

# Hagood Mill rocks

Located in the town of Pickens, Hagood Mill knows how to rock. It has rocks that are useful, remarkable and mysterious. Useful rocks have been shaped into huge millstones used to grind grits and cornmeal. Remarkable rocks, like a medicine wheel and a mortar and pestle, have been gathered to form a trail of rock history. There are rocks everywhere. It is the rock that is covered with extraordinary drawings called petroglyphs that is both puzzling and mysterious.

Recently deceased archeologist Tommy Charles, one of the discoverers of the site, delighted visitors with a recorded light and audio show that describes the prehistoric petroglyphs. Nobody is sure who made the drawings because they didn't sign their name or leave a date, but it is generally believed that the majority of the petroglyphs were carved by Native American tribes sometime between 1300 and 1700.

Hagood Mill was built in 1792 and is still fully operational. It also has a blacksmith shop, pottery shed and a moonshine still. But it is the rock that stirs the imagination. Many believe it was the Cherokee who left the ancient graffiti chiseled into the rocks. Several places in this area still carry their Cherokee names — Seneca, Keowee, Toxaway and Jocassee. Hagood Creek would be an excellent place for Native Americans to stop and rest. To create a petroglyph, they had to strike the rock's surface with a stone chisel and hammerstone. It was difficult and time-consuming, and yet, it was important to them to let others know that they had been there. Who carved the 17 figures that cover the huge rock? Why did so many people want to leave their mark on this rock, in this particular place? During WWII, a doodle began to appear, in unexpected places, of a balding man with a big nose peering over a wall, inscribed with "Kilroy was Here." Once, the inscription was found on a burned-out tank on a Pacific island. Kilroy inspired American troops, confused the Japanese and worried Hitler. The mysterious "Kilroy" was everywhere — on ships, in restaurants and on battlefields in Europe. The mysterious and taunting Kilroy remains a mystery.



## INKLINGS

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Today it would be called "tagging," and it has become an art form of sorts. Darryl "Cornbread" McCray, a 12-year-old troublemaker from Philadelphia, passed the time by obsessively writing his unique nickname on walls, buildings, churches and bathrooms. He also spent a lot of time in "juvie." Now, his work is displayed in an art gallery in Philadelphia.

Writing your name is a way of telling the world "I was here," and it goes back thousands of years. Tagging, or leaving our names in places we have been, seems to be in our DNA.

In the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, graffiti was discovered on walls. Most of the graffiti consisted of names (tags), but there were also quotes, greetings and obscenities. There were drawings of animals and gladiators, and gossip about a girl named Romula, and someone who claimed too much water had been mixed in his wine. Ancient graffiti was a lot like Facebook.

Today, in Florence, Italy, the tourists' desire to leave proof that they were there is an accepted custom. One cathedral lets the visitor create virtual graffiti using an "Autography App." Instead of prohibiting the graffiti, they give you a place on the internet to leave your virtual signature.

Somehow, an archeologist discovering virtual graffiti doesn't sound as exciting as finding all those mysterious figures chiseled onto a big rock by a creek in Pickens, S.C.

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