



# HERITAGE TRAIL LEBANON COUNTY



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**The Lebanon Valley Conservancy**  
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Map  
CCL  
Campbelltown, Colebrook & Lawn

In 1768, the citizens of Derry Township, Lancaster County, petitioned the courts to divide Derry into two parts, and as a result Londonderry Township was created. The Township became a part of Dauphin County in 1785 and Lebanon County in 1813. It was eventually split into North and South Londonderry Townships in 1894.

Various villages, including Mt. Wilson and Upper Lawn, are present in South Londonderry Township. The largest and oldest of the Township communities is Campbelltown. Located on Route 322, it was founded by John Campbell on a 352-acre tract of land he patented in 1759. Soon his brother Patrick had ownership followed by Peter Grubb and then Robert Coleman (great grandfather of Robert H.) who eventually sold to John Philip Wolfersberger. It was the descendants of Wolfersberger who continued to help the expansion of the village by building and establishing certain businesses which supplied the local economy, as well as travelers on the turnpike (Horseshoe Pike) that was built from Harrisburg, through Campbelltown, and on to Philadelphia.

Transportation and economic growth were vital components to our Township's growth. From 1908 to 1946 the trolley system in Campbelltown served to connect villagers to Hershey, Hummelstown, Lebanon and then on to other trolley lines or railroads. An important local economic connection was to the dairy farms that provided milk for the Hershey Chocolate Company.

Colebrook, the second oldest community, was established in 1791. At that time, Robert Coleman of Cornwall Furnace fame extended his iron empire to Colebrook along the Conewago Creek. First named Mount Joy Furnace, he quickly renamed this successful enterprise Colebrook Furnace. Even though operation of the furnace ceased sometime in 1858, Colebrook Furnace, dismantled in 1860, had produced 71,625 tons of pig iron and 5,603 tons of castings. The Colebrook Mansion Estate, Mill, Charcoal Barn, and offices still remain.

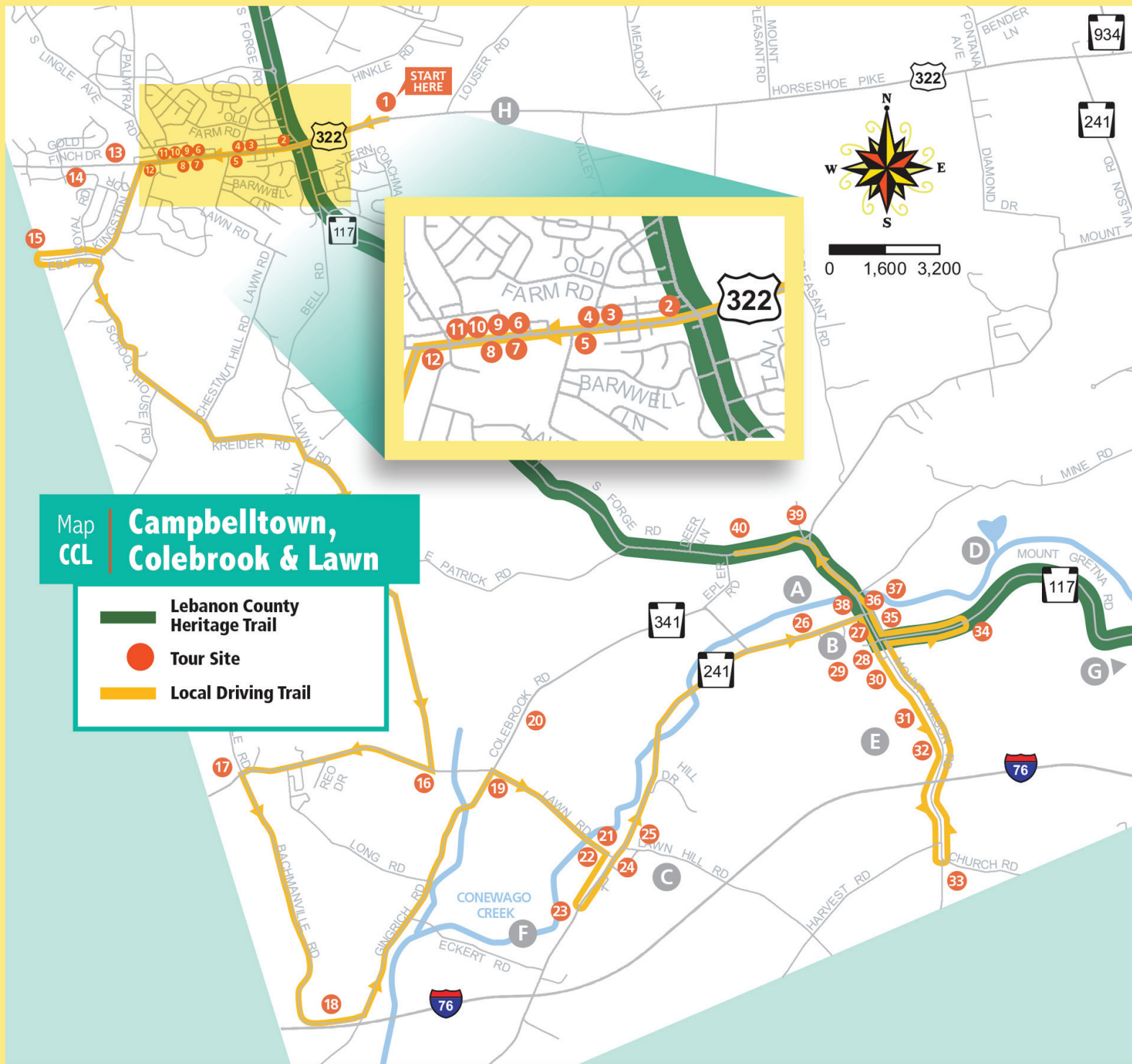
In 1886 Robert Habersham Coleman's Cornwall & Lebanon Railroad played a vital role in not only introducing visitors to his village of Mount Gretna, but also enhanced and facilitated businesses in Colebrook and Lawn.

The newest village, Lawn was originally named Roseland; however, with the establishment of a post office in 1889, Aaron S. Kreider renamed the community. Known for its feed mills and stockyards, Lawn generated a vital economic contribution to the growth of our communities.

Today, South Londonderry Township continues to retain much of its charm and personality through its historic architecture, small community atmosphere and its undeveloped natural resources.

The driving tour begins just east of the intersection of Rt. 322 and Rt. 117.





**1 Bowman / Risser-Marvel Farm House & Barn  
2415 Horseshoe Pike**

Built in 1809, this farm was owned by generations of the Bowman family until 1923 when the Risser family bought and operated it as a dairy farm, a B & B called The Horseshoe, and later as the Risser- Marvel Farm Market. The Forrys currently operate the market.

**2 Leed's Corner Store / Mount Gretna Craft Brewery  
2701 Horseshoe Pike**

In 1924, Harry & Annie Leed opened a general store and gas station on the corner of a thoroughfare between Hershey and Lebanon. This was a cornerstone of local life – from kids buying penny candy and families enjoying ice cream to their

support of community fireworks on Independence Day. Since 2017, the site has been operating as a craft brewery, eating establishment, and coffee shop.

**3 Salem United Church of Christ  
2761 Horseshoe Pike**

Salem United Church of Christ is situated on land donated by the Wolfersberger family. The Church began as a log structure and was replaced with a stone structure in 1845. A severe storm destroyed the Church in 1896. Two years later, the present church was completed. The adjoining cemetery includes graves of many early residents of the Village. Of interest is that Jack Parr married a local woman during WWII at the Church. He served as the first host of The Tonight Show.

**4 Brunner Farmstead  
2771 Horseshoe Pike**

The farmhouse was built in 1827 and had several owners including Benjamin Hocker who purchased it in 1845, then William Brunner and daughter Miriam. Under her ownership, it was called Edelweiss Farm. In 1920, she sold the farm to Harvey A. Alger who operated it as a dairy farm.

**5 Hocker / Brunner Store  
2764 Horseshoe Pike**

In 1844, Benjamin Hocker, a merchant, purchased 163 acres from John and Elizabeth Wolfersberger. He built a mercantile store, and his son-in-law, William Brunner, eventually assumed ownership. Items for sale included Queensware, notions, drugs, boots, shoes, hats and caps.

## **6 United Christian Church 2811 Horseshoe Pike**

The meetinghouse was constructed on land purchased by Samuel Bowman in 1874. The name was adopted in 1878. Samuel Bowman passed away in 1882. In his will, he left the land and property to the church for \$300.

## **7 Rising Sun 2850 Horseshoe Pike**

Rising Sun Hotel site has been occupied by a tavern/restaurant since 1794. Originally owned by Frederick Wolfersberger, members of the family continued the tavern until 1866. It passed through other owners, and in the 1920's renovations were made by adding a mansard roof, a third floor, front bay windows. A piece of WWII history is that the owner was asked to remove the sign, which he did. It depicted an orange sun rising over a hill with the words Rising Sun Hotel, Campbelltown, PA, and the date 1803. Was this sign unpatriotic while at war with Japan (nation of the rising sun)?

## **8 Grumbein's General Merchandise Store 2856 Horseshoe Pike**

This building was a general merchandise store operated by John Deiningner as early as 1875 and then George N. Grumbein took ownership in 1904. From the Annville Journal, it was noted in June 1905 that they sold 32 crates of pineapples. Palmyra Laundry opened a branch in the store. The last commercial owner was John Moyer's Hardware which closed in 1940.

## **9 Schoolhouse on Horseshoe Pike 2823 Horseshoe Pike**

Philip & Barbara Wolfersberger sold land in 1845 for a public school building. In 1876, a brick building replaced the original structure. Grades one through eight were educated in four rooms.

## **10 Old Campbelltown Fire Hall 2849 Horseshoe Pike**

The Campbelltown Volunteer Fire Company was organized in 1925 and the firehouse was built in 1930. It also served as a community center. Previously, it had been the site of a carriage works. The PTA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Lions Club met here. There were PTA plays performed on the stage. A stage curtain was created with local businesses' advertising on the curtain. There were a barbershop, kitchen, dining room and a fire truck bay. The Country String Shop Music Academy operated here from 1998 to 2020. Today, it is the Campbelltown Academy of Music & Arts.

## **11 Miller's Saddlery Shop 2857 Horseshoe Pike**

Miller and Son Harness Shop was established in 1861 by Thomas Miller. His son George carried on the family trade. They manufactured and repaired harnesses and saddles and also produced calf leather wallets, purses and billfolds. The business closed with George's death in 1957.

## **12 Philip Wolfersberger Farmstead 2880 Horseshoe Pike**

Constructed by John Philip Wolfersberger (1739-1824) or his son Philip Wolfersberger (1777-1846), this farmstead was built in 1813/1815. It is one of the oldest remaining structures in Campbelltown. John Philip, a native of

Schaefferstown, PA, served as a military officer during the Revolution. He purchased the 352-acre and 102-acre tracts from Robert Coleman in 1785. His son, Philip, founded Union Deposit, in Dauphin County, and served as a County Commissioner and PA Representative from 1826-1829.

## **13 Brandt's Hardware 2933 Horseshoe Pike**

Samuel Johnston owned a hardware store to fill the needs of settlers as they tamed the wilderness. Jacob M. Brandt became part of that operation and the Brandt Hardware Store was born in 1893. With their slogan, "We sell the best and keep the rest, if we don't have it, you don't need it, we have it if we can find it, and how can we help you?" Brandt's Hardware was integral to the community and a well-loved business. Brandt's four great-grandsons: Martin, Amos Jr, Lester and George owned the store until 1964 when the Indian door was closed for the final time.

## **14 Dr. Benjamin Stauffer Home & Office 2950 Horseshoe Pike**

Dr. Benjamin S. Stauffer House was built in 1848 by Campbelltown's first doctor who practiced for many decades. The house is a 2.5-story, 3-bay wide by 4-bay brick residence in a vernacular Georgian style. It has a hipped roof with a flat roofed dormer over the central bay. The house has a connected brick smokehouse and features a two-story veranda. The residence once included Dr. Stauffer's apothecary shop. The doctor made many of his medicines and traveled on horseback to care for patients. The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

## **15 Miller/Dossett Farm 1115 Eby Road**

The earliest known resident/owner here was Joseph Gingrich in 1860. By 1899, farmer Martin H. Seltzer owned the property which amounted to 89 acres and 31 perches. Elvin O. Miller, a local Chevrolet dealer, purchased it in 1936 and transferred it to his son Elvin R. Miller in 1988, with the stipulation it remain a farm during his lifetime. Darlene Lehman Dossett, a Campbelltown native and entrepreneur and her husband, Dr. John Dossett, purchased the farm in 1998 to restore and preserve the antique farmstead and continue its agricultural legacy into the present. The historic multiuse Horseshoe Trail transects the farm along Eby Road and its western border.

## **16 Gish Homestead 7050 Colebrook Rd., Palmyra**

A red sandstone structure, remodeled over many years from the original structure, retains much of its original look. The house and out buildings are the former home of Col. James Kelly who received a land grant from the Penn family and subsequently divided the grant into several farm holdings which exist today.

## **17 Moyers Meeting House (Conewago Church & Cemetery) Intersection of Bachmanville Road & Lawn Road, Rt. 341**

The original white stick framed one room church is now gone. The congregation was primarily made up of local farm families, some still living in the immediate area. There remains a small cemetery adjacent to the site.

## **18 Logan Farm Bachmanville Road, Hershey**

The farm house is located one mile west of Upper Lawn on SR-341 north. Turn left onto the Bachmanville Road and proceed one more mile. The property is located on the left hand side of the road. Today, the property is owned by the Hershey Anthropological Society.

## **19 Conewago Valley Grange Hall SW corner of the intersection of Gingrich Rd. & Rt. 341 (Deodate Rd.)**

Circa 1917, this lodge became inactive and the organization disbanded in the 1940's, having formerly existed to serve both social and agricultural needs of local farm families. The former lodge hall structure currently is divided into two private residences.

## **20 Colebrook United Christian Church 8088 Colebrook Rd., Palmyra**

Now a private residence, it was also known in past decades by the name of Epler's Church after a local family and founder.

## **21 Lawn Hotel 836 Lawn Rd., Palmyra**

Used by railroad passengers, military personnel and travelers coming into the area, it was formerly owned and operated by Marlin S. Longenecker from 1904-1933. Today it remains a private home.

## **22 Flory's Butcher Shop 817 Lawn Road, Palmyra**

From 1898-1968, this business, first located on the Flory farm, sold a variety of smoked meats. It was moved in to Lawn on Railroad St. in 1903. Note the unique covered bridge between buildings. The business closed due to its inability to meet expanding federal guidelines.

## **23 Acetylene Plant**

Located on unnamed alley behind the sewage plant just west of the Lawn's village center on Rt. 241N, across from the fire station. Built in 1874 and now demolished, the brick structure was used for the production of the gas acetylene for use in homes and meeting the community's lighting needs. The site is now an overgrown field near Lawn's sewage plant, and is located to the left of the post shown in the photo. The remaining brick foundation is viewable when the grass is mowed.

## **24 Lawn Evangelical Congregational Church 5566 Elizabethtown Rd.**

Since 1895, the church contains significant works by local artists, including a wooden inlaid ceiling bearing five crosses, a fresco painting behind the altar, and locally made tapestries and pictures on the walls.

## **25 Lawn's First Post Office 5542 Elizabethtown Rd.**

Formerly Lawn Stockyard Office (1892-1929), the Post Office was located on land immediately to the east. The structure is currently a private residence.

## **26 Colebrook Grist Mill / Mill Race 5289 Elizabethtown Rd.**

The Colebrook Grist Mill (1791) played an integral role in the furnace operation. The building was used to mill flour and grain for furnace workers and nearby farmers. Behind the mill remains a mill race that carried the water from the Conewago Creek needed to run the wheel in the mill.

### **27 Iron Master's Mansion & Outbuildings** **5200 Elizabethtown Rd.**

The Colebrook Iron Master's Mansion and Estate was built for Robert Coleman circa 1791 and is a brownstone Georgian style residence located in the center of Colebrook. Other structures on the property include a brownstone spring house, summer house, seed house, stable, privy, carriage shed, spring trough, all surrounded by an 18th-century iron fence. Forty years after the dismantling of the furnace, the mansion and surrounding Colebrook properties were purchased by Edward Youtz. Purchased in 1969 as a private residence by current owners, Susan and Barry Bucks, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **28 Colebrook Store** **1555 Mt. Wilson Rd.**

Owned by the Edward Youtz family during the Encampment years and managed by daughter Rosa Youtz, the Colebrook Store provided goods to the community from 1883 to the mid 20th century. The original building still stands.

### **29 Garrett's Mill** **9 Terry Lane**

Garrett's Mill played an integral role in the area supply line for coal, feed, lumber, salt, seeds, and flour. It was later transformed into a lingerie factory and is now Zimmerman Furniture Manufacturing and Sales.

### **30 Sarah Tyson Rorer House** **1581 Mt. Wilson Rd.**

Sarah Tyson Rorer was a well known and published dietician who lived her final years in Colebrook in the first of the brick row houses southwest of the Rail Trail.

### **31 Brick Rowhouses** **1610-1612 Mt. Wilson Rd.**

Locations are south of the rail trail on both sides of Mt. Wilson Rd. Robert H. Coleman built the brick houses in 1921. In order to mitigate his debts, he sold them to the Commonwealth of PA for officers' quarters in anticipation of the Cavalry's arrival in Colebrook.

### **32 Dinosaur Rock** **South of Colebrook on the west side of Mt. Wilson Rd.**

This impressive, very popular rock formation can be visited on Game Lands #145 south of Colebrook on Rt. 117 adjacent to the Horseshoe Trail.

### **33 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & Cemetery** **58 Church Rd., Manheim**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colebrook has deep roots in local history. The congregation dates back to 1771. The land was acquired from Iron Master Peter Grubb. German immigrants, including Henry Muhlenburg, the father of Lutheranism in America, played significant roles in its inception. The current church structure was built in 1842. The church is surrounded by a cemetery where there is at least one existing 18th century tombstone inscribed with the name Joseph Porter 1779. There is also a tombstone of a veteran of the American Revolutionary War.

### **34 Buckshot Springs** **Rt. 117, Half mile south of Colebrook**

This popular spring, constructed by the WPA (Works Progress Administration) for the PA Game Commission in 1938, drew local citizens and visitors to fill their jugs with its pure spring water flowing from South Mountain. In 1965 the spring was closed.

### **35 Offices for Furnace Operations** **1530 & 1520 Mt. Wilson Road**

The brownstone houses across from the mansion on Mt. Wilson Rd. are believed to have been businesses or officials' homes for the furnace production. The first home beyond Tavern Rd. displays a small USDA benchmark on its north side.

### **36 Colebrook Tavern** **1510 Mt. Wilson Road**

The Colemanor Tea Shoppe was established in the local gas station during prohibition. When prohibition was repealed in 1933, the Tea Shoppe was converted into the Colebrook Tavern. In 1950, owner Rosa Youtz sold the property.

### **37 Iron Furnace / Charcoal Barn / Spring House** **1486 Mt. Wilson Rd., and Mine Rd.** **spring house and barn.**

The Colebrook iron furnace, first named the Mount Joy furnace, was put into blast in 1792. While its main product was pig iron, stoves, kettles, pots, and plow plates were also cast. The furnace remained in operation until 1858 and was dismantled in 1860. Wagons carried the charcoal into the still standing stone and wood barn to power the furnace. A water house next to the barn channeled water to the furnace. Owned by Lynn and Cliff Orley, it is one of a few charcoal barns that remain in Pennsylvania.

### **38 Coleman Bowling Alley** **Rt. 241 across from the Iron Master's Mansion**

In the 1880s Robert Habersham Coleman built a unique one lane bowling alley along the Conewago Creek. It collapsed after the 1972 Agnes flood. The hand hewn wooden balls, pins, walnut scorecards with names and scores, and fireplace front are all preserved at the mansion.

### **39 Camp Kirchenwald** **1 Cut Off Road**

Camp Kirchenwald encompasses 348 acres adjacent to the Game Lands. The slogan Adventure and Growth Through Challenge draws campers to this Lutheran Church Camp every summer. Land was donated by Rosa Youtz during the 1950's.

### **40 St. Lawrence Catholic Church / Statue** **North of Camp Kirchenwald on Rt. 117**

St. John Neumann Statue stands at the site of the former St. Lawrence Catholic Church and Cemetery (1852). The church served as a place of worship for furnace workers until 1862 after the furnace ceased operation.

## **OTHER NOTEWORTHY HERITAGE SITES**

### **A. Military Encampment (est. 1921)**

The Encampment in Colebrook on the Game Lands served as training grounds for the PA 104th Cavalry. The last encampment was held in Colebrook during the summer of 1935 with Cavalry units operating under the 52nd Cavalry Brigade, of which the 104th was a part.

### **B. Cornwall Lebanon RR & Station**

The freight station was located where the LV Rails to Trails parking lot is now. The passenger station (above, right) was on the opposite side of Rt. 117. Colebrook Valley and Cornwall & Lebanon Railroads opened separately in 1883, and then merged in 1886. After the 1972 Agnes Flood, it was no longer used and ultimately became part of the LV Rails to Trails.

### **C. Maximum Security Prison**

In the 1930s, there were plans to construct a maximum security prison on the Game Lands between Colebrook and Lawn. Often referred to as Pennsylvania's Alcatraz, it was never completed, but there are remaining foundations.

### **D. Lake Duffy & Ice Dam**

This dam in the State Game Lands between Colebrook and Mt. Gretna along the Rail Trail, now drained, was named after Lt. Colonel Frank J. Duffy, an engineering WWI hero from Scranton, PA. Ice harvested from the lake would be stored away for the community, as well as the National Guard encampments.

### **E. Horseshoe Trail**

This 140-mile hiking trail starts at Valley Forge National Park and ends at the Appalachian Trail National Park just north of Harrisburg, PA. It is located between Colebrook and Dinosaur Rock in Game Lands #145.

### **F. Conewago Creek**

The Conewago Creek played an integral role in supplying water power to both the furnace and the grist mill.

### **G. Rifle Range**

The Rifle Range of the Military Reservation was about 23 acres and consisted of a one-acre Machine Gun Range, two acres for Pistol Ranges, fifty positions of rifle at 100, 200, 300 yards, and four at 1,000 yards. From 1885 to 1915, not including 1898 and 1899 due to the War with Spain, marksmanship competitions at the Rifle Range were held yearly. They consisted of revolver and rifle. Competition was for badges, medals and trophies. Robert H. Coleman sponsored the Coleman Individual and Team matches. He provided cash prizes to those who placed in these matches.

### **H. Horseshoe Pike**

The Downingtown, Ephrata & Harrisburg Turnpike, referred to as Horseshoe Pike, was chartered in 1803 and opened in 1819.

This Gothic-style structure was built to house the Station Agent of the Cornwall Railroad (RR) & his family. The agent was responsible for making sure many RR operations ran smoothly.