

Story Ideas

- * *Ghosts & Goblins of Pocahontas County* - While it is fairly common for ghost stories to arise out of Civil War sites, Droop Mountain probably ranks near, or even at the top, of such areas to spawn wild-eyed stories of ghosts, apparitions, headless soldiers, illusions, and the like.
- * *Tour through History* - Robert E. Lee lost men and horses in August 1862 to the cold damp weather atop Cheat Mountain. "Let them have this damn mountain!" he was heard to say as he advanced his troops toward Valley Head. The crucial route to Richmond, known today as the Staunton - Parkersburg Turnpike, saw Civil War skirmishes early. Camp Bartow, Camp Allegheny, and Droop Mountain all saw action during the War. Camp trenches still can be seen in the fields.
- * *History Lives Here* - Nineteen buildings or sites in the county are on the National Register for Historic Places, a program of the Department of the Interior. From a grist mill dating back to 1859 to the Presbyterian Church in Huntersville used as a hospital during the Civil War, the county hosts a gamut of exceptionally preserved buildings. Two "fox and geese" game boards were carved on the Church pews by soldiers and still are there today.
- * *The long and skinny of it* - At 78 miles long by 50 feet wide, the Greenbrier River Trail is the longest state park in West Virginia. Damaged heavily by two major floods in the region, the Trail not only survived the calamity but grew in popularity. Thousands of bicyclists come from every state to ride the trail chosen as a Millennium Trail in the year 2000. The Greenbrier River Trail - its history, its popularity - both unique.
- * *The Best Kept Secret* - The Monongahela Forest is over 900,000 acres of federally protected land, a third of which is in Pocahontas County. The forest is a destination for over 3 million visitors each year offering 500 miles of hiking trails, 23 campgrounds, and 17 picnic areas. With over 120 miles of warm water fishing and 576 miles of trout streams, fisherman from all over the region come frequently and stay long. Several jewels appear in the crown of the Mon Forest including the Falls of Hills Creek, Cranberry Wilderness area, Greenbrier River Trail, Dolly Sods, Seneca Rocks, Blackwater Falls, and Spruce Knob just to name a few.
- * *Opera Comes to Marlinton* - The imposing yellow building began as a house for entertainment almost 100 years earlier. It served as a meeting hall, a performing arts center, a lumber yard, and even a car garage for a few years. Now, totally refinished and refurbished, it is the *heart of the community* in the small village of Marlinton. From the WVU Percussion Band, to soloist Chris Smither, to live drama and comedy plays, the Opera House is the place for live entertainment in the region.

For more information about the story ideas here or for specific photographs, contact Gail Hyer, Media Specialist, at gghyer@pocahontascountywv.com



Nature's Mountain Playground