pennsylvania Bluestone, a unique sand stone offering a bluish tint, is quarried for use for sidewalks, paving, and other commercial building and artistic uses? The stone can be most notably recognized as the building material of the Starrucca Viaduct in Susquehanna County.



OTHER SITES OF INTEREST



10 Erie Railroad Station - Starrucca House

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Depot Street, Susquehanna

National Register #72001177. Built by the Erie Railway (later reorganized as the Erie Railroad) in 1863, the three-story Gothic Revival structure included a large hotel, called Starrucca House, with rooms for 200 people and a 120 foot long dining room. Listed on the Register of Historic Places in 1972. The site is not open to the public, but the property remains listed on the list of historic properties.



11 Galusha Grow Historical Marker

Site Address: Intersection US 11 & PA 547, Kingsley

Historic marker located north of Kingsley, the site honors the legacy of resident Galusha Grow, 19th-century American politician, Speaker of the U.S. House during the Civil War, and father of the Homestead Act of 1862. Under Grow's leadership, several major acts of Congress were passed and signed into law, particularly the Homestead Act, which was responsible for the creation of over 1.6 million homesteads.



12 Gibson Borough Bridge

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Address: L.R. 57405 over Tunkhannock Creek, Gibson

National Register #88000839. The bridge is an example of a "clapper bridge" noted for its structure featuring a stone slab on stone supports. Constructed in the period between 1750 and 1825, the bridge from the corners of the wing walls measured 58 by 25 feet. Now demolished, a marker celebrates the site of this engineering landmark.



13 Martin's Creek Viaduct

Site Location: Route 11, Kingsley
(Google "Scenic Overlook [Kingsley Bridge] Viaduct")

Completed in 1914 for the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, this concrete viaduct and the Tunkhannock Viaduct to the south, were part of a new and improved rail line called the Clarks Summit-Hallstead Cutoff. This cutoff eliminated the steep grades, sharp curves, and unsafe public crossings of the original railroad.

DID You KNOW...

Milk traveled from Susquehanna County dairy farms via railroad in iced, insulated milk cars, where large blocks of ice in bunkers kept cans cold during the run to New York? Refrigeration relied on natural ice cooling the product on the journey.





14 Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin Historic Marker

Marker Location: Turnpike Street & Broad Avenue, Susquehanna Depot

Missionary and co-founding member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (I.H.M.), the first Roman Catholic religious institute established for women of African descent. She helped develop schools in Michigan and Pennsylvania, yet for many years her role was overlooked because of racism. This marker recognizes and restores her rightful place in the region's history.



15 Richmond Hill School

Site Address: 1340 Wilkes-Barre Turnpike, Montrose

Hours: Outside viewing, anytime. Inside tour by appointment.

Website: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Lake_Schoolhouse

Email: Dan.Hawley@att.net

Historic Register #100010759. Richmond Hill Schoolhouse aka Silver Lake Schoolhouse is listed on National Register of Historic Places. The current building is from about 1862 with the first school on site opening in 1840. The school closed in 1942. The building and site are the first and oldest surviving public school in the township, as well as one of the oldest rural schools in the state of Pennsylvania.



16 Starrucca Viaduct (National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: SR 1009, Depot Street, Lanesboro

National Register #75001665. Stone railway viaduct built in 1848 for the Erie Railroad, especially significant for its bluestone arches, it is the oldest stone railroad bridge still in active use in Pennsylvania. Stretching 1,040 feet with 17 arches, it is viewable from Luciana Park on Depot Street.



17 Susquehanna County Courthouse and Historic Markers (National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Town Green/Monument Square, Montrose
(Courthouse is at 31 Lake Avenue)

National Register #96000706. Several markers at this site on Courthouse Square in Montrose commemorate historic events and contributions notable to the heritage of Susquehanna County which include: Homestead Bill of 1862; a marker noting the rich history of Susquehanna County; Civil War Memorial; War for the Preservation of the Union; the Susquehanna County Courthouse Marker, First Jail, and Second Jail; Mary Borthwick Marker (tree marker honoring the county's first public health Nurse); War Memorial; and Sylvanus Mulford House (honoring the historic home formerly known as the John Lyons House, a classic Saltbox style home built in 1818).

Note: Details on the significance of all these markers and their history can be discovered by visiting the Susquehanna County Historical Society that neighbors this group of markers.

Family Farms and Adaptation Shape THE Agricultural Heritage OF THE Endless Mountains

The agricultural history of Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains—comprising Sullivan, Susquehanna, Bradford, and Wyoming counties—offers a lesson in the adaptation by settlers and farm families to the rugged terrain of the Endless Mountains. The region transitioned from isolated frontier when settlers first arrived to become a specialized dairy powerhouse, a tradition that continues to shape its modern landscape.

Following the Revolutionary War, the upper Susquehanna River valley became open to settlement. Subsequently, pioneers and early farmers faced an undeveloped wilderness with heavy timber. Agriculture began as a necessity for sustainability for the early residents but came second to the region's profitable lumbering. Forest harvesting allowed settlers to create "farm-making" plots.

During this initial period (settlement to c. 1830), farming families cultivated wheat, corn, oats, buckwheat, and potatoes which took to the rich river valley soils. Upland, slopes were better suited for sheep and cattle grazing. With a lack of local marketplaces, neighbor-to-neighbor bartering thrived, as items like surplus butter and whiskey were traded for essential goods. Dairy-ing flourished in the region from 1860 to 1960. A burgeoning transportation infrastructure that included the North Branch Canal and the Lehigh Valley Railroad connected the Endless Mountains to metropolitan markets like New York City and other eastern seaports.

With time, the area agriculture product shifted toward commercial specialization. Home-based dairy farms led the dominant industry, Diversified Dairy, between 1860 and 1900, particularly in Bradford and Susquehanna counties. After 1900, with the advent of refrigeration and faster

rail service, the region pivoted to Fluid Milk Specialization production until 1960. Natural grasslands of the Northern Tier made it ideal for grazing, distinguishing the region from the crop-heavy regions of southern Pennsylvania.

Today, the Endless Mountains dairy industry has evolved to meet modern environmental and economic pressures. Modern farmers are increasingly focused on conservation-driven practices to protect the Chesapeake Bay and Susquehanna River watersheds using no-till planting and cover crops (such as cereal, rye, and clover) to prevent soil erosion on steep mountain slopes. Niche Markets allow local farmers to stay competitive by diversifying practices to grow organic produce, practice rotational grazing, and engage customers via direct-to-consumer sales.

Despite the climate challenges and rising production costs, the agricultural spirit of the Endless Mountains persists through the commitment to land stewardship and embracing technological innovation.



WYOMING COUNTY

★
Tunkhannock

#

Numbers with
each listing
correspond to
map locations on
pages 18 & 19

WYOMING COUNTY, Pennsylvania, was created on April 4th, 1842 from the northern part of Luzerne County. The North Branch of the Susquehanna River intersects the county with other waterways like Mehoopany, Tunkhannock, Bowman, and Meshoppen Creeks. The county seat, Tunkhannock, is nestled along the banks of the Susquehanna River making it a commercial center for agricultural, lumber and other industries. The county is known for the iconic Tunkhannock Viaduct (considered an "Engineering Wonder of the World").

COUNTY WEBSITE: wyomingcountypa.gov

WYOMING

MUSEUMS



1 Oldest House, Laceyville Area Historical Society

Site Address: 297 Main Street, Laceyville

Phone: 570-869-1679

Hours: Saturdays and Sundays 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., second weekend of May through the last weekend of August. Tours can be arranged by reservation.

Website: the-oldest-house.com

Facebook: @ The Oldest House Society-Laceyville, PA

Email: gds3@ptd.net

The Oldest House is thought to be one of the oldest frame dwellings still standing in the Endless Mountains. Built in the 1780s on land purchased by James Smith for his family, throughout its life it has primarily been a family home. Today the property is owned by the Laceyville Area Historical Society whose tours and events offer visitors an insight to the home's history.



2 Nicholson Tourism Center at the Historic DL & W Railroad Station

Site Address: 21 Lackawanna Trail, Nicholson

Hours: May to September, Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Check Facebook for updates and event information and schedules. Tours by appointment for groups.

Website: nicholsonheritage.org

Facebook: @ Nicholson Heritage

Email: admin@nicholsonheritage.org

This restored historic train station serves as the interpretive center highlighting both Nicholson's railroad history as well as the story of the construction of the famed Nicholson Bridge (Tunkhannock Viaduct). Built in 1849 by the Liggett Gap Railroad (DL&W's predecessor), the building was first used to house transient rail workers before becoming a freight and passenger station. The building later served as the town's post office and later the location of the first telephone service. Today, the center offers guided tours, educational programs, exhibits and special events throughout the year.

Continued on Page 31

WYOMING COUNTY'S

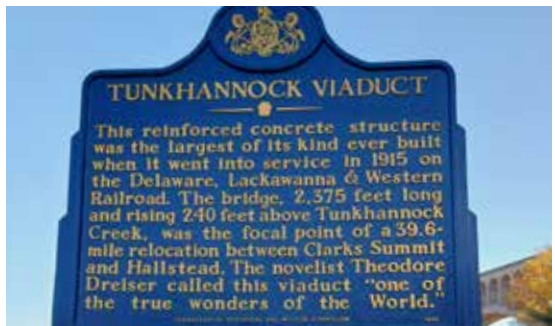
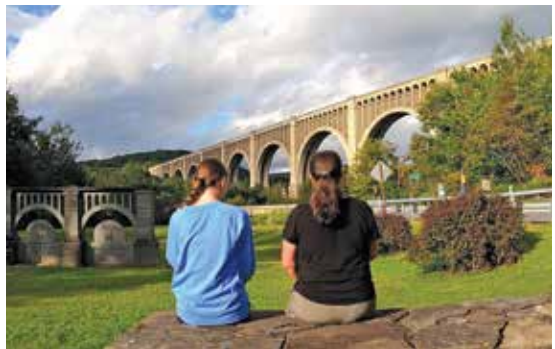
“Engineering Wonder of the World”

Standing as testament to the brilliance of American engineering, the Tunkhannock Viaduct (also known as the Nicholson Bridge) is a massive concrete structure rising above the skyline of Nicholson, Pennsylvania. Completed in 1915 by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, it earned the title of the largest concrete structure in the world—a distinction it held for many years.

The viaduct is the keystone of the “Lackawanna Cut-Off” project, designed to shorten the rail journey between New York City and Great Lakes seaports. Built using roughly 167,000 cubic yards of concrete and 1,140 tons of steel, it spans 2,375 feet across the Tunkhannock Creek valley. Reflecting the look of classic Roman viaducts, the structure consists of ten primary arches, each 180 feet wide, rising to a height of 240 feet above the creek bed. To ensure stability, the foundations were sunk nearly 100 feet deep into the glacial soil to reach bedrock.

As part of a regional effort to modernize rail travel, the Tunkhannock Viaduct shares a lineage with the nearby Martins Creek Viaduct. Using similar design and engineering techniques to bridge mountain routes, the structures replaced slower, winding paths with straight, level tracks that could handle heavier, faster locomotives. In 1977, the viaduct was officially recognized when it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, the bridge remains an active part of the Norfolk Southern Railway, whose freight trains move across daily. Visitors will discover the great vantage points for viewing the viaduct from the Nicholson Bridge Overlook and from the Historic DL & W Railroad Station from where the scale of the arches feels truly humbling. The annual Nicholson Bridge Day is held the Sunday after Labor Day. The festival celebrates the viaduct with food, crafts, and tours, and is an opportunity to view this “Ninth Wonder of the World” and learn about Pennsylvania’s industrial legacy.



HISTORICAL SOCIETIES



3 Wyoming County Historical Society

Site Address: 11 E. Harrison Street, Tunkhannock

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 309,
Tunkhannock, PA 18637

Phone: 570-836-5303

Hours: Wednesdays, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. all year;
also Tuesdays, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m., April 15
through October 15. Closed during
Wyoming County Fair week.

Website: pawchs.org

Facebook: @ Wyoming County Historical Society

Email: society@epix.net

The Society's mission is to "preserve, display, interpret, and promote the history of Wyoming County." For nearly 50 years, the society has done this through artifact displays, special exhibits, a semi-annual newsletter with articles about Wyoming County's history and its people, and research services for those who cannot travel to Tunkhannock.

ARTS & CULTURAL



4 Wyoming County Cultural Center / Dietrich Theater

Site Address: 60 E. Tioga Street, Tunkhannock

Phone: 570-836-1022

Hours: Open 365 days a year during scheduled
movie, event, and class times or
by appointment.

Website: dietrichtheater.com

Facebook: @ Wyoming County Cultural Center

Email: roglar@dietrichtheater.com

The Wyoming County Cultural Center at the Dietrich Theater is a nonprofit Art Deco four-screen movie theater and cultural center dedicated to making arts, education, and entertainment accessible to all in Wyoming County and Northeastern Pennsylvania. Its programming spans music, theatre, visual and media arts, crafts, folk arts, the humanities, science, nature, and health and wellness. Last year, the Cultural Center served over 64,000 children and adults through its classes, movies, and events.

DID You KNOW...

The Endless Mountains has served as the birthplace, childhood home, or residence for several influential figures in American history, entertainment, & science?

ENTERTAINMENT

Richard Gere - Susquehanna County - Award-winning actor raised on a dairy farm.

Harry Davenport - Bradford County - Best known as Dr. Meade in *Gone With the Wind*.

Don Sherwood - Wyoming County - Former U.S. Congressman once known as "World's Greatest Disc Jockey" as host of a show on KSFO San Francisco in the 50's-60's.

SPORTS

Christy Mathewson - Wyoming County - Major League ball player, one of the most legendary American athletes to play.

Harold Edward "Red" Grange - Sullivan County - College and professional football halfback who played for the Chicago Bears.

HISTORIC FIGURES

Joseph Smith - Susquehanna County - Founder of the Latter-Day Saint movement lived in Harmony (now Oakland Township) where he translated the Book of Mormon.

Louis T. McFadden - Bradford County - U.S. Congressman from 1915 to 1934 and Chairman of the House Banking and Currency Committee.

PIONEERS OF SCIENCE & LITERATURE

B.F. Skinner - Susquehanna County - Psychologist and the father of radical behaviorism and operant conditioning.

Anya Seton - Sullivan County - Celebrated author of historical fiction masterpieces like *Katherine* and *Green Darkness*.

John Gardner - Susquehanna County - award-winning novelist, and essayist, known for his 1971 novel *Grendel*.

OTHER SITES OF INTEREST



5 Christy Mathewson Monument

Site Address: Christy Mathewson Park, 18-19 Thompson Road (behind Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center), Factoryville

Website: factoryville.org/parks/christy-mathewson-park

This site honors baseball legend Christopher "Christy" Mathewson (August 12, 1880 – October 7, 1925), an American right-handed pitcher in Major League Baseball. During his illustrious career (mostly with the New York Giants), he led the league in wins four times, and won 373 games. In 1936, he joined Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb and others honorees as the first class of baseball Hall of Famers. Every summer, Factoryville hosts Christy Mathewson Days to honor this sports hero.



6 Historic Tunkhannock Walking Tour / Tunkhannock Historic District

(National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Roughly bounded by Tioga, Pine, Harrison Streets and Wyoming Avenue, Tunkhannock

Phone: 570-836-1022

Website: dietrichtheater.com/tour/stops.html

Email: rogler@dietrichtheater.com

National Register #05000101. The town of Tunkhannock is home to structures featuring Queen Anne and Italianate architecture. The self-guided Historic Tunkhannock Walking Tour links Tunkhannock's industrial past to its cultural future. This tour will guide you to forty homes, businesses, churches, and other landmarks throughout the town. The tour features four different routes of varying difficulty. The full Grand Tour is about two miles long and encompasses all forty stops. Intermediate and Easy Tours provide shorter options but include the main highlights. The Easy Tour with Gentle Terrain is flat and avoids hills.



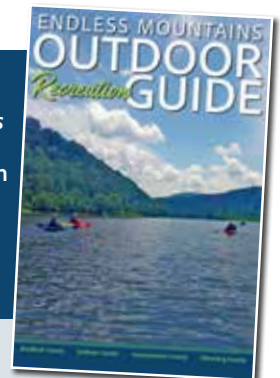
7 Iroquois Trail

Site Address: 6 Sunnyside Road, Tunkhannock

The trail named for the indigenous people who were the original inhabitants of the land is a scenic crushed-stone rail-trail that follows the old Lehigh Valley Railroad's Montrose Branch, which operated from 1874 between Tunkhannock and Montrose.

For trail information across the region, The *Endless Mountains Outdoor Recreation Guide* is available from emheritage.org.

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW:





8 Noxen School (National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: School Street, Noxen Township
Phone: 570-298-2003 (Town Hall)

National Register #06000431. Built in 1897, the 2 ½ story, T-shaped frame building has a two-class-room addition that was added in 1922. Established as a grade school, this structure was used as the Noxen high school from 1902 to 1951. It served as an elementary school until closing in 1976.



9 Old White Mill (National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Off Welles Street, Meshoppen
Phone: 570-833-2677 (Town Hall)

National Register #75001680. Also known as Sterling Mill and Pinnock Mill, this is a historic grist mill located in Meshoppen that was built in 1852. The mill is a 5 1/2-story banked frame structure sitting on a stone foundation and features a gable roof. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. Site is not open to the public, but the property remains listed on the list of historic properties.

DID *You* KNOW...

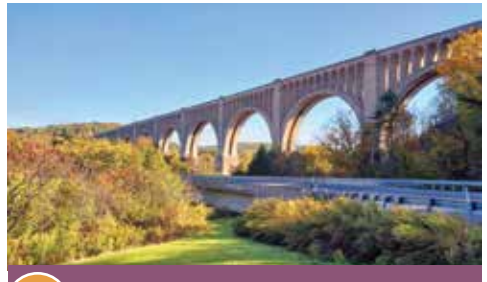
Wyoming County is not named for the state of the same name? Wyoming is derived from the Native American words meaning "extensive meadows." The indigenous words "maughwauwama" was transformed to the name we know today (Wyoming) which is now the name of the county, the valley to the south of it, and the western state.



10 Sullivan's March Memorial

Site Location: Tioga & Warren Sts., Tunkhannock

Monument honoring the famed ride of General John Sullivan and his army when they camped by the river in Wyoming County on August 3, 1779, as part of the Clinton-Sullivan campaign that was embarked upon against the Six Nations Iroquois.



11 Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct / Nicholson Bridge (National Register of Historic Places)

Site Location: Route 11 or Route 92, Nicholson

National Register #77001203. Hailed as an "Engineering Wonder of the World," the viaduct is the largest poured concrete railroad bridge in the world at 2,375 feet long. Completed in 1915, the bridge continues to operate as a cargo carrying line.



12 Wyoming County Civil War Memorial Dedication Stone

Site Location: Wyoming County Courthouse, Tunkhannock

Monument located at the Wyoming County Courthouse grounds honoring those who served in the Civil War.

VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE

Discover an Open-air Museum of 19th-Century Elegance



Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties are home to some of Pennsylvania's most well-preserved Victorian architecture, largely built during the region's prosperity from the lumber, coal, and railroad industries.

BRADFORD COUNTY

An architectural tour to take in the Victorian period should begin in Towanda, the county seat of Bradford County, which provides a masterclass in Victorian diversity. Standing out is the Towanda Public Library, which houses historical details of the influential Piolet family who lived in the town. The Bradford County Courthouse square, established in 1813, serves as a hub for the town's historic character. Downtown Towanda unto itself is a hub of eclectic Victorian Romanesque Revival structures, characterized by commanding stone arches and intricate brickwork, such as the old City Hall building that was constructed in 1897.



SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

In Susquehanna County, the architecture shifts to reflect its history as a major railroad hub. The borough of Susquehanna Depot is home to the Starrucca House, an enormous Gothic Revival passenger station built between 1863 and 1865. The Italianate and Second Empire styles figure in the buildings here. Italianate homes are identified by their low-pitched roofs and decorative brackets under the eaves, while Second Empire buildings feature the iconic steep **Mansard roof** with dormer windows. The county seat of Montrose reflects a more residential feel with stately homes that feature wraparound porches and spindle work typical of the late 19th century.



SULLIVAN COUNTY

Sullivan County may be more sparsely populated, but the architectural gems are deeply connected to the land. Eagles Mere, called the "town that time forgot," is a preserved Victorian resort village. The Eagles Mere Historic District is filled with sprawling "cottages" that are actually massive Victorian summer homes. In Laporte, the Baldwin House, built in the 1850s, serves as a house museum illustrating life during the mid-Victorian era. Here you will discover Stick-style elements where the exterior woodwork mimics the structural frame of the house.



WYOMING COUNTY

Wyoming County, specifically in Tunkhannock, boasts a high concentration of Queen Anne architecture that you can take in as part of the Tunkhannock Walking Tour, a self-guided tour features forty historic stops. The Piatt House is a "high-style" Queen Anne masterpiece at 24 West Tioga St., featuring a stately turret and ornate decorative trim while the Metcalf Mansion, an 1895 landmark features an asymmetrical facade and projecting bay windows. The Wyoming County Courthouse and other examples of Victorian craftsmanship offer an opportunity to celebrate the beauty of these buildings in the "gingerbread" trim, stained-glass windows, and uniquely shaped gables.





The Silent Valley

INDIGENOUS HISTORY OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Artifacts from
Tioga Point Museum

The rugged terrain and winding waters of Bradford, Susquehanna, Wyoming, and Sullivan counties were not a "wilderness" to those who first walked them. Long before European settlers arrived, this region was a vital corridor of the Susquehanna River Valley, inhabited by sophisticated Indigenous nations like the Susquehannock and Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy.

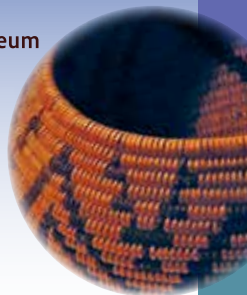
The Susquehannock were the dominant tribe in this region until the mid-17th century. Known for their physical stature and military prowess, they lived in large, fortified towns composed of longhouses that could stretch up to eighty feet. In what is now Bradford County, they established major villages at sites such as Wyalusing and Sheshequin. By the late 1600s, devastating diseases brought by Europeans and the brutal "Beaver Wars" over the fur trade led to their decline and eventual absorption into the Iroquois. Other groups, including the Lenape (Delaware) and Munsee, also moved through these mountains, often under the protection of the Iroquois.

The first European contact in this area dates back to the early 17th century when explorer Étienne Brûlé (1615) is believed to have been among the first white men to visit Bradford and Sullivan counties. The most significant historical shift occurred during the Sullivan Expedition of 1779 when General John Sullivan, commissioned by George Washington, led a campaign targeting Iroquois settlements that had allied with the British. Troops marched north along the

Susquehanna River, burning at least forty villages and destroying massive stores of corn. This campaign effectively broke the Iroquois' hold on the region, clearing the way for a flood of European settlers to claim the "vacated" fertile lands.

Although the original villages are gone, the indigenous legacy remains etched into the landscape of the Endless Mountains. At the Bradford County Historical Society Museum in Towanda, visitors can see a dedicated collection of artifacts and displays on early native life. Queen Esther's Flats located near Wysox is a site commemorating the village of the legendary Iroquois leader Esther Montour. Taking a hike along the Iroquois Trail in Tunkhannock you will find a scenic rail-trail in Wyoming County that offers a quiet way to experience the remote, wooded terrain once central to the Six Nations. Spanish Hill in South Waverly, a glacial hill near the New York border, once served as a massive Susquehannock fortification.

Today visitors will discover a landscape of rolling dairy farms and quiet towns across the Endless Mountains, but the names—Wyalusing, Mehoopany, Susquehanna—all serve as a permanent reminder of the people who first called these counties home.





Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail

THIS GUIDE MADE POSSIBLE WITH FUNDS FROM



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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR PHOTOS



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