

## **Milsap Mountain: 1997-2018**

### **Herron, Hunter & Carson Families**

For the past two decades, our family has been privileged to care for this beautiful mountain property and make lifelong memories here. According to the history that was passed down to us, the land was originally inhabited by Cherokee Indians who surely would have lived off the abundant wildlife and fresh, clear water. The property was settled and farmed following the Civil War, and transitioned to recreational use in the 1970's. Around 1975, the two historic log cabins were brought to the property from Hall County and Buford, Ga. and reassembled onsite by J.C. Maxwell. Each cabin was originally built in the 1800's and has a commemorative plaque mounted just inside its front door. A central addition with a kitchen and two full bathrooms and a spacious screen porch combined the two log cabins into one unique, historic, but functional dwelling.

The property itself is a treasure-trove of botanical riches. It contains the only full-grown chestnut tree I have ever seen – a majestic beauty with two smaller chestnut trees nearby. A towering walnut tree stands sentry at the other end of the cabin, and nearby are flowering plum and cherry trees. I imagine the redwood tree near the pond (planted by my brother) is the only redwood in all of Fannin County. A muscadine trellis runs along one of the property lines, and two large blueberry patches produce fruit for weeks every summer. The meadow is full of wildflowers and a beautiful fern glade can be found at the stream's bend near the tree house. In the spring along the paths of Milsap Mountain you can spot rhododendrons, bloodroot, trout lily, trillium, phlox and many other spring flowers and ferns.

Over the years, my family has hiked all over the property, told ghost stories around the fire, star-gazed, chased fireflies, splashed in the creek, thrown Frisbees, picked gallons of blueberries and blackberries and eaten about a thousand s'mores. We've hosted numerous gatherings for friends and family and enjoyed music, hayrides, barbecue, tag football and campouts. Even though we all live relatively close to each other and get together frequently, there's something different about escaping the city and spending time together in the fresh air and quiet of the mountains. Sitting on the porch, we've had conversations we never would have had in our busy city lives. The children and dogs have had the freedom to explore, while my parents reminisced about their childhoods with stories we had not heard before.

Three generations of my family, including aunts, uncles and cousins, have been renewed by this beautiful property. We know we are but the most recent link in a chain of families stretching back more than a century who have loved and enjoyed this special place. We will keep these memories in our hearts as we pass the land along to the next "caretaker" and wish you many happy years at Milsap Mountain.

Julie Herron Carson  
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