Here is a remarkably rich collection of stories, testimonials, and reminiscences that form a multi-faceted portrait of three neighboring Blue Ridge communities. These oral histories speak of the power of place and the ever-shifting social dynamic so shaped by it, but also to the power of collaboration, involving decade-long efforts by Patricia Beaver, her vast cadre of students, and the many local residents whose voices they’ve captured so effectively. The result is a compelling tripartite case study that contributes much to our understanding of the interplay between Appalachian culture and community, past, present, and future.

—John C. Inscoe
University of Georgia

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Table of Contents

Map of the EKCHO Communities .......................................................... v
Acknowledgements ................................................................................ vi
EKCHO Board Members 2012 ................................................................. viii
Research in Anthropology 5120: Appalachian Culture and Social Organization .... ix
ARC Teaching Project ............................................................................ x
ASU Students Who Contributed to the Study .......................................... xi
Introduction ........................................................................................... xii

1. Meat Camp .......................................................................................... 1
   The Winebarger Mill: William Winebarger and Ray Moretz ..................... 2
   Woodrow Wilson Winebarger .............................................................. 22
   Leonard Greer ..................................................................................... 46
   Johnny Greer ...................................................................................... 64
   Lloyd Miller ......................................................................................... 70
   Margaret Miller ................................................................................... 78
   Mary Norris ......................................................................................... 84
   Evonne Settle, Imogene Braswell, Larry Braswell ................................... 88
   Thomas C. Miller ................................................................................. 106
   Eula Miller Dollar, Debbie Dollar McGuire, Darrell Dollar, and Mary Belle Main ........................................................................ 114
   Barry Dollar ......................................................................................... 126
   Claude and Minnie Profitt by June Trivette Weaver and Eileen Trivette Hodges, with Dean Trivette ........................................................................ 130
   Doris (Dot) Trivette Greer ................................................................. 136
   George Wilson ..................................................................................... 142

II. Pottertown Gap and Elk Knob State Park ........................................ 155
   Dave and Betty Martin ........................................................................ 156
   Sterling Carroll ................................................................................... 166
   Larry Trivette ..................................................................................... 178

III. Tamarack or Pottertown ................................................................. 191
   Council L. Main ............................................................................... 192
   George Washington Maine Jr. ............................................................ 212
   Evelina Idol ....................................................................................... 222
   Dave Main ......................................................................................... 234
   Edgar Eller ......................................................................................... 242
   Patsy Eller ......................................................................................... 254
   Gary Ellison ....................................................................................... 260
   Earle Jean Munday ............................................................................ 270
   Darlene Cornett .................................................................................. 276
   Annelle Mains Potter ......................................................................... 284
   Mary Alice Potter and Rachel Potter .................................................... 288

IV. Sutherland ....................................................................................... 293
   Kathleen Sutherland Love ................................................................. 294
   Len Moretz ....................................................................................... 304
   Charlotte Sutherland Stanley ............................................................. 312
   Joyce Sutherland Davis ................................................................... 320
   Joe Stephens ...................................................................................... 332

Index .................................................................................................... 345

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