

Layers of Braddock's History

Compiled by Jonathan Kline and Christine Brill

Pre-Colonial: Territory ruled by Queen Allequippa and the Delaware Tribe

- 1742: 1st European settlement west of the Alleghenies by John Frazier and his family at Turtle Creek
- 1753-54: George Washington visits area
- 1755: Braddock's Defeat on land of present day Braddock, North Braddock and Rankin
- 1791: Purchase of 328 acres of land, called Braddock's Field, by George Wallace
- 1794: Whiskey Rebellion
- 1850: 1st Braddock industrial facility opens, a barrel plant
- 1861: McVay-Walker Foundry built, the mother of Braddock's steel industry
- **1873:** Carnegie-McCandles & Co. organized what became the Edgar Thomson Steel Works
- 1887: Carnegie Library of Braddock established, the first Carnegie Library
- 1919: National Steelworkers Strike
- 1924: Braddock direct road connection to the Lincoln Highway
- **1950-60**: Apex of Braddock's population and industrial/commercial activity. Population at +/- 20,000.
- 1970's: Decline of the Steel Industry. Migration of population to other urban centers and to suburban Braddock/Pittsburgh
- 1990: Population of Braddock at 4,682
- 2000: Population of Braddock at 2,912

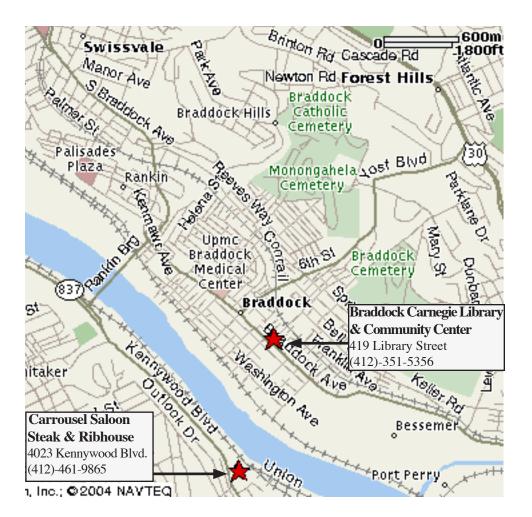
What Happened At Braddock's Field?

from the Braddock's Field Historical Society website

On July 9, 1755, General Edward Braddock, leading an army comprised of British regulars and Colonial recruits, was enroute to capture Fort Duquesne, at the mouth of the Ohio River. Braddock's army, consisting of approximately 2000 officers and men (about 500 of whom were colonials) was in the final stage of a difficult 110 mile march from Fort Cumberland, Maryland. A sizable number of wagoneers and aides de camp accompanied the army, along with more than 40 women.

After twice crossing the Monogahela River, Braddock's troops encountered opposition consisting of approximately 650 Indians and 250 French and Canadians who had rushed out from Fort Duquesne to engage Braddock's forces enroute to the Fort.

A three hour battle ensued. The defeat of the British and colonial forces by the Indians and French shocked both the colonies and Europe. It was here that the legend of George Washington's leadership began and where colonials concluded they had overestimated the prowess of the British military. Both factors contributed to the American Revolution twenty years later. The alumni of Braddocks Expedition comprise a who's who of colonial history. Visit our Museum & Gallery and learn more.



Urban Hike in Braddock, North Braddock and Rankin, PA.

These communities are the historic site of:

- * General Braddock's defeat during the French and Indian War
- * The first Carnegie Public Library (still in use), and
- * Andrew Carnegie's first steel mill
- * The still-functioning Edgar Thomson steel works

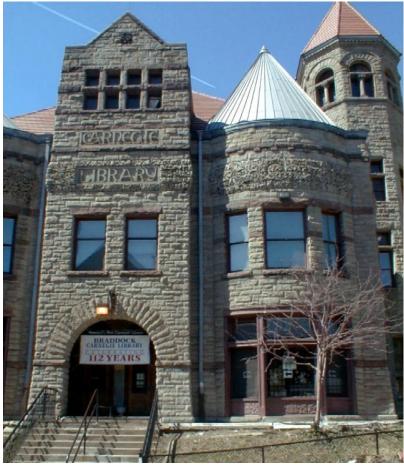
A microcosm of our region's successes and challenges, Braddock, North Braddock and Rankin are undergoing transformation from a highly-industrial past to an as-yet-undetermined future. Increasingly "green" due to a decreasing population, these boroughs are also home to an active community and local culture.

Following the tour (approximately 2-3 hour hike), we will stop off at the Carrousel Saloon, next to Kennywood, for lunch and an incredible view of Edgar Thomson Works.

If you have any questions about this Urban Hike, or about Urban Hike Pittsburgh, please contact Kate at: katefink@hotmail.com

URBAN HIKE

Braddock, North Braddock & Rankin, PA



Braddock Public Library & Community Center

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