

*Paths to the
Past:*

*A Historic Driving Guide of
Clearfield County, PA*

Mercyhurst College
Senior Public History Project
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Project Introduction

There are always those who question why one chooses to become a history major; and to those individuals I like to respond that I became a history major to save the world one building, museum, or community at a time. For many, that answer does not make much sense. Few realize that embracing our past and learning from the mistakes and successes of those who came before us can shape future development and growth. Historians are not opposed to change, as many who do not agree with us will argue, yet we call for a different kind of change. We call for the kind of change that uses history as a stimulus for economic growth and community vitality. We call for the kind of change that employs preservation and adaptive reuse as tools for development, rather than backhoes and bulldozers. We call for a celebration of our differences in an increasingly homogenized world. Perhaps I am young and idealistic. I know I probably will not be able to save the world, but I can do my part to make a difference in my own community through the development and implementation of public history and cultural heritage tourism programs.

To understand why I am motivated to make a difference, you must understand where I came from. Like many others, I grew up in a small town that has greatly suffered over the last 40 years from rapid industrial decline and the loss of viable jobs. Once a thriving industrial center - producing lumber, coal, and fire brick - Clearfield County has sadly witnessed a deteriorating local economy. Businesses have shut down, people have moved away, and some communities have essentially become ghost towns. In my hometown of Clearfield, as the older generations begin to

die and younger generations choose not return to the area after college, the sense of community that once existed has begun to fade and we are no longer proud to live in our All-American city. Unless measures are taken to revitalize the area, much of our history will soon be lost to time and those things that make Clearfield County unique will be forgotten. Over the years, I have seen beautiful old (yet structurally sound) houses and buildings demolished in order to construct tacky plastic fast-food restaurants and gas stations. I have seen local businesses struggle and collapse under the weight of competition from corporate giants. And I have seen historic structures crumble as a result of indifference, neglect, or simple lack of funds. To many the situation seems hopeless, yet there are a few who believe that our poor county still shows promise. Those individuals are increasingly acknowledging heritage tourism as a possible catalyst for revitalization and economic growth.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation defines cultural heritage tourism as “traveling to experience the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present...[and] includes cultural, historic and natural resources.”¹ The benefits that can be reaped from cultural heritage tourism are great, particularly for small communities. It can help to boost a struggling local economy and provide a sustainable way of life. As tourists come to the area to learn about local history and culture, they spend money at local businesses. This encourages investors to open new businesses or support current ventures, particularly in historic downtown areas. With the economy once more focused on downtowns, heritage tourism provides a viable reason for preservation/revitalization efforts in historic structures and neighborhoods. In order for heritage tourism to be successful, however, the area must be well marketed and there

¹ “Heritage Tourism.” National Trust for Historic Preservation. 2009
<<http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/heritage-tourism/>>

must be a reason for the people to come in the first place. That brings me, finally, to my senior project.

When I approached the Clearfield County Recreation and Tourism Authority about doing a public history project, I was not sure what they would say. So I was pleasantly surprised when they whole-heartedly agreed to work with me and suggested a historic marker driving guide. They have had quite a bit of success marketing the natural resources of Clearfield County and decided to begin venturing into the realm of cultural and historic resources as well.

My task was to create a booklet that could be distributed through their office, promoting the historical markers that have been placed throughout the county by various organizations. I was given a list of historical markers, and with the help of some wonderful individuals was able to locate all of them. I then proceeded to research the history described on each marker, write a short summary, and, where appropriate, include with the summary current or historic photos related to the site, events, or individuals described. Since it was a driving guide and not simply an inventory of historic places, I had to organize the markers into logical and drivable groups. This was perhaps my hardest task for there are many different roads that link each of the towns and no town is too terribly far from another. Since I do not think people will choose see all fifty-some markers in one day (that would be a terribly long day), I decided to treat each area as a singular unit rather than part of a larger path. For those who are not familiar with the area, I began and ended each tour at the Clearfield County Historical Society - a logical place, just down the street from the Recreation and Tourism Office. However, for those who wish to do more than one tour in a day or who are familiar with the area, I recognize that they may want to alter the routes a little to suite their own schedules and interests.

The booklet is organized as follows: The first section is a brief history of Clearfield County with a map of the various areas and historical markers. The subsequent sections outline the seven routes with summaries for each marker, maps indicating where the signs are located, and driving directions to each site. The routes are: (1.) Clearfield Borough and Lawrence Township; (2.) Curwensville, Lawrence Township, Dimeling, Kellytown, and New Millport; (3.) Grampian, Mahaffey, McGee's Mills, Burnside, and New Washington; (4.) Madera, Coalport, Sterling, and Osceola Mills; (5.) Kylertown, Morris Township, West Decatur, and Woodland; (6.) Frenchville and Karthaus; and (7.) Luthersburg, Sandy Township, DuBois, and Penfield. At the end of the booklet, I have also included a few additional maps to assist individuals in finding their way and orienting each site area within the geographic and historic context of Clearfield County.

My hope for this project is that it is used not only by visitors to Clearfield County who want to explore this beautiful area; but also by those natives of Clearfield who want to reconnect with their roots and learn more about the history and culture that makes this area unique. For there are probably few individuals who knew that 19th century French was spoken in Frenchville until the 1940s, or that there were several Underground Railroad stops throughout the county. Similarly, there were probably few who knew that several famous individuals got their start right here in Clearfield County or that many of our small communities were once nationally known for producing various industrial and commercial products. In order for heritage tourism to be successful, we must as a community embrace our short yet varied history and take pride in our hometowns. We must come together to improve the social and economic health of our county or else accept the continued decline and aging of once thriving neighborhoods.

Considering my future plans to hopefully assist in the economic revitalization of small towns through the development of public history projects and cultural heritage tourism, I feel that it is quite fitting that my first projects be used to benefit the community that I love and that inspired such aspirations. I hope that as people make their way through the towns of Clearfield County and the pages of this booklet, they fall in love with this quaint little community as much as I have and come away with the same sense of need for the preservation of such wonderful historic and cultural resources.

Project Text

Project Statement

The “Paths to the Past” Project provides a thorough yet possibly incomplete survey of the historical markers present throughout Clearfield County, documenting the area’s people, places, and past events. To help preserve this unique and often overlooked local history, we ask that the community help us to record markers and signs that may have been missed by submitting a photo of the sign as well as any information about the site or the sign itself (who erected the marker, when, etc.) to the Clearfield County Heritage Foundation. Thank you and Safe Travels.

Brief History of Clearfield County

Clearfield County is located along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in central Pennsylvania and was originally founded by an act of Legislature on March 26, 1804 when parts of Lycoming and Huntington Counties were split to create several new counties. Prior to that time, this approximately 1482 square mile area only had a few settlers among the Native American tribes.

Early Settlement

The first settler is thought to be Daniel Ogden, who in 1797 came down the Susquehanna River with three of his sons and landed in what is today Clearfield Borough, about ½ mile from the Clearfield County Courthouse. He made a clearing in which to build a log house not far from the Indian village of Chincleclamoose, and had his wife and 8 children join him. Although Daniel Ogden is usually credited with being the first settler, there are those who argue that James Woodside was the first to come to the area in July 1785 with a surveying party from Chester County. He settled near what is today Brady Township and lived along Stump Creek for many years, the only white settler among the Indians. Arthur Bell and his brother John, both Revolutionary War soldiers, came up the river the same year as Daniel Ogden and settled in the area. Arthur, known as Squire Bell, became justice of the peace in 1802 and his son Grier Bell was the first white child born in the county. About the year 1800, the people of the slowly growing settlement discovered an old Indian path running from Chincleclamoose to Milesburg, and from then on it was used as a transportation route for goods. Thus in 1801, the number of families settling in the area rapidly began to increase with towns and townships beginning to take shape. Today there are approximately 30 townships within Clearfield County as well as several boroughs, many of them formed out of the original township, known as Chincleclamousche or Chincleclamoose (spelling varies).

County Seat

On May 20, 1820 the County Commissioners met to determine where the county buildings should be erected. They would ultimately agree on the lands of Abraham Witmer in what was the former site of the Indian village of Chincleclamoose and today is Clearfield Borough. Witmer donated one lot for the erection of a court house, one for a jail, one for a market, and three for an academy, as well as \$1500 for the creation of a public school and \$1500 for the construction of public buildings. The town of Clearfield was laid out in a grid pattern with intersecting alleys and streets; and the court house was built on the corner of Market Street (the main east/west thoroughfare) and Second Street. The first courthouse was a two story brick structure with a small cupola positioned on the roof. The courtrooms were on the first floor while the county offices were on the second. The first court was held on October 21, 1822. The first jail was also built on Second Street, but lay further south of the court house near the edge of the original town which extended north to Pine Street and south Walnut Street. Although long the home of the county's public buildings, Clearfield Borough was officially incorporated as the county seat on April 21, 1840.

Business and Industry

Throughout the history of Clearfield County, industries such as logging, agriculture, stone quarrying, coal, and brick making have been among the largest. Yet, businesses such as Kurtz Brothers, Clearfield Cheese, Clearfield Furs, Pennsylvania Hide and Leather Company, Dubois Brewery, and Grice Gun Shop have made their mark on the county as well. From the very beginning logging and rafting was a popular and productive industry in Clearfield County. In 1805, David Litz was the first settler to run a raft of logs down the Susquehanna River; and from 1840 to 1890, lumber proved the dominate industry with over 12 billion board feet of lumber cut during that time and an average of 2000 rafts making runs annually. Rafting was a common means of transporting the logs from forests to markets, and yet it was not without its risks. Since logging was seasonal work, many farmers worked in the woods during the winter and early spring, and then tended to their fields as soon as the weather was nice enough to plant. Agricultural production was another large industry and had long been a way of life for many citizens. Even to this day, as many as 33 families continue to work on family farms that have been in operation for over 100 years. By the 1840s, another large industry was emerging. The sandstone quarries around Curwensville helped to supply the country with building materials at a time of growth and development. Curwensville stone was used to construct the Cathedral of Learning in Pittsburgh and the Chapel at Princeton University, as well as many other buildings, bridges, and tunnels both locally and nationally. In the 1860s, coal became quite a huge industry as well after the railroad linked coal fields with far away markets. The first coal mine in 1830 was located on a farm in Decatur Township; and by 1911 there were over 102 underground mines in Clearfield County. In 1918, more than 14,000 men worked to bring up 14 million tons of coal which helped to meet World War I energy needs. By the 1940s, strip mining was also used throughout the county. By the early 1900s, brickworks such as Harbison-Walker Refractories and Curwensville Fire Brick Company were producing large quantities of bricks for use nation-wide. For those who do not remember, it is sometimes hard to believe; but Clearfield County was once a booming industrial area which supported many nationally known businesses.

Significant Events

The events that occurred within the County's 200 plus year history are too many and diverse to cover thoroughly, but they included natural and industrial disasters, celebratory and club events, and famous visitors. With the Susquehanna River and many of its tributaries running through the county, Clearfield is known for its devastating floods. The Pumpkin Flood in Nov. 1811 caused little damage but washed way many of the crops yet unharvested. The 1889 flood hit the towns of Clearfield and Curwensville quite hard with much property damage and one casualty. Ada Tate drowned after the boat rescuing her capsized. The 1936 St. Patrick's Day Flood is the most notorious with 12 feet of water in some places and over 1 million dollars in damages. Affecting much of the region, it caused the greatest loss of property and life of any other flood the county experienced. In 1896, another disaster occurred; but this time it was industrial. An explosion at a Dubois coal mine killed 13 miners on March 23, 1896. In June 1922, a two-week assembly of local Ku Klux Klan members was held at the Dubois Meadows with hundreds of campfires and a parade through town. The Klan came to Clearfield County in the 1920s, a result of a new immigrant workforce in the coal mines, bringing fear and threats more than violence; but by the 1930s activity had ceased almost as fast as it had started. In 1938 the symbolic Last Raft set off down the river, ending in tragedy with seven people dead. On Sept. 24, 1950, the smoke from a huge Canadian fire blocked out the sun over Clearfield in what would become known as Black Sunday and caused many citizens to believe the world was ending. In 1966, Clearfield Borough was honored as 1 of 11 All-American cities by the National Municipal League and Look Magazine with a parade and dinner at the Dimeling Hotel. Famous visitors include: Helen Keller, Mark Twain, William McKinley, Benjamin Harrison, Jack Dempsey, Booker T. Washington, and Gene Kelly, whose mother was born in Houtzdale.

Timeline of Formation of the Townships

- 1807 Bradford and Beccaria Township were formed from the original township. Named for Honorable William Bradford, the attorney general for the state and a Supreme Court judge, and an eminent jurist and philanthropist named Beccaria.
- 1813 Pike and Lawrence townships were carved out of Chincelamoose Township. Pike was named in honor of General Zebulon Pike and Lawrence was named for Commodore Lawrence, a naval hero.
- 1817 Covington and Gibson Townships were created. Gibson lay north of Covington and was named for John Gibson, a chief justice of PA. It was partly taken in the 1843 creation of Elk County to the north of Clearfield, and the remainder was divided among other townships. The same fate befell Fox and Jay Townships.
- 1825 Brady
- 1826 Chest
- 1828 Decatur
- 1832 Girard
- 1834 Burnside, Bell and Penn
- 1835 Jordan
- 1836 Morris
- 1837 Ferguson
- 1838 Boggs

- 1839 Huston
- 1841 Karthaus
- 1845 Goshen
- 1847 Woodward
- 1848 Union
- 1854 Knox
- 1859 Guelich and Graham
- 1860 Bloom
- 1875 Greenwood
- 1878 Sandy
- 1883 Bigler
- 1884 Cooper

Map of Clearfield County Townships

Key:

- Area 1: Clearfield and Surrounding Areas
- Area 2: Curwensville and Surrounding Areas
- Area 3: Mahaffey and Surrounding Areas
- Area 4: Madera and Surrounding Areas
- Area 5: Philipsburg and Surrounding Areas
- Area 6: Karthaus and Surrounding Areas
- Area 7: DuBois and Surrounding Areas

Clearfield and the Surrounding Areas

Clearfield Markers:

1. Clearfield County
2. Old Town Historic District
3. Senator William I. Betts
4. Daniel Ogden
5. Murray House
6. First Clearfield County Jail
7. Kurtz Field
8. Hillcrest Cemetery
9. Clearfield County Courthouse
10. William Bigler
11. Kurtz Brothers Building
12. Senator William W. Betts
13. Presbyterian Church
14. Bigler House

15. Kurtz Brothers Factory
16. Zenas Leonard
17. French and Indian War
18. Chinclaclemoose
19. Trout Stocking
20. Civil War Resistance

1. Clearfield County

This sign marks the formation of Clearfield County on March 26, 1804 from Huntingdon and Lycoming Counties, as well as the incorporation of Clearfield Borough as the County Seat in 1940. See brief history in front of booklet for more information.

Address/Location: 104 E. Pine Street. On the corner of North Front and East Pine Streets at the Clearfield County Historical Society. This is the starting place of the Historical Marker tour in Downtown Clearfield.

2. Old Town Historic District

Located on the National Register of Historic Places, these four blocks of approximately 19 homes were built between 1860 and 1890. These buildings were listed in 1979 for their architectural significance which is primarily reflective of the Greek Revival and Late Victorian periods, although, the Goodlander House is of the Second French Empire Style and the Shaw Manor and Hill House are Gothic in style.

Address/Location:

The Patterson-Clark House (1880) at 113 North Front Street
The Schryver House (pre-1887) at 109 North Front Street
The Wrigley House (1889) at 107 North Front Street
The Krebs House (1870) at 14 North Front Street
The Mossop-Irwin House (pre-1863) at 16 North Front Street
The Goodlander House (1870) at 14 North Front Street
The Biddle House (ca. late 1800s) at 12 North Front Street
The Leavy Family Home (1880) at 11 North Front Street
The Harris House (ca. late 1800s) at 10 North Front Street
The Harris House, a second family home (1892) at 8 North Front Street
The Shaw Manor (1876) at 9 North Front Street
The Hill House (1858) at 2 North Front Street
The Kratzer House (1842) 104 East Cherry Street
The Fielding House (pre-1878) at 108 South Front Street
The McEnally House (1864) at 114 South Front Street
The A.K. Wright House (1873) at 120 South Front Street

Directions: Starting at East Pine Street where the Clearfield County Historical Society is located, turn left onto North Front Street. The district extends along from the intersection at East Pine Street to the intersection at East Walnut Street. At Market Street, North Front Street becomes South Front Street, continue along this road.

3. Senator William I. Betts

William Irvin Betts (1870-1946) was a local businessman and philanthropist. The son of Senator William W. Betts, he spent at least some of his childhood in Clearfield and was educated for some time at the Clearfield public schools. At the age of 18, he decided to forgo a college education in favor of joining his father's business – the Bailey Stone Quarry near Curwensville. He married Isabella Holt Murray in 1904 and would eventually have 4 children. In 1906, he was elected burgess of Clearfield; and in 1923, he followed in his father's footsteps and became a senator for Pennsylvania. Over the years, he also served as President of the Conestoga Coal Company – playing a role in the development of mining in Clearfield County, Director of the Clearfield YMCA and Salvation Army, Director at County National Bank and the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Red Cross for the county, and the President of the Clearfield Council of the Boy Scouts of America, to name a few. He died in 1946 and is buried in Clearfield's Hillcrest Cemetery.

Address/Location: 212 South Front Street

Directions: Continuing on up South Front Street, the marker is between the Saint Francis Church parking lot and the St. Francis Rectory on the left side. If you get to the convenience store on the point, you have gone too far.

4. Daniel Ogden

Daniel Ogden is often recognized as the first white settler in Clearfield County. In 1797, Daniel came down the Susquehanna River in a canoe with three of his sons and landed not far from the old Indian village. He cleared some land and built a log cabin with a shingled roof and double doors before returning home to bring the rest of his family (his wife and the remainder of his 8 children) back with him. Originally from Cherry Valley, New York, he emigrated to the area after his son David was killed in an Indian attack. Daniel was away fighting in the Revolutionary War when his family was forced to flee into the woods while their home and barn were burned down by the Indians. Although one would assume Daniel would have been wary of Indians, he described the natives of Clearfield to be peaceable and friendly. It is thought that he even used their fields at first for raising crops until lands could be cut. In 1804, his youngest son Matthew built the first grist mill in the county; and perhaps with his son's help, Daniel had his own mill by 1805. Described as quite the character, Daniel was known to have been a strong and muscular man who enjoyed hunting and the adventure of the chase; and yet also fond of joking. Daniel died in 1819 at the age of 84 and was buried in the Ogden family burial ground just upstream of Park Avenue. His wife was buried beside him when she died in 1835 at the age of 98. His tombstone can now be seen in Clearfield's Hillcrest Cemetery, but does not mark his burial site.

Address/Location: 308 South Second Street, on the corner of Second and Ogden Avenue.

Directions: Continue up South Front Street to the point where it meets South Second Street. The road now becomes two-way. Continue to head along the river. The first road to the left is Ogden Avenue and the marker is located on the corner.

5. Murray House

This home built in 1880 was the residence of Thomas Holt Murray (1845-1916). Murray was born in Girard Township on April 5, 1845 and would receive a limited early education. At the age of 17, he attended Dickinson Seminary in Williamsport and graduated on June 19, 1867 with the highest honors. In May 1868, he entered the law office of H. Bucher Swoop in Clearfield where he completed his legal course and was admitted to the bar in May 1869. At first he opened a local office to practice general law; but five years later, he was admitted to the Supreme court of PA and had started the firm of Murray and Gordon with Cyrus Gordon. Murray was frequently a delegate at the Republican Party State Conventions and in 1876 was elected the delegate to the National Convention in Cincinnati. He was also an active advocate of the temperance movement and a strong member of the Methodist Church. His house is Victorian Italianate in Style with Tudor features and the most notable feature is the small cupola on the roof.

Address/Location: 120 South Second Street, corner of East Walnut and South Second Streets.

Directions: From Ogden Avenue, make a right onto South Second Street heading toward town. At the point, the road will once again become one way. The marker is in the front yard of the house which is located on the right hand side of the road, across the street from Trinity United Methodist Church.

6. Clearfield County First Jail

The first Clearfield County Jail (ca. 1820-1841) was not built on the lot originally donated by Abraham Witmer located on Locust Street. Rather, it was built on South Second Street near the end of town. The jail was built of hewed logs with a shingle roof, heavy wooden doors, and iron bars on the windows to prevent escape. Although relatively simple in construction, it served until a new jail could be built. It is thought that the old jail was eventually torn down and replaced by a private residence with some of the old timber and building materials used in the construction of the house which still stands on the lot. There is some speculation, however, that the jail structure may simply have been incorporated and thus contained within the residence. In the 1940s when the first floor was being renovated and wall paper was taken off the walls, the owner found that someone had written "Clearfield County Jail, 1837" in the plaster.

Address/Location: 105 South Second Street.

Directions: Continue on down South Second Street. The marker is located in front of the house, a green building which sits next to Trinity United Methodist Church on the left side of the street.

7. Kurtz Field

This field was given to the Clearfield Little League Baseball Association by Charles T. Kurtz of Kurtz Brothers in 1949 when the league was established for children under the age of 12. Baseball had been played in Clearfield County as early as 1869; but by World War II, baseball was the most popular sport with community sponsored teams throughout the county.

Address/Location: Corner of West Second Avenue and Patterson Street.

Directions: Continue on down South Second Street to the light at Market Street. Make a left onto Market Street and continue across the bridge. Make a left onto West Second Avenue. Drive to the end of the street and the field should be in front of you.

8. Hillcrest Cemetery

The Hillcrest Cemetery was founded in December 1881 and was operated by the Clearfield Cemetery Company. When the cemetery first opened, the company had a capital stock of \$3000 and was managed by the following individuals: President Jonathan Boynton, Treasure William H. Dill, Secretary James Kerr, Superintendent George Thorn, and Directors W.A. Wallace, William W. Betts, and William D. Bigler. About 20 acres of land were set aside for the cemetery, but in 1881 only about 8 acres had been cleared and plotted. The first person buried there was Dr. J. Henry Shope on October 12, 1882. Notable individuals buried at Hillcrest include: Governor William Bigler, Senator William Andrew Wallace, Senator William I. Betts, Senator William W. Betts, State Treasurer Frank Graham Harris, and other local businessmen and politicians. Hillcrest also contains at least three memorial markers. Although Daniel Ogden was buried in an old family cemetery that was lost to time, a tombstone was placed for him in the cemetery. There are also memorials for George Gaylor Jr., an airman killed over Germany in 1945 and Rear Admiral Rembrandt Robinson who was killed in Vietnam. Their bodies were never recovered and thus could not be buried. The old Clearfield Cemetery across the street was established in about 1838 and also may contain some old family names and notable individuals.

Address/Location: 404 Cemetery Road

Directions: Drive back down West Second Avenue to Market Street and make a right. Continue across the bridge and through two lights. At the top of the hill, the road will “Y.” Bare left and you will be on Cemetery Road. Go to the top of the hill and as you round the curve the entrance to the cemetery will be on the left. The marker is just inside the cemetery.

9. Clearfield County Court House

The first Clearfield Courthouse was built here in 1814 on a lot donated by Abraham Witmer for that purpose; and from the beginning it was used as a meeting house as well as a county building. The two story brick structure with courtrooms on the first floor and offices on the second was built by Robert Collins for \$3000. It had a wooden shingled roof and a small cupola but little ornamentation for lack of funds available. In March 1860, the old courthouse was torn down to make way for a new court house built on the same site with as much of the original building materials as feasible. The Corner stone was laid on Monday June 4, 1860 and work commenced on the structure which would be Italianate in style with a large tower. It was built by George Thorn for \$16,500. Unlike the original courthouse, the offices were located on the first floor and the courtrooms were placed on the second. A clock and bell were placed in the tower through the efforts of the citizens of Clearfield Borough. It took two years for the building to be completed due to an architectural flaw in the tower requiring it to be torn down and rebuilt. During that time, court was held in the Methodist Church which was located on Cherry Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets. The first annex was built 1882-1883 in the same brick Italianate style directly behind the courthouse structure. A second annex was built in 1996 on the site of the 2nd Clearfield County Jail.

Address/Location: 1 North Second Street, corner of Second and Market Streets.

Directions: Drive back down the hill on Cemetery Road toward downtown and continue onto Market Street. At Second Street turn right. The courthouse will be directly on the right.

10. William Bigler

Born in December 1813 in Cumberland County, William Bigler had limited education opportunities and money because his father died when he was quite young. From 1829 to 1833, he worked for his brother John at the Centre Democrat newspaper in Bellefonte. In 1833, armed only with an old hand press and a borrowed \$20, he came to Clearfield with the hopes of starting his own newspaper – the Clearfield Democrat – which he ran until 1836 when he married Maria Jane Reed. Shortly after getting married, he went into a mercantile partnership with his new father-in-law, A.B. Reed, a prominent Clearfield businessman. From 1845 to 1850, Bigler was the largest producer of lumber on the Susquehanna River. Described as a good writer and forcible, persuasive speaker, it is not surprising that Bigler decided to enter the political realm. In 1842, he was elected State Senator and re-elected in 1844. In 1851, he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania, serving 4 years; and although he was a candidate for re-election in 1855, he was defeated. Overall, Bigler’s time in office was characterized as an uneventful yet fair administration. In 1856, he continued to climb the political ladder with his election to the United States Senate. In addition to his busy political life, Bigler was also an influential businessman within Clearfield County, involved in many different projects and companies. He died on Monday August 9, 1880 at his home, surrounded by his family and friends; and is buried in the Hillcrest Cemetery. His home was built sometime before 1878, although the date is not known. The county acquired the building north of Clearfield Bank and Trust in the 1920s and used the residence for offices. In March 1979, the bank bought the property from the county and razed the building in 1982 to

build the bank offices on the site. Before it was demolished, the house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Nov. 23, 1972.

Address/Location: 11 North Second Street, in front of Clearfield Bank and Trust Building.

Directions: Continue down North Second Street and the marker will be on the right.

11. Kurtz Brothers Building

When Charles T. Kurtz began his small school supply store in 1894, he could hardly have imagined that over 100 years later it would grow to become a national and international business and the largest supplier of school products in the mid-Atlantic states as well as Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia. His first store was a 200 square foot space that he rented for \$9 a month on 3rd Street. As the business expanded, he moved in the Spring of 1895 to a location on 2nd Street. He moved again in 1899 to a location in the old Opera House on Market Street. Then in 1900, he began construction on his first permanent location at 34 N. 2nd Street. The building was designed by Louis Frederick Stutz, a Washington DC architect and Kurtz's father-in-law. The three-story building contained a store on the first floor, as well as company offices. When it was completed in 1901, Kurtz opened a Regal 5 & 10¢ store with Clarence Stewart in the now vacant Opera House building, the first of its kind in Central PA. The business only lasted a few years and was sold in 1903 so Kurtz could focus on the expansion of Kurtz Bros. In 1907, Chas (as he liked to be known) built a 4-story addition behind his 2nd Street building to use as a warehouse for the Clearfield Storage Company, a division of Kurtz Bros started by Charles and his brother Harry, a Clearfield engineer. By 1910, the business once again required a bigger space and a new building was built on 4th and Reed Streets. After 1914, the 2nd street location was separated from Kurtz Bros. and was operated as Kurtz Stationary Store, selling items such as school supplies, newspapers, stationary, greeting cards, camera equipment, and postcards. In the 1920s and 1930s, it was even a soda fountain. The Stationary Store was managed by Harry R. Evans for 52 years (1912-1964) and then by Sherm Courdriet until sold in 1978.

Address/Location: 34 North Second Street.

Directions: Continue down North Second Street and the marker will be located on the left side between Market and Locust Streets.

12. Senator William W. Betts

William Wilson Betts (1838-1896) was the son of Reverend Frederick G. Betts, a Presbyterian minister in Clearfield from 1840-1844. Born on May 1, 1838 in Newark, New Jersey, William Betts came to Clearfield as a young child. In 1853, he began working in a store owned by the firm Reed, Weaver, and Powell. He worked there until he turned 21, at which time he became a partner. In 1869, George Latimer Reed and William Powell retired and the firm became known as Weaver and Betts. One of the most expansive lumber operations on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, the company was also sold merchandise until 1880 when it switched focus to

the developing coal industry. On October 28, 1862, William Betts married Margaret J. Irvin. The couple would have 6 children, one of whom (William Irvin Betts) would follow pretty closely in his father's footsteps. Not a politician by nature, William W. Betts was nominated to the position of State Senator twice - once in 1876 and again in 1878 - but he never accepted or secured the nomination within his district. Yet, in 1886 he was unanimously nominated and felt he could not refuse. He ran unopposed, was elected for a term of 4 years, and served from 1886-1890 as Pennsylvania State Senator. He died in 1896 and is buried in the Hillcrest Cemetery.

Address/Location: Corner of East Locust and North Second Streets

Directions: Continue down North Second Street. The marker will be located on the right side at the corner of East Locust and North Second Streets.

**NOTE:* The marker has temporarily removed while construction is taking place on that corner with the YMCA expansion project.

13. Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church in Clearfield was in existence as early as 1818, and on March 31, 1837, it was incorporated. The first pastor was Reverend Gary Bishop who served the parish from 1826 to 1834. For the next six years the church had no pastor, with interim ministers serving until 1840 when Reverend Frederick G. Betts was installed. Betts, who only served until his death in 1845, is most remembered for building the first church in 1841, a log structure located on the current site that seated about 300 people. Prior to the construction of this building, services were held at the courthouse. The present stone structure was built by Reverend J. G. Archer who was installed on June 30, 1865. Built of Curwensville stone, the church was designed by a Camden, NJ architect named J.C. Hoxie and construction was directed by Thomas Liddell who handled all the stone work and George Thorn who supervised everything else. The new building cost approximately \$45,000 and could easily seat 600 people. Although the structure was nearly finished by January 1869, Rev. Archer would sadly never see its completion. He was killed in a railroad accident on January 12, 1869. The new church would open the following June as the home of a rapidly growing congregation. Today, the building is still the home of the Presbyterian church and a small meditation garden beside it has been dedicated to the memory of Rev. Betts.

Address/Location: 119 North Second Street.

Directions: Continue on North Second Street. The marker will be on the right side in front of the church, on the corner of East Pine Street and North Second. Across the street is the Clearfield Post Office.

14. Bigler House

The property on which the house sits was owned by Abraham Witmer who organized the town into 58 lots. It was first deeded to A.B. Reed in 1825, one of the earliest property transactions in

the county. Later it was owned by Governor William Bigler, whose son William Dock Bigler built the house that currently sits on it in 1880. William D. Bigler was born in Sept 17, 1841 in Clearfield. As a young man, he studied law under William A. Wallace from 1862 to 1866 when he was admitted to the bar. He soon became a member of the firm Wallace, Bigler, and Fielding; but that partnership only lasted about three years. By 1870, Bigler's interest had turned to the business world where he joined the firm Bigler, Reed, and Company, engaging in lumbering and the manufacturing of fire brick. Although the house is often mistakenly thought to be the home of Governor Bigler, his house was located over on North Second Street where Clearfield Bank and Trust is today.

Address/Location: 106 East Pine Street

Directions: Continue down North Second Street to East Pine Street. Make a right onto East Pine. The marker will be on the right side in front of the large yellow house.

15. Kurtz Brothers Factory

A family business for over 100 years, Kurtz Bros has greatly expanded over the years requiring more space in which to operate their school supply and printing operation. In 1910, construction began on this building located on 4th and Reed Streets, the former site of the Clearfield Fire and Brick Company. The factory was completed in 1911 and has been used by both Kurtz Bros. and the Clearfield Storage Company and continues today to be the location of the corporate offices. The company incorporated on March 10, 1914, leading to more expansion and many building additions in the 1920s. On August 31, 1929, a bale of waste paper behind one of the buildings caught fire and quickly spread. Although the fire department was quick to take action and damage was limited, one building was practically destroyed with \$25,000 in damage. Fortunately, the building was quickly rebuilt and business continued as usual. As the company continued to expand, an office in Pittsburgh was opened in 1936 and a new facility was built in the Goldenrod area of Clearfield in the 1960s. Amid continued success, the April 3, 1956 death of Charles T. Kurtz brought about an end of an era as the company passed into the care of his family who continue to operate it today.

Address/Location: 400 Reed Street. Marker located at corner of North Third and Bridge Streets.

Directions: East Pine Street from 2nd to Front Streets is one way. In order to get back, you need to go around the block. Continue down East Pine to the stop sign and make a left onto Front Street. Go down Front Street to East Locust Street and make a left. Go down East Locust to North Second Street and make another left. Continue on down North Locust to the light at Bridge Street and make a right. The marker will be directly ahead of you at the corner of Bridge and Third Streets.

16. Zenas Leonard

Zenas Leonard, the noted western adventurer, was here born at the family farm March 19, 1809. His father, Abraham Leonard, had moved to the county in 1801 and settled on the site of the Old

County Home in Lawrence Township. At age 21, he left Clearfield and hiked to Pittsburgh where he spent some time working for his uncle, a merchant. In 1830, he headed to St. Louis, Missouri where he was hired as a clerk at the Gantt and Blackwell Fur Trapping and Trading Company. The company soon dissolved and Leonard set off on his own for the Rocky Mountain fur trapping routes where he joined Joseph Walker's expedition, crossing the Sierra Nevada Mountains in an attempt to find a route to the Pacific Ocean. He was among one of the first whites to see the Yosemite Valley. The expedition returned eastward in 1834, and Leonard spent some time trapping in Yellowstone before continuing on to Independence, Missouri in 1835. He set up a store and trading post at Fort Osage on the Missouri River where he stayed until his death in 1857 at the age of 48. During his time at the Fort, he compiled his journal notes into a narrative which was published in the Clearfield Republican. In 1839, it was expanded into a book length manuscript and published as the *Narrative of the Adventures of Zenas Leonard*. One passage from the book describes how the west was different from his home in PA: "I could not sleep, and lay contemplating on the striking contrast between a night in the villages of Pennsylvania and one on the Rocky Mountains. In the latter, the plough-boy's whistle, the gambols of the children on the green, the lowing of the herds, and the deep tones of the evening bell, are unheard; not a sound strikes upon the ear, except perchance the distant howling of some wild beast, or war-whoop of the uncultivated savage..."

Address/Location: On Route 322 at the corner of Daisy Street and Leonard Street.

Directions: At the end of Bridge Street, make a left up the hill onto Bigler Avenue/Route 322. Continue following Bigler Avenue/Rt. 322. Go under the Rt. 879 overpass where it becomes Daisy Street/Rt. 322 and continue following. The marker will be on the left near the entrance to Leonard Street where the Old County Home is located.

17. French and Indian War Expedition

During the French and Indian war several intelligence operations were sent to area in search of enemy forces. One of those was led by Captain William Patterson on April 7, 1757, shortly after the completion of Fort Augusta in Sunbury in the early fall of 1756. He came up the West Branch of the Susquehanna with ten men as far as Chincleclamoose; but saw no enemy forces. They found the cabins at the village in Chincleclamoose burned and saw no traces of recent inhabitation. Most likely, the village was destroyed by warring Indian tribes long before Patterson arrived. They remained in the area for about three days - eating walnuts because no game animals could be found - before heading back down river on a raft to Ft. Augusta. In July 1758, a party of French and Indians returned to Chincleclamoose and began building a fort with the intent on attacking Ft. Augusta. When they arrived, however, the structure was stronger than they anticipated so they left without making an assault. Enraged by the almost attack, Lieutenant Colonel James Burd sent Captain Hambright to Chincleclamoose. When he entered the town, he found all the cabins standing but deserted. According to his orders, he did not touch anything in hopes that the Indians would return since this was the only Indian town that could be attacked. When a later expedition returned to the area, they found that the Indians had set fire to their town before escaping to the protection of French forts near Venango.

Address/Location: Along Rt. 879 near intersection of Wolf Run and River Roads.

Directions: From Leonard Street, turn left onto Daisy Street/Rt. 322. At the light, turn left to go east on Rt. 879 toward I-80. Merge on Rt. 879 East. The marker on the right side of the road is just before the first light where River Road and Wolf Run Road intersect.

*NOTE: The marker was recently damaged and is missing from its location. The pole holding the sign, however, is still there.

18. Chinklacamoose

Chinleclamoose (spelling varies) was the name of an old Indian village located along the Susquehanna river where the town of Clearfield is today. The name means “canoe place” and referred to the native’s use of the river as a means of travel in dugout canoes. The natives also depended on the West Branch and its tributaries as a source of food. It is thought that Chinleclamoose was the only permanent Indian settlement in Clearfield County. Between 1755 and 1757, the town was deserted after being burned by other warring tribes. From then on it was occasionally inhabited until about 1800. In 1754, a serious debate arose over the area of Chinleclamoose and the West Branch. The Lenni Lenapes, meaning ‘original people, or the Delawares, as the whites called them, had made a treaty with the heirs of William Penn promising them lands within Pennsylvania. They claimed, however, that they never intended to include the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in the sale for it was their hunting and fishing grounds and that they were not familiar with the points of a compass. On August 2, 1758, Christian Frederick Post, a moravian whose mission was to preach the gospel to the heathens, traveled up the West Branch on the Great Shamokin Path on his way to the Ohio River and made note of two torture posts located where Ogden Avenue and Old Town Road are today. During the French and Indian War, Post also helped the government with negotiations with various native groups. The town of Clearfield was eventually laid out on the site of the old Indian village; and many Indian artifacts have been found throughout the area, including a Indian remains found in 1860 on Market Street.

Address/Location: Intersection of Old Town Road and Rt. 879 at the Hyde light

Directions: Head west on Rt. 879 toward Curwensville, down what is known as the bypass. At the bottom of the hill where is a stop light where 879 intersects with Old Town Road (S. 2nd turns into Old Town Rd.) The marker is on the right at the bottom of the hill.

19. Trout Stocking

The Susquehanna River was once abundant with many various fish species; but by the 1920s, the West Branch was quite literally dead. A combination of acid mine drainage, the dumping of industrial chemical waste, and the sewage from Clearfield and Curwensville led to the virtual

decimation of the fish population. The Federal Clean Water Act of 1965, however, had a tremendously positive affect on Clearfield County leading to the restoration of streams and the restocking of fish, particularly trout, in the Susquehanna. By 1975, the aquatic life had begun to return. Beginning in 1990, fish derby's have been held on the river where hundreds of various fish - bass, catfish, trout, fall fish, carp, etc. - are caught. Still the PA Fish and Boat Commission continues to stock the river with over 15,000 trout placed below Curwensville in 1999.

Address/Location: Corner of Washington Avenue and River Road.

Directions: Coming down Rt. 879 from the bypass, go through the light and across the Hyde Bridge. The marker will be just on the other side of the bridge along the river.

20. Civil War Resistance

While many Clearfield County men served in the Union army during the Civil war for various regiments including the infamous "Bucktails," not everyone supported the president. In fact, Lincoln had lost Clearfield County by 1300 votes in the 1864 election. Although most democrats supported the war efforts, a group known as the Copperheads certainly did not. As the war continued, resisters from all over Pennsylvania converged on the county to hid out with the largest den of resisters in Knox Township, the site of the Bloody Knox in 1864. Bloody Knox was not the first instance of violence from resisters. In 1863, Copperheads shot Deputy David Cathcart off his horse near Luthersburg. He was wounded in the heel and lay wounded on a road in Brady Township next to his horse until help arrived. He would eventually die from his wounds a year later. In 1865, Provost Marshal Colonel Cyrus Butler, a recruitment officer, was shot and killed by Joseph Launsberry of Bradford Township in a skirmish at the Launsberry farm. The next day, the Launsberry clan came to Clearfield planning to kill Provost Marshall Joseph Miller; but after a brief shootout at the Mansion House, Miller shot a hole in the pants of one of them and they quickly left town. Joseph was eventually arrested, tried, and convicted on the testimony of Captain McKiernan, Butler's predecessor who resigned in 1864.

Address/Location: Mount Joy Road near the I-80 overpass.

Directions: Turn left from River Road onto Washington Avenue. At the light, turn left onto Old Town Road. Continue on Old Town Road as you enter Clearfield Borough and it becomes 2nd Street. Continue down Second Street to the light at Bridge Street near the Old County Jail. Make a left onto the bridge and cross the river. Make an immediate right onto River Street. The street will come to a "T" where it becomes River Road, make another right. Make a left onto Mount Joy Road. Stay on Mt. Joy Road to the very top of the hill and make a right onto Goshen Road, following signs to Goshen. When you come to the I-80 bridges, the marker will be on the right.

To Return to Clearfield:

Come back down Goshen Road to Mt. Joy Road and make a left onto it. Continue down Mt. Joy Road to River Road and make a left. Follow River Road to the light and make a left onto West Front Street/Rt. 322. At the light, make a left onto Bridge Street and cross the river. Make an immediate right onto North Front Street. Continue up North Front and the Historical Society will

be on your left. East Pine is one way, so if you want to stop here you will have to go around the block – Locust Street to 2nd Street to Pine Street.

Curwensville and the Surrounding Areas

Curwensville Markers:

1. Hogback (Porter's) Bridge
2. Dimeling Bridge
3. 2004 Bicentennial Raft
4. Arnold Nawrocki
5. McClure Cemetery
6. Curwensville Dam
7. Bloody Knox
8. The Bell Site Dig

1. Hogback (Porter's) Bridge

The Hogback Bridge, also known as Porter's Bridge, crosses the West Branch of the Susquehanna River along the historic Old Erie Pike. In 1892, the original wooden structure was destroyed by fire and was replaced by a steel single-span Petit Truss bridge built by the King Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio, one of the leading manufacturers of metal truss bridges in the 19th century. The bridge's sandstone abutments that were constructed by J. A. Dunkle. In 1988, Hogback Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the Department of Transportation as an example of one type of popular bridge construction in Pennsylvania. The next year, in 1989, this 215 foot bridge was removed and replaced by the pre-stressed concrete bridge that can be seen today. After 1965, pre-stressed concrete bridges became a popular replacement for the old iron and steel bridges and can be seen throughout the county where old metal bridges once stood.

Address/Location: Old Erie Pike near Hogback Road, Lawrence Township

Directions: From the Clearfield County Historical Society on East Pine Street, make a right onto North Front Street. Continue following Front Street until the point where it becomes Old Town Road. Follow Old Town Road up the river. At the Hyde Light stay straight, onto what is Route 879/Clearfield-Curwensville Highway. Continue following Rt. 879 toward Curwensville. Make a left onto Old Erie Pike. Stay on Old Erie Pike until you come to the bridge. The Marker is on the right just before the bridge.

2. Dimeling Bridge

The Dimeling Bridge, also known as the Old Clearfield Bridge, is located on Clearfield Creek, along the Old Erie Pike – a historic state route established in 1796 from an old Indian path. An old stone mile marker can still be seen not far before the bridge on the left side of the road. The bridge that crossed Clearfield Creek was originally a wooden covered bridge; but it washed out in

the flood of 1889. The bridge was replaced by a 180 foot Iron Truss bridge built by the King Bridge Company in 1890 for \$5400. Like many other iron bridges, it was eventually replaced by the pre-stressed concrete bridge that stands there today. While the bridge itself is certainly notable, the area around the Dimeling Bridge has a rich history. It was once the location of an Indian cross-road with rock shelters. In 1814, the Elder Mills were built on Little Clearfield Creek, not far from the bridge, by James I. Thorn. Named for Abraham Elder, who never lived in the county, the mill consisted of a saw-mill, the first woolen mill of its kind in PA, and a tavern. Three miles from the bridge up Clearfield Creek is the location near Faunce of the 1857 war between the loose-log floaters, who often caused log jams on the waterways, and rafters, who tied their logs together to prevent such congestion. The exodus of loggers from the creek by armed rafters resulted in trials and heavy fines given to the loggers. The Clearfield Bridge Post Office was established along the right side of the road before the bridge in 1824 and served the community until 1905. Two train tracks run through the area - the NY Central and the Clearfield Southern with train stations built on both Clearfield Creek (1905-1940s) and Little Clearfield Creek (1886-1905). Passenger service to the area ceased in 1932 and in 1936 the railroad bridge over Little Clearfield Creek washed out, never to be replaced. The Dimeling Bridge is named for the Dimeling family - a lumbering family, two of the boys George and John are known for building the Dimeling Hotel in Clearfield - who had settled in the Stoneville area just beyond the bridge. Stoneville was laid out by Alexander Stone of England who built the first hotel in Boggs Township. Today, few lived in the once thriving community; yet many old structures still exist.

Address/Location: Dimeling Road, Boggs Township

Directions: Still on Old Erie Pike, Cross the Hogback (Porter's) Bridge. Continue on this road to the stop sign. At the stop sign the road becomes Dimeling Road, continue straight on this road until you come to the bridge. The marker is on the right side at the bridge. If you come to Rt. 153 you have gone too far.

3. 2004 Bicentennial Raft

On March 13, 2004, a commemorative raft began its 35 mile journey from Curwensville to Karthaus. The raft was launched at 9am from the Civic Center in Curwensville, where a team of individuals built it in three days beginning February 28, 2004. On Saturday, March 13, the raft went from Curwensville to Arnoldstown before getting caught on a sandbar. The accident cause significant damage and the raft had to be tied up for the day. Crews worked the rest of the afternoon and all day on Sunday to make repairs. On Saturday March 20, the raft continued on its journey, traveling from Arnoldstown to Witmer Park in Clearfield. Yet again, it ran into some trouble when the raft collided with the Hogback Bridge and took on 3 feet of water. With repairs quickly made and pieces replaced, the crew pushed off and made it to Clearfield with over 12 inches of water still covering the raft in some places. While at the park, the 12x16 foot cabin, an exact replica of those used in the 1800s, was taken off the raft to lighten it for its trip over the dams. The cabin was placed in the yard of the historical society for display. On April 3, the raft was scheduled to continue on the next leg of the trip; but with water levels too low to safely breach the Clearfield Raftmen's Dam (built in 1974), the trip was postponed. On April 12, the rains

finally came, bringing water levels back up; and on Wednesday April 14, the raft went over the Clearfield Dam. In a memorable event, Mr. Gary Gilmore, who arrived after the raft had taken off, repelled over the side of the Nichols Street Bridge in Clearfield onto a moving raft, still dressed in his tie and dress shoes. The raft continued out of Clearfield and tied up just before the 879 Bridge at the Corman Railroad Yard. A few days later, on April 17, the raft went from the Corman Railroad to just above the Shawville Dam with little issue. Finally, on May 1, 2004, the last leg of the journey was made from Shawville to Karthaus. Reliant energy agreed to lower the dam by removing 25 five-foot panels for the raft to pass – the first time since 1954 when the power plant was built that it was lowered for a special event. A team of 7 men worked 6 hours to lower and raise the dam once more. After getting over the dam, one last problem arose for the dedicated crew when the raft hit the railroad bridge just below Shawville. Luckily no one was injured and the raft was able to make it to its final destination at Millstone. There, the raft that had taken three days to build was disassembled in 4 hours, removed from the river, and loaded into two trucks to be made into lumber. Despite having little rafting experience and facing new challenges – such as bridge pillars and dams that would not have been there in the 1800s – the crew worked very hard and the trip was a success. Hundreds of individuals came out to support them, following its progress along the river and shouting words of encouragement.

Address/Location: Corner of Stadium Drive and Bloomington Avenue. Near the Civic Center in Curwensville.

Directions: From the Dimeling Bridge, come back down the Dimeling Road. Continue on when it becomes Old Erie Pike. Turn left onto Rt. 879 toward Curwensville. At the light before the underpass, make a left onto the bridge on Stadium Drive. Go across the river and continue following until Bloomington Avenue. The marker is at the corner.

4. Arnold Nawrocki (1925-2003)

Born on February 21, 1925, Arnold Nawrocki is considered the father of the individually wrapped slice of cheese. Although he had long been experimenting with the idea, it was his work with William D. and J. Hammer Tate of Clearfield Cheese Company that really got things moving. The brothers were very enthusiastic about the project and appointed Nawrocki Technical Director of Clearfield Cheese in 1951. After many failed attempts with various materials, techniques, and machines, Nawrocki finally secured a patent on August 25, 1956 for his process. Clearfield Cheese Company, which was started by the Tates in 1941, had grown to become the second largest cheese processor in the nation next to Kraft and the first to produce individually wrapped cheese – thus revolutionizing the industry. Cheese wrapped individually in cellophane has a shelf life of over 6 months while regular sliced cheese only lasts about a week. This allowed stores and households to store cheese for longer and the military to ship this once luxury item to soldiers overseas. At first commercial buyers were reluctant because they assumed the extra packaging would mean extra cost. It was the housewife who fell in love with the product and secured its place in history – once they understood the concept, that is. As Nawrocki explained: “In this day and age it is difficult to imagine that customers apparently did not know what ‘individually wrapped’ meant; but [once the label was changed to read ‘Each Slice Wrapped’] our sales started to pick up immediately.” When

Nawrocki retired in 1985, he had 11 patents to his name. He died on June 30, 2003 at the age of 78 in his Sun City, Arizona home of kidney disease.

Address/Location: 434 State Street, Curwensville

Directions: Come back down Stadium Drive to the light. Go straight and bear right to go under the pass and follow State Street/Route 879. Continue down State Street. The marker will be located on your left, near the intersection of Filbert and State Streets.

5. McClure Cemetery

Named for Thomas McClure, the McClure Cemetery in Pike Township is the burial place of 7 Revolutionary War soldiers, as well as many other veterans and family members. It is also the site of the first school house in Clearfield County in 1803 and the first meeting house in 1809. In 1823, the Pike Presbyterian Congregation was organized and continued to worship there until 1843. On June 9, 1929, a ceremony was held to dedicate a marker in the cemetery in memory of the first church.

Arthur Bell – Known as Squire Bell, he came to Clearfield County the same year as Daniel Ogden in 1797 after serving in the Cumberland County Militia on a privateer during the Revolutionary War. In 1802, he was named Justice of the Peace. His son Grier Bell was the first white child born in the county. He died Jan. 9, 1833.

John Bell – The brother of Arthur Bell, John became known as Little John and was very popular among the settlers, particularly for his jokes. He had served with his brother in the Cumberland County Militia and came to the county in the same year. He settled an area of land on the north side of the river on a farm later owned by Samuel Snyder.

William Bloom, Sr. – Born in Germany, William immigrated to New Jersey where he entered the Continental army and served under General George Washington for six years. He came to Clearfield County in 1801 and settled with his family near Anderson Creek. He died May 4, 1828.

James McCracken – Born on route from Ireland, James served as a private in the Cumberland County Militia. He moved to the area from Centre County soon after the Bell Family. Three of his sons, William, Thomas, and James, would eventually marry three of Bell's daughters. He died in January 1807.

Thomas McClure – Known as Squire McClure, Thomas came to Clearfield County from Cumberland County in 1799 after serving in the Cumberland County Militia in 1780. Settling north of Curwensville, he brought his family to the area in 1800. He was one of the county commissioners at the time the county buildings were being erected. He died on Sept. 3, 1832.

Mark Jordan – Born in Germany in 1761, Mark served in the Continental line from 1777 to 1778 after immigrating to Pennsylvania. He came to Curwensville in 1814 as a grist miller and was one of the first church elders for the Pike Presbyterian Church once located at the McClure Cemetery. He died on May 2, 1833.

Nicholas Straw – Born in Lancaster County in 1753, he lived in Northumberland County during the Revolutionary war. He enlisted in 1776 and served until 1782, rising to rank of Lieutenant. During that time, he participated in the cannoning in Trenton in 1777 and the Battle of

Princeton. He moved to Clearfield County in 1803 where he settled on the river. He died on Aug. 20, 1833.

Address/Location: McClure Cemetery Road, Curwensville

Directions: Continue down State Street to Thompson Street and make a left onto it. Continue down Thompson to South Street and make another left. Continue down South Street to Filbert where you want to make a right. Stay on Filbert Street, at the curve it will become Susquehanna Avenue. Continue Following Susquehanna Avenue. Make a right onto Lumber City Highway/ Route 969 toward Lumber City. Continue following until you see a sign for the McClure Cemetery on the right. Make a right here onto McClure Cemetery Road. Follow this dirt road up to the top of the hill where the cemetery is located. The marker is at the cemetery, on the right.

6. Curwensville Dam

Located one mile outside of Curwensville, the Dam project was created as one of four dams designed to protect the West Branch Basin from flooding and authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1954. Construction began in 1962 by the Green-Winston Construction Company of Des Moines, Iowa for a cost of \$21 million. The project was completed in November 1965 and a dedication ceremony was held on May 26, 1966. The Curwensville Dam is 2,890 feet long, 131 feet high, 25 feet wide at the top, and 900 feet wide at the base. The water tunnel, which acts as a conduit, is 700 feet long and 15 feet in diameter with hydraulic gates that are 5.5 feet wide and 12 feet high. When water flowed into the newly created reservoir, it covered a significant Indian village and the homes of several individuals who were forced to move. The reservoir is now a recreational lake 6.5 miles long and offers activities such as swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking, hiking, and camping. The Dam would ultimately prove effective in 1972 in one of the worst floods in Pennsylvania history while the North Branch of the Susquehanna River experienced flooding of 40 feet in some areas.

Address/Location: Curwensville-Tyrone Highway, Curwensville

Directions: Come back down McClure Cemetery Road to the stop sign at the bottom of the hill. Make a left onto Lumber City Highway back toward Curwensville. As you drive, the Curwensville Dam will be on your left, but the marker is on the other side. Continue on Lumber City Highway/ Route 969 to Susquehanna Avenue. Make a right onto Susquehanna Avenue/ Route 453. Continue following Susquehanna Avenue as it becomes the Curwensville-Tyrone Highway. You will cross the bridge and go up the hill to the Dam Entrance to Breastwork and Observation Deck. The Marker is on the right at the entrance, but you can continue on to a small parking lot at the top of the dam to see the reservoir.

7. Bloody Knox

In the early morning hours of December 13, 1864, a skirmish broke out at the Adams/Barnett cabin on this site in Knox Township. Thomas Adams built the cabin in 1861 on the farm of

Daniel Barnett, a union soldier, and was living there with his wife Margaret and two children – Mary and George – after deserting from the 149th Bucktails on Feb. 8, 1863 with neighbor James McKee. On December 12, 1864, a party was being held at the cabin to celebrate the discharge of Adam’s brother-in-law from the army. David C. Hensel, a Madera man who was disabled due to asthma, tipped off the soldiers in Philipsburg about the event. Captain Southworth marched 20-25 soldiers to Knox Township where they surrounded the cabin and demanded surrender. 31-year-old Adams ran upstairs, retrieved his musket from under the bed, and shot out the window – killing 18 year-old Edgar L. Reed, a soldier from Claremont, NH who had been wounded twice before. After firing two more shots, he ran to the attic where he attempted to escape and was shot by a soldier named Blair – his wife and children were witnesses. In addition to the 18 deserters who were rounded up by soldiers to be tried, there were 6 women present, including Julia Cathcart, the daughter of the wounded Marshall David Cathcart. Adams was buried in an unmarked grave in St. Aloysius Cemetery in Jordan Township and Reed was buried in the Union Church Cemetery in Philipsburg. The cabin was reconstructed in 2004 on the original foundation of the Adams Barnett cabin. Various historical events and re-enactments are held here throughout the year.

Address/Location: Route 453 near McClincy Road, Kellytown.

Directions: At the entrance to the dam, make a right onto Susquehanna Avenue/Curwensville-Tyrone Highway/Route 453. Continue on Route 453 through Bloomington and Olanta toward Kellytown. Before you get to Kellytown, you will pass McClincy Road on your left. Bloody Knox is halfway between McClincy Road and Kellytown on the left side of the road.

8. The Bell Site Dig

As a boy, Harry Matlack, a former US History teacher at Clearfield Area High School, liked to collect arrow points from the old Grier Bell Farm, one mile south west of New Millport. Knowing that the site was to be strip mined, Matlack would take part in the excavations of the site from 1979 to 1985, which produced over 126 Indian burials as well as a wide range of artifacts, including pottery, clay pipes, tools, beads, and metal objects. The Dig site also told archeologist a lot about Indian habitation of the area. There were at least three groups that called the Bell Farm home over the centuries, each one building on top of the ruins of the previous society. The first group, called the Shenks Ferry, lived in the area in the 1500s and built basket-shaped houses approximately 40 feet by 20 feet with bark shingles. The second group, the Monongahela peoples, lived in the area in the early 1600s until about 1650. They lived in “dirt igloos” which required them to dig a pit, build a framework with a roof, and then cover the whole thing with dirt to create a subterranean dwelling. The third group, the McFates, occupied the site late enough to possess products obtained through trade with colonists, such as iron, steel, and gun flints – probably from the late 1600s to about 1700. Matlack has written several books on his findings; yet he is not the first to note the Indian presence on the Grier Bell farm. As early as 1854, S.B. Row wrote in the Raftman’s Journal that Grier Bell, the first white child born in the county in 1799, resided in Ferguson township “on a piece of high land which had this peculiarity about it: in one of the fields, a circular embankment of some extent, originally 7 feet wide at the base and rising from 1 to 2 feet, marks a spot which centuries ago had been used by another race.” Although one of the

most successful excavations, the Bell Site was not the only place where artifacts were found within the county. Countless other sites – from Curwensville Dam to Sandy Township to Madera – have been discovered, thus proving that natives once occupied the entire county for thousands of years before settlers came.

Address/Location: Community Park, New Millport

Directions: On Route 453, head back toward Curwensville past McClincy Road. You will come to a crossroads. At the stop sign, make a left onto Zion Road/SR 2012. Follow Zion Road into New Millport. At the end of the road in New Millport, make right onto Douglas Road. This will take you through the town. The community park and baseball field is right along this main road. The marker is at the park.

Return to Clearfield

Stay on Douglas Road and continue back to Route 453. At Rt. 453, turn left and head back toward Curwensville through Bloomington. Route 453 will once again become Susquehanna Avenue as you pass the Curwensville Dam. Continue following down the hill and under the pass where it becomes Filbert Street. At the light, make a right onto State Street/Route 879. Follow State Street down the hill and under the pass to the light. Go through the light toward Clearfield and continue following Route 879 along the river. At the Hyde light, continue straight onto Old Town Road. Continue following Old Town Road to the point where it becomes Second Street (one-way). Stay on Second Street to East Pine Street. Make a left on East Pine Street and the Clearfield County Historical Society will be on the left.

Mahaffey and Surrounding Areas

Mahaffey Area Markers:

1. Grampian
2. A.W. Tozer
3. McGee's Mills Covered Bridge
4. Last Raft
5. George Atcheson
6. John Ludwig Snyder

1. Grampian

In 1808, Dr. Samuel Coleman, the first practicing physician in Clearfield County, settled in Penn Township. Although there were other settlers in the area around what is today Grampian, no name had been decided upon. Coleman named the land Grampian Hills because they reminded him of the Grampian Hills in his native Scotland. It was a fitting name, for there were many Scotch-Irish, Scottish, and English Quakers in the area. The Quakers were the first religious group in Penn Township with the first meeting being held in 1811 at the home of James Moore. In 1824, they were able to build a log meeting house on the site of the present Friend's Cemetery on

land donated by Mr. Moore. The building was destroyed by fire in 1847, but quickly rebuilt on the same site which was by then also used as a graveyard. Notably, the Quakers were dedicated to assisting runaway slaves; often employing them on their farms in the summer and helping them escape through the county. In 1885, the Borough of Pennville, named for William Penn, was incorporated in a part of Grampian Hills; but eventually it would come to be called simply Grampian Borough. The first post office was known as the Grampian Hills Post Office and operated from 1833 to 1892. In 1891, the Pennsylvania Railroad extended a passenger and freight line to Grampian – also carrying the mail for several years. In September 1900, Grampian was the first community in the county to have a rural mail service. The mail carrier was Mr. A.E. Spenser who bought a new 1914 Ford when it became available to replace his horse and delivered the mail until 1932. In 1895, Nora Waln, a world famous reporter and author, was born in Grampian. The daughter of Thomas Lincoln Wall, the Boggs Township School Superintendent and a county author, Nora went to live in China in December 1920 where she wrote a book about her life there, publishing it in the 1930s. During World War II, she was a war correspondent, having moved to Germany in 1934 with her husband, an English Diplomat. During the Korean Conflict, she was once more a war correspondent and was assigned to the front lines. Throughout her life she wrote many books as well as articles for magazines and newspapers worldwide. She even wrote for the local Progress. She spent her last years in Southern Spain where she died on September 27, 1964.

Address/Location: US Route 219, Grampian

Directions: From the Clearfield County Historical Society on East Pine Street, make a right onto North Front Street. Continue following Front Street until the point where it becomes Old Town Road. Follow Old Town Road up the river. At the Hyde Light stay straight, onto what is Route 879/Clearfield-Curwensville Highway. Continue following Rt. 879 toward Curwensville. At the light, bear right and go under the underpass. Continue on Rt. 879/State Street through Curwensville toward Grampian. At the light in Grampian, continue straight onto Route 219. The Marker is in front of the Friends Meeting House and Worship Center on the right side of the road.

2. A.W. Tozer

Born on April 21, 1897 on a farm just outside of Newburg in Chest Township, Aiden Wilson Tozer would become known as a “20th century prophet.” Dr. Tozer grew up in Chest Township and attended Wood Elementary School. When he was 10 years old, his family’s house was destroyed by fire after a stove overheated. They rebuilt on the same foundation; but only stayed in the area five more years before moving to Akron, OH in 1912. At the age of 19, with no formal education, he became pastor at a small Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in West Virginia. Over the years, he would live and work in West Virginia, Chicago, Indiana, and Toronto – eventually rising to vice president of the denomination. A noted author, editor, and speaker, he wrote numerous books and articles that have sold millions of copies throughout the world. In addition to his pastoral duties, he also served as editor for the Alliance Weekly (later a monthly publication known as Alliance Life) and gave lectures in several states, as well as at the Mahaffey Camp. Mahaffey Camp is a 45 acre campground used for retreats, bible schools, youth camps, and

most notably the annual 10 day Camp Meeting in July which draws thousands of attendees. Originally known as the Susquehanna Park Holiness Camp Meeting Association, Mahaffey Camp was started by C&MA minister Reverend William Bryenton in 1894 as a revival service. The first Camp Meeting was held about a mile from the present location, which was offered for use by James Stevenson and later donated to the camp. In 1897, the first ten cottages were built and they are still used today. There are a total of 200 personal cabins and 3 dormitories at the site. The annual meeting features speakers every year and one of the most notable was Dr. Tozer, who died in May 1963 after many years of service and leadership and is buried in Akron, OH.

Address/Location: 1559 Mahaffey-Grampian Highway/US Route 219, Mahaffey.

Directions: Continue along Route 219 toward Mahaffey. The marker is at the Mahaffey Camp and Conference Center on the right side of the road, just before the town of Mahaffey.

3. McGee's Mills Covered Bridge

Built in 1873, the McGee's Mills Covered Bridge is one of the oldest bridges in the county and the only covered bridge left over any branch of the Susquehanna River. In 1826, Reverend James McGee settled the village of McGee's Mills. He was one of the largest landowners by 1836 and had built the first saw and grist mills in Bell Township. His son, Thomas McGee, is credited for building the Covered Bridge after heavy flooding washed away the previous bridge in 1873. He was allotted \$1500 by the Clearfield County Commissioners for construction; but the 116 foot wooden structure that he built only cost \$175. It was a single-span Burr arch truss bridge, a design popular in Pennsylvania and invented by Theodore Burr in 1817. It has horizontal siding, a shingle covered gable roof, and cut stone abutments. In 1976, the bridge was closed to traffic because of deterioration and was reopened in 1978 after repairs were made. In the winter of 1993/1994 tragedy struck. Snow and ice began to weigh down the 122 foot roof, eventually causing it to collapse on March 15, 1994. Restoration was done by the PA Conservancy Corps workers with repairs designed by the Lee Simpson Consulting Engineers of DuBois. The bridge was reopened and rededicated on October 11, 1995. It continues to be open to traffic and is one of the few wooden covered bridges in PA to still allow vehicles to traverse it.

Address/Location: Covered Bridge Road, McGee's Mills.

Directions: Stay on Route 219 toward Mahaffey where it becomes Colonel Drake Highway/Route 219/Route 36 and continue following toward McGee's Mills. In McGee's Mills, Rt. 36 turns right toward Punxsutawney. Do not follow. Staying on Rt. 219 and almost immediately, make a left onto Covered Bridge Road. Continue following to McGee's Mills Covered Bridge. The marker is at the bridge.

4. Last Raft

In 1912, R. Dudley and V. Ord Tonkin decided to sponsor an "excursion raft" in memory of their late father Vincent Tonkin, as there had been no commercial rafting in the area after the spring of 1896. The raft went from Cherry Tree to Williamsport and was piloted by raftman Harry Connor.

In 1938, the Tonkin brothers decided to try it again on the 100th anniversary of their father coming to Clearfield County in 1838. The raft, measuring 112 feet long and 28 feet wide, was built of white pine on the Charlie McGee Farm by old lumberman and raftsmen, the youngest of whom was 54 years old. On March 14, 1938, the raft began its journey just above McGee's Mills and was to run down the West Branch of the Susquehanna River to Fort Hunter near Harrisburg. The raft made stops at Mahaffey, Curwensville, and Clearfield where one could pay \$8 to ride. Six days later, on March 20, tragedy struck. Shortly before noon, with thousands of people watching, the raft crashed into the Reading Railroad Bridge near Muncy. Almost all of the 45 individuals were thrown into the water where they struggled to keep from being swept downstream by the current. Seven men lost their lives, including the now 74 year-old pilot Harry Connor and cameraman Thomas Profitt. The other five individuals killed were Dr. Charles F. Taylor, Harry Berringer, Malcolm MacFarland, W.W. Holley, and W.C. Van Scoyoc. Four of the survivors were taken to the Muncy Valley Hospital for shock and exposure while others were treated at the emergency hospital set up in the Valentine Fenstern family's home along the river. Van Scoyoc's body was recovered almost immediately, and the other six were reported missing until their bodies were found over the next few weeks and months. In a few days, the raft was repaired and continued on the final leg of its journey to Fort Hunter where the lumber was sold.

Address/Location: US Route 219, between Mahaffey and Burnside.

Directions: Go back up Covered Bridge Road to Route 219 and make a left. Continue following Burnside-McGee Highway/Rt. 219 toward Burnside. The marker will be on the right side of the road at the entrance to the Purchase Line Elementary School North.

5. George Atchison

Born in Ireland in about 1792, George Atchison came to first Centre County then to Clearfield County in 1820 to escape the harsh tenant laws of his native country. He settled along the Susquehanna River in Burnside in 1820, with no neighbors closer than New Washington. As a man who hated oppression, it is not surprising that he took up the anti-slavery cause and joined the Underground Railroad. In 1845, he built a large house near his original log cabin with a secret compartment to hide runaway slaves. Although many suspected that he was part of the underground railway, no one knew where he kept the fugitives. Some believed he hid them in the caves across the river from the house, and perhaps he did at times. It was not until about 1885 that the secret room was found, despite several families living in the house over the years. A closet at the end of an upstairs hallway had floor to ceiling shelves that pulled out revealing a small door high up the wall. The bottom shelves acted as stairs to allow access to the door which was just big enough to allow a man to crawl through. The room was only about 3 feet wide and just long enough to allow room for six or seven individuals to sit. It had one small window that was positioned so it could not be seen from the outside. Atchison also helped the cause in Kansas where he set his son and son-in-law up with some land to assist runaways there. He moved to Cherry Tree and died there in peace in 1877, having seen the abolition of slavery. He is buried in the Cherry Tree Cemetery. It is thought, however, that there were many other sites throughout that county that were part of the underground railroad, including stone markers in Lawrence

Township near Lick Run and Stone Run where an underground railroad path was known to have existed.

Address/Location: US Route 219, Burnside.

Directions: Stay on Route 219 to Burnside. At the Junction of Rt. 219 and Rt. 286, bear right to stay on Rt. 219/Main Street. Continue following into Burnside. As you enter Burnside, you will cross a set of railroad tracks and a small bridge. The marker is on the right at the far end of the bridge.

6. John Ludwig Snyder

Born in Germany on August 5, 1746, Johannes Ludwig Snyder, or John as he was called, came to Pennsylvania in 1758 with his father's family. When his father joined the fight for American independence, John also enlisted. He served for 6 years under General George Washington and General Wayne. He was one of the men in the Pennsylvania Continental Line that wintered at Valley Forge and fought in the battles at Trenton, Brandywine, Germantown, and Paoli. He was a friend of Marquis De Lafayette and was present at the Yorktown surrender. Thought to be the first pioneer of Bell Township, he settled along Chest Creek in about 1820. A gunsmith by trade, he worked here as a farmer. He died on May 23, 1860 at the age of 113 years, 7 months, and 18 days; and is buried here at the New Washington Cemetery. When his wife Anna Maria died in 1857 at the age of 105 years, they were said to have been the oldest living couple in the United States.

Address/Location: New Washington Cemetery on Front Street, New Washington.

Directions: Take Route 219 back toward Mahaffey. Just outside of Burnside, make a right onto State Route 3016/Byers Avenue. When the road make a "Y" bear left and stay on SR 3016/Nebo Road. At the end of the road, make a left onto State Route 3001/Ridge Road. Make a right onto Town Road/SR 3016 and continue following into New Washington. Make a left onto Front Street and follow past Washington Road. The New Washington United Methodist Church will be on the left and the Cemetery will be on the right. The marker is at the cemetery where Snyder is buried.

Return to Clearfield:

Take Front Street back to Town Road and make a left. Continue Following Town Road to Route 36 and merge onto Main Street/Rt. 36. At Newburg, make a left to stay on Rt. 36/Cecil Hurd Highway. Continue following through Mahaffey to Rt. 219. Make a left onto Rt. 219 and continue following Rt. 219 toward Grampian. At the light at Grampian, Rt. 219 becomes Rt. 879. Continue to follow Rt. 879 through Curwensville. In Curwensville, go under the overpass and at the light bear left toward Clearfield. Follow Rt. 879 along the river to Clearfield. At the Hyde light, Rt. 879 becomes Old Town Road. Continue on Old Town Road to the point where it

becomes South Second Street. Stay on Second Street to East Pine Avenue. Make a right onto East Pine and the Clearfield County Historical Society is on the right.

***Please Note:** To break the markers down into more manageable sections and aid those who are not familiar with the area, all routes begin and end at the Clearfield County Historical Society. Many of these routes, however, can easily be connected without coming back to Clearfield and markers can be viewed in a different order. There are, of course, many possible roads to take from one town or area to another. This booklet tried to stay on main roads or highways during the routes, even though there may be faster or more direct paths to take. Sorry for any inconvenience. Alternative routes that better fit your schedule or interest can be easily developed using a Clearfield County Map or GPS system.

Madera and Surrounding Areas

Madera Area Markers:

1. Alexander Cemetery
2. Coalport
3. William A. Nevling Tavern
4. Miner's Strike
5. Osceola Mills

1. Alexander Cemetery

On July 1, 1784, Revolutionary War Soldier James Alexander was given a tract of land in Clearfield County for his service with the Commissary Department of Washington's Army at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-1778. The 1600 acres of land was once occupied by the Delaware Indians; but by the time James surveyed the land with his eldest son Robert in the summer of 1785, few remained. James never lived in Clearfield County and his 1785 visit was the only one he made, dying 6 years later in 1791. In 1784, James divided the lands into four tracts, one for each of his sons: William Brown, Hugh, Joseph, and Reed. In 1809, William B. Alexander and his family settled in present day Bigler Township in an area that became known as Alexander's Fording and the first cabin was located along Alexander's Run. When William died, his will stated that his land was to be divided into eight sections with one going to each of his seven sons and one to be used as a public burial place. The cemetery was given to the people of Madera by William's family on April 28, 1862. Besides the grave of William B. Alexander, another notable tombstone can be found in the cemetery. Daniel Smith, a black civil war soldier for the 55th Massachusetts Infantry, is buried in Alexander's Cemetery; and is one of only two black civil war soldiers buried in the county.

Address/Location: Alexander Cemetery, Madera

Directions: From the Clearfield County Historical Society on East Pine Street, turn left onto North Front Street. Continue following Front Street to the point where it becomes Old Town Road. Continue on Old Town Road to Park Avenue. Make a left onto Park Avenue/Route 153. Stay on Park Avenue under the overpass where it becomes Ogden Avenue Extension/Route 153. Make a left onto Crooked Sewer Road to stay on Rt. 153 and continue on it until you come to Henderson. At Henderson, Rt. 153 will turn left onto Henderson Road. Do not turn, continue straight onto Atlantic Avenue to Atlantic. When you come to the stop sign make a right onto Main Street/Rt. 53 toward Madera. Come down the hill into Madera. At the bottom of the hill, make a sharp left onto Alexander Street and drive back up the hill towards the church. The road will come to a “Y.” Bear right and continue up the hill to the cemetery at the top. The marker is at the cemetery near the grave of James Alexander.

2. Coalport

Originally called Reilly after one of its early settlers, the town of Coalport has long been a lumber and coal town. The name was changed from Reilly when the borough was incorporated in 1883. Before the railroad came to the area, coal and lumber was transported to market down Clearfield Creek on wood rafts. Thus, the name Coalport derived from the town’s coal heritage and its status as a “port” along the river. With the arrival of the railroad, the mining of coal developed and the town grew into the economic center of the Glendale Valley. The first large coal mine, the Sunshine Mine, was opened in 1900 by the Cambria Smokeless Coal Company in the middle of the borough where the tipper remained visible after the mine’s close in 1960 until 1972 when it was destroyed by fire. At its height, the company employed between 500 and 600 workers; and operated a company store where employee’s purchases were deducted from their pay. A total of 53 buildings in downtown Coalport have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These include: Bell’s Drug Store which opened in 1884 and when it closed in 2001, had one of the few remaining operational soda fountains; the McNulty Hardware Store which opened in 1895 as Holden Hardware and only recently closed in 2009; the Central Hotel located on Main Street was one of two hotels, neither of which are still in operation; and the Coalport 5 & 10 which opened in the 1920s. Coalport also had several theaters, including the Dixie Theater which was built in 1920s and for many years stood empty with only the front façade remaining after the roof collapsed in. Coalport also had its own newspaper, the Coalport Standard, from 1885-1934 when it was purchased by the Houtzdale Citizen and became the Citizen-Standard until 1958. On August 15, 1928, one of the worst mining disasters in the county affected the area when an explosion at Irvona Coal and Coke Company’s Blain City mine killed 13 workers.

Address/Location: Main Street, Coalport

Directions: Come back down Alexander Street to Madera and merge onto Main Street/Rt. 53. Continue following Rt. 53 through Glen Hope to Irvona. In Irvona, turn left to stay on Rt. 53 toward Coalport. At the stop sign as you come into Coalport, make a right then make an almost

immediate left onto Main Street/Rt. 53. Stay on Main Street to Chestnut Street. The marker is on the left at the corner of Main and Chestnut Streets.

3. William A. Nevling Tavern

Also known as Nevling's Keystone Inn, the tavern is one of the oldest still standing within the county, although it is no longer used as an inn. Located just outside Janesville or Smithsmill, the Nevling Tavern was in operation from about 1849 to the late 1890s; and was once a stage coach stop. In the 19th century, the postal service had several stage coach routes through Clearfield County with coaches stopping at taverns and hotels along the way. One of these routes ran from Tyrone up the Janesville Pike to Smith's Mills and onto Hagerty's Crossroads, Glen Hope, and New Washington twice a week; and was actually the last stage coach route operating in the county when it closed in 1906 with the extension of the New York Central Railroad into Glen Hope. The tavern was built by the Nevling family who came to the area from Huntingdon around 1837, and bought land from the original settler, Amasa Smith, who established the first grist mill on Little Muddy Run. The area around the mill became known as Smith's Mill; and in 1826, he was appointed postmaster of the Smith's Mills Post Office by President John Quincy Adams. The name of the post office was later changed to Smithmill in 1894. When John A. Nevling (1774-1840) settled in the area with his family, the town began to grow and became known as Janesville for his daughter Jane Elizabeth Nevling (1831-1875). Surprisingly, the town is still known as both Smithmill and Janesville. The Tavern is named after John's son, William Aiden Nevling (1826-1883), who might have been responsible for building it. It might also have served as both his home and his business.

Address/Location: Along Veteran's Avenue/Route 729, Janesville

Directions: Take Main Street back toward Irvona. At the stop sign, make a right and then an almost immediate left onto Dorsey Avenue/Rt. 53. Continue on to Irvona and make a right to stay on Dorsey Avenue/Rt. 53. Follow Rt. 53 to Glen Hope and make a left onto Cooper Avenue/Rt. 729 through Beccaria where it will become Veteran's Avenue/Rt. 729 toward Janesville. The marker is located at the crossroads about a mile outside of Janesville (Smithmill).

4. Miner's Strike

In mid-19th century, the population of towns in this area - Houtzdale, Sterling, Osceola Mills, etc. - exploded with the opening of the coal beds and the extension of the railroad. In 1873, there were 6 mines in the region and by 1900, the number had grown to 100 with over 4000 miners working underground daily to produce over 500,000 tons of coal. Clearfield County was 2nd only to Pittsburgh for bituminous coal production in the state. It is no surprise that this sudden economic boom brought problems of its own to the region. As Lewis Aldrich wrote: "It has not been all prosperity, however. The miners did not always work, but created an occasional disturbance by striking." Those disturbances, as he called the Miner's Strikes that occurred in the county throughout the late 1800s, would lead to the start of unionism in the county as well as help start a national movement. The first strike occurred in Jan. 1869 and did not last very long as

wages were soon advanced by 15%. The second strike began on Nov. 15, 1872 and lasted until Feb. 1873. The miners were once again striking for increased wages; but this time some rioting occurred. The tipple of the Sterling Mine was destroyed by fire and four men were shot at the Sterling Railroad Station. The Governor of Pennsylvania commissioned Captain Clark of Osceola to open the Moshannon Collier and bring in 40 Italian scab miners during the 3 months of idle time. The next strike in 1875 would become quite infamous. In May and June of 1875, workers would strike in protest of a reduction in wages, but this time they would not win. As large riots began to take place, Captain Clark led a group from Philadelphia known as the Coal & Iron Police into the area to break the strike and the County Sherriff W.R. McPherson came to Houtzdale to help arrest insurgent miners. Over 50 individuals were arrested for riot and conspiracy at the Goss Run Mine in Woodward Township, leading to the national followed Conspiracy Trial of 1875. The trial took place in October at the Clearfield County Courthouse and indicted Zingo Parks, a minor from Osceola Mills, and John Siney, the president of the Miner's National Association, for leading an insurrection. Siney was acquitted and Parks only served a short time due to fire in his home town of Osceola. There were several more smaller strikes over the years for better wages; but by 1886 the coal workers had organized under the Knights of Labor and a large strike occurred with over 5000 miners walking in a procession in Houtzdale. In 1890, the National Progressive Union and the Knights of Labor put aside their competitiveness and joined together to form a new union. In 1899, local miners joined the newly organized United Mine Workers Union for the purpose of better wages, shorter hours, and better living conditios. By 1900, there were 3,854 paid members locally.

Address/Location: Sterling Road, Sterling

Directions: Continue following Route 729/Veteran's Avenue into Janesville. At stop sign, make a right onto Viola Pike/Route 253 and then make a left onto Prison Highway/Route 153 toward Houtzdale. Continue following Rt. 153 through Ginter where it becomes Morann Avenue. As you come into Houtzdale, Morann Avenue becomes Brisbin Street. Make a right onto Spring Street/Route 53 toward Sterling. At Sterling, turn left onto Sterling Avenue. The marker is at the bridge.

5. Osceola Mills

The first railroad in Clearfield County was laid through Osceola Mills in 1862 as part of the Pennsylvania Railroad line from Tyrone to Clearfield. The PRR sold bonds throughout the 1850s to pay for this line, which carried the first load of coal from Clearfield County Coalfields in 1862. By 1867, it had reached Clearfield and Houtzdale; but the main yard for the Tyrone-Clearfield branch remained at Osceola. The town was also the first in the county to have telephone in 1878. On July 1, 1874, Charles Berwind, the son of an Austrian immigrant from Philadelphia, began Berwind & White Coal Company with Judge Alison White from Lock Haven. Deciding that they wanted to have coal mines as well as sell coal, they began their first mines in the Osceola Mills area where White's son had already opened mines. By 1892, only 2 years after Berwind's death, the company had grown to the 4th largest coal company in the United States, as well as one of the largest in the world with operations in Latin America, West Virginia, and Somerset, PA. They were

the largest producer in Clearfield County with 3 million tons in 1913 alone. In 1897, Windburn became their central PA headquarters with the main office located in Philadelphia. Today, they still have an office in Windburn and continue to be a major coal producer with sales in the billions. Osceola Mills was also the birthplace of the famous 1920s publisher, Horace Liveright who worked with some of the best-selling writers, including William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, Theodore Dreiser, and Sherwood Anderson. Despite all these positive development, the town has also had to face hardships. In 1870, the “Big Mill” burned down taking 4 million feet of sawed lumber, the Moshannon Branch Railroad Station, and approximately half the town. They set about rebuilding the town, completing just in time for the devastating 1875 fire that left approximately 1200 of the borough’s 1500 residents homeless. The fire started in the woods and burned for a few days before spreading to the timber-built town which was entirely consumed within three hours. 271 of the town’s 350 buildings were lost and total damage exceeded one million dollars. Yet, once again the citizens set about rebuilding, this time with big beautiful brick houses. In 1889 the Columbia Fire Company was started by six men and the first fireman’s fair, which would become a town tradition, was held in November of that year.

Address/Location: Curtain Street, Osceola Mills.

Directions: Take Sterling Avenue back to Route 53 and make a left onto Spring Street/Rt. 53 toward Osceola Mills. As you enter Osceola Mills, Rt. 53 becomes Sarah Street. Turn left onto Stone Street to stay on Rt. 53, and then turn left onto Curtain Street/SR 970. The marker is at the park on the corner of Curtain Street and Decatur Alley.

Return to Clearfield:

Take Curtain Street back to Stone Street/Rt. 53 and turn left onto Stone Street. Continue following Rt. 53/Walton Street through Chester Hill to Philipsburg. As you enter Philipsburg, Walton Street becomes Maple Street. Make a left onto Centre Street and follow to the junction with Rt. 322. Make a left onto Railroad Street/Rt. 322. Continue following Rt. 322 on the Philipsburg-Bigler Highway. At the light in Bigler, stay straight and continue following Rt. 322 on the Clearfield-Woodland Highway toward Clearfield. As you come into Clearfield and go under the overpass, Rt. 322 becomes Bigler Avenue. Follow Bigler Avenue down the hill. Make a right onto bridge street. At the jail, make a left onto North Front Street. The Clearfield County Historical Society is on the corner of North Front Street and East Pine Street. Since East Pine is one way, if you want to stop here you will have to go around the block - Front Street to Locust Street to Second Street to Pine Street.

Philipsburg and the Surrounding Areas

Philipsburg Area Markers:

1. Ames Field
2. Kyler Homestead

3. Boggs Township
4. Woodland

1. Ames Field

The earliest airfield in Clearfield County, Ames Field was built on the Walter Mons Farm not far from here and dedicated on Sept. 7, 1929 in memory of airmail pilot Charles H. Ames. On October 1, 1925, Ames's plane never arrived at the Bellefonte airfield in route from New York to Chicago. Search crews were quickly organized with 11 planes and more than 1000 individuals joining the effort, assisted by 5 companies of the PA National Guard. The plane was finally found on October 12 by 15-year-old John McArmitt. Caught in a severe storm, Ames mistook the Nittany Mountain Beacon Light for the Bellefonte airfield and crashed into the mountain, probably dying on impact. By the mid-1930s, the Ames airfield was thriving; and in 1934, it became a flag stop for United Airlines's flights from New York to Cleveland and Philadelphia to Cleveland with 14 passenger flights scheduled daily. Reservations could be made at the airfield or at the Philips Hotel in Philipsburg with flights to New York costing \$15.55 and \$11.85 to Philadelphia. The facility at Ames had a large hanger, a passenger terminal, and radio and telephone communication operations. A navigational beacon was installed in 1924 and lights in the 1930s. A once thriving airfield, stunt flights, aerial parades, plane races and parachute jumps were once held here, delighting crowds numbering in the hundreds and thousands. In June 1941, United Airlines closed its hanger building and abandoned the field because better planes and radio equipment made the stop no longer necessary. 1974 was the last year that a plane was housed here.

Address/Location: Pine Street, Kylertown

Directions: From the Clearfield County Historical Society on East Pine Street, make a left onto Front Street and go around the block, making a left onto Locust Street and another left at the light onto South Second Street. Continue on down South Second Street to Bridge Street and make a right. At 3rd Street, make a left to go up the hill onto Bigler Avenue. Continue following Bigler Avenue under the overpass, and make an immediate right onto Rt. 879 toward I-80. Once you merge onto Rt. 879, continue following until you get to the on ramp for I-80 East. Make a right to merge onto I-80 and follow until you get to the Kylertown Exit. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn left onto the Kylertown-Drifting Highway. Continue following until you come to a stop light, then make a left onto Pine Street. The marker is at the Kylertown cemetery, located a short way down this road on the right side.

2. Kyler Homestead

In 1803, Conrad Kyler, a weaver by trade, came to the area from Bellefonte and settled here with his wife Catherine and eight children. After his death in 1816, his family began to develop the area. Leonard Kyler moved to the area now known as Kylertown and settled there. Abraham Kyler bought the original settlement land with his twin brother Jacob, shortly after his father's death. Later, Abraham bought his brother's interest and built this homestead around 1825. Although the log house has been renovated, it is still thought to possibly be the oldest structure in Clearfield

County. Abraham and his wife Elizabeth Stites cultivated one of the largest farms in Morris Township and lived there until they sold it to Ed Perks. The nearby Perks Cemetery was named for this family, although it is also known as the Kyler Burial Ground. Conrad Kyler (1740-1860) is buried here with his wife Catherine who died on May 12, 1826. Abraham Kyler, who was born on Oct. 22, 1791 and died on Dec. 21, 1872, was also buried here. The two oldest graves in the county are located in the cemetery and belong to Catharine Pearce and Conrad Pierce who died in July 1804 and March 12, 1808, respectively. They were the children of Absolm Pearce and Elizabeth (Betsy) Kyler, the daughter of Conrad Kyler. John Troy, a civil war veteran for whom the nearby village of Troy is named, was also buried in the Perks Cemetery after his death on April 2, 1871.

Address/Location: Troy Hill Road, Morris Township

Directions: Come back down Pine Street to the Kylertown-Drifting Highway/Rt. 53 and make a right. Continue following Rt. 53 toward Philipsburg. Make a left onto the Morrisdale-Allport Highway to remain on Rt. 53. Continue following Rt. 53 through Allport and Morrisdale, where the road becomes the Troy-Hawk Run Highway. As you enter Philipsburg on Rt. 53, make a right at the light onto Troy Hill Road and continue up the hill. This road will turn to dirt after about 4/10 of a mile, but continue following. The marker is on the right side of the road, in front of the Kyler homestead. About another 1/10 of a mile down the road on the right is the Perks Cemetery where the early Kyler family was buried.

3. Boggs Township

Although settled long before it became a township, Boggs Township was organized in 1838 and named for Judge Moses Boggs. Like Bradford Township, Boggs is dry and the sale of alcohol is prohibited. There were two original voting precincts in the township: Stoneville, originally settled by Alexander Stone who owned the land and established a tavern on Old Erie Pike in 1820; and Blue Ball or West Decatur, which was settled by John Frazier who was from Blue Ball, Lancaster County and built an inn in 1853. While Blue Ball is the name of the village, the Post Office is called West Decatur because you can not have two towns with the same name in one state. Other early settlers include: George Shimmel who began improvements near current area of Wallaceton in 1810; Abraham Hess, from York County, who settled on the east side of Clearfield Creek in 1813; Samuel Turner who killed a panther while making a clearing in 1813; Abraham Litz who settled on the banks of Clearfield Creek in 1813; George Wilson who began a farm along Clearfield Creek and built a saw mill in 1814; William Lamadue, who built a tavern on the pike and was the first supervisor of the township; and Jerry Smeal who built the saw mill at Blue Ball in 1838. Two of the oldest structures in the county reside in Boggs Township. The Salem Church was built in 1848, although meetings were held long before that, and had a pot-bellied stove in the center aisle to provide heat for the building. A small fire damaged parts of the church on Jan. 13, 1924, but the congregation used it as an opportunity to expand - making repairs, building a porch, and adding a bell tower in 1924. The Sunday school wing was later added in 1984. Next to the church an honor roll was erected to remember those who fought in the World Wars. Behind the church is the Mason-Waple Log House which was built in 1878.

Address/Location: Salem Road, West Decatur

Directions: Come back down Troy Hill Road to the light at Rt. 53 and make a right. Continue following to the end of the road and make a right onto Front Street/US Rt. 322. This becomes the Philipsburg-Bigler Highway. Continue following Rt. 322 until you get to the junction of US Rt. 322 and State Rt. 2029 at the sign for the Central Intermediate Unit. Make a left on the Wallaceton-Bigler Highway. There is an almost immediate “Y” in the road. Take the road to the left which is Link Road and continue following to Twoey Hollow Rd/Salem Road intersection. Make a right ton Salem Road and the marker will be a short distance down the road on the left at the Salem Church.

4. Woodland

From 1880 to 1960, Clearfield County was the number one brick producer in the world. At its peak in 1916, there were 22 plants producing 1 million bricks per day. The first commercial brickworks in the county was in Woodland. In 1867, Isaac and Benjamin Reese built the No. 1 Hope Works with partners Thomas Hamend and John McMath. In 1870, the Woodland Fire Brick Company was also built there. In 1875, the two companies consolidated under one name – the Woodland Fire Brick Company, Ltd. In 1876, a fire destroyed much of Woodland, including the Hope Fire Brick Works, but the plant was quickly rebuilt. As the brickworks started to grow, so too did the coal and clay mines. The clay in the area produced superior quality fire bricks, also known as refractory bricks, which withstand higher temperature and are used extensively in the steel industry. This soon caught the attention of the Harbison-Walker Company from Pittsburgh, who purchased the Woodland plants in 1884. The company quickly expanded production with over 7 plants in the county. In 1872, the production of the two Woodland plants was 8,000 bricks per month, and by 1884 they had increased production to 25,000 bricks per month. By 1887, Harbison-Walker was able to produce 9 million bricks a year or 800,000 bricks per month within Clearfield County. In 1899, they continued to expand production by building the Clearfield Plant in East End for \$125,000. It was the largest plant in the world at the time and could produce 16,000 bricks a day. In 1983, Harbison-Walker closed its last plant as the demand for refractory bricks had severely declined. In 2000, however, there were still two refractories operating within the county – Williamsgrove Clay Products in nearby Bigler which opened in 1902 and Swank’s in Irvona.

Address/Location: Shawville Highway, Woodland.

Directions: At the church, make a right onto Salem Road and come back toward Link Road. Make a left onto Link Road and continue following to Rt. 322/Philipsburg-Bigler Highway. Make a left onto Rt. 322 and continue on through Bigler to the light at Woodland. Make a left onto Shawville Highway and follow it down the hill. The marker is across from the stop sign on the left side of the road, just before the railroad tracks.

Return to Clearfield:

Go back up the hill to the light and make a right onto Rt. 322 toward Clearfield. Continue following the Clearfield-Woodland Highway/Rt. 322 into Clearfield. Go under the overpass and stay on Rt. 322 as it becomes Bigler Avenue. Follow Bigler Avenue down the hill and make a right onto Bridge Street. At the light, make a left onto North Front Street and the Clearfield County Historical Society will be on the corner of East Pine Street. This street is one way so you must go around the block if you want to stop here, making a left onto Locust street, another left onto South Second Street, and a final left onto East Pine Street. The Historical Society is on the right.

Karthaus and Surrounding Areas**Karthaus Area Markers:**

1. Frenchville
2. Karthaus Furnace
3. Miller's Landing

1. Frenchville

In 1832, 35 from 12 families moved to the area from France and a small pocket of French language and culture emerged. The parcel of land in Covington Township that became Frenchville was given to a Paris merchant to settle a debt; and he was able to convince several families to emigrate there. By 1840, there were 40 families living in the small town. Until the 1940s, French was still spoken fluently in many homes; yet, interestingly, it was not the French of modern France, rather it was the language of 1840s France. By the 1940s, new emphasis was placed on speaking English and children were punished for speaking French in school. By the 1970s, the last pure French speaker had died. The predominantly catholic population that settled the area built St. Mary's of the Assumption Catholic Church in 1840. The growing congregation quickly outgrew the log structure; and plans to build a new church were made. The French villagers worked together to build a new stone church in 1870; and the famous Frenchville Picnic began in August as a fundraiser to celebrate the opening of the new St. Mary's Church. One of the oldest traditions in the county, the picnic is still held every summer with music, games, entertainment, and a market.

Address/Location: 64 St. Mary's Lane, Frenchville

Directions: From the Clearfield County Historical Society on East Pine Street, make a left onto Front Street and go around the block, making a left onto Locust Street and another left at the light onto South Second Street. Continue on down South Second Street to Bridge Street and make a right. At 3rd Street, make a left to go up the hill onto Bigler Avenue. Continue following Bigler Avenue under the overpass, and make an immediate right onto Rt. 879 toward I-80. Go under the I-80 Bridges and continue following Rt. 879 toward Shawville on the Shawville-Croft Highway. Stay on Rt. 879 through Shawville toward Frenchville on the Shawville-Frenchville Highway. As you come to Frenchville, make a left onto Frenchville Road. Continue down this road and the marker will on the left side of the road at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Frenchville Road is small

and horseshoe shaped, so if you miss the first turn do not worry. Continue on Rt. 879 and make at left onto it from the other end.

2. Karthaus Furnace

Peter Arnold Karthaus, Sr. came to the area with his son in 1815; and the discovery of bog ore near the head of Buttermilk Falls, about 4 miles downriver from Karthaus, prompted him to build a stone iron furnace in 1817. With his partner Frederick W. Geisenheimer, Peter Karthaus built roads, cleared the river, and hauled ore in flat boats and canoes to the furnace where iron was extracted. A foundry was built next to the furnace for the manufacturing of ironware, stoves, and other articles to sell at market. The original furnace prospered until 1922 and produced more than 1000 tons of iron. In 1823, several arks and boats carrying pig iron to Harrisburg were lost, and furnace began to decline. In 1836, Peter Karthaus Jr. worked with Captain Peter Ritner and John Say to rebuild and enlarge the furnace. The new furnace produced a superior grade of iron and from 1837-1839, approximately 200 tons of pig ore was smelted per year. By 1839, it was the first iron furnace made of stone to use coke instead of charcoal for fuel. By the end of 1839, however, the expense of transportation to the distant market and the danger of river travel had become too great. When plans for a canal to aid in transportation fell through, the Karthaus Iron Furnace Company officially stopped production and the fires were drawn for the last time on December 30, 1839. Large amounts of money and effort were expended in the 1960s to restore the Karthaus Furnace, but a rain storm in 1970 caused it to collapse. Although it is still visible today, the years have taken their toll with continued deterioration of this noteworthy symbol of a bygone time.

Address/Location: Market Street, Karthaus

Directions: From St. Mary's Church, continue down Frenchville Road to the main road. Turn left onto the Frenchville-Karthaus Highway/Rt. 879. Continue following Rt. 879 toward Karthaus. Make a right onto Market Street to stay on Rt. 879 as you come into Karthaus. The marker is at the park which will be on your right, before Smith Street. If you continue down Market Street, as the road curves, the furnace is down over the embankment. It can only partially be seen in the trees.

3. Miller's Landing

In 1869, Lewis Miller built a hotel on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, not far from its confluence with the Red Moshannon Creek, at the site of a historic crossing. Native Americans had long crossed this section of river as part of the Great Shamokin Trail. With thousands of rafts traveling down the West Branch, many hotels and taverns, such as the Miller Hotel and the Ring Rock Hotel, were situated along the river. The Miller's two-story structure had 15 rooms and housed many raftsmen over the years. The hotel burned down in 1952. Miller's youngest daughter Grace was living there at the time of the fire and was burning tires in a pot belly stove. In 1900, a ferry began running from Miller's Landing, across the river, to the hotel. It allowed people from Grassflat, Drifing, Lanse, and Cooper Settlement to bring their wagons from the other side of the

river to the grist mill at Karthaus. The ferry stayed in operation until the 1920s or 1930s. A ring rock where rafts and boats tied up can still be seen at the historic Miller's Landing.

Address/Location: Tunnel Road, Karthaus Township

Directions: Continue on Market Street/Rt. 879 to the bridge. Just before the bridge, turn right onto Tunnel Road at the tavern. The marker is just down this road along the river. The actual landing is across the river. To get there, go across the bridge and continue up the hill. Near the top of the hill, there will be a small road to the right with a DCNR sign. Turn right and follow that small road down the hill to the landing at the bottom where there is a parking lot and picnic tables.

Return to Clearfield:

From either the landing or the marker, return to the bridge and continue back to Karthaus on Market Street/Rt. 879. Follow Rt. 879 through Karthaus and turn left onto the Frenchville-Karthaus Highway to stay on Rt. 879. Continue following through Frenchville and Shawville to Clearfield. Pass under the I-80 bridges and continue following. When you get to the Bigler Avenue Overpass, exit right down the hill and turn right onto Bigler Avenue. Follow Bigler Avenue down the hill and make a right onto Bridge Street. At the light, make a left onto North Front Street and the Clearfield County Historical Society will be on the corner of East Pine Street. This street is one way so you must go around the block if you want to stop here, making a left onto Locust street, another left onto South Second Street, and a final left onto East Pine Street. The Historical Society is on the right.

DuBois and Surrounding Areas

DuBois Area Markers:

1. Richard H. Burfoot
2. The Big Spring
3. DuBois
4. George Rosenkrans
5. Philip P. Bliss

1. Richard H. Burfoot

Born in England in 1866, Richard Henry Burfoot came to America at the age of 21 and settled in Pittsburgh. Both artistically and musically talented, Burfoot's first job was working as an assistant scenic artist under Arthur Palmer at the Old Grand Opera House; and in less than a week, he was also the first violinist there. A year later, he resigned as violinist and joined the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. He opened his own studio in Pittsburgh where he taught large painting classes and painted numerous portraits and landscape scenes. Soon he had studios in Pittsburgh, Washington DC, New York City, and Dubois, as well as art exhibitions in every major city in the East. He became known as a great landscape and portrait artist, and painted noted figures such as

President William McKinley, Lieutenant Governor C.W. Stone, Secretary Lyman A. Gage, and Businessman John E. DuBois. Throughout his career, he traveled throughout most of the United States and much of the world, painting scenes along the way. In 1895, due to health problems, he left the city and came to Dubois where he met his wife Edith Trezise. They settled on Rt. 219 in Luthersburg and had two sons. Burfoot built a studio in the yard of his home from which he often painted. Unfortunately, it was torn down years ago. Mrs. Burfoot had a fruit stand in front of the house from which she sold raspberries, strawberries, and apples. After he settled here, Burfoot spent much time painting the scenic landscapes of Clearfield County. One of his most famous pieces is called “Green Glen Drive.” Some of his artwork can be found at the Clearfield County Courthouse, the Shaw Public Library, the Dubois Area Historical Society, and the Clearfield County Historical Society. Richard Burfoot died on March 16, 1939 and is buried in the Morningside Cemetery in DuBois.

Address/Location: Cream Hill Road, Luthersburg

Directions: : From the Clearfield County Historical Society on East Pine Street, make a left onto Front Street and go around the block, making a left onto Locust Street and another left at the light onto South Second Street. Continue on down South Second Street to Bridge Street and make a left onto Nichols Street to cross the Bridge. At the light, make a right onto West Front Street. Continue following this road as it becomes the Rockton Mountain Highway/Rt. 322/Rt. 153. At the top of the mountain, make a left to stay on Rt. 322/Rockton Mountain Highway. Follow this into the town of Rockton. At the “Y” in the road, bear left to stay on Rt. 322/Luthersburg-Rockton Road and continue following into Luthersburg. At the stop sign, make a sharp left onto Cream Hill Road/Rt. 219. Follow 219 about 5/10 of a mile and the marker will be on the right side of the road.

2. The Big Spring

The first trails through the area were made and used by natives. The Old State Road of 1796 was no exception, following the Great Shamokin Path from Sunbury to Kittanning. In March 1814, during the War of 1812, Major McClelland marched his troops through this area along the Old State Road on his way to Ft. LeBouef. They camped for a night at Big Spring, a “parting of the ways” for two major Indian trails: the Great Shamokin Path that went southwest to Kittanning, and Mead’s Path northwest to Venango. Today, the highway diverges slightly from the Indian path, running parallel to the latter, about a ¼ north of it, from Chestnut Grove to Big Spring. In 1824, Frederic Zeigler came to Big Spring from York County and settled on the Old State Road. This place was later called the Thompson’s place.

Address/Location: Shamokin Trail, Luthersburg

Directions: From Cream Hill Road, come back town the hill into Luthersburg. At the stop sign, go straight onto Rt. 322 for a short distance. At the “Y” in the road, bear left onto Shamokin Trail/Rt. 410. The marker is about 3/10 of a mile down this road on the left.

3. DuBois

Although John DuBois (1809-1886) is credited as the founder of Dubois, the area was settled as early as 1812 when George Shaffer, a 55 year-old Revolutionary War Veteran, moved there from Dauphin. In 1865, John Rumbarger settled the west side of town; and it was named Rumbarger for him in 1872. In 1871, John DuBois came to the area, having visited years before in 1842. At age 63, the lumberman and inventor with several patents to his name did not want to retire. (He invented the log slide when he first began his lumber business, said to be the first one used in the US.) He settled on the east side of town and built two lumber mills - one in 1872 and one in 1873, the largest in the state. He employed more than 600 men and expanded the business to include a box factory in 1881 and a Hemlock mill in 1884. His 1873 mill was 250 feet long, 80 feet wide and was able to produce 120,000 board feet, 60,000 shingles, 40,000 lath, and 10,000 pickets per day. The area soon began to grow as more industry developed and the railroad came in 1874. John DuBois opened DuBois Iron Works in 1875, which included a pattern shop, foundry shop, and blacksmith shop. A large tannery was built by the Van Tassel brothers with financial help of DuBois; but by 1898, the partnership had dissolved and the tannery closed in 1906. The DuBois Brewery Company was built in 1896 by Frank Hahn Sr. and operated for more than 70 years until its close in 1972. Its beer products were sold world wide and even stayed open during prohibition by producing non-alcoholic beer and ginger-ale. The town of DuBois was incorporated in 1881 and became the only city in the county on Jan. 3, 1916. John DuBois died on May 5, 1886 and a Hope Statue was placed on his burial place above the Penn State DuBois Campus. A lifelong bachelor, he left his fortune to his nephew John E. DuBois who continued to develop the town - donating a piece of land on Liberty Boulevard for a public park. John E. bought more timberlands throughout the country and the DuBois mills were closed by June 14, 1904.

Address/Location: 5522 Shaffer Road, DuBois

Directions: Come back down Shamokin Trail to Rt. 322 and make a sharp left onto it, heading toward DuBois. Follow Rt. 322/Carson Hill Road to the stop light. Make a right at the light onto Rt. 119 toward Dubois. This becomes South Brady Street/Rt. 219. Continue following Brady Street into DuBois. This will become Liberty Boulevard, continue following. At the end of the road, make a right onto E. DuBois Avenue. Next, make a right onto Shaffer Road. The marker will be on the left side of the road, at the DuBois Mall.

4. George Rosenkrans

Although he never traveled far from his hometown of Penfield where he lived for 60 years, George Rosenkrans became a world renowned band composer and musician. The son of Allen and Edith Rosenkrans of Penfield, he was born on January 17, 1881 and graduated from Penfield High School in 1898. A self-taught musician, Rosenkrans created many well known band pieces and patriotic marches, such as "Our Glorious Flag," "All Honor to Old Glory," and "Liberty Trumpet." He played organ at the Methodist Church in Penfield and even published a book of hymns and organ music with New York Publisher George Molineux. He also wrote pieces for the Grampian band and would attend their practices and performance to see his pieces played the way

they was meant to be. In 1904, he composed the Centennial March for Clearfield County, titled "The Grampian Band." Over the years, his music was performed at the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson, as well as the funeral services of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Konrad Adenauer, Winston Churchill, King George VI, and John F. Kennedy. Many of his pieces were also adopted by the Navy. In the 1970s, the National Music Educators even listed him as the one of the world's top ten most important composers. Sadly, as the demand for band music diminished, Rosenkrans struggled financially. He died almost penniless at the home of his nephew in Butler, PA on August 18, 1955; and is buried at the Penfield Cemetery.

Address/Location: Bennetts Valley Highway, Penfield

Directions: From the DuBois Mall, make a right onto Shaffer Road. At the stop light, make a right onto DuBois Avenue/Bee Line Highway/Rt. 255. Continue following out of DuBois toward Penfield. When you come to a "Y" in the road, bear right to stay on Rt. 255. Continue following Rt. 255/Bennetts Valley Highway to Penfield. At the junction of Rt. 255 and Rt. 153, there is a stop light. Go straight to stay on Rt. 255. The marker is just down this road on the right side, in front of the Methodist Church.

5. Philip P. Bliss

Born on July 9, 1838 in Huston Township, Philip Paul Bliss would be known as an illustrious singing evangelist and gospel song writer during his short career. He is credited with writing 56 hymns, most of them from 1864 to 1876. Some of his most famous songs include: "I am so Glad," "Wonderful Words of Light," "Free from the Law," "Daniel's Band," and "It is well with My Soul." In 1870, Bliss wrote his most popular song, "Hold the Fort," based on the events of a civil war battle near Atlanta, Georgia in October 1864. In addition to song writing, he also was an editor of hymnals, the director of music for Chicago's first Congregational Church, and a highly sought after evangelist and gospel singer. He was married on June 1, 1859 to Lucy Young and had two children. The young couple were killed on December 29, 1876 when their train crashed near Ashtabula, OH. Bliss was only 38 years old. It is thought that in his short life he earned about \$30,000 in royalties, much of which he is believed to have given to charity. After his death, Bliss was fondly remembered by contemporary composer George Frederick Root when he wrote, "I am writing of the beloved and lamented P. P. Bliss... It was indeed stirring when Mr. Bliss's magnificent voice gave it forth, for it then came from a heart and soul in deepest sympathy with the work to which he ultimately devoted himself-the writing and singing of gospel songs."

Address/Location: 14892 Bennetts Valley Highway, Penfield

Directions: Continue on Rt. 255/Bennetts Valley Highway. About 2 miles down the road, the marker will be on the right side, just after Georgino Industrial Supply.

Return to Clearfield:

Come back Rt. 255/Bennetts Valley Highway to Penfield. At the light, make a left onto Rt. 153/State Park Road toward Clearfield. Continue following past the I-80 exits. Rt. 153 will become Rt. 322/Rockton Mountain Highway. Continue following into Clearfield. In Clearfield this road will become West Front Street. At the light, make a left onto Nichols Street and go across the bridge. Make an immediate right onto North Front Street and the Clearfield County Historical Society will be on the corner of East Pine Street. This street is one way so you must go around the block if you want to stop here, making a left onto Locust street, another left onto South Second Street, and a final left onto East Pine Street. The Historical Society is on the right.

List of Historical Markers and Text

Clearfield and Surrounding Areas

1. Clearfield County

“Clearfield County, formed March 26, 1804, was named for clear fields found by early travelers. The first courthouse, in use for 46 years was build circa 1814. The cornerstone for the present courthouse was laid June 4, 1860, and finished in 1862 during the Civil War. It was constructed on the same site using materials from the first courthouse. As the oldest public building in Clearfield and the center of all county government business, it is an important historic structure. Listed April 1979 on the National Registry of Historic Places.”

**Erected in 2001 by the Downtown Business District Authority and the Clearfield County Commissioners*

2. Old Town Historic District

“Entering Old Town Historic District, 4 Blocks of Victorian Homes 1860-1890. National Register of Historic Places. Clearfield Heritage Foundation.”

**Erected by the Clearfield Heritage Foundation.*

3. Senator William I. Betts

“Former site of the home of Senator Betts (1870-1946) and his wife, Isabella Holt Murray, (1875-1939). Senator Betts served in the State Senate from 1923-1926. He and his father, William W.

Betts, were one of the first fathers and sons from the same town to serve in the Pennsylvania State Senate.”

**Erected in 2004 by the Clearfield Heritage Foundation*

4. Daniel Ogden (1734-1819)

“A Revolutionary War Lieutenant from New York State, Daniel Ogden came to the Indian village of Chinklacamoose and its clear fields in 1797. He made friends with the Indians who helped him build a house near where Ogden Avenue now intersects Second Street. Daniel and his wife H. Eleanor Schoutien were the parents of nine children. Their descendants live in Clearfield and throughout the United States. Historian Thomas Lincoln Wall wrote: “Daniel Ogden was far and away the most valuable one to come to the county prior to 1800.” Daniel Ogden is recognized as the first white settler in Clearfield.”

**Erected in 2002 by descendants of Daniel Ogden*

5. The Murray House

“The adjacent house, built in 1880, was the home of Thomas H. Murray (1845-1916) and his wife Jennie Reighard (1847-1907). Mr. Murray was a well known lawyer, public speaker and churchman who did much to establish land and title work throughout Pennsylvania and the nation. Listed on the National Registry of Historic Places”

**Erected in 2002 by the Clearfield Heritage Foundation*

6. First Clearfield County Jail

“The first county jail, c1820-1841 was a log structure, one of the oldest buildings in town. The jail is contained in the dwelling at 105 S. Second St. The second jail, 1841-1872, was a stone structure built on Market St., directly behind the courthouse. The county’s first hanging occurred there. The third jail, a large, walled, stone prison, was built at the north end of Second St., 1872-1983.”

** Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

7. Kurtz Field

“Clearfield Little League Baseball was chartered and first played on this field in 1949. On December 3, 1952, Chas. T. Kurtz, Kurtz Bros. and the Kurtz Family gave this field to the Clearfield Little League Baseball Association for a permanent home for Clearfield Little League Baseball.”

**Erected in 2004 by the Clearfield Heritage Foundation*

8. Hillcrest Cemetery

“Founded in 1881 it is the burial place of Gov. William Bigler, banker Ai F. Boynton, Dr. Dorothea McClure Gilmore, State Treasurer F.G. Harris, Hon. James Kerr, first county resident elected judge David Krebs, last WWI vet Alfred Livergood, Alfred M. Liveright, Esq., Thomas Holt Murray, Esq., Senator William Wallace and businessmen Porter Zentmyer and A.W. Lee. First burial, Dr. Henry Shope.”

**Erected in 2004 for Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

9. Clearfield County Courthouse

“Clearfield County, formed March 26, 1804, was named for clear fields found by early travelers. The first courthouse, in use for 46 years was build circa 1814. The cornerstone for the present courthouse was laid June 4, 1860, and finished in 1862 during the Civil War. It was constructed on the same site using materials from the first courthouse. As the oldest public building in Clearfield and the center of all county government business, it is an important historic structure. Listed April 1979 on the National Registry of Historic Places”

**Erected in 2001 by the Downtown Business District Authority and the Clearfield County Commissioners*

10. William Bigler (1814-1880)

“State Senator, 1841-1847; Governor of Pennsylvania, 1852-1855; and U.S. Senator, 1856-1861. Opposed slavery; favored a Southern compromise to avoid the Civil War. His brother, John, was elected Governor of California, 1852. Resided here.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

11. Kurtz Bros. Building

“This site and the adjacent building was the first permanent location of Kurtz Bros. and Kurtz Stationery Store, founded in 1894 by Chas. T. Kurtz. The building was designed in 1901 by Washington, D.C., Architect Louis Frederick Stutz.”

**Erected in 2004 by the Clearfield Heritage Foundation*

12. Senator William W. Betts

This site was the home of Senator Betts (1838-1896) and his wife, Margaret Irvin, (1839-1910) of Curwensville. Senator Betts was the son of Rev. Frederick Gregory Betts. He and his son, William Irvin Betts, were one of the first fathers and sons from the same town to serve in the Pennsylvania State Senate. Senator Betts served from 1887-1890.

**Erected in 2004 by the Clearfield Heritage Foundation*

13. Presbyterian Church

“This is the site of the first wooden Presbyterian Church in Clearfield, built in 1841 during the pastorate of Rev. Frederick Gregory Betts. Rev. Betts was a noted “circuit riding” preacher who traveled the county and was well known in central Pennsylvania for his sermons on temperance. The present church was completed in 1869.”

**Erected in 2002 by the Clearfield Heritage Foundation*

14. The Bigler House

“This property was deeded in 1825 by Abraham Witmer to A.B. Reed, a descendant of an early Clearfield settler, making it one of the county’s earliest recorded property transactions. According to an early map of the borough, the lot was owned by William Bigler who served as governor of Pennsylvania 1852-1855, and US senator 1856-1861, to date, the only Clearfield County resident to serve as governor of Pennsylvania. The present building was constructed in the 1880s by Governor Bigler’s son William Dock Bigler.”

**Erected in 2002 by Johnston Nelson & Shimmel LLP*

15. Kurtz Bros.

“In 1894, Chas. T. Kurtz (1874-1956) started Kurtz Bros. He bought this site, the former Clearfield Fire Brick Co., in 1910 for his school supply and printing business. Headquartered in Clearfield, the company greatly expanded and has operated more than 100 years under the Kurtz family. It is known across the U.S. The Kurtz family philanthropy in the community has continued through the years.”

**Erected in 2004 by the Clearfield Heritage Foundation*

16. Zenas Leonard (1809-1857)

“Clearfield native and fur trader, Leonard was second in command of the Joseph Reddeford Walker Expedition from 1831-1834 to find a route to the Pacific Ocean through the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Leonard served as the expedition's clerk and chronicler, recording the first non-native American encounter of giant sequoia trees. In 1839 Leonard published his account of the expedition, recognized for its detailed descriptions.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

17. French and Indian War Expedition

“In 1756 a British exploratory force led by Captain John Hambright ventured up the West Branch of the Susquehanna River to Cinklacamoose near this site. They were on a mission to search for French forces and their Indian allies who were raiding British settlements to the East. This British force found only the abandoned burned village whereupon they returned east to Fort Augusta.”

**Erected by Clearfield County Historical Society.*

18. Chinklacamoose

“Name of the Indian village located here, and visited by C.F. Post while traveling to an Indian council at Kuskuski in 1758. The later Clearfield is said to get its name from clearings made by grazing bison along nearby creeks.”

**Erected by Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.*

19. Trout Stocking

“1968 - the Old Town Sportsman Association started trout stocking
1975 - the Old Town Sportsman Association started its annual fishing derby
1999 - the PA Fish and Boat Commission started stocking trout as part of its annual stocking program
2005 - the PA Fish and Boat Commission classified this point at the Hyde Bridge downriver through downtown Clearfield as the only approved trout water on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River”

**Erected in 2005 by: Bob's Army & Navy Store, Grice Gun Shop, & Jim's Sports Center
Coordinated by Pat Domico.*

20. Civil War Resistance

“Recruitment officer Col. Cyrus Butler was shot and killed by local draft resister Joseph Lounsberry in October 1864 just west of this location. Afterwards, the government sent troops to the county and arrested over 150 men. This included the Bloody Knox incident when another soldier and deserter were killed.”

**Erected in 2004 for Clearfield County Bicentennial*

Curwensville and the Surrounding Areas

1. Hogback Bridge

“A single-span Pennsylvania (Petit) through-truss bridge crossed the west branch of the Susquehanna River here from 1893 to 1989. Replacing a wooden structure destroyed by fire, it took its name from nearby geographic features. This 215 foot pin-connected steel bridge was built

by the King Bridge Company with stone abutments by J.A. Dunkle.”

**Erected by Department of Transportation.*

2. Dimeling Bridge

“An Indian path, the 1796 State Road and the Erie Pike crossed Clearfield Creek here. Nearby, Ardery’s Sawmill and Elder’s Woolen Mill were among the first in the county. In 1857, armed rafters drove floaters of logs from the creek. Rafting continued until 1895. The Clearfield Bridge Post Office (est. 1824) served the area. C.1903 the Clearfield Southern RR established Dimeling Station, named for an area lumbering family.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

3. Bicentennial Raft

“On March 13, 2004 an authentic timber raft 28 ft. X 110 ft. launched from this point for a 26-mile journey through the county to below Shawville. The raft, including a cabin, was built by over 100 volunteers using logs supplied by Robbins Lumber, Olanta. Richard Hughes and Gary Gilmore piloted raft.”

**Erected in 2004 for Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

4. Arnold Nawrocki

“While working for the Clearfield Cheese Co. on nearby Meadow St., he invented the first commercially successful process for individually wrapped cheese slices. A patent was issued in 1956. An engineer, Nawrocki secured eleven food processing patents over his career.”

**Erected in 2007 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.*

5. McClure Cemetery

“Revolutionary Soldiers: Arthur Bell, John Bell, William Bloom Sr., James McCracken, Thomas McClure, Mark Jordan, Nicholas Straw”

**Erected in 2004 for Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

6. Curwensville Dam

“Begun in 1962 as one of four dams built to protect the West Branch Basin from flooding, it was completed November 1965. Unlike the devastating floods in 1889 & 1936, Pennsylvania’s worst flood in 1972 was less severe in Clearfield County. The unprotected North Branch saw 40-foot flooding.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

7. Bloody Knox

“On December 13, 1864, Co. C 16th VRC of the Union Army surrounded the Barnett log house at this site and requested the surrender of deserters and draft dodgers. Deserter Tom Adams fired and killed Union Soldier Edgar Reed of New Hampshire. Adams was killed by soldiers and is buried at St. Aloysius. Reed is buried in Philipsburg.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

8. The Bell Site Dig

“From 1979-1985, Harry Matlack discovered 126 Late Woodland Indian graves with encampments dating from 1500 to 1650 at the old Grier Bell Farm near here. This site was a three-component village, home for at least three different groups, each building on the ruins of the preceding one. The first white child born in the county, Grier Bell (1799-1882) is buried on the family farm at the dig site.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

Mahaffey and the Surrounding Areas

1. Grampian

“Originally called Pennville, the Grampian Hills P.O. served the area (1833-1892) when it became Grampian. The first county rural mail delivery started here in 1900, carrier E.A. Spencer. In the 1820s Quaker pioneers built a log meeting house at the Friends Cemetery site. Grampian native Nora Waln (1895-1964), famous novelist and WWII correspondent, was named Distinguished Daughter of PA.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

2. A.W. Tozer

“One of the most significant evangelical Christian authors of the 20th century, Tozer was born a few miles south of here in LaJose (Newburg). A pastor with The Christian and Missionary Alliance and a nationally recognized theologian, lecturer and writer, he was the featured speaker here at the Mahaffey Camp Summer Bible Conference in the 1940s and 1950s. Over 3 million copies of his more than 40 books are in print throughout the world.”

**Erected in 2007 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.*

3. McGee's Mills Covered Bridge

"Only remaining covered bridge over any branch of the Susquehanna River. Thomas McGee built this single-span Burr arch truss bridge in 1873 for \$175 using hand hewed white pine timbers from the area. It was the last covered Bridge built in Clearfield County. Thousands of rafts floated under the bridge including the last raft in 1938. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Renovated in 1994 after collapse from snow damage."

**Erected by the Mahaffey Area Heritage Society.*

4. Last Raft

"From the 1840's until c1912, thousands of county rafts floated billions of board feet of timber to sawmills in Lock Haven, Williamsport and Marietta. On March 14, 1938, a reenactment "Last Raft" left a traditional assembly point at Charlie McGee's Landing near here, bound for Harrisburg. On March 20 the raft struck a Muncy bridge pier and 7 lives were lost including Raftsman Harry Conner."

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

5. George Atcheson (1787-1877)

"Abolitionist and Underground Railway Operator. In 1820 Atcheson settled on Susquehanna's West Branch, upstream from this point. 1845 he built 2 large houses connected at different levels, secreting an area to hide slaves. Spiriting slaves from the Mason Dixon Line to Canada became a dangerous endeavor after the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law. c1856 he aided the Free Soilers to make Kansas a Free State."

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

6. John Ludwig Snyder

"A German native, Snyder came to PA in 1758, to this county c1820. Serving 6 years, he fought under George Washington and Gen. Wayne at Trenton, Brandywine, Germantown, Paoli and wintered at Valley Forge. He was a friend of Marquis de Lafayette and was with him at the Yorktown surrender. In 1832 he traveled to France for Gen. Lamarque's funeral. Lafayette gave the eulogy. ("Les Miserables")"

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

Madera and the Surrounding Areas

1. Alexander's Cemetery

"On July 1, 1784 Revolutionary War Soldier James Alexander (1726-1791) received a warrant for this ground. In 1809 his son William Brown Alexander (1782-1862) settled here, and the area became known as Alexander's Fording. His will, dated April 25, 1851, bequeathed section 8 as a public burial ground."

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

2. Coalport

"The Reilly Post Office served the area until 1883 when the borough was incorporated and the name changed. Growth came with the arrival of the Bell's Gap Railroad in 1883 which opened the area to coal mining. The once bustling town had theatres, sawmills, hotels, an opera house, a newspaper, company stores and a tippie downtown. On August 15, 1928 an explosion in Blain City killed 13 miners."

** Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

3. William A. Nevling Tavern

"Nevling's Keystone Inn (c1849-1890s) is located on the old Wilderness Trail between Tyrone and Grampian. In May 1861 Col. Irvin passed by here with the Bucktails enroute to Tyrone during the Civil War. This was the last stage route in the county c1906. Nearby Janesville is named for Jane Nevling. Smith's Mill P.O., est. 1826, was named for early settler and gristmill owner Amasa Smith."

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

4. Miner's Strikes

"In 1869, 1872 and 1875 the first major coal strikes spread to this area. In 1872 four men were shot at the Sterling RR Station. This strike started unionism in the county. The 1875 strike resulted in over 50 arrests for riot and conspiracy at Goss Run, Woodward Twp. Union leaders Xingo Parks' and John Siney's famous trial in Clearfield drew national attention. Local miners joined the Knights of Labor then the United Mine Workers."

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

5. Osceola Mills

"The first town in the county to receive a railroad in 1862 and the telephone in 1878. In 1874 Berwind-White, the 4th largest coal company in the world, was founded here. The 1875 fire made

homeless over 1200 of 1500 residents. Birthplace of Publisher Horace Liveright in 1886. On the route of the Lakes to Sea Highway in 1923. Revolutionary War Patriot Elizabeth Goss is buried at Stumptown.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

Philipsburg and the Surrounding Areas

1. Ames Field

“Named for airmail pilot Charles Ames who died flying in 1925, the county’s first airfield began as an emergency stop on the transcontinental airmail route from New York - San Francisco which started in 1918. In 1924 a navigational beacon was installed. United Air Lines began commercial service in 1934. A school and weather station were in operation. The field became obsolete by the 1940’s.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

2. Kyler Homestead

“Located on the 1796 State Road that followed the Indian path; Conrad Kyler settled here in 1803. Abe Kyler occupied the log house c. 1820 until he sold to Ed Perks. The adjacent Kyler burial ground (Perks Cemetery) has the oldest marked graves in county, Catharine Pearce 1804 and her brother Conrad 1808.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

3. Boggs Township

“Residents’ names when the township was formed in 1838 included: Adams, Beers, Benehoofs, Bushes, Gearharts, Gosses, Grays, Haneys, Hesses, Hummels, Kepharts, Litzes, Lumadues, Millers, Peters, Shaws, Shimmels, Smeals, Stones, Turners, Williams, Wilsons and Wisors. Built along the 1796 State Road that followed the Indian path, the Salem Church (1848) and the Waple log house are among the county’s oldest structures.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

4. Woodland

“The first major commercial brickworks in the county (Woodland Fire Brick, 1870, and Hope Fire Brick, 1872) were located here and consolidated into Woodland Fire Brick Co. Ltd. in 1875. In 1884 it was sold to Harbison & Walker Co. of Pittsburgh, which eventually had seven brickyards in Clearfield County; the one in Clearfield (1899-1983) was at one time the largest in the world.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

Karthaus and Surrounding Areas

1. Frenchville

“French immigrants settled the area in 1832. A pure strain of the French language was spoken here until the 1960’s. Since St. Mary’s Catholic Church was built in 1870, it has been the site of the annual Frenchville Picnic. The first white burial in the county (1771) was French seaman Tohas Auxe, who died enroute from Canada to New Orleans. The stone was discovered on a local farm in 1896.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

2. Karthaus Furnace

“Near here stood the iron furnace erected 1817 by Peter Karthaus. Rebuilt 1836 by Peter Ritner and John Say, it became in 1839 one of the earliest to use coke in place of charcoal. Abandoned at the end of the same year.”

**Erected by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.*

3. Miller’s Landing

“From the 1840’s until c1912, thousands of county rafts floated billions of board feet of timber to sawmills in Lock Haven, Williamsport and Marietta. A ring rock where rafts moored is still located along the river at the site of Lewis Miller’s Hotel (1869-1956). A ferry service ran here in the early 1900’s. Across the river the Great Shomokin Indian Path crossed the Moshannon Creek.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

DuBois and Surrounding Areas

1. Richard H. Burfoot

“A famous portrait and scenic artist, Burfoot came to the US in the 1880’s and Clearfield County in 1895. His home later in life was at this site with a studio in his yard. He also had studios in Pittsburgh, Washington and New York. His work is registered with the Smithsonian Institute. Burfoot did sitting portraits of county judges, senators, governors, cabinet officers and President McKinley.”

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial*

2. Big Spring

Former camping place at the junction of two Indian paths: the Great Shamokin, running from Sunbury to Kittanning; and the path to Venango, now Franklin. During War of 1812, Maj. McClelland's force camped here. Spring is 60 yards SW.

**Erected by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*

3. DuBois

In 1872 John DuBois came to the area and set up sawmills. They employed hundreds of men, sawed billions of board feet of lumber and operated until 1904. DuBois was incorporated in 1881; in 1916 it became the county's only city. When the railroads came in 1874, coal mining began. Other major industries included ironworks, railroad car shops, tannery and brewery (1896-1972). In 1896 a mine explosion at this site killed 13 miners.

**Erected in 2004 for the Clearfield County Bicentennial.*

4. George Rosenkrans

Noted band composer (1881-1955) lived most of his life in Penfield and was church organist here. Rosenkrans wrote piano and organ music and hymns, as well as over 200 band numbers. Among his marches are "Triumphant Battalions" and "Our Glorious Flag."

**Erected by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*

5. Philip P. Bliss

The great singing evangelist and gospel song writer was born July 9, 1838, in a log house which stood a little distance from here. He lived and worked on the farm and in nearby lumber camps until the age of 16.

**Erected by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*

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