



## READING, PA HISTORIC TRAIL

July 28, 2007

READING HISTORIC TRAIL

Welcome to Reading, and the Historic Trail that tells some of its rich history. The total length of the trail is 7 miles, and covers some light hiking in the woods leading up Mt Penn to the Pagoda. For those with medical issues, it is possible to drive to the Pagoda by way of Duryea Drive.

The rest of the Trail is city hiking along public streets. Please use caution as you navigate the route, being always mindful of traffic.

Multiple locations having museums along this trail (Pagoda, Berks Historical Society, Reading Company Technical and Historical Society) are open only at particular times, and they should be visited if possible. A bit of planning is required to try to visit them along the hike at the designated open times.

Enjoy your walking tour of Reading, and feel free to wander off the path and explore any of Reading's other treasures. As you do so, please fill in the answers to the questions in the guide.

### ***City Hall: 8<sup>th</sup> and Washington Streets***

In 1748, the town was laid out by Thomas and Richard Penn, the sons of William Penn. The name was chosen after Penn's own county seat, Reading, in Berkshire, England. In 1752, Reading became the county seat of Berks county.

At the main entrance to city hall, on Washington Street, is a plaque. What was the original use of city hall in 1904? \_\_\_\_\_

***Bethel A.M.E. Church:***

Go east on Washington Street, to the intersection of Washington and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets. Then, north on 10<sup>th</sup> till you get to the Bethel A.M.E. Church. Look for the gold and blue marker outside of the church, located on the eastside.

For the next 75 years the Underground Railroad was to operate as a loose-knit but ever-widening circle of devoted men and women who daily risked life, limb, and civic respect for what they considered personal moral integrity. Then, in 1850, with passage of the Fugitive Slave Law, the situation got worse and worse and worse. Before the Underground came to an end with the Emancipation Proclamation, September 22, 1862, probably as many as 75,000 slaves had been shifted over the border to Canada and thousands of people were involved either in the financial or direct operation of the ring; United States Marines had been sent near the Berks border to restore order; a native of the county was among those jailed for treason; and, almost a hundred years ago, December 2, 1859, John Brown was found guilty on the same charge and

hanged. The first appearances of systematic organization were visible after 1839, with the founding of the AntiSlavery Society of Philadelphia, Robert Purvis president. Purvis, wealthy in his own right, also was allied with the Coates family, all vocal and ardent Abolitionists, a redundancy if there ever was one, for Abolitionists made a fetish of being vocal and uncompromising, however unpopular their cause was with the majority of people who in early days hoped "gradualism" would be the solution. Purvis and some of the Coates family "acquired" several "genuine" certificates of freedom, papers given Negro slaves when bondage ceased for any reason. These were used to move escapees more, freely to Canada, from whence the "certificates" returned to be used again and again. Eventually the Purvis and Coates groups grew bolder. They made contact with sympathizers in the south and virtually recruited runaways, shipping them out of New Berne, North Carolina by sea to Philadelphia, hiding them in a secret room built into the Purvis Mansion, then escorting them north. When the cargo was too large to be cared for in Philadelphia, some quickly were moved to rural areas. Elijah F. Not all trips were successful. Some people along the way watched for strange Negro faces and sold the information for a high dollar. One group known as the Gap Gang,

raided way stations for miles around, seized whatever Negroes they could find, and turned them over to authorities, anticipating rewards from owners. Many people supported such seizures, feeling southerners were being deprived of their just and legal property by the Underground. Occasionally Underground operators were prosecuted.

Who erected the church? \_\_\_\_\_

**City Park:**

U.S.S. Maine Anchor:

Head north on 10<sup>th</sup>, to the intersection of 10<sup>th</sup> and Walnut. Head east on Walnut, to the intersection of Walnut and 11<sup>th</sup>. Head south on 11<sup>th</sup>, to the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> and Washington. Look for the anchor.

It's still controversial, that explosion that sent the battleship Maine to the bottom of Havana harbor in Cuba on the night of Feb. 15, 1898. It triggered the Spanish-American War. But following the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine, America was whipped into one of its rare patriotic frenzies, ready to spar with a sneaky, sabotaging foe. A quick war dismissed the Spanish from the region. Years later, the public still cared about the Maine, and wanted the brave souls trapped in her hull recovered and

given a proper burial. Some towns ended up with unusual artifacts from the Maine. Naturally, we go out of our way to visit these rusting linchpins of destiny. Reading scored what we'd consider a very coveted piece -- the bow anchor from the battleship, installed in Reading's City Park in 1914.

What date was the anchor given to Reading?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Firefighter Memorial:

Continue south on 11<sup>th</sup>, to the firefighter memorial.

The Reading Fire Department was officially organized on March 17, 1773, with the founding of the Rainbow Volunteer Fire Company. According to legend, the new company's name was being boisterously debated in the tavern where the meeting was being held, when a rainbow appeared in the eastern sky following an early spring thunderstorm, thus giving birth to the name. Since the Rainbow company was formed on St. Patrick's Day, a shamrock appropriately became the company's insignia. Today, 227 years later, the company still exists, under its' charter name, although most firemen in the city are full-time. The Rainbow fire station is located at 8th & Court Sts., where it has been since 1870.

Who was the president of the Rainbow Company, when it was first formed? \_\_\_\_\_

***Penn's Common:***

Continue down 11th street, to the blue and gold marker (intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> and Penn).

For more than a century after Reading had been laid out, the large tract at the head of Penn Street -- about 85 acres originally -- was referred to as the "Commons". The transfer to commissioners Peter Feather Jr., Jacob Roads, and Jacob Epler occurred on Nov. 19, 1800, for the nominal fee of 440. While the deed for "lot 60" -- available for inspection at the Recorder of Deeds office in Deed Book A, page 303 -- contains no clause of restriction, it was taken for granted that the tract (incorrectly recorded as containing 55.5 acres) would remain public commons for the dwellers of the town. Prior to 1821 when the Reading Water Company commenced operating, the ordinary citizens of Reading were obliged to secure whatever water they required from the Schuylkill, wells, public springs, and cisterns. The best of these was in what is now Penn's Common -- "City Park" to the unenlightened. Public hangings were conducted at "gallows hill", a prominent point in the Commons, located within the triangle bounded on two sides

by Perkiomen Avenue and Hill Road. Those intent upon looking for the "hill" are advised that extensive grading in 1878 removed it.

What year did the Penn family give the common to the town? \_\_\_\_\_

***Duryea Drive:***

Head south east down Perkiomen, to the intersection of Perkiomen and Hill. Head north east on Hill, the intersection of Hill and Clymer. Look for the blue and gold marker.

In 1889, Illinois natives Charles E. and J. Frank Duryea came to the Springfield area. Charles became interested in developing a horseless buggy, and invited his brother, Frank, a toolmaker at Chicopee's Ames Manufacturing Company, to join the project in 1892. When Charles moved to Illinois in 1893, Frank continued working on the car. After making many revisions to the initial design, Frank finally tested the car on Springfield's streets in September of 1893. After two years of fine-tuning and retooling, Frank had created a car that was reliable enough to entice investors. In 1895, J. Frank Duryea won the first American Automobile Race in Chicago. That same year, the brothers mustered up enough financial support to organize the Duryea Motor Wagon

Company, the first American corporation founded specifically for the mass production of automobiles. Their 1896 production of thirteen Duryea Motor Wagons marked the beginning of the American automobile industry. In 1898, Frank and Charles sold their interest in the company, and soon afterwards, the Duryea Motor Wagon Company was sold to the National Motor Carriage Company. In 1901, Frank contracted with J. Stevens Arms and Tool Company in Chicopee for the manufacture of automobiles. In 1904, the Stevens-Duryea Company was formed, manufacturing the Stevens-Duryea automobile in factories in Chicopee and East Springfield. By the time the company had closed in 1915, Stevens-Duryea had produced around 14,000 automobiles. In 1919, the company was reestablished without either of the Duryea brothers, but by 1925, it had ceased operations.

Duryea Drive extends from the Pagoda to what?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Pagoda:**

Follow the yellow trail on the map below to get to the pagoda.



Back in 1908 a man named William Whitman built the Pagoda, originally intending it to be a resort. Whitman sold the Pagoda to Jonathan Mould in 1910 because Whitman couldn't get a liquor license for his resort. Mould sold it to the city of Reading for \$1.

Who was the carpenter and builder of the pagoda? \_\_\_\_\_

**Hampden Firehouse:**

Go back down the same trail from the pagoda, to the edge of City Park at Walnut Street. Head north up 13<sup>th</sup>, to the intersection of Greenwich and 13<sup>th</sup>. Next, head west on Greenwich, to the intersection of Greenwich and 11<sup>th</sup>. Look for the old firehouse, on the east side.

The Hampden Firehouse is supposedly haunted by Edward Dell, fire chief of the Hampden at the time. Edward died on December 2, 1953, in a car accident on his way to a fire call. Happenings of this ghost are: opening and closings of doors, falling pictures, unexplainable noises, etc. He haunts the firehouse because he never completed his last run.

What station number is located on the top of the garage, of the firehouse?

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### **The Reading Company:**

Head north on 11<sup>th</sup>, to the intersection of 11<sup>th</sup> and Oley. Then, head west on Oley, to the intersection of Oley and 6<sup>th</sup>. Head north on 6<sup>th</sup>, to the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and Spring. As you walk along Sixth Street and Spring Street, you will see the remains of the once-famous Reading Railroad. As you do, read the history below, and try to imagine a time when coal and rail were king.

Originally established as The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad in 1833 to transport anthracite

coal, the pioneering 94-mile line evolved into a mighty corporation serving eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. Operations included coal mining, iron making, canal and sea-going transportation and shipbuilding. With its great complex of shops for locomotive and car building and repair, and constant advances in railroad technology, the company held a position of leadership in the railroad industry for over a century. By the nature of the territory which it served, the P & R fueled the Industrial Revolution which led the United States to economic leadership. With lines reaching out to the North, South, East and West, the P & R served the heart of the most densely industrialized area of the nation, and by the 1870s became the largest corporation in the world (according to some). During the 1890's, to ward off government efforts to break up monopolies, the P & R's owners created a new holding company named Reading Company, to own on paper, the P & R RR and P & R C & I. Finally, a Supreme Court ruling forced a complete separation of the P & R entities. On January 1, 1924, the P & R C & I became independent, and Reading Company became the railroad's operating name.

After World War II as America began to turn away from coal as its major fuel, The Reading's

fate began to turn as well. [Due at least in part to] the failure of surrounding lines on which it depended for traffic to offset the loss of the coal business, The Reading entered bankruptcy in 1971. Its operations were taken over as part of the federally financed CONRAIL, on April 1, 1976.



***Thompson's Rifle Battalion: Captain George Nagel's Company:***

Go west on Spring, to the intersection of Spring and Centre Avenue. Head south until you see the gold and blue marker and/or the Berks Historical Building.

On June 14th they directed that ten companies of expert riflemen be raised immediately, six in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland and two in Virginia. But so many men volunteered from Pennsylvania that Congress changed the plan and the province was to have an entire battalion of eight companies. Nine were actually formed, with two of them coming from Lancaster County. At this same session,

Congress appointed George Washington as "General . . . to command all the continental forces . . . for the defense of American Liberty." In August the Lancaster riflemen marched out of the county on their way to the heights of Boston, anticipating their first confrontation with British troops. The Lancaster volunteers, however, weren't the first to march north. Captain George Nagel, a Pennsylvania-German from Berks County, and his company from Reading, Pennsylvania have been called the "First defenders of the Revolution" to come from colonies remote from New England.

How many miles is it from Reading to the American siege? \_\_\_\_\_

***Berks Historical Society:***

Walk from the Thompson marker to the Berks Historical Society building.

The society was organized on August 5, 1869. The second home of the society was the Bowman Mansion on 30 N. Fourth Street, in 1916. The present quarters of the society is on 940 Centre Avenue. The building was put into use in 1929, but the construction exceeded a year.

Judging by the mile marker outside how many miles is it from there to Philadelphia? \_\_\_\_\_

***Berks Historical Society (inside questions)***

*Basement:*

What is the number on the bucket sitting on the Rainbow fire engine? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the number located on the passenger train? \_\_\_\_\_

*First Floor:*

If standing in front of the organ, how many pipes are there? \_\_\_\_\_

*Second Floor:*

The diorama is designed to be of circa what year? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of music box is in the Victorian Parlor? \_\_\_\_\_

***Major General David McMurtrie Gregg:***

Head south on Centre Avenue, until you reach Centre Park (in between Douglass and Oley). Find the statue of a man on a horse.

David McMurtrie Gregg was born in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania on April 10, 1833. Matthew D. Gregg died on July 27, 1845 and his brother died on Aug. 8. On Aug 17, 1847, she died at Bedford Springs. The children were scattered among relatives. David Gregg and one of his brothers went to live with their Uncle David McMurtrie III in Huntingdon. They

attended the John A. Hall school in Huntingdon. In 1849 David was sent to the Milwood Academy, a preparatory school at Shade Gap. The following year he joined his older brother, Andrew, at the University of Lewisburg, which later became Bucknell University. Andrew W. Gregg, not yet 20 years of age, died on March 11, 1851. That year David received an appointment to West Point from Representative Samuel Calvin of Blair County. David Gregg passed the entrance exams and on June 4, 1851 was admitted as a cadet at West Point. In June 1855, David Gregg graduated from the military academy. On March 2, 1861, Lt. Gregg was promoted to First Lieutenant of the First Dragoons and ordered to return to Fort Tejon, California. Lt. Gregg arrived in Washington and found that he had been promoted to the rank of Captain and was assigned to the Third U.S. Cavalry. On October 12, 1861, Captain Gregg was stricken with a severe case of typhoid fever and was taken to a hospital on 'I' street in Washington. While he was there the building caught fire and he might have perished, an alert trooper in the same section saved him from the flames. In December 1861 he became engaged to Ellen Scheaff. He rejoined his regiment on Jan. 24, 1862 and then accepted the position of Colonel of the Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry, a new regiment that



included many Philadelphia area volunteers. Soon after the Battle of Fredericksburg, David M. Gregg was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. Gen. Gregg received official notification on Feb. 3, 1865, that his resignation from the Army had been accepted by the President of the United States. He went to Reading, Pennsylvania, to make his home among his wife's people. Mrs. Gregg died on Oct. 27, 1915, and General Gregg died on August 7, 1916.

In the Civil War he was the commander of what? \_\_\_\_\_

***Skew Bridge:***

Continue heading south on Centre Avenue, to the intersection of Centre and Greenwich. Then, head east on Greenwich, to the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and Greenwich. Head south on 6<sup>th</sup>, to the intersection of Woodward And 6<sup>th</sup>. Find the blue and gold marker.

The magnificent Skew Bridge on Sixth Street in Reading is a fine example of masonry skew-arch bridge construction. Erected in 1857, it was designed and constructed under the direction of Richard Osborne, who also designed the first iron railroad bridge in the United States. The large central vault arches

gracefully over a wide roadway, and two smaller side arches provide safe walkways for pedestrians. Rumbling across the top, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad's engines hauled their heavy loads of coal past Reading's Outer Station, and on to Philadelphia. In 1924, P and R changed its name to Reading Company, which went bankrupt in November, 1971 and was merged into Conrail in 1976. Today, trains of the Norfolk Southern Corporation, its owner since 1999, still use Osborne's rugged skew bridge.

How long (deep) is the arch of the Skew Bridge?\_\_\_\_\_

***William Strong:***

Head west on Woodward, to the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> and Woodward. Head south on 5<sup>th</sup>, to the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> and Court. Find the gold and blue marker.

Strong, William (1808-1895) Supreme Court Justice. William Strong was born on a small farm in Somers, Connecticut, on May 6, 1808. After spending a year at preparatory academies in Monson and Plainfield, Massachusetts, he entered Yale College when he was fifteen years old. Strong graduated in 1828, and worked as a teacher in New Jersey for three

and a half years to pay off student debts. At the same time, he studied law with a local attorney, eventually returning to Yale for law school. He earned a master's degree in law in 1832, and was admitted to the bar in Connecticut and Pennsylvania. At the advice of experienced friends, he moved to Reading, Pennsylvania, and set up a law office there. He served on the city council and the board of education, was a director of a bank and a railroad, and was counsel to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company. In 1846, Strong, a Democrat, was elected to Congress as an antislavery candidate. Strong was reelected in 1848, and served as chairman of the Committee on Elections. After his second term concluded, he chose to return full-time to his law practice rather than run for a third term. He was elected a judge of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1857 for a term of fifteen years. Maintaining his allegiance to the Union and to the ideal of abolition, he switched to the Republican Party before the beginning of the Civil War. Meanwhile, Strong left the bench after eleven years in order to return to private practice in Philadelphia. The national economy lay in the balance, and many charged President Grant with trying to "pack" the Court in his favor when he nominated Strong and fellow northern Republican Joseph P. Bradley for the vacancies,

rather than yielding to pressure and nominating at least one Southern Republican. Strong was confirmed on February 18, 1870, followed by Bradley a month later. Although he was still in good health, he decided to retire in order to set an example for Justices Nathan Clifford, Ward Hunt and Noah H. Swayne, whose ill health was adversely affecting the Court. Strong retired on December 14, 1880, followed by Swayne a few weeks later.

When was Strong on the Electoral Commission?

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***Henry A. Muhlenberg:***

Head west on Court, to the intersection of Court and 4<sup>th</sup>. Head south on 4<sup>th</sup>, to the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> and Penn. Look for the blue and gold marker, south side.

Representative from Pennsylvania; born in Lancaster, Pa., May 13, 1782; pastor of Trinity Church, Reading, Pa., from April 1803 to June 1829; elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-first Congress; reelected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-second through Twenty-fourth Congresses and reelected as a Democrat to the Twenty-fifth Congress and served from March 4, 1829, until his resignation February 9, 1838;

Minister to Austria from February 8, 1838, to September 18, 1840; was nominated as the Democratic candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania in 1844, but died in Reading, Pa., August 11, 1844, before the election.

What country was Muhlenberg minister to?

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***Hiester Home:***

Continue east on Penn, until you spot the first of a series of blue and gold markers on the north side.

Six feet tall, weighing two hundred pounds, walking with a Malacca cane, Joseph Hiester was known as “Old German Grey,” and spoke with a lingering Pennsylvania German accent. Born November 18, 1752 to a Berks County farm family, John and Mary Barbara (Epler) Hiester, of the German Reformed faith, young Hiester worked on the family farm until 1771, when he married Elizabeth Whitman. As a Whig sympathizer, he fervently opposed the proprietary government and was a representative to the state convention, which assumed governing control at the outset of the Revolution. As a captain of militia, Hiester was zealous in raising soldiers at the beginning of the Revolution and served with distinction. Captured near Long Island, after many of his

compatriots were wounded or killed, he suffered harsh treatment while confined on British prison ships. After he was released in a prisoner exchange and recovered at his home in Reading, Hiester returned to duty but was wounded in the head, although not severely, in the battle of Germantown. Following the war, Hiester partnered with his father-in-law, Adam Whitman, in the mercantile business, but soon shifted his attention to politics. In 1779, Hiester was one of the commissioners of exchange, seizing property from Revolutionary “traitors.” From 1780 to 1805, he served five annual terms in the state House of Representatives, four in the state Senate, and then fourteen years in Congress, as well as attending the State Constitutional Convention of 1789–1790. In 1807, he was commissioned as a major general of the state militia and, after 1810, he chose the “Old School,” or “Independent” wing of the Jeffersonian Democrats, who opposed nomination by a rigid legislative caucus. Defeated for governor in 1817 by William Findlay, he returned triumphant in 1820 to occupy the governor’s residence, then at 21 North Front Street in Harrisburg. Hiester profited from key endorsements of influential Philadelphia newspapers and public nostalgia for “the old general,” a Revolutionary veteran. The Panic of 1819, impeachment proceedings

against Governor Findlay, and the undemocratic appearance of the “New School’s” caucus nominations helped him to victory.

From what year did Hiester occupy this house, till his death? \_\_\_\_\_

***Federal Inn:***

Continue east on Penn, to the next blue and gold marker, north side.

Angered by an excise tax imposed on whiskey in 1791 by the federal government, farmers in the western counties of Pennsylvania engaged in a series of attacks on excise agents. The tariff effectively eliminated any profit by the farmers from the sale or barter of an important cash crop, and became the lightning rod for a wide variety of grievances by the settlers of the region against the federal government. The rebel farmers continued their attacks, rioting in river towns and roughing up tax collectors until the so-called "insurrection" flared into the open in July of 1794 when a federal marshal was attacked in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Almost at the same time several hundred men attacked the residence of the regional inspector, burning his home, barn and several outbuildings. Pittsburgh was another scene of disorder by enraged mobs. On August 7, 1794, President Washington issued a

proclamation, calling out the militia and ordering the disaffected westerners to return to their homes. Washington's order mobilized an army of approximately 13,000 — as large as the one that had defeated the British — under the command of General Harry Lee, the then-Governor of Virginia and father of Robert E. Lee. Washington himself, in a show of presidential authority, set out at the head of the troops to suppress the uprising. This was the first use of the Militia Law of 1792 setting a precedent for the use of the militia to "execute the laws of the union, (and) suppress insurrections," asserting the right of the national government to enforce order in one state with troops raised in other states. Even more importantly, it was the first test of power of the new federal government, establishing its primacy in disputes with individual states. In the end, a dozen or so men were arrested, sent to Philadelphia to trial and released after pardons by Washington.

What famous person stayed here? \_\_\_\_\_

***Conrad Weiser Trading Post:***

Continue east on Penn, to the next blue and gold marker, north side.

Conrad Weiser was many men: Pennsylvania's Indian Agent, a farmer, owner of a tannery, one of the founders of Reading, Pennsylvania, a colonel during the French and Indian War, a faithful husband and father of fourteen children, a monk at Ephrata, a pillar of the Lutheran Church, a promoter of Moravian missions, a hymn-writer, traveler, statesman, linguist, diplomat, and woodsman. At the age of seventeen, Conrad lived with his Indian neighbors. He learned their language, religion, and social customs. Because he was a good neighbor, the Indians learned to love and trust him. An old tradition has it that Conrad Weiser first met Shekilammy while hunting in the woods of New York. They became fast friends. Shekilammy knew of Weiser's settlement on the Tulpehocken, and as early as 1731 paid Weiser a visit. From then on he was frequently a guest at the Weiser home. Weiser continued his work with the Indians, negotiating every Indian treaty from 1732 until near the close of the French and Indian War. He was the man who convinced the Six Nations to take no part in the quarrels between the French and the English. Conrad Weiser died on July 13, 1760, at the age of 63. George Washington, commenting on Weiser's extensive activities, said: "This departed man rendered many services to his country in a difficult period, and posterity will not forget

him." The Governor and Council, realizing the value of Weiser's services, in 1731 placed him in charge of all Indian affairs. In 1737, accompanied by Shekilammy, Conrad braved flood and famine to carry peace proposals from Virginia to the Six Nations. The journey, which proved Weiser's courage and good will, impressed the Indians so much that they named him Tarachiawagon (The Holder of the Heavens), after the chief duty of the Iroquois.

This site was erected when? \_\_\_\_\_

***Dr. Bodo Otto Sr.:***

Continue east on Penn, to the next blue and gold marker, north side.

Bodo Otto, Sr. was Hospital-Physician and Surgeon at Valley Forge. He was born at Hanover, Germany, 1711. He received part of his medical training at University of Gottengin and came to Philadelphia in 1755, where he practiced for a time. He then moved to Reading. He entered the Continental Service at 65 and continued in the field with the army. He was with the army at Valley Forge in the fall of 1777. He also served at the military hospital, Yellow Springs. He resigned from the Continental service in 1782.

What position did Otto have at Valley Forge?

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***Dr. Jonathan Potts:***

Continue east on Penn, to the next blue and gold marker, north side.

Head east on Franklin, to the intersection of Franklin and 5<sup>th</sup>. Here you will find the gold and blue markers for: Dr. Jonathan Potts, Conrad Weiser Trading Post, and Dr. Bodo Otto.

Potts, Jonathan, surgeon, born in Popodickon, Berks County, Pennsylvania, 1 April, 1745; died in Reading, Pennsylvania, in October, 1781. After receiving a classical education, he went with Dr. Benjamin Rush to Edinburgh, Scotland, for medical study, and after his return he was graduated, in 1768, a bachelor of physic at the College of Philadelphia. At the first granting of medical degrees in this country, and in 1771 received the degree of M.D. From 1768 till his death he was a member of the American philosophical society. Dr. Potts early identified himself with the struggle for independence, and was secretary of the Berks county committee of safety, and a member of the Provincial convention at Philadelphia, 23 January, 1775. In 1776 he was appointed surgeon for Canada and Lake George, and returned with General Gates to Pennsylvania. Dr. Potts was appointed in April,

1777, medical director-general of the northern department, and as such joined the army at Albany, New York In November, 1777, he returned to Reading, having been furloughed, and while there was appointed by congress director-general of the hospitals of the middle department.

Potts was Deputy Director General of what army? \_\_\_\_\_

***Hunter Liggett:***

Continue east on Penn, to the intersection of Penn and 6<sup>th</sup>. Head south on 6<sup>th</sup>, to the blue and gold marker (in between Franklin and Chestnut Streets).

Hunter Liggett was born in Reading, Pennsylvania, on March 21, 1857. In 1879 he graduated from West Point and was assigned as a second lieutenant in the Fifth Infantry. He served in the Montana Territory, Dakota Territory, Texas and Florida, advancing to first lieutenant in June 1884. He was promoted to Captain in June 1897 and left the post when the entire 5th Infantry departed for the Spanish-American War. In June 1898 he was promoted to Major and adjutant general of volunteers for service in Cuba, and the following year was sent

to the Philippines with the 31st Infantry Volunteers. General Liggett retired in March 1921 and in June 1930 was promoted to lieutenant general on the retired list by act of Congress. LTG Liggett died in San Francisco on December 30, 1935

When did Liggett graduate from West Point?

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***Franklin Street Station:***

Head north on 6<sup>th</sup>, back to the intersection of 6th and Franklin. Go east on Franklin, to the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Franklin Street.

Another one of the remaining landmarks of the old Reading Railroad, is the Franklin Street Station. The Franklin Street Station served only trains running on the "Main Line" between Philadelphia and Pottsville/Shamokin. The station contained a large waiting room, baggage room, ticket offices, and a lunch room. The platform on the west side of the tracks was covered from Franklin Street to a point about 200 feet south of Chestnut Street, including a roof over the Chestnut Street crossing. A second Outer Station once stood north of here, near the Skew bridge. That station was destroyed by fire just before a restoration effort was to begin.

***Reading Massacre:***

Head north (sidewalk) on 7th, to the intersection of Penn and 7<sup>th</sup> (7<sup>th</sup> Street is the railroad). Find the blue and gold marker.

In the hot, mid-July of 1877, with the nation prostrate in the fourth year of a deep depression. America came closer to social revolution than at any other time in its century of nationhood. By 1877, Franklin P. Gowen had established himself as the peer of such giants as Carnegie, Gould, Rockefeller and Vanderbilt. Through his control of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad he came to dominate the anthracite industry and with it place a section of eastern and northeastern Pennsylvania almost totally within his economic control. He had destroyed America's first industrial union, the Workmen's Benevolent Association, and had risen to become a national celebrity through his theatrical prosecution of the "Molly Maguires," which he was responsible for destroying through the use of an undercover Pinkerton agent. There are those who claim that Gowen created the "Molly" legend in order to tar the labor movement in the anthracite region with the brush of terrorism. Whatever the truth, when Franklin B. Gowen returned to Philadelphia from Europe on the morning of July 16, 1877,

he found himself at the peak of his power and popularity, and admirably suited to command his corporate legions in the struggle to bend the nation to the new industrial reality. One of his first acts after he returned to his desk was to lay off all passenger brakemen except for one on each train. Ironically, he had picked an inauspicious time for his action. At almost the same moment the great railroad strike of 1877 began in Baltimore. Reading happened to be the home of a strong branch of the trainmen's union. It was the headquarters of the striking engineers. The protracted struggle had created a sizeable group of unemployed men in Reading, many of them blacklisted, who were extremely bitter about their treatment. In addition those still employed by the railroad had not been paid since the strike had effectively been broken in May. Under these circumstances, the sentiment in the city was running strongly against Mr. Gowen and his railroad. On July 16, the deep and accumulated industrial discontent at large in the nation spilled over. The great strike began at Baltimore and spread rapidly. On July 20 they learned of the death of twenty-six Pittsburgh citizens at the hands of a force of Philadelphia militia sent in to restore control of railroad property to the company. About a hundred people, mostly men and boys, gathered at Fourth and Penn Square to watch the militia assemble.

A number of the bystanders insulted the soldiers, some asking mockingly for a lock of their hair. Tensions between the militia and the crowd increased until early evening when it took police intervention to keep the two groups apart. Later that evening the weary troops disbanded and returned to their homes.

Who reopened the railroad? \_\_\_\_\_

***Berks County:***

Head west on Penn, to the intersection of Penn and 6<sup>th</sup>. Go north on 6<sup>th</sup>, to the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and Court. Find the gold and blue marker.

Because of the great distances to court, and with the population ever increasing, in 1739 one hundred and seventy-two men from northern Lancaster County presented a petition to the Assembly asking that a new county be created. The Assembly took no action. Lacking a town, there would be no new county. In 1745, another petition was drafted and signed by John Potts, Henry Harry, William Bird, Francis Parvin and others. This too was read to the Assembly. Later efforts that year were unsuccessful. In 1750 and again in 1751, the residents tried again. By this time, York and Cumberland Counties had been erected, both






comprised mostly of German immigrants, and this was encouraging news.

What city in England was Berks named derived from? \_\_\_\_\_

END.

To get back to city hall, take 6<sup>th</sup>, north, to Washington. Washington, east, to 8<sup>th</sup>.

Driving directions to RCT&HS museum / displays from City Hall:

	<b>1:</b> Start out going WEST on WASHINGTON ST / US-422 BR W toward N 8TH ST.	0.3 miles
	<b>2:</b> Turn RIGHT onto N 5TH ST / US-222 BR.	0.4 miles
	<b>3:</b> Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto CENTRE AVE / PA-61 N. Continue to follow PA-61 N.	14.9 miles
	<b>4:</b> Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto S 4TH ST.	0.5 miles
	<b>5:</b> Turn LEFT onto ARCH ST.	<0.1 miles
	<b>6:</b> End at <b>500 S 3rd St</b> Hamburg, PA 19526-1906, US	

## Reading Company Technical and Historical Society

At the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum at 500 South Third Street in Hamburg, you will find many interesting objects and artifacts from the history of the Reading Railroad. There are exhibits displaying artifacts of the railroad and telling about the influence of the Reading on culture, business, railroad technology, and the environment. A video titled, “The Reading Railroad Shaped Communities”, is shown. Many diesel locomotives and freight cars are displayed outside. The museum store has many different books on local rail history as well as mementos of this visit. The museum is a project of the Reading Company Technical and Historical Society. The building was formerly a steel foundry. Call 610-562-5513 for hours and events.

## Bibliography

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<http://roadsideamerica.com/attract/PAREAmainanchor.html>

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<http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamerica/milestones/whiskey/>

<http://readingpa.gov/history.asp>

Ghost Stories of Berks County, Book One: Charles J. Adams III. 1982. Charles J. Adams III.

Passing Scene 1: George M. Meiser IX and Gloria Jean Meiser. 1982. Berks Historical Society.

[http://www.readingrailroad.org/reading/rdg\\_history.html](http://www.readingrailroad.org/reading/rdg_history.html)

Other points of interest...

Stone-Man Willie, Auman Funeral Home, 247 Penn St. Here is located a mummified body, suspected to be James Penn, inside the Funeral Home.

Soloman Boscov Marker, 1400 9<sup>th</sup>. This is the site of Soloman's first store which burned to the ground.

Hessian Camp Marker, intersection of Mineral Spring Rd. and 18<sup>th</sup>. This marker marks the area where the Hessian (German mercenaries) prisoners staid during their captivity, during the Revolutionary War.

Veteran memorials, City Park. These memorials are to honor those who have died in the wars.

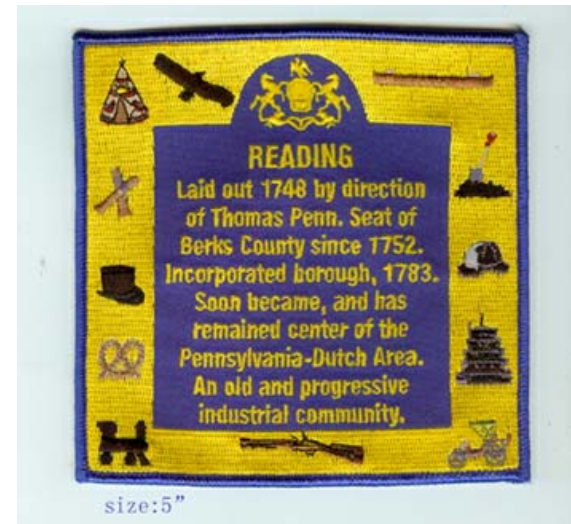
FDR statue, City Park. This statue was erected by the citizens of Reading, in honor of Franklin Roosevelt.

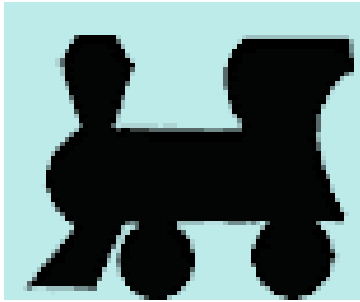
Columbus Statue, City Park. This statue was erected by the Italian citizens of Reading, to honor Christopher Columbus.

Fire Tower, Mt. Penn, Skyline Dr. Lookout used to spot fires in Reading.

Stirling Mansion, 1120 Centre Ave. A late 1800's mansion, but has been renovaded into a bread and breakfast.

A trail patch and medal are available for anyone completing the hike. Call (610)-775-8916 or e-mail [otakushroom@hotmail.com](mailto:otakushroom@hotmail.com).





Alex Conrad's Eagle Project  
Troop 241, BSA  
Knauers, PA

National Historic Trail VA, MD, DE, DC, PA, NY. Info. Alerts.Â A calendar of upcoming events for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and their partners. Last updated: March 12, 2019. American Indian Tribes Today. Go Geocaching! Captain John Smith. "Smart Buoys" Mark the Water Trail. Contact the Park. Mailing Address National Historic Trail IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MO, MT, NE, ND, OH, OR, PA, SD, WA, WV. Info. Alerts.Â It follows the historic outbound and inbound routes of the Lewis and Clark Expedition as well as the preparatory section from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Wood River, Illinois. Read More. Maps. Use the maps page to plan your adventures along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Photo by Tommy LaVergne. Go on a Trail. We challenge you to collect land cover observations along the trail between June 1 and September 2, 2019. Geotourism. The project is working to increase recognition of the Trail to enhance the existing resources, promote stewardship and sustainable practices. Last updated: After reading that, my mother and I were more than convinced and decided to do it. My mother visited for a week and we hiked all over northern Taiwan, but this was the most rewarding hike and one of our favorite days by far. How to get to the Caoling trail: Tiangong temple, Taiwan.Â A flat stretch of the historical part of the trail. Most of the stairs are much steeper, more like a Stair-master! The Map.Â The History of this Trail! The Caoling Historic Trail cuts across Sandiaojiao, starting at Yuanwangkeng, just inland from Fulung, and ending at Dali on the coast. It is the only remaining section (rebuilt by the Tourism Bureau) of the old Qing dynasty trail that was constructed 130 years ago to provide the only land link down the Northeast Coast from Danshui to Yilan.