

June 2023

Volume 17/No. 2

# The Vintage Rabun Quarterly

## Rabun's Summer Camps

Rabun County in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was home to many summer camps for children, where parents could send their youngsters to enjoy rustic living and outdoor activities in the cool mountain air. In February of 1943, the *Clayton Tribune* reported that "No other county in the state of Georgia can boast of the number and excellence of boys and girls summer camps as can Rabun County."

The Athens Y Camp was begun in 1898. Dozens of other children's camps opened including Red Barron's camp for boys in Mountain City, Chattooga for girls, Cherokee for boys, Rainey Mountain for Boy Scouts in Chechero, and Camp Pinnacle, a Baptist camp. Athens Y Camp still operates today.

### Historical Society news and events



The granite monument that marked the Georgia and North Carolina boundary for almost two hundred years is now displayed in our Rabun County Historical Society museum.

Free lecture:

*Getting Started in Genealogy*

Rabun County Public Library  
Community Room

June 10

10:00 am-12:00 noon

Presenter: Larry W. Thomas,  
30 years experience in  
genealogy

Free lecture:

*The Environmental Disaster of  
Clear-cut Logging  
in Rabun County*

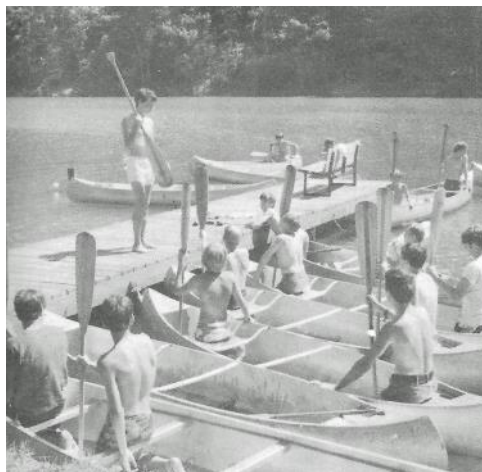
Rabun County Public Library  
Community Room

July 13

1:00 pm

Presenter: Dick Cinquina, local  
author and historian

### Athens Y Camp





## Camp Dixie

A.A. "Pop" Jameson, with his background in building the Boy Scouts of America, came south in 1914 and found what he believed to be the perfect location for a summer camp. He organized Camp Dixie for Boys and later a similar camp for girls, which would become two of the county's largest summer institutions.

He organized Camp Dixie for Boys in Wiley. In 1919, at the insistence of parents of his boy campers, Jameson began Camp Dixie for Girls in the Germany Community.

By 1935, *The Clayton Tribune* reported that a special train was to run between Atlanta and Clayton because the staff and campers were too numerous to be handled on the regular train. Two hundred and fifty children from 18 states were enrolled that summer in the two Dixie camps. The staff numbered more than 150.

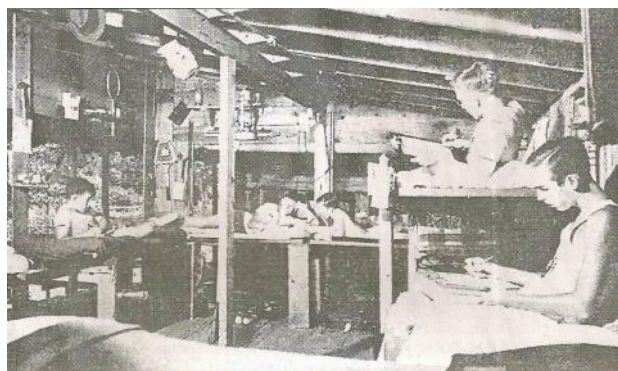
In 1935 Mr. Jameson reported that he spent \$20,000 annually in Rabun County on materials, supplies, and

labor, quite a boon to the local economy during the Great Depression. Locals held jobs as cooks, drivers, cleaners, and maintenance men, further aiding an economy strapped by hard economic times.

The camp had its own dieticians directing the cooking staff with daily menus. Several local Rabun County girls and women worked in house-keeping and in the dining room. Many bunked together in one of the cabins. The "Cabin Line", as it was called, was a circle of 13 two-story cabins. Trunks and other supplies were kept on the first floor; 8 or 9 cots on the second floor held campers and one cabin leader.

By 1998, the original 350 acre Camp Dixie for Girls was open to boys and girls, with separate programs during the day and all campers together in the evenings. Most of the Camp Dixie property has recently been sold, and the camp is closed.

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## Camp Pinnacle



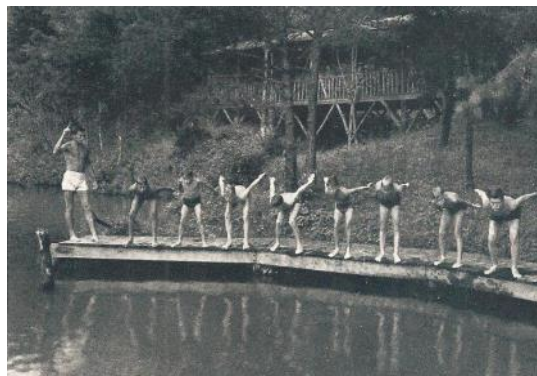
***Laurel Falls Camp for Girls***

C.W. Smith moved his family from Florida to Clayton in 1915 and began Laurel Falls Camp for Girls in 1920. His famous daughter, the writer Lillian Smith, would eventually operate the camp herself. The camp consisted of 12 log or stone-sided buildings, including dormitories, a crafts cabin, a library, a dining room, and a gym. There also were tennis courts, a swimming pool, a stable for six horses and a target range for archery and rifles. Like most summer camps at the time, Laurel Falls was initially sports oriented. Eventually, the role of athletics was lessened. Painting, literature, poetry, psychology and discussions on racial injustice became the camp's new emphasis.



***Red Barron's Camp for Boys***

Red Barron, a famed Georgia Tech football player, opened an athletic summer camp for boys in Mountain City in 1935. The camp featured horsemanship, football, baseball, basketball, swimming, boxing, archery and shooting, among other sports.



***Camp Rainey Mountain—1959***



***Camp Cherokee, 1950s***



Rabun County Historical Society  
81 North Church Street  
P.O. Box 921  
Clayton, GA 30525



### ***Historical Society Membership Updates***

Welcome to our new members who have joined since March 2023.

Friend

Lori Ramey

Family

Diane Cantor and Thomas Echols

Peter Evers

Patron

Ellen Brawley

Phone: 706-782-5292

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

Email:

[rabuncountyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:rabuncountyhistory@gmail.com)

- Please visit our museum and research library on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11:00 until 3:00.
- Group tours by appointment

*Check out the books we have for sale at the museum and on our website - [www.rabunhistory.org](http://www.rabunhistory.org). Click on "Support Us" in the top banner and select "Books for Sale" in the drop-down box.*

