MOUNTAIN HERITAGE

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc. December 1, 2025 Volume 13, Issue 4

Days Gone By: Early Gilmer County, Georgia

Ernest Parker

Editor's Note: James Ernest Lafayette Parker (1907-1999,) was raised in the Bucktown Community of Gilmer County and was a columnist for the Ellijay Times-Courier *newspaper from 1924 to 1997. With the use of his extraordinary memory, he recorded and shared within the newspaper his personal years from childhood to young adult, and then as a married man with two children. Although he moved to Cherokee County in 1957, he regularly returned to Gilmer County for interviews and visits to the places of his past as he continued to write his weekly column.*

After Mr. Parker passed away in 1999, his family gave the Gilmer County Genealogical Society permission to gather many of his columns, poetry, and stories to combine and print in a 430-page hard-bound book for the purpose of preserving the history of Gilmer County, and to use as a genealogical tool for those searching information about people and places in Gilmer County. We are proud to share excerpts from Days Gone By: Early Gilmer County, Georgia *in this edition of* Mountain Heritage. *Copies of this precious book are still available while supplies last.*

Photo of Ernest Parker: The Annals of Upper Georgia Centered in Gilmer County

Days Gone By ~ Winters of Long Ago
February 12, 1996

During the past few years when the temperature dropped down to zero and below, I began to think about what really cold winters we had many years ago when I was just a young boy of ten or twelve. Back when I was growing up in eastern Gilmer, people were really hard hit when winter battered down upon them with sleet, snow, and howling northwest winds.

Photo: Barbara J. Dover

In those days very few people had a thermometer to let them know how cold it actually was, but they could tell it was getting mighty cold when the dishwater that was thrown from the back porch would freeze before it hit the ground!

Practically all the houses in the community where I grew up were log structures heated by a rock fireplace and chimney at one end where a roaring fire had to be kept going all day long. The fireplace heated only one room, and usually there was so much cold air coming up through the cracks in the floors (not covered by rugs) that it seemed one would freeze on one side and burn on the other.

See ***Days Gone By : Early Gilmer County, Georgia~ Winters of Long Ago****, page 2.*

Days Gone By: Early Gilmer County, Georgia~ Winters of Long Ago
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What was a cold winter night like? Imagine a winter night like this: of course, the ones who lived back then will not have to imagine it, just relive it. Going to bed on a blustery, bitter cold night was a pain. You went to bed in a cold unheated room shivering so much that you could hardly get into bed. Now remember, the bed was not heated already by an electric blanket so you quickly jumped in and covered up from head to toe with many quilts and blankets. If you could manage to lie still for a few minutes in spite of your shivering, your body heat soon warmed a small spot for you. The wind was howling outside, and sleet was tapping at the windows, but this soon lulled you to sleep in your warm cocoon of feathers, quilts, and blankets.

Photo: Barbara J. Dover

During the night, the sleet turned to snow, and it announced its coming when you felt a few flakes kiss you on the nose. You knew the wind was blowing the snow under the eaves of the roof into the loft overhead and occasionally sifting down into your face.

Photo: Barbara J. Dover

Keeping a supply of wood in those days was a problem. Men, women, and children worked together to cut and prepare wood from the forest to feed the big fireplace to keep enough heat the keep the family from freezing. The wood was brought from the forest by hitching a mule or steer to it and dragging the logs to the wood yard. Sometimes smaller poles were brought on one's shoulder.

Sometimes a supply of firewood ran out in the middle of a big snowstorm, and this meant going off into the forest and cut and bring in more, with several inches of snow on the ground.

Keeping a pile of wood was not the only bone-chilling chore of the cold wintry days. Livestock had to be fed and watered, and the cows had to be milked. When the temperature was hovering around zero, the cow would stand humped up with her feet almost together and she would be shaking like she would fall apart. The hands of the person doing the milking would become so cold that the fingers lost their feeling temporarily.

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Days Gone By: Early Gilmer County, Georgia~ Winters of Long Ago
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Photo: Barbara J. Dover

Water had to be brought to the house from the nearby spring even if snow was almost knee deep. Many times the bucket of water in the house would freeze into ice overnight.

There were no inside bathrooms in those days. This was the coldest chore of all. The wind was always furiously blowing out behind the barn, and the temperature there was surely ten below zero all winter!

Living back then before the days of electricity, indoor bathrooms, insulated houses, and modern heating systems was sometimes miserable. But the old-timers met those hard times with courage and some of them even lived to reach the century mark.

Days Gone By: Early Gilmer County, Georgia
Tinkering with the Toys of Long Ago
October 3, 1996

Have you ever stopped to really notice how many commercial toys that the children of today have to play with? They have so many that they seem overwhelmed and don't actually seem to appreciate what they do have. Today I would like to reminisce about the toys children had in the early part of this century.

Back in the early 1900's in our community, most toys were homemade. In those days a little boy was very happy if he had a homemade bow and arrow or a flip made from a forked stick and two strips of rubber from an old inner tube. He thought he was destined to be a real hunter, and sometimes the birds that sing so sweetly in the trees lost their lives to these young hunters.

Photo of Four-wheeled Truck Wagon: Pinterest.com

My dad used to make me a four-wheeled truck wagon by sawing the wheels from a black gum or some other tree about six inches in diameter, boring holes in the center for the axles to which the frame was made. This wagon made an excellent toy to ride down the hillside as we guided it with our feet. My cousin J B. and I have spent many happy hours playing with truck wagons. A cousin, Elzie Newberry, was also another playmate who enjoyed this sport.

See **Days Gone By: Early Gilmer County, Georgia ~ Tinkering with the Toys of Long Ago,** *page 4.*

Days Gone By: Early Gilmer County, Georgia ~ Tinkering with the Toys of Long Ago
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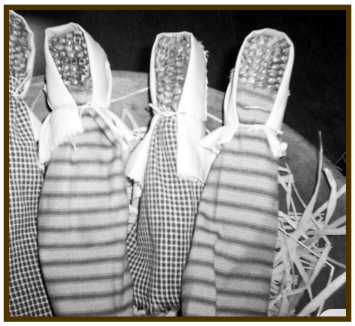

Photo of Corn Cob Dolls: communitystories.ca

Balls that we used for playing townball, dodge ball, etc. were usually made from thread raveled from an old sock or stocking. If it was available, a piece of rubber was wadded up in the center and then the thread wrapped around it. This piece of rubber gave the ball a better bounce.

Most dolls did not come from the store either. Mothers of the girls made the dolls by stuffing a stocking leg with bran or perhaps cotton and adding on a head that was sometimes a small knot from a tree or carved out of wood. Dolls were also made from corn cobs. Such dolls would not have won a beauty contest, but the girls of that time had a great time playing with them.

I see fancy bubble blowers in TV commercials, and I smile when I compare them with the ones we used to play with. A bubble machine in those days was just a spool, a cake of soap, and a pan of water. These three things: spool, soap, and water could create enough bubbles to delight the heart of any child (even adult,) and could almost run the house cat crazy trying to catch them.

Rock throwers were popular in my day. They were made by cutting a section of green corn stalk about two feet long and removing the pith from one end about an inch deep. A small rock placed in the end of the hollowed stalk would sling the rock a great distance.

In those days we also had fun top spinning. Tops were made from spools. Sometimes we would have contests to see whose top would spin the longest.

Whistles were made from several different things: short sections of cane that grew along the creek banks, bark of chestnut or sourwood trees, section of meadow weed, or even the stem of a pumpkin leaf.

Stilts (old timers call them "Tommy Walkers") were made from tree limbs about six feet long that had a place to put your feet where limbs had been cut off about a foot or so from the end that touched the ground. Testing one's ability to balance and walk on "Tommy Walkers" was something most children wanted to do.

Photo of Tommy Walkers: Pinterest.com

See **Days Gone By: Early Gilmer County, Georgia~ Tinkering with the Toys of Long Ago,** *page 5.*

Days Gone By: Early Gilmer County, Georgia~ Tinkering with the Toys of Long Ago
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Baby rattles were made from a tin snuff box with three or four grains of popcorn placed inside. This toy would amuse a small child for a long while.

The Flying Jenny was popular with older children. It was made on a stump of a tree that had a wooden peg fastened in a hole that had been bored in the center of the stump. A tree limb with a hole bored in about the middle of the length was placed over the wooden pen on the stump. The pole would then rotate in a circle. Children sitting on each end of the pole could get a fast flying ride. This toy had the potential of being hazardous because if one fell off, all kinds of injuries could have happened. Somehow no one in our community was ever seriously injured on a Flying Jenny.

Photo of Flying Jenny: Pinterest.com

See-saws were popular, but very simple. They were made by placing a plank over a log, sawhorse, or fence rail.

Rope jumping was great fun in those days. Famers had better uses for ropes; therefore, the children improvised and used a grapevine for rope jumping.

Photo of Tire Swing: Pinteest.com

Yes, there were swings back then, but they were usually ropes, chains, or grapevines. With the coming of the automobile, swings became really fancy when an old inner tube would be swung from a tree.

Small children hauled their broken dishes, can lids, acorns, spools, or whatever they had collected to play with around in a shoe box, pulled by a string. (This took the place of the little red wagon that had not yet appeared on the scene.)

Children, as well as adults, often amused themselves spinning buttons that they had threaded on a string. This was simple, but it took a little bit of skill to get the button spinning.

At Christmas time a few children did get at least one commercial toy, but the majority of toys in those days were all made at home. Children were happy then with what they had because they didn't know about the fancy things that would some day replace their homemade toys.

President's Post

Barbara J. Dover

It is definitely hard to believe that it is December, and we will soon be hearing our calendars flutter to the floor on 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2026. Although the year seemed to zoom by, the Gilmer County Genealogical Society has accomplished a lot in 2025 thus far. We had seven general meetings with diverse programs at each of those meetings. We learned about Gilmer County's Chastain, Whitaker, and Reece families; and combined with the Gilmer County Historical Society to learn about the Tabor family and The Tabor House Museum; The Cemetery Series continued with our panel explaining the materials and process of graves and their markers' cleaning and maintenance; family recipes were shared and prepared; and we enjoyed hearing about our Southern Appalachian artistic culture with a program by a local folk artist.

Other activities and events were sponsored by GCGS. Included with The Cemetery Series, a hands-on workshop at Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery provided instruction in repairing grave markers and a computer workshop explored the website FindaGrave.com. A luncheon for the staff of the Gilmer County Library feted those workers who do so much to help our organization, and we held our annual Fall Harvest Luncheon in August. We decorated a Christmas tree for the Gilmer County Library's annual Festival of Trees and it will be on display with trees and wreaths decorated by other community groups. Coming up on December 13, 2025 will be the Holiday Luncheon and Installation of the 2026 Board at 12:00 noon in the library's lower level. GCGS will supply the protein, beverages, and paper goods. Members and guests are asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts.

In addition to the meetings, workshops, activities, and events, GCGS purchased seventeen new books in 2025 for our library's Family Research Room. The purchased books included four volumes of the Mayflower Silver Book series. Each volume of these four Mayflower passenger families consists of three parts, for a total of twelve Mayflower Silver books purchased this year. In addition to the seventeen books purchased, several more different books were donated for the Family Research Room. One of the books donated was a directory of the churches in Gilmer County compiled by our beloved Gladys Spivey, now looking over and smiling at us from Heaven. And the First Families of Gilmer County, Georgia recognized 20 new members, several of whom qualified for membership by providing proof of lineage to more than one ancestor.

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President's Post
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Your 2025 GCGS Board is a wonderful group of women: smart and funny and efficient! They have worked hard together to provide this year's meetings and events. As an all-volunteer board, our charitable organization would currently have a negative bank balance if these had been salaried positions. As such, we are truly honored to have their leadership for GCGS in 2025. Debbie Wilcox is our Vice President and Program Committee Co-Chairperson; Anita Summers serves as Recording Secretary; Becky Burrell as Corresponding Secretary and Historian; Susan Noles as Treasurer and Membership Committee Chairperson; Trish Henson serves as First Families of Gilmer County Committee Chairperson and Beverly Hill was recently appointed First Families Committee Co-Chairperson to assist Trish; and Erin Brandy and Lydia Bassetti are our Events Committee Co-Chairpersons, with Lydia helping to greet our guests at meetings and Erin is the society's technical guru. The recently elected 2026 Board to be installed on December 13 will include almost the same people with some serving in different capacities. We still need to elect a Corresponding Secretary, so please let us know if you might like to throw your hat into the ring. (The Corresponding Secretary picks up the mail from our post office box and has a budget for purchasing and mailing cards to members on various occasions.) All members of the board have as one of their job descriptions to assist other members of the board.

Whew! That's quite a summary for the Gilmer County Genealogical Society's activities in 2025, and we still have another month to go! I have enjoyed being your President, Publications and Publicity Committee Chairperson, and Program Committee Co-Chairperson this year and am looking forward for serving in this capacity next year, planning and working closely with the board to continue to provide for you, our membership of GCGS. If you have ideas and suggestions or if you would like to volunteer in any capacity for **your** genealogical society, please do not hesitate to communicate that to the board. Have a wonderful rest of 2025!

Fourth Quarter Highlights 2025

September, 2025

Photos submitted by Barbara J. Dover.

Chuck Reece

The September monthly meeting of the Gilmer County Genealogical Society was held on Saturday, September 20, at the Gilmer County Library. A crowd of Gilmer County's members of the Reece and Smith families gathered with GCGS members in the lower level meeting room to hear one of their own speak about their families in the program *Thirty-Three First Cousins: Stories of the Reece and Smith Families of Gilmer County*. Chuck Reece had the group laughing and crying as he shared stories about his family and the legacy that they passed down through their generations. To paraphrase Chuck, "I feel that who begat whom is important and I will share that, but I want to talk about the three important qualities that they begat to all of those that they begat. Those qualities are humor, faith, and love."

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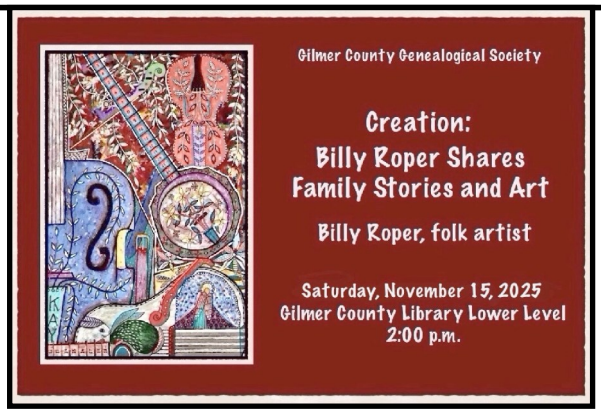
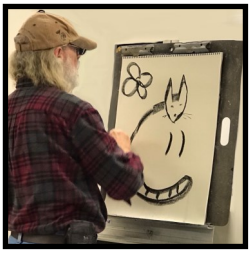
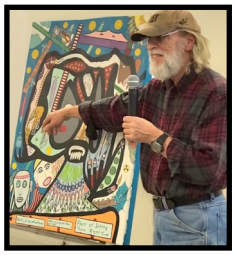
Fourth Quarter Highlights 2025
-continued-

November, 2025







At the GCGSI meeting on Saturday, November 15, folk artist Billy Roper presented *Creation: Billy Roper Shares Family Stories and Art*. Born and raised in Talking Rock, Georgia, Billy gave information about his family and his path to becoming a full-time artist. He sought questions from those in attendance and provided answers about his process of creating 2-dimensional art such as paintings, sketches, and drawings; and 3-dimensional art such as sculptures using wood, marble, and cement. He explained that his subjects often reflected his Appalachian roots, Cherokee ancestry, pop culture, nature, wildlife, pets, music, and love, with some works combining several motifs.

Billy provided a "show and tell" of artwork that he brought from his studio, explaining the symbolism found in the paintings and the various types of wood and his methods of creating his carvings. He also provided information about art from a slideshow of photos of over 100 pieces that he has created through the years. Then he used charcoal and paper to make two original drawings in real time. These drawings of a cat and a dove were given to 2 GCGSI members from a random choice of names from those in attendance. This enjoyable presentation from folk artist Billy Roper gave the society's members and guests a more defined perspective and awareness of the culture and heritage of this life in the Appalachian Mountains.

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Fourth Quarter Highlights 2025
-continued-

November, 2025
&
December 2025

Gilmer County Library's Festival of Trees and Holiday Open House

GCGS's Christmas Tree for Festival of Trees
Location: Family Research Room
Designed and Decorated by
Debbie Miller Wilcox (on left,) and Barbara J. Dover (on right)

Gilmer County Library Festival of Trees and Holiday Open House

The Gilmer County Library's Holiday Open House will be on Monday, December 1, 2025 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. in the Gilmer County Library's Community Meeting Room and the Lower Level Meeting Space. This free event will feature Santa and Mrs. Claus; performing school choruses from Mountain View Elementary and Ellijay Elementary Schools; festive crafts; and hot chocolate!

The Festival of Trees is a display of trees and wreaths throughout the building that have been decorated by community groups to celebrate the holiday spirit. The display will run throughout the month of December.

First Families of Gilmer County, Georgia.

The First Families program is designed to honor those pioneers who settled in Gilmer County in 1840 or before, and to recognize their descendants upon becoming members of this program. We encourage anyone who is directly descended from early settlers whose names appear on the 1840 or any prior Gilmer County Census to apply. Discovering your Gilmer County roots can be challenging and exciting; and your research can serve as a source of information for generations to come. Applicants are not required to currently reside in Gilmer County. Once approved, members receive a certificate and pin acknowledging this Gilmer County ancestor. Come and join our 253 descendants who are currently members of First Families of Gilmer County, Georgia! For more information, please visit our website at: www.gcgsi.org.

The First Families of Gilmer County, Georgia organization recently inducted new member Michelle Tucker Chubenko at the Gilmer County Library. The First Families of Gilmer County, Georgia organization is under the umbrella of The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, and it honors the men and women who were settled in Gilmer County in 1840 or earlier. Members are approved after submitting proof of their lineage to those qualifying ancestors. Ms. Chubenko submitted documentation of her lineage to the Gilmer County pioneer John Conseenee Tucker.

First Families of Gilmer County, GA Committee Chairperson Patricia Hyatt Henson (left) and newly inducted First Families of Gilmer County, GA Member Michelle Tucker Chubenko (right.)

Mother Nature's Gifts

Barbara J. Dover

With prices for everything increasing daily by percentages you could never calculate in any of your math classes, there is a solution to gift-giving that can stop the "cha-ching" heard 'round the world. And it's right outside your back, or front, door. Mother Nature is happy to accommodate all your wants and needs if you help her out with respect and sustained care. And since the people of this area in the southern Appalachian Mountains are known for their creativity to make do with what they have, to share their rich history, and to fully appreciate the area's abundance of natural gifts, why not gift all of this in celebration of our heritage? You might need to purchase a few things so that's where your local thrift stores come in so your capital outlay goes back into your community and its various charities. This writing will list a few gift ideas, but I'm sure if you take a moment of reflection without scrolling through your phone, you can come up with even more creative solutions to your gift-giving dilemmas.

Mother Nature is happy to give if you just don't strip her bare. (She does get cold in the winter months.) If you like to play in the dirt, she will provide through her nurturing and your planting. Pass-along plants or clippings from your garden and saved seeds can all become treasured gifts that keep on giving. Giving a photo of the plants or seeds along with a coupon for a Gardening 101 class will suffice in wintertime. Something to look forward to is always good! Younger gift recipients can always learn from your experience if you take the time to teach.

Saved Flower Seeds
Photo by Barbara J. Dover

Thrifting can yield clay pots or other containers for planting and you can just use recycled egg cartons for seed starting. Create a special area in the yard known as "Charlotte's Garden" or whatever you choose to name it. Amend the garden's soil with homemade compost and transplant seedlings and rooted clippings. The thrill of eating vegetables that you have grown is ageless! Even moving a small amount of moss from your own property and watching it spread can create a beautiful garden. (Bonus: Moss helps to purify the air!) Help your "students" use their imagination to make their garden their own special place. They might even decide to follow your lead by giving pass-along plants and saved seeds to their friends! Mother Nature would be gleeful if her children, two-legged, four-legged, and more-legged are happy in their natural habitat.

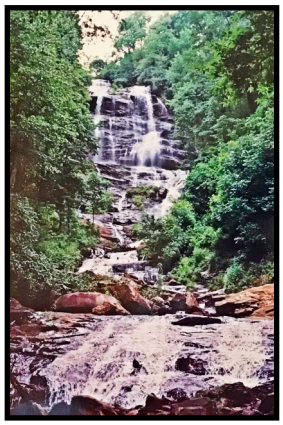
Zinnia Garden Photo: Barbara J. Dover

See ***Mother Nature's Gifts***, *page 13*.

Mother Nature's Gifts
-continued-

Giving coupons for various activities are excellent ways to spend time with others. After all, that is the best gift of all, isn't it? Give a coupon for a nature hike in the spring where the only use for the phone would be picture-taking. Bring your pocket wildflower book and identify the ones that you see along the trail. Give a coupon to family members to visit ancestors now returned to Mother Earth by taking trips to cemeteries of grandparents, great grandparents, great great grandparents, etc. and tell stories about those special people with which you share DNA.

Sharplobe hepatica on Bear Creek Trail
Photo by Barbara J. Dover



Amicalola Falls
Photo by Barbara J. Dover

Give a coupon for a hike to a nearby waterfalls and stand close as the water rushes down to breathe in those negative ions. Known as the "Lenerd" or "waterfall affect," the force of falling or fast-moving water causes water molecules to break apart on impact, knocking loose electrons. These free electrons then attach to other air molecules, such as oxygen, creating a negative electrical charge. Benefits of the "waterfall effect" have been said to increase the flow of oxygen to the brain; Improve alertness and energy; alleviate stress and anxiety; and boost mood and serotonin levels. I would say that giving that gift and its resulting benefits is mighty fine for the recipient and yourself, so "**do** go chasing waterfalls!"

Creating something lasting, unique, and one-of-a-kind from Mother Nature's offerings is a special gift born of an active imagination. Whittling or carving from fallen tree branches or sticks requires the wood, a sharp knife, and a vision. But "Mind you don't cut yourself, Mordecai!" (That one was for all you "Raising Arizona" fans!}

Daddy's Creatures
Hansel G. Dover Folk Art Sculpture
made of Briar Roots
Photo by Barbara J. Dover

Daddy, also known as Hansel Gordon Dover, used to dig up briars that grew up in the garden or around the house. The roots had created a gnarled burl and were known for carving pipes due to their hardened density and flame-resistance. But Daddy saw something else. Daddy saw creatures. While

Daddy's Creatures
Hansel G. Dover Folk Art Sculpture
made of Briar Roots
Photo by Barbara J. Dover

See ***Mother Nature's Gifts***, *page 14.*

Mother Nature's Gifts
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Daddy's Creatures
Hansel G. Dover Folk Art Sculpture
made of Briar Roots
Photo by Barbara J. Dover

the roots dried, he pondered what they looked like and then put things all together to make his one-of-a-kind creatures. He had to add things, but he made sure those were things we already had. Legs were cotton swabs cut in half, ears were cut from plastic spoons, eyes were made from dried peas, and a liberal use of Mama's red fingernail polish was applied instead of paint. The roots' runners were often left on the burl to make the creatures' curly tails. These creatures were for showcasing, not for playing, but Daddy also read the ***Foxfire*** books and made some of their Appalachian toys for us kids. These types of creations may be given as fully finished gifts, and/or giving a coupon for creating them together with a loved one would be a memorable experience producing a work of art.

Limberjack/Dancing Doll
Hansel G. Dover Appalachian Toy
Photo by Barbara J. Dover

What if you need to give a little bling or just any kind of jewelry to someone special? Search for necklace chains or silk cord to use. Materials from Mother Nature can be sourced for pendants to attach to the chains or cords. There are all sorts of things available in North Georgia, especially its plethora of minerals from the ancient Appalachian Mountains. Many minerals are often foraged from when a road or highway is cut. Oftentimes they may be found in the development of land for residential or commercial use, especially if houses with basements or swimming pools are built. (But don't forage without permission! Trespassing is illegal, plus owners of the land may already have a deal to sell minerals to rock stores.)

Staurolite or Fairy Cross Pendants
Photo: Kirkhneely.wordpress.com

One of the minerals found in this area is staurolite. It is thought that these crystals found deep within the earth or from a meteor became naturally formed in the shape of a cross under great pressure and high temperatures around 60 to 500 million years ago. Legend gave them the name of "fairy crosses." Known as the Georgia state mineral, no two crosses found are alike even though there are primarily three types. The Maltese Cross is a well-formed even cross that is rare and a collectors' item. The Saint Andrew's Cross has an angled line instead of a horizontal line through the cross and is fairly common. The Prismatic Cross is the most common with an imperfect shape, but still identifiable as a cross.

See ***Mother Nature's Gifts***, *page 15.*

Mother Nature's Gifts
-continued-

The legends of the fairy cross are many, but one is that they represent the tears of the Cherokee that fell on their homeland during their exodus in the "Trail of Tears." Another tale is from an older legend of an ancient race of mountain fairies. The fairies would meet up in a special place for happy celebrations, but at one of their meetings around 2000 years ago, they found out that the Son of the Great Creator had died upon a cross. The fairies mourned the loss with a multitude of tears, and those tears fell to the ground and were crystallized as "fairy crosses." Another tale is that Pocahontas gave John Smith a fairy cross necklace for good luck, and it is well known that President Theodore Roosevelt carried an amulet made from a "fairy cross."

Needless to say, this local mineral is quite interesting and whether mined or purchased, it can be made into a pendant as a one-of a-kind piece of jewelry. Any other mineral or gemstone-from Mother Nature's handiwork in the Appalachians may be created into jewelry as pendants, key chains, earrings, bracelets, and more. The stones might have to be purchased and set, but as they are from Mother Nature and, if locally mined, give special significance to the gift.

Jackson's Crossing, Georgia
Raw Amethyst Pendant
Photo: etsy.com

Black Walnut Hull Pendants
Photo: etsy.com

Other jewelry may be made from whittled and carved wood with simple settings or fancy ones wrapped in wire and precious metals. Even nut hulls can be used to make jewelry. Daddy used to make pendants from slices of cleaned black walnut hulls. The cross section of black walnuts is lovely, and it looks almost like a tree of life. The black walnut hull has a 3D cell structure, making it very difficult to crack, and it is recommended to use thin gloves when working with the hulls due to their tannins. To use the hull for jewelry, Daddy would saw it horizontally into slices about 1/2-inch-thick, and he would use a clear finish to maintain the raw edges of the hull. To use as a pendant, he would make an opening in one of the hull's natural holes and string a leather or twine cord through it.

There are so many gifts given to you from Mother Nature that you can use to regift. If you have other ideas that you have used or are planning to source from Mother Nature, email to us at gilmergenealogy@gmail.com or write them down and give them to me at a meeting. There might be a sequel to this article. I think Mother Nature would like that.

Bulletin Board

December 2025

- **Monday, December 1**
  Holiday Open House and Festival of Trees
  Gilmer County Library
  5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

- **Saturday, December 13—GCGSI Monthly Meeting**
  Holiday Luncheon & Installation of 2026 GCGSI Board
  Gilmer County Library Lower Level - 12:00 noon
  Protein, beverages, and paper products provided by GCGSI.
  Bring your favorite salad, side dish, and/or dessert to share.

- **Sunday, December 21 - Winter Solstice**

- **Thursday, December 25 - Christmas**

January 2026

- **Thursday, January 1 - Happy New Year!**

- **Saturday, January 17 - GCGSI Monthly Meeting**
  Burnette Family Ancestry and Scottish Heritage
  Earl Cagle, Speaker (GCGSI Founder, Past President, Researcher, Author, and SAR Past President)
  Gilmer County Library Lower Level - 2:00 p.m.

February 2026

- **Monday, February 2 - Groundhog Day**

- **Saturday, February 14 - Happy Valentine's Day!**

- **Tuesday, February 17 - Random Acts of Kindness Day**

- **Saturday, February 21 - GCGSI Monthly Meeting**
  The Potter's Fields of Georgia
  Chris Feldt, speaker
  Gilmer County Library Lower Level - 2:00 p.m.

Dove (Charcoal on Paper)
Billy Roper (American) - November 15, 2025

2025 GCGSI Officers and Committee Chairpersons

Barbara J. Dover: President, Publication, & Publicity Committees' Chairperson, and Program Committee Co-Chairperson
Deborah Wilcox: Vice President, Program Committee Co-Chairperson
Rebecca Burrell: Corresponding Secretary & Historian -
Anita Summers: Recording Secretary
Susan Noles: Treasurer & Membership Committee Chairperson
Patricia Henson: First Families of Gilmer County Committee Chairperson
Lydia Bassetti and Erin Brandy: Events Committee Co-Chairpersons

In Memorium

Member of GCGSI
Levi Haire
Dec. 16, 1930 - Oct. 5, 2025

2026 GCGSI Officers-Elect and Committee Chairpersons

Barbara J. Dover: President, Publication Committee Chairperson, & Publicity Committee Co-Chairperson,
Deborah Wilcox: Vice President, Program Committee Chairperson, & Publicity Committee Co-Chairperson
?- Corresponding Secretary
Erin Brandy: Recording Secretary
Susan Noles: Treasurer & Membership Committee Chairperson
Rebecca Burrell: Historian
Patricia Henson and Beverly Holt: First Families of Gilmer County Committee Co-Chairperson
Lydia Bassetti and Erin Brandy: Events Committee Co-Chairpersons

Mountain Heritage Newsletter
Published by Barbara J. Dover
Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.
President, Publications and
Publicity Committees' Chairperson, and
Program Committee Co-Chairperson

Gilmer County
Genealogical Society

Holiday Luncheon
and
Installation of 2026 GCGS Board

Saturday, December 13, 2025
Gilmer County Library Lower Level
12:00 noon

GCGS will provide the protein, beverages, & paper products, and attendees are asked to bring side dishes and/or desserts to share. Please RSVP to gilmergenealogy@gmail.com with your name and the number attending.

The Gilmer County Genealogical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 919
Ellijay, GA 30540

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We're online!
www.gcgsi.org
Contact email: gilmergenealogy@gmail.com.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE ONLINE?

- GCGSI Membership
- First Families Application
- Genealogical Links
- Officers and Chairpersons

- Book Order Forms
- 1834 and 1840 Census
- Contact Information
- GCGSI Newsletters