

Historical Alburdis Letterboxing/Geocaching Course

The Borough of Alburdis, PA was incorporated on May 9, 1913 by combining the two villages of Lock Ridge and Alburdis. The 100th year Anniversary of this incorporation is being celebrated on May 10-12, 2013. This Letterboxing/Geocaching Course celebrates that Anniversary and is the Eagle Scout Leadership Project of Andrew R. Boehme, of Troop 5 in Allentown, PA. The 15 Letterbox/Geocache Hybrids are hidden on public grounds throughout the Alburdis area and a planted with the permission of the Borough of Alburdis and the County of Lehigh.

Letterboxes/Geocaches at Lock Ridge Park

Directions: Park in main parking lot off of Franklin St. – this entrance has the sign for Lock Ridge Park.

- **Lock Ridge Map Letterbox/Geocache:**

History: This letterbox celebrates the site of Lock Ridge Furnace with a stamp that is the map found near the furnace. It represents the layout of the furnace with the layout of the buildings and rail lines.

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: Beginning in the parking lot, walk back towards Franklin St. (towards the park entrance) to where the parking area ends. From the west gate box, walk 150° for 18 steps along the road to a rough bark tree, and then walk 155° for 22 steps through the woods to a rough bark triple tree. **Look behind the rough barked triple tree, under rocks.**

Carved by LightninBug, Allentown, PA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.446'N 75° 35.710'W

- **Lock Ridge Furnace Letterbox/Geocache:**

History: The Lock Ridge Furnace was the heart of the Thomas Iron Works. Pig Iron was produced here from 1868 until 1920. Most of the iron ore was mined in nearby Rittenhouse Gap (near Bear Creek Resort).

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: From parking lot, walk east past the new park map. At the next intersection, turn left (northwest) to follow path under the railroad bridge. When the path begins to curve right, spot a cool, old stump on left, about 15 feet off trail. **Look under log behind the stump.**

Carved by Magical Music Man, Allentown, PA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.557'N 75° 35.748'W

- **Iron Worker Letterbox/Geocache:**

History: The Thomas Iron Works employed immigrants from Ireland, Scotland, Germany and Wales, who emigrated to the United States to escape religious persecution, homeland violence and famine.

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: Turn right on the path you were on to enter a parking area. Pass a picnic pavilion and main furnace building on your right. Pass the stop sign at the back of the lot and arrive at a 3-way Intersection. Take the left branch at 80°. You will approach a stream and a bridge. Cross the bridge and take steps down the southeast side to stream. **Look under the southeast corner of the bridge above the I-beam.**

Carved by LightninBug, Allentown, PA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.620'N 75° 35.585'W

- **Iron Horse Letterbox/Geocache:**

History: The Iron Horse or Locomotive is important in Alburdis' history. The eastern branch of the Reading and Philadelphia railroad was completed in 1858 and began operation in 1859. Alburdis became a stop shortly afterwards. Iron Ore and Iron were moved from mines and to market by the Catasauqua and Fogelsville railroad, which served the Thomas Iron Works.

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: Continue to follow path as it curves to the right. Continue on the paved path as it winds through the woods. When you encounter a slight hill and then a "T" shaped intersection, take a left, and

follow gravel road to sawed-off double stumps on left. **Take bearing of 80° from back of the taller stump, look for a rock within the roots.**

Carved by LightningBug, Allentown, PA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.424'N 75° 35.501'W

- **Christ Chapel Letterbox/Geocache:**

History: Christ Chapel was built in 1885 to serve as a Union Church. Reformed and Lutheran congregations worshipped on alternating Sundays and Sunday school was in session every Sunday. The building is now an apartment complex

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: Continue southeast on the gravel path. The official path will end in a round open area, but a smaller path enters the thick woods at the southeast end. You are actually on an old rail bed and will see old rail road ties. About 55 steps down this path, you will see a tie perpendicular to the path pointing to the right. Follow it to a pole and follow the pole to a concrete marker lying on its' side. **Look under the rock behind the marker.** Christ Church is at the other end of town, but is on private property, so we moved the letterbox here.

Carved by Pink Panther, Lancaster, PA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.373'N 75° 35.430'W

- **May Pole Letterbox/Geocache:**

History: Every year, Alburtis heralds the coming of spring with the May Day Celebration, where people erect a May Pole and perform a complicated dance.

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: Head back in the direction you came to get back to the main part of the park. You will rejoin the road and come to a bridge. Cross the bridge and take the fork of the Y to the right. Proceed to where a steel pole fence on a foundation will start on the right. **From 1st pole of the fence, look 150° and 3 steps inside a hole of a tree.**

Carved by LightningBug, Allentown, PA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.514'N 75° 35.576'W

- **Jean Stoneback Letterbox/Geocache:**

Historical Significance: Jean Butz Stoneback was instrumental in spearheading the establishment of Lock Ridge Park and Museum, beginning in 1974. After Lock Ridge's restoration was completed in 1976, Jean became the tour guide and semi-official historian of the Lock Ridge site. Jean was also a Campfire Girl Leader.

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: Return to the Y by the bridge and go to the south side of the bridge. Take the steps down to creek level and begin to walk in a south by southwestward direction across the field to a row of conifers. Three telephone poles will loosely point the way, as you will keep the maintenance building and old home to your right. Once you reach the conifers, follow a deer track towards a cornfield on the other side.

Before emerging in the cornfield, go to the second conifer on the left and look under a rock behind it.

Jean Stoneback's house is the stone house with red shutters up the hill toward the west.

Carved by 3 Blind Mice, Red Hook, NY.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.367'N 75° 35.637'W

Letterbox/Geocache at Albury's Borough Hall at Franklin and East School Street (260 Franklin St.)

- **Iron Ore Letterbox/Geocache:**

History: Iron Ore was at the heart of industry in Albury's and Lock Ridge, so we placed this Letterbox/Geocache at the center of town, Borough Hall. Iron Ore was mined in nearby Rittenhouse Gap and processed into Iron at Lock Ridge Furnace.

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: Visit the historical sign out by the street. There also is a flagpole near the front door. There is one bush directly behind the flagpole. **Look under a rock at the base of the bush.**

Carved by LightningBug, Allentown, PA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.579'N 75° 36.080'W

Letterboxes/Geocaches in the Bird Sanctuary

Albury's has a Bird Sanctuary – bet you did not know that! The county of Lehigh donated 14 acres of wooded land to the Borough in 2013. We have placed two Letterbox/Geocache hybrids that show some of the birds that can be found within the sanctuary.

From the town center head south on Franklin Street. Pass Lock Ridge Park on the left and continue on Franklin St for 100 ft. more to take a right onto Ft. Sumter Road. Pass between a few homes as the road heads up a hill. At the entrance to the Sanctuary, find a gravel parking area on the right. You can park here if you came by car.

- **Cedar Waxwing Letterbox/Geocache:**

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: Begin by walking uphill on the gravel Ft. Sumter Road (heading southwest). Spot a concrete boundary marker on the right and a yellow fire hydrant on the left. Continue to where the gravel road splits right and a dirt road splits left. Continue 38 steps further on the gravel road, look to the right for a cluster of boulders. **Look under a chunk of paving material underneath a log in the split between boulders to the back.**

Carved by the Soulmates, Palmyra, NJ.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.331'N 75° 35.869'W

- **Worm Eating Warbler Letterbox/Geocache:**

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: From boulder cluster, go 30 steps at 315° to a “V” tree with a hidey hole in front. This will be just before a natural rock ridge.

Carved by Sheba, Claymont, DE.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.337'N 75° 35.885'W

Letterboxes/Geocaches at the Lock Ridge Presbyterian Church

The Lock Ridge Presbyterian Church now houses the Lock Ridge Historical Society. This is located at the corner of Franklin and Church Streets (407 Franklin Street).

- **Dr. Eugene Mohr (the Last Country Doctor) Letterbox/Geocache: :**

History: Dr. Eugene Mohr, Jr. was known as the “last County Doctor”, making house calls to patients well and ill. A memorial monument honoring his work is on the grounds of the Lock Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: Find the monument to Dr. Mohr. **Look under the small rock on the north edge of the large rock.**

Carved by LightningBug, Allentown, PA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.558'N 75° 35.864'W

- **Lock Ridge Presbyterian Church Letterbox/Geocache: :**

History: The Thomas Iron works provided land and money to build the Church in 1870. Employees signed a Temperance Pledge to ensure good values and safer conditions in the Anthracite Coal fired furnaces. The Church currently houses the meeting place and museum of the Lock Ridge Historical Society.

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: This letterbox is hidden under front steps northwest side in northwest corner behind a piece of slate.

Carved by MizScarlet, Wayne, PA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.559'N 75° 35.882'W

Letterboxes/Geocaches at the Alburdis Fire Company – South Main and School Streets.

- **Alburdis Fire Company Letterbox/Geocache: :**

History: Established in 1915, with the motto “To the Rescue,” the Alburdis Fire Company acquired their first fire truck in 1920. Part of the current building was acquired from the Alburdis Band in 1943.

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: Find the bandstand behind the Fire Station. There is a memorial stone to George Bower to the west of the bandstand. From the memorial stone, go west 40 steps to the corner of the woods. Follow the downed phone poles along the north edge of the woods for 14 more steps. **On the left, spot a slightly leaning tree and a rock behind it.**

Carved by nosox, Granby, MA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.512'N 75° 36.201'W

- **Alburdis Band Letterbox/Geocache: :**

History: The Alburdis Band was formed in 1874 by James Hensinger and was so famous that it toured the northeastern United States in 1910 and performed at the Bicentennial Celebration of George Washington’s birth in 1932. The band disbanded in 1943 and sold its park and hall to the Alburdis Fire Company

Find the Letterbox/Geocache: There is a blue roofed mulch floored picnic pavilion south of the bandstand. From the center of the pavilion, go 25 steps at 200° to a moderately large single tree. Then go 24 steps at 260° to a crazy looking Y tree. **Look under a rock that has some cement attached.**

Carved by The Wolf Family, Matthews, NC.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.485'N 75° 36.181'W

American House Hotel Letterbox/Geocache

History: The American House was built in 1860, destroyed by fire in 1895 and rebuilt out of brick in 1895. For many years it was a popular stop for train conductors and employees. Of the four hotels that were in Alburdis at one time, it is the only one that still remains. It is currently called the Iron Horse. It is located at the corner of Front St. and Main St.

- **Find the Letterbox/Geocache: :** Across Front St. from the American House is a small micro park with the sign for the Borough of Alburdis. At the back of the car area with the 2 sycamores are a couple of railroad ties. **Choose the railroad tie closest to the Alburdis sign and look under a rock along back edge of railroad tie. This is a film canister micro box.**

Carved by LightninBug, Allentown, PA.

GPS Coordinates: 40° 30.696'N 75° 36.242'W