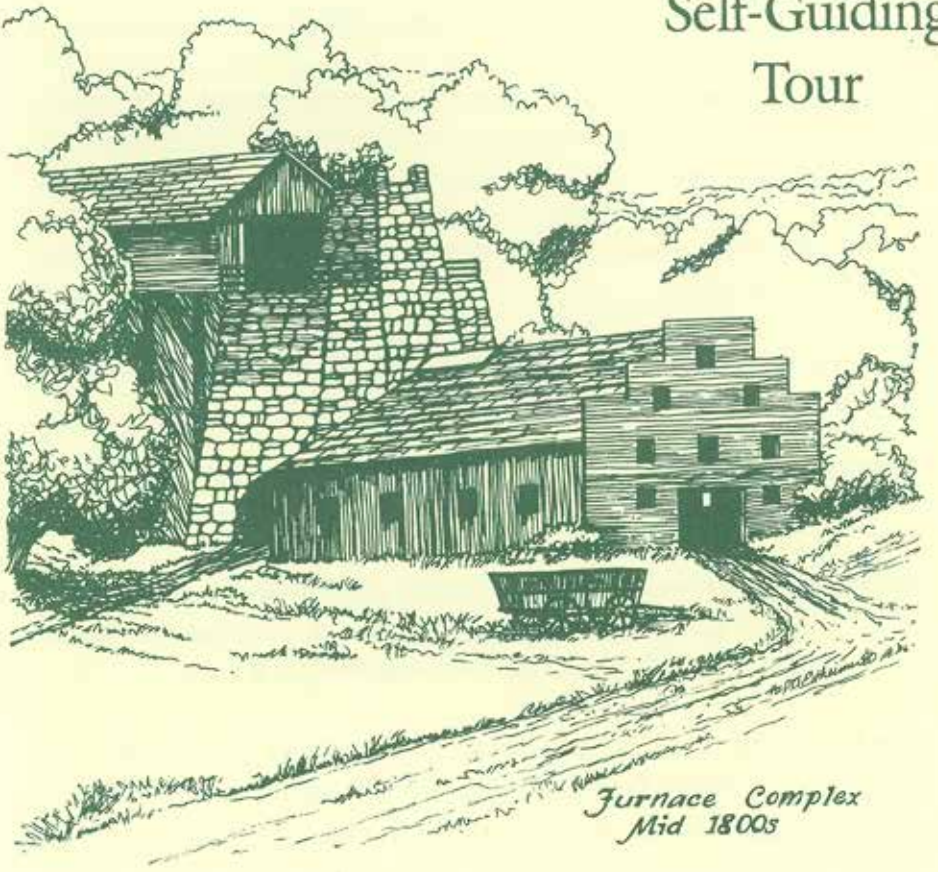
THADDEUS STEVENS

HISTORICAL TRAIL

A Self-Guiding Tour



CALEDONIA STATE PARK

TRAIL GUIDELINES

Take time today to get involved with life around you! Listen, Look, Smell and Feel.

Here are some guidelines to help you have an enjoyable day.

- O Hike only on the trails provided. This will protect the life that borders the trail.

- O Show respect for historical sites. View exhibits from the trail.

- O Enjoy plants and animals in their natural environment. Picking, digging and collecting park flora are not permitted. All wildlife should be left undisturbed.

- O Walk the trails quietly and without your pet. You will see more wildlife this way.

- O Cover the trails on foot. Motorized vehicles, horses and bicycles are not permitted on interpretive trails.

REMEMBER: TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES AND LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS.

NOTE: Natural areas possess hazards not normally encountered in your home surroundngs. You are responsible for your family's safety and for knowing the park rules.

Thaddeus Stevens Historical Trail is .8 miles (1.3 km) long. By following Midland Trail on the return trip you can complete a circular path in about one hour of easy walking.

WELCOME TO CALEDONIA STATE PARK

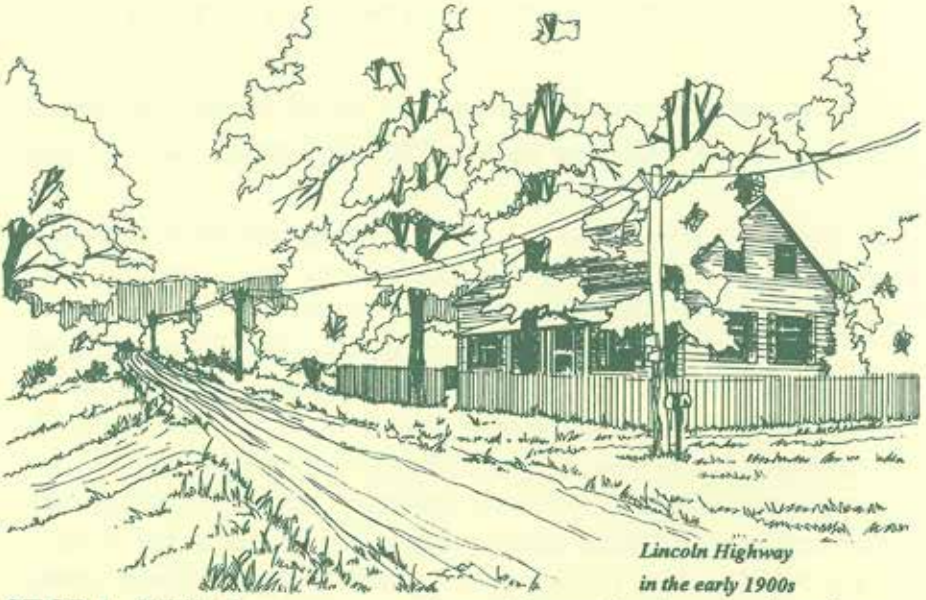
Begin your historical hike at the Trail Visitor's Center—the log cabin building located along Route 30.

For the next mile imagine that you are visiting Caledonia in the year 1837. This is when Thaddeus Stevens' iron furnace community was in full operation.

As you follow this trail you will see the remains of a once prosperous industrial town and learn what natural resources made it possible to manufacture iron in this area.

Keep alert to the many types of wildlife that have invaded the manmade structures. Chipmunks sometimes hide under the furnace stack and many different water creatures inhabit the races.

The **STOPS** in the brochure correspond with the numbered posts located along the trail. When you are finished with this brochure please return it to the blacksmith shop or park office so others may use it.



Lincoln Highway in the early 1900s

STOP 1 While there were no automobiles or trucks zooming along what is now Route 30 in the 1800s, the dirt road was already a busy route. Many workers in the Caledonia community lived along its edges. The ironmaster's Big House and the village store were located across the roadway where the park's cottages now stand. Travelers often spent the night at the Graeffenburg Inn, located about one mile east of here.

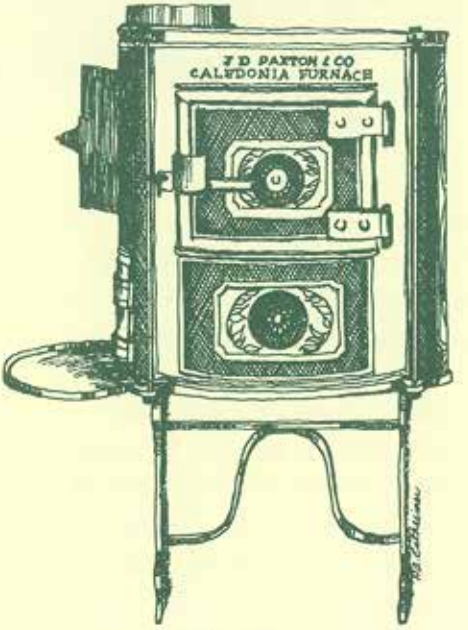
Later the roadway was named Lincoln Highway, and was celebrated as America's first coast-to-coast highway.

STOP 2 The original blacksmith shop was once a part of a large complex of barns, stables, granaries, sawmills and living quarters which formed the Caledonia iron village. Inside are the forge, bellows and tools which were used by the blacksmith to make horseshoes, tools, wheel rims and hundreds of other things.

Thaddeus Stevens was never a blacksmith. He was a well-known lawyer and politician. This site bears his name because he and J. D. Paxton financed the iron industry in Caledonia. Stevens called this place "Caledonia" after his home county in Vermont.

The blacksmith was not the only worker who used the iron made in Caledonia. Inside the shop you can see an iron stove cast by Caledonian craftsmen who ladled molten iron into sand-packed wooden frames. Where did these men get the iron they needed?

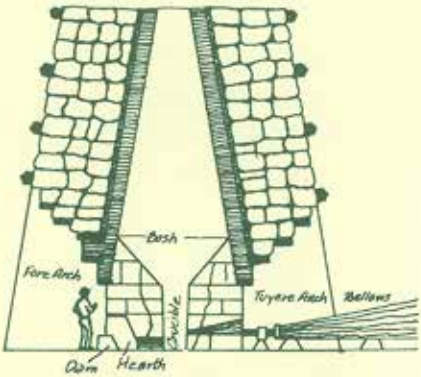
Take the foot bridge across the stream and cross Route 233 to find out how iron was made.



Stove cast at Caledonia Furnace

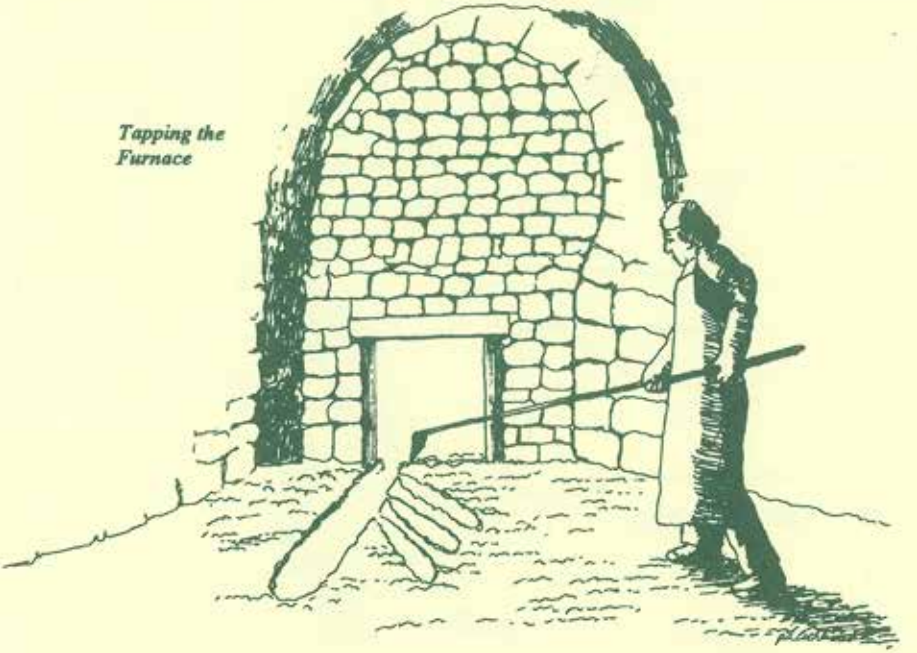
STOP 3 This monument of the furnace stack is all that remains of the Caledonia Iron Furnace built in 1837. Like many furnace stacks of its day, this one is located on the side of the hill so that the fillers could more easily load the ore, charcoal and limestone into the top of the furnace. These were the three essential ingredients in the formation of iron.

Inside the cold-blast furnace, the iron from the ore melted out when the ore was heated. This heavy molten iron flowed to the base of the furnace. At certain times the workers would "tap" the furnace by drawing the molten iron out the front of the furnace into canals made in a bed of sand. Hardened pieces of pig iron could then be shipped to other locations or used by nearby communities. The large shed in which the iron stoves were cast stood near the stack. Between two and three tons of iron were produced here each working day.



Inside the stacks, impurities from the ore mixed with the limestone to form slag. This "man-made rock" is the shiny stone commonly found in the park. At one time the parking lot here was a slag pile. Slag was used in road construction.

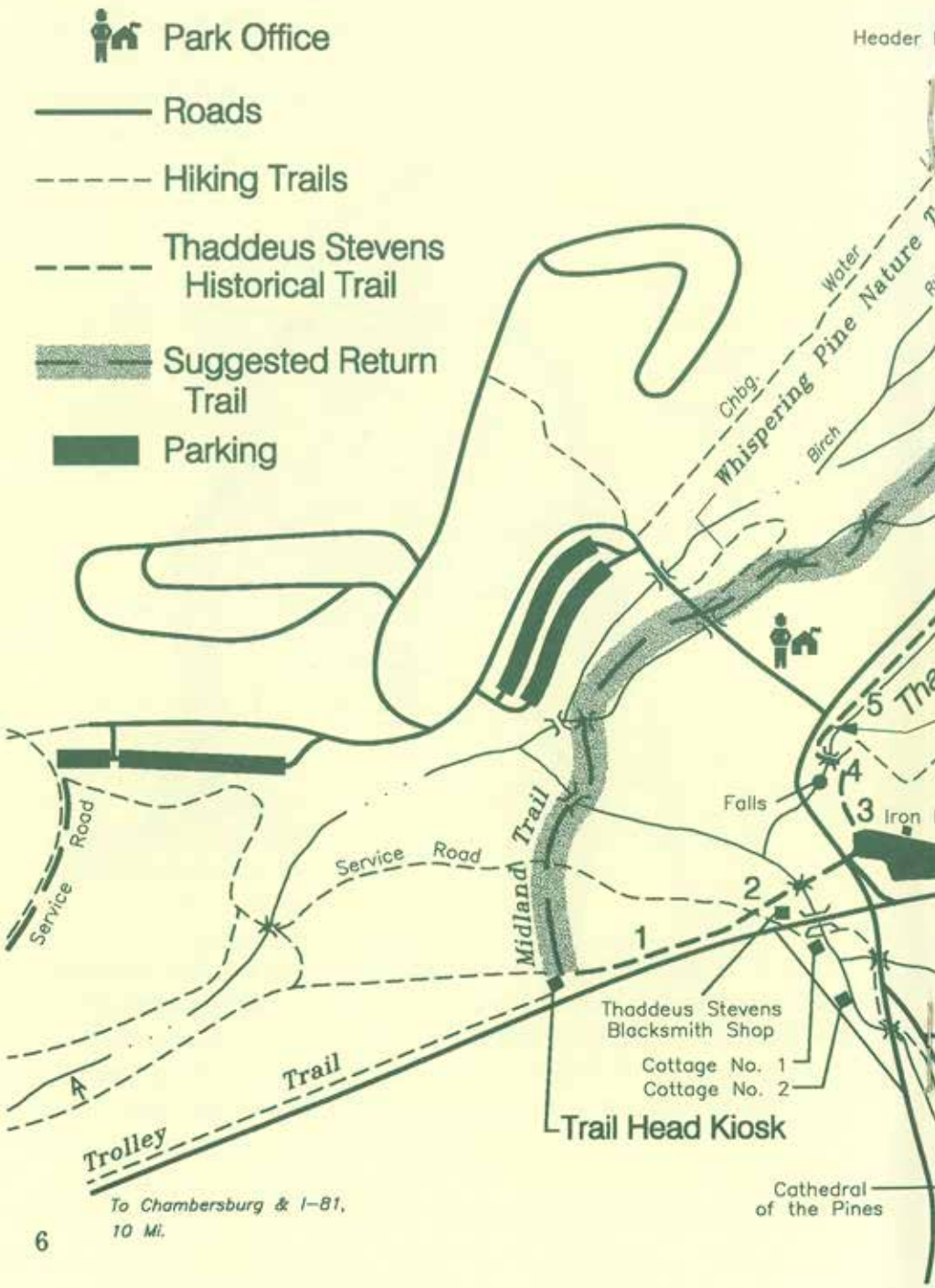
Lighted charcoal supplied the furnace with the tremendous heat needed to melt the iron. Soon you will be retracing the steps used to make charcoal in Caledonia. Continue your walk up the macadam path to the waterfall.

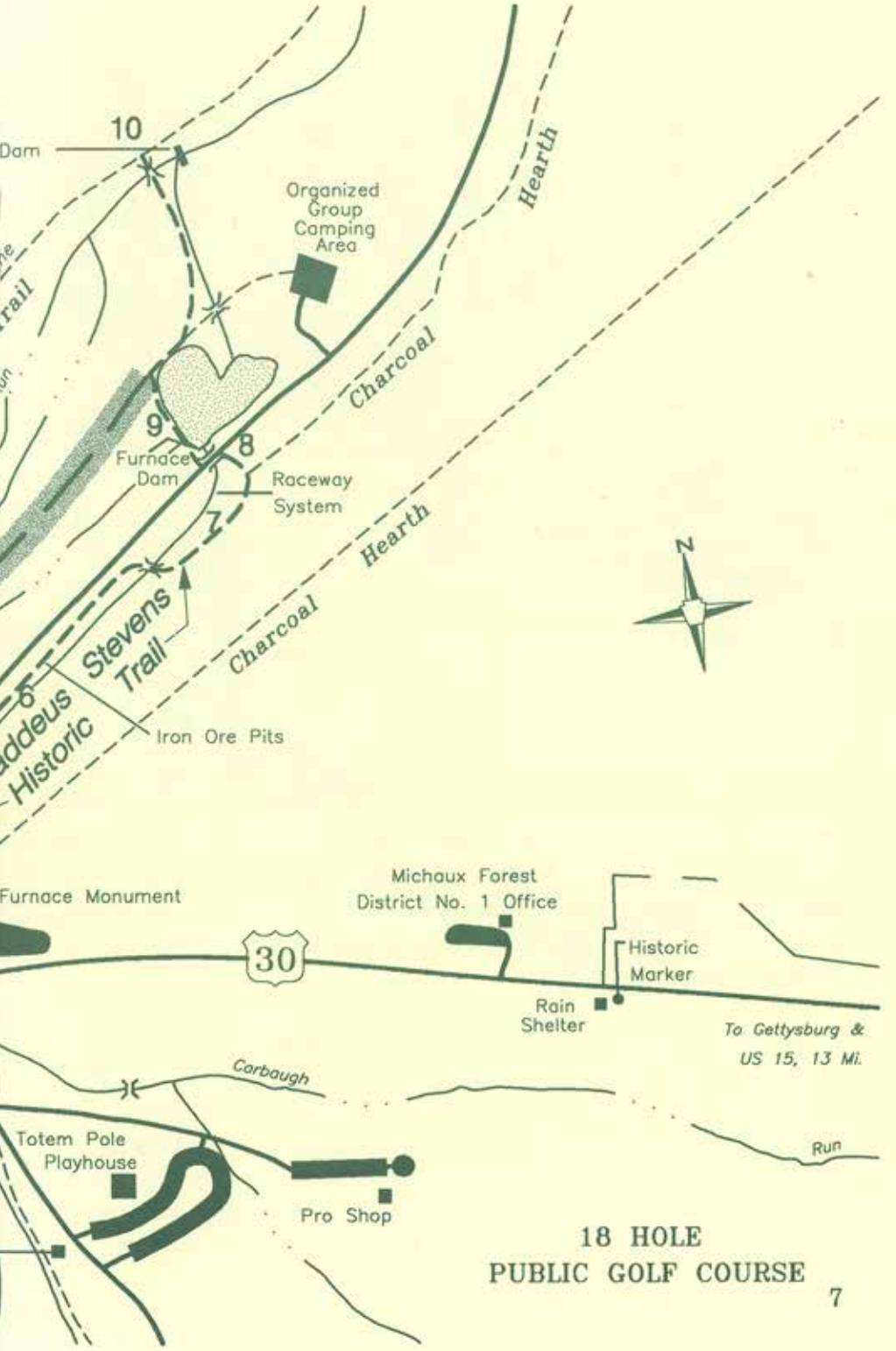


Tapping the Furnace

STOP 4 A 30-foot waterwheel once stood at this location, converting water power to mechanical power. This wheel powered a large bellows which forced air into an opening in the furnace stack. The cold air blast produced by the bellows made the charcoal fire tremendously hot. Would you like to guess where the water for the falls comes from?

CALEDONIA STATE PARK




10
Dam
Organized
Group
Camping
Area
Hearth
Charcoal
9
8
Furnace
Dam
Raceway
System
Stevens
Trail
Charcoal
Hearth
Iron Ore Pits
N
Furnace Monument
Michaux Forest
District No. 1 Office
30
Historic
Marker
Rain
Shelter
To Gettysburg &
US 15, 13 Mi.
Carbaugh
Run
Totem Pole
Playhouse
Pro Shop
18 HOLE
PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

STOP 5 This waterway that directly supplies the falls is not a natural stream. It is a man-made race dug by hand in the 1830s. Races were a common means of supplying water power to iron furnaces, sawmills and gristmills in early America. Where do you think the source of this raceway is located?

STOP 6 Pits such as you see here were probably excavations for iron ore. Iron pits can be found throughout the park area. The ore, the size of a hickory nut after mining, was washed, weighed at scales located near the junction of what are now Routes 30 and 233, and transported by wagon to the furnace bridge house. Large lumps of ore were reduced to size by premelting them at a roasting bank near the furnace. It took nearly 2.5 tons of ore to produce one ton of metal.

Steps in Charcoaling

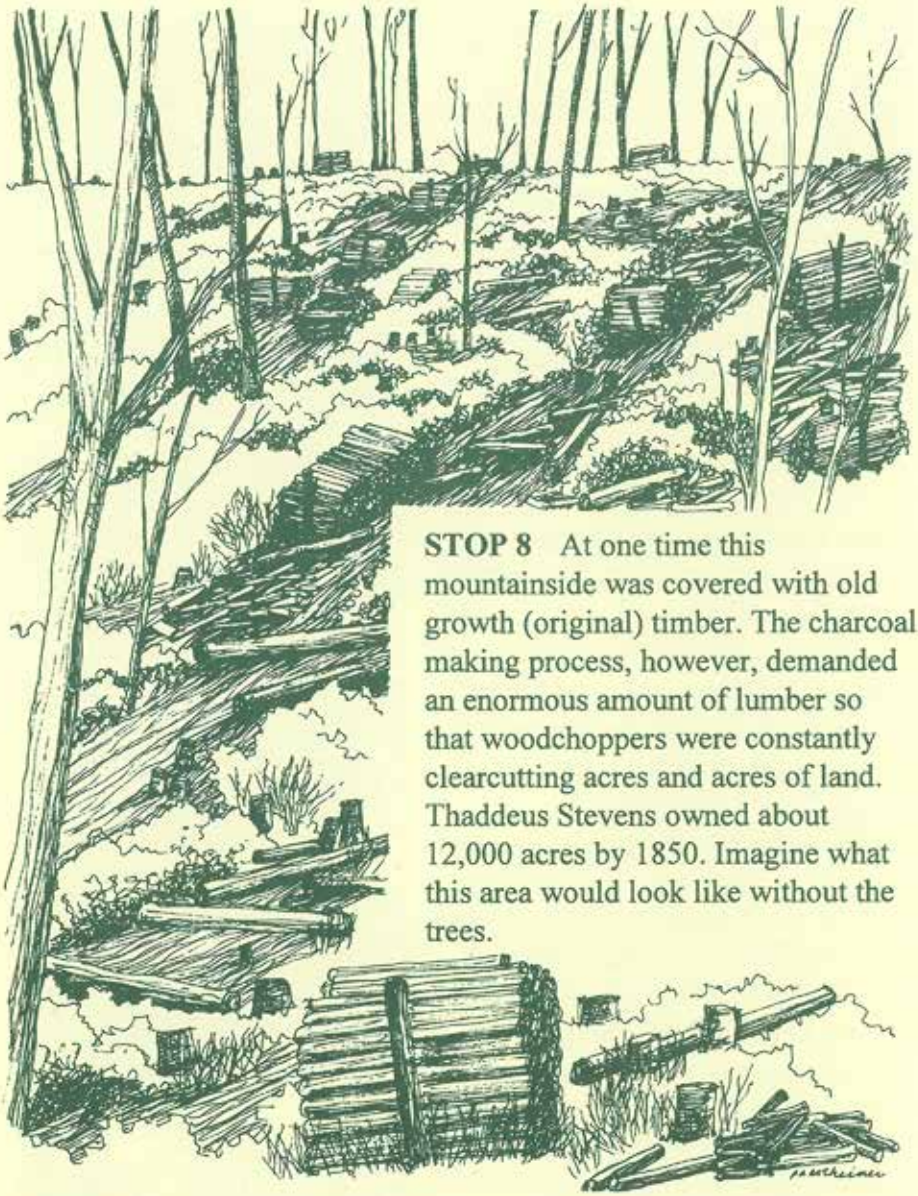
STOP 7 For a large part of each year, the woodchoppers and colliers (charcoal makers) who worked in Caledonia lived in conical huts on the mountainsides. Woodchoppers clearcut hundreds of acres of land each season. Many of these men became colliers in the spring and summer. These colliers built and tended the large charcoal piles.

This sequence of drawings shows the process of making charcoal from clearing a hearth to raking out the charcoal to cool.

The triangular chimney, comprised of kindling, was used to start the charcoaling when burning embers were dropped down into the center of the pile.

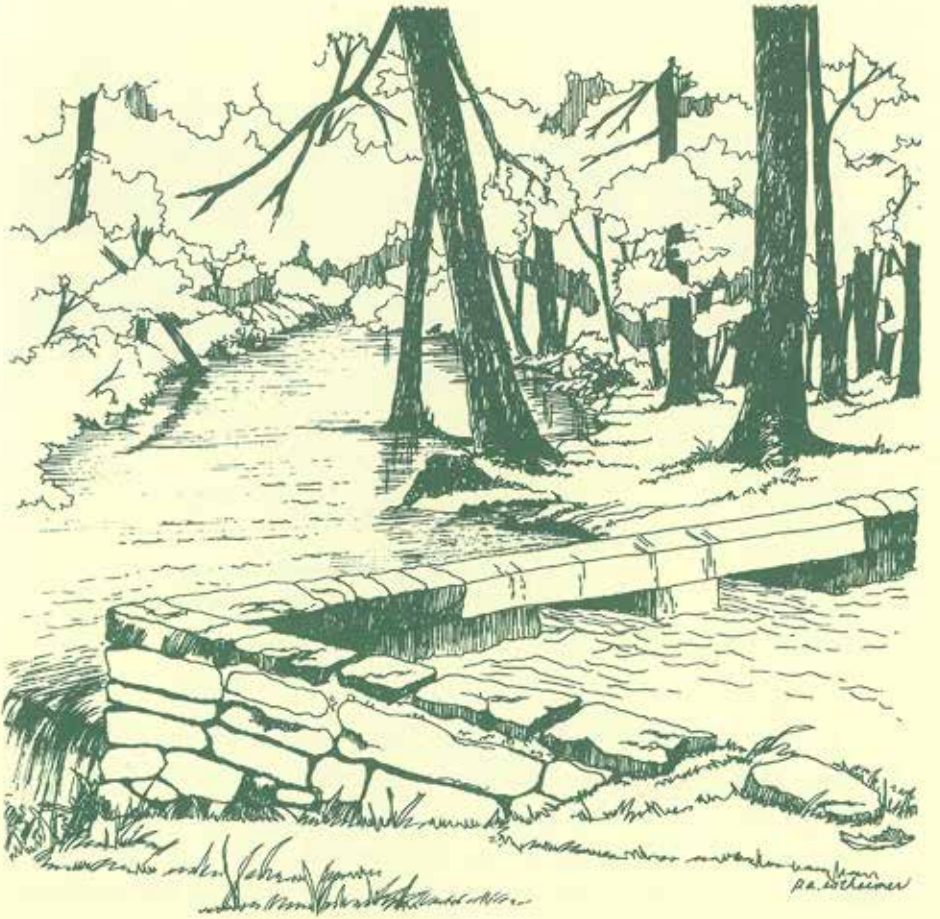
The completed pile was covered with leaves and ashes to control the amount of air during burning. Openings were made near the bottom of the pile to allow the right amount of oxygen to enter. Depending on the size of the pile it might take as long as two weeks to complete the burning. The cooled charcoal was taken to the furnace by wagon.

A hike on the rugged 2.7 mile Charcoal Hearth Trail would give you a good idea of a charcoal making area. The charcoal hearths on which colliers built the charcoal piles are still visible along that trail.



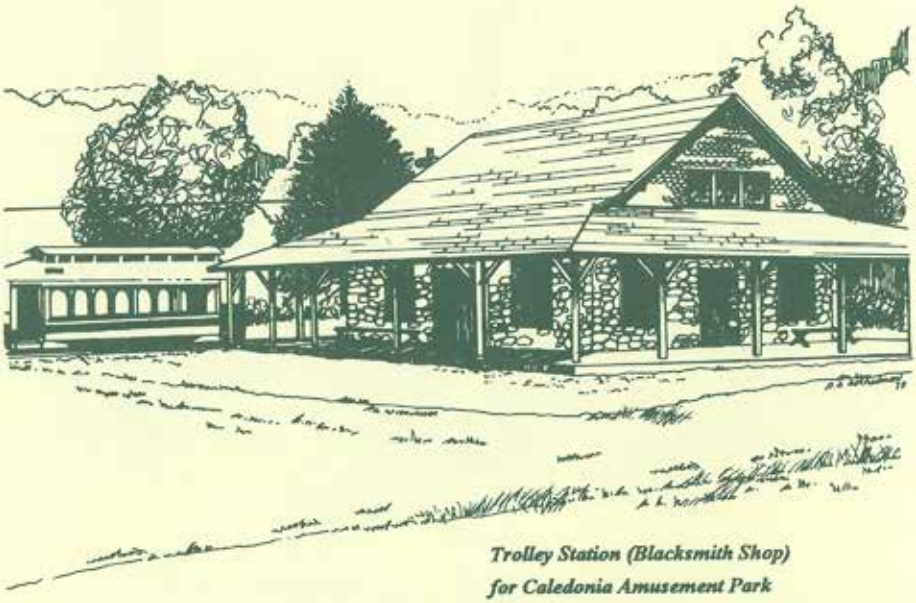
STOP 8 At one time this mountainside was covered with old growth (original) timber. The charcoal making process, however, demanded an enormous amount of lumber so that woodchoppers were constantly clearcutting acres and acres of land. Thaddeus Stevens owned about 12,000 acres by 1850. Imagine what this area would look like without the trees.

STOP 9 The furnace dam is a hand-dug body of water that was once used to stabilize the water level in the race which ran the waterwheel. The dam assured the workers that there would be enough water to run the wheel even in periods of severe drought. Today, the dam is used for fishing. Many types of aquatic life can be found along its banks.



STOP 10 Finally we come to the header dam. Here the water enters the race. This dam also protected the Caledonia iron works from floods. Locks were operated on each wall face to regulate the water flow. If a flood threatened, the locks could be closed. The stream which supplies this race is Conococheague Creek.

This is the last stop on the Thaddeus Stevens Historical Trail. Now you know that this quiet rural area, known as Caledonia State Park, was once a bustling iron community. This iron community remained active even after General Early and his confederate troops destroyed the furnace works in June of 1863. The confederate raid lasted several days.



Trolley Station (Blacksmith Shop)
for Caledonia Amusement Park

In 1902, the State Forestry Association purchased the park area. The land was leased to the Chambersburg and Gettysburg Electric Railway Company. For 25 cents you could ride round trip from Chambersburg to spend the day at Caledonia Amusement Park. Currently, Caledonia State Park contains 1,130 acres and is administrated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

You may wish to return to the Trailhead Kiosk by way of the Midland Trail. This trail begins at the Organized Group Camping Area and turns off to your right as you walk back towards the furnace dam.

We hope you have enjoyed your walk on Thaddeus Stevens Trail. Please return this booklet to the Park Office or the Blacksmith Shop so others may use it.

Don't hesitate to talk with the park interpreter about any aspect of Caledonia's past.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH

Under a spreading chestnut tree
The village smithy stands;
The smith, a mighty man is he,
With large and sinewy hands;
And the muscles of this brawny arms
Are strong as iron bands.

Week in, week out from morn tip night
You can hear his bellows blow,
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge,
With measured beat and slow,
Like a sexton ringing the village bell,
When the evening sun is low.

Toiling, rejoicing, sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begun,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose.

Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy friend
For the lesson thou hast taught!
Thus at the flaming forge of life
Our fortunes must be wrought;
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped
Each burning deed and thought!

Henry Wadsworth Lonfellow

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of State Parks

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