Narratives of displacement:
Reconsidering race and archaeological research in the
Virginia Blue Ridge
Audrey Horning
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Forced eviction of Mrs. Walker Jenkins
Revising the Narrative
Project Area: Nicholson, Corbin, and Weakley Hollows
‘unlettered folk...primitive agriculture...ragged children....never had seen the flag or heard of the Lord’s prayer.’

‘Centres Where Intelligence Practically is Missing Reported by Psychologists!’
When archaeologists found a toy ray gun in the rubble of Corbin Hollow, they knew these were not people “cut off from the current of American life.”
Leona Dyer Brown interviewed at site of her childhood home.
Madison County Population
(according to the Census)
1800: 4,896 white
    3,436 black – 41%
1860: 4,457 white
    4,397 black – 49.6%
2018: 11,553 white – 86.9%
    1,223 black – 9.2%
18th-century roads across the Blue Ridge

18th-century Skinner/Barbee house

Mt Vernon iron furnace

Antebellum Belmont Plantation

Enslaved labor
The Narrative of Bethany Veney

A SLAVE WOMAN.

With Introduction by Rev. Bishop MALLALIEU,

and

Commentary Notices from Rev. V. A. COOPER, Superintendent of Home for Little Wanderers, Boston, Mass.,

and

Rev. ERASTUS SPAULDING, Meilbury, Mass.

WORCESTER, MASS.
1885.
Judith & Tilda
Elizabeth
Dafney & Moses
Thomas
Copper skillet

Smooth gun

1807 will of James Hurt, Weakley Hollow
1818 will of James Ward
‘Lucy, a woman, Jack a boy, Ciely a girl, Lewis a boy’
Nicholson/Ward property after park acquisition, 1936
Indenture of William Nicholson to James Ward 1810
“bestow him with a liberal education such as befitting a poor man’s son” (Madison County Will Book 2: 251).
1821 will of Benjamin Lillard, naming Simon, Betty, and Sharlot (Charlotte)
Sale of Simon & Betty

Hire of Charlotte
1868: Arthur Lee dragged from his home and beaten to death
Skyland kitchen staff

Corbin Hollow family (Eddie & Blanche Nicholson) with baskets to sell at Skyland
For years, Madison County’s Jim Lillard has dreamed of ways to remember people who once lived in the area now SNP. He had to. One of those people was his mother Margaret Ruth Woodward Lillard, who was born in Park territory in 1918. Things turned out well for Jim’s family (though many others were not so fortunate), but they, nevertheless, were displaced from land they loved. Because Jim wanted to remember and celebrate this heritage, he created