

THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

Published In The County Seat of Haywood County At The Eastern Entrance of The Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Second Section

FIFTY-THIRD YEAR NO. 49

WAYNESVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1937

\$1.50 IN ADVANCE IN COUNTY

Fines Creek Named After Man Who Lost Life Fighting Band Of Horse-Stealing Indians

Men Of Fines Creek Played Important Part In War Between The States

By Mildred Rogers.

Fines Creek township located in the Northern part of the county, was formed from a part of Crabtree in 1850. It lies along the valley of the creek from which it takes its name. There are about 100 square miles of territory in the township and a population of 1,327 (in 1930.)

In the earliest days of the county's history Fines Creek was known as Crystal Creek. Later, because of the length of the stream, it was called Twelve Mile Creek. Near the beginning of the 19th century the name was changed to Fines Creek, because of a singular happening on its banks. The following story is taken from a narrative written some fifty years ago:

"The first and most dreaded of all settlers in this community and county were the Indians. They were continually tramping from place to place and taking whatever might fall in their hands. It was also the case in East Tennessee. Horses were stolen, and the owners were in search of them and had followed the Indians into North Carolina. They gave the Indians a wild chase and overcame them at the head of Crystal Creek.

"There was one among the company of faithful whites whose name was Fines.

"The men took their horses from the Indians and had started back home, along a path that led through mountain gorges and along Indian trails.

"The shades of evening were slowly falling as they neared the banks of Crystal Creek. They were lost and did not know what to do. The country was a wilderness. There were no farm houses where they could spend the night and be safe from the wild beasts and Indians. They were compelled to camp until early morning.

"It was mid-winter, the ground was frozen and covered with snow and the streams were blocked with ice. How long it must have seemed that night, and how unpleasant they must have been in that solitary camp, expecting every hour to be attacked by the Indians, while the howl of the owl in the bitter-chill of night, the howl of the wolf, the scream of the panther, and the howling winds drew nearer. Early the next morning the Indians did attack, and killed Fines and wounded others. Friends of the dead man did not know what to do with his body. They were far from home and had no tools with which to dig a grave, and they were afraid to leave the body lest it be devoured by the wolves. The body was taken and placed in the creek under the ice for safe keeping until they could return home and come again. When they returned they were unable to find the body, so they supposed that the wolves had found it. From that time until now the creek has been known as Fines Creek."

Shortly before 1800, bold hunters from what is now known as Caldwell county, pushed across the mountains to the area. They established temporary homes and went back for their families. Among these men the names of David Russell, Hugh Rogers, and John Ray appear. John

Penland joined this group, increasing it to four. Three men, at one time, owned most of the land included in Fines Creek township. Descendants of these men are still living on Fines Creek and will always cherish the honored dead.

In the later days of 1860 and early in 1861, there came news of war. The states were withdrawing from the union and there was bitter feeling between the North and South. The news was carried by word of mouth from house to house. There was a call from President Lincoln for the sons of Dixie to take it upon themselves to fight for their country, and a worthy cause.

The news came to Fines Creek and immediately the citizens knew that they must do what was asked of them. Haywood county was urged to send a large number of soldiers, and at this time she played an important, a conspicuous, and a heroic part and a part that is worthy of the admiration of all. We find that our men were opposed to the war or to the secession; but the proclamation of President Lincoln calling troops to "suppress the rebellion" destroyed the last vestige of brave unionism in the South.

The days of farewell came and many a brave Fines Creek soldier boy kissed his mother goodbye—not only for just a short while but for always. There was many a proud father who left every cherished ambition to defend his hearthstone and sacred alters. Now as brave men of battle they marched forth—a great conquest to win.

Our men went to Waynesville and there they learned details of plans. From here they were sent to various places for training.

When training had been completed, the men were divided into regiments and companies and assigned to various posts. In these companies we find leaders and other men worthy of mention. How many were from Fines Creek?

While these men were in battle, the wives and children were doing the home work. There was farming to do, clothing to be made, and home fires to be kept burning.

Mothers took their hand-made blankets and made them into overcoats for the soldiers. These were dyed with home-made dyes. There were many days that there was no meal in the home for bread.

Out of the many regiments there were four in which we find men from Fines Creek. These were the twenty-ninth, twenty-fifth, sixty-second, and sixty-ninth. All of these men were described as being "obedient while on duty, and independent while off duty."

Although they suffered from hunger and cold they stood the test.

In May of 1861, the 25th regiment formed at Camp Patton, in Asheville. Ten companies made up the regiment. Company "C" was made up of Haywood county men. Hon. Thos. J. Clingman was colonel.

Company C, 25th Regiment, Fines Creek:
H. L. Green, enlisted March, 1862.
Will Green enlisted March 21, 1862.
Joe Brown enlisted March 1, 1864.
Will J. Brown enlisted May 4, 1861.
Robt. R. Brown enlisted May 31, 1861.
29th Regiment, North Carolina.
This regiment was formed at Camp Patton, Asheville, in the summer of

1861. There were ten companies. The regiment went to camp at Camp Vance, near Sulphur Spring, where they drilled until October 28, 1861. From there the unit went to Raleigh. All companies were armed with old flint muskets later changed to percussion cap muskets, except Company "A" which was supplied with the Mississippi rifle, without bayonets. The company then went to East Tennessee to guard the bridges from Bristol to Chattanooga. In February, 1862, it was ordered to Cumberland Gap and went into garrison with Col. James E. Rames of the Eleventh Tennessee. At this

point the command was under fire frequently. Since the camping grounds of the 29th Regiment were located on the highest point for observation, Col. Vance was ordered to survey the surrounding territory daily for the advancing armies. Early on the 24th of March, 1862, he observed the flashing of a bayonet, and a check disclosed a column of enemies advancing up the ridge in the direction of Fort Pitt.

It seemed that something was about to take place, and it was time to use "Long Tom." This was the large machine gun that had taken so much

port to get to the top of the mountain. When everything was ready they opened fire, and the Indian chief was killed. This stirred up the Indians, and they scalped several of the men before they were brought under control.

In September, 1862, the order was given to hold Baptist Gap which is in the vicinity of Knoxville. The 29th and 39th regiments were combined to drive back a group of advancing soldiers. They moved through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. From here they moved to Versailles, but the regiment (29) did not remain long. They returned to Lenoir Station, Tennessee. From here they went to

McMinnville and Murfreesboro. While at Murfreesboro, the 29th regiment brought on battle. They held their own.

There is one man who came from Fines Creek and served as captain of Company E in this famous regiment. This man was Capt. Hiram Rogers. Others serving in this regiment from Fines Creek included:

Capt. Hiram Rogers, enlisted Aug. 17, 1861, Tom Rogers, enlisted Aug. 17, 1861, John Rogers, enlisted Aug. 17, 1861, Jesse Rogers, enlisted Aug. 17, 1861, Robt. W. Rogers, enlisted Aug. 17, 1861, Wash Bennett, enlisted Aug. 17, 1861.

(Continued on page 5)



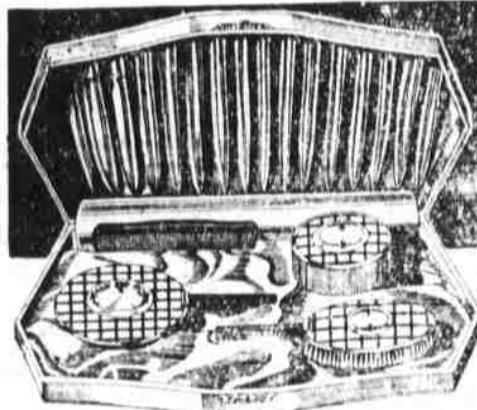
Christmas JEWELRY Gift Values

Make this Christmas unforgettable! Every one you know is luxury-minded, so give the kind of gifts that will be most thrilling, most satisfying! From these specially selected Gift Values you can find a way to please everyone—and yourself.

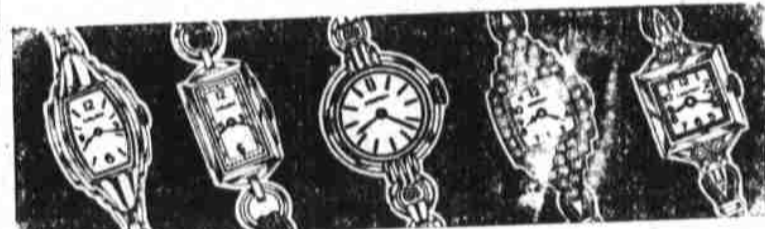
Enjoy the convenience of our Budget Payment Plan. It's the smart way to buy.



DRESSER SETS



\$7.50 to \$21.75



Caroling design Gruen in oval or oblong design case. Novel round model Croton, and 47 diamond Croton model. Also 4 diamond, square case Croton \$24.75 to \$70.



Gorgeous diamond solitaire in streamlined mounting. Solitaire with two smaller side diamonds. Four side diamonds add sparkle to a large center diamond. Novel, seven diamond ring \$10 to \$127.50

26-Pieces SILVERWARE



\$16.50 to \$34.50



USE OUR BUDGET Payment Plan

There's no red tape, no extra charge. No carrying charge.



Rugged design ring for men with choice of twelve birthstones. Birthstone ring for ladies, with two genuine diamonds. Raised gold initial on onyx with two real diamonds, for men. Exquisite seven diamond dinner ring. \$2. to \$6.95

No Payments Till Next Year

CHANDLER And Co. CREDIT JEWELERS

A Small Down Payment

FLAVOR COMES FIRST

...whether you drink beer or ale...so take your pick and insure enjoyment by calling for

JACOB RUPPERT BEER and ALE

FAMOUS FOR FLAVOR

Jacob Rupert, New York City