

# INDIAN CAVES TRAIL

## *Whispers from the Past*

This quest will take you on a journey to one of our most precious and historic natural amenities at Lake Linganore at Eaglehead, the Indian Caves. This natural landmark was excavated in the 1950's and many artifacts were found. For many years this area was known as the Boyer's Mill Rock Shelter or Eagle Rock.

It is said that "Linganore" gets its name from a Native American chief that once lived on Linganore Creek. Folklore states that this chief lost a left ear during a battle and German settlers referred to him using the German terms 'linke' (left) and 'ohr' (ear.) Tradition states that "Chief Linganore" was a member of the Susquehanna tribe and died in 1765.

Native American tribes have lived or hunted in Frederick County for 12,000 years, but in more recent history it is thought that primarily the Susquehanna tribe encamped in and around Linganore Creek. In the early 1700s hunting parties would come down from the area we know as Pennsylvania to camp near Linganore Creek while they hunted game to feed their tribe.

Early settlers claimed that the Susquehanna named this area "Laughing Hills" because Native American children could be heard playing and singing in the creek and among the hills and trees of Linganore. Many Native American artifacts have been found in and around old camp sites along the Linganore Creek area. Some discovered relics date back to 4,000 B.C.

Bill Brosius, the original visionary of our community, would take visitors along this trail to share his wisdom and insight. Brosius believed in development of the land, not on the land. He had a respect for the conservation and preservation of natural resources that was way ahead of his time as a developer.

Your Quest begins at the trail entrance by the Meadows Mailboxes. Parking is available for 5 cars along Eaglehead Drive at the Pull-Off across the street from the mailboxes.

Access the trail entrance by walking down the hill to the left of the mailboxes along the green fence. The trail will make a sharp right and head down a hill. You will see remnants of materials used to maintain our trails and provide traction to trail users as well as gravel underfoot. Follow the path to the left over the bridge and then turn right.

As you continue on, imagine you were walking through these woods before the houses around you were built. Look through the manmade elements around you and imagine what Native American hunting parties may have seen as they walked this path through these hills. Frederick County's heritage began far earlier than its founding date of 1748 as native aboriginal peoples probably called this area home from at least 10,000 years ago.

Migrations of various peoples travelled the area for thousands of years following the seasons and wildlife for food. Many tribes used rivers, streams, and creeks as highways to help them navigate in their hunting and traveling. Their villages would also be located close to water sources because of their importance in everyday life providing a reliable source of fish and fresh water. Some tribes in our area were farmers who grew large crops of corn, beans and squash along the fertile flood plains of rivers. They also worked as gatherers and hunters, collecting wild-plant foods, seeds, nuts, berries, insects, reptiles, mollusks, fish, birds, and mammals.

Can you think of three things ancient peoples or tribes would have found to eat here?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Before you reach the fork in the trail, you will pass a section of the trail that is suddenly covered in grass and may be moister than the surrounding areas. What you see is the formation of a spring - or springhead - this is a spot where groundwater from an underground aquifer has discharged to the surface. While we don't recommend you refill your water bottle here (since in modern times runoff from pesticides, agriculture, and other pollutants contaminates our groundwater), many groups of people in history, including Native American tribes, relied on springs as a source of clean water.

What is helping this grass grow? Water from a \_\_\_\_\_

At the fork in the trail, head to the right, and continue on your way. You will notice that you are crossing a culvert - the water to your left is flowing downstream from another one of our manmade lakes here at Linganore - can you guess which lake is feeding this stream?

(Hint: look at your trail map!)

LAKE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Continue on and you will come upon a clearing with a picnic table sheltered by tall trees. It was Frank Ellis, one of the original developers of Lake Linganore at Eaglehead who named this location his "perfect picnic spot." Would the settlers or Native Americans have agreed that this would be a great spot to rest?

Take a break and rest here as you read the following excerpt from an article that originally appeared in The Post in Frederick, MD on May 6, 1970 and recounts a journalist's tour of Lake Linganore led by Bill Brosius, himself.

"Let's get out here," says Brosius, "I want to show you something."

He leads me up a small path covered with ferns and small spring wildflowers. There, before us, stands a huge cave made of rocks. Below it, Linganore Creek ripples down over stones.

"This cave is called Eaglehead Rock," says my guide. "It was used by Indians. Arrowheads and Indian pottery were found embedded in the soil." He asks me to stand still and to simply listen.

The sound of the water rushing over the stones is pleasant to listen to, and certainly a sound that the human ear does not hear too frequently. Ecology is more than preserving nature. It is also learning how to live with it. Eaglehead Rock will be preserved in its entirety.

"There are times when I look at all of this beauty," confesses Brosius, "and I ask myself if what we are doing is wise."

"Well," I remark, "think of what would happen to this area if it fell into the hands of the average type of developer. There would be nothing left of it. Every tree would be chopped down. The land would be leveled with bulldozers. The Indian Cave would be blasted out of existence. At least now the people who come to live here will have nature will around them. They will enjoy walks by clear running streams. There will be hills for them to look at with trees still on them."

There was a time since that article was written, that some have wanted to blast this area with dynamite to develop on this serene spot. Fortunately, they have not succeeded in the past, and the future of this spot is now in the hands of the Lake Linganore Association with the passage of recent legally binding agreements with our developer, Oakdale.

Enough time for rest and reflection...lets continue on our way....

Go ahead toward the Eagle Scout Bridge and cross it to the other side. Turn right and make your way toward the large rock formation known as Indian Caves. Look up at the formation to your left...there are two major purposes that it is thought this formation may have served long ago - can you guess?

1. C \_ \_ R \_ \_ M \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ S            2. S \_ \_ \_ L \_ \_ \_ R

One way we know that people used this location for ceremonies and shelter is from the artifacts found on this site. When artifacts are discovered at sites such as this one in front of you, there are clues to help identify which tribe may have been here in the past.

When early people needed tools and weapons, they made many of them from stones and sticks near where they lived. The area a tribe was from can sometimes be identified by the materials they used to make their tools. Differences in shape also help archaeologists identify the origin of artifacts.

Arrowheads were usually made out of a hard sedimentary rock called flint. Colors and types of flint varied depending on region of North America, which can help identify the origin of the arrowhead. Native Americans often used horsehair, plant vines, or dried deer tendon (called sinew) to attach arrowheads to sticks in order to hunt and fish in locations such as this one.

An arrowhead has three parts - the sharp tip, the wide body, and the squared base. Often when a person finds an arrowhead in a field or near a stream like this one, the arrowhead is broken and usually missing the tip or the base or both.

Can you remember what material was most often used to make arrowheads?

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Another artifact often left behind by ancient peoples was their art. Native Americans also used a variety of tools to carve pictures onto stone called P \_ \_ T \_ \_ O G \_ \_ Y \_ \_ \_ S. Petroglyphs were rock art drawings that often very large and made on cave walls such as those in front of you. However, contrary to popular local rumor, these drawings in front of you are not ancient art - these unfortunate markings are G \_ \_ \_ \_ F \_ \_ \_ l.

Although the ceremonies performed by Native American tribes have long since ended and this area does not provide shelter to hunting or fishing parties, the cave does continue to provide shelter to some living things. See if you can spot these signs of life within the shelter of the cave:

\_\_\_\_\_ NEST

\_\_\_\_\_ MOSS

\_\_\_\_\_ LICHEN

\_\_\_\_\_ INSECTS

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHERS? \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations! You have completed your quest! In order to receive credit for this quest, please submit a picture of your team in front of your favorite spot at Indian Caves or on your favorite boulder/rock to [FriendsofLakeLinganore@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofLakeLinganore@gmail.com).

If you are lucky you might find some creatures in and around the rocks and boulders in the water here! Enjoy your visit, and when you are done, go back to the bridge, walk across and turn right to go back the way you came. When the trail splits, stay left to return to the Meadows mailboxes.