

Typography Of Haywood Is Ever Changing

WATSON WILL BE SUBMERGED BY PIGEON RIVER

Years From Now Pigeon River Will Be A Large Body of Water, History Discloses.

NEED FOR PRESENT GENERATION WORRY

Streams of Haywood Have Been Changing Constantly

By W. C. Allen.

one of the most valiant and violent. As is well known, the Pigeon river at two distinct points in Haywood County, one source in East Fork township and the other in Cecil, and, after converging near Woodrow, runs in a general northerly direction nearly the whole length of the county and breaks through the mountains into Tennessee at Waterville.

Geologically, a river runs up stream, but geographically it flows downward. Hominy creek in Haywood and Buncombe counties and Mud creek in Henderson and Buncombe are all that now remain of that majestic river of pre-historic times. The pack of piratical wolves that devoured it were the Pigeon, the French Broad, the Watunga, the Hiwassee, the Little Tennessee, and the Nolichucky.

It is interesting to contemplate how the destruction of the great river was accomplished. The procedure of the dismemberment of the ancient stream, whose bed can still be discerned in certain parts of the county, may be readily understood if we remember that the process of erosion is forever going on. A river, or creek, is constantly cutting its way backward beyond its source, therefore lengthening itself in a way that Mark Twain does not mention in his remark about the Mississippi. In the remotest geological period, the source of the Pigeon was once at, or about where Waterville is now; and, in the course of ages, the stream has cut its way backward through mountain gorges, on through Cataloochee, Fines Creek, Crabtree, and Iron Duff until it reaches the banks of the great river near where Clyde is now situated, and, by continuous erosion and pressure, the river bank gave way, and a large volume of water turned from its course into the Pigeon and followed the bed of that stream widening and deepening it as it is today. The same result happened when the French Broad tapped it near Asheville, or near there, and reduced it to the volume of Mud creek and Hominy. The Hiwassee and the Little Tennessee had tapped it higher up, and the south prong was no more. The Watunga and the Nolichucky, co-operating with the French Broad, had already destroyed the north prong.

On the slope of the divide just beyond Canton, on Highway Number 10, are the headwaters of Hominy creek, which flows into the French Broad. The source of Hominy is now about half a mile from the bed of Pigeon river and is slowly and gradually cutting its way backward toward the Pigeon with the inevitable result apparently that in the natural order of events the Pigeon river will yield to the pirate raids of Hominy creek, be diverted at Canton from its course and made to flow down the Hominy

valley into the French Broad at, or near, Asheville instead of near Newport, Tennessee, as a present. If this should happen, as it seems reasonable from a geological standpoint, in the next million years, the city of Canton, which now seems safe astride the Pigeon, will become the prey of whirling waters and will again be at the bottom of the revived and re-directed river, which will come to life by the junction of Pigeon river and Hominy creek. In that event, the ancient river, being restored, will have its revenge upon the Pigeon, which assisted in its destruction some million ages before.

As that is yet, if it comes, some million centuries off, no one now living in Canton need worry over it. There will be plenty of time for a non-stop flight to the mountains when the flood comes. As Mark Twain says, there is something fascinating about science. No man has ever lived long enough to prove that it "ain't" so.

Pigeon Drainage Area, as it is today, which occupies nearly all of the county and lies south and east of the Great Smoky Mountains and north and west of the Blue Ridge Plateau. The county is almost entirely contained in this drainage area, or basin, which is sometimes spoken of as the Haywood County tableland.

There are two exceptions to the statement that the Pigeon Drainage Area occupies all of Haywood County. As you pass out of Canton on Highway Number 10, going east, you go from the Pigeon to the French Broad drainage area. At its twenty-one square miles of Haywood County is in the French Broad area. This small drainage is drained by North Hominy and South Hominy creeks, both of which flow into the French Broad river. The other exception is in the terrain near Mount Pisgah. The county, as it runs between Big Pisgah and Little Pisgah, instead of following the ridge, or divide, between the two peaks, runs in a straight course about three-fourths of a mile and puts in the Buncombe side about two hundred acres of land that belong to the Pigeon area.

The Pigeon watershed, which is Haywood County, has the distinction of being the most elevated major drainage area in Western North Carolina and in eastern North America.

Only the most elevated areas of the Rocky Mountain system can boast of a grander and more elevated plateau than Haywood County.

This watershed, or plateau, is surrounded and bounded by a distinctively high rim, or ridge of mountains, which contains twenty-two peaks six thousand feet or more in height. The lowest elevation in the county is, of course, at the outlet of the basin at Waterville on the State line, where the Carolina Power and Light Company has its gigantic power plant. The surface of the Pigeon river, as it leaves the Haywood County side and plunges into Tennessee, is 1,500 feet above sea level. At the other extreme, the highest point of land in the county is on top of Mount Guyot 6,621 feet, or ninety feet below the summit of Mount Mitchell. The next lowest point in the watershed line is at Canton, 2,650 feet, and the third at Balsam Gap, 3,313 feet. Haywood County borders the crest of the Great Smoky Mountains and the State of Tennessee twenty miles.

The Pigeon Drainage Area, or Haywood County, is also unique in that it is only slightly eroded, or denuded, as compared with others in the Southern Appalachians, which accounts for the many wide flat valleys and gently

sloping hills, affording a large percentage of good farm lands.

Some of the most beautiful portions of the Haywood County plateau will be in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Of the 214,000 acres of lands donated to the Federal Government from North Carolina, 59,632.2 acres, or about ninety-three square miles, are in Haywood County. Nearly all of Cataloochee township is included in the Park area. Only about 12,000 acres will remain in the township untaken.

Judge Lott: "On the 13th of April you are charged with having insulted a lady on Tenth street, who refused to give you money."

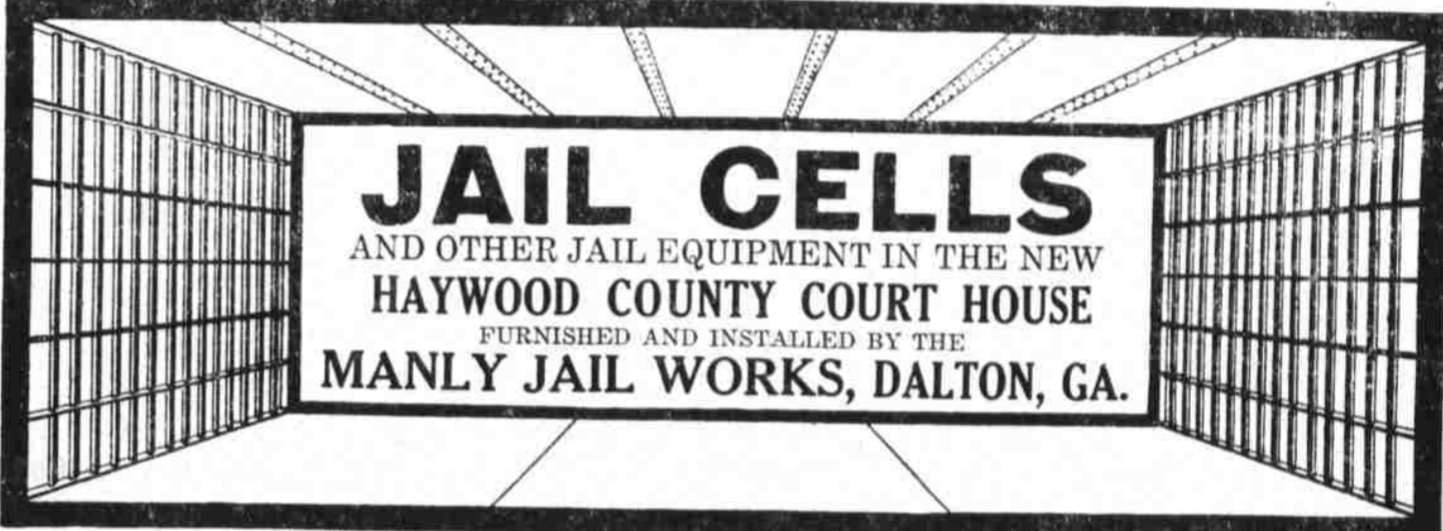
A. Bum: "That is impossible, for that day I was working the downtown section as a deaf and dumb man."

Mrs. Smith: "I think I'm learning to shift gears all right, but there's something wrong with that mirror."

Instructor: "Why, isn't it adjusted properly?"

Mrs. Smith: "No. All I can see in it is a truck behind us."

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