



Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

October 2016

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement, P.O. Box 397, Richlands, VA
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Halloween In Appalachia

By J.C. Schweingrouber

Fall is officially here and the holidays will be upon us before we know it! However, one thing for sure in Appalachia is that we aren't lacking for strange myths and legends. For most of us, Halloween is a fun time of year as kids dress up and go in search of candy while adults find entertainment with Halloween parties, haunted corn mazes, and seeking out the occasional "haunted house."

There are countless festivities, festivals, and fairs still going all around Appalachia made for the season. Off the top of my head I can think of the Historic General Lewis Inn (Lewisburg, WV), the haunted tour through historic Abingdon, VA, the infamous Mothman Museum in Point Pleasant, WV, the Major Graham Mansion (featured on Ghost Hunters), and the old spooky St. Albans Sanatorium sitting on top of the hill in Radford, VA.

As for me, I think I'll stay away from those places and just stay home on Halloween night. If last year is any indication, I'll have my hands full giving away candy to over 400 kids dressed as their favorite super hero or zombie. Enjoy the holiday and thanks for your support!

Faith Based Investing in Appalachia

S.O.A.R. (Supporting Our Appalachian Region) has coordinated with officials in the Kentucky Promise Zone to sponsor the first ever faith based economic investment forum in Eastern Kentucky. It is titled **Jobs Wanted: Faithful Investing in Appalachia's People**. This forum fits in perfectly with the mission statement of the Foundation For Appalachian Advancement.

There are many parts of Appalachia that are in dire need of jobs and economic diversification. "What can we do to help?" has been a question that many faith based organizations across the country have asked. "By focusing on economic development and job creation through investment, mentoring, and business expansion the Church can be a powerful force in meeting needs and supporting others," as is read on the website for the Kentucky Promise Zone. The meeting will be held on October 31st at the Federal Building in Hazard, KY from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Hazard Community and Technical College.

It is open and free to any person or organization wishing to attend. You can register at www.faithfulinvsting.org.

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*"What can we do to
help?"*

Mysteries in Appalachia

Halloween is quickly approaching! The holiday offers a fun time for both young and old and there are plenty of Halloween festivities all throughout Appalachia.



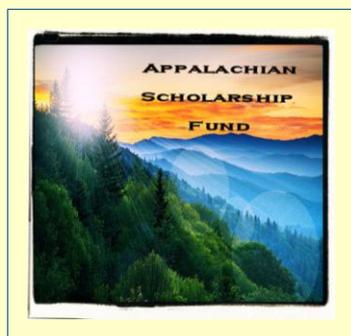
All around the region you will find open haunted houses, corn mazes, haunted walking tours, and parties. There are numerous mysteries and creepy locations right here in Central Appalachia that are fascinating and worth exploring such as the Bethesda church and cemetery in Morristown, Tennessee, Moundsville Penitentiary in West Virginia, or the historic Major Graham Mansion in Max Meadows, Virginia.

The Major Graham Mansion (pictured to the left) was originally called Cedar Run but was renamed after Major David Graham, a Civil War hero. It is said that high level Confederate meetings were held in one of the upstairs bedrooms. It is rumored that J.E.B. Stuart was one of the frequent guests at the mansion.

The mansion is open for tours and for private groups of paranormal researchers to study the property. Paranormal activity has long been reported on the property and the Major Graham Mansion has been featured on Ghost Hunters and Paranormal State, two popular shows investigating paranormal activity.

Paranormal investigators have audio recordings of ghostly spirits, have video footage of ghostly apparitions, and have recorded hundreds of personal encounters with the paranoia. It is claimed that there are six dominant ghostly spirits at the Major Graham Mansion that communicate regularly.

For information about the Major Graham Mansion or to enquire about a ghost tour this Halloween season you can visit them online at <http://majorgrahammansion.com/>.



*Make your tax deductible donation
online today!*

October 2016 Artist of the Month— Shane Simmons

If you are active on social media you probably know Shane Simmons from his Facebook page The Appalachian Project. Using that venue he has shared countless photos and stories from around our region to over 30,000 followers.

Carrying on with his passion for the history of our region and the popularity of his Facebook following, Shane Simmons wrote *Legends & Lore of East Tennessee*, a collection of stories and folklore passed down through the generations. We recently got a chance to ask Shane what inspired him to write the book.

“I decided to write the book around a year or so ago after getting a few messages from folks on Facebook encouraging us to write one so that they would have a hard copy to keep. We also frequently heard from folks who said they had printed off a post and read it to a relative, friend, etc. and it really drove home the fact that a large portion of our target audience isn't online.”

The book takes you through time touching on the legendary people of East Tennessee, legendary events, moonshining, spooky places and mysterious creatures. “I am leaning very heavily toward writing another similar “Legends & Lore” installment focusing on Southwest Virginia. It is a huge time and energy commitment but I feel a strong desire to do it because it will always be where I consider home, regardless of where I currently reside.”

You can find “Legends & Lore of East Tennessee” on Amazon.com and all other major online book retailers.



Author Shane Simmons at a book signing in September.

“I just want to thank the folks who have bought the book and/or follow The Appalachian Project. It is truly a blessing and an honor to have such great support.”

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Mission Statement

The Foundation For Appalachian Advancement serves for the progress and enhancement of the Appalachian region through education, economic development of families and communities, and for the advancement of regional arts and culture.

Your Support Is Vital

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

As we come closer to the end of a great 2016, most of us consider donations to our favorite charities. There are many great charities out there to support and like most of us, we tend to support things that have a special meaning to us or charities that are close to home. We Appalachians are a hard working people and a very generous people. Friends helping friends. Neighbors helping neighbors.

Many of us will choose to support cancer research, children's hospitals, or local animal shelters. As you consider your donations this time of year, we ask that you consider a small donation to the Foundation For Appalachian Advancement. Whether it is for the Appalachian Scholarship Fund, promoting economic diversification, or promoting our arts and culture, we care about



every donor and every penny given in good spirit. We strive to be good stewards of your generosity and use the donations as efficiently as possible. Those of us that are involved are all volunteers. No Director or Officer is salaried. That gives us the flexibility to make sure that your donations are spent wisely and effectively to support the programs that you believe in.

We appreciate your support and ask that you consider our mission statement and our goals throughout Appalachia to help those in need and promote our culture to the best of our ability.

Thank you.

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement

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Donations can also be made online at www.supportappalachia.org.

Online donations can be made by using your debit or credit card, or by using PayPal.

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible.