

The Little River Railroad And Lumber Company Museum

Townsend, Tennessee



Learn about steam logging in the Smokies

LOCOMOTIVES AND RAILCARS • LOGGING OPERATIONS
TRAIN WRECKS • CAMP LIFE • THE TOWNSEND MILL
EARLY TOURISM • WALLAND TANNERY • EARLY SETTLERS



FREE ADMISSION

OPEN DAILY: JUNE • JULY • AUGUST • OCTOBER

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HWY. 321, P.O. BOX 211, TOWNSEND, TN 37882

WWW.LITTLERIVERRAILROAD.ORG

What was life like in the Smokies 100 years ago?

NATIVE AMERICANS AND PIONEER SETTLERS DEPENDED ON THE FORESTS OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS FOR THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE. THE LITTLE RIVER RAILROAD AND LUMBER COMPANY, FOUNDED IN 1901, CAME TO BE ONE OF THE LARGEST LOGGING OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN APPALACHIA. THE COMPANY BUILT OVER 150 MILES OF RAILROADS HERE UP UNTIL THE YEAR 1939 AND SAWED OVER 560 MILLION BOARD FEET OF TIMBER.



THE LOCAL AGRARIAN COMMUNITY OF TUCKALEECHEE COVE BECAME A BUSTLING MILL TOWN KNOWN AS TOWNSEND, NAMED AFTER THE FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE RAILROAD COMPANY, W.B. TOWNSEND.



THE BEAUTY OF THIS AREA HAS ALWAYS ATTRACTED HEALTH AND PLEASURE SEEKERS SINCE THE 1830'S, BUT THE RAILROAD MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR MANY MORE TOURISTS TO DISCOVER THIS WOODLAND PARADISE.



IN THE 20'S, SOME PROMINENT KNOXVILLIANS LAUNCHED A MOVEMENT TO CREATE WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK. COL. TOWNSEND HELPED BY SELLING NEARLY 80,000 ACRES TO TENNESSEE TO BECOME PART OF THE PARK.



TODAY, THERE ARE FEW VISIBLE SIGNS OF THE MASSIVE RAILROAD AND LOGGING OPERATIONS THAT ONCE DOMINATED LIFE ON THE LITTLE RIVER.



WE INVITE YOU TO RELIVE THIS FASCINATING PERIOD OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND VISIT THE LITTLE RIVER RAILROAD AND LUMBER COMPANY MUSEUM.

BURCO International, Inc. 800.388.3864 - 6/07

Provided By www.DiscoverTheSmokies.com - Last Updated March 20th, 2010
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