

APPENDIX H: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Series of Town Meetings - Scott County
Gate City and Nickelsville Meetings



APPENDIX H: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – SERIES OF TOWN MEETINGS

Virginia Coal Heritage Trail Corridor Management Plan Meetings
 were held at Gate City at 9:00 am and Nickelsville at 1:00
 for the Scott County portion of the St. Paul Loop
 September 23rd 2010

Attendees:

- Marc Bradley, Owner of Creation Kingdom Zoo
- Kim McKay, on behalf of Congressman Boucher
- Charles Green,
- Tim Addington,
- Kathie Noe, Virginia Coal Heritage Trail Advisory Committee
- Jennifer Puckett,
- John Kilgore,
- Kenny Fannon (met at shop)
- Karen Davidson
- Lowell Marshall
- Betty Flanary Salyer
- Kevin Castle
- Erica Yoon
- Joe Lynn
- Corbett



Below is the section of the Byway discussed in the Scott County meeting.
 Primary coal sites are noted on the map.

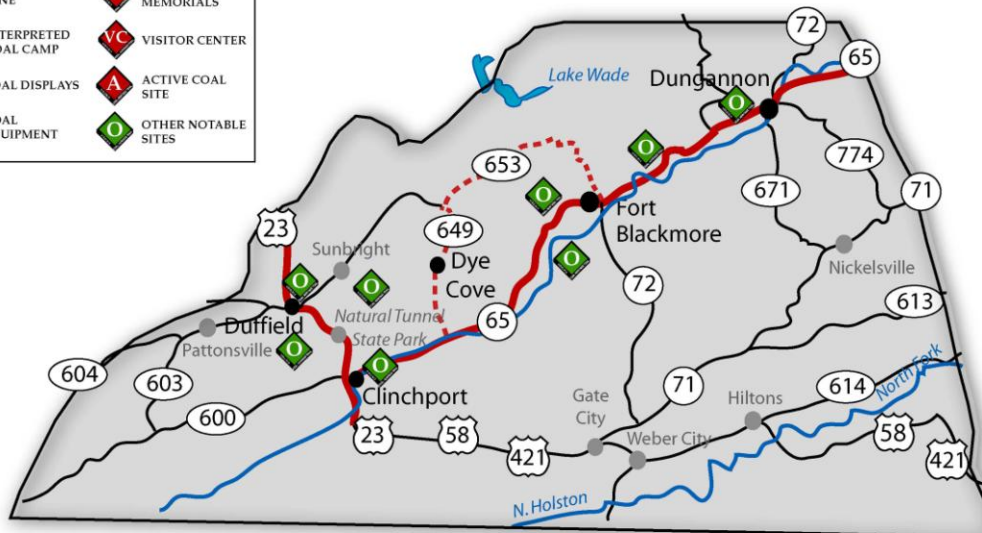


ST. PAUL LOOP
 SECTION OF THE
 VIRGINIA COAL HERITAGE TRAIL



VA Coal Heritage Trail
 Map created by WMTH Corp
 trailsrus.com

I INFO	M COAL MUSEUMS
C COAL CAMP/ MINE	S COAL STATUES/ MEMORIALS
IC INTERPRETED COAL CAMP	VC VISITOR CENTER
D COAL DISPLAYS	A ACTIVE COAL SITE
E COAL EQUIPMENT	O OTHER NOTABLE SITES





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Rich railroad history along entire section through Scott County

- Tunnels and anything railroad related – Contact: Kenny Fannon, owns and operates Duffield Depot Museum.

Dungannon:

- Log Church in Dungannon – Ask Darris Hillman
- Depot moved by Women’s Club and renovated. Now serves as town hall.
- Potential for old store building to be converted into small sandwich shop and include photos and information on Dungannon as it once was.
- Dungannon offers small camper and tent camping.



Depot converted into Town Hall



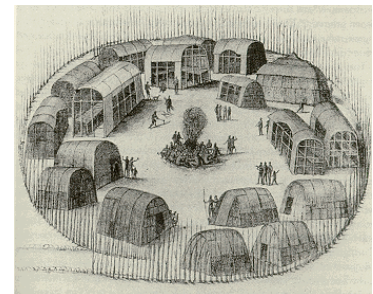
Historic Buildings



Log Church

The Flanary Historical Site, Inc located in Dungannon was incorporated in June 2004. Its purpose is to restore and preserve one of the most historical sites in Scott County and Southwest Virginia. See *CHAPTER VI: Archaeological Intrinsic Qualities* for more on this.

- On this site is an 8000 BC Indian Village, excavated and documented in 1977 when a new bridge was built over the Clinch river and Clinchfield Railroad (now CSX).
- The site is listed on the National and State Register for Historical Places in Scott County. The artifacts are housed in Richmond.
- In 1777, the renegade half breed Benge and a band of Indians captured Polly Alley at Osborne Ford and Jane Whittaker at Castlewood. Benge was killed in 1794.
- The log house, circa 1830 was used as Osborne Ford Post Office from 1832-1890 and quarterly County Court was held there prior to Dungannon becoming a town. The structure has been taken down using a small tobacco grant and will be put back up as money becomes available.
- Betty Salyer has photos, copy of land grant of 1785, timeline of owners, postmasters, 1832 ferry crossing information etc.



Community of Slant

- Old Store and swinging bridge

Stanleytown – Off road – Mine near Coke Creek – Access to Forest

Blackmore

Community that all but disappeared in the 1977 flood



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Front Porch Gas & Restaurant – Photos of Blackmore school children throughout the years are featured on its wall. Music played periodically on an outdoor state. Known for great hamburgers. – *Suggested site for interpretive sign on Coal Trail and Blackmore history.*

Sites along the Byway:

- Rikemo Lodge – History – Darris & Barbara Hillman
Currently owned by Pat McCann –Open to public?
- Scott County Horse Park – adding 10 RV sites at Horse Park



- Bart Osborne Store Building – RR follows road. Used to be known as the raceway
- Wood River View Church
- Vann's farm – Stocked fishing
- Swinging bridge at River Access
- Hagan Hall – Turn Right and bear to left on Castle chapel –

Two elegant homes owned by prominent Scott Countians during the late 1800's were built between Dungannon and Ft. Blackmore due to their proximity to giant sulphur springs nearby. The springs were recognized for their medicinal qualities. Fire destroyed the majestic Rufus Ayers home, owned by the famous Southwest Virginia developer in the 1870's but the Hagan Hall Mansion, built in 1860 by Patrick Hagan, still remain. The mansion, constructed from bricks molded and burnt on the premises, contained 17 rooms, 2 baths, and was heated by steam. Elegant furnishings consisted of an ivory piano, Persian rugs, expensive velvet drapes, and an impressive library.



- The Hagan's once owned most of Mountain that has become the Forest.
- Paul Hagan laid out both Dungannon & Clinchport in blocks
- Sulphur Springs – Miracle waters just across the hollow.
- Saling's tombstone – History
- Sign for Rye Cove Wildlife Viewing area is also on Hwy 65.





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Rye Cove

Community just off the byway where in May 2 1929 a tornado hit killing a number of students and people.

- A loop on Hwy 649 goes by Country Basket Gas & Deli and the Rye Cove School – Memorial — Top 10 worst school disasters. 1 teacher and 12 children. Transported to the train to get them to Bristol. Used cabin – Flatbeds and cars to railroad. Principle at Duffield Primary has a ceremony about it. Has photos. *Note: Jim Carter was in tornado – Interview*



Bell from the Rye Cove School



Memorial of the Tragedy



Possible site for wayside exhibit

Recommendation:

A wayside exhibit be set up along byway at the corner of Rye Cove Memorial Road (Hwy 649) and Hwy 65 that tells about this tragic event.

Natural Tunnel State Park – Recommended spur

Ask Superintendent about placing info on Coal trail at their site.

- Kenny Fannon about this and coal.
- Redstone Drive Inn – Train stops for lunch and railroad run off the train, grab lunch and board back on.



Clinchport

Clinchport had fire before the 1977 flood. *(Kathie Noe gathering photos - She lived there)*
 Youngest Mayor – Michael Mullins – 18 years old – On David Letterman
 Clinchport Depot –(Norfolk Southern) Now gone – Kathie Noe getting photo

Swinging Bridge and Railroad Trestle

The longest swing bridge is located on Hwy 65 just before once comes to the intersection of Hwy 23 near Clinchport. Heading west on 65, turn left onto Bridge Road and take the ½ mile loop that reenters Hwy 65 at the trestle.



See following page for photos of swinging bridge.

Railroad Trestle

Recommendation:

Strongly recommend this loop be included on the byway and an interpretive sign added at the bridge that also includes information on other swinging bridges one will find along the route as well as information on the train trestle which is visible from this location.



Longest Swinging Bridge on Byway



Photos of the swinging bridge off Hwy 65 and visible from the byway.

Worthwhile side trip or Spur - **Fincastle Turnpike** - Where to turn around

- Interpreted site with photos and historical information on the trestle that is quite visible at this site. Also includes information on Speers Ferry.
- Clinch River Market turn around or at Speers Ferry? – Tina knows this.
Or
- Copper Creek – Endangered species
- The Copper Creek Railroad Trestles
- Public Access



Duffield:

- Duffield Railroad Museum - One of the greatest collections of railroad memorabilia, books and more. A must stop for anyone driving this route.
- The museum is in the depot used in the "Coal Miner's Daughter's" movie and includes some of the props from the movie.
- Access to Depot – Pull-off – Interpretive signs. Directional signs and designated parking area is needed in front and in back for those going the other direction.
- Needs more space to display all that he has.
- **PRIORITY:** *Strongly recommend trying to obtain the old Duffield Depot which is currently privately owned and used as a storage shed. If not available, another depot should be found.*

Near the Lee County line:

- Daniel Boone's son on Castlewood to Cumberland Gap to join father – killed. Powell Mountain – Killed by Benge. Historic marker on side of road.
 - Danny Dickson & Bob McConnell know about this.

Cultural: Traditions

- Santa Train – Elkhorn to Kingsport. Stops in Dungannon and Blackmore, weekend before Thanksgiving. Been going on over 60 years. Throw candy and toys out to children along track. Now only through out at specific stops.
- Dungannon Festival held during Santa Stop
- Mountain Treasures Festival – Dungannon
- Duffield Days – Homecoming and family gatherings.
- Seige at the Blockhouse – Reenactors – WildernessTrailva.org Frontier Festival

Scott County Litter Control Officer – Jake Dougherty



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Attraction off the trail but worthwhile side trip:

- The Creation Kingdom Zoo is actually 15 minutes off the VCHT but a “must see” for those coming into the area. It features over 37 species and adding more.
- It also is opening a B&B and will be offering tree houses where visitors can spend the night with the animals, two unique lodging opportunities in an area that is very limited in overnight accommodations.

