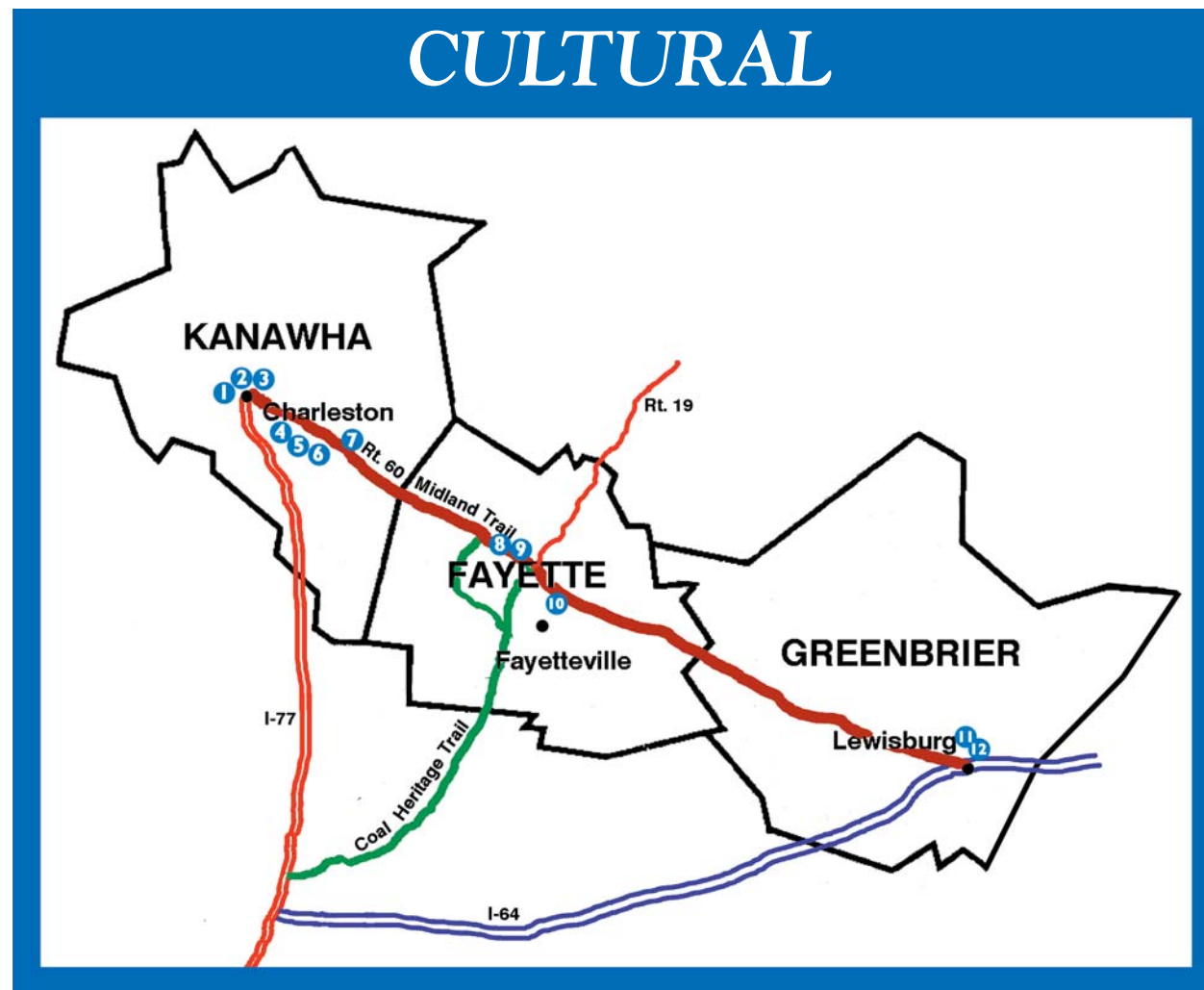


Cultural Qualities

Locations

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. WV Cultural Center | 7. Coal camp town |
| 2. Vandalia Gathering | 8. African-American Heritage Family |
| 3. Mountain Stage | 9. Contentment Historical Complex |
| 4. African Zion Baptist Church | 10. Camp Washington Carver |
| 5. Malden Salt Village | 11. Carnegie Hall (Rural arts education) |
| 6. Cabin Creek Quilts | 12. WV State Fair (Fairlea) |



CULTURAL QUALITIES

Gathering on the State Capitol grounds. It was Appalachian all the way: fiddlers and banjo players, a Liar's Contest, arts and crafts, story-telling, and old-fashioned country food. All the things you think of when you think West Virginia. They have other Appalachian

Joe Bundy portrays Booker T. Washington for school groups and others. When Booker was freed at the age of 8 he walked the Trail to Malden where he learned to read and the rest is history!



festivals there too, like the Rhododendron Festival.

Dearest Sandy:

Glad to hear your trip is going great. Glad you enjoyed the exhibits at the Louvre and the London Gallery. Loved your stories about the concerts. My trip through Europe years ago was a great learning experience. I only wish I was with you, but the boss couldn't let me get away. When you get back, I've got another little cultural foray for you, and we could easily do it in a weekend away.

Last weekend the work was slow, so I went to West Virginia just to get out of the city. I was in Charleston at the Vandalia

festivals there too, like the Rhododendron Festival.

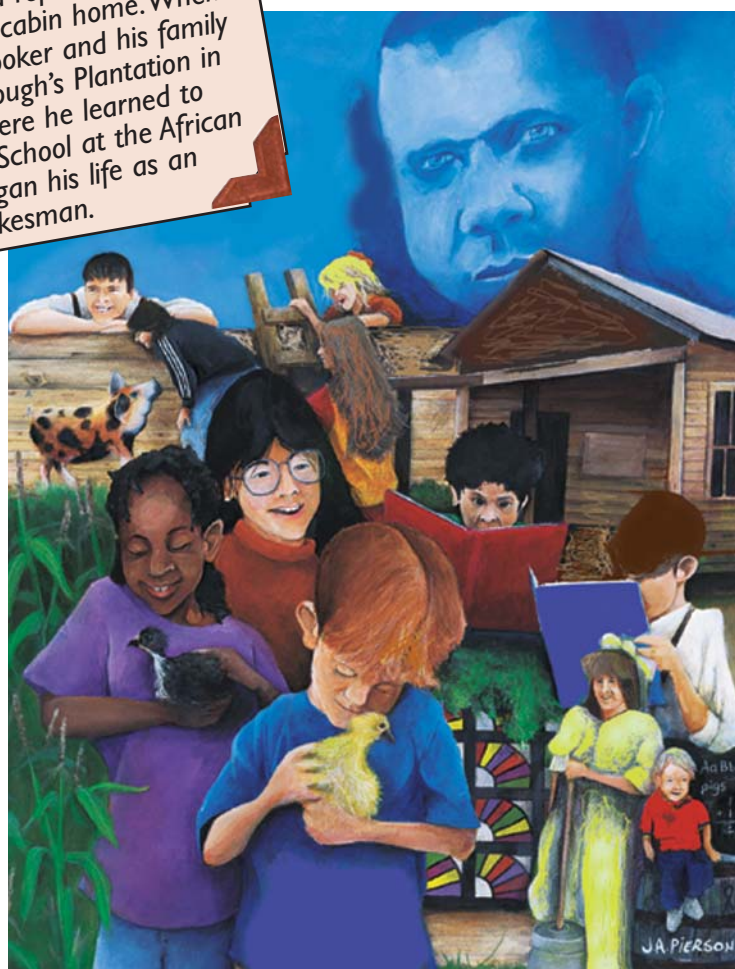
Something else, before I forget. I knew you loved folk music, so I booked a couple of tickets to an Arlo Guthrie concert here the Sunday after you get back. Right on the Capitol grounds is a musical showcase area they call Mountain Stage. Every Sunday they have a musical program--jazz, folk, blues, classical--and they broadcast it on the radio all over the country. I thought it might be kind of fun. After that we can ride the P.A. Denny Sternwheeler, the only one on the Trail (authentic, too).

con'd

Broadcast nationally from right on the Trail, Mountain Stage, the live performance NPR radio show is renowned for its star studded and diverse performances.



At Malden's Fresh Start Salt Village, kids and adults alike get a glimpse of the work-a-day life of a freed slave in a replica of Booker T. Washington's boyhood cabin home. When freed, an 8-year-old Booker and his family walked from the Burrough's Plantation in Virginia to Malden. Here he learned to read, taught Sunday School at the African Zion Church and began his life as an educator and spokesman.



Just for fun, I decided to head up Route 60 East. When I was a kid, I read about Booker Washington, but didn't know a lot about him. He lived outside Charleston in a little town called Malden, so I went to visit. They had an old black church called the African Zion Baptist Church; standing in it, you can almost hear a hot summer's day inspired sermon as a preacher with a sweltering face delivers his message to attentive men and women who fan themselves in the oppressive heat. It's next door to a salt-worker's village that recreates what it was like for freed slaves to live in Malden after the Civil War. I guess we forget sometimes what a freed slave's life was really like. I could almost see Booker in it as a little boy, his eyes full of thirst for books and words and learning. The village really brings home to you what Booker probably saw as a boy.

I headed through a town called Ansted, and stopped at a place called the African-American Heritage Family Tree Museum. To look at it, you wouldn't know it's run by an internationally-known poet/playwright, but sure enough, it is. Norman Jordan and his wife Brucella (who has a doctorate in history) met me and showed me some great cultural memorabilia. His roots are in the African-American mining culture in Ansted, and he showed me memorabilia, photos (his father was a pioneering photographer), and models. It was an interesting look into mining and black culture.

I went on to a charming little place called Lewisburg. There was a musical production at Carnegie Hall (yeah, the same name as the

one in New York). They have arts programs all year-round. From the brochure, I found out that Carnegie Hall has a model rural arts-in-education program, one of the largest in the country. You might tell that to your painter friends.

Sending you a copy of the schedule at Camp Washington Carver at Clifftop (they also have African-American cultural programs); maybe we can go to "Doo-Wop Saturday" or "Old Time Days". Also a brochure for the Greenbrier Valley Theater in Lewisburg. The "Greenbrier Ghost" play looks fascinating.

The Trail also has other arts and crafts festivals, like the Upper Kanawha Valley Fall Festival at Quincy Shopping Center and West Virginia Day at Hawks Nest State Park. Want to go to those? Let me know. I know you're always looking for new cultural experiences. Wish I was with you.

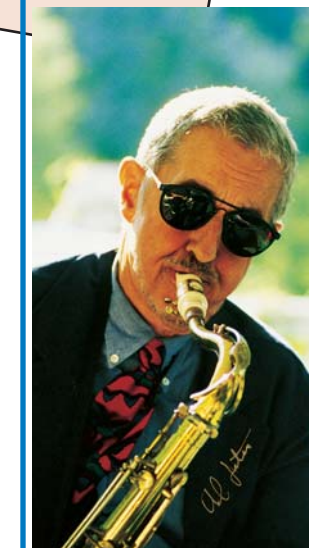


Maybe it all started when the Carnegie family funded this beautiful Carnegie Art Center here in 1902 -- but somehow Lewisburg has become a haven for the artistic -- with everything done in a world class way -- live local theater, galleries, local musicians, artists of all types. Carnegie's model rural arts-in-education program, one of the largest in the country!



Legendary quilters in Cabin Creek Quilter Pearl Nutter quilts in front of historic home of John Hale, salt industrialist and great-grandson of Mary Ingles.

XXXXOO,
Mike



My Dear Corinna --
Forget the cathedral.
Let's do it here -- the
African Zion Baptist
Church
-Love Rodney

