

COMPANIES AND NGOs

CO68 – Preserve Bent Mountain

20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM

single ancestor. Below the ridge is Mill Creek, and two old homelaces of the Henry and Terry families. One of those belonged to the grandparents of her husband David, Ezra or “Ecra” and Zula Henry. (FN: see Marie Henry family photos.)

CO68-1
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Figure 14 - Marie Henry Family Photo



Figure 15 - Marie Henry Family Photo

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20161222-5151 FERC PDF (Unofficial) 12/22/2016 12:06:15 PM

CO68-1
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Figure 16 – Cemetery on Family Property

Christine and Howard Thompson, who own the Vester Grant Farm near the Parkway and keep their own home and orchard near the Bent Mountain Post Office, still bring vegetables to the Roanoke City Market several days a week. Christine Thompson, Marie Henry and Lois Waldron are longtime friends.

Another of Marie's close friends is *Elizabeth Henry Stone*, who today lives down Daniel's Run in Floyd, around the backside of the mountain on the way to Shawsville. Marie smiles at the mention of her friend: *Liz Stone is my good friend, she says.*

THE SCOTT FAMILY OF POOR MOUNTAIN ROAD; ELIJAH HENRY HISTORY

Karen and Jim Scott and family have lived off of Poor Mountain Road all of their married lives, having purchased their property from Karen's father, who bought it from the Estate of Elijah Henry. They have raised five children in the Christian faith and have homeschooled each of them with the resources of the land, community, faith and their respective professions. As their children have grown they have continued to farm and garden, tending to the many projects on their lush and verdant and water rich parcels, nestled in the breast of the Mountain. One son and his family live on this land – he and his wife are paralyzed in their construction

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plans, however, by the spectre of the MVP. If the MVP passes through as proposed, it will destroy spring streams, seeps, at least one of two historic cemeteries, and choices for homeplaces. It will further destroy a spring connection to the Historic Elijah Henry House.³¹

Beyond the ultimate property destruction, the Scotts have significant safety concerns for their young grandchildren and family on the property, both during and after construction.

CO68-1
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One of the elders of the Mountain, *Irvin Waldron*, has shared these histories with *Karen Scott*:

Irvin's grandparents were Ike and Lucy Waldron. The Henrys were his first cousins. Elijah and Nellie Gray Waldron married and had 11 children together, two who died very young. Zula and her husband Ezra settled over on Bottom Creek on the above-described land now belonging to Marie Henry.

- Irvin was baptized at the Moncure-Terry Bridge where many families celebrated baptisms.
- Zula's brother Frank would drive Ms. Grace Moncure Terry wherever she need to travel – once to Florida. She often paid him in change, but he once received a one dollar bill from her, and his granddaughter Elizabeth Henry Stone still has that dollar bill.
- Irvin's parents were Dewey Waldron and Annie Hale. He tells another story in which his father's leg was amputated. His father was suspicious about leaving the leg behind, so Irvin sent his wife, Betty Kefauver Waldron, to the hospital morgue to retrieve the leg. Her father made a casket for the leg. The evening they went to bury the leg, Irvin relates, "the owls were making a sorrowful sound." Dewey's sons still helped him around and took him hunting even after he lost his leg.

KINSHIP DEFINED

Within the concept of Cultural Attachment, there are three sorts of "attachments" – to land, to place and to kinship. Kinship, in this sense, is not necessarily a relation of blood lines, but of *mutual care*. Kinship, says Kent, is a predictable web of

³¹ See VDHR Designation of Coles Terry Historic District, Approved by VDHR Sept 15, 2016, and Roanoke County Section 106 Comments to the DEIS.

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social relationships that maintains harmony and good will among the members...and a “process of informal network relationships that people rely on to survive and to sustain themselves in healthy ways” and includes “caregivers, storytellers, historians and communicators.” Kinship is “*the glue that holds the other two attachments together....*”³²

The story of our community is one of kinship personified.

EVENTS AND TRADITIONS

Events and traditions abound, from annual apple butter cooking at the elementary school, a Homemade Christmas Pie Bake for the local area shelters led by Jenny Chapman, the annual Labor Day yard sale, the Tacky Tractor Christmas Parade and gathering around the Bottom Creek Loop Road, and the Women’s Club Community garden plantings at the Community Garden at the School.³³

Residents Robin Bowman Austin³⁴ and Ed Kinser³⁵ host the Roanoke Valley Bird Club visits; in addition, they perform a variety of studies including “raptor counts” each fall. The Mountain is a stopover for migrating birds. Ed and Robin, among others, know the land and its inhabitants so well they can describe the bird congregations and their neighborhoods along Honeysuckle Road, atop Poor Mountain, down and along Bottom Creek Road, both of which are slated for deforestation by MVP. Both are regularly called upon to host students and other visitors interested in learning of the wildlife on the Mountain. Ed and his wife may be seen regularly along Tinsley Lane, binoculars in hand, looking for birds; Robin and her husband Allen are seen daily along Bottom Creek Road with their German Shepherd “Sage”, checking out the bird neighborhoods.

³² Kent, Report, p. 15.

³³ Within the Blast Zone of the proposed MVP pipeline route, next to the wetlands and bridge at Mill Creek, the memorial garden grows beside the school playground. The Women’s Club planned and created it, and students participated in the dedication.

³⁴ Robin’s uncle was noted geologist Cecil Bowman. Her ancestors migrated up Adney Gap from Franklin County, and she keeps a wealth of data on the Bowman and Webster families of Franklin County. Robin has located a “vernal pool” on her property, which was included in the data and Report Of Hydrogeology in Franklin County by Pamela C. Dodds, Ph.D.

³⁵ Ed is a retired Biology teacher for Roanoke County who has lived in the community most of his adult life. He and his wife have developed the Nigerian dwarf goat on their farm, Enchanted Alpacas. He also breeds African Violets and wide-ranging species of Daylilies. Ed is known to find good homes for goats, and he affectionately refers to his pet family as “the critters.”

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The Annual Pancake Supper:

Each year, the first Saturday in November, the Bent Mountain *Volunteer* Fire and Rescue Squad holds the Annual Pancake Supper. The Firefighters, EMTs and other rescue volunteers work from the wee hours the night before, dressed in their firefighter blues, with their families and other volunteers to prepare a feast of buckwheat and plain pancakes, maple syrup, and sausage for the community. They serve the meal itself, and they also direct traffic at the consistently attended and increasingly popular event³⁶.



³⁶ Across the street from the Firehouse is our beloved Bent Mountain Bistro. The Pancake Supper Saturday is perhaps the only day of the year that Chef Ben's famous barbecue and other fine cuisine is not in high demand from big eaters on and off the Mountain.