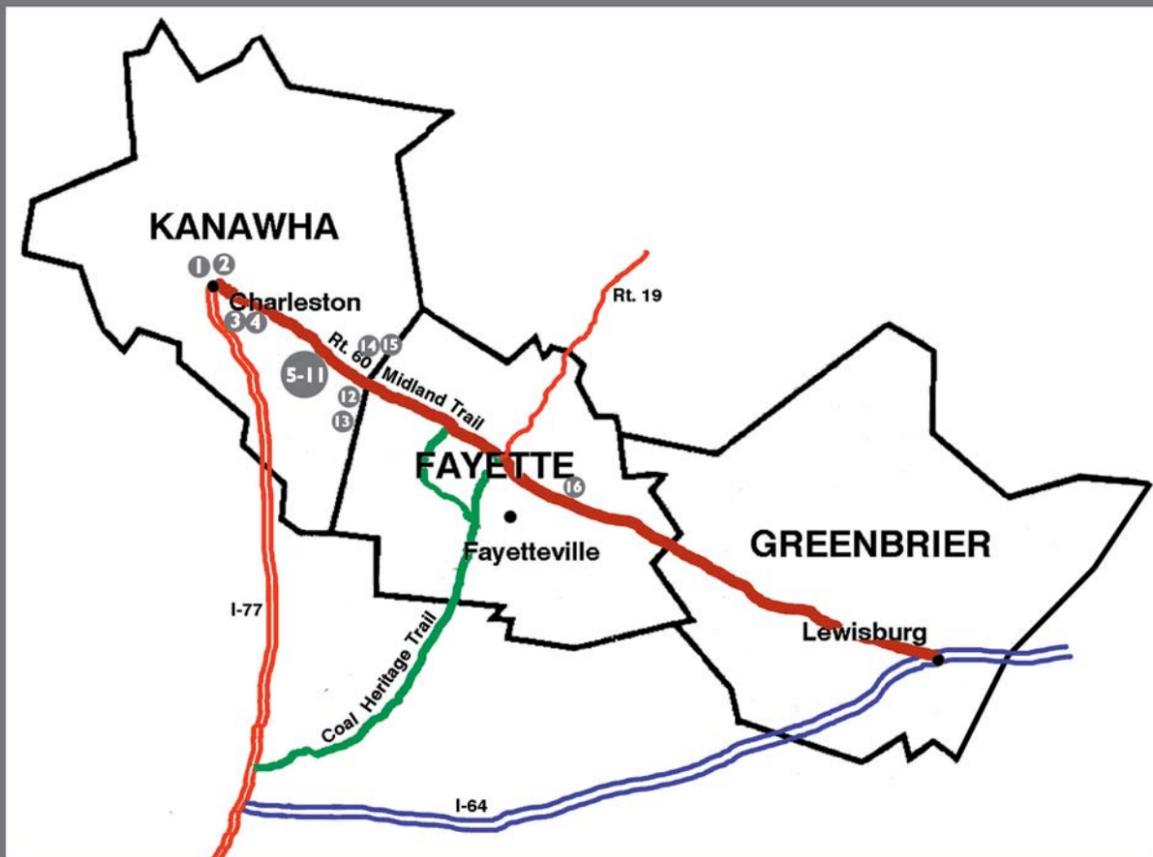


Locations

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. West Virginia State Capitol | 10. Ruffner Cemetery | 17. <u>Lewisburg Area</u>
Sam Black Methodist Church |
| 2. Holly Grove Mansion (1815) | 11. Salt Village | Old Stone Church |
| 3. Craik-Patton House (1834) | 12. Old Stone House | North House Museum |
| 4. Ruffner Log Cabin | 13. Reynolds House | Carnegie Hall) |
| 5. John Hale House (1838) | 14. Virginia's Chapel (1853) | Andrew Lewis Park |
| 6. Norton-Patton House (1840) | 15. William Tompkins House (1844) | Soldiers' Barracks |
| 7. Richard E. Putney House (1836) | 16. World's Largest Lumber Enterprise | Fort Savannah Inn |
| 8. Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church | | General Lewis Inn |
| | | Caldwell Historic Inn |
| | | <u>White Sulphur Springs</u> |
| | | Greenbrier Hotel |
| | | James Wylie House |
| 9. African Zion Baptist Church | | |

HISTORICAL



HISTORICAL QUALITIES

Dear Mrs. Crump:

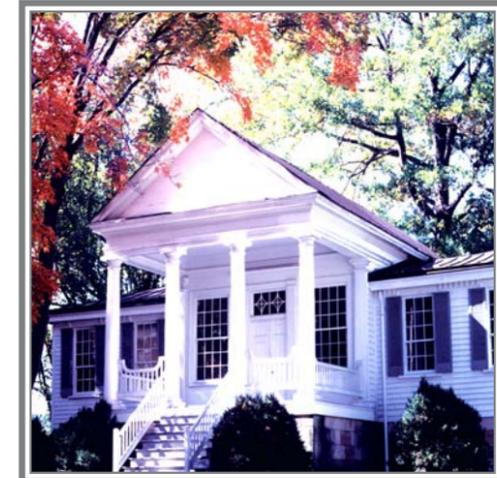
I guess you could call this my "What I Did During My Summer Vacation" essay.

I remember that section we did on the Midland Trail, and, well, I got curious and spent a couple of days getting personal with history, as you used to say.

I just took my camera, stuffed some clothes and money (courtesy of the parents) in a gym bag, and went for a couple of days. You were right: there is a lot of history in this state to experience if we just take time to get out and see it.

Visited the State Capitol first. I didn't know that Cass Gilbert also designed Washington D.C.'s Treasury and Supreme Court buildings. I think you said that many people consider it the most beautiful capitol building in the U.S. Went over to the Veterans' Memorial and saw my uncle's name. The other photo is Holly Grove, built by Augustus Ruffner. I like old brick homes. Also met some nice ladies at the Craik-Patton House. Built in 1834, one of its owners was General Patton's grandfather. The front was beautiful - it's one of the state's best examples of the Greek Revival style.

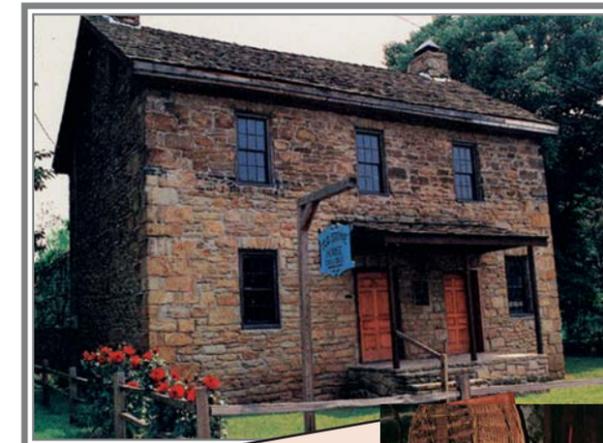
I remember us talking about Malden, so I stopped there, too. Went to the Norton House



(1840) and the Hale House (1838), where the salt industrialist Dr. John Hale lived. I was glad you made us read *Follow the River*, because Hale was Mary's great-grandson. The folks at the Visitor Center took me over to see the state's oldest black Baptist church, the African Zion Baptist Church (1872). That's me ringing the bell; they let you do that. See that aisle? That was Booker Washington's church, and he taught and got married in that aisle. In the back, they have a reconstructed salt-worker's village with a faithful reproduction of Booker's cabin and a schoolhouse/church. There were even some pigs and chickens to make the scene complete. I finished up there by seeing one of the state's oldest Presbyterian churches, the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian (1840) (it was Booker's first church), and an old Federal-style house across it called the Putney House (1836).

The one with the ladies in costume is the Old Stone House, built around 1810 by Samuel Shrewsbury, a salt-maker. They showed me all around and told me lots of neat details. It's all stone, and they say it has a unique shape: oblong.

I go to an old church, so it's kind of fun looking at places where people worshiped a long time ago. Cedar Grove has a sweet little brick church called "Virginia's Chapel". William Tompkins built it in 1853 as a graduation gift for his daughter.



The Old Stone House was built around 1810 by Samuel Shrewsbury, a salt-maker. Ladies in costume showed me all around and told me lots of neat details. It's all stone, and they say it has a unique shape: oblong. (MM9)



Must see the collection of historical dolls at Craik-Patton House. Built in 1834, one of its owners was General Patton's grandfather. The front is beautiful - it's one of the state's best examples of the Greek Revival style.

Stopped at Ansted's Contentment House, (circa 1830) an antebellum home that was a Civil War headquarters for the Chicago Grey Dragoons. They have a museum and a reconstructed one-room schoolhouse. Close by Halfway House, (circa 1780), was known as Tyree Tavern, a stagecoach stop between Lewisburg and Charleston.



My folks just gave me a Parker pen. They were really nice, and let me stay for a while; there was an old cemetery around it, too. I didn't know this, but the Trail used to end here, and Cedar Grove used to be a boat yard for flat-boats, and they started on the river from Cedar Grove, and they even built Lewis and Clark's boats right here. Wow! Right here on the Trail! If you look across the street, you see Tompkins' Federal-style brick home (1844). He was the first man in the U.S. to use natural gas for industry. They told me something interesting; Mrs. Tompkins was General Grant's aunt, and even though she was a Southern sympathizer, that saved her family and the house. History is kind of interesting, after all. Just wish I'd paid more attention in your class.

The Civil War was fought along the the Trail. Today, re-enactments remember this aspect of Trail history at White Sulphur Springs and near the Trail at Carnifex Ferry and Fayetteville.



old stagecoach stop, and the man that built it was a War of 1812 veteran and salt-maker, Aaron Stockton.

Just around the corner from Glen Ferris is Gauley Bridge. Piers standing in the river are the only remains left of the bridge after the Confederates burned it (Carnifex Ferry is on up Gauley River). The Trail used to be a toll-road. I like trains, and stopped in an old restored railroad depot and saw a railroad museum.

Hawks Nest Tunnel, one of the state's greater engineering feats, built in the Depression with about 5000 workers as a source of water power for industry. They used black and immigrant labor to build it. Greatest industrial tragedy, too; a lot died of silicosis and it led the way to national workers' compensation reform. As I stood there, I couldn't help wanting to know something about the lives and the names of the men who built it.

Had a great time in Ansted. First, I stopped at the Contentment House (circa 1830), an antebellum home used as Civil War headquarters for the Chicago Grey Dragoons. They have a museum and a reconstructed one-room schoolhouse. Nearby the Halfway House (circa 1780), was known as Tyree Tavern and used as a stagecoach stop between Lewisburg and Charleston.

There's a neat little museum off the road called the African-American Heritage Family Tree Museum. Housed in an old turn-of-the-century coal-camp house. Mr. and Mrs. Jordan have coal camp memorabilia and photos. There were a lot of African-Americans in the mines up around Ansted, and the Jordans had a lot of old photos of them. My Uncle Joe was a miner; it kind of makes it all real for me to see what he had to go through.

Sam Black Church is both a white frame church and the name of the town, too. Built in 1902. Women raised money for it by selling gloves and socks. Sam Black was a Methodist preacher who rode on his ever-so-faithful steed Shiloh to preach in six different counties. I couldn't even make it through one in my Miata before I get tired!

Lewisburg was great. Did a little shopping, some browsing, and a lot of learning. So much history. The red-brick North House Museum (1820) used to be a popular tavern, but now it's a Revolutionary and Civil War memorabilia museum. The curator took me out to see one of the country's best preserved examples of the Conestoga Wagon. Right near it is Carnegie Hall (I thought it was in New York), built in 1902 with money from Andrew Carnegie. Now, I did pay attention when you taught about him. He gave all those millions of his money to libraries and schools; it's sweet--Greek Revival style. That one photo is me in front of the Old Stone Church, built 1796 and

the oldest church in continuous use west of the Alleghenies. General Lee's men used it for a hospital after getting sick in the rain. I saw the Andrew Lewis Park (Battle of Point Pleasant: give me an A+) and the old colonial-style barracks for his men. My brother lives in better at his Army post.

Ended up in White Sulphur Springs at the Greenbrier (no, I didn't have that much money). It's been there since 1913, was a WWII hospital, and had Presidents, kings, and statesmen stay there. There's even a cabin called the "Summer White House" because Lee and Hayes stayed there. Did you know about the bunker? They're leading tours through a Cold-War era Congressional bunker; it even has a picture of the Capitol so that TV broadcasts look like they still come from Washington. They could have housed up to 1100 people for 6 weeks. It gives me some creepy thoughts, but it is historical. I don't play golf, but White Sulphur has the oldest golf course in the country; they still play by 1884 rules--no caddies, no carts, and oak clubs.

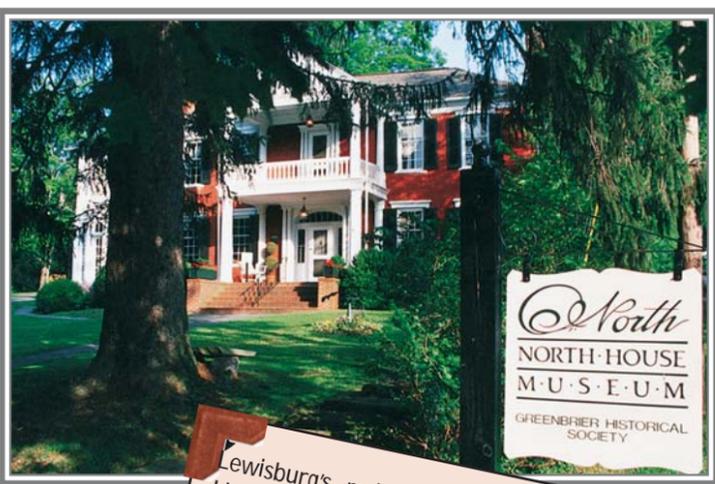
Well, that's what I did on my summer vacation, at least two days' worth. I didn't know there was this much history right down my own backyard. Like you always said, heritage can be right under your nose. I was going to major in economics at WVU, but I think now it's going to be history.

Keep telling them about the Trail, and show them this letter if they start falling asleep in your class.

Take care.

Tommy Peterson

P.S.: Do I get an A+, Teacher?



Lewisburg's red brick North House Museum (circa 1820) used to be a popular tavern and is now a museum with Revolutionary and Civil War memorabilia. The curator took me out to see one of the country's best preserved examples of the Conestoga Wagon.



Had lunch at the old Glen Ferris Inn (1853). They have been serving weary travelers since 1815, when War of 1812 veteran and salt-maker Aaron Stockton established it as a stagecoach stop. Current owners, the Hills, also have a Civil War bookstore across the road.