



THE HOLLOW HISTORY CENTER

The Hollow History Center's mission is to collect, preserve, and share the history of the section in Patrick County known as The Hollows. The Hollow History Center includes the Riley Puckett cabin, the Library cabin, a log tobacco barn, and a covered picnic shelter.

In early 2003, descendants of the Puckett family, Raleigh Puckett, Roger Puckett and Cordell Bowman, cleaned the family cemetery where a row of unmarked filed stones mark the sites of Orlean and John Puckett's twenty children. Orlean overcame her loss and suffering by devoting her life to helping women deliver their babies. Her home, the Puckett Cabin, stands as a very public monument to her strength and determination.

In 2006, remnants of the "[Dinky](#)" railroad were found in Ararat and relocated to the The Hollow History Center.

Tom Perry stated, "The efforts of preserving a small part of the rich history of Patrick County gives all of us an example on respect for our ancestors and that preservation of family history begins at home." Parts of the history at the Hollow History Center include a 23,000 name genealogical database of Patrick County families, the genealogical database of J. E. B. Stuart's family, books, photos, oral history and other materials related to the history of The Hollow. A separate cabin houses the collection permanently.

To learn more about The Hollow History Center, visit [Tom's website](#).

SCENIC OVERLOOKS IN PATRICK COUNTY

LOVER'S LEAP- Lover's Leap is one of several spectacular views along your journey through Patrick County. In the 1600's, the Indians inhabited the Blue Ridge Mountains. White settlers started arriving and began clearing land to farm. Conflict arose between the Indians and the settlers. Legend has it that the son of a settler saw the twinkle in the eyes of the Chief's daughter, Morning Flower, and was immediately love-struck. The couple began to meet secretly and their love continued to grow. The young man and Indian maiden were threatened and shunned. With the beautiful rock and wildflowers as their backdrop, they jumped into the wild blue yonder ensuring they would be together forever.



Lover's Leap

FRED CLIFTON PARK OVERLOOK- At an elevation of 2930 feet, Fred Clifton Park provides breathtaking views of the northern Blue Ridge. A densely wooded area of oaks, maples and sassafras surrounds the picnic and parking areas. For birdwatchers, this area holds red-eyed vireo, wood thrush, northern cardinal and American goldfinch, and in May and September, can support a high diversity of migrant cuckoos, thrushes, vireos, warblers, tanagers and grosbeaks. Butterflies can be found cruising through the picnic area at any time of day, with spicebush swallowtail being especially prevalent. Lovers Leap Scenic Overlook is located adjacent to the park.

SADDLE OVERLOOK- At an elevation of 3,388 ft, this overlook provides great views of the gorge below and of the rolling hills of the Piedmont. From the opposite direction, you can see Buffalo Mountain. The overlook offers a short trail to an open field from which hawk watchers can enjoy the migration of raptors in the fall. You might also see osprey, a bald eagle, and red-tailed hawks among other birds. During the spring and summer, this area is alive with indigo bunting, American goldfinch, chipping sparrow, eastern towhee, and gray catbird. Blooming milkweeds and asters attract eastern tiger swallowtail and other vibrant butterflies. Saddle Overlook is located on the Blue Ridge Parkway at mile marker 167.

ROCK CASTLE GORGE OVERLOOK- Located just before mile marker 168.8, Rock Castle Gorge provides great views of the gorge below and of the rolling hills of the Piedmont just beyond the Blue Ridge Escarpment. Rock Castle Gorge is a great place to see wildflowers in the spring. There are literally entire hillsides of beautiful trillium and many other wildflowers growing in this area.



Rock Castle Gorge

ANGEL OVERLOOK- Located on Squirrel Spur Road in Ararat, this overlook provides magnificent views of North Carolina's Pilot Mountain and Sauratown Mountain range. At the overlook, you can enjoy a picnic and gather additional information from the kiosk. The land for the overlook was donated by Douglas and Judy Angel in memory of their son Brian Douglas Angel.

ALONG THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

[Rocky Knob](#) and [Mabry Mill](#) offer many opportunities for visitors including hiking, camping, picnicking, and a visit to one of the most-photographed structures along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Mabry Mill.



Mabry Mill was a community center for the Meadows of Dan area when it operated as a gristmill and sawmill. Today, the area becomes another kind of community gathering place each Sunday afternoon during the summer as musicians and dancers gather.

What to Do

- Explore a short trail around the mill connecting historical exhibits about life in rural Virginia and allows visitors to view the gristmill, sawmill, and blacksmith shop
- Choose from three large picnic areas to rest and rejuvenate
- Enjoy a meal at [Mabry Mill Restaurant](#)
- Shop at the gift shop
- Take a hike into Rockcastle Gorge
- Enjoy wonderful agricultural scenes along the roadway that make this a truly unique portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway
- Relax at the Rocky Knob Cabins, built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and the only cabins for rent on the Blue Ridge Parkway
- During peak seasons, enjoy demonstrations of crafts by National Park Service volunteers at Mabry Mill

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

March 22nd, 4:00pm until- [Patrick County Music Association \(PCMA\)](#). Concessions available, donations appreciated.

March 1st, 8:30am-[Master Gardner's Symposium](#) - PHCC Stuart Site in the Motor Sports Auditorium. For more information call: 276-692-6175 or 276-694-2946

March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, 7:00-10:00pm - Willis Gap Open Jam at the [Willis Gap Community Center](#). Family fun, dancing, food & beverages.

March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, 7:30pm to 10:30pm. [American Legion Post #105](#) presents the American Legion Variety Dance with live bands! Excellent live bands play dance music: country, two-step, flat foot, waltz, square dance and line

REYNOLDS HOMESTEAD:

March 1st, 11am-2pm- Empty Bowl Event at Rotary Building. For a \$10 cash donation, enjoy a hot bowl of soup, keep the handcrafted bowl, and join the effort to fight hunger.

March 9th, 2pm-Homestead Hikers. Hike the Turkey Ridge Trail at Fairy Stone. To become a member and register, click [here](#).

March 20th, 6pm-Dinner and Movie Night. The life story of Brooklyn Dodgers Jackie Robinson. \$14 Dinner at 6pm, movie at 7pm (free movie). [Reservations required](#).

March 29th, 2:30-5:00pm-Reynolds Homestead Legenday Bicentennial Kickoff. Wine and cheese reception. Mary Sue Terry and others will talk about the history and future of this National Historic Landmark. Free. [Registration required](#).

For all Reynolds Homestead events, visit their [website](#).

HONDURAS COFFEE SHOP:

Music on Main at Honduras Coffee Shop
March 7th-Featuring the *Dave Cecil Band*
March 14th- *Naomi's Fancy*
March 17th- St. Patrick's Day Celebration - *The Celthix*
March 21st - *CC Coates Band*
March 28th-*Swamp Trash*

WHAT'S COOKING?

This recipe is compliments of three of Patrick County's finest, Leslie Shelor of the [Greenberry House](#), and Sue & [Sammy Shelor](#) of [Mountain Meadows Farm](#).

GRANDPA'S WILD BLACKBERRY DUMPLINGS

2 1/2 cups ripe wild blackberries, divided	1 cup water
2/3 cup sugar	2 1/4 cups Bisquick
1 cup water	2/3 cup milk



Bring 2 cups blackberries, sugar, and water to a boil in a large saucepan. Boil 5 minutes. In a separate bowl, combine Bisquick and milk, stirring well. Drop dumpling mixture into boiling blackberries with large spoon. (Be careful not to splash boiling syrup.) Add remaining blackberries. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 20 minutes. Delicious served with cream, ice cream, or Cool Whip.

This recipe and more are included in the *Eat & Explore Virginia* Cookbook, available for purchase at the [Patrick County Chamber of Commerce](#).

NEWSLETTER

In This Issue:

- Hollow History
- Scenic Overlooks
- Along the Blue Ridge Parkway
- What's Happening?
- Grandpa's Wild Blackberry Dumplings

How to contact us:
 Patrick County Tourism
 106 Rucker Street
 P.O. Box 466
 Stuart, VA 24171
 276.694.6094

Or visit our website:
www.visitpatrickcounty.org

Sign up for our e-newsletter
 SIMPLY PATRICK COUNTY



[UNSUBSCRIBE](#)



**Eat & Explore Virginia Cookbook* is available for purchase at the Patrick County Chamber of Commerce office located at 103-B Stonewall Court in Stuart, VA.

