

# Eastern Fayette County

Babcock State Park, Winona, Camp Washington Carver, and Sewell Mountain

**Scenic and Natural** – Clifftop: Babcock

**Recreational** - Hico: whitewater rafting, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, rock climbing, and camping

Clifftop: Babcock State Park, Fishing, Climbing, whitewater rafting, horseback riding, hiking, and biking

**Historical** – Fayetteville: Lee’s Tavern-peak of Sewell Mountain and Morris Harvey House

Lookout: Lookout Baptist Church and Camp George Washington Carver

Winona: Garvey House

**Archaeological** – Cemeteries

**Cultural** – Fayetteville: Court Street Gallery

Clifftop: Camp Washington Carver and WV String Band Festival

East of Hico, the Midland Trail curves through some of the most beautiful scenery in our country as it crosses the highest point on the Trail—Big Sewell Mountain at 3170 feet.

At Lookout, look out for the turn off for Winona for an adventurous side trip to what was once the largest town in Fayette County. Recently, the road to Winona has been extended all the way to the New River through a beautiful, pristine forest.

A bit further east, Route 60 is intersected by Route 41, which leads to Babcock State Park, home of the frequently photographed Glade Creek Grist Mill. The park offers cabins for rent, seasonal swimming, and cross country skiing.



5.38

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5.39

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Also on Route 41 at Clifftop, Camp Washington Carver serves as the state's Mountain Cultural Arts Center. There is a family styled dinner theatre series and an Afro-American Arts Camp in the summer. Near the end of July, the five-day West Virginia String Band Music Festival attracts an audience of over 3000 music lovers who come from all over the world to hear great music and enjoy this gathering of friends and musicians.

Near the western slope peak of Big Sewell Mountain is the 1824 Old Stone House (or Tyree Tavern) and on the eastern slope is Lee's Tree where General Lee camped during the Battle of Big Sewell and met his beloved warhorse, Traveller.



# Western Greenbrier County

Rainelle, Rupert, Meadow River, and Sam Black Church

5.40

Western Greenbrier County

**Scenic** - Big Sewell Mountain Overlook Greenbrier Valley – Big Levels

**Natural** – Big Sewell Mountain, Meadow Creek/Meadow River Wildlife Management Area, and numerous small creeks for fishing

**Recreational** - Rainelle: Meadow River Park/Greenbrier Youth Camp, Greenbrier Hills Golf, Rupert: Picnicking Shelters

**Historical** – Hern’s Mill Covered Bridge and Sam Black United Methodist Church

**Cultural** – Sam Black Church: Sam Black Methodist Church

**Industrial Heritage** - Rainelle: Meadow River Lumber



Greenbrier County begins near the eastern base of Big Sewell Mountain and the town of Rainelle. Ancient buffalo trails guided the first settlers through the area’s undisturbed forests. Colonel Andrew Lewis and his father dubbed the area Greenbrier, after unpleasant encounters with prickly green briars while surveying the river valley in the mid-1700s.

In 1774, Colonel Lewis and his men used the route to travel to the Battle of Point Pleasant. This overland portion of the trail became known as the Lewis Trail when George Washington advocated for an all-Virginia route to connect the Virginia tidewater basin with the Ohio River, and ultimately, to the Gulf of Mexico. In 1785 the Virginia Legislature authorized money to build the old state road along the path of Lewis Trail, which is the present-day Midland Trail. The road was finished to Cedar Grove by 1790 (Mile19).

Around 1906, the Raine brothers, for whom Rainelle is named, established the Meadow River Lumber Company. Known for the quality of its oak hardwood, New York’s Waldorf Astoria Hotel and West Virginia’s Governors Reception Hall were crafted with Greenbrier County lumber. The mill ceased operation in 1970. The Meadow River



# Rainelle, Rupert, and Meadow River

5.41

Western Greenbrier County

Festival, held the first weekend in August, celebrates the history of the lumber and coal industry, and the Midland Trail itself. Greenbrier Hills Golf is a public nine-hole course right on Route 60.

The Meadow River Park/Greenbrier Youth Camp, a renovation project of the MTSHA, is located between Rainelle and Rupert and is open for public camping.

The headwaters of the Meadow River, near Mile 85 at Sam Black Church, creates West Virginia's second largest wetland and a home for sport fish and fowl.

Greenbrier County CVB recommends five area mini-tours. Hern's Mill Covered Bridge, one of only seventeen surviving in West Virginia, is on Tour # 5, as the Trail winds through the rolling farms of Greenbrier Valley, between Sam Black Church (I-64, Exit 156) and Lewisburg, through the villages of Clintonville and Richlands.

