

From the author of
An Old Salem Christmas

Parkway Publishers, Inc. Presents:

Orlean Puckett

The Life of a Mountain Midwife

By
Karen Cecil Smith

Mountain midwife Orlean Puckett endured many trials during her lifetime. A bride at the age of 16, she had given birth to and buried 24 babies by the time she was in her mid-thirties. When John Puckett, her husband, deserted the Civil War, Orlean was besieged by Home Guard troops. Still, she secretly carried food to John and others who hid out near her home. Orlean became a midwife when she was 45 years of age. During the next 49 years, she successfully delivered over a thousand babies.

Traveling on foot or by horse, Orlean never failed to make her way to a birthing. When ice covered the mountain paths, she hammered nails in the soles of her shoes to assure proper footing. A year after Orlean "caught" her last baby, construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway forced her from her home. Three weeks later, at the age of 95, she died. A marker honoring the life of this remarkable woman now stands at Milepost 189.9 along Virginia's Blue Ridge Parkway.

PRAISE FOR SMITH'S BOOKS:

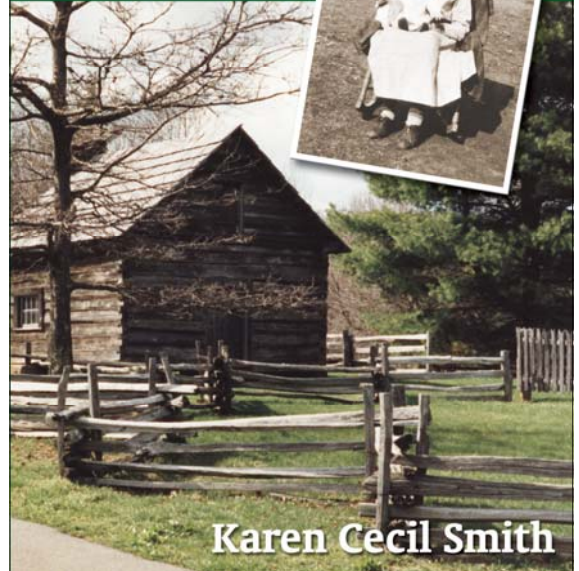
Karen Cecil Smith gives us a full picture of one of the legendary people of the Blue Ridge, midwife Aunt Orlean Puckett....Smith answers so many questions I'd wondered about, and offers a plausible reason for the loss of Aunt Orlean's own children. More than that, she gives us a beautiful picture of a way of life now gone in these mountains I love. - Jerry Bledsoe, author of *Just Folks and Blue Horizons: Faces and Places from a Bicycle Journey Along the Blue Ridge Parkway*.

This well-researched book about the tragic life and times of the region's most famous midwife deserves a place beside *The Man Who Moved a Mountain* for bringing the hard-scrabble life of a century ago in and around Carroll County, Va. - especially for child-bearing women to contemporary readers. - Wanda Urbanska, co-author with Frank Levering, *Simple Living & Moving to a Small Town*.

Orlean Puckett

1844 - 1939

The Life of a Mountain Midwife



Karen Cecil Smith

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Orlean Puckett: The Life of a Mountain Midwife, 1844 -1939 is Karen's first book. She has worked as a newspaper reporter, editor and photographer. Her stories have appeared in *Woman's World Magazine*, *Writer's Journal* and other national publications.

An Old Salem Christmas, 1840 is Karen Cecil Smith's first children's book. While living in Winston-Salem and attending Salem College, she became interested in Moravian history. It was the beauty and authenticity of Old Salem Museums and Gardens, which surround the college campus, that inspired her to write this story.

A graduate of Salem College, she lives with her husband on a farm outside of High Point, NC.

Orlean Puckett: The Life of a Mountain Midwife

By Karen Cecil Smith

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