



SYNCOATED NOTES #13

A Sedalia Convention & Visitor's Bureau Blog

By L.C. Melton (May 18, 2016)

SEDALIA, Virginia

Considering that West Virginia was split off of the state of Virginia during the Civil War in 1863, I didn't anticipate finding a Sedalia in the Old Dominion. Nevertheless, there it is so I presume it preceded West Virginia's but can find out little about it's origin.

As I google down beautiful State Road 122, also known as Big Island Highway, in Bedford County, I come to S.R. 638 and the "Sedalia Country Store". Now if I take Charlmont Road North, I come to the Sedalia Baptist Church. However, if I take the Sedalia School Road South I come to Sedalia Center. The Center is a 17 acre retreat and festival facility "under" the Blue Ridge Mountains with an energetic calendar of events.¹

I also discover that Sedalia VA is just 17 miles northwest of Poplar Forest, Thomas Jefferson's Summer Home. I spent some time excavating there 25 years ago on an Archaeology fellowship. I wish I had known Sedalia was just off my starboard bow as I traveled the Blueridge Parkway to Lynchburg. Had I driven down the rode a bit further then, I might know more about the Virginia Sedalia now!

I can understand how the name Sedalia spread along the railroad lines in both directions but some of our name sakes are not associated with the rails. As I research these towns however, I find the local newspapers full of Sedalia datelines and references to Sedalia residents in both good and bad situations and expecially during the Civil War. J.West Goodwin alone at the *Weekly Bazoo* usually gave paper s across the country something sensational to write about.

¹ Sedalia Center; <http://www.sedaliacenter.org/index.html>