

# A GUIDE TO CANDELL COUNTY

## **Location**

Tafton is a city located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in beautiful southeastern Ohio in Candell County. Tafton is 90 miles east of Columbus, 122 south of Cleveland, 110 miles southwest of Pittsburgh and 50 miles west of Wheeling, West Virginia.

Walnut Fork and White Creek flow NW to SE across the county and empty into the Muskingum River.

## **History**

Long years ago, the Delaware, Shawnee, and Wyandot Indians hunted deer and turkey in the forests of Candell County.

In 1796 Col. Ebenezer Zane received funds to cut a road from Ohio to Kentucky.

William Candell, Nestor White, and James Lloyd followed the road into present day Candell County and established the first white settlements. Candell County was established in 1810 with its county seat at Pikeville.

In 1854, James Tafton opened the first coal mine in Candell County. Around the Civil War, coal became a big industry in Candell County.

In 1860, the county seat moved to Tafton.

In the early 1900s, pottery, glass, and brick-making also became important to the county.

Candell County is the birthplace of Negro Leagues All Star Bedivere Jackson, silent film star Eleanor Atkins, WWII fighter ace Jimmy Collins, space shuttle astronaut Michael Richardson, and Tim Taylor, bassist in the Christian nü-metal band RareUrge.

Candell County is the home of Big Rock State Park with camping, boating, and swimming fun for the whole family. Crainey Woods State Forest in the northwestern part of the county offers opportunities for hikers, hunters, and outdoorsmen. Abide With Me Campgrounds near Crainey Woods is a popular location for church retreats, Sunday School picnics, and summer youth Bible

camps.

## **Government**

Mayor and City Council, County Commission

## **Population and Area**

City of Tafton Population: 10,400 (2000)

Candell County: 30,791 (2000)

Median Age: 35.7

Area: 16 Square miles

## **Transportation**

Tafton is located Interstates 70 and historic State Route 40, the National Road Scenic Byway.

Airport – Candell County – 4,300 foot runway

Rail Service – CSX Transportation serves Tafton area.

## **Education**

Tafton City Schools, K-12, 2500 students

Candell County United School District. K-12, 2100 students

Big Rock Vocational School

Near to Ohio University, Muskingum College, Muskingum Technical Institute, and Ohio University-Zanesville campuses.

## **Museums**

Candell County Historical Society, Tafton.

Hardasty House Museum and Library, Pikeville

Big Rock Nature and Science Adventure Center, Glencloy

## **Churches**

St. James the Martyr Catholic Church, Tafton

Tafton Presbyterian, Tafton

First St. Baptist. Tafton

Bridgewater United Methodist, Tafton

Blood of the Savior Worship Center, St. Rt. 219 exit on I-70