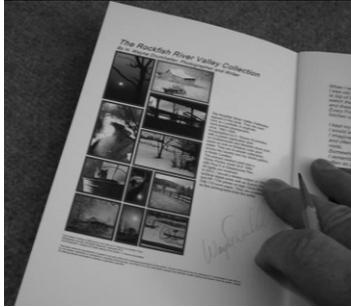


About The Author and his Book

Wayne Drumheller, a native of the Rockfish River Valley, Virginia, is a distinguished photojournalist, writing consultant, book editor, author and fine art photographer.

He became Editor and Founder of the Creative Short Book Writers Project in 2010. Through partial gifts-in-kind support for editing, layout, design and printing, he offers free workshops to interested and aspiring authors and writers groups.



Since 2010, he has helped over 100 regional artisan writers publish their biographies, children's books, memoirs, collections of prose/poetry/photography/art and full-length nonfiction and fiction books. All net proceeds from his consulting, editing, workshops, books, photography illustrations and cover designs go to the Creative Short Book Writers Project.

He received his Bachelor's Degree from California State University at Sonoma and his Master of Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is an active member of the Burlington Writers Club, North Carolina Writers' Network, Virginia Blue Ridge Writers Club, Alamance Photography Club, Burlington Artists League Gallery, The Ansel Adams Society and the Photography Society of America.

His published photography is recognized by collectors of fine artisan photography for his creative approach and commitment to the finished print. His original photographs and limited edition prints are in private homes in Virginia, North Carolina, New York, Florida, California and Canada. They have been published in his books. His fine photography work is recognized by collectors for his unique creative approach and commitment to the finished print. Many of his original photographs are in private homes in Virginia, North Carolina, New York, Florida and California. They have been published in his books:

Appalachian Sunrise
Blue Mountain Highway Home
A Rockfish Valley Poet and His Camera
Living Above The Waterfall
My Alamance: A Photographer's Notebook
Writing As Art, Editing and Publishing

His advanced education in photography, photojournalism and writing began at seventeen when he left his home near Wintergreen, Virginia to serve in the US Army. As a photographer and student of the history of photography, he learned early that he could create, reflect and even mirror the simple things in life and celebrate the goodness to be found in most people.

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"Wayne has celebrated his life and family in narrative poetic prose and contemporary photography. His books richly illustrates the landscape of our youth and if you were fond of The Walton Family, you will meet another memorable family in his books headed by a mother who

sang in the kitchen while baking bread and a father who plowed his field of corn and also worked, as mine did, at the DuPont Plant in Waynesboro, Virginia."

Earl Hamner, Jr., creator of The Walton's TV series, Falcon Crest, Twilight Zone and a native and dear friend of Nelson County, Virginia native.

A Brief History of My Family and The Rockfish River Valley

The Rockfish River Valley encompasses the area from Brent's Mountain and Three Ridge Mountain to Afton Mountain. It lies in the shadow of the eastern slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountain. Two hollows located near streams within the eastern slopes are named Spruce and Stoney Creek. The upper Stoney Creek has a falls.

Rockfish River Valley is named for the fact that before the dams on the James River were constructed, rockfish ran from the bays to the farthestmost points west on the rivers into the upper valley; therefore the name Rockfish Valley.

The Rockfish River has a north and a south fork and flows through a major portion of the valley, from the Blue Ridge Mountain ridges on Reed's Gap to the northernmost peaks of Three Ridge Mountain, then down even further, dropping 3000 feet to meet the Tye River and the south fork of the Rockfish River. Humpback Mountain area near Rockfish Gap at Afton, Virginia feeds the north fork. The two forks merge near the southern intersection of Routes 6 and Highway 151.

I am a descendant of the one of the first Drumhellers in America; Johannes Leonard Drumheller and his wife Henrietta "Hetty" who were born in now Ingelheim, Germany. They arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on the ship "Mary and Jamie" which sailed from Amsterdam via England to Philadelphia. It landed October 26, 1754. Leonard's signature is on the ship's passenger and port list. They had three or four children at the time of arrival and settled in the Western District of Berks County, PA. Several of their children stayed in Berks County but Leonard and Hetty and four other children move to establish a permanent home near Fabre's Mill/Scottsville, Albemarle County on the lower Rockfish River.

This was probably somewhere between 1774 and 1783. Leonard bought land near Appleberry Mountain and established a thriving milling and oak wood drum making trade.

Because they were strong abolitionists and active traders, it is thought they that interacted with the Monacan Indians who camped near creeks and small streams in the Rockfish River Valley. I have also learned that some of the first white settlers came to the Rockfish Valley area prior to 1734 and to the Nellysford-Wintergreen vicinity before 1740. They were mostly of Scotch and Scotch-Irish origin.

The first trail in the valley, known as "The Thoroughfare," was cleared in the 1740s. The present day Patrick Henry Highway--route 151-- closely follows this passage way.

My personal ancestry search shows that I am a distant relative to some the first settlers to purchased land in the valley from the 1780s to the early 1800s.

Among them were the Colemans and Ewings. In 1812 Mr. Coleman built his permanent hilltop home, "Wintergreen." The Wintergreen Resort uses the name today. He also built the Ewing home, "Elk Hill," around 1825. A mill, a church, a general store and post office were once located at Wintergreen named for the Coleman home.

My grandparents, Hayward and Sally Marshall Dameron, lived on a small farm on Spruce Creek Road. He was a retired World War I Veteran. She was a descendant and relative of many of the original settlers. The farm was just a short walk to the original Wintergreen community general store located just off the roadway that leads to the nearby Wintergreen Resort.

I was born in December 1945 to Author B. Drumheller and Catherine Dameron Drumheller in a house on Berryhill Road near where the north and south fork of the Rockfish River merge. It was a 48 acre farm bought by my father in 1944 on a G.I. Loan. In 1953 he built a new house on

a section of the farm fondly called the "Old Stage Coach Road." According to family legend and stories, it was an early colonial road traveled by many notable and noble settlers, traders, Native Americans, dignitaries, military leaders, sons of liberty and American Presidents making their way, at the time, to the very outer edge of the Appalachian Frontier.

This was the home and place in the valley that I left on June 23 1963.

Source: The Drumheller Family Records at the Albemarle Historical Museum in Charlottesville, Virginia and Heartbeats of Nelson by Paul Saunders

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Leonard bought land near Appleberry Mountain and established a thriving grist mill and oak drum trade.

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Source: Historian Gene Crotty and The Drumheller Family Records at the Albemarle Historical Museum in Charlottesville, Virginia.

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