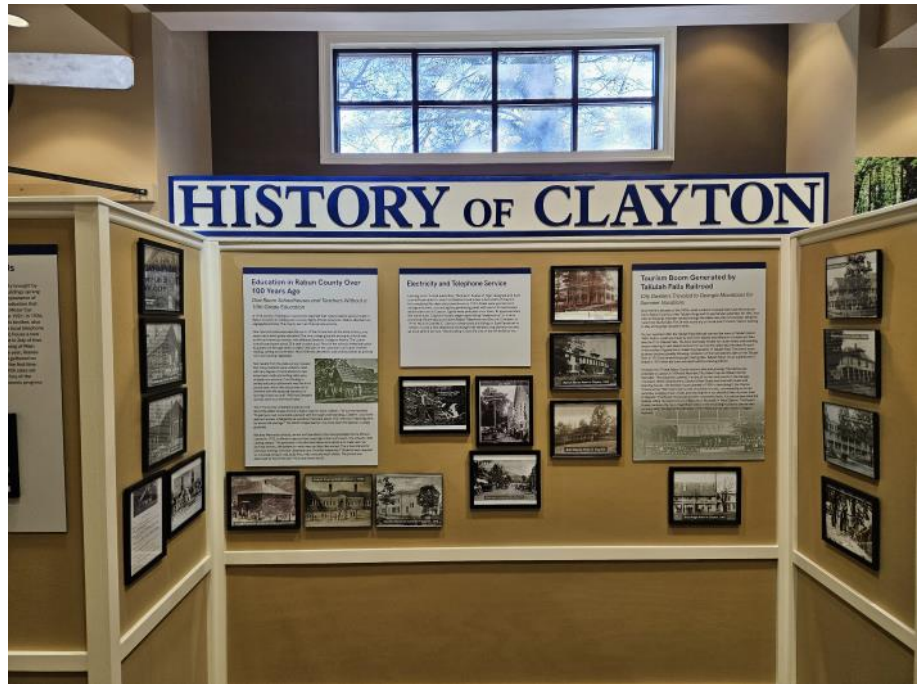


The Vintage Rabun Quarterly

History of Clayton New Display in our Museum



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Clayton has been around a long time. The town's history begins with the Cherokees

and ends, at least for now, with tourism and a Main Street lined with boutiques. A good deal has transpired in between.

In 1821, Solomon Beck sold 67 acres of his 250-acre lot in the second land district to Rabun County for \$150. Claytonville was laid out in sub-divided lots on this tract. The town's name was shortened to Clayton in 1823.

Clayton's only identifiable feature in the 1800s was the public square at the intersection of present-day Main and Savannah Streets. The first three of Rabun County's five courthouses were constructed on the public square.

By 1900, Clayton remained barely a speck on the map with a population of about 200. Andrew Jackson Ritchie, a noted local educator and amateur historian, wrote in 1948, "Clayton was a ramshackle town. There were no paved streets. The few houses it had were scattered around with wide vacant lots between them...The town

had no paved sidewalks, no public waterworks, no electric lights, and no telephone or telegraph."

The Tallulah Falls Railroad was extended north from Tallulah Falls, reaching Clayton in 1904 and making Clayton a mountain tourist destination. A measure of prosperity made its way to Clayton during the 1920s when the railroad spurred the development of new businesses. Clayton experienced a gradual economic upturn during the 1950s that was generated by the advent of textile manufacturing in Rabun County.

With the closing of all but one textile mill in 2006, Clayton's economy is now dependent on tourism, just as it was during the first decades of the twentieth century. The downtown area is congested on most summer and fall days as crowds of tourists flock to the shops and popular restaurants that line Main and Savannah. A ramshackle town Clayton is no longer.

*(Excerpts from an article by
Richard Cinquina)*



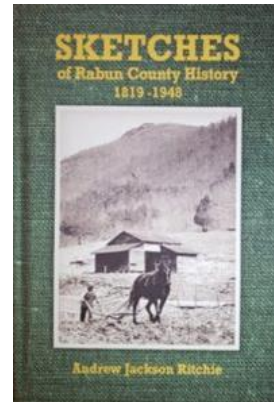
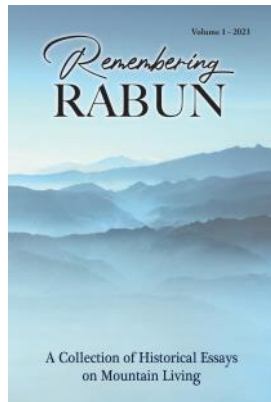
Great Holiday Gift Ideas!

We offer several for sale books in our museum and on our website. Books make a great gift for anyone who loves Rabun County or loves history. They can also be passed down to future generations. Patrons and Benefactors and Business Partners get a 10% discount on books.

Scan the QR code to go to our website www.rabunhistory.org. Click on “Support Us” at the top of the home page to order books or join the Historical Society or make a donation. Please think of us for your charitable giving. We appreciate your support.

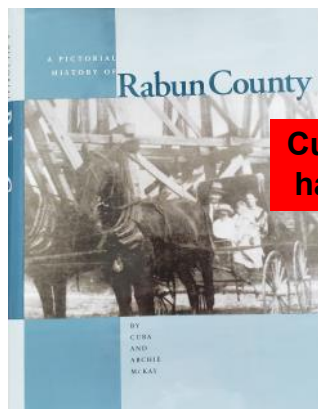


You may also click on “News” to read more newsletters and articles.

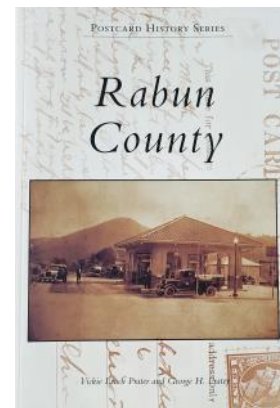


Remembering RABUN, Volumes 1 and 2 are our newest publications. They are small books, full of historical essays and many vintage photographs depicting Rabun County people and places and life in the mountains. Priced at \$9.95, These are perfect for holiday gifts.

Sketches of Rabun County History is a reprint of Dr. Andrew Ritchie’s comprehensive area history, first published in 1948. This work focuses in particular on the original settler families, their origins and early histories. \$40

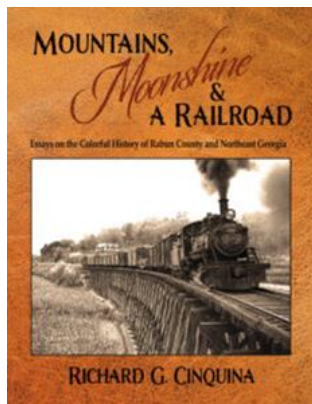


Currently selling for half price - \$17.50!



Pictorial History of Rabun County is an overview published in 2003. The book contains hundreds of the Society’s photos and reviews many subjects important to the county’s development, such as the Tallulah Falls Railroad, the Georgia Power dams, agriculture, and logging.

Postcard History Series Rabun County, published in 2012, is a visual journey documenting the history of Rabun County through vintage souvenir postcards collected by George and Vickie Prater. \$24.99



Mountains, Moonshine and a Railroad tells the always colorful, occasionally contentious and frequently humorous history of Rabun County and the surrounding area of northeast Georgia.

Author: Richard G. Cinquina \$50

Cherokees, Corn Likker and a Black Diamond, the sequel to *Mountains, Moonshine and a Railroad*, has just been published. It brings to light important developments and events that shaped the colorful history of Rabun County and northeast Georgia. Author: Richard G. Cinquina \$50

The following books are available for sale in our museum, but they are not currently listed on our website. Please visit our museum or email us at rabuncountyhistory@gmail.com to purchase a copy. We are open Wednesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Images of America, Tallulah Falls

Margaret Calhoon and Lynn Speno have drawn from several special collections of photographs to create a fascinating visual history of Tallulah Falls. \$21.99

Rabun County and Its People

This book is a collection of historical stories compiled by and about the people of the county. The original hardcover book is out of print. We offer a spiral bound paperback copy. \$50 (no discount)

Rabun County, Georgia Newspapers 1894-1899

Dawn Watson has compiled local news, legal items, and advertisements extracted from periodicals published for the benefit of the citizens of Rabun County from 1894-1899. \$25

Ramblin' in Rabun

L.P. Cross was owner and publisher of the *The Clayton Tribune* from 1924 to 1953. This book is a compilation of editorial columns written by him. \$10

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- Please visit our museum and research library Wednesday through Saturday from 11:00 until 3:00.
- Group tours by appointment



Historical Society Membership Updates

Welcome to our new members
who have joined since September 2024

Patron

Roger Harrison

Family

Larry Earl

Friend

John Bashant
John Marziliano
Janice Wayne