

A Visitor's Impression of Fentress County

Fentress County has an awesome website that really does include everything within the county. Very well done! We would suggest moving the events calendar from Community Information over to Tourist Information because many of the events listed might be something of interest to a visitor if they happened to be in the area or might plan their visit to coincide with it. What the website does not seem to have is a map to actually show a visitor where everything is located. **We have created a map for Fentress County at <http://trailsrus.com/bigsouthforkregion/fentress.html> This is a working map so it might appear a bit cluttered at this time but it does show very well where each of the attractions are located.**

Nor does the county seem to have any designated sites to pick up information other than the Jamestown Chamber which for some reason we did not go in. Are they open on Saturdays? We came through on a Saturday and I don't remember the building being open. We should also suggest they add blue "Info" signs indicating sites with tourist information.

- a. Places I thought would have brochures and information had some individual brochures but nothing that really told me what all the county had to offer and how to find each of these sites. In fact, until I came back and looked at the website, I had no idea they had that many stables and lodging opportunities and even then, there is more lodging than listed on the website (must not be Chamber members) and a lot more stables than I saw signs for.
- b. I believe the Winery had the most information (stables, General Store, Bluetick Antiques, some lodging opportunities were a few of their brochures although I never did find a map of the county). They also gave us a flyer on their upcoming music and wine tasting events and encouraged us to come back. They are open 365 days a year, have a tremendous amount of traffic and seemed to be the primary source for tourism information. They were also the ones who suggested we go down and check out the General Store in Clarkrange and told us we had missed Bluetick Antiques and **MUST** go back into town and see it.

Directional signage to any of the sites in the area is very limited but most attractions and offerings are located directly on the highway and visible from the road which helps.

- a. Definitely need signage directing traffic through historic Downtown Jamestown especially as one travels north on Hwy 127 otherwise tourists will miss the entire community.
 - a. It would be nice if the sign included: Historic Downtown, Antiques, Tourist Information, Dining which is what I found downtown. The community really needs to focus on recruiting tourism related businesses to the downtown area which currently has a lot of empty buildings because I only remember one antique shop and limited options for dining and very few, if any, shops of note on the Square that might be of interest to a tourist.

Wonderful downtown area has potential for much growth and some great historic buildings but it will need an increase in tourism traffic to sustain them. With the relocation of Walmart out of the downtown area makes this all the more important.

b. Definitely need more uniform signage at the turnoff to Pickett State Park. There were at least five stables along that route and lots of lodging that I had no idea existed. Either I missed the signs or there was nothing there indicating them.

What is the county known for?

1. The county's claim to fame is Pall Mall which is the Home of Alvin C. York which is very well done and attracts lots of people every year and is open year-round. Food, shopping, tourist information, museum, ample parking for school buses and RV's, restroom facilities, playground, picnic areas, pavilions, waterfall, tours of York's home, a tank, beautiful view along the river. *I believe the school next door is now being used as a community center.* **Definitely a 4!**
2. Fentress County is also known for starting the 127 Longest Yard Sale which is a huge draw in August over a 4-day period. This is HUGE and nationally known!
3. The Allardt Pumpkin Festival truly has had some of the largest pumpkins and seems to have become much larger than just a community event.
4. Never associated Fentress County with horses but after visiting it, that is what I would say is where their niche is. **They need to market themselves for this!**

What impressed me most?

1. The Highland Manor Winery is a MUST STOP attraction! **Definitely a 4**
2. The number of riding stables (really nice facilities) **Definitely a 4 and the major draw to the county!**
3. Quite a bit of lodging especially for those with horses (lodges, b&b's, campgrounds) primarily located around Jamestown. I didn't see but two hotels but maybe I just overlooked them and very possibly are not needed with all the other lodging opportunities in the area. There is also the schoolhouse B&B and the Turner House Lodging in Allardt, Buck's Lodge in Pall Mall and they claim Charit Creek Lodge in Sevierville. **Lodging in the area – 4 due to variety of choices. Although, if someone is looking for a Holiday Inn or upscale hotel, they do not exist in this area.**
4. There are three unique general stores along Hwy 127. One is at the South end of the county in Clarkrange, one in Pall Mall (Sgt York site) and one is on the north end of the county. *Four if one includes R.M. Brooks General Store but I think it really is in Morgan.* **They are all wonderful and I rate each of them a 4.** These should be primary stops to pick up information about the county and the regional effort.
5. There were no memorable places to eat that I noticed. Dairy Queen, McDonalds, a Mexican restaurant, two pizza shops and a family restaurant in Jamestown; a family restaurant in Clarkrange. The Cumberland Mountain General Store was closed for the season so I did not get to check out the Rock-a-billy Café and Soda Fountain. **Could use some finer dining opportunities. 2**

Like Scott and Morgan counties, Fentress County claims Rugby as well as Grey's Gable B&B and R.M. Brooks General Store.

On the next page is an overview of their attractions and offerings.

FENTRESS COUNTY OFFERINGS

1. Alvin C. York home place / burial site / grist mill State Historic Site #4

Hwy 127 North in Pall Mall, 931-879-5366 **RATE THIS A 4**

Visit the birth, home, and burial site of America's most decorated World War I Soldier. A picnic beside the gristmill in the park with a delicious sack lunch from the General Store will prove to be relaxing and serene. www.alvincyork.org

FENTRESS COUNTY
GRIST MILL – PALL MALL



FENTRESS
SGT. YORK BURIAL SITE



*****York Academy in Jamestown** – *Major renovation project to ever save it!!!*

2. Horse Stables / Lodging and Camping opportunities

a. True West Campground, Stables & Mercantile #9?

Hwy 154, Jamestown <http://www.truewestcampground.com/>

Accommodations for horse and human, centrally located for access to the riding trails of the Big South Fork. RV sites, cabin rentals, shower houses, barns, tack, saddles, supplies, gifts, and old western clothing. Special events held monthly, including bluegrass music and meals. **4**

b. East Fork Stables #30

3598 S. York Hwy. Jamestown (931) 879-1176

Includes organized trail rides and cookouts on 12,000 acres, cabins, lodges, mercantile, and more! <http://www.eastforkstables.com/>

The Gernt House, a restored and updated farm house of German architectural influence listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the 1880's home of pioneer Bruno Gernt is one of a number of lodging opportunities at East Fork Stables. 4

c. Saddle Valley Campground #10? Located somewhere on Pickett Parkway

350 Burks Rd Jamestown TN 38556

26 campsites with electric hook-ups for horse camping, fire rings, heated bathhouse with six total showers, toilets, sinks and plenty of hot water, plus 42 covered stalls in five different barns, nine large open pens and a large corral. Cabin rental plus one stall available (no electricity). **4**

<http://www.saddlevalleycampground.com/>

- d. **Wildwood Lodge Bed & Breakfast** includes Stables and Cabins –3636 Pickett Park High, Jamestown (931)879-9454 **#12 4**
The Lodge B&B has 10 guestrooms, each with private bathrooms, heating and air conditioning. All rooms have a TV and a VCR with tapes available from an extensive video library. Three cabins and a cottage with heating and cooling system and full kitchens, All bedrooms, lounges and decks have ceiling fans. Each cabin has a TV and VCR All the cabins are wheelchair accessible and all the doors are 36" wide. The stable includes twenty-six 10' x 12' stalls. <http://web.infoave.net/%7Ewildwoodbed/> 4
- e. **Zenith Stables Horse Campgrounds #20**
929 Cole Place Road, Allardt TN (931)879-5252
Located between Allardt and Rugby on Hwy 52. There are 38 camping sites. All have water and electric. Some include septic hookup and there is a dump station. There are two bunkhouses that sleep 8 to 12 people, with a refrigerator and a wood heater for chilly days. Clean bathrooms, hot shower and a kitchen facility available for general use. Also a 53 barn stalls, out pens and tie outs are permitted. Bedding is furnished, as well as clean buckets in each stall for water. You supply your own feed and hay. 4
- f. **Horse themed shop - Horse Stuff Etc., Inc. #8**
2110 Pickett Park Highway, Jamestown, tel. 879 7513.
On the left as one heads into Jamestown is a tack & feed store specializing in trail riding gear. From saddle bags to saddles, if it has to do with trail riding, they have it. Also apparel, home decorations, gifts, Leanin' Tree "stuff", grooming & stable supplies— *"If it has to do with horses, we've probably got it!"* Open from 8-5:30 every day except Wed and Sundays. **Did not visit this.** <http://www.horse-stuff-etc.com/>
- g. **Farmers' Co-op (Feed for Horses) #18**
1219 Old Highway 127-S, Jamestown, tel. 879 8114.
Drive to Jamestown. At the T-junction turn left on the old 127. Drive through Jamestown and it is on your left on the far side of town. Open five days a week and half day on Saturday.
- h. **Jamestown Inn (Did not see these listed on website) #14**
Ruth's Overnight #27, Delia's#26 , Jordon Motel #24 Pine Valley Cabins #25 **Their hotels and lodging facilities, other than those with stables are a bit dated but that creates a charm in themselves. Not sure if they have cell connection or high speed internet which was a problem I had in one of the other counties.**
Laurel Creek Campground. #11 **Have not checked this out but from what I hear, it is nice and visitor ready.**

3. Highland Manor Winery #27

2965 South York Hwy in Jamestown 38556, 931-879-9519

Tennessee's oldest winery offers free tours, wine tastings, a unique gift shop, even a picnic on the grounds! With major events from Spring through Fall, you're going to

love coming to Highland Manor. Open 365 days a year. This is a MUST SEE!
<http://www.highlandmanorwinery.com/main/main.php> **Definitely a 4! Might have difficulty handling more than one bus at a time but definitely visitor friendly and visitor ready. Ample parking and the place is large but it also has limited room for a lot of people at one time due to the wonderful displays packed into the space they have. We stayed over an hour, took a full tour of the winery. He has a phenomenal set up. The gift shop (which is extensive) was one of the best I have been in with wonderful displays. Convinced my husband (easily I must say) to drop \$200 on wine. Taste testing going on all the time. They also have special dinners set up periodically with great bands and of course wine. A little pricey but a sell out nearly every time. They understand tourism! They also have billboards and signage up everywhere promoting themselves. They are tourism ready. A must stop. And they are great about sending you to other places within the county and encouraging you to come back again. Might look at working with them to provide more tourism information. Currently they just have a rack by the door.**

4. Access to Big South Fork <http://www.nps.gov/biso/> #19

5. Access to Historic Rugby <http://www.historicrugby.org/> #21

Hwy 52 East in Rugby, 888-214-3400 **Definitely a 4**

This restored Victorian village founded in 1880 by British author and social reformer Thomas Hughes survives today as both a living community and fascinating historic site, unspoiled modern development. Tour the Schoolhouse, library, church, original buildings, commissary store, and grab a delicious bite to eat at the Harrow Road Cafe.

6. General Stores

a. Cumberland Mountain General Store #32

(Hwy 127 South in Clarkrange 931-863-3880) with original 1923 fixtures, old-time merchandise for sale at “old time” prices! Antique furniture, glassware, crocks, quilts, lamps, pictures, cast iron, tools, advertising, primitives, country collectibles, etc. **4**

www.cumberlandmountaingeneralstore.com

- i. Rock-A-Billy Café and Soda Fountain (located in back of store) takes one back to the 50’s with old fashioned burgers, fries, milkshakes, hand-dipped ice cream and more!

b. General Store at Pall Mall – Sergeant York #4 4

c. Forbus General Store near the Pickett County line. Great Fudge, fairly typical general store merchandise. Has tables in the back for deli meals and card tournaments. Seem active in coming up with ideas to get people into the area throughout the year. **#1**

d. R.M. General Store (Right on the border of Scott/Morgan and Fentress which all three claim) #21 4

- 7. Ye Ole Jail in Jamestown** - Hwy 52 West in downtown Jamestown, on the square, 931-879-9948 This century old building made of native sandstone is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is home to the Fentress County Chamber of Commerce. There are a number of other sandstone historic buildings around the Square. (Have some better photos) **#18 4**
- 8. Muddy Pond Mennonite Community (Actually in Putnam County)**
Hwy 62 West in Monterey 931-445-7829 **#33**
An old fashioned community with Amish ways, the Mennonites offer breads, pastries, homemade ice cream, and of course, sorghum for sale. Enjoy the bakery, leather shop, variety store, general store, Country Porch, and sorghum mill. Open Monday through Saturday, 9-5 CST. Call 931-445-7370. **Did not visit. Not sure. Others were impressed. Might score it a 3.**
- 9. Pickett State Park** - Hwy 154 in Jamestown 931-879-5821 **#13**
This 17,372-acre park and forest possess a combination of scenic, botanical, and geological wonders found nowhere else in Tennessee. The uncommon rock formations, natural bridges, ancient Indian occupation remains, and numerous caves are of particular interest. The park is adjacent to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/parks/Pickett/> **4**
- 10. Colditz Cove State Natural Area** is located in Allardt, Tennessee, just 1 mile off Hwy 52. The 1.5 mile loop will take you behind the 60 foot high Northrup Falls. This is a short and easy hike with a well defined walking trail. **4**
<http://jamestowntn.org/ColditzCove.htm> **#23**
- 11. Mark Twain Park** ,Old Hwy 127, Jamestown **#18 3**
- 12. Scenic overlooks**
- 13. Annual Events -**
- a. 127 Yard Sale through five states! Annual 4-day event 4**
<http://www.127sale.com/> Nationally recognized event. Hugely attended.
Hard to explain the phenomena of this event. It draws thousands and thousands of people each year that drive along the most windy roads which have no shoulder and stop at yard sales. Ari, I can't begin to describe it. Just trust me to say that it is definitely an attraction in itself. Could it be improved? Probably. But why fix something that appears to work and continues to grow. Not uncommon for people to be stuck in traffic for an hour or more. But that has become part of the experience. It just is.
- b. Pumpkin Festival in Allardt** - Always the first weekend in October, this event promises the biggest pumpkins, best country cookin', and fun for kids of all ages **#22**

c. County Fair

- 14. Century Farms** : Fentress County has eight farms that are over 100 years old. Help us celebrate these farms and their legacy. We're proud of these farms and appreciate the character and culture they've added to our community and lives. They are: Big Dry Farm, Clayton Upchurch Farm, Jerry Green Farm, Kenthrese Farm, Otto Pile Farm, Reed Farm, Williams & Pile Farm, W.R. Reed Farm..
- a. **King's Daylily Farm** - Bursting with gorgeous daylilies, King's Daylily Farm is sure to please. These blooms are absolutely breathtaking! Call 931-863-8291 for hours and events. **#31 2**
 - b. **Wolf River Valley Growers** - Family owned and operated, and nestled in the Pall Mall valley, Wolf River Valley Growers offers the most beautiful plants and flowers you've ever seen. The prices are right, too! Don't miss their big Spring Celebration. Open year round, call for hours. <http://www.wolfriver.net/> 170 Greenhouse Lane **#5 2**
Pall Mall, TN 38577 Toll-free : 1-800-841-5210
- I think both these farms have the potential to become agritourism must stops but they need some work. Right now, they appear to be more working farms but do have the potential to be more. Not sure it is something we need to focus on at this time.**
- 15. Antiques and Art**
- a. **Bluetick Antiques in Jamestown #18** **Just an antique and junk shop but the building itself has an interesting history. Might want to suggest providing interpretive information on this. Might rate this a 3. They have good parking, very visible and a young couple who recently purchased it have ideas to make it better.**
<http://www.jamestowntn.org/Bluetick.htm>
 - b. **Hodgkins Art (and Custom Framing) #18**
 - c. **Cumberland Mountain General Store #32** **It is strategically located at the southern entrance to the county (without much else until one gets to Jamestown). Definitely appears geared toward tourists and highly recommended by others located in the north end of the county. It was closed for the season at the time I went by but looking in the window, it appears to be a great place to stop. Strongly suggest this become a "must stop" location for visitor information on both the proposed heritage corridor and the county. Did I mention they also have the Rock-A-Billy Soda Fountain Café in the back. I would rate this a 4 with recommendations to look at it again once it reopens to see if there are things to make it even more Visitor Friendly.**
- 16. Hunting Lodges – Did not check out.**
- 17. Bluegrass Festivals – I think this is a fairly new initiative.**
- 18. Depot – Future potential #18 2** **Needs some major work but in excellent location with ample parking. Very visible. Currently owned by someone not willing to do anything with it.**

- 19. East Port Marina & Resort** - just across the county line into Pickett County off Hwy 52 near Alpine on Dale Hollow Lake. <http://www.eastport.info/> #35
Did not visit this marina yet but they are the ones who stopped and fixed my car when I was coming through Overton County. Therefore, I will rate it a 4. :) But I will make a point to visit it on my next trip and find out for sure. Most marinas I have visited thus far are all rated either 3's or 4's with wonderful cabins and a well laid out marina. Dale Hollow is a very popular lake and is attracting folks from other counties and states who have money.
- 20. ? Civil War Sites? Research underway by Historic Society**
- 21. Waterfalls (Not sure if these are actually in Big South Fork) #19** It sounds like there are a number of these waterfalls in a number of the counties. A map highlighting the location of each and creating a treasure hunt to find each one might become an attraction in itself. Same could be done for the Arches. Possible a geocaching concept. This could be done on horseback, mountain bikes and atv's. I think it has merit. I would rate it a 2 but think we should make this recommendation.
- 22. Arches**
- 23. Dale Hollow Lake** - Dale Hollow Lake just barely touches this county. **It is definitely an asset but Fentress County's niche is definitely horses and their strategic location next to Big South Fork and the miles of trails within the park. Rate this a 4 as an attractor but not a primary focus for Fentress.**
- 24. Downtown Jamestown** has huge potential! Definitely a diamond in the rough. **It needs better signage drawing people to get off Hwy 127 and take Old 127 through town especially since Walmart recently moved from the downtown area. They have a number of fast food restaurants just north of downtown but need to concentrate on filling up the downtown buildings (most are vacant) with tourism-oriented shops, cafés etc. The square is perfect for this and the buildings unique in themselves. I would rate Downtown Jamestown a "2" but it definitely has great potential and should become the staging area and a must stop for all people coming through the county. Rated a "2"**