



## "Springer"



The exact origin of the name "Springer" for Springer Mountain is a mystery. Surprisingly, there is no record of a Cherokee name for the mountain.

Until 1910, many locals referred to the mountain as Penitentiary Mountain. In fact, as late as 1959, folks still were referring to the peak as Penitentiary. Just why they called it Penitentiary, is unknown.

Perhaps the mountain was named for John Springer, the first Presbyterian minister to be ordained in Georgia -- Springer was ordained in 1790.

Another theory is the peak was named for an early settler, William G. Springer. He was appointed by Governor Wilson Lumpkin "to implement legislation to improve conditions for the Indians".

The Gilmer County Historical Society credits the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club for officially changing the name to "Springer".

Today, Springer Mountain is best known as the location for the southern termini of both the Benton MacKaye and Appalachian trails.

--Wikipedia



Benton MacKaye Trail Association

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