

French Broad Hustler

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Governmental Investigation of Drainage Prospect in This Territory

Geographical Location, Natural Surface Conditions, Rainfall and Its Effect Character of the Streams and Chief Factors Rate of Run-Off Treated in Scientific Manner--The Official Report.

United States Department of Agriculture--Bureau of Public Roads--P. St. J. Wilson, Acting Director.

In cooperation with North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Report on a preliminary examination of Mud Creek Tributaries, Henderson County, N. C., by H. M. Lynde Senior Drainage Engineer.

Prepared under the direction of S. H. McCrory, Chief of Drainage Investigations, March 1919.

Introduction

In response to a request from Mr. J. M. Gray, District Farm Demonstration Agent, Asheville, N. C., a preliminary examination was made of Mud Creek and its tributaries, Henderson County, N. C., on January 10 and 11, 1918. Frank Flemming, County Agent of Henderson County, and Messrs E. W. Ewbanks and S. Y. Fryson accompanied the engineer and gave considerable information concerning conditions in the district. The examination was made partly by automobile and partly on foot. The French Broad River was traversed on foot for a distance of 4 1-2 miles between the head of Long Shoals and the head of Buck Shoals, as well as portions of Mud Creek and its tributaries. The engineer is indebted to Mr. G. W. Justice, Civil Engineer of Hendersonville, N. C., for a map of the district made in 1916, and also to the Clerk of the Court for access to records.

Geographical Location

Henderson County, N. C., lies in the southwestern part of the State, and is a typical mountain county, consisting of mountain ranges, isolated peaks, a rolling plateau, and level areas of valley land. One of the most noticeable features of the topography is a broad, rolling intermountain plateau, covering about 60 to 75 square miles, in the vicinity of Hendersonville, Flat Rock, and Northeast to Fruitland. This plateau has an elevation of from 2100 to 2300 feet, and resembles in many respects the Piedmont section of the State. It is in this section which is drained by Mud Creek and its tributaries, with a watershed area of 112 square miles, emptying into the French Broad river in the Northwest central part of the county.

The proposed district approximately determined, comprises the bottom land along Mud Creek from the Flat Rock road to the French Broad river a distance of 8 and 3-4 miles; Bat Fork Creek from the Upward road to its junction with Mud Creek at the Edneyville road, a distance of 3 1-2 miles; King Creek for 3-4 mile above its junction with Bat Fork; Devils Fork Creek for two miles above the Edneyville road, where it joins Mud Creek; and 1-2 and 1-4 miles respectively at the lower ends of Clear and Brittan's Creeks; comprising a total length of approximately 15 3-4 miles.

The corporate limits of Hendersonville, the county seat, population 4000 reach out to the east and take in about 1/2 of the Mud Creek bottom land. The upper end of the district. The Asheville and Spartanburg branch of the Southern Railway parallels Mud Creek for several miles between Hendersonville, crossing it about two miles above the River.

Natural Surface Conditions

The land in the proposed district has an elevation of around 2100 feet above sea level. The water-sheds of Mud Creek and tributaries are in general of a gently rolling nature, with head waters terminating in the mountains. The boundaries of the bottom lands are well defined by an abrupt rise to the upland.

According to a survey made in 1915 by Mr. G. W. Justice, Civil engineer, Mud Creek to a point about three

miles above the French Broad River, together with the above mentioned tributaries in the district, a total length of about 12 1-2 miles, has 1502 acres of bottom land. They thus average about 120 acres to the mile, with a width of about 1000 feet. The bottoms along the lower end of Mud Creek probably average as wide or wider than above, and 2000 acres is a conservative estimate of the total area of the district to the River.

About one half the land in the district was at one time under partial cultivation but it has been abandoned to a large extent in recent years, and is now used either for pasture or hay crops. Every rain of consequence causes the creeks to overflow, damaging the land and crops not only by an excess of water, but also in many places, by depositing sand.

The soils of the bottom lands are of two kinds according to the soil survey of this area, namely Toxaway fine sandy loam and Meadow. The Toxaway fine sandy loam is a brown, fine sandy loam to a depth of 8 to 12 inches with a subsoil of yellowish-brown fine sandy loam or fine micaceous sand.

The meadow is a brown to dark brown, fine sandy loam with considerable quantities of micaceous material with a subsoil varying from a sand or fine sand to a heavy sticky loam, usually dark brown in color. The greater part of the meadow is in a semi-swampy condition, and is still covered largely with the natural vegetation consisting of maples and elms and water loving bushes and grasses. It is located above and below the Edneyville road. Both soils are of material brought down from the hill sides and comprise some of the richest land in the county.

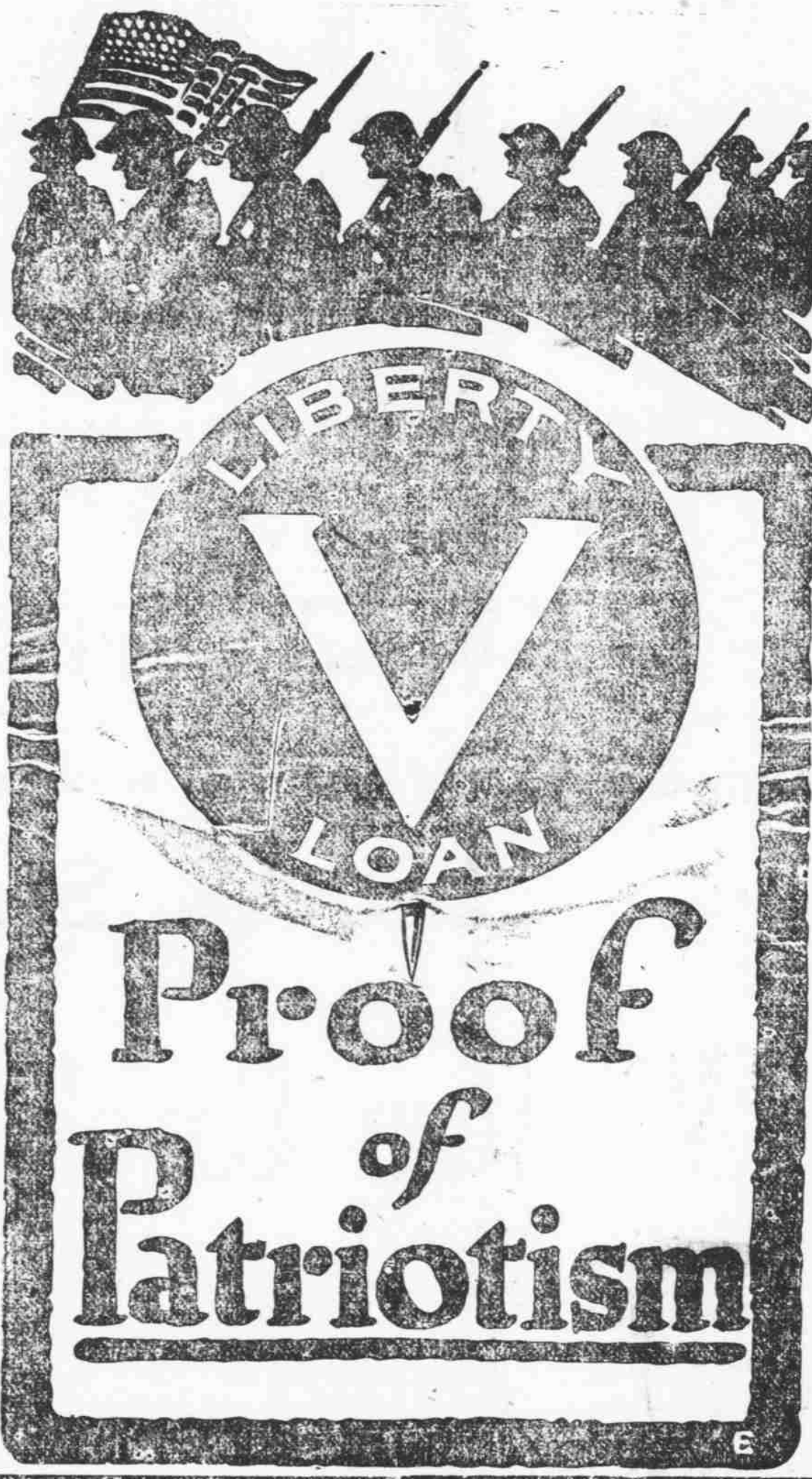
The soil of the uplands is classed as Forter's sandy loam, which is a yellowish-gray, medium to coarse sandy loam, varying in depth from six to fifteen inches underlain usually by a reddish or yellowish brown, heavy, sticky sandy loam grading into a red or yellow clay loam or clay.

Natural Drainage

The total drainage area of Mud Creek and its tributaries, as determined from the Soil Survey map of Henderson County, is approximately 112 square miles or 71,680 acres, all contained within the county and comprising nearly one-third of its area. Its greatest length (to be more correct, width) in a Northeast and Southwest direction is 20 miles, and its greatest width is about 10 1-2 miles, with an average of about six miles. Clear Creek, the largest and next to the lowermost tributary of Mud Creek, drains about 42 square miles, and Mud Creek above the junction of Clear Creek has a watershed of about 54 square miles or 34,560 acres.

At the Edneyville road, on the outskirts of the town of Hendersonville, Mud Creek is joined by Devils Fork and Bat Fork Creeks, with watersheds of nine and fourteen square miles, respectively. Above the Edneyville road Mud Creek has a watershed of 25 square miles. Originally Devils Fork joined Bat Fork above the Edneyville road, and Bat Fork paralleled Mud Creek for some distance entering it about 3-4 mile below the road. In 1916 a dredge owned by the county stationed in Mud Creek above the Edneyville road, for the purpose of obtaining sand for building purposes, excavated a channel along the upper side of the road connecting up these three creeks.

Drainage conditions all along the district are practically the same. For some distance above and below the Edneyville road, the bottom lands along Mud and Bat Fork Creeks are in a semi-swampy condition and have never been under cultivation, and much of the original growth consisting of Maple, Elm and other trees is still standing. The remainder of the



GRADED SCHOOL REPORT AND HONOR ROLL

Another month of time wasted or of time well spent has passed into history so far as the pupils and work of the city schools are concerned, for last Friday brought the end of the school month.

The attendance and work has at last, after so many months of interruptions, returned to normal and every thing is running very smoothly at present, and some excellent results are being obtained. The attendance for the past month has been almost exactly what it was for the corresponding month last year. During March, there were 455 pupils on the roll, which number made an average daily attendance of 415. The roll at present has 445 on it.

According to our promise of last month, the Honor Roll is appearing again after an absence of four months. It is as follows:

First B Grade:—Elmer Gill, George Spann, John Bowen, Lillian Brown, Kathryn Byers, Lucile Flynn, Margaret Belk, Dorothy Long, Sarah Sandifer, Margaret Valley, Mildred Williams, Will Cagle.

First A Grade:—Margaret Ashmore, Edna Drake, Annie Carson, Elizabeth Fowler, Charles Embler, Raymond Freeman, Donald Guice, James Holtzclaw, Leon Jackson, Jonathan Jackson, Carl Morris.

Second Grade:—Bola Justice, Hasseltine Lane, Tommie Shepherd, Irene Edwards, Barnes Bland, Houston Case, Claude Grant, John Grant, Henry King, John Wilkins, J. B. Blythe, Gordon Long.

Third B Grade:—Marion Morris, Josephine Brooks, Jonnie May Stanley, Louise Smith, Isabelle Richard, Mildred Moores, Malul Blythe, Kathryn Reese, Vernon McMurray, William Bacon.

Third A Grade:—Marge Davis, Janette Justice, Vera Orr, Ruth Rozzelie, Jane Truex, Reginal Hill, Jack Shepherd, Hamilton Stepp, Stephen Stepp, Willie Sherman, Feltz Hill.

Fourth B Grade:—Saint Claire Guice, Clark Blackburn, Philip Clevenger, Frank Israel, Earl Stanley, Emmett Stepp, Elmer Stepp.

Fourth A Grade:—Joe Byers, John Brown, Hampton Johnson, Edward Laughter, William Brown, Rea Brooks, Minnie Sue Flynn, Garnett Hoggset, Jessie Johnson, Emma Kilpatrick,

Flora Reid, Clara Reid, Martha Burgess, Carter Freeze, Margaret Hallman, Annie Williams, William Freeze.

Fifth Grade:—Lallen Cumming, Mattie Richard, Cecil Shepherd, Ruth Whitlock.

Sixth Grade:—Wadsworth Farnam, James Grey.

Seventh A Grade:—Edna Byers, Helen Drafts, Nell Morris, Winnie Hoggset, Mary Middleton, Dora Sossoman, Katherine Valentine, Sarah Valentine, Boyce Whitmore, Glenn Patterson.

Eighth B Grade:—Wylma Clevenger, Hazel Grant, Grace McCall.

Eighth A Grade:—Myrtice Brooks, Eula Anderson.

Ninth Grade:—Mary Orr, Ben Brown, Edward Patterson.

Tenth Grade:—Roberta Brooks, Desie Dixon, Mary Elizabeth Walker.

Eleventh Grade:—Mary Brown, Helen Brooks, Elizabeth Elsom, Bertina Jamison, Alletta Plank, Eleanor Plank, Garland Sherman.

The very observant person will probably notice that there are one hundred, twenty-seven names appearing on the above Honor Roll. There were one hundred, fifty on the Honor Roll for the corresponding month last year.

Methodists Give "Sox Social"

The Wesley Class of the Methodist Sunday School gave a "Sox Social" at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Bland on Friday evening, April 11, from 8 to 10:30 o'clock. 125 invitations were issued and 100 were accepted. The "Sox" contained \$19.00 which was used for a payment on the Sunday School piano.

The evening's program consisted of music, readings and games. The class numbers 30 and with their teacher, Mrs. Bland, fruit punch and cookies in the form of "sox" were served. Mr. and Mrs. Bland were assisted in chaperoning by Rev. and Mrs. M. F. Moores, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Durfee and Miss Lalla Wynne. The rooms were beautifully decorated in hemlock and cut flowers.

Friday, April 18, the Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Church will have on sale in the Morey building, dressed chickens, home made bread, cakes, doughnuts, candy, etc., also children's dresses, plain and fancy aprons, camisoles, pillow cases, dresser covers, etc. Watch the windows on Thursday evening.

Supreme Chaplain Woodmens Circle Here Mrs. Annie H. Watts Visits Hendersonville

Distinguished Southern Woman Accepts Hospitality of Pine Grove and is Honored in Fitting Style--Reception at Woodmen Hall and Enjoys Outing to Chimney Rock--Report of Delegates to State Convention.

Pine Grove No. 66, Woodmen Circle and the city itself, were honored with the presence of Mrs. Annie H. Watts, Supreme Chaplain of the United States, on Friday evening of last week. Mrs. Watts was returning from the State convention of the Woodmen Circle of North Carolina, recently held at Goldsboro, to her home in Meridian, Missis-

issippi, and so well have her duties been performed that she was unanimously re-elected at the Goldsboro meeting. Mrs. Justus represented Pine Grove No. 66 at the State convention which honored her with the position of alternate to the Supreme convention. Mrs. Justus was authorized to invite the State convention of the Woodmen Circle to hold its next meeting in Hendersonville, but the State body accepted an invitation to meet with the State council W. O. W., at Circle at the State meeting, to favor Pine Grove with a brief visit. Mesdames Justus and Andrews arrived with their distinguished guest on Friday afternoon. They were met at the station by a special committee who escorted Mrs. Watts to the Kentucky Home where reservations had been provided. In the evening Mrs. Watts responded to the call of the committee and appeared at the hall of the Circle where a pleasant surprise awaited her. On a few hours notice a delightful reception had been arranged and a genuine Hendersonville welcome was given in a manner most pleasing. The Hall had been tastefully decorated with the choicest selections from the floral gardens of Mr. G. T. Myers to whom a hearty vote of thanks was given by unanimous consent of those present. Mrs. Lawrence Pace, Guardian of Pine Grove No. 66, presided. Brief addresses of welcome were delivered by Messrs M. L. Shipman, John T. Wilkins and Eckles Grant, the latter presenting, on behalf of the Circle, a handsome bouquet of flowers to the high official who had honored them with her charming presence. Mrs. Andrews spoke interestingly of the work of the State convention and informed the membership that Mrs. Justus would report the proceedings in detail at the next regular meeting. Concluding her interesting address Mrs. Andrews presented the Supreme Chaplain and congratulated the audience on being favored with the presence of one who was devoting her life to the cause of Woodcraft. Mrs. Watts spoke feelingly of the fine spirit which had actuated the Hendersonville Sovereigns and their friends in arranging the pleasant surprise for her and assured them of her deep appreciation. She would carry back to her home city only the most pleasing impressions of the prettiest town, inhabited by the finest folks, it had been her pleasure to behold in North Carolina. She had long desired to visit this section of the "Old North State" and seized upon the first opportunity to satisfy that longing. She was pleased to find a live circle here and congratulated Pine Grove upon its splendid representation at the State convention. The Supreme Chaplain reviewed the activities of the Modern Woodmen, the Woodmen of the World and the Women Circle throughout the country and paid glowing tribute to the fine service each branch of the order is rendering to humanity. Her address proved an inspiration to all present and she was the recipient of many expressions of appreciation. At the conclusion of the hastily arranged program an informal reception was held in the hall, during which cream and cake were served. On Saturday, a trip to Chimney Rock was arranged for Mrs. Watts and it is no exaggeration to suggest that this outing was especially enjoyed by the Circle's honored guest. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Eckles Grant, Mrs. A. F. Justus, Mrs. Lawrence Pace, Mrs. R. P. Andrews and Mrs. Watts. The Supreme Chaplain left on Sunday for her home.

The State Convention

Mrs. A. F. Justus and Mrs. R. P. Andrews returned on Friday from Goldsboro where they attended the fourth bi-annual convention of the Woodmen Circle of the State. Mrs. Andrews has served the State Circle

Easter Offering For Sick Soldiers

Mrs. N. Buckner of Asheville, the general secretary of North Carolina Baracas and Philathes, has requested Miss Gertrude Shipman, who is the county secretary, to solicit donations of money, flowers and candies to be showered upon the sick soldiers and sick nurses at Kenilworth and Azalea hospitals, April 21. This appeal is open to any organization or individual who would like to contribute. Those who give will have the privilege and pleasure of distributing the flowers, etc., in the different wards at the hospitals.

Cars are very much needed to convey the committees and the contributions to the hospitals. Phone 16, Miss Gertrude Shipman that your car is at her service for Sunday afternoon, April 21 at two o'clock. The party will start from the First Baptist Church at the hour specified.

Miss Elizabeth Walker, of New York City is visiting her sister, Mrs. G. W. Brooks.

Box Supper

The Parent-Teachers' Association at Flat Rock gave a box supper at the school building on Saturday evening, April 12, for the benefit of the two French orphans that the association and the school children are supporting. There was an interesting program given by the children. The proceeds amounted to \$27.50.

Mrs. J. D. Witschin

Mrs. J. D. Witschin died March 19, of pneumonia, at her home in Jacksonville, Fla. Surviving her are four daughters and one son who live in the city. Mrs. Witschin and family have been coming here for 25 years and have a wide circle of friends.

Tribute to Mr. S. J. Justice

At the prayer service on Wednesday evening April 9, in the First Baptist Church, resolutions were presented by Judge O. V. F. Blythe, chairman of the committee, reciting the excellent character of the late S. J. Justice and the high esteem in which he was held. The speeches made by Dr. E. E. Bomar, Rev. A. I. Justice and W. F. Penny were strong and tender. The resolutions were adopted and ordered printed in the local papers, Biblical Recorder and recorded in the minutes.

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