



The Steuben County Historical Society presents

A Driving Tour to Mossy Bank Park and Lookout Including Historic Places and Areas of Interest



The overlook looks out over the Conhocton River and the village and town of Bath. It provides what some consider one of the best long distance views in the Finger Lakes Region!

MOSSY BANK PARK

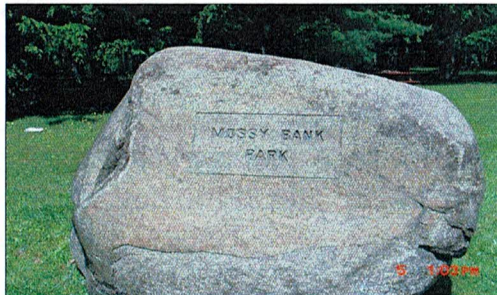
Sitting high on a hillside on the southern end of the village of Bath, Mossy Bank Park consists of picnic & play areas, hiking trails, a five acre pond, the Ted Markham Nature Center, & an overlook that provides an incredible panoramic view of Bath & the Conhocton Valley. Open from 10 AM to 10 PM from May 1st to October 14th, the park encompasses 168 mostly wooded acres. In recent years the area has become popular with hang gliders.



The Ted Markham Nature Center at MossyBank Park

The Nature Center is a heated log cabin classroom utilized by nature groups & schools for the study of natural resources that exist in the park.

Although the park is officially closed during the winter months, skiers & snowshoers are allowed to enjoy this quiet place at their own risk. During the Christmas season a huge lighted star placed in the overlook shines down on the village & surrounding area. The star was initially built & placed there by the First Presbyterian Church of Bath in December 1983 in memory of Rev. Dr. Robert H. Holland, who had died the previous month. Dr. Holland had been that church's pastor from 1954 to 1960. Since then, the star on Mossy Bank at Christmas-time has become a tradition kept alive now by the Bath Electric, Gas & Water Systems' personnel who put it up & take it down.



THE DRIVING TOUR

1. From Interstate 86, Exit 38, turn right at traffic light onto West Morris Street.
2. Continue on West Morris Street, noting Super 8 Motel on right, Budget Inn & Days Inn on left, & Tops Market on right.
3. Continuing on West Morris Street, note junction with West Steuben Street at Stocum Point on left. Historical marker reads:



The sign was placed there in 1993 to mark the place where, in 1796, Charles Williamson had a large log building constructed as a theater in an attempt to bring culture & entertainment to the wilderness. The point was later named after Major John Stocum, a Civil War officer who had a funeral home & furniture business at this junction in the mid & late 1800s.

4. Continue on West Morris Street to the Dormann Library on right. Note red brick building just beyond library. That is the **Magee House**, the home of the Steuben County Historical Society & the County Historian's Office. Parking for both buildings is behind the library & can be reached by turning right at next intersection onto Cameron Street & right again onto Conhocton Street. Library hours are 10 to 8 on Mondays through Thursdays, 10 to 6 on Fridays & 10 to 2 on Saturdays. Inside the Magee House, which was built in 1831, are genealogies, atlases & maps, church & cemetery records, marriage & death information, directories & gazetteers, census & probate indexes, yearbooks, old newspapers, the Elm Cottage Museum, & the Chelsea & Liliane Kelly Children's Museum & Library. Hours are 10 AM to 3 PM Tuesdays through Fridays, telephone 776-9930.

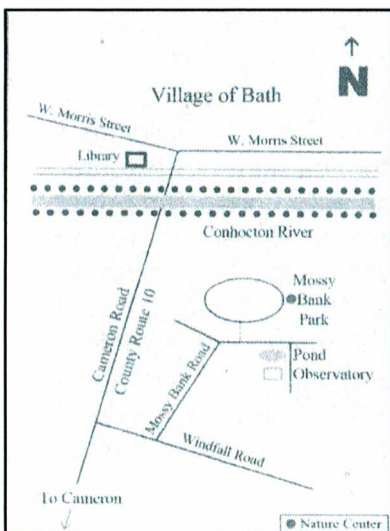
5. Turn right at the next intersection onto Cameron Street & proceed under expressway & across the Conhocton River. Note on the left the stone gate posts at what was once the entrance to the Davenport Home For Orphan Girls which was in existence from 1864 to 1958. During that time period upwards of 800 girls lived there. The Home was on the grounds of the extensive Davenport estate which, in its heyday, consisted of 695 acres. Col. Ira Davenport (1795-1868) was a highly successful businessman who gave generously of his wealth to the community.

6. Continue on Cameron Road & note large barn & other buildings on right. This is the new/future home (2012) of the Finger Lakes SPCA. Once part of the Davenport Estate, this property was purchased from the estate of D. H. Rumsey, an auctioneer & cattle dealer.

7. Continue about one mile up Cameron Road to Windfall Road. Turn left onto Windfall Road & proceed 0.4 mile to Mossy Bank Park Road.

8. Turn left onto Mossy Bank Park Road & proceed 1.3 mile to park entrance. Continue straight ahead into the park. To go to the Look-out, take the road on the right into the woods after passing the Nature Center!

Total Distance = 4.5 miles



For more information about Mossy Bank Park, Bath and/or Steuben County, visit the Historical Society where, in addition to items mentioned in #4, you will find driving tours around the village of Bath, to the VA Medical Center & National Cemetery, & a walking tour of the Bath Historic District.

We are grateful to the
Bath Rotary Club
for their assistance with printing and
distributing this leaflet.