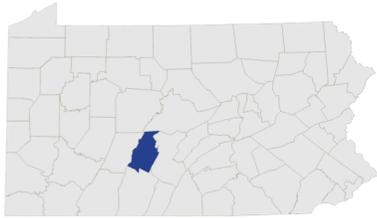


My Story



A Chapter of Pennsylvania History Fort Roberdeau County Park

By Karen Morrow, Historic Site Assistant

“Seasonally, Fort Roberdeau Park attracts over 5,000 visitors from over 30 states and more than a dozen countries.”



Fort Roberdeau, known as the Lead Mine Fort, was a Revolutionary War-era fort built in Sinking Valley by General Daniel Roberdeau in the spring of 1778. It was built to protect a lead mining operation that smelted ore for the production of bullets for the Continental Army, and to provide a refuge for settlers threatened by raids from hostile Tories and Indians. Garrisoned by Militia and Ranging Companies from 1778-1780, the fort was an important regional military supply base on the frontier. The present fort was reconstructed during the 1970s by Blair County as a 1976 Bicentennial project.

Fort Roberdeau County Park has grown, from the original two acres donated to Blair County by Mr. and Mrs. E. Arthur Caum in 1940 for the reconstruction of the fort to 230 acres of open public land. The land consists



Keystone Fund Investment: \$250,000

Total Public/Private Investment: \$563,000

of the Fort Roberdeau historic site, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974; the Conservation Reserve Program, including a grassland conservation area and active farmland; the natural area with walking trails and geocaching; and four

buildings used for administrative, educational, and event venues.

Fort Roberdeau staff and volunteers provide a Revolutionary War educational experience to elementary and middle school students from Blair and surrounding counties through *Hands-on History* and *Bridges to the Past* programs. In 2016, 2,109 students in grades 3-5 visited Fort Roberdeau for a hands-on history learning experience of life on the frontier during the Revolutionary War.

Learn more at KeystoneFund.org.

Seasonally, Fort Roberdeau Park attracts over 5,000 visitors from over 30 states and more than a dozen countries who tour the fort, attend special events that bring history to life, and use the natural area for recreation. It is fast becoming a top tourist attraction for Blair County.

Fort Roberdeau’s annual Revolutionary War Encampment, set among woods and fields in the mountains of central Pennsylvania, offers a superior setting for recreating the American Revolution on the frontier. Reenacting units from Pennsylvania and surrounding states appreciate the site’s relative freedom from modern intrusions, plenty of room to maneuver, the opportunity to attack or defend a stockade fort, and a site that is family-friendly.

The Fort’s award-winning Veteran’s Recognition Program the first weekend in November concludes the Fort’s season by honoring all veterans. Rangers posted at Fort Roberdeau during the Revolutionary War qualified for veteran’s pensions after the war. We continue to honor the Fort’s military tradition from our nation’s first veterans to active military duty of today.

