

## Historic Tamaqua 10K Walk Rated 3 due to Hills & Steps

### Historical Significance of Tamaqua Train Station

The Tamaqua Train Station was built in 1874 by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. It fell into disrepair. In 1994, a group called "Tamaqua SOS" for "Save Our Station" put together a program to raise money to restore the station to its former glory. On Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, the train station was unveiled to the public. Note the bricks that form the walkway in front of the station. These bricks were sold to raise money to assist in the restoration. People who bought the bricks designated the engravings and in return for their donation, their bricks were set into the sidewalk.

Please visit the web site for the Tamaqua Train station:  
<http://www.tamaquastation.com/>

The single railroad track that runs through downtown is still active. However, at one time, there were six or seven tracks that ran through the town. Today's tracks are operated by the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad (RBMN) (Railroad Heritage), headquartered in Port Clinton, PA. The tracks were formerly run by the Reading Company, which went bankrupt in 1976 and became part of Conrail. The RBMN's principal business is to haul coal and freight. But they also run passenger excursions on special occasions. The railroad owns two vintage steam engines and a fleet of 1920's era passenger cars that they bring up to Tamaqua twice a year, for the Tamaqua Summer Festival and the Tamaqua Heritage Festival in October.

- A. Standing at the door of the train station with the station behind you, turn RIGHT and walk toward Broad St. (US-209). You are walking toward the building that has a sign "Tamaqua" on it. The railroad tracks are on your left.
- B. When you reach Broad St., turn RIGHT and walk to the traffic light. Press the WALK button.
- C. When you get the walk signal, cross Broad St. in the crosswalk.

### Tamaqua QA Office

The building ahead of you with the sign that says "Tamaqua Telegraph Office" is the Tamaqua QA Office. When the Reading Company ran the railroad, the QA office was the telegraph office. "QA" was the symbol for Tamaqua.

### Texas Lunch Mural

Ahead of you, notice a "Texas Lunch" mural painted on the side of a building. This represents a block of businesses that formerly existed in downtown Tamaqua in the late 1970's. The Texas Lunch was one of the most famous eateries in the area. A diner could enjoy hot wieners and hamburgers very inexpensively. The diner was famous for its chili sauce. Today, you can buy something similar at a tiny restaurant called "Chili Dog" that you'll pass near the end of the walk.

### Downtown Tamaqua Business Area

To your right is a row of attractive buildings, including the M&S Hardware store. This store is an old-fashioned family-run hardware store. These buildings form the core of downtown Tamaqua.

- D. After crossing Broad St., continue straight on Railroad St. (M&S Hardware store is on the right, railroad tracks are on the left.)
- E. Continue along the sidewalk on Railroad St. Pass the public library on the right (restroom on Saturday when open). Pass the parking lot for the Tamaqua Family Practice.
- F. At the corner of Railroad St. and Spruce St., cross Spruce St. and then turn RIGHT (no crosswalk – be cautious!). There is no street sign. However, to the left is a railroad sign that says "3-Tracks". Straight ahead is a large brown building.
- G. Using the sidewalk, walk up the hill on the left side of Spruce St. to the traffic light.

### Tamaqua Primitive Methodist Church

As you walk up the hill, notice the large grey church with the chimney and stained glass windows to your right. This is the oldest church of this denomination in the nation.

- H. Turn LEFT at the traffic light onto Hunter St. (no sign). You will pass Pieracini's Deli (great hoagies!) on the left.
- I. Continue up the hill on the sidewalk on the left side of Hunter St.
- J. Cross Hunter St. and turn RIGHT at the first street on the right onto Penn St. (One-Way sign pointing toward you and a DO NOT ENTER sign.)
- K. Walk up the hill on Penn St. on the right side, on a brick sidewalk. Cross Bowe St., Green St., and pass the South Ward Playground on the right. Cross Oak St. (no sign) and Coal St. (no sign). At the top of the hill is the Tamaqua Area Senior High School, home of the Tamaqua Area Blue Raiders.
- L. Walk past the high school, keeping the school to your left and the parking lot to your right. Turn RIGHT at the stop sign across from the sign for the Tamaqua Area Senior High School onto Lehigh St. to head downhill for just a short bit. Walk on the sidewalk on the left side of the road. Notice the mountainsides ahead of you, reclaimed strip-mines.
- M. At the stop sign on the right / brick building (ticket window for the sports stadium) on the left, turn RIGHT onto Spruce St. Walk on the left side of the street until you can hop onto the sidewalk. To the right ahead of you is another mountain strip-mine in the process of being reclaimed.



- N. At the stop sign, cross Coal St. and turn LEFT. Walk on the sidewalk on the right side of Coal St.
- O. Turn RIGHT at the next intersection onto Van Gelder St. Walk on the sidewalk on the right side of Van Gelder. At Oak St., cross to the left side of Van Gelder, and continue on the sidewalk that begins at the school (**College Campus Program**).

### **Lehigh Carbon Community College**

*The Tamaqua campus of the Lehigh Carbon Community College is to your left (College Campus Credit – perhaps the smallest college campus we may have ever volkswalked by!). This college was paid for out of the estate of the late John E. Morgan. The estate stipulated that all graduates from the Tamaqua Area High School can attend this campus for free for two years.*

*John E. Morgan invented and/or held the patent for thermal underwear.*

- P. Walk on the left down the hill on Van Gelder as the sidewalk ends. Turn LEFT with the road, and continue on the left side of Nescopeck St.
- Q. Turn LEFT at the next intersection before you go down the hill (High St., stop sign but no street sign). As you make the turn, notice Old St. Jerome's Cemetery is on the corner.
- R. Walk up the hill on High St. The college will be on your left as you ascend the hill.
- S. At the stop sign, turn RIGHT onto Swatara St. BE CAREFUL! Swatara street is steep and may have some loose gravel on top of the asphalt. Walk on the right side of Swatara down the hill to Mahanoy St.

### **Tamaqua's Iron Steps**

*Tamaqua has many sets of iron steps, which were constructed to allow people to more easily go from the lower-elevation business districts to the upper-level residential districts.*

- T. Turn RIGHT onto Mahanoy St. Walk on the left side of the road after the sidewalk ends.
- U. After the dog waste sign on the right, notice a platform structure on the right. Cross Mahanoy St. and walk up the platform to view the Jack Kehoe gravesite in Old St. Jerome's Cemetery (**Spirit of Walking Cemetery Stroll**).

### **Jack Kehoe Gravesite**

*"Blackjack" Kehoe, noted leader of the Molly McGuires, was tried and hanged in Pottsville for his alleged crimes on December 18, 1878. He was granted a posthumous pardon in 1979 by Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp.*

- V. Descend the steps from the platform, turn RIGHT and walk to the stop sign (corner of S. Nescopeck and Mahanoy St.). Notice iron steps to the left.
- W. Turn LEFT at the iron steps, and descend them.
- X. At the bottom of the steps, turn RIGHT onto Cottage Ave. (no sign) and walk along the left side of the road.

- Y. At the stop sign, carefully cross Hunter St. (no sign) and continue on Cottage Ave. Pass a marquis for the Little Theatre on the left.
- Z. At the end of Cottage Ave. (at the stop sign – do not cross the railroad tracks), turn LEFT onto Railroad St. (no sign).
- AA. At W. Broad St., turn LEFT (no sign) and walk on the sidewalk on the left side of W. Broad St.
- BB. Pass La Dolce Casa restaurant (good Italian food) and other businesses.
- CC. Cross Hunter St. at the traffic light and continue on the left side of W. Broad St.
- DD. At the intersection of W. Broad and <sup>Swatara</sup> ~~Nescopeck~~ Sts., cross to the right side of W. Broad St. Continue walking west on the sidewalk along W. Broad St.
- EE. As you walk along W. Broad St. you will pass many Victorian-style homes, as well as the First Presbyterian Church, St. Jerome's R.C. Church, and Calvary Episcopal Church on the left.
- FF. Cross Swatara St. and Lehigh St.

### **Benjamin Yost**

*At the corner of W. Broad and Lehigh Streets, notice an historical marker commemorating the spot where Tamaqua Police Officer Benjamin Yost was murdered by a member of the Molly Maguires on July 6, 1875. To this day, Benjamin Yost is the only Tamaqua police officer to die in the line of duty. You will visit his gravesite on this walk.*

- GG. Continue on W. Broad St. Cross Catawissa St. and bear RIGHT onto the road that leads up and into the Odd Fellows Cemetery (Another **Spirit of Walking Cemetery Stroll**). Stay to the left of the house.
- HH. At a three-way fork in the road, take the middle road and walk toward the mausoleum.

### **Mausoleum Windows**

*Although now vandalized, the beautiful stained glass windows in this crypt were Tiffany windows. Years ago, when still intact, the window was valued at \$85,000.*

- II. At the mausoleum, turn RIGHT. You are now walking directly toward the flag pole at the Soldier's Circle Monument.
- JJ. When you reach the circular walkway surrounding the Soldier's Circle Monument, walk counter-clockwise around the right side.
- KK. At the fork, bear RIGHT, so that the tombstone marked "Aurand", and the "Shepp" memorial (cross) are on your left.
- LL. Turn LEFT, immediately after the "Shepp" cross and go about 15 feet to the grave of Benjamin Yost.
- MM. Retrace your steps to the road and turn RIGHT towards Soldier's Circle. When you reach the circle, walk counter-clockwise to the right around the circle.



NN. Turn RIGHT in front of the flag pole. You are now facing directly towards downtown Tamaqua.

OO. Continue straight along this path. Descend a set of concrete steps.

PP. At the bottom of the steps, turn LEFT onto Catawissa St. Walk on the ride side of Catawissa St. Pass Edward's Flowers on the left.

QQ. At the stop sign, cross and turn RIGHT onto Lafayette St. Cross Lombard St., then walk on the sidewalk on the left side of Lafayette St.

RR. Turn LEFT onto Lehigh St. and walk on the sidewalk on the left side of the road. Cross Anderson St. and Jerome St.

SS. Just before the top of the hill and across from 405 Lehigh St., cross Lehigh St. to visit the house of "The Tulip Lady".

### **The Tulip Lady**

*The Tamaqua home of Wesley and Doris Kehlor was featured in Good Housekeeping Magazine in April 2005, and the Early Spring 2005 edition of Country Gardens Magazine because of the beautiful gardens.*

TT. Turn around and retrace your steps, walking down the hill, on the sidewalk on the left side of Lehigh St.

UU. Turn LEFT onto Jerome St.

VV. Turn RIGHT onto Gay St.

WW. At the stop sign at the bottom of the hill, turn LEFT onto Lafayette St.

### **C. Bischoff Building**

*As you make your turn onto Lafayette St., notice an old brick building to the right with an old, faint painted advertisement for "C. Bischoff Manufacturer of Furniture & Wood Turnings". (On the other side of the building, the writing reads "Bischoff's Gun, Furniture, and Undertaker".) This building dates back to 1851, and is now an antique store.*

XX. Walk on the left side of Lafayette St. Pass an unmarked street to the right (Swatara St.) at the stop sign, and Martha's Place (Restaurant).

YY. Cross Pitt St. At a fork in the road, carefully cross Lafayette St. and take the road to the right. Walk on the left side of the road a short distance to Hegarty's Blacksmith Shop on the left.

### **Hegarty's Blacksmith Shop**

*This Blacksmith Shop was built in 1848 by Thomas Hegarty, and was owned and operated by three generations of the Hegarty family from 1846 until 1973. It was donated to the Tamaqua Historical Society by the Hegarty family in 1974. Blacksmith demonstrations are given during Tamaqua's Summer Festival in June and Heritage Festival in October.*

ZZ. Continue on the left side of the road. Walk between the light brown metal structure and the brick Wachovia building to the back of the Train Station.

AAA. Walk through the gate in the metal fence, and turn LEFT to the CHECKPOINT.

BBB. After the CHECKPOINT at the Station, turn LEFT to proceed North with the railroad tracks on your right. Walk between the caboose and the trapezoid-shaped brown and white Watchman's shack, and continue on the footpath.

CCC. The footpath leads to a small street with houses on your left and a railing and the railroad tracks on your right. This small street is called Pleasant Row.

DDD. Continue on Pleasant Row (note the Italian Bakery sign on the left) to the first intersection. (large brick industrial building on the near-left corner).

EEE. Turn right onto Elm St. (no sign yet) and walk on the right side of the road.

FFF. Cross railroad tracks, Railroad St. (traffic light), Rolling Mill Ave., and Pine St. (traffic light). Cross a bridge over the Little Schuylkill River (**Riverwalk America**).

GGG. After crossing over the bridge, turn RIGHT onto Schuylkill Ave. (no sign). The New Life Assembly of God Church is on the far left corner.

HHH. Walk along Schuylkill Ave., with the river on the right. (You make the call: There is a sidewalk on the left side of Schuylkill Ave., but you can catch glimpses of the river better on the right. I prefer walking on the right side of the road, but the cars do come from behind you here.)

III. Notice the garage with the mural on the left side of Schuylkill Ave. Continue straight ahead on Schuylkill Ave. at the Do Not Enter signs.

JJJ. At the intersection, turn LEFT onto Mauch Chunk St. (no sign, but the Italian Club is on the left corner). Walk on the sidewalk on the left side of Mauch Chunk.

KKK. Turn RIGHT to cross Mauch Chunk St. at the first intersection, Greenwood St. (Zion Lutheran Church will be on the far left corner.)

### **Concrete Barrier**

*Notice a concrete barrier in front of the house on the corner of Mauch Chunk and Greenwood Sts. This was erected long ago, by a previous owner of this house to stop runaway carriages and vehicles from running down the hill, jumping the curb, and hitting the house.*

LLL. After looking at the concrete barrier, cross Greenwood St. and turn RIGHT to walk downhill on the sidewalk of the left side of Greenwood.

MMM. Cross E. Broad St. at the traffic light and continue on Greenwood St.

NNN. Pass Cedar St. to the right, and cross a bridge over the Panther Creek.

OOO. Cross the railroad tracks and Hazel St. (no sign). Go up a hill, crossing Arlington St. Notice the



junkyard German Shepherds that live in a car inside the fence, next to the railroad on the right.

PPP. At the end of Greenwood St., turn LEFT onto Mountain Ave. (Tom's Auto Body and Sporting Goods is on the right.) There is no sidewalk on Mountain Ave. Walk on the left side of the road.

QQQ. Cross Patterson Ave. / Market St. (no sign), Elizabeth St. (no sign), and Columbia St. (no sign).

RRR. Pass the East End Park (playground) on the right. This park has restrooms when open.

SSS. At the end of Mountain Ave., turn LEFT onto Federal St. (no sign).

TTT. Turn RIGHT onto Arlington St. (next intersection). Walk on the sidewalk on the left side of Arlington.

UUU. At the end of Arlington St., turn LEFT onto Laurel St. (no sign). Walk on the left side of Laurel St.

VVV. At the stop sign, turn LEFT onto E. Broad St. (main road, lots of traffic). Walk on the sidewalk on the left side of E. Broad St.

WWW. Cross Federal St. At the traffic light at S. Columbia St., cross E. Broad and continue walking on the sidewalk along the right side of E. Broad St. Notice the Victorian-style houses especially on the left side of E. Broad St.

XXX. Cross S. Elizabeth St. and the railroad tracks. Notice the sign for the Jno. F. McGinty Brewery.

YYY. Pass the Turkey Hill store on the left (restroom). Cross a bridge over the Panther Creek on the left, and

Market St. on the right. Pass the Burkhardt Moser Log Home on the right.

### **Burkhardt Moser Log Home**

*The Burkhardt Moser Log Home was the first home built in Tamaqua. Across the US-209 at Greenwood St., portions of Rafferty's Bar were formerly Burkhardt Moser's sawmill, which was the first structure built in Tamaqua.*

ZZZ. Cross Greenwood St. (traffic light). Cross a bridge over the Little Schuylkill River. Cross Pine St. (traffic light). Just after Pine St., notice a little restaurant called "Chili Dog" on the left. They have great hot dogs for 75¢ each – a hot dog with onions, mustard and special homemade chili sauce! Chili Dog is closed on Sundays. ☺

AAAA. At the next traffic light, press the button for the walk signal. When you get the walk signal, cross Mauch Chunk St. Cross the railroad tracks, then turn RIGHT onto the sidewalk to return to the train station.

### **M&T Bank**

*As you cross Mauch Chunk St. (PA-309) look left and notice the unusual shape of the brick building. The architects designed it to look like a coal breaker because of Tamaqua's rich coal mining heritage.*

BBBB. Thank you for supporting The York White Rose Wanderers! We hope you have enjoyed your visit and walk in Tamaqua!

# **Tamaqua 10K Walk Route**

