

# **NEWS** APPALACHIAN HISTORY SERIES

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FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

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**STECOAH, NC** - - - The Appalachian History Series is proud to announce the second printing of it's award winning book *FONTANA -- A POCKET HISTORY OF APPALACHIA* just in time for Christmas. James Michner's study of the fictitious *Centennial* provided an overview of the settlement of the American West. *Fontana* does the same for the southern Appalachians -- but it is the real history of a real place.

Some areas in the southern Appalachian mountains are known for mining, others for lumber production. Many have Indian place names and most preserve some remnants of their pioneer heritage. But few locales experienced all the cultural and social changes that are indicative of the entire region. The area affected by the construction of Fontana dam and lake situated along the Little Tennessee River in western North Carolina is one of these special places. Endowed with tremendous natural resources but geographically isolated, the area was both coveted and avoided. A wild land in the very heart of the great Cherokee Nation, the area hosted the culmination of Cherokee removal along the infamous

Trail of

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Tears. Early explorers and traders ventured into its wildness in search of natural treasures. Hardy settlers hacked out a living in its forest primeval. Then in an amazingly short period of time, lumber barons, large scale miners, and other industrialists transformed the area from pioneer settlements to the forefront of American technology. Part of it was chosen for the establishment of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The completion of a massive wartime public works project drastically altered the natural and cultural complexion of the place. Then finally, as is fashionable in most of Appalachia today, tourism and recreation evolved as the primary economic activities.

Lance Holland has crafted an enlightening and entertaining narrative that clothes the bones of history in a manner that allows the reader to become involved in the experiences being described. He is a man of varied talents: back country guide; builder; co-author, *Hiking Trails of the Smokies*; location scout/manager for motion pictures including *The Last of the Mohicans*, *The Fugitive*, *Nell*, *My Fellow Americans*, *Forces of Nature*, and many others; and producer/director of historic documentaries including *Nantahala - Land of the Noonday Sun*, and *Hiking on Hazel Creek*.

"Humor is always a precious commodity, particularly in historical narratives. There's humor aplenty in *Fontana*. All in all, it's a dandy book that will help folks who reside in or visit the area have a clearer understanding of just where they are" wrote George Ellison, author and historian. Duane Oliver, author of *Hazel Creek*

*Then and Now*, stated, "This is a book that needed to be written, and I'm glad  
Lance

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has done it with archival material, folk memories, and information not found in any  
other book."

*FONTANA - A POCKET HISTORY OF APPALACHIA* will make the perfect  
Christmas gift for anyone with interest in the Appalachian Mountains. The book is  
238 pages with over 120 photos and maps and can be ordered by sending a check  
to Appalachian History Series, 1241 Lower Stecoah Road, Robbinsville, NC  
28771. The price including tax, shipping and handling is \$20. For more  
information and order forms log on to [www.appalachianhistory.com](http://www.appalachianhistory.com) or call 828-  
479-6960.