

# COMPANIES AND NGOs

## CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

above sea level, there is always a delightful breeze in the hottest summer weather and blankets are in demand for sleeping purposes all seasons of the year.”<sup>16</sup>

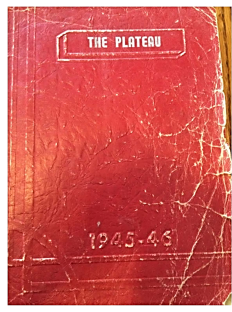


Figure 1 - Bent Mountain High School 1945-1946 Yearbook Cover

All manner of wildlife abided here, including wolves, panther and bear. Today, deer, bear and turkey are commonly hunted. In recent years, locals still see the elusive bobcat and panther, which speaks to the health of the ecosystem.<sup>17</sup>



Figure 2 - Photos from Terry Property

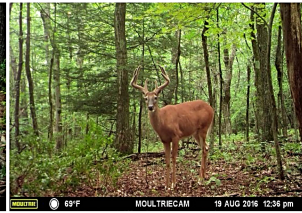


Figure 3 - Photo from Terry Property

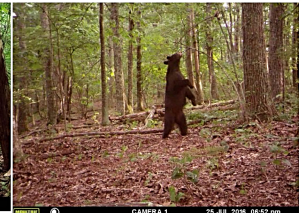


Figure 4 - Photo from Terry Property

### THE TERRY FAMILY AND HISTORIC DISTRICT

Today, the Terry family gives full life to the concept of “cultural attachment.” Four siblings and their mother still keep and maintain the property and land. They are a 6<sup>th</sup> generation of landowners, who began orcharding, farming and forestry in the 1800’s. Since that time, they’ve provided opportunities for tenant farmers, and to

<sup>16</sup> See Jacks, p. 89.

<sup>17</sup> Photos provided by Grace Terry.

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this day engage with neighbors in a supportive microeconomy on the Mountain. Two brothers and family are lifelong residents. Elizabeth Terry Reynolds keeps a neighbor's cattle fenced along an expanse land bordering Mill Creek. Frank Terry rents out three spaces—two to young residents just starting off, and one to a longtime, artisan woodworker in his family business. As each of the adult siblings works at least forty hours in their own professional capacities, they continue to hay their fields, their tenants work the land, all the while respecting the water resource so abundant on their property.



Figure 5 - Howling Wolf 3-D puzzle, a specialty of woodcraftsman Peter Chapman.

Like many residents, the Terrys see themselves as conservators of the natural resources on this mountain, *an integral and interdependent part of this community*. Grace Terry has placed her property in a Virginia Outdoors Foundation Easement, which at present, does not appear to be recognized by MVP or FERC or even necessary parties in the Commonwealth. She engages with Roanoke County Administration regarding its long term economic plan, and the entire family has participated in the protection of their properties through a historic designation of the Coles-Terry Historic District, affirmed September 15, 2016, by VDHR.

Nonetheless, every one of the Terry properties is slated for some aspect of pipeline construction by MVP, whether that be temporary and permanent access roads, equipment storage yards, and siting of the permanent pipe itself, along and through

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both Bottom and Mill Creeks.<sup>18</sup> Adding to the insult, Coates survey crews, presumably with knowledge of the above historic designation, entered Coles Terry's property on October 10, 2015, Columbus Day, when courts were closed and all family members were at work, and excavated six bags of artifacts without the family's permission. Imagine the devastation of this family of descendants when the young surveyors exited the property at day's end and, upon questioning, reported to the family they were "not able" to give GIS data points for where the artifacts were taken, even though they were well-provisioned by ESI and Search Inc, and had gone into the property with tablets and GIS information.

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The family was saddened and angered when the surveyors could not, or would not, tell them the site where the artifacts should be returned. When she spoke to the Roanoke County Supervisors about this incident, Grace Terry described her memories and the values born of this place and its people. She related how, in the years her parents kept horses and enjoyed weekends, summers and work on the Mountain, she and her siblings would picnic with their father there. She said that when they encountered strangers who either intentionally or unwittingly wandered onto their property (e.g., hunters and revelers) her father was never rude or cross to them; that when he encountered trespassers he would always ask them politely to simply pick up their trash and depart. She also related how natural gas company reps and their crews behaved with arrogance and aggression, taking these artifacts from hallowed ground. It was shocking and in her words, "bewildering" that perfect strangers would treat her family and her property with such disrespect.<sup>19</sup>

Grace's sister-in-law Teresa "Red" Terry, married to Grace's brother Coles, also greeted surveyors that day, and despite her serious illness, when notified of the surveyors' presence, she introduced herself and expressed her displeasure. Red describes how her brother Pete Markham, whose home and land are next door, paid out of his own pocket, many thousands of dollars, to save the big oaks and other hardwoods in the 250 acres of old growth forest on Poor Mountain, which had been infested by gypsy moths in the late 2000's. The family was determined to save the forest, and they did. Red didn't grow up here, but she came here years ago

<sup>18</sup> Grace Terry Statement.

<sup>19</sup> See Roanoke Times, October 12, 2016, "Pipeline Surveying Conflict Heats Up", [http://www.roanoke.com/business/pipeline-surveying-conflict-heats-up-on-bent-mountain/article\\_caa98cf8-4403-5fe7-9058-6077027265fa.html](http://www.roanoke.com/business/pipeline-surveying-conflict-heats-up-on-bent-mountain/article_caa98cf8-4403-5fe7-9058-6077027265fa.html)

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when she married Coles. She describes this place, its forest and waters, as her *refuge*. She has raised three young people who also live here; Red is wholly invested here. On a walk one recent day in her forest, she spoke of the trees as her “children.” And like a true parent, she would put herself between an MVP bulldozer and the trees to keep her forest from harm.<sup>20</sup>

*“Possessions have sentimental value unique to their owner. And more to the point, nature, natural resource and local place as repositories, of memories, relationships and the daily routines have meaning and significance in our personal and collective lives that cannot be reduced adequately to monetary value.”*<sup>21</sup> Indeed, like the residents of Peters Mountain, families here relate to this place in a *“spiritual sense, almost giving it a persona...”*

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REED, OVERSTREET, PERDUE



Figure 6 - Overstreet Home

*Lois Overstreet home:* Lois’ relatives were Essie and George Teel (up from Franklin County, Teels Creek). They built the house behind Lois’ present home. She said it’s built of chestnut; they added a few porches over the years, but when the porches began to separate from the main structure, they decided not to rebuild

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

<sup>21</sup> James Kent, quoting, Snyder et.al., “Expert Report,” pp.6,13.

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it. Another relative is Homer Reed; Elbe and Essie Reed are Lois' parents. Elbe and two older brothers, one named Cletus, built Reed's Garage, just a mile from Mount Olivet Church.

*Reed's store at the Post Office:* Lois describes having to move this when Route 221 was built. Lois served as postmaster for 32 years. This post office and store were lifted and moved when the road moved in the 1930s.

Dr. Tinsley delivered Lois in the house behind her present home. Years ago when Sudie Angle was auctioning her father's materials, Lois found a page where the Dr. had charged her folks, Elbe and Essie Reed, \$25 for her birth. "Baby Girl, Essie Reed," the doctor wrote. He only collected \$5 at the time and never asked for any more.

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*Pat and Leslie Perdue* live on Perdue Farms on Bent Mountain Road, just north of Adney Gap (next to the old Vester Grant Farm, yellow house next to Parkway). The Grant farm is now owned by Christine and Howard Thompson. *Joseph Leland Perdue* was born to a large family that first settled in Franklin County, and he moved with the family to the Mountain at age 13. In 1891 he began a mercantile business near the Bent Mountain Post Office. As his business became successful, he bought the *Tazewell Price home, known as Les Landes*, "one of the largest and most substantial residences in the whole country", along with a hundred acres of land with the finest of orchards, including pippins. After he fell ill, he eventually sold some orchard holdings and his mercantile store to L.C. Shockey, "Colonel" J. D. Holt and George Teel.

Pat tells how relatives arrived in her field one day years ago and removed the headstone of Leland Perdue to Franklin County—his body remains buried there in the field in front of her home, but there is no marker. Pat and her husband Les can point out the rise in their front yard, just in front of Route 221, the Bent Mountain Road, where the family cemetery lies.

Pat explains that there were smaller communities all over the plateau when she was young: Bent Mountain; Airpoint; Adney Gap; Willett Place; Bottom Creek; Poor Mountain. Pat also describes a neighborhood called "Needmore" between Bent Mountain and Airpoint.