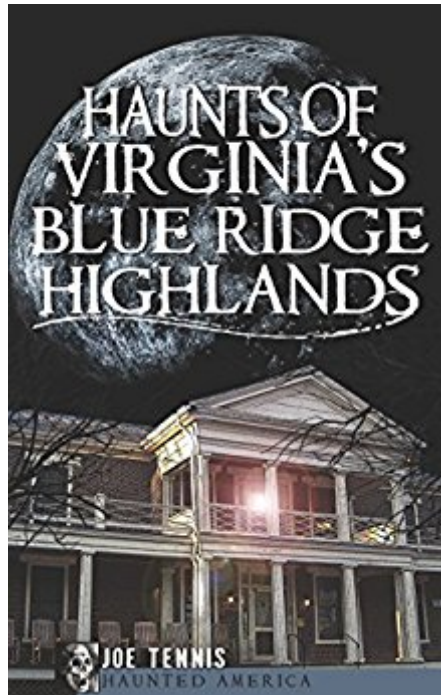




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Haunts Of Virginia's Blue Ridge Highlands (Haunted America)



Synopsis

A Confederate soldier forever lost at Cumberland Gap, the wispy woman of Roanoke College and the spectral horse that runs the streets of Abingdon are among the restless spirits of southwestern Virginia. Join local author Joe Tennis as he takes readers on both sides of the Blue Ridge to explore the ghostly tales of Appalachia and the Crooked Road. Peer over the rim of the New Castle Murder Hole, dive into the mysteries of Mountain Lake and wander among the lost graves of Wise County to discover the haunted lore of Virginia's Blue Ridge Highlands.

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Customer Reviews

NICE

My wife and I are both enjoying this small book on the history and hauntings of some of our area. Concisely and enjoyably written, the book has some interesting photographs, one of which may

have been her great-grandparents' home.

Interesting but needs more depth.

great book.

Having recently moved to Virginia and being a lover of local tales, I was very much looking forward to this book, especially after reading the reviews. I was unfortunately very disappointed. The "stories" are lacking in substance, very sketchy, and poorly written (disconnected). I do think there is good building material in this book; however, it is not built up to the ghost story level, and the historical background necessary to appreciate the stories is not developed sufficiently.

I enjoyed the history in 'Haunts of Virginia's Blue Ridge Highlands' because I found out new things or at least things that I had forgotten. All the while, this book took me to places and gave me a sense of a journey with stories that are crisp, sometimes short but decidedly pointed. It's not gory and full of horror. Tennis doesn't bore us with un-necessary details. All the while, he remains rooted in reality. Joe Tennis does not flat-out tell us a place is haunted. Instead, he lays out the facts and lets the reader decide. Sometimes that might be in the evidence of footsteps or shadows or unexplained noises. Sometimes it comes in overwhelming feelings. And sometimes, in the case of colleges, he lets us know what the campus legend may be - like in the ongoing story of two Radford dormitories believed to be haunted, though no one really knows when, where, why or how! I could sense that particular story - "Haunts of the Heth House" - was tossed in the mix as evidence of how a story gets out of hand. Almost complex, this story stands out. And it's funny. In fact, it's more about paranoia than any real evidence of a ghost. For a gung-ho ghost hunter, though, it could be misread. So pay attention. It would be easy to miss the author's subtle humor - and underlying message: Maybe this place or that one was never really haunted. But, at least, that's been the story. And, with just a few sparing words, he gives us some clues to, again, make up our own minds. Most attention might be paid to the author's own revelations at the Reynolds House. It is the book's only first-person account. And it's kind of creepy. But it's not the only shining moment: Simply savor the spirit of the Civil War soldier in Cudjo's Cave with chilling detail of a uniform and facial features and the fright of young rangers, leading a tour. Feel the rain casting down upon a schoolteacher at a ghostly grave. And laugh with Indians haunting Wolf Creek. If you love Virginia and you love ghostly stories that the whole family will enjoy, certainly, this book is for you. What's best is that most of the

places mentioned can even be visited!_____

Joe Tennis has compiled the absolute best story pertaining to the legend of our "spirits" at Historic Avenel in Bedford that I have ever read. Honestly. I am very persnickety about any literary interpretation of Avenel's families and their legacies, yet in my opinion, Joe has written the best one to date! It was accurate to the "T" historically presented better than I could have imagined. We are very privileged to have had him include our home in such a fine book! I am proud as well as thrilled knowing that he felt the "presence" of The Avenel Plantation's matriarchs. He truly wrote from his heart. While I am partial to Avenel's chapter, I found the rest of the stories equally fascinating. The stories are fresh and intriguing. Another plus is that this book can be enjoyed by all ages. Imagine reading while camping or to a captive group of youngsters enjoying a sleepover! Again, my hat is off to Joe Tennis. Annette K. Allen Co-Chairman of The Historic Avenel Foundation

Now that is a winner! Beautiful! The story of Avenel is my favorite (aside from the Major Graham Mansion).....very nice touches of humor and insight sprinkled everywhere! A must read for the closet ghost hunter who has one eye on history and the other on a good story.

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