What is today “The Hale-Wilkinson-Carter Home” was built by Captain Fielden Lewis Hale as a thirteen-room three-story home in 1845. The original home was a brick home with four chimneys made in the Federalist style. The Hales were among the wealthiest families in Carroll County, which was carved out of Grayson County in 1842. The home is on the highest hill in Hillsville, Virginia and was built on the Wytheville Pike, which was the only North-South route through the mountain gap at the time it was built.

In 1864 the home was purchased by James Wilkinson, whose daughter, Mayetta, married railroad tycoon George Lafayette Carter. The Carters lived in the home following Mr. Wilkinson's death in 1914. The Carters added significant additions to the home in 1924 to make it a 34 room five-story home.

After Mayetta died, the house was sold to Carroll County in 1959, and was used for governmental offices until the new Governmental Complex was completed in 2000. In 2001, the house became a community project under the supervision of the Hale-Wilkinson-Carter Home Foundation which is a 501(c)3 organization. The home’s future looked bleak until a proposal was made to the Carroll County Board of Supervisors by Mrs. Evelyn Botschen in February of 2001. Upon approval of the county, the Hale-Wilkinson-Carter Foundation, Inc. was established to preserve the home for future generations.

On January 19, 2010, two members of the Foundation met with the county administrator to discuss the conditions of the potential transfer of the Hale-Wilkinson-Carter Home to the Foundation. Shortly afterward, the Board of Supervisors gave their approval for the transfer of the home during a public hearing held at Carroll County High School. The Home, located on .557 acres in historic downtown Hillsville, was deeded to the Foundation from Carroll County on April 5, 2010.

Many events are still held in the Hale-Wilkinson-Carter Home in Hillsville.
WHAT'S INSIDE

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THE CARROLL NEWS

A beautiful fall view from Carroll County of Floyd County’s Buffalo Mountain.
The J. Sidna Allen House

Steeped in history, The J. Sidna Allen House is a historic house located in Fancy Gap, in Carroll County. The house was built in 1911 for Sidna Allen, brother of Floyd Allen; however, he was arrested soon thereafter for complicity in the courthouse shooting of which his brother was accused, and never again lived there.

The Carroll County Courthouse Tragedy occurred on March 14, 1912, and left five people dead. Allen built the house, considered to be the most beautiful home in Southwest Virginia upon its construction, for he and his wife Bettie Mitchell. The whole house was made from the best wood around - the floors made of oak, except the floor of the living room, which was white maple. The roof of the house was made of slate and other materials that were very expensive at the time.

But a year later the Hillsville Courthouse Tragedy occurred and Sidna and his wife had only lived there a year. The house was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, and has been undergoing renovations for the past several years after ownership was passed on to the Carroll County Historical Society.

Renovations have been ongoing in recent years to restore the historic home to close to its original glory.

Beautiful stained glass windows are part of the charm of the J. Sidna Allen House in Fancy Gap.
At an elevation of 2,288 feet, the Beaver Dam Trail is located in the Town of Hillsville, and it follows Beaver Dam Creek for approximately three-quarters of a mile.

Situated along a shrubby creek embankment with views of open fields opposite the creek, the trail meanders through some riparian hardwood habitat. The open fields lend themselves to northern bobwhite, eastern meadowlark, red-winged blackbird, American goldfinch, indigo bunting, and field and song sparrows. Also, look for the swooping flight of a hungry Cooper’s hawk among these fields. The brushier scrub areas along the creek may produce views of flitting brown thrasher, calling eastern towhee and meowing gray catbird. White-tailed deer are abundant throughout this community. In the summertime, look for families of wild turkey foraging along woodland edges. Black rat snake can be found basking in sunny grassy patches throughout this trail. Green frog is also common in and around the creek. Butterflies can be abundant along creek edges lined with dancing wildflowers. Look for a variety of sulphurs, skippers, and hairstreaks.

Streams and bridges are part of the beauty of walking the Beaver Dam Trail in Hillsville.
The Carroll County Courthouse is a historic county courthouse located in Hillsville, Virginia. It was built in 1873 and is a two-story brick building with a gable roof. It features a two-story, pedimented portico in the Doric order, and the building is topped by an octagonal cupola. The courthouse was the scene of the famous Hillsville massacre of March 14, 1912, in which five persons, including the presiding judge, were killed in a courtroom battle. Visitors are still able to see bullet holes from the shootout from more than 100 years ago.

The courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

**Carroll County Historical Society Museum**

Learn about the rich history of Carroll County in the museum located within the Historic District of Hillsville in the Historic Carroll County Courthouse.

The facility presents the history of Carroll County and its various communities in a variety of ways. Exhibits and artifacts reflect the heritage of Carroll County, which was formed in 1842. Early Native American artifacts recovered from a nearby archaeological dig are also on display. A large Civil War collection including a drum used by local unit is also featured. The museum has extensive archive and reference materials in its resource section. Guided tours are available of the Courthouse, which is an architectural gem and site of the tragic courtroom shooting incident in March 1912 (advance reservations requested). Publication and gift sales are available.

The Carroll County Historical Society Museum is located at 515 North Main Street in Hillsville, Va.
Come to Hillsville, Virginia just about any other weekend of the year and you will find a nice but laid-back town of just a few thousand folks.

But come to Hillsville on Labor Day weekend – usually the first weekend in September – and you will find that sleepy little town has become a bustling metropolis of flea market and gun show sellers and buyers half a million strong.

VFW Post 1115 has been sponsoring the Labor Day Gun Show & Flea Market since the late 1960s and it has become one of the biggest events of its type in the state – perhaps in the nation. Pierce Webb, a Laurel Fork native, had retired to Florida and he developed a hobby for collecting and trading guns. Early in 1967, he visited his friend, Glenn Jackson, also a native of Laurel Fork.

After the second year, the show outgrew the space inside the VFW hall and the outdoor flea market was added to accommodate the overflow. The rest is history. During the last decade, the outdoor flea market space was increased nearly 50 percent with the addition of the upper lot at the top of the hill way behind the VFW hall.

The VFW Labor Day show is now the largest single event in Carroll and surrounding counties and one of the biggest east of the Mississippi. Money realized from the show keep the Post in operation for the entire year, and a lot of the money that is taken in is returned to the community in the form of donations to many civic groups and individuals in need.
Some of the earliest musicians to record country music came from this area. This rich history has kept the traditional arts alive and flourishing in Galax, Virginia.

The Galax Old Fiddler’s Convention has been held annually the week ending on the second Saturday of August since 1935.

This music competition has earned Galax the distinction of being known as the “World Capital of Old Time Mountain Music.” Attracting participants and visitors worldwide. Old Time, Bluegrass and Folk Music are showcased as well as flatfoot and clogging dancers. Young and old compete for prizes, but it’s the family atmosphere and the opportunity to play music with old friends that keeps people coming back year after year.

“Blue Ridge Backroads Live,” a unique weekly radio show featuring Old Time and Bluegrass bands from throughout the region, is broadcast live at the Rex Theatre by the local radio station and reaches four states and over 40 counties. It is also possible to listen to Blue Ridge Backroads Live online at http://www.blueridgecountry98.com/ The shows are attended by many local residents as well as visitors from around the globe. Tour buses are always welcome.

The renovated historic Rex Theatre in downtown Galax, Virginia serves as a venue for various music events, community theater presentations and special public meetings.

The Blue Ridge Music Center at Milepost 213 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, was established by the U.S. Congress to celebrate a living musical culture and commemorate the historic roots of American music.

The new facility, 12 miles from Galax, includes an outdoor amphitheater, interpretive center, luthier shop, and natural areas. Weekend events are held June through September offering performances and educational exhibits.

The Blue Ridge Music Center is operated by The National Council for the Traditional Arts with cooperative agreements from The National Park Service. The music center enjoys a very cordial relationship with the City of Galax, Virginia.
Every second Saturday from May until October, the Town of Hillsville hosts an ongoing concert series and a Classic Car Cruise-In on Main Street. The Classic Car Cruise-Ins begin at 5 p.m. on Main Street. The concerts begin at 7 p.m. behind the Historic Carroll County Courthouse (located at 515 North Main Street. Bring your own chairs for your enjoyment. Food, beverages and adult beverages are available for purchase. There is dancing and corn hole for the adults, and bouncy houses, face painting and other games and fun activities for children. There is no admittance fee.

The Blue Ridge Parkway offers magnificent views for visitors and many attractions along the way.

Fall is one of the best times to visit the Blue Ridge Parkway.
IMPORTANT NUMBERS

CARROLL COUNTY
Population 29,911 (as of 2020 census)
Municipal Buildings - Carroll County Government Center - 605 Pine St, Hillsville, VA. (276) 730-3000
Town of Hillsville offices - 410 N. Main Street, Hillsville, VA. (276) 728-2128

PLACES TO VOTE
Fancy Gap Precincts
0101 MT Bethel Precinct - Cana Fire Dept, Mt Bethel Sub - 94 Mt Bethel Rd, Cana, VA 24317
0102 St Paul Precinct - St Paul School - 231 Flower Gap Rd, Cana, VA 24317
0103 Lambsburg Precinct - Lambsburg Community Complex - 130 Learning Ln, Lambsburg, VA 24351
0105 Fancy Gap Precinct - Fancy Gap Elementary School - 63 Winding Ridge Rd, Fancy Gap, VA 24328

Laurel Fork Precincts
Hillsville B Precinct - Carroll County High School - 100 Cavs Ln, Hillsville, VA 24343
0202 Laurel Fork Precinct - Laurel Fork Fire Station - 13386 Danville Pike, Laurel Fork, VA 24352
0203 Gladesboro Precinct - Gladesboro Elementary School - 7845 Snake Creek Rd, Hillsville, VA 24343

Pine Creek Precincts
Hillsville C Precinct - Carroll County Intermediate School - 1036 N Main St, Hillsville, VA 24343
0302 Sylvatus Precinct - Sylvatus Ruritan Building - 6915 Sylvatus Hwy, Hillsville, VA 24343
0303 Dugspur Precinct - Dugspur Rescue Squad - 118 Double Cabin Rd, Dugspur, VA 24325

Pipers Gap Precincts
0401 Oakland Precinct - Oakland Elementary School - 4930 Pipers Gap Rd, Galax, VA 24333
0402 Woodlawn D Precinct - Oakland Elementary School - 745 Woodlawn Rd, Woodlawn, VA 24381
0406 Woodlawn F Precinct - Woodlawn School - 745 Woodlawn Rd, Woodlawn, VA 24381

Sulphur Springs Precincts
Vaughan Precinct - Vaughan Civic League Building - 2040 Ivanhoe Rd, Fries, VA 24330
0502 Gladeville Precinct - Gladeville Elementary School - 3117 Glendale Rd, Galax, VA 24333
0503 Woodlawn E Precinct - Woodlawn School - 745 Woodlawn Rd, Woodlawn, VA 24381
0504 Laurel Precinct - Laurel Elementary School - 46 Pleasant View Rd, Austinville, VA 24312

Central Absentee Precinct
Carroll County Governmental Center - 605 Pine St, Hillsville, VA 24343

WHERE TO PAY TAXES
Carroll County Treasurer's Office - Carroll County Government Center - Address: 605 Pine St # 10, Hillsville, VA 24343

WHERE TO PAY WATER BILL
Carroll County Public Service Authority - Located in: Carroll County Government Center - Address: 605 Pine St # 2, Hillsville, VA 24343

CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Carroll County High School - 100 Cavs Lane, Hillsville, VA 24343; Phone - (276) 728-2125
Carroll County Middle School - 1036 North Main Street, Hillsville, VA 24343; Phone - (276) 728-4211
Fancy Gap Elementary School - 63 Winding Ridge Road, Fancy Gap, VA 24328; Phone - (276) 728-7504
Gladesboro Elementary School - 7845 Snake Creek Road, Hillsville, VA 24343; Phone - (276) 398-2493
Gladeville Elementary School - 3117 Glendale Road, Galax, VA 24333; Phone - (276) 236-5449
Hillsville Elementary School - 90 Patriot Lane, Hillsville, VA 24343; Phone - (276) 728-7312
Laurel Elementary School - 26 Pleasant View Road, Austinville, VA 24312; Phone - (276) 728-9247
Oakland Elementary School - 4930 Pipers Gap Road, Galax, VA 24333; Phone - (276) 236-3049
St. Paul School - 231 Flower Gap Road, Cana, VA 24317; Phone - (276) 755-3512
Carroll County Public Schools Superintendent - Dr. Mark Burnette

CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Fancy Gap District - Phillip W. Berrier - pwberrie@ccpsd.k12.va.us
Laurel Fork District - Jennifer L. Sowers - jsowers@ccpsd.k12.va.us
Pine Creek District - J. “Bob” Martin - bmartin@ccpsd.k12.va.us
Pipers Gap District - Brian E. Spencer (Chairman) - bspencer@ccpsd.k12.va.us
Sulphur Springs District - William H. “Bill” Sturgill (Vice-Chair) - whsturgi@ccpsd.k12.va.us

City of Galax
Population 6,720
Municipal Buildings - City of Galax Municipal Building - 111 East Grayson Street, Galax, VA 24333; Phone - (276) 236-2131

WHERE TO PAY WATER BILL
Galax City Public Schools Superintendent - Dr. James Adams, Vice Chair, jamesadams@galaxschools.us
Mr. Larry Spangler, larryspangler@galaxschools.us
Mrs. Leah Henck, Member, leahhenck@galaxschools.us
Mr. Brett Sexton, Member, brettsexton@galaxschools.us

GRAYSON COUNTY
Population 15,651
Municipal Buildings - Grayson County Courthouse - 209 State Route T 1101, Independence, Va. (276) 236-8149

WHERE TO PAY TAXES
Grayson County Treasurer's Office - Grayson County District Court - 129 State Rte T 1101, Independence, Va. 24348
WHERE TO PAY YOUR WATER BILL
Grayson County Treasurer's Office, 129 Davis Street, Suite 205 PO Box 127, Independence, Virginia, 24348

GRAYSON COUNTY POLLING LOCATIONS
WILSON DISTRICT
Bridle Creek, Grace Freewill Baptist Church, 6211 Wilson Hwy, Independence, VA 24348
Flatridge, Flatridge Elementary School, 8496 Flatridge Road, Troutdale, VA 24378
Grant, Grant Goodwill Grange, 840 Grange Hall Road, Troutdale, VA 24378
Mouth of Wilson, Oak Hill Academy, 2335 Oak Hill Road, Mouth of Wilson, VA 24363
Mount Rogers, Whitetop Community Center, 16309
Dotted throughout the mountains of Patrick County, Virginia are many scenic overlooks that are waiting to take your breath away!

One of four overlooks at Fred Clifton park.

FRED CLIFTON PARK

Conveniently located just off of Route 58 on Meadows of Dan mountain is Fred Clifton Park. This small park hosts three different overlooks with picnic tables and grills scattered in the privacy of trees and rhododendron bushes. The uppermost overlook is steeped in local lore. Legend has it that a Native American maiden, Morningflower, and a colonial man fell in love, but both their families forbade them to be together. With the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains as their backdrop, they jumped into the great blue yonder to be together forever. Some say you can still hear them when you stand on the overlook platform and look out at the expansive view.

Lover's Leap Scenic Overlook is painted in a tapestry of its visitors.

LOVER'S LEAP SCENIC OVERLOOK

Named after the tragic love story that took place at adjacent Fred Clifton Park, Lover's Leap Scenic Overlook is by far the largest overlook in the area. Its colorful rock wall runs alongside the roadway of Route 58 with easy on, easy off parking. Travelers from all over the world stop here to gaze into the distance. Witness the panoramic views of the mountains & valley and see hundreds of miles out.

Angel Overlook in the Fall

ANGEL OVERLOOK

Angel Overlook is located on notoriously curvy Squirrel Spur Road between Ararat and Meadows of Dan. This is the perfect place to pause your backroads cruise for a picnic lunch and enjoy the views of the neighboring North Carolina skyline. This overlook gets its name from the Angel family who donated the land for travelers to enjoy in 2009. You can find travel and area information at the information kiosk located right beside the overlook.

Overlook of a 20th-century bridge of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

ROUND MEADOW OVERLOOK

Take an easy 20-minute walk on the Round Meadow Creek loop trail at milepost 179.3 on the Blue Ridge Parkway and view the Round Meadow Overlook of the massive 20th-century parkway bridge. Take the right fork at the start of the trail to gradually descend into a hollow. Walk through a grove of giant white pines, see colorful flowers and patches of ferns, and walk along a creek that is deep enough to wade in (and cool in the summer!). Continuing on the loop, you will pass under the bridge at the bottom of the trail, and then once again as you near the trail's end at the top of the hill. This second pass under the bridge lends an amazing "underlook" of this engineering marvel. Short on time? Skip the walk and take the left fork at the beginning of the trail to quickly arrive at the overlook.

ROCKY KNOB OVERLOOK

This grassy overlook is located at milepost 169 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The soft, open space is perfect for picnics and letting the children roam free. Across the road is the Rocky Knob Visitor Information Center and picnic area. From here you can start a few different hiking trails, use the restroom, take a break from the shade at a picnic shelter, and get area information from Parkway employees.

ROCK CASTLE GORGE OVERLOOK

Located at milepost 168.8 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, this overlook, along with the Rocky Knob Overlook, sits in the direct path of the Rock Castle Gorge National Recreation Trail. You will often see hikers appear on the forest edge, cross the overlook meadow, and continue on the path back into the trees on the other side. At this overlook, you can read about the history of the Rock Castle Gorge, including the geographic features that give the gorge its name. Close by on the parkway is the Rocky Knob Campground, a great place to pitch your tent or park your camper during your travels.

GROUNDHOG MEADOW OVERLOOK

Conveniently located just off of Route 58 on Meadows of Dan mountain is Fred Clifton Park. This small park hosts three different overlooks with picnic tables and grills scattered in the privacy of trees and rhododendron bushes.

For history lovers who want to get away and experience the simple life with a variety of historical points of interest, abundant natural beauty and even some wine tastings and luxury treatments, Patrick County, Virginia is your perfect destination. Here are 20 must-see places to help you unplug, unwind, and step back in time.

REYNOLDS HOMESTEAD

Step back into the Victorian era at the historic Reynolds Homestead, built in 1814. This tobacco plantation, named the Rock Spring Plantation, was home to R. J. Reynolds, founder of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Here you can take a tour of the main house and other buildings around the homestead, learn...
the history of the Reynolds Tobacco Company and of the enslaved men & women that lived and worked on the plantation & visit their cemetery. Take a self-guided tour around the property or sign-up in advance for a guided tour by one of the Homestead’s knowledgeable guides. While you are there, enjoy the one mile loop walk on their self-guided L.E.A.F. trail to experience the beautiful forest and learn about the flora & fauna native to the area. Visitors on the third weekend of June will be able to enjoy their annual Bushels & Barrels: Local Food, Wine & Beer festival.

JACKS CREEK COVERED BRIDGE
Walk through the historic Jacks Creek Covered Bridge, located in Woolwine. It was built in 1914 to gain access across the Smith River to the neighboring Jacks Creek Primitive Baptist Church, where the bridge derives its name. Now substituted by an adjacent modern day steel beam bridge. Jacks Creek Covered Bridge is still open to visitors to walk through and sign the guest book. The site of the bridge is a wonderful spot for a blanket picnic or getting your feet wet in the river on a hot Summer’s day. Visitors on the third Saturday in June will be able to catch the annual Virginia Covered Bridge Festival located just across the road. The festival was originally designed to celebrate two of Patrick County’s Covered Bridges, the second being Bob White Covered Bridge which was tragically swept away by floodwaters in 2015.

LAUREL HILL
Laurel Hill is the birthplace and childhood home of Civil War General J.E.B. Stuart. Upon arrival, visitors can pick up a self-guided tour brochure at the entrance and proceed onto the grounds. Visitors on the first weekend in October can enjoy the Civil War Reenactment & Living History Weekend that takes place on the property every year. Neighboring Laurel Hill is the oldest grave in Patrick County belonging to Stuart’s great-grandfather William Letcher who was a member of the local militia during the Revolutionary War. Letcher met a tragic end, being murdered in front of his family on his own doorstep by British Loyalists.

BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY
Breaking ground in 1935, the Blue Ridge Parkway was built by order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt to connect Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park at the edge of North Carolina. Spanning 469 miles, this famous scenic drive was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps camp which created much needed jobs during and after the Great Depression. No commercial vehicles, billboards or other non-essential signage are allowed, leaving the Parkway to show off the natural beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. A smooth 45 mile and hour drive down the Parkway will offer breathtaking overlooks, recreation areas with camping and picnicking, hiking trails, and abundant wildlife.

MEADOWS OF DAN VILLAGE
On top of the mountain lies the charming village of Meadows of Dan. Here, you will find local home-style cooking as well as many unique places to shop. Poor Farmers Market offers a variety of quirky treasures and gifts as well as locally produced honey, jams, produce and more. Concord Corner Store offers an expanse of high quality, local artisan crafts such as large quilts, household woodworks, local wines, jewelry, moroccan lamps, lace dream catchers and more. Nancy’s Candy Company is a working candy factory with it’s own delightful storefront. Inside, you can look through the windows and watch your candy being made. Indulge in a variety of fudge, chocolates, gummies and more. The Blue Ridge Parkway runs right through Meadows of Dan and is an easy hop on or off for a beautiful drive.

GRIST MILLS
Patrick County is home to two historic grist mills. The oldest is Cockram’s Mill. Built in 1885, this grist mill sits on the banks of the Dan River headwaters. The mill was also once the home of the Dan River Queen, a passenger River Boat the offered tours along the water. The Queen can still be seen today, laid to rest beside the mill. The second mill is the famous Mabry Mill, located North on the Blue Ridge Parkway. This grist mill, built in 1908, is the most photographed spot on the Parkway. In the warm months, the property offers visitors the opportunity to go inside the mill and also tour the other buildings on the property to learn about the skills and trades of the time. There is also a restaurant and gift shop on the property. In the Winter months the grounds are still open to visitors without tours or restaurant hours.

PATRICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
In the museum of the Patrick County Historical Society, visitors can learn all about the history of Patrick County. This museum houses many interesting exhibits like a rare three-seat horse-drawn buggy called a “drummers hack”, an original moonshine still owned by a Patrick County moonshiner, historical artifacts, vintage memorabilia and genealogical research assistance. Talk to a historian

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about where you’ve been and they can tell you where to go next!

HOLLOW HISTORY CENTER

Make an appointment at the Hollow History Center and be treated to a walk through the history of the Patrick County “Hollow” in Ararat at no charge. On site you will find exhibits such as the Riley Puckett Cabin, the Library Cabin, a Log Tobacco Barn with farm equipment and a section of the Mount Airy and Eastern, or “Dinky,” Railroad. You will also find a collection of local history, photos and genealogy. Bring your lunch to enjoy the picnic shelter on site.

NEW DEAL POST OFFICE MURAL

The Stuart Post Office houses one of the two surviving post office murals painted by John E. Costigan during the Great Depression. “Receiving the Mail on the Farm” was installed in 1942 and commissioned as part of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal project. The mural depicts a farming family pausing their work to read the mail they received. This mural has a similar sister in Rensselaer, Indiana with the same name and once had a third similar painting hung in Girard, Ohio that has since been destroyed. Visitors to the Stuart Post Office will find the mural straight back from the entrance. You can also read about this mural on the Appalachian Mural Trail.

ROCK CHURCHES OF THE BLUE RIDGE

Made famous by the book “The Man Who Moved A Mountain” by Richard C. Davids, Patrick County is home to two of the five beautiful Rock Churches in the area. Mayberry Presbyterian Church (1925) and Slate Mountain Presbyterian Church (1932), both in Meadows of Dan, were built by Rev. Robert Childress from the stone of the Blue Ridge Mountains. You can take a three hour “Backroads Tours” of all five churches created by the Mountain Laurel.

MAYBERRY TRADING POST

From Meadows of Dan, drive South on the Blue Ridge Parkway to visit the Mayberry Trading Post. This general store built in 1892 was once the only place of commerce in the mountain community and originally served as the local post office. The store is still open to this day and offers visitors much of what was offered in its heyday. In the Fall, apple butter is made right outside the building. You can purchase homemade goods like Wild Elderberry Jam or Mayberry souvenirs. On the Andy Griffith Show, Andy talked about “the real Mayberry up on the mountain”. Many believe this area was what the character was referring to, as the show was based on the neighboring town of Mount Airy, NC.

PUCKETT CABIN

South of Meadows of Dan on the Blue Ridge Parkway is Puckett Cabin. This Parkway exhibit is the home of celebrated mountain midwife Orlean Hawks Puckett. She is known for delivering over 1,000 babies in the surrounding mountain area and never once lost a mother or child. Puckett started her midwife career at the age of 52 after losing 24 of her own infant s. She lived to the age of 102. Visitors can pull just off the Parkway to view her cabin home and read about her remarkable life. Want to know more? Read Orlean Puckett: The Life of a Mountain Midwife, 1844-1939 by Karen Cecil Smith. You can also ask about her at the Hollow History Center, land still owned by her husband’s family.

PHILPOTT DAM & LAKE

Built in 1942, Philpott Dam was constructed to relieve constant flooding by the Smith River into nearby towns and residential areas and to also generate hydroelectric power. Divers under the water will find the lost town of Fayerdale which was flooded to complete the project. Visitors can view the dam and the beautiful lake from the Philpott Overlook. The Visitors Center houses a small museum where guests can learn about the history of the dam and the local flora and fauna. Philpott Lake also offers an array of outdoor recreation opportunities to enjoy while you are there such as camping, hiking, paddling, boating, fishing and swimming. You can also visit neighboring Fairy Stone State Park, the second largest state park in Virginia. Here you can find outdoor adventures as well as rare staurolite crystals, locally called “fairy stones.” Pro tip: Head to the Fairy Stone Pit Stop just outside of the park for one of the best fairy stone hunt sites around.

MOTORSPORTS MUSEUMS

Patrick County is rich in motor sports history, beginning from the days of running moonshine. You can visit the VA Motorsports Museum & Hall of Fame in Stuart from 9 AM to 5 PM to learn all about the local and statewide history of the sport. Next door is the museum of one of the oldest teams in NASCAR who got their start in Patrick County; the Wood Brothers.

BLUE RIDGE WINERIES

Enjoy the variety of three unique wineries that grace Patrick County. Stanburn Winery outside of Stuart offers delicious wines with locally inspired names such as “Highfly,” a sweet white named after J.E.B. Stuart’s battle horse. Look for their monthly wine festivals in the summer. Along the parkway you will find Villa Appalaccia. This Italian inspired winery offers many varieties of their European-style wines as well as cheese plates and the occasional live music all in a gorgeous villa setting. Just down the parkway is Chateau Morrisette Winery & Restaurant. The Morrisette family have been in business since 1978, building the largest producing winery in Virginia. Have a tasting in their expansive tasting room, take a tour behind the scenes of their large operation or have a nice lunch, dinner or Sunday brunch at their 5-star restaurant with beautiful views.

PRIMLAND RESORT & OTHER PLACES TO REST YOUR HEAD

While you are cruising around the area, make Primland Resort your home base. Here you will find a variety of accommodation options to suit your needs. Try a suite in the main lodge, a luxury tree-house with spectacular views or even a private cabin. While you are there (or even if you stay elsewhere), have a round of golf, get a massage or spa treatment, take a dip in the pool or dine at one of their three restaurants. Don’t want to splurge on the resort-style vacation? There are a variety of options for your perfect Patrick County getaway! Check out Uptown Suites of Stuart, located in the second floor of The George Building on Mainstreet. Built in the 1920’s, these beautifully remodeled suites will provide you with all the comforts of home while being right upstairs from shopping, dining and more. Wolf Creek Farm in Ararat boasts an expansive, family friendly setting to rest your head. They offer many options like farmhouse rooms, private cottages and even special motorcycle accommodations. Willville Motorcycle Camp is a biker’s paradise when exploring the Parkway and surrounding area. They offer cabins, bunk houses, & campsites with motorcycle-only traffic, campfires, bike shelters, bathhouses, and more all for very affordable rates. Wanting to actually get away? Try one of the many private cabins and cottages for rent in the area or pitch your tent or park a camper at a campground. A quick look on visitpatrickcounty.org will give you many options to choose from.
Your Community, Your Voice
in the Blue Ridge Mountains

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