

On the Tennessee Antique Trail Feb 2011 I-65 to Tennessee Highway 273 east to **Fayetteville**, Tennessee

I found this beautiful “Tennessee Trail” on the way to see my Mom. I was looking for a shortcut from Athens, Alabama to Sparta, Tennessee. I usually travel the interstate, but it was such a beautiful day last Sunday, I wanted to travel the country roads. I turned off north I-65 onto east 273 toward Fayetteville and immediately felt I was driving back into time. A friend of ours who is a farmer in the area had suggested that I take Highway 273 and stop at the BBQ place at the first turn in the road. I called him to say that the BBQ place had closed for the day, but that the road was heavenly! He then told me that it was one of his favorite roads!



It was a winter scape with the only color a touch of “spring green” in the woods and “winter green” in the Tennessee cedar “Christmas” trees. A garden was freshly turned. Huge bales of hay were in the fields. Ducks looked cold on the ponds.

I went on to Sparta that Sunday afternoon. However, on Tuesday, February 8, I talked my husband into driving the same trail from Athens to Fayetteville. It was again a beautiful day; I wanted to share this “treasure” of a trail with him!

This classic federal home is one of my favorite homes I’ve ever seen. It appears to still be a working farm.





See the Delrose United Methodist Church (UMC) in the photo above. Note the double spires and beautiful windows. Ray observed that Shiloh UMC (located within about 5 miles of Delrose) has the same minister as Delrose. The preacher must be a “circuit rider”! I want to go to services there sometime in the future.

As we stopped to make photos of the Victorian home on the left, we could hear a train whistle; it was around 1 p.m. I don’t remember meeting any other cars on the road. The word bucolic comes to mind...



Ray and I were expounding about how the area reminded us of when we were children growing up in Tennessee. Then Ray said “Look, this will really take you back in time!” Sloan, a local farmer, was out working the fields with Mag, a young mule that he was training with a loaded sled. We stopped and I asked if I could take photos. We were honored to meet Sloan and learn that his mules were named after his father’s team of mules. The equipment was all vintage. The other member of his team of mules was Bell. Sloan is a former US Marine and enjoys working with these mules as a hobby. He participates in Mule Days in Columbia, TN each year. Ray remembered that his Uncle from Spring Hill, TN participated in these annual events as well!



At the end of Highway 273, we headed toward Fayetteville. There we found a street of Tennessee antique shops! One of the shops with an unusual name attracted me: **His and Hers Antiques** (TnHisandHersAntiques.com) and/or (TennesseeAntiqueTrail.com). They specialize in vintage fishing, farm, and hunting equipment.



Just a couple of doors down you'll find **A Touch of Glass Antiques** (Atouchofglassantiques.com) and/or (TennesseeAntiqueTrail.com).



Ray and I determined that one day was not enough time to visit all the Antique Shops in Fayetteville, Tennessee. We plan to go back soon! Hope to see you there. Try Highway 273 east from I-65 to Fayetteville on your next Tennessee vacation!

Happy Trails!

Marcia