

The Legacy of Lick Mountain is a new outdoor drama to begin production in the summer of 2013. It tells the dual stories of Emily Prudden and the early days of the community of Hudson, North Carolina. Emily Prudden was an educator from Connecticut who moved South at the age of 52 and founded 15 schools for girls in poor areas of the western North Carolina Mountains: 8 schools for Caucasian girls and 7 for African American girls. Later, boys were welcomed at these schools. Prudden founded schools with her own money, would get them established and running smoothly, and would then turn them over to a mission society or a church, and move on to her next school endeavor. Her efforts were all the more remarkable because she accomplished all of this while deaf and crippled with arthritis, in her 50s, embracing another race in an era and area that were not conducive to advanced racial relations. The Town of Hudson is a small, vibrant community in Caldwell County in the Foothills of North Carolina. The two stories blend as one when Prudden comes to Lick Mountain, just outside of Hudson, to begin Oberlin School, which eventually moved to Misenheimer, North Carolina and developed into Pfeiffer University. There is history, humor, intrigue, mesmerizing original music, murder, but primarily the story of a bustling community and the legacy left through over 10,000 children by Miss Emily Prudden and her helping hand in the poor communities that she touched in a dramatic way. This show embraces the triumph of minority, race, women's rights, education, the deaf community, cultural heritage and history. ***The Legacy of Lick Mountain*** is large in scope, clear in focus and takes place between 1884 and 1917. The show was written by Keith Smith, a North Carolina resident who has 15 years of experience with three different outdoor dramas, ***The Lost Colony***, ***From This Day Forward*** and ***Miracle on the Mountain***, the latter two which he directed and musically directed.