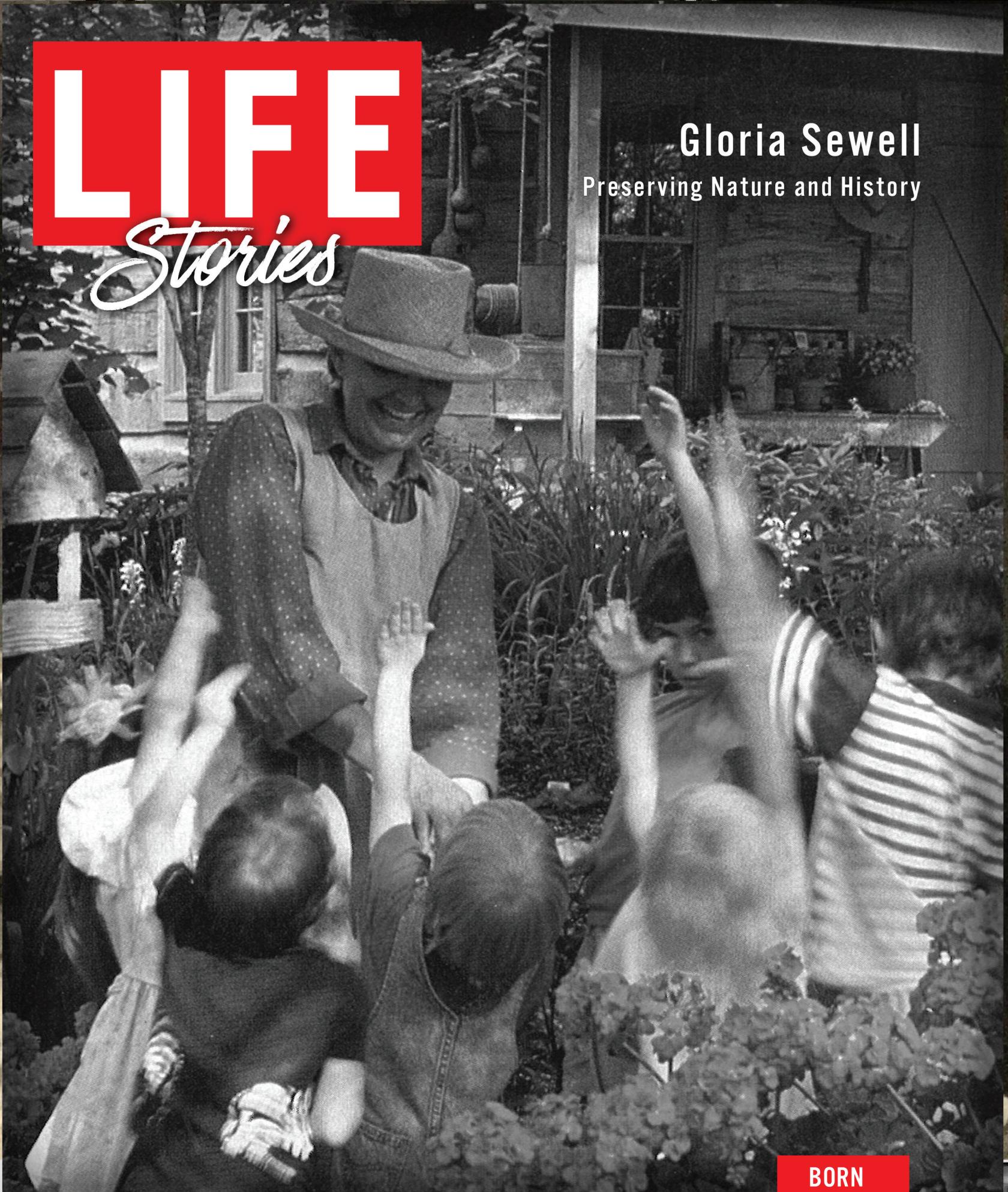


# LIFE

*Stories*

Gloria Sewell  
Preserving Nature and History



BORN

SEPTEMBER 18, 1944

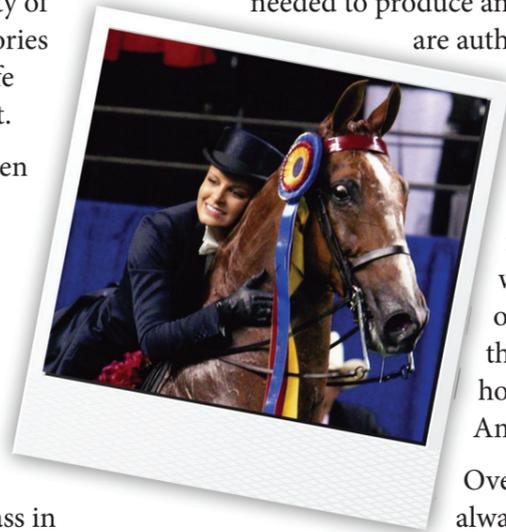
# Gloria is a generous and giving soul who opened her heart and home to the community.

**B**orn with the gene to share one's heritage with others, Gloria Sewell has spent her life teaching and sharing history with her friends, neighbors, and community of Canton Georgia. There are two stories that tell Gloria's devotion to the life history of the 1800's to the present.

Her grandmother raised 10 children with only a large iron pot for washing clothes. And a wood burning stove for cooking. Gloria watched her quilt blankets and bedspreads out of necessity and then as a hobby. This fueled her curiosity so she started reading more about this time in history.

Her career began after taking a class in spinning. Gloria simply wanted to master this very rare skill needed to support an 1800's family. Then, answering a friend's request, she demonstrated the skill at a local school. This set the tone for adding open-hearth cooking, candle-making, and the idea of becoming self-sufficient. Gloria visited schools carting her wares with her.

To make her life easier Gloria and her husband decided it would be best to buy a cabin and host 1800's style events. They had found a cabin in Tennessee. Gloria then hired a company that first dismantled the cabin, and rebuilt it on the Sewell family farm. Gloria could now demonstrate her skills at home dressed in authentic colonial garb. She stresses to the children that pioneer families had to be almost totally self-sufficient. Outside the cabin Gloria had grown her "garden classroom", to add to the nature walk through the woods. Here she pointed out nature plants as well as identifying animal tracks. Her goal was to spark interest in the environment.



The cabin fulfills many purposes as each room is decorated appropriately. First, it's an educational classroom. The kitchen has all the necessities needed to produce any meal of the day. All utensils are authentic and functional. And reflect a kitchen from the 1800's.

The bedrooms are simple with iron beds, rockers, chests for blankets and decorations which tell you if it's for a child or an adult. The children love the doll house. The rocking horse and cribs are all rustic American antiques.

Over the years Georgians have always celebrated Christmas with traditional old-world decorations and hospitality, generosity, food and love. This is when Gloria and Joe take their friendship gene to another level when they open their home for the annual Christmas Tour of Canton's historic homes.

The setting inside is simple and elegant. Gloria is able to display her various collections of baskets, quilts and candles. The house is so attractive that one Christmas over 2,000 people took advantage of Gloria's hospitality gene.

Gloria is very proud of her family. Her father, Jack Smith, was a true pioneer of Nascar racing. Starting in 1944 on dirt tracks and then in 1952 changing to high bank tracks he's one of the few racers to make this transition. He has challenged in over 600 featured races (qualified) and won 21 grand national races. In 1960, he was noted by fellow drivers as "the most popular driver". Also in 1960, he became the first driver to use radio to talk to his pit crew during the race.



Gloria's father, Jack, was not the only one with a knack for success. Thanks to her daughter Shannon and her grandmother, Gloria adopted a passion for show horses. They had a remarkable eye for horses and could spot a future champion with uncanny accuracy. Their discovery was "Blackberry Delight" who went undefeated for the four years Rachel showed him. In addition, during this time they won 8 national and 8 world championships. From 2004 to 2008, Rachel won 15 World Titles on various horses, and for 3 years competed with the US World Cup Team. At the American Saddlebred World

Championship Horse Show, Gloria and her family placed either first or second for eight years in a row. In fact, Blackberry Delight is the most decorated horse in the history of the American Saddlebred World Championship Horse Show with 17 World Championship titles. In 2009, she was retired and still lives on the Sewell family farm.

Earlier this year Gloria was asked what was on her bucket list of things to do. Her reply was "My bucket is already full of memories."

Now I understand.

This is just a small sampling of the regional and national recognition of Gloria's pioneering gifts.



# Quick Facts about Gloria Sewell

## Born:

- September 18, 1944
- From, Alpharetta Georgia
- To, Mary and Jack Smith
- Has two brothers

## Married:

- Husband is Joe Sewell
- Wedding Day July 28, 1961
- Been Married for 56 years

## Children:

- Gloria has 3 daughters, and 2 granddaughters!

## Little known facts:

- Generous and giving soul who opened her heart and home to the community.
- Fascinated with 1800's history.
- Comes from a family of achievers.
- Has family visit her often at Camellia Place.
- Husband Joe stays on the family property.

