

TAZEWELL COUNTY COAL HERITAGE TRAIL

Driving Directions

From the Coal Heritage Trail Interpretive Center in Bramwell, WV to Pocahontas, VA (Gateway to the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail):

From the Coal Heritage Trail Interpretive Center, traveling on Rt. 52, go 2.8 miles; Turn right on Rt. 120 South, go 2.7 miles to stop sign (see Pocahontas Cemetery, A National Historic Landmark on right); Continue straight on Rt. 102 West, .4 mile to Pocahontas town limits sign; Turn right on West Water Street, Rt. 644 toward Pocahontas Exhibition Mine; Turn right on Rt. 659, .01 mile to Pocahontas Exhibition Mine.

From Pocahontas Exhibition Mine:

Turn right on Rt. 659, go .01 mile; Turn left on Rt. 644, go .03 mile to stop sign, turn left; Turn right on West Railroad Avenue traveling on 102 East, go 8.7 miles to Bluefield Corporate Limits; Go .4 mile to traffic light, continue on Rt. 102, go 1.2 miles to traffic light; Turn right on Rt. 460 West toward Tazewell (If you turn left at signal light, you can go to the Tazewell County Visitors Center and Sanders House Museum).

Continue on Rt. 460 West toward Tazewell, 20.5 miles to Historic Crab Orchard Museum where an exhibit of coal history is displayed, including the beginning of the coal mining and railroad industries. From the Museum, continue on Rt. 460 West for 11 miles; At intersection of Rt. 19-460, turn right, staying on Rt. 460 West; go approximately 3.7 miles to Jewell Ridge exit, Exit 2, North 67; turn left onto Railroad Avenue; turn left onto Third Street; turn left at Town Hall where the official Coal Miners' Memorial of the Commonwealth is located.

From Coal Miners' Memorial of the Commonwealth:

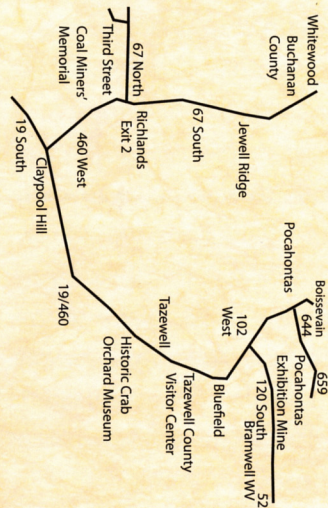
From the Coal Miners' Memorial of the Commonwealth in Richlands, turn right; turn left onto Third Street, turn right onto Railroad Avenue, go North on Rt. 67, continue on Rt. 67 North for 8 miles toward Jewell Ridge, turn left to Whitewood where the Buchanan County segment of the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail connects.

- (800) 588-9401 or visit
- www.visittazewellcounty.org
- www.virginia.org/coalheritagetrail



Tazewell County Visitors Center
200 Sanders Lane
Bluefield, Virginia 24605

TAZEWELL COUNTY
TOURISM COMMITTEE



The Virginia Coal Heritage Trail Committee invites you to travel the 325 mile network of rural roads through the heart of the coalfields of Southwestern Virginia, of which 50 miles wind through Tazewell County.

VIRGINIA COAL HERITAGE TRAIL

Tazewell County, Virginia

THE OFFICIAL COAL MINERS' MEMORIAL
OF THE COMMONWEALTH



The Richlands Coal Miners' Memorial, designated as the official Coal Miners' Memorial of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2009, was originally dedicated in 2003. The memorial is a tribute to the men and women who sacrificed all they had to make a living and is a testament to the heritage of the Town of Richlands. The memorial, sculpted by Maria Kirby-Smith, depicts a miner exiting the mine. He's covered in the toil of the day with his lunch bucket and pick in hand as he catches a breath of fresh air. The black granite wall represents the mine. The cascading water shares the wealth of an ever-flowing natural resource we call coal. Etchings of the history of mining linger on the face of the monument while the back bears the names of over 1,000 miners who died fulfilling their destiny.

Postage
Stamp

Tazewell County Segment of the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail

Jewell Ridge Coal Camp (1930)




First tipple at the Jewell Ridge Mine (1905)



Belt line inside the Jewell Ridge Mine (1945)



Virginia  *is for Lovers*® The Virginia Coal Heritage Trail winds through Southwestern Virginia's rich coalfields. Travel this 325 mile network of rural roads to discover the evidence of natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources and experience life in the coalfields through visiting historic coal camps, museums and landmarks.



The gateway to the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail begins in the Town of Pocahontas. Tucked away in the northernmost portion of Tazewell County, the Town of Pocahontas is a place that speaks to all who visit about a time, a people, and a place that helped shape the future and the greatness of an entire nation.

Pocahontas was the first and largest coal-mining town in the Virginia Coalfields. The famous 12-foot vein was one of the largest and best quality veins in the nation. Although the seam has all but been exhausted in the Town of Pocahontas, the stratum is still considered to be the princess of the coal country in Virginia. Since the closing of the mine in 1955, many of the historical buildings erected during the height of the coal mining industry have remained, maintaining the feel of a coal mining town from the turn of the last century.



Pocahontas Exhibition Mine

The Town of Pocahontas is a reflection of its mining history. Immigrants of Hungarian, Welsh, Russian, Polish, German, French, English, Irish descent, and more came to work in the coal industry. The cultural diversity is evident in the numerous sites and structures throughout the town.



Traveling from the Town of Pocahontas along Route 102 to Route 19-460 West, Historic Crab Orchard Museum displays a timeline of Southeast Virginia history and provides an exhibit of regional coal mining heritage.

The final Tazewell County destination of the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail is Jewell Ridge. Located about seven miles from Richlands, Jewell Ridge Coal Camp is situated at an elevation of 3,500 feet. The camp was built for employees of the Jewell Ridge Coal Corporation which was formed in 1912 by George St. Clair and Thomas Righter. In the late 1920's, the company employed 650 men and shipped 2,000 tons of coal daily. Today many of the residents are descendants of the original employees.