



Followill

THE Southern RUSTIC CABIN

ISBN 978-1-4236-3885-8
54000
9 781423 638858



THE Southern
RUSTIC CABIN

EMILY J. FOLLOWILL

Foreword by James T. Farmer III

\$40.00 U.S.

In the cool, wooded mountains of the American South,

each log cabin has a rich history and a unique personality. Thirteen homeowners across the South took on the challenge of preserving the age-old qualities of their cabins while renovating, revitalizing, and redecorating these treasures to support modern living and reflect their personal styles.

Emily Followill's stunning photography shows every cozy corner of the homes, located in Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama and Virginia. The writing tells the story of how each cabin and owner came together; as the owners changed their cabins, the cabins invariably changed the owners as well.



CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|------------|--|
| 6 | Acknowledgments | 105 | A HOME IN THREE ACTS
<i>Rappahannock County, Virginia</i> |
| 9 | Foreword, by James T. Farmer III | 119 | HUNTING DOWN HISTORY
<i>Columbus, Georgia</i> |
| 11 | Introduction, Emily J. Followill | 131 | LAID-BACK LUXURY
<i>Cashiers, North Carolina</i> |
| 15 | BORN TO BUILD
<i>Hendersonville, Tennessee</i> | 147 | MIX, MASTERED
<i>Lake Hartwell, Georgia</i> |
| 31 | CULTIVATING MEMORIES
<i>Madison, Georgia</i> | 161 | OLD CABIN, NEW TRICKS
<i>Highlands, North Carolina</i> |
| 53 | DREAM HOME COME TRUE
<i>Ellijay, Georgia</i> | 173 | A STORIED PAST
<i>Lake Toxaway, North Carolina</i> |
| 67 | GROWING NEW ROOTS
<i>Cashiers, North Carolina</i> | 187 | STRENGTH OF SPIRIT
<i>Highlands, North Carolina</i> |
| 81 | A HASTY RETREAT
<i>Cashiers, North Carolina</i> | 204 | Resources |
| 95 | HISTORY AT HEART
<i>McCalla, Alabama</i> | | |



A STORIED PAST

— LAKE TOXAWAY, NORTH CAROLINA —

When Atlantans Kay and Doug Ivester began the hunt for a guesthouse to include as part of their Lake Toxaway, North Carolina, vacation home, they couldn't find a suitable old cabin with a long and detailed history. So they did the next best thing: they built a new one and invented a backstory on their own.

"The story was about a dairy farmer who had moved to the Lake Toxaway area from Pennsylvania," Doug says. "He was there to supply milk and butter to the Lake Toxaway Inn, and in doing so he had a stone barn and a log cabin."

The Ivesters called upon architect Al Platt of Platt Architecture to help them bring this imaginary tale to life. Seeking to infuse as much authenticity as possible, they selected builder Bob Dylewski, known not just for his construction prowess but also for his expertise in sourcing antique woods. He has a passion for period architecture and furniture.

"Doug wanted to use indigenous American woods of this area. We didn't bring in exotic woods from different parts of the country or world," says Bob, "because it didn't fit the story or his taste."



glass, architectural fragments, ephemera—anything that speaks to his impeccable eye for detail.

Braxton's talent is inborn, as pure as the stones from which he built his first house at the age of fourteen. As a toddler, he would crawl around to pick up blocks that his father, a carpenter, sawed off the ends of red cedar. It was in his mind, heart, and soul from the very beginning.

Braxton, who has handcrafted just over fifty houses through the years, is famous for the care he lavishes on every last element. "No new material ever goes into his houses. He hasn't bought a new piece of wood in sixty-five years," says Maryanna.

It's no surprise, then, that the Dixons have surrounded themselves with homes rooted in the past. The six cabins on their Hendersonville property, known as Sycamore Homestead, date as far back as 1789. Of them all, the guesthouse known as Mud Lick House is the most authentic as far as being handmade. Built in

◀ The house that Maryanna Dixon (then Maryanna McConnell) bought before meeting Braxton, the master builder who would become her husband, was the first cabin on their property, Sycamore Homestead. They have since added five more.

▮ The large wheel on this porch at the Mud Lick House once belonged to Johnny Cash, who used to store his guns between the spokes. In front stands an old train-wheel cog mold from a rail yard.



Emily J. Followill began an adventure in photography twenty years ago. Since her early years studying her art, her style has been concise, crisp, and classic. She tells a story with beautiful, balanced photographs and a natural quality of light. From residential interiors to gardens, product to lifestyle, Emily demonstrates a passion and an eye for simple beauty in the most complex settings. Her work is recognized in national and international publications, including *Veranda*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Traditional Home*, *Atlanta Homes and Lifestyles*, *Garden and Gun*, *Southern Living*, and many others.

As an Atlanta native, Emily continues to enjoy everything about the South. She and her husband love raising their two children in Atlanta, and they continue to pass down the traditions handed to them by their families.

Lisa Frederick, an Atlanta native, spent several years as an editor for *Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles* magazine before making the leap to national magazines such as *Better Homes and Gardens* and *Southern Accents*. Her editorial specialties include shelter and lifestyle as well as travel and food. She lives in Birmingham, Alabama.



◀◀ Joe and David designed streamlined Windsor-style chairs for the dining room and had a local woodworker craft them. A cabinetmaker fashioned the custom table.

▲ Joe was adamant that he wanted to use pale green paint on the kitchen cabinetry for a punch of color. The gentle hue brings in a bit of the outdoors and breaks up the concentrated wood tones.

◀ Simple granite countertops recede against the hefty log architecture and eye-catching cabinet color.