

Washington Heritage Trail

The Washington Heritage Trail in West Virginia



The Washington Heritage Trail is a 136-mile national scenic byway inspired by the prominent footsteps of George Washington through the three historic counties of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. Compelling history, spectacular scenery, geologic wonders, recreation and year 'round activities and festivals are highlighted by 45 historical sites. The trail meanders across mountains and rivers, through forests, farms and orchards as it connects five 18th century towns that remain the center of life today and offer comfortable lodging, unique shopping and fine dining. More information on attractions and services throughout the area is available at each town's Visitor Center.

www.washingtonheritagetrail.com

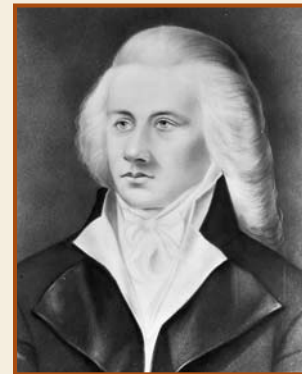


Courtesy of Mount Vernon Ladies' Association

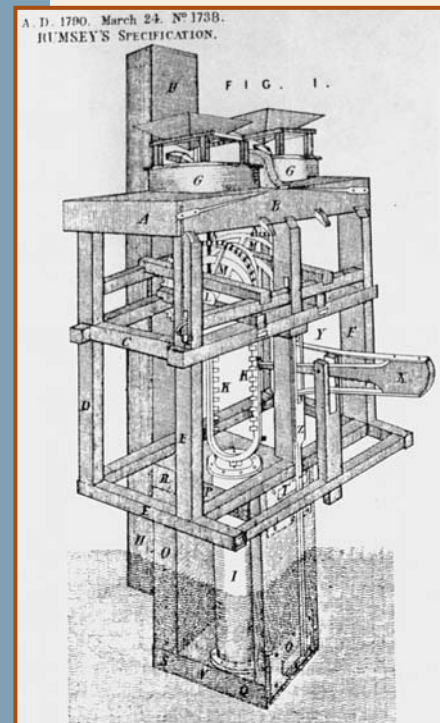
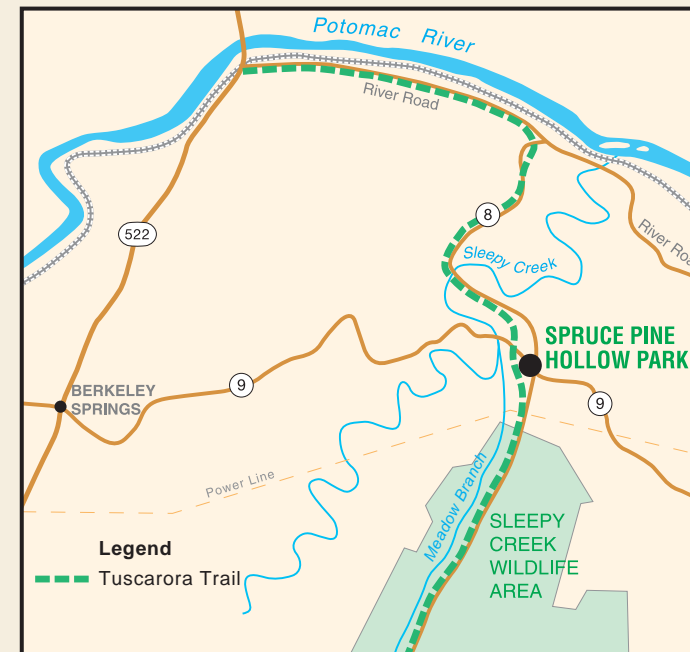
Spruce Pine Hollow Park

George Washington rode past here along the noted 18th century Warm Springs Road which went from Alexandria, Virginia to the country's first spa in Berkeley Springs another 12 miles west.

The Meadow Branch of Sleepy Creek, which runs nearby, shows archeological remains of a mill run. Steamboat inventor James Rumsey's brother Edward owned this land and legend has it that this is the site of a bloomery and sawmill. James Rumsey eventually held patents on more than a dozen innovations for mill machinery.



James Rumsey



"The sawmill took fire in the night and was not discovered until the next day by which time the mill was entirely consumed with a great part of the plank and this stroke put it entirely out of my power to proceed with your large house and notwithstanding utmost exertions at other mills to get the stuff necessary."

James Rumsey to George Washington June 24, 1785



In 1784, Washington contracted with Rumsey to build him a house on Washington's lots in Berkeley Springs. The boards for the structures Rumsey eventually built may have been sawed at this mill.

The Tuscarora Trail, a 252-mile, four-state sidebranch of the Appalachian Trail marked by light blue blazes, crosses WV9 a short distance east of here. The 33 miles in Morgan County extend about 3 miles along River Rd. from where it meets US522 at the bridge across the Potomac River then south 4.5 miles through woods on dirt and paved roads to the east side of the Meadow Branch on the eastern boundary of Spruce Pine Hollow Park. From this point follow the blue blazes south climbing more than 1000 ft. up Sleepy Creek Mountain on old logging roads through the wilderness of Sleepy Creek Wildlife Area, passing four campgrounds and Sleepy Creek Lake.