

# The Vintage Rabun Quarterly

## Focus on Women

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Mrs. Thomas F. Greene of Tallulah Falls hauling water, c.1900



Unknown woman shivers in front of Clayton post office, 1925.

- Please visit our museum and research library on Mondays and Fridays from 10:00 until 2:00 and on Wednesdays from 12:30 until 4:30.

- Group tours by appointment

### Lillian Smith 1897-1964



Miss Smith was born in 1897 in Jasper, Florida, the daughter of a prominent well-to-do family. Her family moved to Clayton in 1915 where her father, Reverend C.W. Smith, started a summer camp for girls in 1919.

Lillian Smith took over the camp from her father in 1925, but she was also a teacher at many institutions. In addition, she was the author of seven books, but her 1944 work, *Strange Fruit*, was a sensation that sold more than 3 million copies and was translated into 14 languages. The novel was set in a fictional Southern town, and described a relationship between a white war veteran and a black woman. Because interracial love was a taboo subject at the time, *Strange Fruit* was banned in Boston and Detroit and was read only surreptitiously in Rabun County. It was such a sensation that it was eventually adapted for Broadway.

Miss Smith was the first white woman in the South to write and speak openly against racism and segregation. She was scorned by white Southerners, including Governor Talmadge of Georgia, threatened by arsonists (her home was twice partially burned), and denied the critical acclaim she deserved as a writer.

Lillian Smith's social activism extended to her operation of Laurel Falls Camp, a summer camp for girls from all over the South that she operated from 1925 until 1949.

Miss Smith's intent at Laurel Falls was, as she wrote to a camper's mother, "to wake up the little sleeping beauties that our Anglo-American culture has anesthetized, or rather put in a deep freeze." She helped the daughters of upper-class Southerners begin to question their world and to envision change.

### Mary Hambidge



### 1885-1973

Mary Crovatt Hambidge made it her life's work to promote

the arts and to provide a place where creativity could be nurtured. She was a native of Brunswick, Georgia and was educated in the Northeast. She married Jay Hambidge who was an artist, scholar and author. After his sudden death in 1924, she returned to Georgia and settled in Rabun County. Mrs. Hambidge founded the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences to honor her late husband and perpetuate his work.

In Rabun County, Mary Hambidge developed a farm cooperative and a place where local women could utilize their talents at spinning and weaving. She called this group the "Weavers of Rabun". In 1937, the group's success was honored with a gold medal for the finest weaving at a Paris exposition of arts and crafts. That same year, a retail shop on Madison Avenue in New York City began to sell "Weavers of Rabun" work to clients such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Greta Garbo.

After Mrs. Hambidge's death in 1973, her legacy continued as the Hambidge Center in Dillard focused on its artists' residence program and its role as a community arts organization. The vision of Mary Hambidge from many decades ago is sustained, and her contribution to the arts continues today.



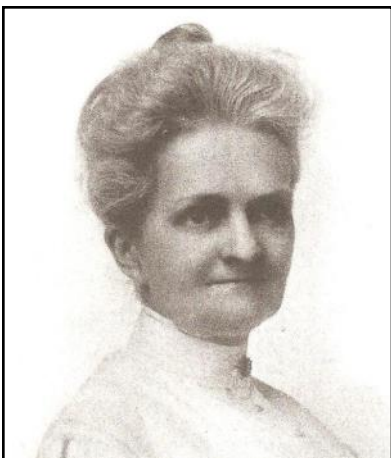
# More Strong Women



The first steep, curvy, dirt road to the top of Black Rock Mountain was graded by mules and men on foot. When the road was completed, the first vehicle to the top was driven by **Margaret Johnson** of New York and Augusta, on August 28, 1931. She was joined by her friends Nisbit LeConte and Florida Johnson.



**Addie Corn Ritchie** and her husband, Andrew, had a goal of educating entire families in Rabun County where illiteracy was rampant at the turn of the 20th century. Classes for day students at their Rabun Gap School began in 1905. While Dr. Ritchie travelled the nation raising money, Addie ran the daily operation of the school while also teaching. Photo c. 1900



**Mary Ann Lipscomb** saw that the children of Tallulah Falls were under-educated in a one-room school over the jail for only 3 months per year. She presented a new school proposal to the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs, and a school opened on five donated acres with 21 students in July of 1909. It is now called the Tallulah Falls School. Photo c. 1910



With no schooling and no formal training, midwife **Lizzie Keason** delivered more than 525 babies in Rabun County, without ever losing a mother or child and seldom being paid. She had no children of her own and is seen here cradling her cat. Photo c. 1950



**Carrie Edwards** began taking care of boarders by age 6 at her father's boarding house near Highlands. After she and her husband, Arthur Dillard, moved to Dillard, they began to offer room and board to travelers at Oak Lawn. After a family death, the young couple changed the name to the Dillard House, and Carrie's gardening and cooking talents meant the business expanded by leaps and bounds.



Sisters **Lassie and Hattie McCall** began teaching in Rabun County schools in the 1940s, working at several community schools including Antioch in Warwoman, Moccasin, Germany, Liberty, Chechero, and Lakemont. At times making only \$60 per month, the McCall sisters educated more than one generation of Rabun County children, and both retired in the 1970s.



# Notable People Quiz

1. Augustus Andreae
2. Helen D. Longstreet
3. John Beck Dockins
4. John Arrendale
5. Roscoe Nicholson
6. Frank Rickman
7. J.C. Dover
8. D. Webb Johnson
9. Larry McClure
10. Luther Rickman
11. Franklin A. Bleckley
12. Andrew Ritchie
13. Colonel Sam Beck
14. John Harvey
15. John H. Derrick
16. John A. Reynolds
17. R.E.A. Hamby
18. Jacob Hunter
19. "Pop" Jameson
20. Frank A. Smith

- D. Patrolled the Tallulah River dams during World War II to prevent terrorism; served as deputy, police chief, and sheriff.
- E. Developed both Kingwood and Sky Valley resorts.
- F. German immigrant who was Lake Rabun's first real estate developer.
- G. Led Georgia's first big environmental battle to save the Tallulah River from being dammed at Tallulah Falls.
- H. In 1894, he led the county to build the first bridge across the Chattooga River, greatly increasing the movement of people and goods.

- N. Rabun's oldest Confederate veteran, died at age 107.
- O. From 1937 to 1948, he was Rabun County's CEO; began the county library, bookmobile, and maternity hospital.
- P. Once a YMCA official, he created Camp Dixie for Boys in Wiley in 1914.
- Q. Owned a general store in the town of Burton; when bought out by Georgia Power, he moved to Clayton where his business was on the "Derrick Block" on the west side of South Main Street; also served as a state representative.
- R. Lawyer, state representative and state senator who owned a large hotel on North Main Street; mayor of Clayton.
- S. Moved a printing press with oxen-drawn wagon from Demorest to Clayton; began Clayton Tribune in 1896.
- T. Founder of the town of Passover (later Mountain City) in 1903.



Luther Rickman, left, with captured still, 1940



Roscoe Nicholson admires a visitor's catch, c. 1950

- A. Was instrumental in saving Black Rock Mountain from development and making it a state park.
- B. Was one of the original members of the Georgia Film Commission and was instrumental in filming movies in Rabun County.
- C. Scouted out locations for Rabun's CCC camps and was Rabun's first forest ranger.

- I. Practiced medicine for 67 years and served on the school board for more than 50 years.
- J. Harvard graduate who wrote Rabun's first history.
- K. Indian fighter in the Seminole Wars; signed Georgia's Secession Document for Rabun County in 1861.
- L. Sold the property that became Sylvan Lake Falls; as sheriff he helped fight moonshine trafficking.
- M. Georgia Power's representative in buying up property along the Tallulah River so that dams could be built and reservoirs created.



Webb Johnson, left, in Mountain City, circa 1905

- Answers:  
 A-4, B-6, C-5, D-10, E-9, F-1, G-2, H-11,  
 I-7, J-12, K-13, L-3, M-14, N-18, O-20,  
 P-19, Q-15, R-17, S-16, T-8

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## CHECK OUT OUR EXCITING WEBSITE TODAY!

We're on the web!  
[www.rabunhistory.org](http://www.rabunhistory.org)



Our latest special online photo exhibit:

### *Logging and Sawmills: Rabun's First Industry*

This special exhibit is in addition to the hundreds of historic photos in the Photo Gallery.



Floating logs down the Chattooga River in 1910

### New Perk For Members:

Please enjoy a 10% discount on both *Sketches of Rabun County History* and *A Pictorial History of Rabun County*. Just in time for holiday gift-giving!