

# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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## [Archive]: Martha Berry Schools Ephemera

Georgia: 1921-1948

\$1200



An archive of 53 letters, pamphlets, and magazines relating to Martha Berry and her schools in Georgia most likely collected by her friend and colleague, the publisher Albert Shaw. Martha Berry started a small school in the late 1890's which later expanded to Berry Collage in 1926. Her goal was to help impoverished or uneducated children learn to read and write as well as incorporating various agricultural skills. A small pamphlet entitled *Martha Berry and Her Work* by Albert Shaw goes over her achievements and goals stating; "Martha Berry established a small day school on a portion of the family plantation that had come to her from her father. Gradually, though rapidly, there grew in her mind the conception for a permanent institution, that would take mountain boys and give them a sound education while training them for agriculture and practical trades... Here we find

patriotism in the highest sense of the word." Shaw was an important contributor to Berry's school. Several of the letters are to him, expressing gratitude for donations of money and books to the girl schools. "We are so grateful to you and Dr. Shaw for your visit and the inspiration of your presence, and look forward keenly to your return," is a sentiment from just one of the many letters addressed to Shaw and his wife.



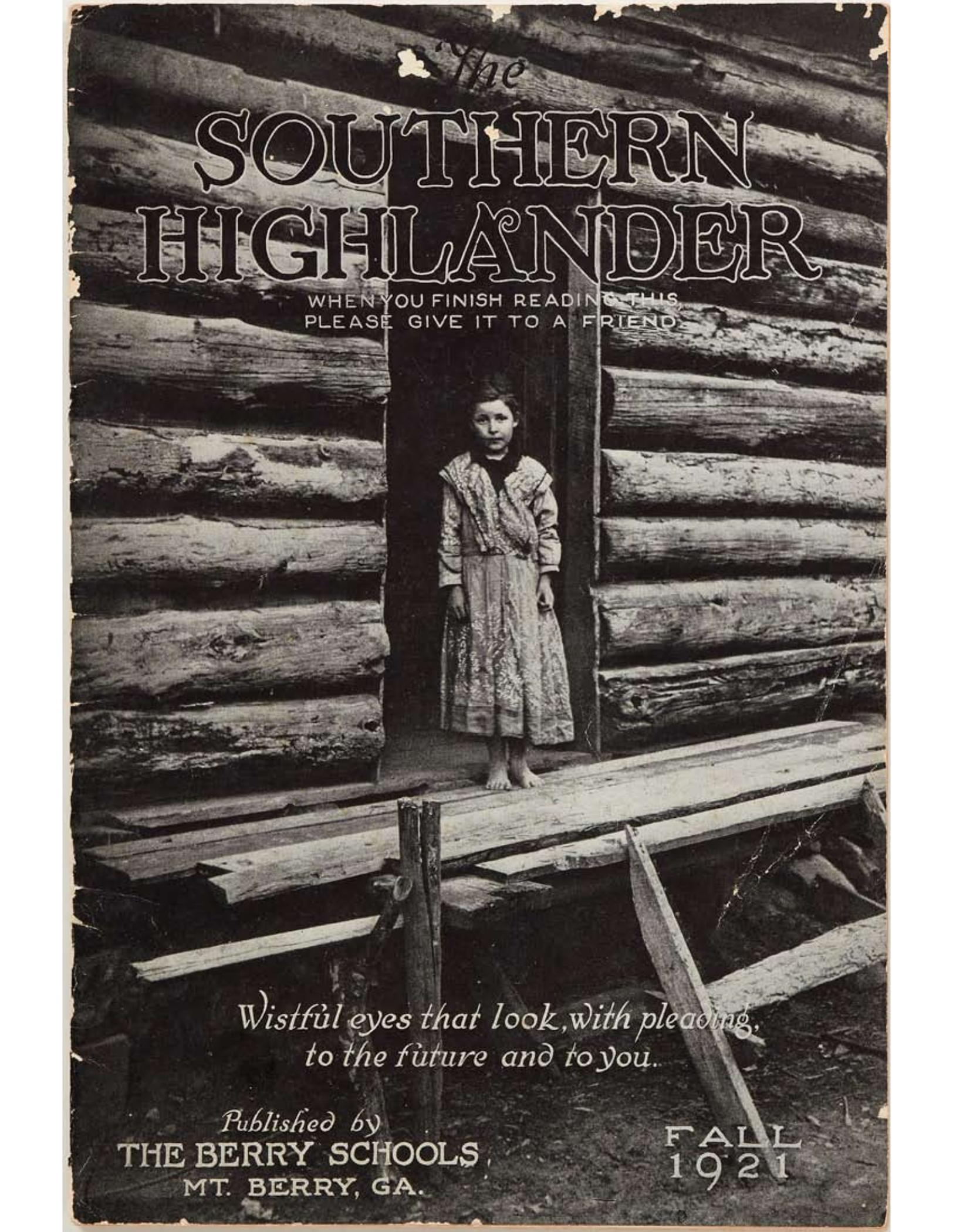
Martha Berry herself wrote a couple of the letters to Shaw, most of which express her thanks for his support of the school but also for supporting her, “I have appreciated your help and interest all through the years, and feel that you have understood the schools and understood me as no one else has.” She talks about how the schools are going and the various classes and work shops offered to the students, “You would love to see the Schools now with work in full swing. Classes begin at six in the morning, lasting one hour, then field and shop work starts. There are some 400 boys and girls here now toiling in the orchards, dairies, gardens, printer, auto shop, etc.” With every letter she writes to hopefully see Shaw soon, “If you come South do stop and see us as we always get so much inspiration from your visits,” showing her feelings for her dear friend.

Two of the sepia photos show Shaw visiting the school; one of him standing with a walking stick and flowers in hand and the second photo shows Shaw on one of the school’s carts with the driver and ox. The last photo shows Mrs. Shaw walking on the grounds of the school smiling. Shaw is mentioned in *The Southern Highlander* magazines, published by the school, praising him for his commitment to the school, “As a trustee of the School, he was given every privilege of the School. He and Mrs. Shaw were allowed even to sample transportation by the ox-cart method. Judging from their smiles they liked it very much.” Most of the letters to Shaw go over the Board of Trustee meetings, adjustments to the school, and upcoming events. Shaw also received several letters written from other members of the faculty, a Faculty News Letter, and a card showing just how important he was to the school and those who ran it.

Also included is The Berry Schools Department of Forestry report from 1946 which details the program’s advancement over the year, their goals, and several examples of the trees seen. There are five sepia and black and white pictures showing the various trees encountered on the school’s campus, “Stem canker of a 25-year old loblolly pine... by thinnings and improvement cuttings this disease can be controlled and reduced in importance.”

Martha Berry passed away in 1942 but the goals of the College have not changed and the institution still strives to help student from low economic backgrounds. She has also been attributed to the creation of work-study programs grounded in Christian faith that can still be found throughout the South.

An extensive look back on The Berry School’s development from 1921-1948. [BTC#402138]



The  
SOUTHERN  
HIGHLANDER

WHEN YOU FINISH READING THIS  
PLEASE GIVE IT TO A FRIEND.

*Wistful eyes that look, with pleading,  
to the future and to you.*

Published by  
THE BERRY SCHOOLS  
MT. BERRY, GA.

FALL  
1921

*Martha Berry*  
*Mount Berry, Georgia*

December 2, 1935.

Dr. Albert Shaw,  
Hastings-on-Hudson,  
New York.

Dear Dr. Shaw:

I was delighted to have your nice letter and generous gift. I have appreciated your help and interest all through the years, and feel that you have understood the schools and understood me as no one else has.

I was so sorry to leave New York without seeing you, and after rushing home I really felt it was not worthwhile to have rushed back without having seen more of the friends, but I am looking forward to seeing you when I go back to New York.

It was such a joy to see Virginia. She looked so charming and I was so happy to have that little glimpse of her. It was dear of her to take the hand-woven materials that our girls sent up and to arrange for a sale of the articles. I appreciate it more than I can say.

If you come South do stop and see us as we always get so much inspiration from your visits.

With affectionate regards to Virginia, and all the Shaw family, especially to our dear Dr. Shaw,

Faithfully yours,

*Martha Berry*

# FACULTY NEWS LETTER

The Berry Schools

February, 1947

Mt. Berry, Georgia



Presenting

Dr. Randolph Green

In

BERRY'S DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM



One of the most important factors involved in living a happy and successful life is that of good health. Of this most of us are well aware; however, the average individual fails through lack of knowledge or by negligence to practice simple precautions which might help to preserve the health of that individual. This is particularly true in the field of oral health which until recent years has been approached too often with the purpose of eliminating a specific pain or defect rather than with the idea of arresting the trouble at its source or of preventing it altogether. That oral health is important to our well-being has been voiced by such eminent men as Dr. Charles Mayo of the Mayo Clinic at Rochester when he states that the average life of a man can be prolonged at least ten years by proper dental care. Due to such neglect, he continues, the average individual dies at thirty and is buried at sixty.

As with most health problems, the great need is to instruct the general public in the proper personal precautions to be taken and what is more important, to convince them of the importance of following these measures. It is upon these measures that a program of preventive dentistry is based for as yet no miracle drug has been devised to prevent dental decay or diseases of the soft supporting tissues of the teeth. We can, however, prevent the accumulation of many and more serious defects if the individual will but give more thought to the following three steps: maintenance of an adequate diet, maintenance of proper oral hygiene, and periodic examination and treatment by the dentist. What is being done here at Berry to impress upon the students the importance of practicing these steps?

Dr. & Mrs. Charles M. Proctor of Boston saw here at Berry a great need for dental care and instruction and so donated the Robert Raisbeck Proctor Memorial Clinic in 1926, in memory of their deceased son. In addition to donating the finest of equipment, Dr. Proctor has assumed the responsibility of providing a dentist and dental hygienist to carry on the work and each year has personally spent some time in the clinic. Because of this program thousands of Berry students have enjoyed healthier and happier lives.

