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The Vintage Rabun Quarterly

INSIDE THIS EDITION: DEPOTS OF THE TALLULAH FALLS RAILROAD

Museum Renovation

Volunteers have been at work on the museum renovation. It is a work in progress. The museum will organize permanent exhibits around the major developments that have shaped the history of Rabun County with space for rotating displays featuring areas of interest. The newly constructed walls shown here more than double our exhibit space. We are fortunate to have Foxfire loan us an authentic moonshine still that we will display in an appropriate environment.

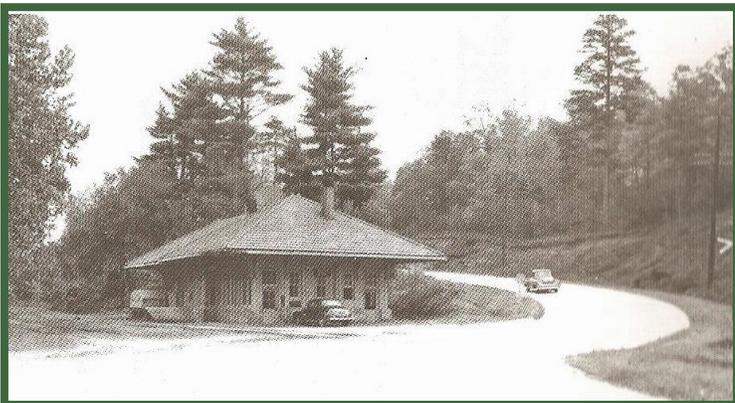


Our New Website is Online

www.rabunhistory.org

Our beautiful and functional new website was launched in early September. The site highlights the exciting new exhibits that our renovated museum will feature. From our Native American heritage to the Tallulah Falls Railroad, hydroelectric dams, and moonshining, the exhibits on our website bring Rabun County's history alive. We invite you to visit the user-friendly site.

THE DEPOTS OF THE TALLULAH FALLS RAILROAD FELL INTO DISREPAIR AFTER THE RAILROAD CEASED OPERATION IN 1961. MOST OF THEM WERE DEMOLISHED, AND SOME WERE RELOCATED. THE ONLY DEPOT THAT REMAINS IN RABUN COUNTY TODAY IS AT TALLULAH FALLS. IN THIS ISSUE WE HAVE INCLUDED PHOTOS AND A BIT OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPOTS AND A COUPLE OF THE STOPS IN RABUN.



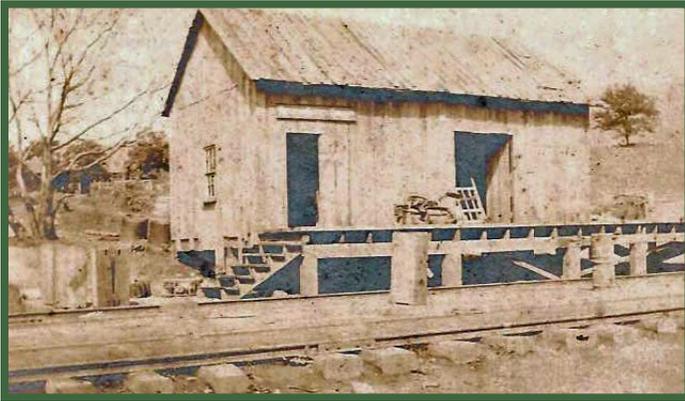
The Tallulah Falls Railroad reached Tallulah Falls in 1882. The original depot burned and was replaced in 1913-14 with the depot in these photos, which still stands and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Located directly across the tracks from the depot was the famous Cliff House Hotel. The arrival of the train each day was greeted with a band welcoming guests.



The Lakemont Depot stood across the road from Alley's Store which also served as the post office. Residents would gather to meet the train which brought guests to Lake Rabun as well as supplies, newspapers and mail.



The railroad was extended to Tiger by 1903. A community well was located near the depot for the convenience of passengers and local residents.



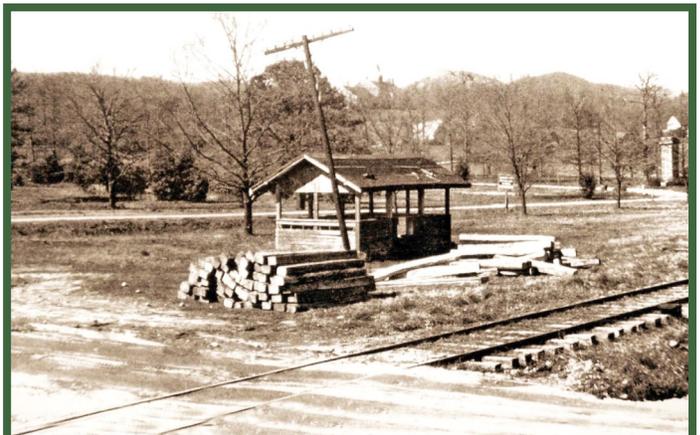
When the railroad reached Clayton in June of 1904, it caused an instant boom in tourism. Clayton's Main Street was soon lined with hotels and boarding houses. The original depot is shown in the photo on the left. It was replaced in 1912 with the depot pictured on the right.



The depot at Mountain City was the highest elevation point on the Tallulah Falls Railroad route. It was located on the Blue Ridge Divide which separates the waters that flow to the Atlantic Ocean from those that flow to the Gulf of Mexico. This photo shows the Mountain City Packing House in the background.



The York House in Rabun Gap had its own siding where the train stopped to load and unload passengers. Photo: circa 1910



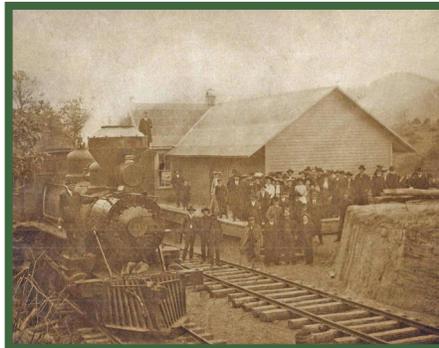
This passenger stop was located at Rabun Gap. The location is now at the corner of Highway 441 and Kelly's Creek Road. The buildings at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School are in the background across the highway.

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



Phone: 706-782-5292
www.rabunhistory.org
Email:
rabuncountyhistory@gmail.com

Our museum room is currently closed for an extensive renovation. The research room is open on Saturdays from 12:00-3:00 for genealogical and county research.



The railroad was extended to Dillard by 1907. The Dillard Depot was located east of today's Highway 441 in the center of Dillard's business district. The photo on the left is believed to be the grand opening event.

