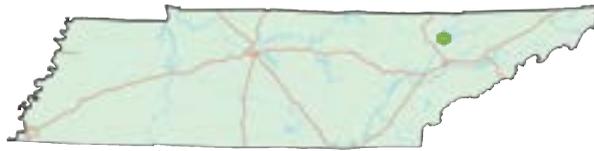
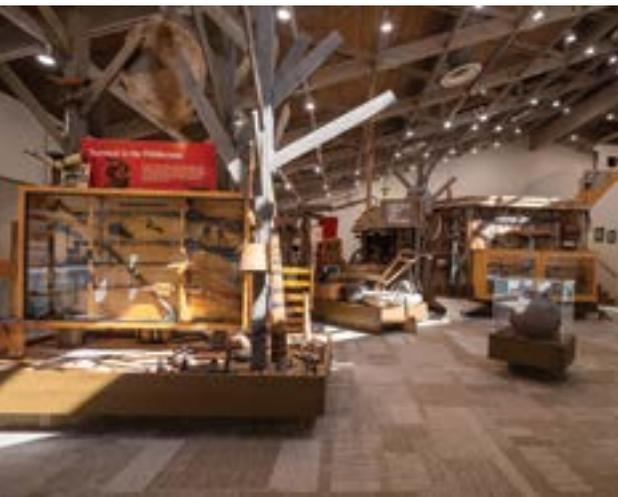




CALEB CROSBY THRESHING BARN

In the 1830s, Caleb Crosby built a barn and threshing machine on the north side of the Holston River, in what was later called the Crosby settlement in the Noeton community. Both were made of wood, built entirely by hand. Oxen-generated power was transmitted by a drive shaft to the threshing machine inside the main building. Among the maze of wooden gears was one as large as a wagon wheel.

The threshing barn stood for about 100 years. It was originally situated on a farm that is now submerged under Cherokee Lake. Before the site was flooded, Caleb's grandsons, Powell and Bryan Crosby, donated the barn and threshing machine to the National Park Service (NPS). But since no such barn ever existed in the Great Smoky Mountains pre-park years, the idea to reassemble it within park boundaries was rejected. Recognizing the historical value of the barn, park officials kept the dismantled timbers sheltered and in good condition for 34 years until they were donated to the Tennessee State Parks system. The barn was reconstructed at its present site in 1978.



DIRECTIONS

Going South on 1-75, take Exit 128, Lake City. Turn left on Highway 441, go six miles. Going North on 1-75, take Exit 122, Norris/Clinton. Turn right; follow signs to Norris Dam State Park onto Highway 441 North for three miles.



LENOIR MUSEUM

2121 Norris Freeway
Norris, TN 37828
Wednesday–Sunday: 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Open year-round
Closed for all state holidays
Enjoy live traditional mountain music every Sunday from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

RICE GRIST MILL CROSBY THRESHING BARN

Open seasonally
Thursday–Saturday: 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Sunday: 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

For more information or to schedule a group tour contact: Lenoir Museum 865-494-9688.

NORRIS DAM STATE PARK

125 Village Green Circle
Rocky Top, TN 37769
Park Office: 865-425-4500
tnstateparks.com/parks/norris-dam



 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation authorization no. 327234, 2,000 copies. This public document was promulgated at a cost of .09 per copy, June 2021.

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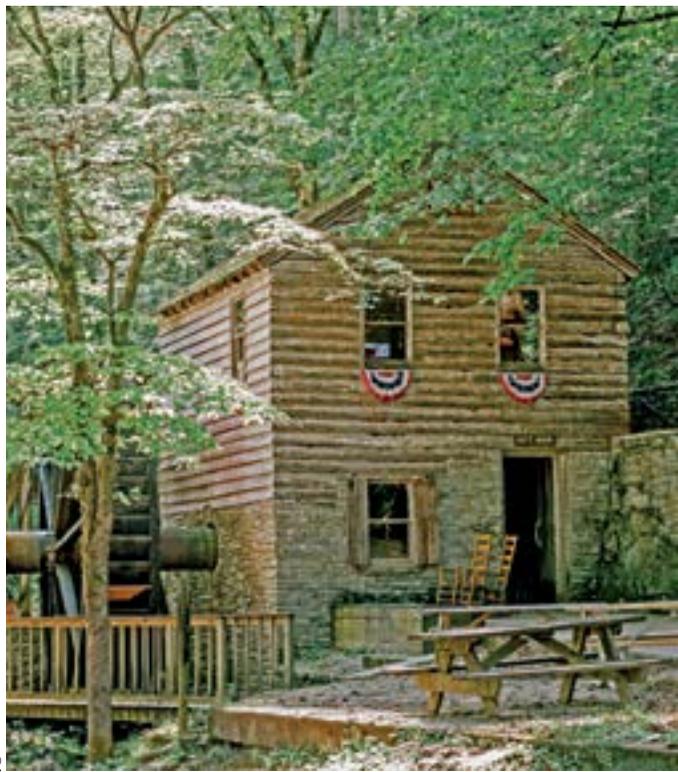
NORRIS DAM STATE PARK

TENNESSEE

LENOIR MUSEUM

RICE GRIST MILL

CROSBY THRESHING BARN



tnstateparks.com



LENOIR MUSEUM

The Lenoir Museum, Crosby Threshing Barn, and the 18th Century Rice Grist Mill are on six acres of land donated by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The beautiful setting faces the Clinch River on Highway 441, just below Norris Dam.

The Lenoir Museum is a “touch” museum and includes a diverse collection of artifacts that depict life in Southern Appalachia from 12,000 years ago to the present day. The early American objects were given to the State of Tennessee by Will G. Lenoir to be kept on permanent public display. He collected for more than 60 years, and his wife, Helen Hudson, joined him in that endeavor until her death in 1960. It was the Leniors’ dream to see their collection kept together and displayed for public enjoyment. The Leniors strongly desired that rapidly-changing times not wipe out an appreciation of the hard work and ingenuity that used to be critical to everyday life. The couple searched for, bought, and stored away artifacts to preserve an understanding of that life—not just of the artifacts themselves, but also of the people that created them and put them to daily use. Many sellers thought that Mr. Lenoir was “crazy” to pay for items they had discarded in an old barn or shed. Numerous items in this museum would have been lost had they not caught the eye of the Leniors.



18th CENTURY RICE GRIST MILL

The mill was originally built along Lost Creek in Union County by James Rice and his sons after they migrated to Sharp’s Station from North Carolina in 1790. Construction was completed in the autumn of 1798.

The millhouse is a two-story log structure with a wood shake roof. The wooden water wheel is of the overshot design; meaning water was channeled to the top of the wheel and directed to pour over it to turn the wheel. All the internal gears were carved from hickory, and the main water wheel shaft is believed to have been hewn from a yellow poplar tree.

The millstones are original, imported from France, and were used as ballast stones on their voyage over the ocean. The mill has endured much change over the years. At times, the mill was rigged to power a sawmill, a cotton gin, and a trip hammer, and it even operated a dynamo that supplied electric light to the mill and Rice home in 1899.

Four generations of the Rice Family operated the mill, starting with James “Uncle Jim” Rice from 1798 until his death in 1829. Uncle Jim’s eldest son, George, operated it until 1868, when he gave it to his eldest, Henry, who then passed it down to his eldest, Rufus “Uncle Rufe” Rice. Rufus was the last to run the mill, from 1888 until 1935, when TVA purchased the land to be flooded upon completion of Norris Dam, and the family relocated to a farm in Blount County, Tennessee.

The Civilian Conservation Corps and the NPS disassembled the mill, carefully labeling each piece of the wooden mechanism, before reassembling much of the structure at its current site. TVA donated the mill and adjoining land to the Tennessee Department of Conservation in 1953.

The Rice Grist Mill is open seasonally with gift items and refreshments sold inside the mill.

