



"The Mountains Are Calling, And I Must Go."

-John Muir.

Beneath the pavement, the highway known as US 219 has a story to tell.

Based along the Allegheny Mountains of West Virginia, an Americorps project called Traveling 219 has been recording the stories and the heritage found along the highway. Of the hundreds of unique destinations found throughout this region, this map will lead you to some of our favorites. Visit Reed's Mill, which still stone grinds heirloom cornmeal and buckwheat. Ride a scenic train up to the High Falls of Cheat, and see local music at the Purple Fiddle in Thomas and the Pocahontas Opera House in Marlinton.



Traveling219.com

Visit

Traveling219.com

for audio stories and photographs of these sites
and many more.



As with any good, historic highway, there are mysteries along U.S. 219, too. There are tales of black panthers that lurk at the edge of the Cranberry Wilderness, a 35-carat diamond that was unearthed in a game of horseshoes, and the unsettled memories of Civil War battles fought along these hills. For downloadable audio stories and more than 50 articles of stories from along U.S. 219 in West Virginia and Maryland, visit Traveling219.com, or follow us on Facebook.

This project made possible by

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Parsons (Tucker County)

A bright red, brick courthouse stands at the center of Parsons. Since 1893 Parsons has been the county seat of Tucker County. Back then, armed guards took the county records from St. George to Parsons, and though no fighting took place, the men of St. George had planned to defend the county seat with their lives.



The Purple Fiddle (Tucker County)

During the 1930s Thomas was home to 1,660 people from 18 countries, including Poland, Hungary, Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia and Lithuania. Along Front Street, there was Mike Ferruso's butcher shop (now Tip Top Coffee) and the old DePollo Store (now the Purple Fiddle Music Tavern).



Elkins Depot (Randolph County)

From the time it was founded in 1890, and until the 1950s, the trains bellowed across the Tygart River into the town of Elkins. Today, tourists can take a day trip on one of the historic trains through scenic spruce forests and the High Falls of Cheat. Summertime, the Saturday Elkins Farmer's Market operates on the patio just outside of the Elkins Depot. In December, families board the Polar Express Train to visit Santa's Workshop. 877-686-7245 or mountainrailwv.com



Gaudineer Scenic Area (Pocahontas County)

With the smell of spruce in the air, travelers can walk beneath the shadows of these vast trees and imagine these forests as they once stood. The Virgin Red Spruce Forest at Gaudineer Knob was named in honor of Don Gaudineer, who served as forest ranger in the Monongahela National Forest from 1926 till the early 1930s. In 1936, he died in a house fire while attempting to save his family. 304-456-3335 (USFS Greenbrier Ranger District)



Tygart Valley Homestead (Randolph County)

Established as an experimental, self-subsistent community by the Federal Government during the 1930s, the Tygart Valley Homestead provided a new start to unemployed and dispirited men and women. First lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited the Tygart Valley Homestead periodically during the Great Depression.



Marlinton: Pocahontas County Opera House

Built in 1910 by J.G. Tilton, traveling theater companies were brought into town via the Greenbrier Line of the C&O railroad. It was reopened as a performance hall in 2000. 304-799-6645 or pocahontasoperahouse.org



Sharp's Country Store (Pocahontas County)

Soda pop, postcards and historic photographs—just the things the roadside wanderer might seek—are for sale at Sharp's Country Store in Slatyfork. The store first opened in 1884 and has been run by the Sharp family for generations. Sharp's also carries homespun wool blankets by JoAnn Gardner, whose great grandmother used to deliver her wool products to Sharps' Country Store by horseback. 304-572-3547 or sharpscountrystore.com



Lewisburg (Greenbrier County)

Historic Downtown Lewisburg was named the Coolest Small Town in America in 2011 by Frommer's Budget Travel Magazine. Some of the most well known of the historic buildings of Lewisburg include the Old Stone Church (built 1796), North House Museum (1820), the General Lewis Inn (1834), and Carnegie Hall (1902). 304-645-3398 (North House Museum) or greenbrierhistorical.org



Reed's Mill (Monroe County)

Reed's Mill, built by Archibald McDowell in 1791, has been stone grinding local heirloom cornmeal and flour for generations. Reed's Mill sells heirloom varieties of cornmeal, flour and buckwheat, grown locally and ground in the historic gristmill of Second Creek. Reed's Mill is usually open to the public on Saturdays or by appointment. Visitors are urged to call ahead. 304-772-5665



The Punch Jones Diamond (Monroe County)

The Punch Jones diamond is a 35 carat diamond, named after the boy who discovered it while he and his father were pitching horseshoes near Peterstown, in 1928. In 1944, he was killed in action during World War II. The family sold the diamond in 1984. 304-772-3003 (Travel Monroe)