



Eden Valley Enterprises

Filming for *Emma Gatewood: An Appalachian Tale*; September 15, 2013





*Emma Gatewood:*

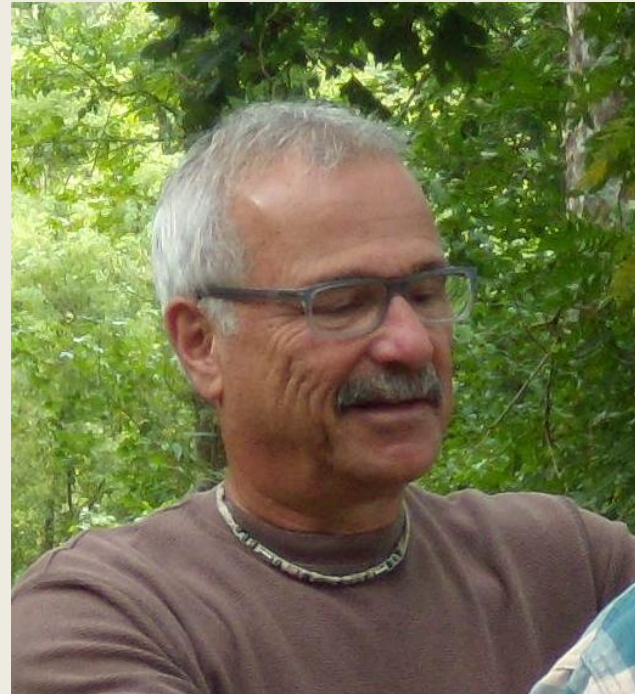
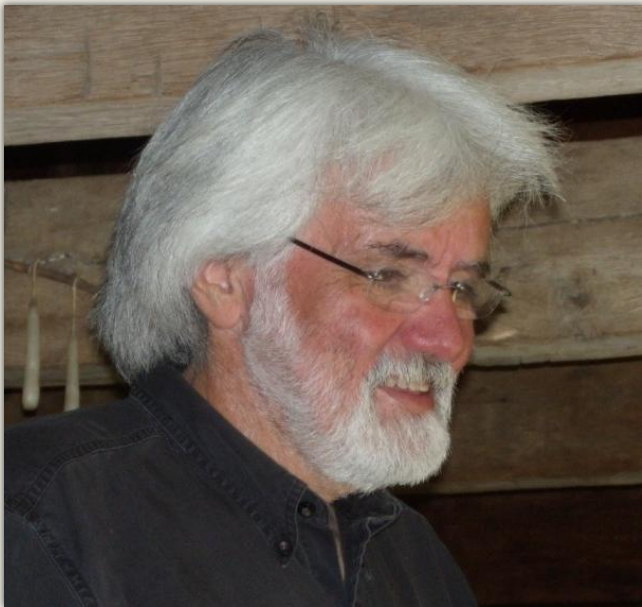
*An Appalachian Tale*

**Anne McEvoy:** Emma

**Peter Huston, FilmAffects:** Director

**Thomas Whaley, Green Door**

**Mediaworks:** Cameraman





Location: Lake County Historical Society

Painesville, Ohio



On October 25, 1887 Emma Rowena Caldwell was born “...in a puny house back of Mercerville ...” Ohio about a mile from where the creeks fork in Guyan Township, Gallia County. That’s close to the Ohio River in the southernmost part of the state. A hop, skip and jump from West Virginia, really.









The log house held her father, Hugh, her mother, Esther Evelyn, and 15 children, including Emma. The children slept four to a bed and sometimes the snow on the roof would tumble through the rafters and give them an “extra blanket.”

Life was filled with chores – hoeing the corn, planting, and worming and suckering the tobacco. She milked the cows; washed dishes; made sausage, lard and head cheese; mended and washed clothes; and cooked. There was also milking, washing, ironing and cleaning. Emma shelled corn and brought in coal and kindling wood.





In her spare time, Emma took some classes at nearby Blessing School in Northrup. It went all the way through the 8th grade and, whenever she could, she'd repeat those 8th grade classes. Emma believed there can never be too much learning.





Emma was responsible for helping to plant vegetables and to work in the field on their farm. If any flowers got planted, that was up to Emma. Flowers were so important to her, she'd get up at 4 a.m. to work in the flower beds by the light of a kerosene lantern before breakfast was due at 6.



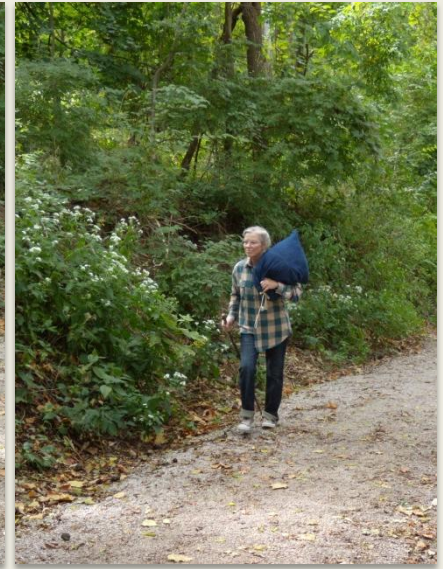




In 1954 Emma read an old issue of *National Geographic*. There was an article about a man named Earl Schaffer, the first person to ever hike the entire Appalachian Trail by himself. Since then, four other people did the same – but, guess what? All of them . . . were men. In other words, no women.

Emma thought to herself, “Why not you, Emma Gatewood? Why not you? You're a free woman now. Why NOT hike the Appalachian Trail?”





It was September 25, 1955. Emma Gatewood stood at the top of Mt. Katahdin singing triumphantly. 2,050 miles, 145 days and 30 pounds ago, Emma had left Mt. Oglethorpe, Georgia. It was so windy she feared being blown off the mountaintop, as Emma sang a verse of “America the Beautiful”, she signed the register book. Grandma Gatewood had just become the first woman to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail ALONE!

Text taken from

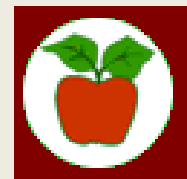
Grandma Gatewood: Ohio's Legendary Hiker by Bette Lou Higgins and Kelly Boyer Sagert (copyright 2012; Eden Valley Enterprises) and "Trail Magic" by Kelly Boyer Sagert (copyright 2013; Eden Valley Enterprises).

Photos by Bette Lou Higgins (copyright 2013; Eden Valley Enterprises)

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A photograph of a cloudy sky, framed by dark silhouettes of tree branches and leaves. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds against a pale blue background. The tree silhouettes are dark and detailed, with some leaves showing fine veins. The overall mood is serene and natural.

# **Emma Gatewood: An Appalachian Tale**