

# Annie's Travels & Treasures



**Southeast Pack Trips** is the place to call if you want a real cowboy experience. Larry McMillan or known around the region as "Cowboy Larry" loves to make your ride a most

memorable ride. Whether you are a novice or an experienced rider, he will make your trip to the Big South Fork on horseback one to remember. Cowboy Larry has been organizing two hour, half day and day horseback trips for over 30 years now and knows every inch of the trails, from easy to difficult and is a true cowboy made of grit. Larry knows the rugged terrain and fell in love with the land over thirty years ago and knew that these great outdoors would keep him and his riders/guests satisfied forever with the endless trails. My son Grant loves Cowboy Larry and considers him one of his best friends, even though there is about fifty years in age difference. Southeast Pack Trips is conveniently located off of Hwy. 297 and has gentle horses with all type of riding capabilities. Call ahead and reserve your spot as rides fill up quickly, especially in the fall, when the majestic colors of the Big South Fork are plentiful. Crisp, fresh fall air on horseback is the best, with a lunch packed in your saddle bag and meandering through the lovely trails, up and down hills, across rivers and creeks and standing proudly at the bluff views. Southeast Pack Trips also offers organized rides to Charit Creek Lodge - an authentic log cabin built in 1838 by a true pioneer (a long hunter); where you can rough it, overnight in the bunkhouses or bring your tent and do some camping by the creek. The buildings are on the National Historic Register and are the oldest buildings still being utilized nationwide inside the park system. You can have a pioneer experience by cooking your own meals over the campfire or have an organized home cooked meal or a special custom campfire meal designed around your budget. You can ride, hike or go with Cowboy Larry from his barn on a guided ride to reach Charit Creek Lodge, where you will have access to over 300 miles of trails. Out here, you can experience the peacefulness of the BSF. There's no electricity; just the sounds of the creek that runs nearby, and the abundant wildlife all around. Imagine waking up to deer in the field, turkey, squirrels, chipmunks and tons of indigenous birds and the occasional curious black bear scurrying around. Charit Creek Lodge takes you back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century with its rustic cabin and bunkhouse for the outdoors adventurers. Cowboy Larry loves to ride and to show off the Big South Fork Park. He can cater to your skill, your budget and to your needs. "Annie" had a girl's weekend last summer and organized a four hour ride for the ladies. There were varied levels of riding experience, but fun was had by all! Cowboy Larry is the real "cowboy" and caters to families, groups of adventurous friends, including children.

Give Larry a call and organize a ride. If horseback riding with a real cowboy is on your bucket list - Cowboy Larry is the real thing. Southeast Pack Trips and Charit Creek Lodge can be visited on their website at [www.southeastpacktrips.com](http://www.southeastpacktrips.com) or [www.charitcreeklodge.com](http://www.charitcreeklodge.com) or by phoning 931-879-2260. Tell Larry that Annie and Grant sent you!



**Grey Gables Bed and Breakfast** is my favorite bed and breakfast in the Big South Fork region. It is owned and operated by innkeeper, Linda Brooks Jones. Linda and

her family have owned and operated Grey Gables for over 21 years and have been able to build up quite the loyal following due to the beautiful Victorian setting, extremely gracious hospitality and their scrumptious breakfast - included with your overnight stay. For those with the time to listen to a story of two, Linda gladly shares her wisdom with her guests. She is a gracious lady, who genuinely enjoys serving her guests, her community and her family. Linda and her late husband, Bill were high-school sweethearts. They knew they always wanted to come back home to Rugby. Decades ago, they left St. Louis, Missouri to follow their dream of serving wonderful meals in a comfortable setting. Nestled on the outskirts of the Historic Victorian Village of Rugby, and bordering the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area, Grey Gables offers comfortable lodging with delicious meals and a wonderful atmosphere. The Inn offers twenty-two rooms which are furnished with Victorian and Country antiques - each room is very unique with its own personality. Many of the antiques and collectibles are from their family or the village while others are from the original Rugby settlers. Rugby has a wonderful history all its own. It was founded in 1880 by Social Reformer Thomas Hughes, who brought sons of the English gentry to seek their destiny. His social experiment would be a utopian dream but was challenged from the beginning. Though the original community never had more than 100 families, most from Europe, the social experiment failed due to the railroad not coming to the area as planned, the harsh winters and the gentry not willing to work. However, the historic village of Rugby is still very much alive today and has a certain spirit and culture. Folks who live in Rugby are searching for more out of life than the cookie cutter lifestyle of suburbia. They want a slow paced, meaningful life. Linda has cooked for thousands of families and dignitaries (including former President Jimmy Carter and his wife), catered special events, and has featured many of her favorite recipes in her first cookbook called, "The Table at Grey Gables." The book isn't just a cookbook with recipes for some of her

favorite meals, desserts, appetizers, soups and vegetables, but it also shares a good bit of the rich history and culture. One of "Annie's" favorites is the "Zesty Tomato Soup" served with the "Rich Butter Horn Rolls." She has recently published a second cookbook - "A Full Table at Grey Gables". These cookbooks can be purchased by visiting Grey Gables, by phoning Linda, or ordering information can be obtained online. Grey Gables also features special themed teas throughout the year. Just give them a call for the latest schedule. If you are looking for a great weekend getaway, call Linda to reserve your room and get ready to be spoiled. Linda and her daughter, Tiffany, and granddaughter, Kelly will pamper you with a delightful experience. It's a great gift idea as well! Grey Gables Bed and Breakfast can be visited on line at [www.rugbytn.com](http://www.rugbytn.com) or give them a call at 423-628-5252. Enjoy your stay!



**The Garden Grill & Custom Catering** is a must to enjoy while visiting the Big South Fork region. It is family owned by Chris and Heather Harvey, lifelong

residents of Jamestown, TN. Operating The Garden Grill since January 2011, they have made it into a warm, homey restaurant with good, down home cooking. The decorations have a comfortable home décor with rich painted walls and tasteful furnishings with lovely stenciled sayings throughout the restaurant. With a successful background in catering, Chris has been able to turn his love and passion for cooking (his hobby) into a business where the family all participates. Chris has learned his cooking by watching some of his favorite people and family members cook. He feels like this is one of his many talents. Chris combines his love of cooking with his full-time professional job as an RN at the local hospital; so wife, Heather and children welcome guests and manages the place when he is not there. They have a wonderful hot bar and salad bar served during the lunch hour with home cooked specialties. You might find homemade slow cooked roast, chicken, and ham or on Friday evenings - a delectable seafood buffet. The seafood buffet features a variety of seafood. You will likely find some of Chris' favorites such as the delicious hand-breaded catfish, baked fish, shrimp, scallops, crab, clam strips or stuffed crab. Their regular patrons love their homemade cornbread fritters that look like pancakes. These are delicious with pinto beans and turnips or just as a side with your meal or salad. Annie loves their homemade tuna or chicken salad, with red grapes, celery, and onion that goes well on top of your salad. Their daughter, Kendall serves their guests and makes sure that everyone is greeted with a smile and that service is given with the courteous hospitality the south is known for. The Garden Grill has wonderful

homemade desserts such as pies, cakes and a variety of cheesecakes. There is plenty of room in the purpose built gathering place for a family reunion, wedding reception, rehearsal dinner or private meeting or function, to accommodate a large group. Heather loves the restaurant business and has a passion for serving her guests and making them feel welcome. One of Heather's favorites is the grilled chicken penne, a generous helping of penne, with grilled chicken and a creamy garlic sauce. Another pleaser is the steak grillers, their version of an 8 ounce rib eye steak sandwich. This monster is served with grilled onions, mushrooms and topped with melted Monterey jack cheese on sourdough bread. The Garden Grill is open six days a week, closed on Sundays. They open at 11:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM, Monday through Thursday and Friday and Saturday are open until 9:00 PM. Come to The Garden Grill after you get done with your horseback ride, hike, or pull that kayak out of the water. Make a special day trip up to the Big South Fork and explore the winding roads, shop at some of the neat antique and gift shops along the way and have a delicious meal at The Garden Grill. They can be reached at 931-879-2344. Bon Appétit!



**Maple Hill RV Park and Cabins** is the newest RV destination and cabin rentals in the area. It is owned and operated by Michiganders Klaas and Betty DeJong. They

consider that they have come full circle in their journey in life. Each of them worked at a campground before they were married and always thought that they would like to run one during their retirement years. You know that saying, be careful what you wish for? Klaas and Betty started looking casually a few years ago and always knew that they wanted to be somewhere in the southeast; preferably Tennessee. After a big search, they found the perfect place. It didn't take long to decide that Maple Hill RV Park and Cabins needed some tender loving care and they took the plunge and bought their retirement dream. Although Klaas is still working out his last year at Caterpillar in Grand Rapids, Michigan and tying up loose ends. He will officially be retired in January and comes down as often as he can. Betty is here full time enjoying the many visitors. She recently participated in the popular, world's longest yard sale – the Hwy. 127 Corridor Sale. It was a huge success. This was Klaas and Betty's first time hosting the Hwy. 127 sale at their campground. It was so busy; it took many family members and friends from Michigan that came down to help. This was a very exciting event and although everyone worked really hard and were exhausted, they loved it. They can't wait to come again in 2012 to help and visit again with many of the

vendors that already reserved their spot for the 2012 Hwy. 127 Sale. There were over thirty vendor sites and the covered pavilion was hopping with vendors selling everything from handcrafted items, widgets and other sundry items. The pavilion's adjoining kitchen was open daily from 6:00 AM serving the vendors and flock of visitor's homemade breakfast, lunch and dinner. One of the busiest vendors was serving up kettle corn, boiled peanuts and Italian ice. Another of the most unique food vendors was a lady who was serving organic banana whips - perfect on a hot summer day. There were tour buses that made the journey from Dunlap, TN along Hwy. 127. They pulled into Maple Hill RV Park and Cabins and enjoyed the many vendors, the food and the hospitality. Maple Hill RV Park is open year round and offers 19 RV Sites, 9 pull through and 10 back in sites. They offer 4 private bathrooms with shower, a community kitchen and laundry area, plus clean and new facilities. They also have 4 rustic cabins with heat/air and 1 fully furnished cabin that has recently been remodeled and furnished with new linens, kitchen items - very cozy. The front porch area is perfect for enjoying a book, or rocking in a chair and enjoying the beautiful nature that surrounds the RV Park. In fact, Klaas and Betty's daughter-in-law is a professional photographer and has captured many captivating scenes in the spring and the week of the sale. She has turned several of the shots into framed prints that can be viewed at Klaas and Betty's office. Maple RV Park and Cabins can be visited online [www.maplehillrv.com](http://www.maplehillrv.com) or by phone 931-879-3025.



With a motto of "Legacy in Action," the **Sgt. York Patriotic Foundation (SYPF)** is preserving and promoting the legacy of America's greatest WWI hero, Fentress County

native Sgt. Alvin C. York. The SYPF works with York State Park and the York family to preserve the York home, farm and artifacts; publishes a quarterly journal, "Sgt. York Says;" develops and coordinates educational opportunities for youth and adults; strives to increase sustainable heritage tourism; and operates York General Store Visitor Center, offering regional tourism materials and an interpretive center which serves as an event and free tour headquarters as well as a WWI and York book and gift shop and deli.

Founded in 1993, past SYPF accomplishments include achieving issuance of a York postal stamp, construction of the reproduction 1930s-era store/visitor center and publishing out-of-print historic books. The Foundation is currently in the process of restoring historic York Institute, built by York in the 1920s, to serve as a multipurpose educational facility for the Upper Cumberland. Other recent

accomplishments have included securing and implementing an Appalachian Regional Commission grant for interpretation and promotion of Sgt. Alvin C. York State Park in Pall Mall and Cordell Hull Birthplace State Park in Byrdstown hosting of an annual Veteran's Day ceremony that attracts veterans and visitors from across the region; presenting the Sgt. York Cultural Arts and Heritage Celebration with a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission to showcase more than two dozen musical, performing and visual artists; creating a digital archive of York's papers, photos and other paper ephemera; and enhancing Sgt. York's presence on the Internet through use of social media, blogs, You-Tube and upgrading [www.sgtyork.org](http://www.sgtyork.org) to include down-loadable brochures, lesson plans, GPS coordinates for Pall Mall attractions and educational photos, slideshows and documents.

The Foundation hosts an annual Veteran's Day Celebration honoring all veterans and active duty military personnel. In addition to a patriotic program and recognition of veterans, a Dutch treat lunch is served at York General Store benefitting the York Visitor Center. Free and open to the public, this year's event is set for Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at Sgt. York State Historic Park.

Through a grant from Humanities Tennessee the SYPF will be bringing the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibition "The Way We Worked" to the Upper Cumberland April 28-June 2, 2012, at Progressive Savings Bank in Jamestown, TN.

Visit [www.sgtyork.org](http://www.sgtyork.org) and [www.yorkgeneralstore.blogspot.com](http://www.yorkgeneralstore.blogspot.com) for additional information. To volunteer, join or donate, contact SYPF Executive Director Claudia Johnson at [syfpdirector@gmail.com](mailto:syfpdirector@gmail.com) or 931-347-2664.

*The Sgt. York Patriotic Foundation's commitment to tourism development in the Upper Cumberland resulted in eight interpretive panels being placed at Pall Mall and another three at the Cordell Hull Birthplace in Byrdstown.*

