Scrolling through history: A moving panorama as interpretative model for The Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center in Rabun County, GA

University of North Georgia
Dr. Bonita Jacobs
President
82 College Circle
Dahlonega, GA 30579
706-864-1993

January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

May 29, 2017

Rosann Kent
Director, Appalachian Studies Center
University of North Georgia
106 Vickery House
82 College Circle
Dahlonega, GA 30579
rkent@ung.edu
Final Report Narrative

Title of Project: Scrolling through history: A moving panorama as interpretative model for The Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center in Rabun County, GA

Grant Period: January 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017
Grantee Name: Appalachian Studies Center at University of North Georgia (UNG)
Project Directors: Rosann Kent, Director, Appalachian Studies and Dr. Chris Dockery, Dept. of Visual Arts

Description of Project:

The purpose of the project was to help The Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center increase its capacity to reach a new generation, both in Rabun County, Georgia and beyond by contributing to its new digital interpretive initiative. In Year 1, students from the Appalachian Studies Center at the University of North Georgia created a moving panoramic shadow box theater based on archival transcripts from 1967. The “crankie” featured a narrative about planting by the signs, an agricultural tradition that considers the moon’s phase as well its position in the zodiac. In Year 2, students will digitize the crankie by partnering with the Cottrell Digital Studio at the Northeast Georgia History Center in Gainesville to produce a documentary digital film that will be available in a download on demand format to Georgia classrooms.

Activities:

This year’s project involved more direct participation with the partner than all previous projects. For three semesters, 15 students in three classes and six community volunteers, immersed themselves in Foxfire. In addition to the presentation at the Appalachian Teaching Project conference, activities included three public performances of the crankie in Dahlonega, Blue Ridge and Mountain City, Georgia, one poster presentation at the Appalachian Studies Association in Blacksburg, Virginia, and one conference session at the Mildred Haun Conference: A celebration of Appalachian Literature in Morristown, TN. Students and volunteers also participated in Foxfire’s 50th anniversary celebration and its 30th anniversary to Foxfire Approach to Teaching and Learning. They performed “Every Seed Has a Story,” at the Rabun Gap Theater as part of a Georgia Humanities Grant and co-faculty mentor served as the scholar of record. They attended four programs with the partners’ partners: “Foxfire: 50 years of Cultural Journalism Documenting folk Life in the North Georgia Mountains” at the University of Georgia in Athens and “Foxfire, Weaving a Visual History” at the Hambidge Center, a non-profit whose founder had links to Foxfire in Rabun County.
a. Activities with community partners (See also attached file, UNG Minutes and Correspondence with Partner.)

- April & May 2016.  
The two faculty mentors – Rosann Kent and Dr. Chris Dockery --emailed formal partnership request to Barry Styles, Interim Director. Held phone meeting. Kent and Dockery also held phone meeting with xxx, chairman of the board. Styles recommended Appalachian Studies to Foxfire Board to perform as part of its 30th Teaching Anniversary Teaching Conference. Many emails and conversations were held to work out performance details. Dockery served as scholar of record.

- June and July 2016. Research plan is developed. Archival field trips to Foxfire begin.

- August 2016. Archival Field trips continue.

- September 2016. Field trips to Foxfire are concluded.

- October 2016. Discussions with partner to review script as well as PowerPoint. Corrections made. Invitations for Foxfire board discusses.

- November Dress rehearsal. Three representatives from Foxfire attended the community dress rehearsal held on UNG campus: Barry Styles, Interim Director and Curator; John Erbele, Foxfire Board and Director of Operations, North Georgia Mountains Authority, Georgia Department of Natural Resources; Barbara Taylor Woodall, author and Foxfire Alum.

- February 2017. Started heirloom tomatoes for Foxfire’s historic garden.

March 2017

- March 3. Contacted new director, T.J. Smith, for meeting time to introduce ourselves and discuss final performance of crankie.

- March 22. Took students and drove to Foxfire to meet new director and to plan for final performance, plus garden planting. Selected a fertile day to plant: April 29

April 2017

Emails discussing garden planting to Meagan Connolly, who maintains Foxfire’s garden.

- April 29. Four students and one Foxfire alumni presented final project to Foxfire

- May 2017. Foxfire presents Appalachian Studies Center with a 12-set volume of Foxfire books!
b. Required presentations of student research to community groups other than the primary partner.

Students and faculty made six presentations about the ATP project at the following events:

1. **June 25, 2016. “Every Seed Has a Story.”** This event kicked off our 2016-2017 project. Dockery will serve as the GA Humanities Scholar and Rosann Kent will lead the Reader Theater for the ATP Alumni production of “Every Seed Has a Story” on June 25 for The Foxfire 50th/30th Anniversary Education Conference Four students and one faculty mentor performed a reader’s theater created for past ATP. Dr. Dockery, the co-faculty mentor served as scholar of record. Previous ATP art was also displayed. Plans for upcoming ATP crankie were announced. See program at [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/every-seed-has-a-story-presented-by-the-appalachian-studies-center-at-the-university-of-north-tickets-25833633092#](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/every-seed-has-a-story-presented-by-the-appalachian-studies-center-at-the-university-of-north-tickets-25833633092#)

2. **Nov 2016. ATP “Dress Rehearsal” for partner in Dahlonega**
   See Facebook album 2016-2017 Appalachian Teaching Project [https://www.facebook.com/events/1203552163065711/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%2222%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/1203552163065711/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%2222%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D)

3. **Feb 2017** Mildred Haun: A Conference of Appalachian Literature, “When the Signs are in the Feet” at Walter State College in Morristown, TN

3. **Feb. 2017.** Planting by the Signs, UNG Blue Ridge Campus. See flyer at [https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=UNG-Blue%20Ridge%20Campus%20planting%20by%20signs](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=UNG-Blue%20Ridge%20Campus%20planting%20by%20signs)

4. **Mar. 2017:** Appalachian Studies Association at Virginia Tech, Poster Session


c. Links to any videos or social media that show the students interacting with their community partner(s)

The following social media links are listed in chronological order.


2. **Nov 2016.** UNG students preserve Appalachian culture through art [https://ung.edu/news/articles/2016/11/ung-students-preserve-appalachian-culture-through-art-.php](https://ung.edu/news/articles/2016/11/ung-students-preserve-appalachian-culture-through-art-.php). Also see


6. For complete project photos of these and other activities, see Saving Appalachian Gardens and Stories’ Facebook Album: “2016 ATP Crankie”

Other social media include

http://uzip.co/p/BTek6TKFwBy/
http://explorerabun.com/event/planting-signs-foxfire/
http://www.thehomesteadatl.com/upcoming-workshops-all/planting-by-the-signs-rabun-co-free

Project Outcomes

The following table shows the status of the goals, objectives, and impacts in the original proposal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original goal, outcomes &amp; impacts</th>
<th>Met</th>
<th>Partially Met</th>
<th>Not Met</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All students will serve on at least one leadership team, which is student-selected and governed.</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teams &amp; team leaders included Research (Chris Cato), Marketing &amp; Publicity (Lauren Toebe), Art (Harlie McCurlie), Script (Sommer Coen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The ATP Master Planning Document will guide and coordinate all work.</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Previous Master Planning Document was updated and used.</td>
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<td>Task</td>
<td>Achieved</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>Students will replace the term class with “staff meetings” to emphasize the real-life, accountability of this project.</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Early in the semester, this strategy worked well. But towards the end of the semester, in the rush to complete the project, it did not work well.</td>
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<td>Using qualitative methodologies students will mine archives, photographs, and records during at least one field research trip a month.</td>
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<td>This expectation was exceeded. Six field trips were made in four months.</td>
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<td>They will learn how to construct a research plan with primary documents, keep research logs and communicate their progress and findings to the curator.</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>See attached sample Research Log. The Research Team Leader communicated these findings to curator and to the rest of the team.</td>
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<td>Using narrative analysis, they must mine the oral histories for themes as a way to understand how Appalachians used planting folklore to make meaning in their lives.</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Although students’ feedback noted the research was graduate level, faculty mentors felt it was appropriate for the primary research question.</td>
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<td>As cultural journalists, they must immerse themselves in learning the partners’ story in order to tell it responsibly. They will attend community events at The Foxfire Museum in June, July, Sept and October.</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Students attended five events, in addition to the field trips: two 50th anniversary celebrations in Rabun Gap, two celebrations University of Georgia in Athens, and one visiting lecture at a colleague’s class. See ATP Facebook album, 2016-17 Appalachian Teaching Project at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pg/seedsandstories/photos/?tab=album&amp;album_id=1270988292991553">https://www.facebook.com/pg/seedsandstories/photos/?tab=album&amp;album_id=1270988292991553</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
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<td>They will meet the alumni who created the books and magazines as well as current high school students who are conducting interviews with living people.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Students reported that meeting Barbara Taylor Woodall was the highlight of the experience! She attended the dress rehearsal in November and the following, April, performed with them in their final presentation to Foxfire.</td>
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<td>They will design and create a crankie by identifying visual metaphors, writing a script, cutting images from paper and gluing them to a scroll that is then backlit.</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>This was graduate level work and proved very difficult – but they did it!</td>
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<td>They will offer live performances for other community groups, pending travel budget and prior commitments.</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>The crankie was performed at two conferences, dress rehearsal, community workshop, and final presentation for partner.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student research will focus on Rabun county, GA</td>
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<td>In collaboration with an ATP colleague, students will tour the American Folk life Center at the Library of Congress.</td>
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<td>ATP colleague was ill; mentor followed up on subsequent visit to Library of Congress to arrange for next year.</td>
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<td>Two students will be selected to submit a proposal to ASA.</td>
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<td>One student attended conference; one withdrew.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty co-mentors will pursue a Memorandum of Understanding between UNG and The Foxfire Museum.</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Models of MOUs gathered and reviewed. New director of Foxfire was appointed after project was completed. This will be explored in 2017-2018 project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty co-mentors will serve as resources for the staff of The Foxfire</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>Dr. Dockery served as the GA Humanities Scholar and Rosann Kent lead the Reader Theater for the ATP</td>
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| The digital content for the interpretive program for the partner will be increased. | x | The crankie’s mechanical problems were diagnosed and fixed too late in the spring semester for filming to begin. The filming is proposed for 2017-2017 ATP. |

| Students will increase their understanding of the challenges facing cultural non-profits. They will learn to be “high functioning volunteers” and practice good organizational and communication skills such as planning meetings, follow up documents, confirmation emails and thank you notes. | x | Students worked extensively with this partner to a greater extent than previous partners. For example, they sent 75 handwritten invitations to all board members as well as UNG administrators. See UNG Minutes and Correspondence with Partner. |

| Extended partner discussions between students and curator may lead to other opportunities such as an alternative spring break where college students repair cabins, clear land, or plant gardens for The Foxfire Museum. | x | Students returned – after graduating -- in spring to Foxfire to participate in Planting by the Signs Day. In addition to performing the crankie, they selected a “fertile” day, grew tomato seedlings and packaged seeds. |

This project addressed goals 4 and 5 of the ARC strategic plan in the following manner:
**Goal 4:** Natural and Cultural Assets Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the Region's natural and cultural heritage assets.

The Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center has been a leader in preserving Southern Appalachian culture since its bestselling book in 1972; however, without a digital interpretive component it stands to lose audiences in the current generation, which will ultimately affect earned income for the non-profit. By creating one of the first innovative models for digital interpretation created by and appealing to young people, this ATP better positions Foxfire for its future in community and economic development.

**Goal 5:** Leadership and Community Capacity Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.

Students in this ATP learned and practiced high-level team building skills required for effective next generations leaders: group decision and negotiation, role definition, clear communication among members and handling negative feedback. Learning to trust this process was not easy for undergraduates, but this particular project with its advanced research methodology demanded it. As these students graduate and begin their internships and careers, they report that ATP was by far the most relevant to the workplace.

**Problems Encountered**

The major problem was the crankie performance was not converted to digital format due to time constraints. In their ATP PowerPoint, students identified these four factors that contributed to their time management challenge: Graduate-level research methodology, crankie structure, growing as a team, and, most of all, learning about a complex folk belief system. In retrospect, the faculty co-mentors agree that archival research, script writing, and crankie making was a high expectation and filming the production in three semesters was unrealistic. However, the crankie will be digitized as part of the upcoming ATP (pending approval).

**Program Continuation and Sustainability**

1. **Sustainability of crankie in community.** The partnership with Foxfire will continue for another year. The crankie will be digitized in Year 2. Virtual visitors will be able to access the performance via Foxfire’s website and the performance will be available for visitors at The Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center. Plexiglas has been added to protect the crankie mechanism so that visitors can scroll the crankie and listen to the performance via a tablet. In Year 2, pre-service teachers from the College of Education will join the project to create a webisode that can be broadcast on demand into classrooms in Appalachian Georgia. Thus, the expectations for
sustainability is high. In addition to the current partner, a third partner will be added: Northeast Georgia History Center. This non-profit recently received a grant for a digital production studio to create social studies on-demand programming and is in need of content.

2. Sustainability of ATP at this institution.

The Appalachian Teaching Project stands as the signature project at the Appalachian Studies Center. The College of Education is exploring additional pathways to increase the footprint of its engagement efforts and it is expected that ATP will continue as part of that regional initiative.

Conclusions and Recommendations

What changes did you hope would occur in the community as a result of the project?

When we began the project, our hopes as follows: First, we wanted to reinvigorate the Foxfire glow among younger students. (Foxfire was named after a glowing fungus; Foxfire tradition says students catch the glow, the excitement of talking with elders and recording their stories.) In Southern Appalachia to those of a certain generation, the word Foxfire means stories. It is the star in the cultural preservation world. But we wanted those in the digital generation to be as excited as we were growing up with Foxfire; moreover, we wanted them to become ambassadors for Foxfire. In this we have succeeded. (See attached sample blog post written by a student after the first two visits.)

Our timing could not have been better. Foxfire was celebrating its 50th year as a literary non-profit as well as 30 years of the Foxfire Approach to Teaching and Learning. There were three festivals, a teacher conference, and the release of a 50th anniversary book, the production of an original play as well as our ATP Alumni Theater, and a University of Georgia Library exhibit of new acquired artifacts from Foxfire collections.

By attending – or performing and presenting – at several of these events, students were immersed in Foxfire. For example, students attended two events at the University of Georgia Richard B. Russell Library and met the lead archivist for oral history research who talked with them about the promises and perils of archival research. Together with students from the Appalachian weaving class, they visited a related non-profit, the Hambidge Center, for an exhibit, “Foxfire: Weaving a Visual History.” See http://www.hambidge.org/the-gallery.html

Secondly, we wanted to establish a true, reciprocal partnership that would last beyond the ATP year. Students put in many hours, both in the Foxfire archives and
later as they analyzed scripts and selected imagery. This effort, along with the participation in the 50th anniversary events, laid the ground work for a relationship that did not exist prior to ATP. Foxfire

Finally, we wanted the people of Rabun County to know that their traditions were valued and being passed on. Watching the students interact and build friendships with Foxfire alumni was an unanticipated outcome! They met Alumni Barbara Taylor Woodall as she guest lectured in a colleague’s classroom, corresponded with her via email, read her book, Not My Mountain Anymore. In fact, her comments on the changing nature of Rabun County was the major contribution to their understanding of contemporary Appalachia. They wrote Barbara into the script and invited her to perform with them in the final presentation, Ms. Woodall, a social media gatekeeper, wrote this on Facebook:

*It was an honor to attend the dress rehearsal given by students of the Appalachian Studies Center at North Georgia College. They worked in the archives at the Foxfire Museum creating a beautiful panoramic picture story—Planting By The Signs. Their presentation was authentic, informative, and very well done. Hey! they are taking the glow to Washington DC in December!! Without history, culture and heritage, none of us would be here. I’m tickled as a hen caught in an electric fence!!*“

**Attachments (in PDF format)**

1. **Digital copy or photographs of the poster presentation**

   See poster in far left of photo.  
   https://www.facebook.com/seedsandstories/photos/a.1270988292991553.1073741853.461801257243598/1323440047746377/?type=3&theater

2. **Minutes of meetings with community partners.** (See attached file, UNG Minutes and Correspondence with Partner.)

3. **Flyers, text for PSA announcements, etc.**

   Flyer Foxfire created by partner for April 29, Final Partner Performance  
   https://www.facebook.com/seedsandstories/photos/a.1270988292991553.1073741853.461801257243598/1329253983831650/?type=3&theater

   * **Photographs showing students in action.** See ATP Facebook album, 2016-17 Appalachian Teaching Project at  
   https://www.facebook.com/pg/seedsandstories/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1270988292991553

   11
* Publicity such as newspaper articles, documentation of TV and radio spots, etc.

- *UNG Students Preserve Appalachian Culture*. Article by UNG University Relations.
  

- *UNG Partners with Fannin*. Article by UNG University Relations.
  

- *Appalachian Studies Program students get “crankie” with new project*. See attached article by Sharon Hall in the Dahlonega Nugget.

* Correspondence with community partners. (See attached file, UNG Minutes and Correspondence with Partner.)
Hi Barry, thanks for talking with me about the possibility of using Foxfire’s archives to locate and copy transcripts from interviews related to planting and gardening lore from the first volume. We would like to use these transcripts to create a Crankie based on folklore, planting by the signs. A Crankie is a 19th century medium that is making a come back, especially in Appalachian performance realms. It is a panoramic scene, rolled up inside a box, then hand-cranked so that it scrolls across a viewing screen. The Crankie performance will be offered at venues in north Georgia as well as at the Appalachian Studies Association in 2017 at Virginia and the Appalachian Teaching Project in 2016 in Washington, DC.

Here’s more background about the larger project called Saving Appalachian Gardens and Stories. I’ve also attached the readers theater we discussed. Thanks for passing on the request and let’s talk again soon about how we might partner on this! Thanks, Rosann

The Southern Appalachians have a rich and diverse agricultural heritage, yet heirloom seeds and the elders who save them are rapidly disappearing. For eight years, students and faculty at the University of North Georgia’s Appalachian Studies Center have been collecting heirloom seeds and related ethnocultural memories as part of the Center’s signature research initiative, Saving Appalachian Gardens and Stories, or SAGAS. To preserve this agro-biodiversity and cultural tradition heirlooms seeds — those grown before 1950, passed down through families and communities and never bought or sold — are collected, grown, banked, and shared. Related stories about the seed’s history and related foodways are also collected. From this “memory banking,” students create visual and performance art based on the stories of the seed keepers, thus blurring the edges of science and art. Without such a storyed approach, says Virginia Nazarea, a professor of anthropology from the University of Georgia, biodiversity may be preserved, but cultural memory is ignored.
April 18, 2016 Official request RE ATP partnership and permission for archival research to Barry Stiles, Foxfire Interim Director Part 2.

Although SAGAS has collected many stories about seeds, there are not many stories about planting by the signs, a folk method of agricultural forecasting. According to this practice, cycles of the moon affect plant growth. Students are often directed by the seedkeepers to plant or not to plant on a certain day but they are not familiar with the folklore behind the planting advice. To understand a culture, one must understand its folklore and foodways.

This oral history, and its resulting publications and presentations, will add to the body of literature on this little studied topic. Two chapters on planting and weather lore in the first Foxfire book, originally published 50 years ago by a high school English teacher in a nearby Georgia county is still considered by many to be the most complete documents. However, those chapters are summaries of more than 30 interviews written at the inception of the Foxfire student-produced publication in 1966.

Students will review the original interviews and use the stories to create a Crankie based on folklore, planting by the signs. (A Crankie is a 19th century medium that is making a come back, especially in Appalachian performance realms. It is a panoramic scene, rolled up inside a box, then hand-cranked so that it scrolls across a viewing screen.) The Crankie performance will be offered at venues in north Georgia as well as at the Appalachian Studies Association in 2017 at Virginia and the Appalachian Teaching Project in 2016 in Washington, DC.

Rosann Kent
Director, Appalachian Studies
University of North Georgia
706-864-1540
Hi Barry, we are looking forward to seeing you tomorrow to kick off our much-anticipated Foxfire/UNG Appalachian Studies partnership! As stated in the archival request, students' goals are to:

1) Identify transcripts/recordings about the "planting by the signs" chapter that appeared in the first Foxfire book and

2) Scan or photo available transcripts. This activity is part of a larger effort called the Appalachian Teaching Project and the research will serve as the background for a Cranke, an hand-cranked performance medium. The overall goal of the project for all 15 institutions in the regional teaching collaboration is to increase capacity of community organizations to meet their mission statement and, for us, to preserve and share ethnocultural memories of agricultural traditions.

Details for tomorrow:

Number of people. We have 2 faculty (myself and Dr. Chas Dockery and her young daughter), 1 parent, and 4 students. If this is too many to fit in the archives, we can divide into groups and have some walk around. Visit the gift shop, stroll the baby, etc. Will the archive be large enough for 4 students and either Chas or me?

Time. We will leave Dahlonega about 9 am, go by Clarksville and leave there by 10ish and then come to Rabun Co about 11ish. We are packing a picnic lunch and leave at about 1. Afterwards, we will have to take a look at the stage where students will perform in June. Does that sound like an appropriate schedule?
Hi Rosanne!
Yes, it sounds like a good schedule and there is room in the Archive. We will make it work. It's still pretty old-school as in card index. I will be glad to give everyone an overview of Foxfire and use of the archive. I think we will be mostly limited to transcripts for now. I expect some will be handwritten, just so you know. It might be able to pull the audio files up in the future if needed.
I don't think you'll need anything else. We do have a copy machine in it if you need to use one.
I'm going to leave it to the students to find the material, although I might give a clue or two...
See you tomorrow!
Barry

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Hi Barry, we are looking forward to seeing you tomorrow to kick off our much-anticipated Foxfire-UNG Appalachian Studies partnership! As stated in the archived request, students' goal is to:

1) identify transcripts/recordings about the "planting by the signs" chapter that appeared in the first Foxfire book and

2) scan or photo available transcripts. This activity is part of a larger effort called the Appalachian Teaching Project and the research will serve as the background for a Country Man, hand-coded performance medium. The overall goal of the project for all 15 institutions in the regional teaching collaboration is to increase capacity of community organizations to meet these mission statements and, for us, to preserve and share ethnographic memories of agricultural traditions.
June 6. UNG letter of commitment to Hunter Moorman, chair, Foxfire Board, re digital collaboration

Rosann Kent
Letter of commitment for Foxfire’s NEH Digital Humanities

Hi Hunter, here is my letter of commitment to serve on Foxfire’s content design team if the NEH grant is funded. Meanwhile, my students and I look forward to partnering with Foxfire for the performance for the teachers’ conference on June 25 and continued archival research to create a Crallke for Foxfire as a deliverable for the Appalachian Teaching Project. Rosann

Rosann Kent
Director Appalachian Studies
University of North Georgia
706-884-1540
June. Review of proposal by partner

Hi All, here is the final draft of the Appalachian Teaching Project grant that features a collaboration between the College of Education and the Department of Visual Arts and a mixed methods research. I will direct the narrative inquiry portions and primary research in Foxfire's archives and Chris will direct the art-based research that will result in a crinkle, a moving panoramic shadow box theater. The grant RFP stresses close communication with the partner representatives, Barry Stiles, Interim Director and Curator. The ultimate objective is to increase Foxfire's capacity to grow its interpretive program.

Would any of you have time to look it over today? (I have a doctor's appointment this afternoon and will be submitting it late this evening.)

You can either use the editing function, put notes in red, or call me with corrections--whatever is easiest. 706-499-8208 is my cell! Thank you so much. Rosann

Rosann Kent
Director, Appalachian Studies
University of North Georgia
706-864-1540
Review of proposal by Foxfire board chair

Hunter, 

I’m attaching a few comments for Rosann, in case she’s able to take them into account. I think this is a wonderful idea and should both benefit her students and provide a good experience at Foxfire.

Our thanks to Rosann and to you for partnering with her.

Hunter

Barry,

On Thu, Jun 16, 2016 at 1:16 AM, Barry Stiles <curator@foxfire.org> wrote:

Hi All, here is the final draft of the Appalachian Teaching Project grant that features a collaboration between the College of
June 26, 2016 email from Barry Stiles, Foxfire Interim director re participation in 50th anniversary

Rosann Kent

Re: Getting on the Appalachian Studies Calendar for 2015-16

Hi Rosann,

I hope you are doing well. Ann forwarded your e-mail to me and I am certainly interested in an intern if one would be interested in helping accessioning and doing other museum related activities. There would have to be a well defined schedule and they would need to be self motivated and need little supervision. (I don’t know if that is being unrealistic.) We also would love some help promoting our events. 2016 will be our 50th anniversary and I’m sure we will have several events that year. Perhaps we can talk sometime in July, I look forward to hearing from you.

Barry Stiles

Museum Curator

The Foxfire Museum

P.O.Box 541, Mountain City GA
Thank you Rosann. Good feedback. We are glad you were as pleased as we were. I will be happy to report your feedback back to the GA Humanities Council and I know that this will please them too.

I am delighted to learn about the new ongoing collaboration between your program and Foxfire and about the “cranky” project, the first of many more, we hope!

Keep in touch! And thank you again.

Leslie Grantcer
lesliegrantcer@unc.edu

On Jul 6, 2016, at 6:56 PM, Rosann Kent <Rosann.Kent@ung.edu> wrote:

Hi Leslie, here is the feedback you requested.

— What was YOUR assessment of the evening? how did you feel it went based on your experience with other venues where you have performed?
We were very pleased with the evening. We have performed this Reader Theater formally and informally, and with this venue, it was a pleasure to perform in a professional setting with an attentive audience. Technically, the microphones worked well and stools were provided.

— Is there anything that Foxfire could have done to improve the evening?
No.

— How might you say that this performance might have had an “impact on the community”? The audience not only learned about arts-based research and Reader Theater as a pedagogy but also about how to preserve ethnographic memories and storytelling. Based on their questions and feedback, a similar initiative in Rabun county is possible.

— Are there any future collaborations that you would like to see happen between your project and Foxfire?
Yes, the College of Education at the University of North Georgia and its Appalachian Studies Center would like to participate in the Foxfire Collaborative. In addition, the Center has received a grant from the Appalachian Teaching Project to help Foxfire expand its interpretive program by creating a Cranie, a portable shadowbox theater. (See attached proposal).
Hi Barry, pardon the long email but I wanted to catch you up on our progress as we just finished with our first week of class and we have 9 capstone students that are fired up about The Foxfire Museum!

Team leader
We also created teams and team leaders, Chris Cato, the non-traditional student whom you’ve met, will be our Research Team Leader and will be the point of contact for you. Of course, you may call or contact at any time, but part of the goal is to model for students an effective team. With Chris’ military experience, this is a good opportunity for the other students to experience planning and delegation.

Chris Cato
678-897-1916 (cell)
Cicato2842@ung.edu

Transcription and analysis
We have also transcribed the transcripts and are analyzing them for narrative and visual patterns to use in the crankie. (See attached). We need to make a couple more trips to the archive in order to have plenty of original material to work with.

Would Friday, Sept 2 and Friday, Sept 9 be good days? We thought we would split the class in half, giving priority to those who have not been before.

Follow up research
1) Listen to recordings for files that have missing transcripts
2) Expand our research beyond the first 10 years (Vol 11, for example)

Here are the files with missing transcripts. Which of these are considered Foxfire icons and/or would you like to have included?

- Richard Norton 67-4....you indicated you found a Lester Norton 67-5 that had a mention of planting by the signs...is this the same as Richard, Margaret’s husband?
- Walter Shelnut 71-56(research notes indicated this tape is available)
Email to Barry Stiles, Interim director re project progress – Part 2

To: Barry Stiles
Cc: Christopher Cato (C.CATO2012)
Bcc: Rosann Kent

Rosann Kent
Research follow-up

- Aunt Arie 70-5 (research notes indicated this tape is available)
- Blanch Bradley 73-30 (research notes indicated this tape is available)

Crankie content
Our next steps are to 1) select the best subjects or material 2) create the storyline for the crankie. My understanding is that the crankie as interpretation would need to be faithful to the transcripts as opposed to taking too much of artistic license (telling the story from the point of the seed, for example). Please confirm that approach.

Thank you so much for considering those archival dates and I’m looking forward to seeing you soon, Rosann

From: Barry Stiles [mailto:curator@foxfire.org]
Sent: Friday, August 05, 2016 11:10 AM
To: Rosann Kent <Rosann.Kent@ung.edu>
Subject: 67-5

Hi Rosann,
I finally remembered to look for the audio of the 67-5 interview of Lester Norton and there is some discussion of planting by the signs. You’re in luck!

Barry
Thanks, Barry. I can come both times. Would you prefer that we be there at 9:30 or 10:30 this Friday?

Yes, we ran across some of that content and did not transcribe it.

Thanks again! Rosann

Hi Rosann,

I am leaving by noon on the second and will be out of town until the 11th. If your students want to come on this Friday before I need to leave that would be fine. If you are able to be with them on the 9th it would be fine for them to come as well. I have found the audio you are interested in. Lester Norton is different from Richard. There is some content that some may find objectionable and would need to be left out of any transcript, as in racist types of remarks. The Nortons and Aunt Arle are certainly Foxfire icons, I'm not familiar with the other two you mention but they may have amazing interviews - won't know until you listen to them. I don't want to deter any creativity you and the students might have just as long as it is respectful of the source and people as I am sure you would do anyway.

Barry
Good morning Barry,

I just wanted to reach out and touch base with you before our visit this Friday. Do we need to bring anything specific in order to listen to the audio files? We will also be a slightly larger group this time. It’s looking like 9 total. We have given the students who have not yet been to the archives a miniature briefing on the "do's and don'ts" concerning the archives. We can meet at the office around 0930 for your official briefing if that works for you.

I also wanted to invite you to our Crankie preview we are holding here on November 17th. It will be held on campus at our library (Learning Technology Center), Room 362, from 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

We are looking forward to seeing you and Foxfire again soon. Is there anything from down here we can bring you? Take care and we will see you Friday morning.

Thank you!
Chris

Chris Cato
Vice President, Student Veterans of America - UNGD
VA Student Worker
Office: 706-867-2503
Cell: 678-897-1916
September email re University of Georgia archivist (also a partner with Foxfire)

Yes, Christian, I have learned so much from you already and look forward to more discussions to come! Rosann.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2016, at 2:28 PM, Christian Lopez <lopez@uga.edu> wrote:

Hi Rosann,

It was great to meet you and your students last night. I found the ATP on the web. It’s truly cool, and an excellent example of using oral history in the classroom, experiential learning, performing the archives— the pedagogy is exciting.

Thanks for spending so much time speaking with me. I enjoyed it!

Christian

Christian Lopez
Lead, Oral History and Media Archives Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies Special Collections Libraries
University of Georgia Athens, Georgia
706-542-5782
www.lib.uga.edu/archives
www.his.uga.edu/ATP

Rosann,

Sorry I've been swamped recently, but this press release looks great to me. If Barry has not responded, let's get his input too.

Thanks a lot. Should be a wonderful project.

Hunter

On Fri, Oct 28, 2016 at 7:40 AM, Rosann Kent <Rosann.Kent@eng.edu> wrote:

Hi Hunter and Barry, here is a draft of a press release a student has written about the upcoming dress rehearsal of the crankie. Would you look over it and let us know if there is anything you wished changed?

Thank you, Rosann
Hi Barry, one of the students whom you’ve met, Sommer Coen, had a good idea about inviting living relatives of the contacts.

Margaret Norton
Eva Vinson
Daisy Justice
Lon Dover

The Yorks (this is on A-87-4, when Wig is talking to Margaret and Richard Norton. Wig actually tell the story about “his and her”gardens, but no first names were mentioned.

What do you think, Rosann?

Good Afternoon Mr. Barry Stiles,
My name is Sommer Coen. I’m a part of the UNG student group from the Appalachian Studies Program that is creating the Scrolling Through History Crankie. It occurred to us in today’s class discussion that the living relatives of our selected Foofare contacts may want to view the crankie at the Dress Rehearsal on November the 17th. We would like to hand write and personally mail invitations to relatives, if that is at all possible.

Our selected contacts are:
Margaret Norton
Lon Dover
Daisy Justice
Mr. & Mrs. Dooly
Mr. & Mrs. Yorks (There are several Yorks but we heard of this couple with a divided garden from a Norton interview.)

Do you know if Foofare has kept a list of relatives for the contacts? If so, we would appreciate their Information. If not that is alright as well, we don’t want to make Foofare do any extra work.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing back soon,
Sommer Coen
scooen6851@ung.edu
November 2016 to Barry Stiles, Interim Director re invitations to dress rehearsal part 1

Rosann Kent

Re: Invitations for the Crankie Dress Rehearsal to the Living Relatives of Contacts

Rosalyn,

I'll let them decide if they want to give it a shot. They met Barbara Taylor Woodall last week and we'll make sure she gets an invite.

An A student is sending a packet of invitations for your board and community board to seed out as you would like. She's on her way to post office now and is using two day delivery. Thanks for your help!

Rosann Kent
Director, Agapechildren Studies
University of North Georgia
Tel: 864-1540

From: Barry Stiles <barry_stiles@foxies.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2016 10:56:55 AM
To: Rosann Kent
Subject: Re: Invitations for the Crankie Dress Rehearsal to the Living Relatives of Contacts

That sounds like a good idea. We don't have readily available records on any surviving relatives though, so I guess the students could dig through the phone book and track down people. Both Margaret Norton and Daisy Justice lived on Betsy's Creek Road in Dillard.

From: Rosann Kent
Sent: Tuesday, November 1, 2016 3:26 PM
To: barry_stiles@foxies.org
Subject: For Invitations for the Crankie Dress Rehearsal to the Living Relatives of Contacts

Hi Barry, one of the students whom you’ve met, Sommer Coen, had a good idea about inviting living relatives of the contacts:

Margaret Norton:
Eva Wilson:
Daisy Justice
Lon Dover

The Yorks (this is on A-67-4, when Wig is talking to Margaret and Richard Norton. Wig actually tell the story about “his and her” accidents just on first screen page mentioned.)
November, 2016  Follow up RE ATP dress rehearsal to Barry Stiles, Foxfire Interim Director.

Hi Barry,

I can’t remember if I sent you directions to get to the campus library for the dress rehearsal. The building is called Library Technology Center and the parking is better if you park in back of the library. When you come across the mountains from Cleveland, you will reach your first readlight as you come into Dahlonega. Turn left. Continue forward until you come to the next major intersection, Morrison Moore Parkway and South Chestalee. (There are other small interections but this is the main artery coming up from Gainesville). Turn right onto South Chestalee, or Hwy 60.

Then, you will see a Dairy Queen on your right. Immediately, before the DQ, is a road to the left. Turn left into that road. The first building is the military science building, marked 17 on the map. The next little road to left will take you to the library parking lot. The library is marked 100 on the map.

You will be entering the library from the back. Walk straight through to the front. The elevator is to the right or take the stairs to the left. The event is on the 3rd floor, room 382. It is the largest room on that floor. We will have music so perhaps you can hear us.

My cell is 706-499-8208. Call if you get lost.


rosann

Feb 1, 2017 Congratulations on evaluations
Rosann, this is really impressive. Please congratulate everyone for me. I know they all worked very hard.
Barry

From: Rosann Kent
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 2:53 PM
To: Susan Ayres; Christopher Jespersen; Pamela Sachant; Sheri Hardee; Andrew Pearl
Cc: Chris Dockery; Barry Whitemore; Esther Morgan-Ellis; curator@foxfire.org
Subject: Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP) earns top evals for arts-based research

Hello all,
This just in from community volunteer Steve Bordanaro who serves as public speaking coach for the ATP team. Not bad for the smallest program and newest Appalachian Studies Center in the regional teaching collaboration. Thank you, Dr. Chris Dockery, for your leadership. This arts-based research outperformed two graduate research projects! This year’s project focused on helping the Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center increase their digital interpretive capacity. You can watch the presentation to the Appalachian Regional Commission here.
http://www.etsu.edu/cas/cass/projects/ngcass/default.php I've also attached the evals; see pages 13/14.

"Drum Roll...PLEASE........check out the statistical rankings based upon evaluation scores for 2016-2017 Appalachian Teaching Project (First Place to Last)"

1. UNG = 811
2. U of Tenn = 763
3. Radford = 761
Hi Barry, good to talk to you last week and thanks for fixing the crankie! We are looking forward to coming back on Sat. April 29 to perform it in conjunction with planting the garden and seed sharing.

Meanwhile, I presented the crankie at The Mildred Haun Literature Conference called Foodways: The Intersection of Food in Appalachian Literature, Culture, Traditions, and History” at Walters State College in Morristown, TN. The session description is below. I have been invited to include it in the conference proceedings. Do I need to permission to publish from archival committees? This is not the script that Sommer will be seeking permission to publish. It is an article written about the process and will contain quotes from the archival transcripts. Thanks for your advice.

Once I hear from you, I will touch base with T.J. regarding citation formatting.

"When the signs are in the foot: Exploring foodways and almanacs from Foxfire’s Appalachia"

For the 2016 Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP), students in the Appalachian Studies Minor at the University of North Georgia wanted to help The Foxfire Museum to increase its interpretive capacity to reach a new generation, both in Rabun County, Georgia and beyond. As the central focus, students located transcripts from early Foxfire’s interviews about agricultural traditions, e.g. planting by the signs. Then, after analyzing the field texts, they wrote a script and created crankie – a moving panoramic shadow box theater. This 19th century entertainment medium, which is making a comeback in Appalachian performance realms, features a long illustrated scroll wound onto two spools that are loaded into a box with a viewing screen. The crankie is backlit and he scroll is hand-cranked while the stories are told. The crankie serves as an innovative model that others can use to present many of the other subject headings in The Foxfire
April 24, 2016 email to Megan Connolly, mutual partner of Foxfire RE Final Crankie performance at Foxfire
Weather permitting, we are going to do it outside at the picnic area. If the rains come, we will move hold it inside the Long House :)
Hey Barbara! Students are coming tomorrow to foxfire to perform the crankie. Any chance you'd show up and perform from your book -- quote from Wig? “Our text books are not in here, but out there. Your grandparents are leaving our lives daily. When they are gone, so are magnificent hunting tales, ghost stories, tricks of self-sufficiency, suffering and sharing and building and healing, planting by the signs of the moon, plus so much more. This information will be lost forever if we do not collect and save it now.”

What time?

It starts at 1 and goes until 4, but my understanding is that we go first followed by a talk from a farmer, and ending up with planting the garden.

K. Sure. I just got an appointment 2-30ish

Where does this happen up there? Office??

I'm not sure about that part...it will be too big for office...I will be there at noon to find out. There are other groups that will be visiting and it might be raining. TJ said something about the long house? Do you know what that is?

I can also ask TJ and get back to you.

Yes. I know the Long house. ok... let me know.

Barbara, here is the script. I will do a basic introduction and explain academic context of project and then the students -- and I hope you -- will take it from there! If you see any ways we can improve, we will be happy to take your suggestions! Thank you! Rosann
Hi Glen, T.J. and Linda,

I've talked with each of you individually about a collaborative between our three organizations -- The Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center, The Northeast Georgia History Center NEGHC and the Appalachian Studies Center/College of Education -- to create a webisode on agricultural traditions for classrooms in north Georgia via the NEGHC Cottrell Digital Studio. Here's a suggested title and abstract that I'd like to send on to the ARC for preliminary approval as well as be in the internal process at UNG. Let me know what you think...it's purposefully vague as we will fill in the blanks together.

Meanwhile, I will send a doodle poll out for a phone conference. I'm looking forward to working with you both! Rosann

Scrolling through History: Using digital storytelling to deliver social studies content to classrooms in Appalachian Georgia

In partnership with The Foxfire Museum & Heritage Center in Rabun County, GA and the Cottrell Digital Studio at the Northeast Georgia History Center in Gainesville, Ga, students in the 2017-2018 the UNG Appalachian Teaching Project will produce an on-demand webisode on agricultural traditions in Southern Appalachia. The webisode will feature the “planting by the signs crankie,” a long illustrated scroll that is cranked while the story is told that was created in the first year of this project and include pre and post activities aligned with Georgia Performance Standards.

http://www.negahc.org/pages/78/cottrell-digital-studio
Appalachian Studies Program students get ‘crankie’ with new project

By Sharon Hall

If you don’t know what a “crankie,” or if you’ve never heard of planting by the signs, you have the chance to learn about both Thursday, Nov. 17. Students from the Appalachian Studies Program (ASP) will be promoting a project featuring both at the University of North Georgia Library Technology Center, Room 382 before taking it on the road to the Appalachian Teaching Project (ATP) national conference in Washington D.C. in December.

A crankie is a moving pan-

cum, a shadow box theater. It is a form of entertainment from the 1900s.

The subject of the crankie is about planting by the signs—using the moon and signs of the zodiac to garden. It is something that’s been done for hundreds of years. It is still a way of life for many people, especially in the Appalachian region that are part of the Consortium of Appalachian Centers. Students from the consortium gather in D.C. annually to share projects that answer that question.

“All the answers are dif-


ficult,” said Roseann Kent, ASC Director and instructor. “We want Appalachian students and faculty to plant seeds—collecting, saving and banking heritage seeds and the stories that go with them.

An additional requirement for Appalachian Studies Program students is to participate in the local Farmers Market, sharing seeds and stories at the Foxfire Museum’s garden (located at the program’s house, the historic ‘Vickey House’), and creating a ‘map’ of gardens with heritage seeds and collecting the stories of those who plant them.

This year’s project in-

volves both the university’s visual arts students and a collaborative partner with the Georgia Appalachian Heritage Museum and Heritage Center’s Foxfire Fund, Inc.

The final reports will feature in the ASP’s final project in prose-


ing and interpreting the folk tales and enhancing and fostering an appreciation of local people’s lives.

It is also a method of germinating a sense of place and appreciating of local people, community and culture through authentic engagements of students’ relatives and original stories.

The project led to a maga-


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February 25, 2017
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

University of North Georgia’s
Blue Ridge Campus

When European settlers first came to these mountains, they brought with them traditions from the old world such as “planting by the signs,” a method of planting (and living) according to the moon’s phases and position in the zodiac. Only a few gardeners still plant by this method. Learn what UNG students discovered when they interviewed those gardeners from Rosann Kent, Director of Appalachian Studies Center. Listen to stories about these and other agricultural traditions from master storyteller, Keith Jones, whose family has lived in the area for generations.
EVERY SEED HAS A STORY.

Presented by Appalachian Studies Center at UNG

June 25, 7 p.m.
Rearden Theatre, Rabun Gap
Nacoochee School
foxfire50th.org
PLANTING BY THE SIGNS

FREE SPECIAL EVENT

Foxfire, the University of North Georgia, Timpson Creek Farm, and Sustainable Mountain Living Communities have collaborated for a special presentation on planting by the signs. Join us **Saturday, April 29, 2017** from **1:00 pm – 4:00 pm** to learn how moon phases and the zodiac have influenced agriculture for thousands of years and continue to play a role in farming today.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>First issue?</th>
<th>CONTACT #</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<td>yes</td>
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<td>A-67-4</td>
<td>From Dillard Control Sheet Front &amp; back, photo of richard mule, and</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>A-70-5</td>
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<td>GREEN, Hillard</td>
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Foxfire. If you’ve never been to the Center or even read nor heard of the books/magazines, you are truly missing out on one of the most naturally grin producing pieces of Southern Appalachian history. During our short summer semester class for Agricultural Traditions for Contemporary Appalachia, I was blessed to be a part of two field trips to the Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center. Our purpose for these visits was to collect data from their archives which discussed gardening by the signs. This may sound simple enough, but I ensure you that it really wasn’t.

The first obstacle to get past when going there to conduct academic research in their archives is the place itself. Sitting on over 100 acres of majestic mountain land are numerous cabins, barns and other outbuildings dating back to the 19th century. All of these American treasures are filled with artifacts, hand crafted items and if you’re lucky, a person who specializes in those crafts will be present to demonstrate their construction. We were fortunate enough to have the curator, Barry Stiles, lead us along the winding path in and between these buildings. He took his time and gave us a brief history of each cabin and their contents. For that, we are forever grateful. Barry’s knowledge is endless.

Secondly, both trips were on gorgeous June days. The first being a little cooler than the second honestly. Accompanying these glorious highland days comes the childhood urge to explore the unknown. So that’s exactly what we did. After Barry’s tour, we couldn’t help but to continue on our own. With the warm summer sun darting through the tall hardwoods, we were on our way. Like carefree kids, we walked among the old homes looking in windows, doors, ringing the bell in the old chapel and walking on old timey stilts outside the Shooting Creek cabin. In my mind I could hear John Denver singing *Take Me Home, Country Roads*. It was nice to escape the hustle and bustle of adult life for those few moments.

The third and final obstacle I faced was encountered during the actual data mining itself. My words will never be strong enough to convey the feelings I felt while holding those precious hand written interviews from the late 60’s and early 70’s. Reading the words spoken by those long gone mountaineers who were born in the late 1800’s, was mystifying to say the least. Reading their life stories written in old Appalachian dialect was such a treat. The knowledge these mountain folk possessed is awe inspiring. Some did just about everything “by the signs”. The proof was in their existence. Without the ability to produce crops large enough to feed their families, sometimes neighbors, and seed the following season, they would have died off long ago. It was extremely easy and enjoyable to read totally off the research subject. I feel honored to be even a small part of this collection. It has given to me experiences I could only have dreamed of. Again, if you have never been to, or even heard of Foxfire, I highly suggest that you fix that.