

Daniel Boone Park

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Daniel Boone Park

Daniel Boone Park, just east of the Capitol Complex, has a public access boat launch, picnic facilities, and fishing available. Daniel Boone lived in the Valley from 1786 to 1797, during which time he served in the Kanawha County Militia and as a Richmond Assembly delegate. Boone took shelter in a cave on the facing mountain and housed his family in a double log cabin directly across the Kanawha River.

At the entrance of Daniel Boone Park stands Craik-Patton House. James Craik, whose grandfather was George Washington's friend and personal physician, built Craik-Patton House, at Daniel Boone Park, in 1834. Colonel George Patton, grandfather of the famous WWII general, later owned it. A replica of the early home of an earlier Ruffner, salt-maker David Ruffner, is also located on the property.



Malden / Belle

Malden - An idealic village bringing alive history -home of Booker T. Washington , world famous quilts, and salt-making history.

Scenic and Natural - Views of Kanawha River and Mountains

Historical - Malden: African Zion Baptist Church, Malden Salt Village, Booker T. Washington's Cabin, John Hale House, Norton-Patton House, Richard E. Putney House, Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church, and Ruffner Cemetery

Cultural - Malden Historic District and Cabin Creek Quilts

Industrial Heritage - Malden: Port Amherst, railroad yards, Malden Salt Village and Dickinson's Salt Works

Malden Historic Village is taking strides to assure its history is preserved and celebrated as the boyhood home of Booker T. Washington, the birthplace of the area's salt-making history, and headquarters for the world-renowned Cabin Creek Quilt Cooperative.

Follow the brown Midland Trail Travel Info signs to Cabin Creek Quilts Cooperative, housed in Hale House, the taupe and purple trim Federal-style, (circa 1838) home. 19th-Century historian and Renaissance man, Dr. John Hale, who was also the great-grandson of Mary Ingles, built Hale House. Ingles, mother of the first Caucasian child born west of the Alleghenies, is immortalized in the pages of *Follow The River*. She used the Ohio, Kanawha, and New Rivers to retrace her way home after being captured by Shawnee Indians on Sunday, July 8, 1755, from her home near present-day Blacksburg, Virginia.

Inside Cabin Creek Quilts are beautiful handmade quilts and quilted items for sale, plus the opportunity to meet the ladies who make the quilts, get travel info, and learn about life in the

mountains of West Virginia. Nearby, Malden Antiques specializes in railroad and other historical memorabilia.

Local resident, Senator Larry L. Rowe, has developed a brochure *Walking Tour of Old Malden—Virginia and West Virginia*. His Website www.larryrowe.com also offers a review of Malden history and points of interest.

Booker T. Washington Institute

At age nine, as a recently freed slave, Booker T. Washington walked to Malden with his mother from the Burroughs' Plantation in Virginia. In *Up From Slavery*, Washington recounts his days in Malden, first as a boy who was encouraged by Viola Ruffner to learn to read and then after college graduation when he lived here and



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traveled the new state of West Virginia to advocate moving the capital from Wheeling to Charleston. Visit the replica of Booker T. Washington's Boyhood Cabin. Next door is the African Zion Baptist Church (1872), West Virginia's oldest Afro-American Baptist Church, where Washington taught Sunday School. At Norton House (circa 1840) a multi-panel mural in the back dining room depicts the house's history. Tours and reenactments can be arranged by calling The Booker T. Washington Institute of West Virginia State University.

Salt-Making History

History, culture, and industry blend in Malden, Belle, and Cedar Grove. Long ago, buffalo beat a path through undisturbed forests to the basins of salt brine along the Kanawha River. Native Americans followed, learning to use hot rocks to extract salt. Pioneers were next attracted to the area.

The first recorded history of salt-making in the area was made in 1671 by Captain Thomas Batts (see Gauley Bridge). He reported Native Americans were using hot rocks to extract salt in present day Malden. Mary Ingles reported that her Shawnee captors taught her to extract salt here in 1755. Pioneers followed the buffalo path, which by 1790, at the urging of George Washington, became a state road from Virginia to Cedar Grove, and is today the Midland Trail.

In 1797, with a collection of 24 kettles for salt production from the area's brines, Elisha Brooks started the Kanawha Valley's first industry near Malden. By 1817, Malden was the world's largest salt producer and site of the country's first industrial trust. Malden's "red salt" with its iron content was a prized commodity to pioneers for preserving meat.

Salt manufacturing requires fuel and the rich forests along the Kanawha River were cleared to provide wood fuel for the early salt furnaces. In 1817, David Ruffner became the first producer to successfully convert to coal fuel. Gas was struck in 1815. In 1841, William Tompkins of Cedar Grove became the first in the U.S. to use this gas for an industrial purpose, salt-making. Two years later, salt-makers Dickinson and Shrewsbury hit the great gas reserve of the region. The resource that attracted buffalo, made Malden the world's largest salt producer, enriched the Valley's early industrialists, and ultimately spawned the surrounding chemical industries.

The era of salt making peaked between 1842-55 at 3.2 million bushels. Other industries began to grow as a result of this first industry. World War I made it necessary for America to locate new supplies of chlorine and alkalis. All of the essential ingredients were here; an ample supply of high quality coal, salt brine, natural gas, oil, ample skilled labor, and transportation. Scientists, inventors, capitalists and government were inspired.



Eastern Kanawha County

Towns and Villages: Shrewsbury, Quincy, Cedar Grove, and Glasgow

Scenic - Views of Kanawha River and Kanawha Valley at several pull-offs

Natural - Kanawha River (Route 60 follows the river for 50-plus miles)

Recreational - Glasgow: Glasgow City Park/Roadside Park and Boat Launch

London: London Public Park

Historical - Cedar Grove: Virginia's Chapel and William Tompkins House

Archaeological -

Cemeteries - Cedar Grove: Virginia's Chapel

Cultural - Industrial Heritage - Cannelton: coal tipple and storage

Route 60 continues to follow the scenic Kanawha River Valley through the small communities of eastern Kanawha County. Glasgow, a small residential community of nearly 1000, is primarily situated on the Midland Trail. It offers residents and visitors a city park and pool for summer recreation, as well as a boat dock and launch for river activities, fishing, boating, and water. Similarly, the community of London has a pleasant public park.

Other towns, such as Cedar Grove are of historical significance. The oldest settled community in the Kanawha Valley, Cedar Grove played a significant role in the development of the Midland Trail. The town's first resident, Walter Kelly, settled here in 1773, but sent his family to Lewisburg for protection against Native raids; the Natives killed Kelly after his family departed. The next year, William Morris built Fort Morris, the Valley's first settlement. As the Trail evolved, Cedar Grove became a terminus for land travel and a beginning point for water traffic. Morris' descendants amassed

a fortune building flatboats for westward-moving pioneers and from Malden's salt trade downriver. The Boat Yards, as the town was first known, also constructed the dugouts for Lewis and Clark's historic expedition. Famous resident William Tompkins was the first man in America to use natural gas for industrial purposes, but is best known for his two brick beauties. On the Trail is Virginia's Chapel, the Little Brick Church which he built in 1853 as a graduation gift for his daughter. A small graveyard is also located on the property. The chapel is on the National Registry of Historic Places. At the mouth of Kelly's Creek is Tompkins' palatial brick house, built in 1844.

The working coal tipple and storage facility located at Cannelton is evidence of the area's industrial heritage.

