

Philipsburg
Heritage Days



PA Military Museum —
Boalsburg



CENTRE COUNTY Explorers PASSPORT

Your passport to historic
sites, museums, and
more!

Grange Fair —
Centre Hall



Centre Furnace Mansion

THIS PASSPORT
BELONGS TO:

About Centre County Explorers

Centre County has a rich collection of historic and cultural sites, each with its own story. The Centre County Explorers Passport describes these sites – historic houses, museums, galleries, parks – and encourages you to visit and enjoy them. You will learn more about our county's historic, cultural and natural resources. And in turn, you'll be helping the communities that you visit by shopping, staying or enjoying the local cuisine.



Published by the Centre County Historical Society, this Passport will be updated periodically. Please send any feedback to info@centrecountyhistory.org or call 814-234-4779.

The Centre County Explorers program is being made possible in part through a grant provided by the Centre County Board of Commissioners and Central PA Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Design: David Lembeck • Illustration: Jeff Mathison



The Centre County Explorers driving map and online interactive map on CentreHistory.org are companion publications that support your adventures. The interactive map also includes historic markers and other points of interest.

When planning your visits:

- Remember to check ahead for individual site hours, admission fees and group reservation information.
- Make a note of the date and time that you visit and anything you learn or experience at the site.
- After visiting all of the sites in the passport booklet, you can pick up a gift for completing your journey at the Centre Furnace Mansion in State College.

Participants may share their photos of Centre County historical and cultural sites and photos of them having fun exploring Centre County. Share your photographs, stories, favorite memories with us at:

Website: CentreHistory.org/explore

Facebook: facebook.com/centrefurnace

Twitter: @CentreHistory

Instagram: @centre.county.history

E-mail: info@centrecountyhistory.org

If you find this Passport, it may be returned to the Centre Furnace Mansion at 1001 E. College Avenue, State College, PA 16801.

Centre County Fun Facts:

- Bellefonte native, Anna Wagner Keichline, was Pennsylvania's first woman registered as an architect in 1920 and invented the "K Brick," predecessor to the modern hollow concrete block. Keichline designed three buildings and multiple homes in Bellefonte.
- The first wood screws in the U.S. were manufactured in Philipsburg in 1821. The screws were prepared by a "rolling and drawing apparatus" from iron manufactured at a nearby forge. The screw factory was built and owned by Hardman Philips.
- In 1792, the first charcoal iron furnace in Centre County was put into blast at Centre Furnace. Revolutionary war veterans Samuel Miles and John Patton established this furnace and its supporting village at the base of Mt. Nittany in an area rich with iron ore.
- Centre Furnace owner James Irvin's longest lasting contribution to the economic well-being of Centre County was not iron, but the support of agriculture and education. In 1855, Irvin's offer of Centre Furnace land helped convince the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society to build the Farmers' High School here. The Farmers' High School is now known as The Pennsylvania State University.
- In Centre County there are 10 boroughs and 25 townships.
- The town of State College grew from a small assemblage of homes located across the road from the main building of the Farmers' High school which was established in 1855. State College officially became a borough in 1896.

- The town of Bellefonte produced seven governors, two of whom were in office at the same time. John Bigler was Governor of California and William Bigler, Governor of Pennsylvania from 1852 to 1855. Both brothers had been involved with local newspapers in Bellefonte.
- In 1892, the Bellefonte Central Railroad connected the county seat of Bellefonte and State College. The trip at that time took one hour and fifteen minutes.
- Almost every county in the country has at least one place listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Centre County has 60 including 15 Historic Districts. For a listing of these sites, visit CentreHistory.org/NR.
- Aaronsburg was founded by Jewish immigrant, Aaron Levy, in 1786. He donated land for Reformed and Lutheran churches and presented them with a communion set. In 1949, a daylong event was held honoring this gesture of religious tolerance.
- The first car built in Centre County was made by R. Bierly and Sons Carriage Makers of Milesburg. It made its initial run down Pike Street in May of 1901. Bellefonte was one of the first towns in the United States to have electricity. In 1883, the Edison Company laid out plans for providing the town with electric lights.
- One of the top employers in Millheim in the late 1800s was the Millheim Hosiery Mill. The factory was built in the late 1880s and operated until 1905. It was renamed and operated again until 1926.

- According to legend, centuries ago the Seneca Indians discovered the natural landmark now known as Penn's Cave. Indians and early explorers used the dry rooms for shelter. In 1885, Penn's Cave opened as a commercial show cavern and the Penn's Cave Hotel was built.
- Fisherman's Paradise, located near Bellefonte on Spring Creek, is a project of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. In the 1950s it was reported that more than 35,000 fishermen visited annually with more than 75,000 trout are caught each year.
- Centre County is geographically the 5th largest county in Pennsylvania.
- In Centre County the Civilian Conservation Corps had camps at Poe Valley, Penn Roosevelt, McCalls Dam, Kato and Black Moshannon. Many state parks are a result of their work.

*For more fun facts, pick up the **Centre County Explorers** driving map at the Centre Furnace Mansion or the Centre County/Penn State Visitor Center.*

CENTRE REGION



Art Alliance of Central PA Gallery

The Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania features gallery shows and a Gallery Shop where you can find fine art and crafts from Central PA artists.



818 Pike Street
Lemont, PA 16851
(814) 234-2740
artalliancepa.org

DATE VISITED

Boalsburg Heritage Museum

The Sarah Sweet House, home to the Boalsburg Heritage Museum, was built in 1825 in a typical Pennsylvania Dutch architectural style. Nestled within the Boalsburg Historic District on the



National Register of Historic Places, the museum features period decorative arts with local origins, and has seasonal regular tour hours and exhibits.

304 East Main Street
Boalsburg, PA 16827
(814) 466-3035
boalsburgheritagemuseum.org

DATE VISITED

The Centre Furnace Mansion

National Register of Historic Places since 1979



Now headquarters to the Centre County Historical Society, the Centre Furnace Mansion is a beautifully restored and furnished ironmaster's residence that reflects the period of residency (1842-91) of ironmaster

Moses Thompson and his family. Guided tours reveal the history of Centre Furnace and the Mansion. Visitors will also enjoy period inspired gardens and carefully landscaped grounds including the historic Furnace Stack, where the heart of the late 18th-century ironmaking village once existed.

1001 East College Avenue
State College, PA 16801
(814) 234-4779
centrehistory.org

DATE VISITED

Centre County / Penn State Visitor Center

Visitors can access a large brochure and information area, an exhibit gallery, a gift shop, a vending area and more; with wireless internet service and an ATM, it's a great first stop in Centre County!



800 East Park Avenue
State College, PA 16803
(800) 358-5466
visitpennstate.org

DATE VISITED

Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts

The annual Central PA Festival of the Arts is a professionally juried Sidewalk Sale and Exhibition with several live music venues that takes place in the Borough of State College, and adjacent



University Park campus of The Pennsylvania State University. It is held for five days, from Wednesday through Sunday in early July.

403 South Allen Street #205A
State College, PA 16801
(814) 237-3682
arts-festival.com

DATE VISITED

Columbus Chapel and Boal Mansion Museum

National Register of Historic Places since 1978



The Boal Estate was home to the Boal family for eight generations and over 200 years. The original buildings and furnishings remain. In the

1890s, the 4th generation, Colonel Theodore Davis Boal, married Mathilde, a descendant of Christopher Columbus, and heir to the Columbus Chapel. She brought it to Boalsburg from Spain in 1909.

163 Boal Estate Drive
Boalsburg, PA 16827
(814) 466-6210
boalmuseum.com

DATE VISITED

Discovery Space Children's Science Museum

A science museum of interactive exhibits and hands-on programs designed to provide valuable informal science education in a fun learning environment.



1224 North Atherton Street
State College, PA 16803
(814) 234-0200
mydiscoveryspace.org

DATE VISITED

The Granary and Lemont Historic District

National Register of Historic Places since 1979



The John I. Thompson Grain Elevator and Coal Sheds (The Granary) is located within the Lemont Historic District. Built in 1885 by Moses Thomp-

son, the Granary helped distribute locally grown agricultural products by way of the railroad.

133 Mount Nittany Road
Lemont, PA 16851
lemontvillage.org

DATE VISITED

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center

Enjoy the marsh ecosystem, walking trails, wildlife viewing areas, beautiful views, and a relaxing natural setting close to home!



548 Puddintown Road
State College, PA 16801
(814) 235-7819
crpr.org/millbrook-marsh-nature-center

DATE VISITED

Pennsylvania Military Museum

The Pennsylvania Military Museum is a state owned museum dedicated to the military history of Pennsylvania. It recounts the story of Commonwealth citizens who served the U.S. in defense of the nation with a focus on the Spanish American War to the present.



51 Boal Avenue
Boalsburg, PA 16827
(814) 466-6263
pamilmuseum.org

DATE VISITED

The State Theatre

From high drama to children's musicals, from rock 'n' roll to live broadcasts from the Met, there is rarely a day without a show to be seen, a concert to be heard, or a laugh to be had



at the historic State Theatre. It is a vibrant hub of music, cinema, and live performance in the cultural heart of downtown State College and the Centre County region.

130 West College Avenue
State College, PA 16801
(814) 272-0606
thestatetheatre.org

DATE VISITED

The Arboretum at Penn State



Since 1914, when Penn State's trustees first set aside land for an arboretum, the project has inspired generations of students, faculty, and community members. In 1999, 370

acres were designated as the site of the Arboretum. Visitors can stroll through 10 different gardens including one designed specifically for children. The Arboretum, including the gardens, is open for visitation every day from dawn until dusk and holds special programs throughout the year.

Corner of Park Avenue
& Bigler Road
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 865-9118
arboretum.psu.edu

DATE VISITED

Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum and Art Gallery – Penn State

This museum gallery displays a collection of fine minerals, rocks and fossils totaling more than 22,000 specimens. The museum also features the country's most extensive collection of paintings and sculpture depicting mining and related industries.



16 Deike Building
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 865-6336
ems.psu.edu/outreach/museum

DATE VISITED

Matson Museum of Anthropology – Penn State



See archaeological objects from around the world, including Mesopotamia, Mexico, and Pennsylvania, and items used by contemporary cultures from Latin

America to Afghanistan. Of particular note is the museum's collection of 100-year-old pottery made in villages around the world.

409 Carpenter Building
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 865-3853
anth.la.psu.edu/matson-museum

DATE VISITED

The Nittany Lion Shrine

Penn State's Class of 1940 presented this sculpture of the school's mascot to the University in 1942. Carved by Heinz Warneke from a large block of Indiana limestone, the shrine is a popular setting for photographs by visitors and alumni.



1300-1401 Curtin Street
University Park
State College, PA 16801
psu.edu/ur/about/nittanyshrine.html

DATE VISITED

Palmer Museum of Art

– Penn State

The museum offers ever-changing exhibitions and displays of its permanent collection. With 11 galleries, a print-study room, 150-seat auditorium, and



outdoor sculpture garden, the Palmer Museum is a unique cultural resource for residents of and visitors to the region.

Curtin Road
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 865-7672
palmermuseum.psu.edu

DATE VISITED

Pasto Agricultural Museum

– Penn State



The museum features unusual farm and household items dating from 4,000 BC to the 1940s or more than 6,000 years! Visitors will learn about early farm

life as our nation grew, while gaining hands-on experience with the history of agriculture and household equipment by turning the cranks and moving levers.

Gate K
2710 West Pine Grove Road
Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865
(814) 863-1383
agsci.psu.edu/pasto

DATE VISITED

Penn State All Sports Museum

At the Penn State All-Sports Museum visitors can explore the athletic history and heritage of one of the greatest universities in the nation. Located at Penn State's Beaver



Stadium, this museum is an interactive, two-level testament to the world-class success and tradition of Penn State student-athletes.

1 Beaver Stadium
University Park, PA 16802
(814) 865-0044
gopsusports.com/museum

DATE VISITED

Penn State Old Main

Old Main is Penn State's administrative hub and is one of its most distinctive landmarks. Featuring the Federal Revival style of



architect Charles Z. Klauder, Old Main is also a gallery to Henry Varnum Poor's famous Land-Grant Frescoes that depict the University's founding and the history of its land-grant mission.

University Park
Pennsylvania 16802
psu.edu/ur/about/oldmainhistory.html

DATE VISITED

UPPER AND LOWER BALD EAGLE VALLEY



Curtin Village at Eagle Ironworks

National Register of Historic Places since 1971

Curtin Village at Eagle Ironworks is one of Central Pennsylvania's best preserved state-owned historical sites. It was part of a large iron plantation operated by Roland Curtin



and his family from 1810 to 1921. The site includes: the waterwheel-powered Pleasant Furnace (built in 1848); 19th century machines and tools; and the Curtin Family Mansion and workers' village. It is managed by the Roland Curtin Foundation.

215 Curtin Village Road
Howard, PA 16841
(814) 355-1982
curtinville.com

DATE VISITED

Milesburg Museum & Historical Society

Located in the Hannah Green Meeting House, Circa 1793. Find artifacts and genealogy resources from the Milesburg area. Special events are held throughout the year.



205 Market Street
Milesburg, PA 16841
814-280-8219 or 814-355-5670

DATE VISITED

MOSHANNANON VALLEY & MOUNTAINTOP REGION



Lions David House Heritage Museum



The David House was originally designed and constructed in the late 1880s by the Lehigh Valley Coal Company to provide housing for its workers. Jenkin

Reese David, a Welsh telegrapher for the company, moved into the residence shortly after its completion. It houses the Mountaintop Area's only public heritage collection.

206 North 4th Street
Snow Shoe, PA 16874
(814) 387-4200
david-house-museum.org

DATE VISITED

Philipsburg Heritage Days



Held annually in mid-July, this weeklong community festival celebrates that town and history of Philipsburg. Live music, a variety of vendors, children's activities, a car show, and a parade provide entertainment for the whole family.

PO Box 631
4 North Centre Street
Philipsburg, PA 16866
(814) 342-3440
philipsburgheritagedays.com

DATE VISITED

The John Henry Simler House

The log cabin built around 1807 is the oldest building in Philipsburg situated within the Philipsburg Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places and defines the beginning



of the District's period of significance. It was built by one of first settlers of Philipsburg. The cabin was restored in 2001 is open for tours during limited hours primarily during the summer months.

100 North Second Street
Philipsburg, PA 16866
For information, contact through:
[facebook.com/
PhilipsburgHistoricalFoundation](https://facebook.com/PhilipsburgHistoricalFoundation)

DATE VISITED

Rowland Theatre

National Register of Historic Places since 1979

The Rowland Theatre is an historic single screen movie theater, built in 1917 by Charles Hedding Rowland. After Rowland's death, new owners did a major restoration in the Art Deco style in the 1930s making the Rowland the most ornate and elegant theater in Centre County. The theater shows current movies nightly.



127 North Front Street
Philipsburg, PA 16866
(814) 342-0477
rowlandtheatre.com

DATE VISITED

Union Church & Burial Ground/ The Old Mud Church

National Register of Historic Places since 1978



Used by many denominations, this church served a growing community from 1842 until the early 1920s. The cemetery is surrounded by a three-foot stone wall and contains a 330-year-old white oak known

as the "Founder's Oak." The oldest grave is dated 1819.

607 East Presqueisle Street
Philipsburg, PA 16866
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Church_and_Burial_Ground

DATE VISITED

NITTANY VALLEY REGION



Bellefonte Art Museum of Centre County



Built in 1810, the Linn House, home of the Bellefonte Art Museum, was built from Trenton Limestone and is listed on the Historic American Buildings Survey. Works of local

artists, cultural art and local collections are featured. An Underground Railroad exhibit "A Journey to Freedom" remembers the role of our region in the operations of the Underground Railroad.

133 North Allegheny Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-4280
bellefontemuseum.org

DATE VISITED

Bellefonte Train Station and Visitors Center



Home to the Bellefonte office of the Central PA Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Bellefonte Intervalley Area Chamber, the Bellefonte Railroad Passenger Station was first built in 1889 as part of the

Pennsylvania Railroad, but was used by the Bellefonte Central and other railroads. Stop in for free information about Bellefonte's attractions, businesses, organizations, services, and events including a walking tour map.

320 West High Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-2917
bellefontechamber.org

DATE VISITED

Victorian Bellefonte

National Register of Historic Places since 1977

The Bellefonte Historic District features many examples of stunning Victorian architecture, which are highlighted on a walking tour map. Bellefonte was the home of seven governors and became the



most influential town between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. Visitors and residents can explore a variety of shops and restaurants. Talleyrand Park along Spring Creek offers a playground, picnic tables, a large green space, and live music in the summer.

Bellefonte, PA 16823
bellefontearts.org

DATE VISITED

Centre County Library and Historical Museum, Miles-Humes House

National Register of Historic Places since 1976



The early 19th-century Georgian style Miles-Humes House located in Bellefonte is home to a historical museum dedicated to local history. The Miles-Humes House is also

home to the Pennsylvania Room, a specialized historical and genealogical research library with collections that include original Centre County records, church and cemetery records, a genealogical reference collection, and more.

203 North Allegheny Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-1516, ext. 214
[centrecountylibrary.org/library/
pennsylvania-room](http://centrecountylibrary.org/library/pennsylvania-room)

DATE VISITED

Pennsylvania Match Factory, American Philatelic Society

Founded in 1886, the American Philatelic Society serves collectors, educators, postal historians, and the general public by providing a wide variety of programs and serv-



ices. Its headquarters is located at the “Match Factory,” a rescued and beautifully repurposed set of grand old buildings that once comprised the Pennsylvania Match Company factory (1900–1947). This facility includes the APS Research Library and historic Headsville, West Virginia Post Office. Tours are available.

100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte PA, 16823
(814) 933-3803
stamps.org

DATE VISITED

PENNS VALLEY REGION



The Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair

Beginning in 1874 as the "Granger's Pic-nik," the Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair is unlike any other county fair. This one includes 1,000 tents and



1,500 RVs which create a community within the fairgrounds. Visitors enjoy hundreds of concessions, over 7,000 exhibit items, amusement rides, livestock exhibits, tractor pulling, and much more!

169 Homan Lane / PO Box 271
Centre Hall, PA 16828
(866) 236-3247 or 364-9212
grangefair.net

DATE VISITED

Green Drake Gallery and Arts Center



Located in the Millheim Historic District, the Green Drake Gallery is an art gallery, a collection of artist studios, a music venue, a creative center for learning, and a community gathering place.

101-B West Main Street
Millheim, PA 16854
(814) 349-2486
greendrakeart.com

DATE VISITED

Penn's Cave and Wildlife Park

National Register of Historic Places since 1976

In 1885, Penn's Cave opened as a commercial show cavern, and the Penn's Cave Hotel was built. At the nation's only all-water cavern, visitors can enjoy



a cavern tour entirely by boat, a ride through the wildlife park, and other family-friendly activities.

222 Penns Cave Road
Centre Hall, PA 16828
(814) 364-1664
pennscave.com

DATE VISITED

Rhoneymeade Arboretum and Sculpture Garden / The Leonard Rhone House

Rhoneymeade is an intimate garden where a blossoming arboretum is the backdrop to a variety of sculptures. Surrounded by acres of farm, field, hedgerow, and woodland is a brick farmhouse, finished in



1853 by Leonard Rhone, originator of the Grange Fair. The Historic Rhone House, Arboretum, and Labyrinth are open to the public during posted hours.

177 Rimmey Road
Centre Hall, PA 16828
rhoneymeade.org

DATE VISITED

Penns Valley Area Historical Museum – Rudy-Corman Building

The museum is located in the Rudy-Corman Building on the main street in Aaronsburg. The museum offers tours featuring local history, assistance to family historians, community programs, and more.



244 West Aaron Square
Aaronsburg, PA 16820
(814) 349-4811
pennsvalleymuseum.org

DATE VISITED

PARKS & NATURAL AREAS



■ **Bear Meadows Natural Area**

National Natural Landmark since 1965

Located within the Rothrock State Forest in the Appalachian Mountains and near Tussey Mountain Ski Area, Bear Meadows contains a bog surrounded by steep mountains and hiking trails. The bog, which covers 320 acres, has been forming since the end of the last glacial period 10,000 years ago.

Rothrock State Forest District Office

(814) 643-2340

dcnr.pa.gov/stateforests

■ **Bald Eagle State Park**

The Bald Eagle State Park features a 1,730-acre lake, the result of the Sayers Dam, that is surrounded by forests, fields, and wetlands. It features two campgrounds, boating, fishing, swimming, the Nature Inn, and excellent wildlife watching.

149 Main Park Road

Howard, PA 16841

(814) 625-2775

dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/baldeagle

■ **Black Moshannon State Park Historic Districts**

National Register of Historic Places since 1987

At the top of the Allegheny Plateau, the Black Moshannon State Park Historic Districts offer visitors a lake for swimming and canoeing, hiking trails, and a boardwalk for bird-watching and exploring the plants of the bog and surrounding forests. Extend your stay in either modern or rustic cabins built by the Civil Conservation Corps during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

4216 Beaver Road

Philipsburg, PA 16866

(814) 342-5960

dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/blackmoshannon

■ **Mount Nittany/Mount Nittany Conservancy**

Over 800 acres are preserved and maintained on beautiful Mount Nittany in Centre County, Pennsylvania. There are nearly nine miles of volunteer-maintained trails and many scenic views, including a vigorous hike to a great overlook of State College, the Penn State campus and Mount Nittany Road.

Lemont, PA 16851

mtnittany.org

■ **Poe Valley and Poe Paddy State Parks**

Poe Valley and Poe Paddy State Parks are tucked into a mountain valley surrounded by endless forests. In the mid-1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built camp S-63-PA, which housed 200 young men who created the park and built many of the roads. Visitors today can enjoy picnicking, hiking, swimming, camping, fishing, and boating.

136 Poe Valley Park Circle

Coburn, PA 16832

(814) 349-2460

dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/poevalley

■ **Spring Creek Canyon**

Located on rock formations created over 500 million years ago, the canyon is rich in natural, agricultural and industrial history. It is now home to hiking and bike trails between Benner Spring and Fisherman's Paradise and some of the finest wild brown trout fishing in Pennsylvania.

State Game Lands 333 Parking Area

Bellefonte, PA 16823

centredoutdoors.org/sites/spring-creek-canyon/5

■ **Scotia (State Game Land 176)**

The iron ore-mining town of Scotia has been reclaimed by the Pine Barrens, leaving only a scattering of iron ore, hidden foundations, and a sense of curiosity. Scotia iron ore pits provided work for a bustling mining town of some 400 people. Today, hikers, bikers, and bird watchers enjoy the varying landscape.

Scotia Range Road

Port Matilda, PA 16870

pahikes.com/trails/scotia-barrens



Lemont Granary



Millbrook Marsh



Victorian Bellefonte



CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Centre Furnace Mansion

1001 East College Avenue • State College, PA 16801

814-234-4779 • centrehistory.org

Philipsburg
Heritage Days

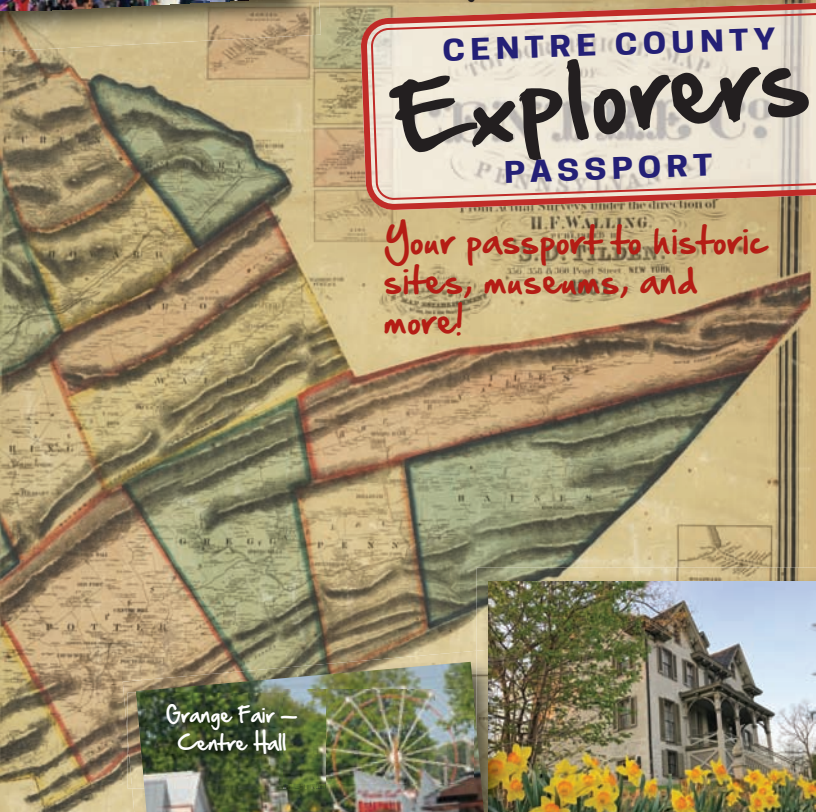


PA Military Museum —
Boalsburg



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Centre Furnace Mansion