

# History of the Glen Hike



**Length: 8 miles**

**Map: NY-NJ Trail Conference *North Jersey Trails* Map # 115  
Special Feature: recognition patch available**

## Highlights

This hike is one of two hikes focused on the History of Glen Gray. The History Hike dates back to the 1990's when there was one overall History Trail. That hike was a project of the Old Guard of Glen Gray under the leadership of then President John Potts. Today there is the Millstone Hike that takes in the history of the southern part of Camp Glen Gray and this hike that covers the northern part. The detailed descriptions of the History of the Glen sights are now contained in the Historical Tidbits booklet, references on this sheet labeled HT refer to that booklet. As you hike the trails you will get to see spectacular scenic lookouts as well as historical sites in and around Camp.

## Trail Description

**0.00 mi.** Start on the Millstone Trail, which is blazed with White blazes, at the trailhead which is to the left of the parking area in front of Camp HQs, just across the camp road from the Caretaker's House.

**0.04 mi.** As you approach the Glen and Gray Cabins the trail turns right and goes around the Gray Cabin and starts up the hill.

**0.15 mi.** You will see the old Troop 4 Montclair Cabin on the left, HT 14. The Troop 4 Cabin is being restored and will be available for use by campers when the work is complete, at this point please stay back from the cabin and the construction.

**0.22 mi.** As you continue along the ridge there are four more cabin ruins from old troop cabins, HT 25. They are almost completely hidden in the underbrush and by years of erosion, please don't disturb any artifacts in the area, Camp is still studying the area for early history of Camp.

**0.26 mi.** The Trail meets with the Yellow Trail with its Yellow Diamond blazes. The Yellow Trail comes in from the right, you want to start to follow the Yellow Diamond blazes by going to the left and let the Millstone Trail go down the hill with the Yellow Trail.

**0.34 mi.** You will pass a sign that is a relic of the original History of the Glen Trail when it was first laid out by the Old Guard.

**0.67 mi.** You will pass a pit of your right that may be one of the many collier pits along this part of the trail, HT 15. Colliers were men who logged an area and then split and stacked the wood to allow it to be slowly burned to make charcoal. The charcoal was then hauled over the mountains to one of the many nearby iron furnaces that made iron items in the early days of the United States. Cannonballs and other iron items to support the War for Independence were all made in the furnaces of North Jersey.

**0.91 mi.** You are coming to the Sanders Farm ruins site. You will see the famous Latrine on a Rock as you first come into the farm area.

**0.95 mi.** You will just be passing through the Sanders Farm area for now, just continue to follow the Yellow Diamond blazes of the Yellow Trail to continue the hike; we'll stop at the Farm a little later.

**0.99 mi.** As you start to leave the farm area you will see the Old Maple Sugaring House on the right, now it's really just the roof collapsed to the ground. The Yellow/Silver Trail comes in from the left.

**1.01 mi.** Straight ahead is the steel framework of the old water tower, stay to the left on the Yellow Trail by following the Yellow Diamond blazes; the Yellow/Silver Trail goes off to the right down to Ramapo Valley Road.

**1.08 mi.** As you come up onto this lookout you will see a cabin foundation ruins on your left. This is the Alliger's Lookout, HT 23, and the foundation is from Alliger's Cabin from the early days of Camp.

**1.29 mi.** You will come to the North Lookout, HT 2. You can see to the east all the way to New York City on a clear day. The nearby Passaic and Bergen Counties are visible all the time, lots of houses but still plenty of green space. After you have enjoyed the view you will leave the lookout on a different trail. You want to follow the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail back into the woods, not continuing north on the Yellow Trail.

**1.62 mi.** The Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail curve around to the south and you will again come to the Sanders Farm area. From this direction the first part of the farm you will see is the Sanders Pond on the right.

- 1.67 mi. You will now be in the actual ruins area with various foundations, a well and other signs of the farm, HT 1. Feel free to look around at the various foundations, waterfalls and old wells. There was once a troop cabin in this area that burned down many years ago. Keep track of where the Orange blazes are so you can find them when you're ready to get back on the trail. You leave the site by continuing to follow the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail.
- 2.00 mi. As you follow the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail down the hill you will cross the camp road. Just stay with the Schuber Trail until you come to the junction with the Old Guard Trail which is blazed with a special blaze that has a Green Tulip Leaf on a White blaze.
- 2.05 mi. The Schuber Trail turns to the left along with the southbound Old Guard Trail. You want to turn right on the Old Guard trail, cross the brook and follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes to the north. This turn can be illusive, if you continue hiking and see both blazes together, you missed the turn, go back.
- 2.40 mi. On the right you will pass the first of a couple of Middle Valley Lookouts, there are no blazed trails to the tops, if you venture up to a lookout be sure to stay aware of the location of the trail to allow you to continue your hike.
- 2.47 mi. The trail joins the camp road, just continue to follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes to the left.
- 2.49 mi. On the right just before the opening out of the woods is the highest of the Middle Valley Lookouts, be sure to stay aware of the trail you are following if you go up to explore the lookout, there is another trail on the other side that you don't want to follow.
- 2.52 mi. The Old Guard Trail crosses the Algonquin Pipeline across a clear cut right-of-way. Just look for the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes on the other side of the cut. The Old Guard Trail continues north toward an historic area of Camp known as the North Quad. This area was used as an area for older Scouts who wanted to really be away from the crowds at regular Camp.
- 2.56 mi. The Old Guard Trail comes to an intersection with the Cannonball Trail, which is marked with a White C on Red blaze. You want to turn right and follow the Cannonball Trail north.
- 2.87 mi. The Old Guard Trail's Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes will appear at the trail intersection just ahead, this is the same trail you were on before visiting the North Quad. You just continue to follow the White C on Red blazes of the Cannonball Trail.
- 3.01 mi. The trail passes an abandoned water tank on the right, a relic of an old camp water system.
- 3.12 mi. The Yellow Diamonds of the Yellow Trail will appear on the right, this is the northern trailhead of the Yellow Trail, continue on the Cannonball Trail, you have now entered the last operating Boy Scout Camp in the Ramapo Greenway, Camp Yaw Paw, HT 22, operated by the Northern New Jersey Council. As you hike through this part of Camp Yaw Paw please don't enter any buildings or campsites out of respect for any campers that may be using the area, just stay on the marked trail.
- 3.22 mi. On your right you will see the trailhead for the Green Trail marked with three Green on White blazes.
- 3.28 mi. Turn left and follow this trail out to the Erskine Lookout by following the Green on White blazes of the Green Trail out through the Upper Camp section of Camp Yaw Paw, this area is called the Lewis and Clark sites.
- 3.67 mi. As you come to the end of the Green Trail you will be at an intersection with the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail, which is marked with Yellow blazes. You turn left and follow the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail to the south and out to the Erskine Lookout by following the Yellow blazes.
- 3.69 mi. You will be at the Erskine Lookout, HT 24, named for Robert Erskine who operated the Ringwood Iron Works during the War for Independence, he was also the Surveyor General of the Continental Armies. You leave the lookout by following the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail to the south following the Yellow blazes.
- 4.14 mi. The Old Guard Trail crosses the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail which is marked with Yellow blazes, you turn right onto the Old Guard Trail as you follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes.
- 4.29 mi. The Trail continues until it reaches Passaic County and another series of three lookouts, HT 3, that look out over the northern portion of the Wanaque Reservoir. You now continue on the Old Guard trail by turning left and following the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes; the lookouts are along the next section of the Old Guard Trail.
- 4.30 mi. The trail that has joined from the right is the Ringwood-Ramapo Trail with its Red on White blazes, after you turn left you will have both blazes to follow for a short distance.
- 4.40 mi. At a fork in the trails the Red on White blazes of the Ringwood-Ramapo Trail go to the right and the Old Guard's Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes go to the left, you want to stay to the left on the Old Guard Trail.
- 4.71 mi. The Old Guard Trail again crosses the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail that is marked with Yellow blazes. You just cross over and keep following the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes to stay on the Old Guard Trail.

5.18 mi. The Old Guard Trail makes a big curve around High Mountain and you are at another intersection where the Old Guard Trail intersects with the Cannonball Trail with its White C on Red blazes. This time you want to turn right and follow the Cannonball Trail to the southwest by following the White C on Red blazes.

5.39 mi. In this area of the Cannonball Trail, HT 4, many of the blazes are the historic painted blazes commonly used for years throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, they are still The White C on a Red blaze, just painted directly on the trees, just follow them, the familiar new metal painted tags will appear again shortly. Parts of the Cannonball Trail follows the historic Cannonball Road that ran between the various North Jersey locations that made iron cannonballs for the War for Independence. The earliest Cannonball Road wasn't used for hauling cannonballs but rather by the Lenni-Lenape Indians as they moved through the mountains in search of game.

5.96 mi. The Cannonball Trail joins the Hoeflerlin Memorial Trail, which comes in from the right. Continue to follow the White C on Red blazes of the Cannonball Trail to the left, which will now also have the Yellow blazes of the Hoeflerlin Memorial trail.

6.18 mi. You are now hiking along the central ridge of the western Ramapos, you can see Bergen County to your left and Passaic County to your right.

6.25 mi. As you come down the short hill you will come to a large rock, Suzi's Rock, HT 18. It is considered a glacial erratic, meaning something left behind by the glaciers of the last ice age some fifteen thousand years ago. This is the largest example in this area of Camp; there are two other examples in the southern area, HT 10 & HT 17. This rock is said to look like the favorite woodland creature of a Boy Scout leader's daughter, Suzi, who helped him blaze some of the original trails when it was a Boy Scout Camp. The rock looks like a rabbit if you approach it from the north, the rabbit is crouching low so it can hide from you, it's just a little too big to really hide.

6.40 mi. Off to the left and down the hill you can see signs of poor trail etiquette, be sure you don't leave anything behind when you hike, especially your car!

6.55 mi. You will cross a gravel road leading to the state communications tower, just cross over and continue to follow the Yellow and Red C on White blazes of the co-aligned Hoeflerlin Memorial and Cannonball Trails.

6.57 mi. You will now be at a trail intersection with the Matapan Rock Trail which has Red Square on White blazes, be sure to stay on the marked trails as you cross the gravel roads. You turn right onto the Matapan Rock Trail and follow the Matapan Rock Trail marked with Red Squares on White blazes.

6.63 mi. The Matapan Rock Trail trailhead is on the right side of the trail, marked with one blaze under two blazes to indicate the end of the trail.

6.65 mi. You will come to the Matapan Rock Lookout, HT 26, for a view of the southern portion of the Wanaque Reservoir as well as more views of the Jersey Highlands to the west. When you're ready to return to the hike follow the Red Square on White blazes of the Matapan Rock Trail back the way you came in.

6.72 mi. You will now cross the co-aligned Cannonball & Hoeflerlin Memorial Trails that you hiked in on, to continue on this hike just continue to follow the Red Squares on White blazes.

6.74 mi. You will again cross the gravel road to the tower, just continue to follow the Red Square on White blazes.

6.98 mi. As you hike down a steep old woods road you will again come to the Algonquin Pipeline. Just follow the trail across the pipeline cut and back into the woods of Camp.

7.03 mi. The blazes will turn to the right off of the woods road and onto a trail to take you back to the center of Camp, just follow the Red Square on White blazes.

7.06 mi. The trail will turn slightly to the right onto the upper camp loop road, the Red Square on White blazes will continue to show the route.

7.11 mi. On the right will be the first cabin on this side of Camp, the Troop 12 Montclair Cabin.

7.18 mi. The Red Square on White blazes will take you between two tent campsites and the shared wash area and latrine on the trail. The Ramapo site is straight ahead, the Hawk Ridge site is to the left.

7.22 mi. As you come further down the hill you will come to a "Y" intersection with the Schuber Trail marked with Orange blazes. You will now follow the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail to the left along the camp lower loop road.

7.27 mi. The campsite on both sides of the trail is called Stag Run.

7.35 mi. The cabin on the right is the Price Cabin, HT 5 named for Francis Price. He was a general in the Civil War with the NJ Volunteer Regiment.

7.37 mi. The campsite to your left and up the hill is Hawk Ridge. The lower site to your right is Bobcat Hollow. On the far side of Bobcat Hollow and down the hill is the Camp activity field named for Mary Post. Her family home was up North Brook behind Tindall Lodge having lived there as a child, she was one of the Sanders family. She hg-3

lived with her husband Peter Post is his house in Bobcat Hollow and after Mr. Post's death with Francis Price. Continue to follow the Orange blazes across the bridge that crosses West Brook that is one of the streams that feeds Lake Vreeland in the center of Camp.

7.44 mi. The site on your left is a multipurpose site that is used for tent camping as well as archery. It is the original rifle range from the days of the Boy Scouts. Today it is dedicated to a long time supporter of Camp, John McMullen.

7.48 mi. As you come down the hill you will approach the Augie Schroeder Memorial campsite, named for a friend of Camp that died in the Persian Gulf conflict. Here the Orange blazes of the Schuber Trail will take you to the left around the camp site, just follow the Orange blazes around the side of the campsite and back to the right into the woods of camp.

7.55 mi. The Schuber Trail will now turn left, to the north and follow the North Brook, another feeder stream to Lake Vreeland, continue to follow the Orange blazes. This is the area of Mary Post's childhood home.

7.65 mi. The Orange blazes will show a turn to the right and across a bridge, one of several Eagle Scout project bridges in Camp.

7.67 mi. As you cross the bridge the Schuber Trail again intersects with the Old Guard Trail, you want to turn right and follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes back down into the center of Camp. The cabin ahead and up the hill is Tindall Lodge. You will now follow the Old Guard Trail south along North Brook down to Lake Vreeland.

7.78 mi. The cabin across the road is named the Channel Cabin in honor of the former home improvement store chain that donated most of the material used to originally build the cabin.

7.86 mi. The cabin across the road is the old Troop 5 Verona Cabin.

7.88 mi. As the trail curves around to the right you will be at the back of the Troop 2 Verona cabin. Just continue to follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes.

7.96 mi. The trail crosses the West Well Road, just cross the road and continue to follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes of the Old Guard Trail.

8.04 mi. Hemlock Chapel, HT 27, is at a bend in the Old Guard Trail as it turns to the left. Just before the Chapel is a bridge that leads to the North Brook site and onto the Gilwell site. You will pass the Hemlock Chapel as the trail turns to the left and leads to the main camp road on the north side of Lake Vreeland.

8.06 mi. As the trail joins the camp road it turns right to follow along the north shore of Lake Vreeland and back down to the center of Camp, continue to follow the Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes.

8.12 mi. On the left you will see three buildings, HT 6, they are some of the oldest buildings in Camp going back to 1918, the year after Camp was established. The building closest to the road is the Library later called Uncle's Cabin and was used by founder Frank Gray the last summers he was in Camp. It was called Uncle's Cabin because everyone called Mr. Gray, Uncle. The big building up the hill is Mothercroft and was built as the first assembly building that could hold the entire camp during rain or storms. The smaller building up the hill to the right is the Old Guard Cabin originally called Sleepy Hollow and was the original hospital and residence for Frank Gray in the first years of Camp.

8.15 mi. On your right is the Old Guard Campfire Ring, HT 28, which has been the site of Camp ceremonies since the founding of Camp.

8.18 mi. As you approach the Kidde-Miller Dam of Lake Vreeland you will see the Dining Hall on the left, HT 7. It replaced the original dining hall built in 1926, which burned down in the 1968.

8.20 mi. The trail goes down the ramp on the face of the dam to the parking lot. Hidden in the undergrowth to the right of the trail is the original site of the Mother's Pavilion, HT 8.

8.21 mi. The trail officially ends at the bottom of the ramp where you will see two blazes under one blaze, all Green Tulip Leaf on White blazes to mark the end of the Old Guard Trail. This also marks the end of the History of the Glen Hike.

The Hiking the Glen Project is the latest effort to encourage hiking in the Ramapo Greenway. The author gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the many Boy Scouts, their leaders and others who over past years have developed and maintained earlier versions of these sheets. While using the existing material the author remains completely responsible for this version. Further information about the Hiking the Glen Project is contained on the Hiking the Glen sheet that should be reviewed by all users for details about the specific hiking sheets.

The trails on these sheets are part of the North Jersey Trails network designed, developed and maintained by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. The trails are subject to changes at the discretion of the Trail Conference and its land management partners. The mileage references used on these sheets are approximate and are based on GPS readings from actual hikes of the route, your GPS readings as well as measured map distances will vary. Further information about the trail network is contained on Trail Map # 115 of the *North Jersey Trails* map set. The complete map set can be obtained at the Camp Glen Gray HQs or directly from the Trail Conference. Additional information about the Trail Conference is available at [www.NyNJtc.org](http://www.NyNJtc.org).

Camp Glen Gray is a weekend camping facility and as such the camp parking area is not available for use as a day hiking trailhead. The trails in the Ramapo Greenway area, including those described on this sheet, can be accessed for day hiking from trailhead parking areas on nearby public roads, the three closest to Camp Glen Gray are on Skyline Drive and Ramapo Valley Road/Route 202, details are on Trail Map # 115 of the *North Jersey Trails* map set.

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