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Stories of historic but forgotten roads of Hunter Mill Road Corridor uncovered

Three local men have produced a 36 page illustrated booklet telling the stories of 12 historic abandoned roads and five remnants of “Old Lawyers Road” in the Hunter Mill Road corridor. Extensive historical research along with photography and cartography were needed to fully expose a surprisingly good record of local history.



Ken Jones, Jim Lewis and Charlie Balch on Old Lawyers Road

The booklet, entitled “Forgotten Roads of the Hunter Mill Road Corridor,” contains wonderful color photographs of roads, stream crossings or fords, and mill races that were originally built over one hundred years ago. The fact that many of these historic remnants can still be clearly seen today makes their history come to life.

The stories of road history encompass pre-Revolutionary War, pre-Civil War, Civil War, post Civil War and 20th Century events. This range of over 250 years demonstrates the entrepreneurial and agrarian character of the citizens from Difficult Run to Vienna. As we travel daily through the area, we are typically unaware of the history wrapped around old roads crisscrossing the land.

In addition to the many color pictures throughout the booklet, four aerial photographs from 1937 and 1981 dramatically illustrate the routes of the forgotten roads. Many of these roads are also shown on an 1862 Civil War map.

In order to accurately track the abandoned roads in the Corridor, they were surveyed on foot using a hand-held GPS receiver. Then these paths were overlaid on U. S. Census Bureau Maps in order to put the findings into the context of modern roads. In total, 13 maps, both old and new, are included in the booklet to aid the reader in understanding road placement.

The booklet is now offered to the public for sale for \$14 at www.HMDL.org. All proceeds from the sale of the booklet will be used to support local preservation efforts, historical research, and placement of historical markers.