**The Underwater Ghost Towns of North Georgia**

**Three Questions:**

1. Learn about the Lakes of North Georgia- Why they were formed? Who built them?
2. What happened to the people from the drowned towns?
3. What if? What if we had left the rivers alone and never made so many lakes?

From the back of the book:

North Georgia has more than forty lakes, and not one is natural. The state’s controversial decision to dam the region’s rivers for power and water supply changed the landscape forever. Lost communities, forgotten crossroads, dissolving racetracks and even entire towns disappeared, with remnants occasionally peeking up from the depths during times of extreme drought. The creation of Lake Lanier displaced more than seven hundred families. During the construction of Lake Chatuge, busloads of schoolboys were brought in to help disinter graves for the community’s cemetery relocation. Contractors clearing land for the development of Lake Hartwell met with seventy-eight-year-old Eliza Brock wielding a shotgun and warning the men off her property. Lisa Russell dives into the history hidden beneath North Georgia’s lakes.

**Bio::**

Lisa Russell is a member of the Society for Georgia Archaeology, Bartow History Museum and Etowah Valley Historical Society. She earned her masters degree in professional writing from Kennesaw State University. When Lisa is not teaching at Georgia Northwestern Technical College or Kennesaw State University, she can be found exploring North Georgia through a micro-historic lens.

**Presentation**

**Title**: Lost and Drowned: What happened to the landscape of North Georgia?

**LONG BLURB about presentation or book: Choose what you like**

Once upon a time the rivers ran wild. Along the fertile banks communities and commodities grew. Loosely-formed towns and wilderness made up the life in the North Georgia mountains. That was before the state created its first lakes in North Georgia. The raging waters flooded their banks as the dams did their work to shape the lakes. Wilderness was re-purposed and communities replaced.

Explorers and poets explained what once was and wild and rambling. Sidney Lanier wrote in “The Song of the Chattahoochee:" Run the rapid and leap the fall, /Split at the rock and together again, /Accept my bed, or narrow or wide, /And flee from folly on every side…. In the clefts of the hills of Habersham, /In the beds of the valleys of Hall. Mary Hood said in the New Georgia Guide, “We no longer know paradise or wilderness except as a myth.”

Petersburg, Abernathyville, Etowah, Allatoona, and Burton were towns drowned. More to this North Georgia life disappeared under the waters. Gone are the farms, family homes, stores, gas stations, and even a racetrack.

Discover what lies beneath the lakes of North Georgia.

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