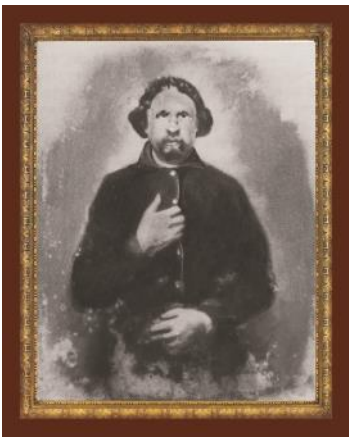


# The Vintage Rabun Quarterly

## Rabun's Civil War Role

### Inside this issue

#### Confederate Veterans



Rabun County Confederate Thomas Hopper, died in Mississippi in 1863

#### New Exhibit

#### Timeline Quiz

- 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

Dozens of states, including Georgia, are involved this year in a solemn commemoration and remembrance of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. It is not a celebration of slavery and war, but “on this milestone in American history, we remember the great cost of the unity and liberty we now enjoy.” The Civil War touched every community in our state, and “the mighty scourge,” as Lincoln called it, changed life for everyone in Georgia and Rabun County.

Earlier this year, the Old Capitol Museum in Milledgeville held a re-enactment of Georgia's Secession Convention of January, 1865. Rabun County's delegates were Sam Beck and Horace Cannon, both slaveholders, but both favored remaining in the Union as a way to avoid war. Nearly all the delegates from Georgia's northern counties in which there were very few slaves were opposed to secession. The vote was 160 to secede and 130 to remain in the Union. Both Beck and Cannon eventually signed the secession document.

At the beginning of the war, approximately 60 Rabun County families owned 248 slaves. Because of Rabun County's topography, there

was very little large scale agriculture that required large numbers of workers. The landowners with the largest number of slaves were Sam Beck with 19, and Edward Lovell and Edley Powell with 15 each.

No Civil War military action occurred in Rabun County, but in 1862, 300 Rabun County men between the ages of 18 and 45 were subject to military duty. Not all Rabun

no means of support. For four years there were only old men, women and children to make a living such as they could. By 1863, the State of Georgia was appropriating money for the relief of soldiers' families. Rabun County was given \$10,000 that year for destitute families, with the plight of widows being the most severe.

It took another entire generation for Rabun County to recover the losses, both human and material, from the war. Dr. Andrew Ritchie, writer of Rabun's first history noted that the period before the Civil War had been “a period of general prosperity.” The double blow of the shutting down of Blue Ridge Railroad construction

and the men leaving for war left Rabun County in an economic depression that lasted until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

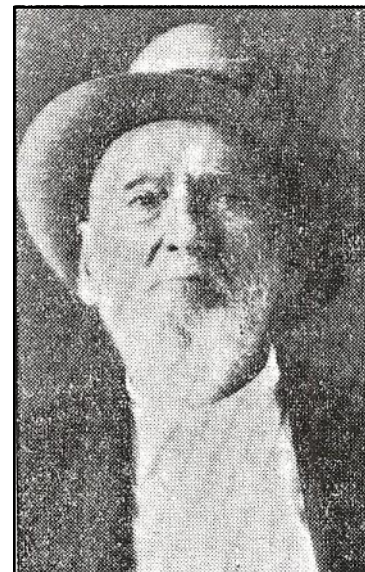
Gordon Jones, military historian at the Atlanta History Center, points out how important it is to make everyone understand that “Civil War history is not boring, but is in fact relevant to the present in many ways. ... It is quite literally true that you can't see where you're going unless you know where you've been.”

County men served in Rabun County units. Of those who did, two hundred fifty-two men served in two units, and seventy men died, many from typhoid and pneumonia. One hundred thirty-four men were assigned to Company F, 52<sup>nd</sup> regiment of the Tennessee Infantry. The rest served as the Rabun Gap Riflemen with Company E, 24<sup>th</sup> regiment of the Army of Northern Virginia under General Robert E. Lee.

Two hundred eleven of the Rabun County men who served were married. They left wives and children with



# Confederate Veterans and Reunions



Samuel Taylor is the only identified man in this 1900 reunion photo of Rabun County Confederate veterans. Taylor served with Co. K, Thomas Legion of NC. He is seventh from left on the front row. Can you identify any others?

Jacob Hunter died in 1939 at the age of 107, Rabun County's oldest Confederate veteran. He served three years with Captain Jebel Cannon's 24th Regiment, the Rabun Gap Riflemen.



James Madison Ritchie served in Georgia's 11th Cavalry. After the war, he traveled to California for the Gold Rush that began in 1849



Abraham Wesley Houck was one of the Rabun County men who served in a non-Rabun County unit. He served with Company D, 6th North Carolina regiment.



Confederate veterans pose in front of Rabun County's new courthouse in 1908. Reunions were regularly held in Rabun County until the 1930s. By 1933 only six veterans remained.

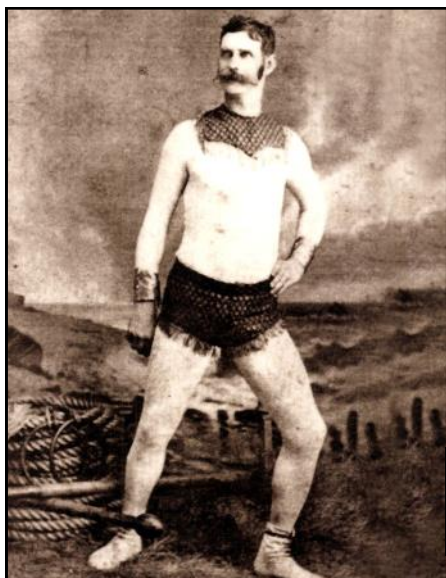


In May of 1916, the Dillard depot was the site of this Confederate reunion which brought veterans by train from the entire region. Note both the Confederate and U.S. flags are being displayed.



# Timeline Quiz

1. Which of Rabun's state parks was established first?
  - A. Moccasin Creek
  - B. Tallulah Gorge
  - C. Black Rock Mountain
2. Put these in chronological order:
  - A. Rabun's first traffic light
  - B. Clayton begins to pave streets
  - C. Tallulah Falls Railroad reaches Clayton
3. What year did Rabun's first hospital open?
  - A. 1946
  - B. 1952
  - C. 1957
4. In which of these years did Rabun County NOT open a new courthouse?
  - A. 1967
  - B. 1908
  - C. 1899
5. Put these events in chronological order:
  - A. Georgia Power builds dam at Tallulah Falls
  - B. Rabun has last official hanging
  - C. Tallulah Falls almost completely destroyed by fire
6. All of these school buildings suffered devastating fires. Which came first?
  - A. Rabun County High School
  - B. Bleckley Memorial Institute
  - C. Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School
7. What year did Tallulah Falls NOT have a man walk across the gorge?
  - A. 1966
  - B. 1886
  - C. 1970
8. Put these events in chronological order:
  - A. Four CCC camps open
  - B. U.S. government begins to buy land for national forest
  - C. Arrival of railroad means lumber companies can start large-scale logging operations
9. Which of these churches is oldest?
  - A. Wiley Presbyterian
  - B. Tiger Methodist
  - C. Clayton Baptist
10. Which of these businesses is oldest?
  - A. York House
  - B. Clayton Tribune
  - C. Lake Rabun Hotel
11. Put these events in chronological order:
  - A. Lake Burton is filled
  - B. Clayton gets street lights
  - C. Camp Dixie opened by "Pop" Jameson



Professor Leon was hired to walk across Tallulah Gorge by a Tallulah Falls hotel owner as a publicity stunt.

Answers:  
1-C, 2-C,B,A, 3-B, 4-C, 5-A,B,C, 6-B, 7-A, 8-C,B,A, 9-C, 10-Trick question-answer is A and B, 11-C,A,B

## New exhibit coming this fall

Number 2 in our series:

## People Who Made a Difference

Featuring

Lillian Smith, Mary Hambidge, and Tom Roane



Thomas E. Roane was the first entrepreneur to provide electricity in Rabun. This hydroelectric plant near Stekoa Falls provided power to over 50 homes and businesses.

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We're on the web!

[www.rabunhistory.org](http://www.rabunhistory.org)

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## CHECK OUT OUR EXCITING WEBSITE TODAY!

Our new special online exhibit is:

### Hollywood of the South: Movie-Making in Rabun

Beginning in the 1950s, Rabun County has been the location for dozens of films and made-for-television movies, including *Deliverance* in 1971 starring Burt Reynolds (right).

