

The
History of Paxton Lodge
and
The Indian Valley Railroad

By
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My name is Kaley Bentz and at the time I wrote this report I was 17 years old and a senior at Greenville High School. My Great Aunt and Uncle are Ron and Jane Schwartz, who own and operate Paxton Lodge today. My parents lived at Paxton when I was born and we lived in house #3 until I was three years old. When I was a smaller child, my family and I used to go to Paxton every Friday and visit with whoever might be there that day. We would play pool, run around on the lawns, go hiking all around the property, and scare ourselves in the basement by tempting fate and trying to catch a glimpse of the Boiler Man, a ghost which haunts the lodge. Even as a small child, I knew every inch of the 64 acres. Being so young, however, I had no idea of the history of the lodge, and at the time, I really didn't care. As time went on, however, I became more and more aware that the building was really something special, and by the time I got to high school, I wanted to report on the past of the lodge. The opportunity never came up to do so until I found that we had to do a senior project as a graduation requirement. I thought this was a great opportunity to do the report that I had wanted to do for so long. I planned to do this report and when I found out that the local libraries and museums had no information on the lodge currently, I was even more excited. It allowed me to donate copies of this report to them and provide them with documented information. I put lots of time into the research and composition of the report and this is what I ended up with as my final project. I hope you enjoy it.