REBECCA CAUDILL
Kentucky Author

by
Evelyn Thurman

BOOKS BY REBECCA CAUDILL, 1943-1976

Illustrated by Adelfina V. Simpson
Rebecca Caudill's excellent books for children and adults have been enjoyed for many years. She was a guest speaker at Western Kentucky University in the 1970's. I realized she was a very gifted person that I wanted to know in a more personal and professional way. This biography of a distinguished Kentucky author relates my many visits and conversations with her at Urbana, Illinois.

Rebecca Caudill's name is prominently mentioned in a college/university textbook that is used in children's literature classes to train teachers and librarians.

Even though Rebecca Caudill was taken from Kentucky when she was five years of age, most of her books have a Kentucky setting. She told this writer that her happy childhood in Kentucky accounts for the fact. I will always treasure her many letters and a box of items she gave me to share with persons who enjoy her writing.

After I started writing articles about this outstanding writer, her daughter, Becky Jean Ayars Baker, sent me the following statement: "I know she feels her belief in the 'simple life' is expressed in her writing. She taught me the value of a simple life, and I have tried to pass this value down to our three girls — a wonderful legacy to pass on."

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For Cheryl —
I hope you enjoy reading about dear Rebecca. Love
Evelyn
April 17, 1994

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