



THE
Greystone
 INN

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OUR HISTORY



It was 1910 when Socialite Lucy Armstrong and her husband, George, a prominent Savannah businessman, began vacationing on Lake Toxaway, staying at the well-known Toxaway Inn alongside Vanderbilts, Rockefellers, Firestones and others.

The story is told that Lucy had become so enamored with the area that one day in 1913, she asked her husband to build a vacation home on the shores of Lake Toxaway. In what is assumed to be an effort to deter her, he suggested that she select an ideal spot and camp out all

summer before making a final decision.

In the summer of 1913, Lucy chose a rocky knoll on a short peninsula on the Western shoreline of Lake Toxaway for her home site and proceeded to “camp” in true style. She started by having a hardwood floor built, then covered it with a 2,000-square foot tent, and completed her camp by setting up a smaller tent next door to house 11 servants.

True to his word, George built a lake home on that very spot, which was completed in 1915 and called Hillmont. Lucy herself laid out the original structure, with board and batten siding stained grey with white trim and architectural details similar to Swiss mountain chalets she had seen on her trips to Europe; casement windows, flower boxes and balconies embellished with small triangular cutouts. And, with the help of prominent Atlanta architects Heinz and Reid the architectural plans were drawn.

In 1916 a tremendous flood caused the Toxaway dam to burst. Residents reported seeing a 30-foot-tall wave that left debris nearly 4 miles downstream and created scars on the landscape that can still be seen today. Old timers say that Mrs. Armstrong was rowing on the lake when the dam burst and as she came ashore, the water level had already begun to recede. The lake emptied and so did the steady stream of vacationers. Although the Toxaway Inn never reopened, the Armstrong’s did not desert their retreat. Undeterred, Lucy continued to visit her mountain home, and after her husband’s death in 1924 made Lake Toxaway her permanent residence.

In the early 1930’s, Lucy remarried local business man Carl Moltz. The two entertained frequently and expanded the home to include a larger dining room and sunroom, a kitchen wing with upstairs bedrooms, and a free-standing library with a downstairs cooking and canning room.

Lucy was a big supporter of the local community. Teaching women skills that included cooking, canning and homemaking and during the difficult days of the depression, Lucy created jobs on her estate for people. She loved children, often hosting picnics and paid for over two dozen young people to attend college.

Throughout her life, Lucy’s faith that the lake would be restored remained strong. In 1961, her prayers were answered when the Lake Toxaway Company bought the lake bed, repaired the dam, and restored the lakes waters.

Having traveled the world twice, Lucy believed Lake Toxaway to be the most beautiful and special place in the world. Her only wish when she sold her property was that it be enjoyed by many. The Greystone Inn was opened in 1985 and fulfilled that wish under the stewardship of a family from Atlanta called the Lovelaces.

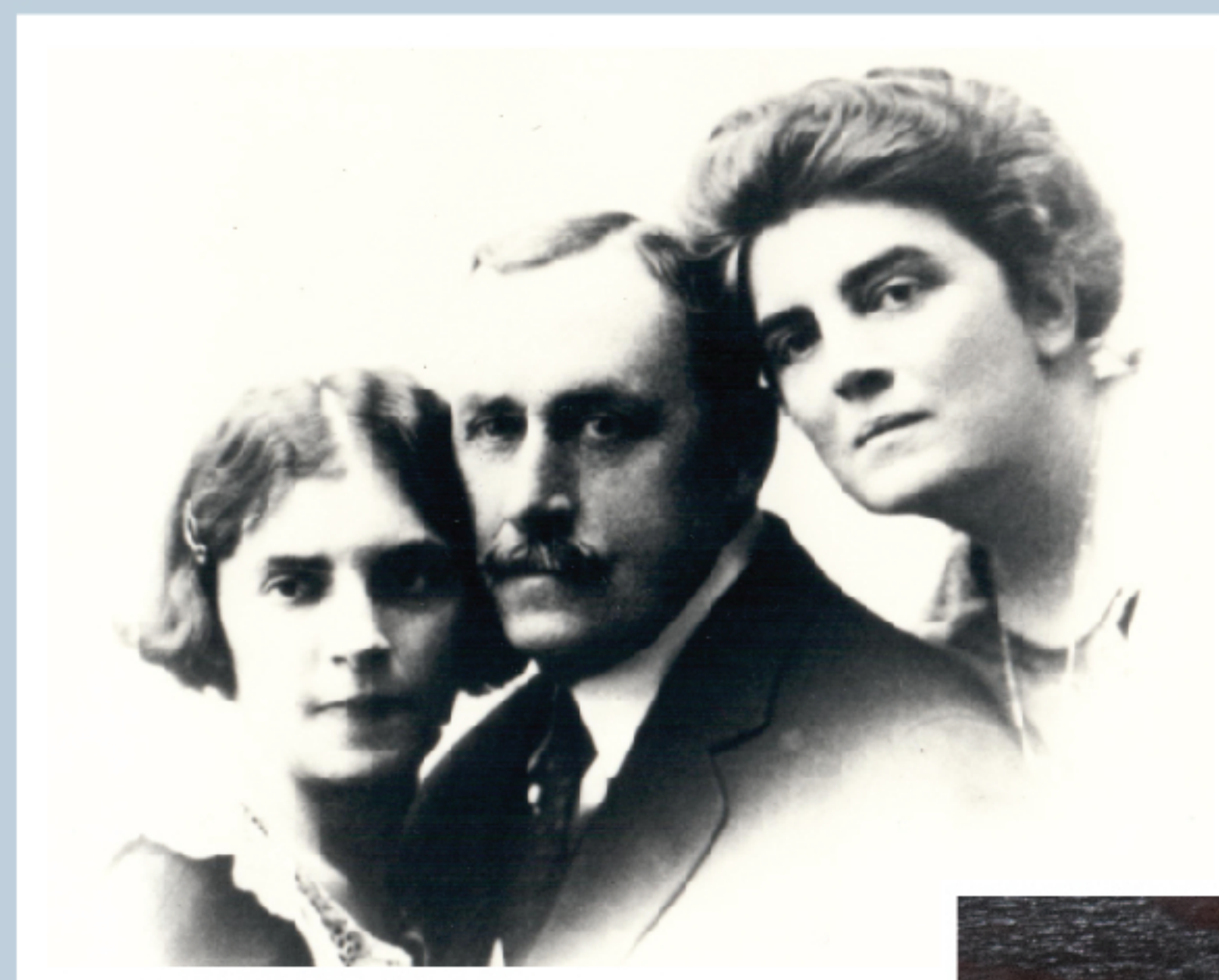
LUCY CAMP ARMSTRONG MOLTZ

Lucy’s kind and generous spirit was not exclusive to the Lake Toxaway community. In 1935, Lucy donated her Savannah mansion known as the Armstrong House to the City of Savannah for the purpose of housing the city’s first institution devoted to exclusively higher learning. In 1995, Lucy was honored posthumously with a bronze bust and plaque that reads

Lucy Camp Armstrong Moltz

Epitomizes the genteel pragmatic philanthropy through which good deeds make great things possible. She gave Armstrong house to the city of Savannah to establish Armstrong Junior College. She spent a lifetime giving financial support to dozens of North Carolina college young people. Armstrong State College thus honors her on this day, May 27, 1995, as the matriarch who gave this college its life and its direction as a college destined to serve this community.

A symbol of Lucy’s commitment to education is the hand holding a diploma, carved into the mantel of the fireplace in our Lobby Bar (pictured, right).



THE LOVELACE ERA

One day in 1984, friends Reg Heinitsh, Jr. and Tim Lovelace were driving around the lake when they passed the former estate of Lucy Armstrong Moltz. Lucy's beloved property had barely survived her almost two-decade absence. Originally sold to the Heinitsch family as the temporary clubhouse for the Lake Toxaway Country Club, eventually the home was left empty, drained of life and almost destroyed by developers.

Retired early from his Maryland investment firm, Tim is quoted as saying "he must have been bored the day Reg suggested the old house would make a promising inn," because a week later, he began negotiations to purchase the home and once again open it up to guests.

As Tim and his wife Boo Boo began renovating the grande old dame, they made every effort to keep the original flow and ambience of the home. Inspired by the distinctive stonework surrounding the property, the family renamed Lucy's Hillmont estate, the Greystone Inn and opened for business July 15, 1985.

The Lovelace's approach to inn-keeping paralleled the original purpose of the estate. When interviewed after opening Tim said, "Since 1915, this wonderful mansion has been a private home, and today it is still extending comfort and elegance. It's not a hotel or motel, it's our home. We treat our customers like guests in our home."

Lovelace was famous for his pre-dinner spin around the lake, enlivened by his stories of 'America's Switzerland' as the area was commonly referred to at the turn of the century. The romantic raconteur would point out the site where the legendary Lake Toxaway Inn welcomed guests like Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone, John D. Rockefeller and of course, Lucy Armstrong Moltz, before she built her home on the lake.

In 2005, Tim decided to retire again, leaving son Clark to carry on his family's tradition in his role as the Inn's general manager.

Clark grew up working at the Greystone Inn but left to gain additional experience with resorts like the Greenbrier and Fearington House. By the time Tim was ready to retire, Clark was ready to take over.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Greystone Inn has enjoyed tremendous success. Popular with travelers from around the world, it has been featured in more than 200 magazine and newspaper articles in the US and abroad. The Greystone Inn's exceptional guest services were recognized with AAA Four-Diamond Awards, Country Inn Magazine's Most Romantic Inn awards, Most Romantic Spots in the South with Southern Living magazine, Guest room of the year award from Andrew Harper, Andrew Harper's Grand Award, Conde Nast Traveler and Travel + Leisure magazines World's Best Awards.



*"I've traveled the world twice
and I believe Lake Toxaway
to be the most beautiful and
special place on earth"*

- Lucy Armstrong Moltz

Today



In 1915, Lucy Armstrong Moltz built her very special home in a community she loved. Lucy's only request when she sold her home was that it be enjoyed by many and in 1985, the Lovelace family did exactly that; creating an Inn so spectacular it was recognized as one of the top hotels in the world and introduced a new generation of people to Lake Toxaway.

On November 1, 2017, the baton was passed: it is now our honor and privilege to continue the legacy of gracious hospitality as the caretakers of this spectacular property. It will be our pleasure to welcome you to the Greystone Inn.

Sincerely,
Shannon & Geoffrey Ellis



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