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A TRIP TO FLORIDA.

A party of tar heels, consisting of R. M. Bryson, John F. Bryson and B. T. Bryson, all of Cullowhee, started to Florida with the intention of traveling part of the way by wagon conveyance, leaving the home of John F. Bryson on Tuesday, 17th, and reaching Fall Cliff that night, spending the night with Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Knight.

The 18th being a very slushy day for traveling, we only reached Glenville, spending the night with very hospitable friends at the home of S. C. Buchanan. The 19th being clear and cold, we still traveled by way of Cashiers, making very good time, taking dinner Dr. Grimshaw's. Then we proceeded down by the White Water Falls, viewing the beautiful scenery at that point. We wandered on down the rugged rocky road. It being very rough we struck camp near the South Carolina line; there we prepared a good hickory log fire for the night, where we spent the night very comfortably, except that J. F. B. was very feeble over our day's travel.

The morning of the 20th, after we partook of a good, warm breakfast, we harnessed our team and started again; we traveled down the piney ridges until noon. Near Salem, S. C., we stopped for dinner. After we had eaten dinner, we started on through the South Carolina ridges.

We traveled several miles towards Central on our journey and met up with a young merchant by the name of Clark, near old Pickens. There we struck up camp for the night. We enjoyed the night fine. The morning of the 21 we harnessed and started again for Central. During this day's travel we crossed Keowee river and took dinner on the banks of Twelve Mile river, near Central, then drove into Central, and after a few days' stop at that place we followed the railroad to Norris and there we stopped over night—Sunday and Sunday night. We got a horse here for our lay over, spending a part of Sunday at Cateshel, one mile from Norris.

Monday 23rd, was a cold, rainy day, we still remained at our little home until Christmas day enjoying ourselves well for campers. We struck up with some very fine people some of whom we knew were from old North Carolina.

This morning—Christmas day—we will start by way of Central to Anderson, stopping over at old Pendleton for a few hours, then traveling on until we reached Autun; there we camped, it being Christmas night. A crowd of young people serenaded all through town and we heard it all.

On the 26th we traveled to Sandy Springs, and here we took the train for Winter Haven, Fla., making the first change at Belton, S. C. The train being late, we had to lay over about one hour and a half; then we again took the train, for Columbia, and there we changed cars for Jacksonville. From Columbia to Jacksonville we traveled in the night, stopping over for breakfast at Sonoma, leaving there at five o'clock, a. m., for Jacksonville. At Jacksonville we stopped about 30 minutes, then boarded the train for Chub, crossing St. John's river twice, seeing the steamboats going up and down the river. After we crossed the river the second time we began to see a few orange trees and we still traveled on toward our journey's end. We saw several small lakes, and the farther down we traveled the heavier the orange crops are, and the beautiful scenery of the live oaks! And the cabbage fields; the beautiful level country and everything as green as August in our old North Carolina State.

Lake after lake! We viewed the turpentine stills every few miles.

I have looked until my eyes are nearly out. We are now passing another lake and near those lakes we see the moss hanging from four to ten feet long. Is surely is beautiful.

I can see miles and miles of beautiful level land all in pasture and nothing on it but grass and pine trees. Once in a while I can see a nice orange grove and what they call the live oak, green the year round, and the beautiful palmetto. The land looks poor to me but guess it will produce some things.

Well, and I also saw the beautiful cabbage fields, saw miles of onion fields, dairy farms, which all look promising, to me, for the owners of this property.

We are now one hundred miles below Jacksonville on the Atlantic Coast Line, making about fifty miles an hour. We are now passing through Sanford, viewing the beautiful garden farms. The celery is from six to fifteen inches high, fields of; the fields of lettuce look like the wheat fields of North Carolina in May and June.

When I left Sandy Springs yesterday, the 26th, the train had about six inches of snow on her back, and today—the 27th—I am so hot I have to draw my coat. It is an awful change just for one day and night's travel. Just a five miles ride until we change cars at Chub; this is our last change; just five miles from here to Winter Haven.

After we arrived here I spent a few days visiting friends and relatives of mine—my sister, Mrs. H. P. Bryson, Mr. and Mrs. Watson Yonally, Clark McDade, Bryson brothers, and others. This is surely the most beautiful country I have ever visited. I am well satisfied; have already sent for my family; am looking for them soon; will be better satisfied when my loved wife and babies reach me.

With best wishes to old North Carolina and her babies,

Respectfully,

R. M. BRYSON.

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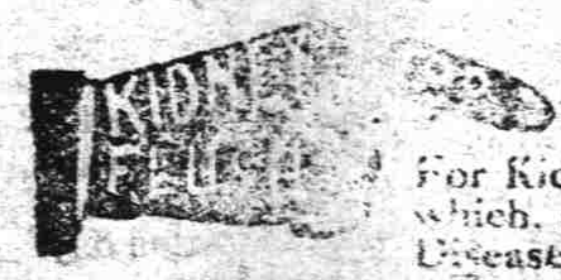
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