

# THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

## Science Also Has Its April 1st.

AP Newsfeatures  
NATURE'S wonders often are recorded in the Scientific Monthly. One of the most amazing is the blooming of the Schuss-yucca near Pasadena, Calif. The story is told by Gustav Albrecht of the Department of Chemistry at Taft College. He says he took the photographs that prove it at one second intervals.



UNLIKE the Yucca Whipplei which blooms in two or three weeks, the Schuss-yucca sends up its 20-foot bloom in a matter of seconds, Albrecht says. He discounts an old story that a Spaniard was once iipped on one of the shoots while



jumping over the plant. He points out that the tall spikes are very soft, as well as very beautiful. The reader's attention should be called to one more fact. All this happened in April. In fact, it was April 1.

### Appeal For Blood Donors April 1

Annual strong appeal is made to the people of the Bethel-Clyde area to volunteer blood donors when the bloodmobile makes its next Canton Wednesday, April 1.

Urgent need for blood was felt yesterday when Louis chairman of the bloodmobile revealed that the current shortage for the use of our serum and also for the manufacture of gamma globulin with combat polio paralysis.

Canton Lions are sponsoring the bloodmobile. Under the leadership of Loranzo general committee chairmen are making every effort to raise a record-breaking number of donors, and to provide for convenience of those who volunteer.

Have announced that transportation to and from the bloodmobile will be provided for all who request it. Dr. J. O. C. is chairman of the transportation committee and wants all to know that they can obtain transportation simply by calling Champion YMCA any time Wednesday.

Activities of the bloodmobile will be set up in the gymnasium of the YMCA, and donors welcomed from noon until 6 p.m. The Gray Ladies of the church will assist the bloodmobile.

Club committees are busy in behalf of the bloodmobile. Drs. L. C. Rollins and V. Lett head up a group that is making personal contacts, while Messer and Walter Holton are making public to the cause newspaper, radio and post-ers.

Hutchins, W. L. Rikard and Annie are members of a committee that is making a forcemarch to parents of the children in the schools. Scholl heads up the Lions Club in charge of handling the bloodmobile in Canton.

COMPLETES TRAINING  
William W. Erwin, son of Mrs. Charles Erwin of Canton, will complete basic training at the Quartermaster Replacement Center at Fort Lee, Va., April 4.

Erwin was inducted into the Army in January.

### Canton Soldier Taking Part In Atomic Tests

CAMP DESERT ROCK, Nev. — Army Sgt. Dewey H. Harkins, son of Mrs. Blanche Harkins, Route 3, Canton, is now at Camp Desert Rock, Nev., for the second in the current series of atomic tests.

The maneuver, "Desert Rock V," is designed to demonstrate the effectiveness of atomic weapons in support of ground action.

Taking part are men from Army posts throughout the country. They have been formed into composite battalion-sized combat teams for the maneuver in the desert wasteland of central Nevada.

Harkins is regularly assigned as a platoon sergeant with the 511th Armored Infantry Regiment at Fort Campbell, Ky.

A former employee of the Champion Paper and Fibre Company in Canton, he entered the Army in December, 1950.

The famed Dixieland jazz was born at New Orleans funerals, says the National Geographic Society.

### P-TA Study Course Starts Today At N. Canton School

Miss Blanche Haley, field secretary for the North Carolina Parent Teachers Association, will be the principal speaker at the PTA study course, sponsored by the Beaverdam Council, which opens at the North Canton School Tuesday morning.

Mrs. James Hurley, North Canton PTA president, will give the welcome, and a representative from the Clyde PTA will respond. Mrs. J. R. Sechrest, Jr., is the Council president.

The Rev. J. B. Golden will be in charge of the devotional. Registration will begin at 9:30 and the session will open at 10 o'clock.

This study will bring together all PTA groups in the Canton system, and the groups from Bethel and Clyde have been invited to participate.

North Canton will be host for the meeting. A covered dish-luncheon will be served in the school cafeteria with the host group providing the bread and drinks.

Miss Haley will speak on "Education for Responsible Parenthood."

She is a graduate nurse and has had a wide experience in the field of Public Health.

She received her nurses training in Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, where she was later employed as head nurse, and as supervisor and administrator of the emergency department.

She received her Master's Degree in public Health Nursing from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Miss Haley served four years with the Army Nurse Corps. Three of these were spent in Morocco and Italy.

### Early Settlers Of Haywood Were Of Sturdy Stock From Several Points In Europe

By W. C. MEDFORD

In our last chapter we took up early land grants in Haywood County. Indian treaties and the resultant litigation over same. This logically leads up to the subject matter for this article, that of settlements; because in nearly all cases settlements followed quickly after, if not at the time, grants were obtained. "Indian Land" grants for the purpose of settlement ran all the way from 50 to a 100 acres up to a section, 640 acres, and many of the old pioneers would have two and even three or four grants—to get what they wanted of our once primeval forest lands. Many of these state grants were obtained before the large Allison, Blount and Cathcart grants (mentioned in our last article), and so were excepted from them.

These pioneers had not only a good gun and an eye for hunting—they had an eye for good lands as well; and I think that trait has been handed down, and is a very noticeable or marked instinct in many of our Haywood citizens today. They were of Scotch-Irish, English and Dutch descent, with a sprinkling of German. Very sturdy stock, indeed; and they had pushed from Eastern Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and elsewhere in search, like Boone and other bold pioneers, of good, well-watered lands, good hunting, freedom—and opportunity. Of course, some, after a time, abandoned their entries as has been found from the Buncombe and Haywood records; it may be that they moved on farther west or, as in a few cases, returned to their original places of settlement. How-

ever, in most cases these old pioneers stuck—and fought it out with the wilderness and its hazards, the privations of winter (living in rough, hastily constructed log cabins); stuck it out with all their lack of roads, markets, supplies and what not?

**FIRST WEST OF "THE RIDGE"**  
It is generally accepted that Sam'l Davidson, who settled in the "Savannah" (Swannanoa) valley of Burke County (now Buncombe) in 1734, was the first permanent white settler west of the Blue Ridge. He was killed there by the Indians.

Now it must be remembered that we cannot number individual settlements by the entries made, nor by the order in which the entries were taken out. Many grants were taken out for speculative purposes only; also there were "squatters" in those days and they often would stay only a short while and move on. Then if an owner wanted to sell, it seems that he could always find a buyer. We notice that land was changing ownership pretty often before Haywood was formed as a county; and operators like John Strother and Joseph Dobson were buying it up extensively. They bought heavily from individuals, tracts that had originally belonged to the David Allison grant of 250,240 acres, which was sold by James Hughey, high Sheriff of Buncombe County, "to satisfy public and state taxes," mostly for the year 1796, in September 1798.

**A LIST OF FIRSTS**  
So this situation, together with the fact that there is little information as to just when such entry-takers as Thos. Abel, Jacob Shook, Thos. Hemphill, Col. Robert Love, Jas. Chambers, John and Chas. McDowell settle on their tracts, makes it impossible to say which one was first in most instances. However, Thos. Abel, from all accounts, appears to have been the first—in 1785. He settled on Pigeon about five miles above Canton and is said to have made a crop there the same year. That was about a year before Jacob Shook, who appears to have come next, settled at (now) Clyde in 1780. Jas. Chambers and Col. Robt. Love seem to have been next, about a year or two later.

Chambers built "on west side of Pigeon River" near (now) Bethel as early as 1788 and Col. Love at or near "Mt Prospect" about the same time. Information is that James Chambers died at his home on Pigeon in 1890. Then Thos. Hemphill entered a 300 acre tract "on west fork of Jonathan's Creek" (now Hemphill creek) "waters of Big Pigeon," Jan. 4, 1792, and is said to have settled there the same year. The entry calls for "a good mill site," and he probably built his mill soon afterwards, for that was one of the first, if not the first, grist mill in Haywood county. (A few years later came John Howell's mill below Waynesville, about 1803).

As to John McDowell, he was evidently living on his tract above where Canton now is as early as April 1792, because at that time when an entry was made out in that vicinity to John Davidson for 150 acres, his calls were in part as follows: "lying and being on the South West side of Pigeon River opposite John McDowell's 'Flowery Gardens,' (flower gardens)." That's the present Gardens of Pigeon, including the Plott place. As stated before, Col. Love was one of the first to settle on Richland Creek here. W. C. Allen says in his Annals that Love settled or "occupied his lands" as early as 1788; Thos. Love, his brother, came a little later. Also Gabriel Ragsdale and Joseph Hentry entered 300 acres on "Raccoon Creek or Richland Creek" Oct. 17 1796, and are sup-

posed to have settled on it about that time, as their names are among the oldest on the public records here. Then there's Jonathan McPeters (whom I should have mentioned in connection with Hemphill), since he and Hemphill were the first to settle on Jonathan's Creek. (Hence the names: Jonathan's Creek and Hemphill Creek). McPeters entered on the east side of the creek and Hemphill on the west side almost opposite, a little higher up at Hemphill mill place, (1792).

Then there are also two other surveys of that year worthy of mention, and which are cited by Geo. H. Smathers in his History of Land Titles in Haywood. They were made in what is now Beaverdam township. One is called the Locust Oldfield (Locust Field) and the other the Beaverdam Survey; and the two taken together include where Canton now is and up the river, it is thought to include the "Flowery Gardens" place (since they were for entries taken out by John and Charles McDowell); also including Fiberville and where the Champion plant is located, then across the ridge (North), taking in lower Beaverdam Creek bottoms, 1280 acres in all.

**OTHER COMMUNITIES AND TOWNSHIPS**  
Christian Messer settled in the Dutch Cove in 1796 according to his son, Uncle Fed's, count; and Henry Plott built above Canton on Pigeon. Also to what is now the Canton community came David Allison, Robert Martin and John Gouch. John Smathers is said to have settled on Hominy Creek (now) Turnpike (others say Canton), and Mathias Mease.

**Waynesville and Allens Creek:** Holliman Battle, Martin Buff and Lewis Smith (Smith lived "near a rocky ridge on Richland Creek" as early as 1792). Also John Howell, James Welch, Adam Killian, Edward Hyatt, John Welch, Thos. St. Clair, William Allen and Henry Plott.

**Jonathan's Creek:** John Leatherwood, Felix Walker and David Nelson.

**Clyde:** Wm. Haynes, John Penland, John Massey, David Byers, Spencer Rice, David Mehaffey and Nathaniel Allmon.

**Fines Creek:** David Russell, Hughey Rogers, John Ray, Joseph Kirkpatrick, Harry Noland and Phillip Davis.

**Crabtree:** Joseph McCracken, Geo. Crawford and Robin Ferguson.

**Pigeon and Bethel Section:** Wm. Deaver, John Davidson, Robert Reed and Vinian Edmonston.

**East Fork:** John McFarland, Thos. Lenoir, Wm. Cathey and Elijah Deaver.

**Iron Duff:** Andrew Shook, then a little later Aaron McDuff, Benjamin Clark near Canton and Jonas Medford in Jones Cove.

This list does not take into consideration David Nelson's first temporary settlement on Pigeon River near the Gardens, but does his last permanent one on Jonathan's Creek after that he had come back to this county.

## Meeting Of Board of Equalization And Review

### The Haywood County Board Of Commissioners Will Sit As A Board of Equalization And Review Beginning Monday, April 6, 1953

The Haywood County Board of Commissioners will sit as a Board of Equalization and Review beginning Monday, April 6th, at the commissioner's office in the Court House in the town of Waynesville, for the purpose of examining and reviewing the tax list of each township for the current year and shall hear any and all taxpayers who own or control taxable property assessed for taxation in the county, in respect to the valuation of all property in the county and correct any errors appearing on the abstract and for transaction of any other business which may come before the board in compliance with the Machinery Act of 1937. This is the only time in which the commissioners have the authority to change valuation of real estate.

Complaints from the various townships will be heard as follows:

- Monday, April 6 — Ivy Hill, Jonathan Creek, White Oak, Cataloochee Townships.
- Tuesday, April 7 — Fines Creek, Crabtree, Iron Duff Townships.
- Wednesday, April 8 — Pigeon, East Fork, Clyde, Cecil Townships.
- Monday, April 20 — Beaverdam Township.
- Tuesday, April 21 — Waynesville Township.

**THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION WILL VIEW THE PREMISES AND MAKE ADJUSTMENT OF ALL COMPLAINTS.**

**CHAS. C. FRANCIS**  
Chairman Haywood County Board of Commissioners.

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