

# How The First Kaolin Was Obtained In Macon County

The recent visits to Macon county of several experts in the clay industry, and discussions which are in progress in regard to the development of the kaolin deposits in this section, recalled to the mind of the editor an article which appeared in The State on April 9, 1938. Carl Goerch, the editor of that well known magazine, who was a visitor in Franklin last Thursday, gave permission for The Press to reprint the article which was prepared by J. B. Hicklin. It is as follows:

"Establishment of giant kaolin plants in the Spruce Pine region of Western North Carolina recalled that this high grade white clay was secured for the master English potter, Josiah Wedgwood, in North Carolina as early as 1767—at the enormous cost of \$600 a ton. Out of this clay he fashioned a china (or white porcelain) dinner set for King George III.

"The great hardships suffered by T. Griffiths, who was sent for the clay by Wedgwood, are recounted in his diary which was unearthed in the archives of Etruria Museum at Stokes-on-Trent in England, a copy of which came into possession of the late Dr. F. A. Sondley, of Asheville, and is now on the shelves of Sondley Reference Library.

### First White Porcelain

"A few years before the expedition of Griffiths to America, the first white porcelain had been brought to Europe by the ship captains returning from the Far East. Nearly all of the European monarchs at once set their most skilled potters to work to reproduce this china, but no suitable clay was at hand. Competition between England, France and Germany was especially keen, and Wedgwood, recognized as perhaps the world's greatest potter of all time, set about to "scoop" his competitors and win the distinction for England.

"Wedgwood had heard that kaolin pits were being worked near what is now Franklin, in Western North Carolina, and hurried off his trusted lieutenant, Griffiths, to secure a quantity of the clay at all costs. About six months were consumed in returning five tons of the clay to England at a cost of \$3,000.

"Soon after the clay reached England, however, great deposits of a high-grade kaolin were found in the British Isles, and England provided the United States with more than one-half the clay in the manufacture of porcelain until the World War. Through the assistance of the Tennessee Valley Authority, North Carolina kaolin has come into increasingly widespread use in the United States, and bids fair to grow in importance as new formulae are developed.

"After 66 days of sailing on the ship "America," Griffiths landed in Charles Town (Charleston), S. C. on September 21, 1767, 'a miserable hot and sick day.'

"In this Port I remained 'till Sunday fourth day of October," Griffiths wrote in his diary, "and then off for the Cherokee (Indian) nation."

### A Bad Climate

"Passing through lower South Carolina, Griffiths notes that 'the weather is very hot and fainty, and the people almost dying of the ague and fever.' He adds that he was 'obliged to sleep under a tree with my horse, very near the place where five people had been robbed and murdered but two days before by the Virginia crackers and rebels, a set of thieves that were joined together to rob travelers and plunder and destroy the poor defenseless inhabitants of the New Settlement.'

"Recounting in detail the many dangers and hardships endured on his trek through South Carolina, Griffiths relates how he escorted an Indian squaw, who had been stolen by 'the Younghtanous,' back to the Cherokee chiefs, and won their friendship. Reaching Fort Prince George, called old Keowee, in upper South Carolina and the last white outpost outside the Cherokee nation, he found a grand council in session.

"There he met with Cap. Cameron, our deputy commissary for Indian Affairs; the Great Prince of Chotee, the old Wolf of Keowee and Kinettito, the gutt of Toquah,

the old and young warriors and aton kullcullah or ochulla stoyastoyah, the Little Carpenter; besides the Great Bear, and the Rising Sun; being most of the chiefs of the Cherokee nation.

"All then met at this Fort to call a council, and hold a grand talk concerning a peace with the Northward enemies, and to appoint proper persons to proceed to New York and the Mohawk nation for that purpose. After I had eat, drank, and smoked and began to be familiar with these copper-coloured Gentry, I thought it a fair opportunity to request leave to travel through their nation in search of anything that curiosity might lead one to; and in particular on their Ayoree white earth.

### Finally Obtained Consent

"This they granted after a long hesitation and several debates among themselves; the young Waiter and one more seemed to consent with reluctance, saying they had been troubled with some young men before who made great holes in their lands and took away their fine white clay and gave them only promises for it. However, as I had come from their Father and had behaved like a true brother, in taking care to conduct their squaw safe home, they did not care to disappoint me for that time; but if I should want more for the future, they must have some satisfaction, for they did not know what use that mountain might be to them or their children. If it would make fine punch bowls, as they had been told, they hoped I would let them drink out of one.'

"Griffiths pushed on then to Patrick Gallihorn's place at Cowee town, on the Tennessee River five miles from the Ayoree mountain, and there remained for several days to employ a helper and secure equipment. After consuming three days in clearing away trash from the pits, the chief men of Ayoree town took Griffiths prisoner, 'telling me I was a trespasser on their land and that they had received private instructions from Fort Prince George not to suffer their pits to be opened on my account. They demanded five hundredweight of leather for ever ton of clay removed.'

"After hours of argument, Griffiths relates, matters were settled and work proceeded. However, the Indians continued to loiter about the pits, indulging in petty thievery at every opportunity and creating disturbances. Griffiths often opened a bottle of brandy to keep them friendly, and at these times they 'held me by the hand and called me 'George's Warrior.'

"I must own I was never more sensible to cold even in Nova Scotia, which lies 8 or 9 degrees to the Northward of the Southernmost part of this (Indian) nation," wrote Griffiths. Twice the Tennessee River froze over, he added, and pots were 'ready to freeze on a slow fire.'

"After digging several tons of fine clay, a storm washed it away, together with Griffiths' camp. But the work was begun all over again and finally five tons were dried and packed for the hazardous return trip to the coast, on December 23, 1767. The narrow trails were slippery from the thawing, and several of the finest of the pack horses plunged to their death in the ravines, he wrote. The clay finally reached Fort Prince George, however, and was taken by pack train to Charles Town. On the voyage to England, the ship was crippled by a storm and abandoned by the passengers. However, the master finally brought her limping into port, with her cargo safe."

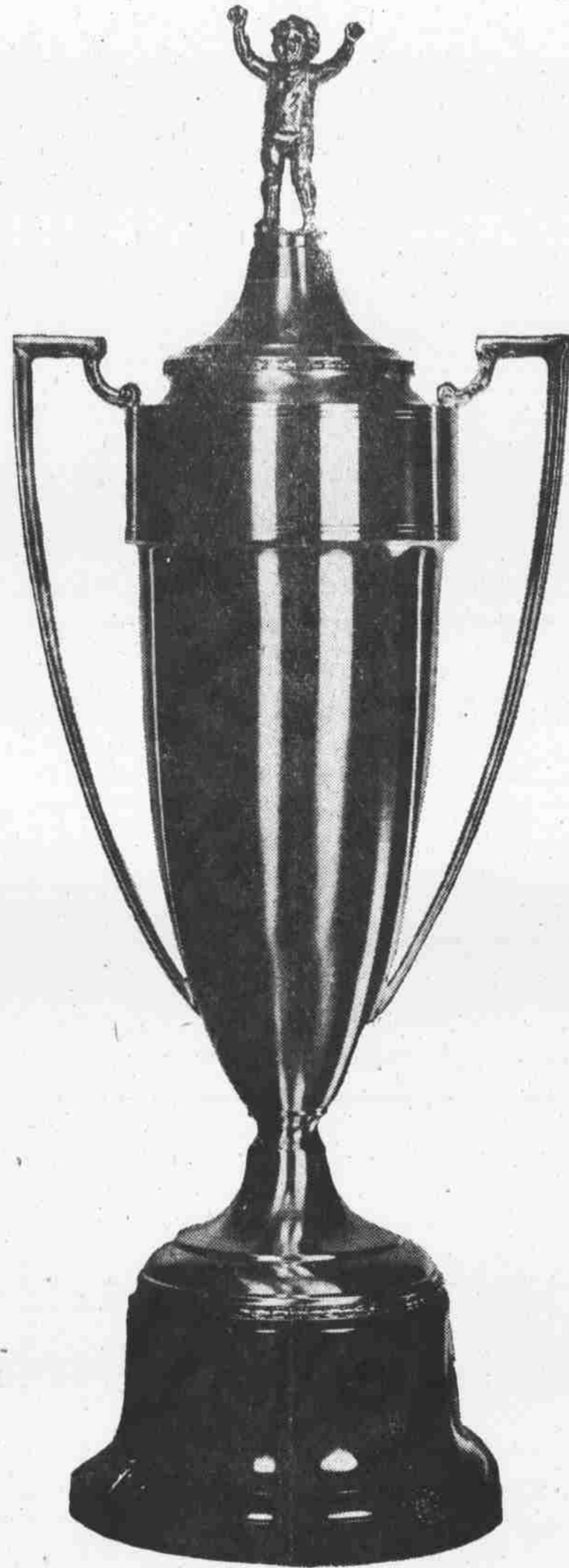
### GOOD RESULTS

Ernest Lewis of Webster reports excellent results from the use of one ton of lime which he applied on grass and clover that was seeded to small grain last spring, reports G. R. Lackey, Jackson county farm agent.

### "IMMIGRANTS"

The possibility that one day American cities will be forced to bar jobless "immigrants" coming from the Nation's farms has been suggested by O. E. Baker, U. S. department of agriculture economist.

# Loving Cup on Display at Baby Derby Office



This Beautiful Silver Trophy—Over 30 Inches High—Will be Awarded as Additional First Prize in The FRANKLIN PRESS AND HIGHLANDS MACONIAN'S "BABY DERBY."

### Bible School Conducted At Mountain View

A daily vacation Bible school was recently held from April 24 to 29 in connection with the Mountain View Union Sunday school on Coweeta Creek.

Misses Edna Ramey and Kate Curtis, of Mountain View, assisted Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Hull in conducting this school, the first to be held in the community. The Bible school proved to be very successful, having an enrollment of 46 and an average of 36 in attendance. The children and young people met three hours each afternoon during the six days for Bible study and gospel chorus singing.

A teacher training course was also conducted each day in which six of the older young people were enrolled.

On Sunday, April 30, the final program of the Bible school was presented at the close of the Sunday school session. Prizes for regular attendance and certificates were given the pupils in recognition of their faithful work.

### SOWS MAKE MONEY

J. M. Gouge of Bakersville received more clear profit from three sows last year than from the remainder of his 125-acre farm, reports Mitchell County Farm Agent J. C. Lynn.

### PLEASED

Currituck county farmers generally are highly pleased with the amount of their 1938 agricultural conservation checks, reports Farm Agent L. A. Powell.

### HELP STOMACH DIGEST FOOD

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The stomach should digest two pounds of food daily. When you eat heavy, greasy, coarse or rich foods or when you are nervous, hurried or chew poorly—your stomach often pours out too much fluid. Your food doesn't digest and you have gas, heartburn, nausea, pain or sour stomach. You feel sour, sick and upset all over. Doctors say never take a laxative for stomach pain. It is dangerous and foolish. It takes those little black tablets called *Bell-ans* for indigestion to make the excess stomach fluids harmless, relieve distress in no time and put you back on your feet. Relief is so quick it is amazing and one *Bell-ans* package proves it. Ask for *Bell-ans* for Indigestion.

### Paragraphs on Price

The cost of a funeral properly depends upon the value of the casket and other required items of merchandise and service.

There are as many varieties and grades in caskets as there are in everyday commodities. Like other articles offered for sale, they are either built up to quality or down to a price.

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## Church Services

**Baptist Church**  
 Reb. C. F. Rogers, Pastor  
 9:45 a. m.—Sunday school.  
 11 a. m.—Preaching service.  
 7 p. m.—B. T. U.  
 8:00 p. m.—Preaching service.  
 Wednesday, 8 p. m.—Prayer service

**Presbyterian Church**  
 Rev. J. A. Flanagan, Pastor  
 Franklin—(Each Sunday)  
 10 a. m.—Sunday school.  
 11 a. m.—Worship services.  
 Morrison—(Each Sunday)  
 2:30 p. m.—Sunday school.  
 (Each 2nd and 4th Sunday)  
 3:30 p. m.—Worship services.

**St. Agnes Episcopal Church**  
 The Rev. Frank Bloxham, Rector  
 8 p. m.—Evening prayer and sermon.

**Franklin Methodist Church**  
 The Rev. Ivon L. Roberts, Pastor  
 (Each Sunday)  
 10 a. m.—Sunday school.  
 11 a. m.—Worship services.  
 7:30 p. m.—Vesper service.

### St. John's Catholic Parish

#### Schedule of Masses:

**Franklin:**  
 2nd and 4th Sunday, 8 p. m.

**Murphy:**  
 Every 1st Sunday, 7 a. m.

**Hiwassee Dam:**  
 1st Saturday, 8:30 a. m.

**Cherokee:**  
 Every 3rd Sunday, 8 a. m.

**Waynesville:**  
 Every Sunday, 11 a. m.

### Macon Circuit

Rev. J. C. Swaim, Pastor  
 1st Sunday—Union 11 o'clock a. m.;  
 Hickory Knoll, 2 o'clock p. m.;  
 Asbury, 3 o'clock p. m.  
 2nd Sunday—Mt. Zion, 11 o'clock;  
 Maiden's Chapel, 3 o'clock p. m.  
 3rd Sunday—Asbury, 11 o'clock  
 3rd Sunday—Asbury, 11 o'clock;  
 Mulberry, 2 p. m.; Dryman's Chapel,  
 3 p. m.; Union, 7:30 p. m.  
 4th Sunday—Patton's 11 o'clock  
 a. m.; Maiden's Chapel, 3 o'clock  
 p. m.; Mt. Zion, 2 o'clock p. m.

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