

Kelly Bennett Photograph Collection

[WCU Hunter Library](#)

Plus samples from the Frank Fry and Stearns-
Grueninger Collections

By: Don Casada for

[Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery](#)

[August 5, 2021](#)

Slides from a presentation at the Marianna Black Library with added comments

About Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery

- Incorporated as a 501 c 3 non-profit in 2016
- Two principal purposes:
 - Maintain the cemetery grounds
 - Promote the associated area history
- Website: friendsofthebccemetery.org/
 - Cemetery map
 - Name searching
 - Death certificates, obituaries
 - Family relations within the cemetery
 - Photographs
 - Articles and biographical sketches

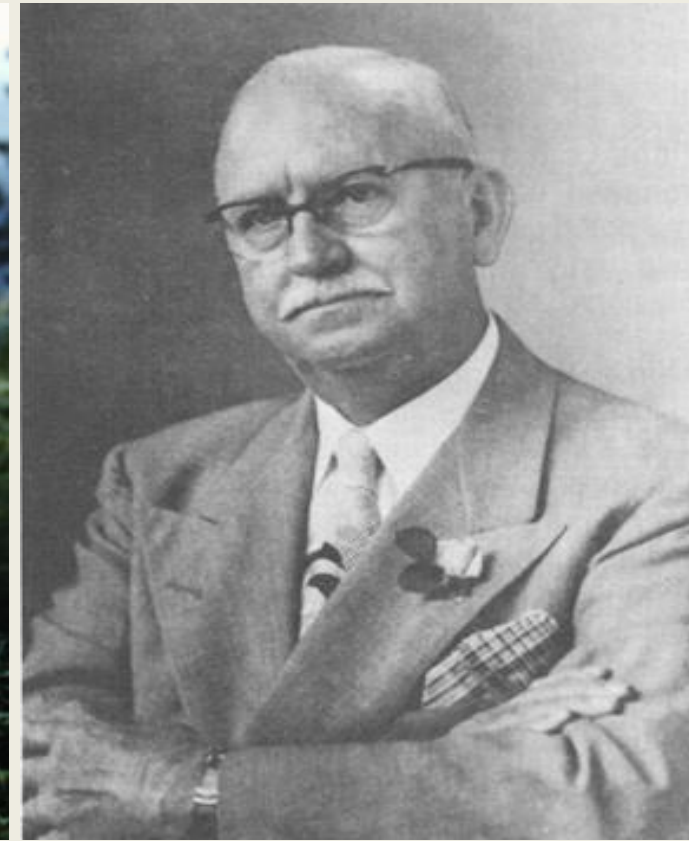
Three photographers



[Frank Emmett Fry](#)
(1877 – 1939)



[Irving Kip Stearns](#)
(1895 – 1942)



[Kelly Edmund Bennett](#)
(1890 – 1974)

The photographic work of these three men, all buried within 30 yards of one another, recorded elements of our area's people, places, and culture which would otherwise be lost to time.

FBCC & Photo Collections History with Hunter Library

- July, 2019 – Jean Douthit donated a collection of glass plate negatives taken by her grandfather, Frank Fry to Hunter Library
- October, 2020 – A collection of color slides taken by I.K. Stearns which had been carefully preserved by I.K.'s nephew, Carl Grueninger, Jr, were donated by Carl Grueninger III
- April, 2021 – After taking a long detour, the Kelly Bennett Collection made its way back home, courtesy of Dennis Anthony

Status of Collections

- [Frank Fry Collection](#) - online
- [Stearns-Grueninger Collection](#) – primary portion is online with supplemental annotation available; secondary portion in digitization queue
- Bennett Collection – Over 1300 images, mostly B&W, have been digitized; others remain. Annotation is ongoing.
- Hunter Library is preparing to reconfigure the web interface. It is hoped that the Bennett Collection will be online by year's end.

A few Frank Fry images

Everett Street Bridge, ~1905



View from Everett Street Bridge, ~1905



Alma Fry Wheeler, double exposure

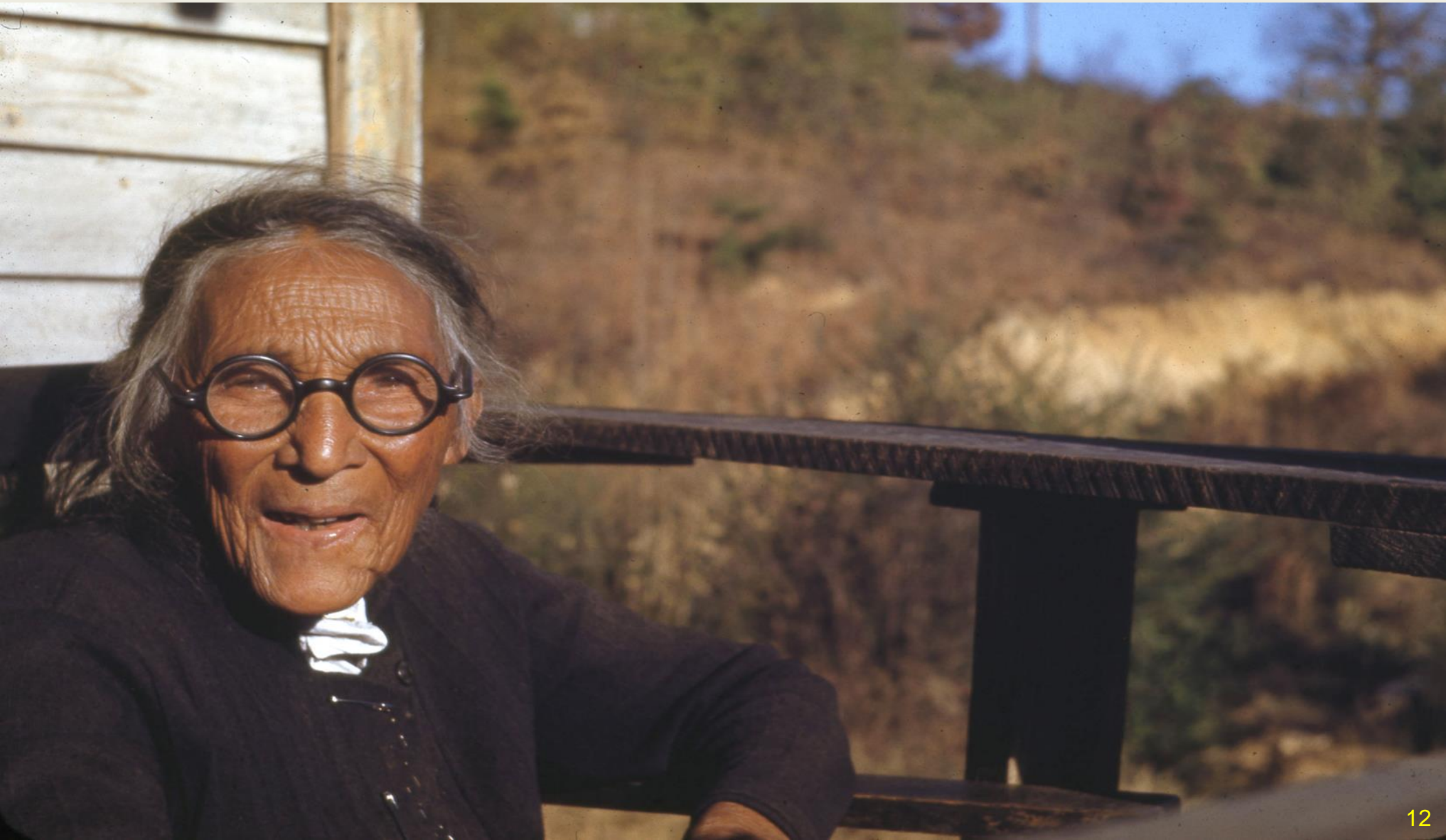


Hewitt School, 1903



A few IK Stearns images

Sarah Howell



Ellen Kirkland and Sam Wiggins



T. Walt Martin, George Shope



Miss Jess Shank



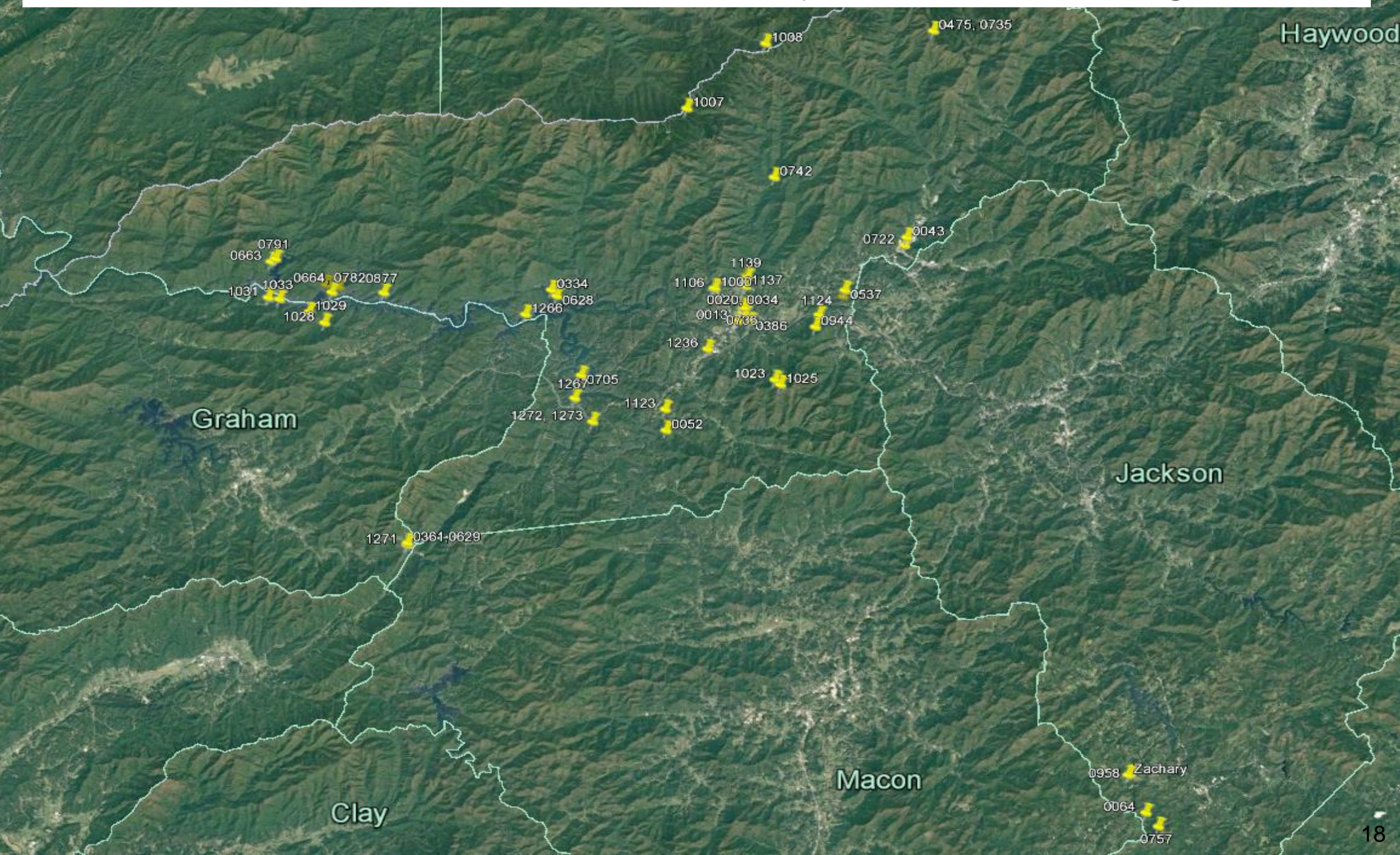
Doc Kelly, unknown at BC Cemetery north end, probably
1942



Annotation

- Supporting data for the collection was mostly non-existent
- FBCC agreed to take the lead in early annotation
- Help has come from multiple parties, on a requested review basis
- Identification of photo locations and subjects as well as approximate dating has been our focus
- Some of the identifications we have extremely high confidence in; others are more in the realm of informed conjecture. **WE SOLICIT YOUR HELP AND CORRECTIONS!**
- Annotation will be an ongoing effort

A few identified locations of Kelly Bennett photographs



Samplings of snapshots by venue

In the Smoky Mountains

Bryson City

Families, homes

Roaming the area roads

Gatherings

Cherokees

Sporting

Rural life

Notables

In the Smokies

Fording Deep Creek, probably 1910s



Another Ford; Kelly Bennett 2nd from right; probably 1910s

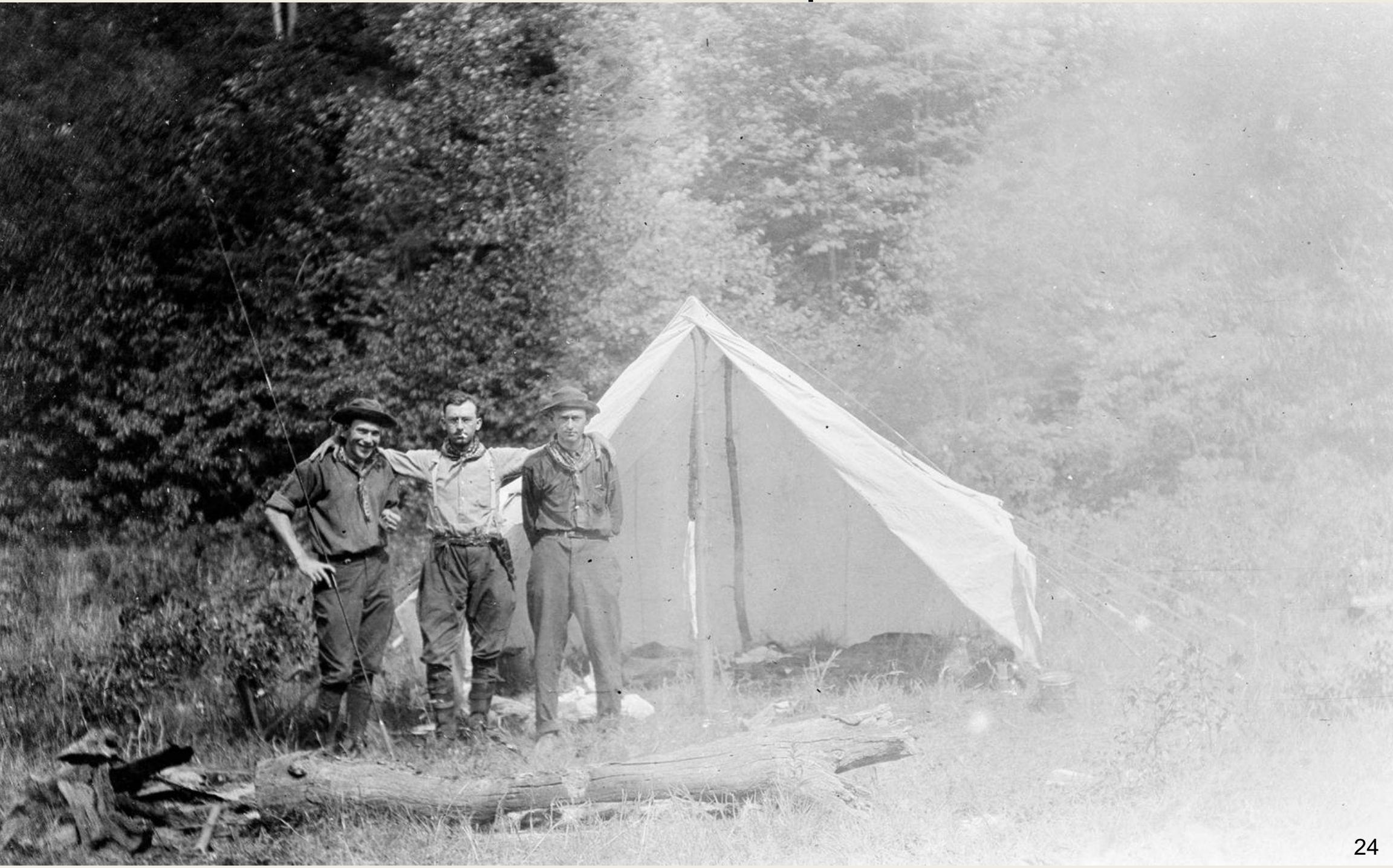


Another Ford; Kelly Bennett on right; probably 1910s



B 217.

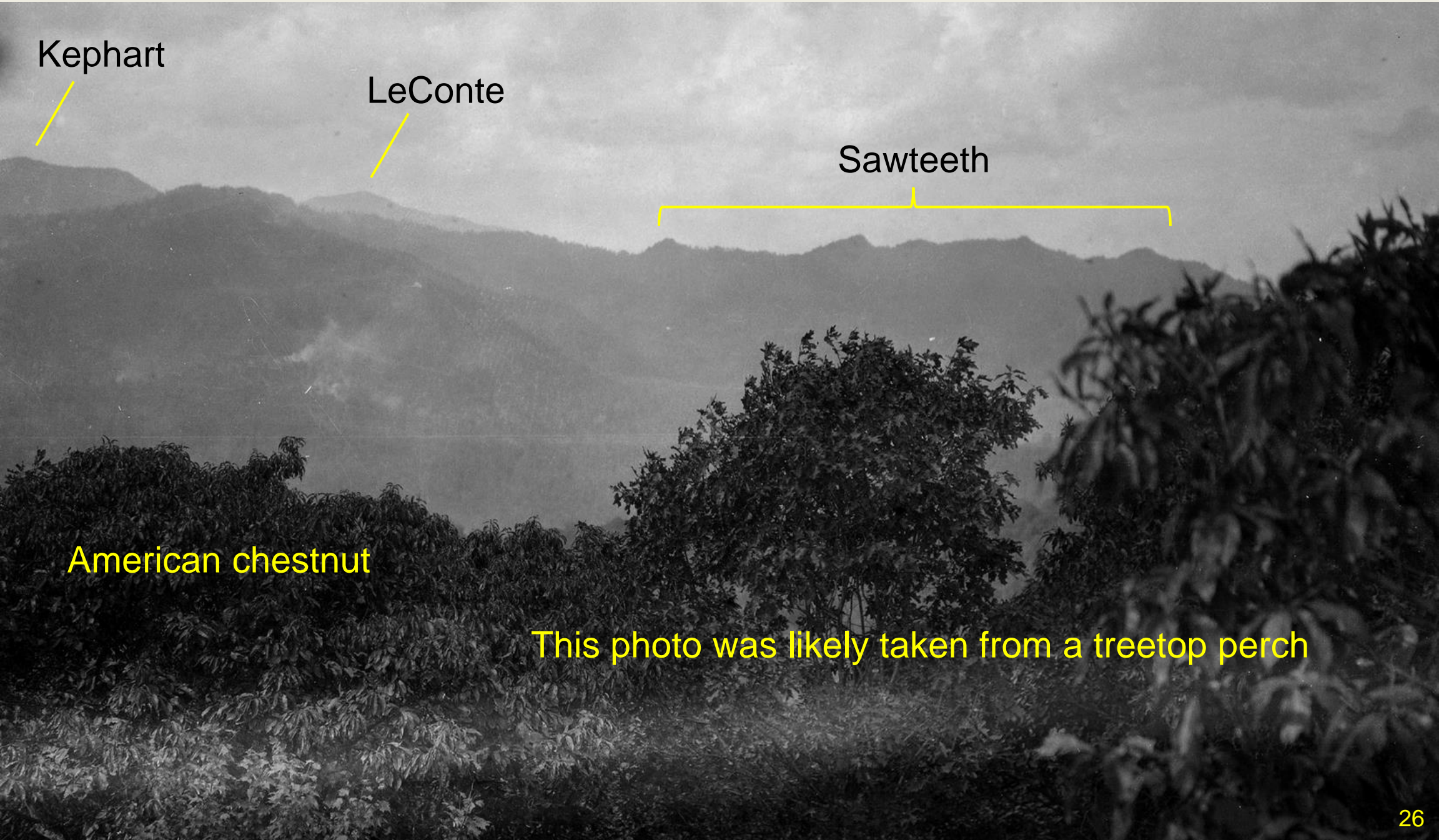
At the camp



Will Wiggins, Kelly Bennett, unknown heading out



Sawteeth, LeConte, Mt Kephart from Hughes Ridge



Kephart

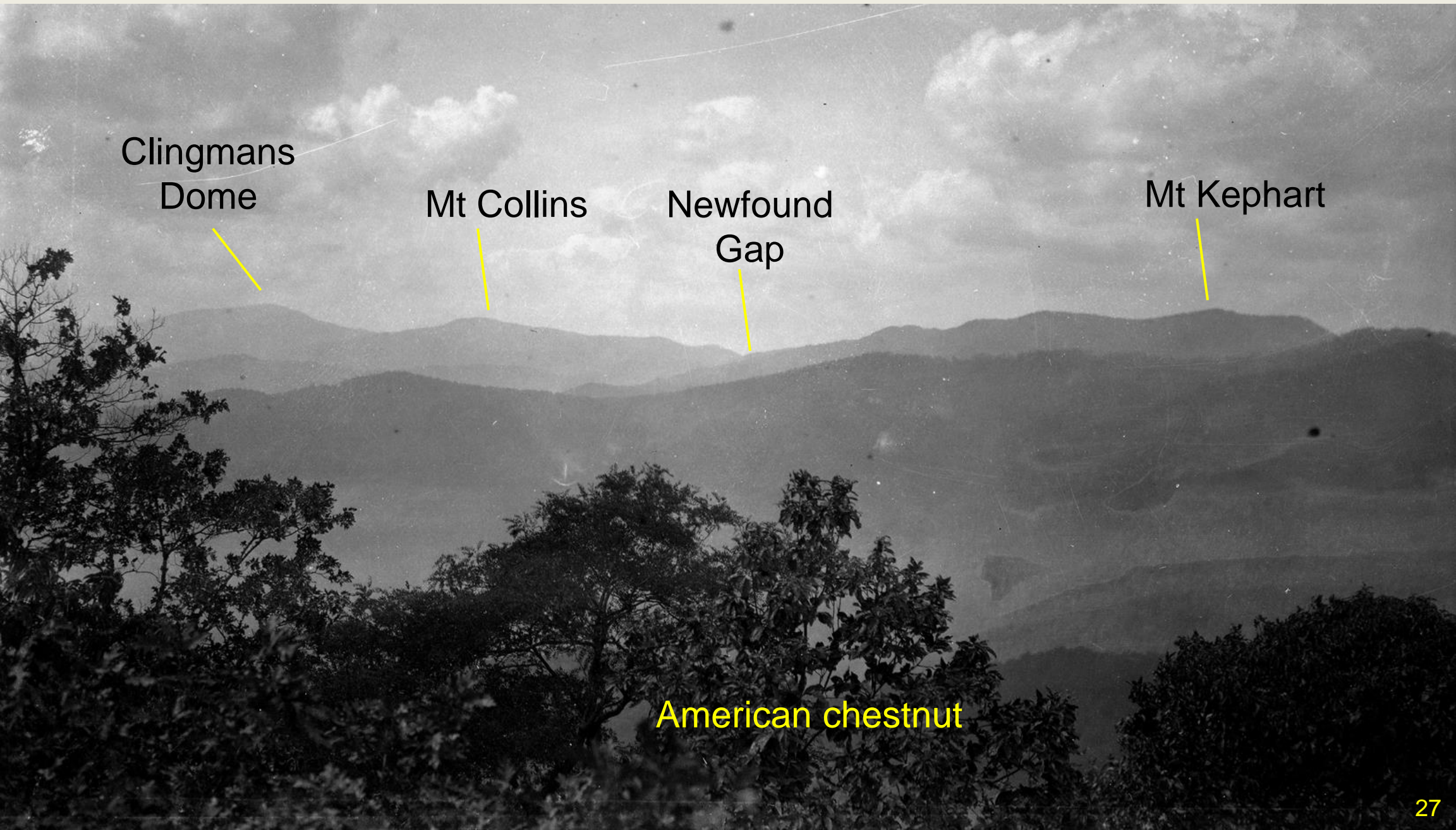
LeConte

Sawteeth

American chestnut

This photo was likely taken from a treetop perch

A more westward view from Hughes Ridge; includes Mt Kephart, Newfound Gap, Mt Collins, Clingmans Dome



Clingmans
Dome

Mt Collins

Newfound
Gap

Mt Kephart

American chestnut

IK Stearns, two unknowns, possibly on Hughes Ridge trip



Bryson Place, probably 1910s or before



Getting a bird's eye view in the Smokies



B238.

Looking east from Silers Bald; probably early 1910s (pre-Norwood)



Clingmans
Dome

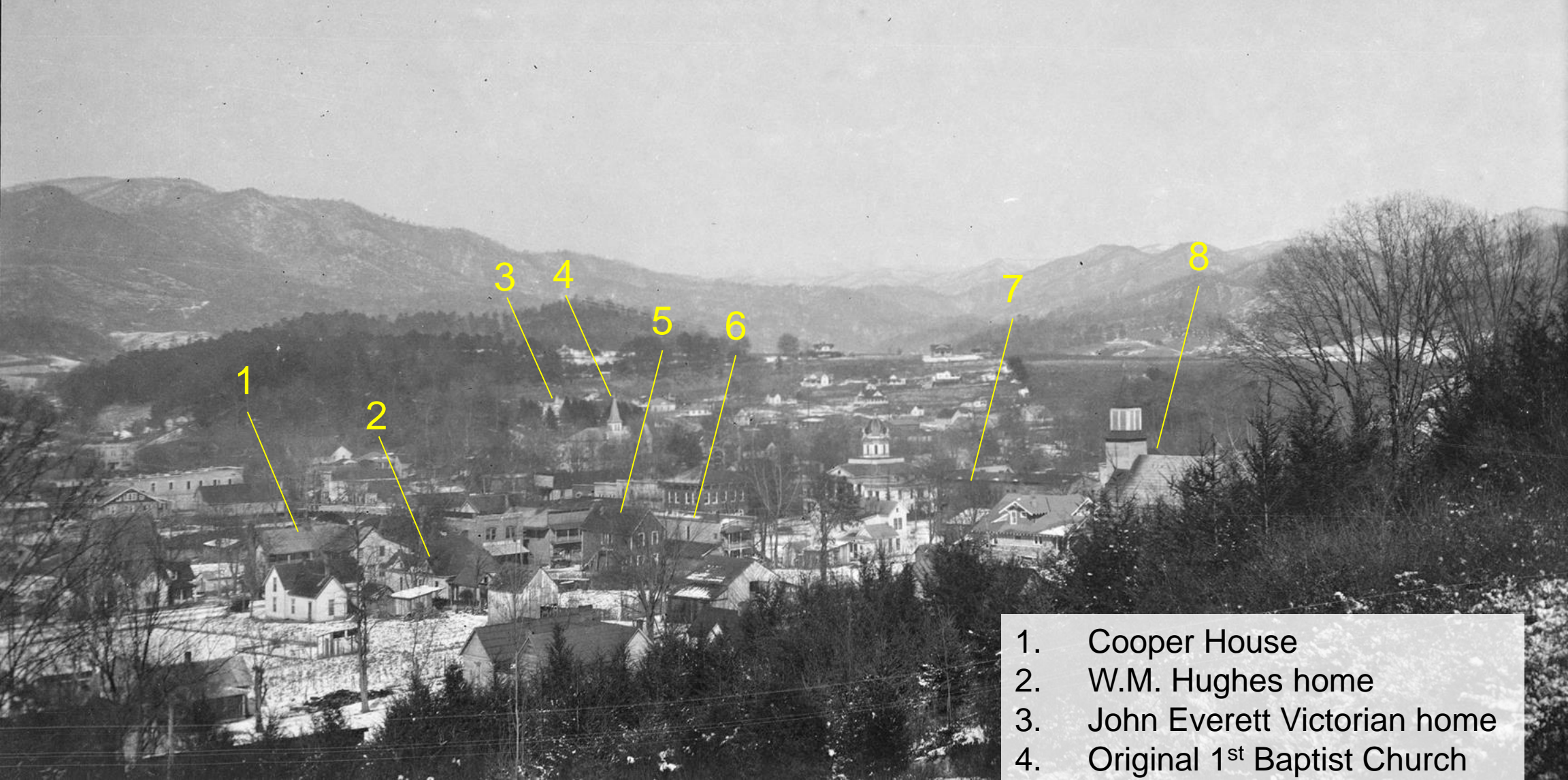
Andrews
Bald

Coburn
Knob

Kelly
Bennett
Peak

Bryson City & immediate vicinity

View to the northeast across Bryson City from Fryemont Inn area, around mid-1920s, with some now departed structures marked



1. Cooper House
2. W.M. Hughes home
3. John Everett Victorian home
4. Original 1st Baptist Church
- 5, 6. See next slide
7. DK Collins Building
8. The Academy

Comments on slide 33

The preceding photo, taken from the Fryemont Inn grounds in the mid-1920s includes numerous structures of historical interest, some of which are gone, including those marked here, as well as some which still stand.

Before the Cooper House was the Cooper House, it was the Mendenhall Hotel, operated by [Marmaduke Mendenhall](#) and his son, [Montalvria](#). [Billy Cooper](#) and his wife, [Eliza Wiggins Cooper](#), acquired the place in 1890. The Coopers and then their daughter, Aunt [Jennie Cooper Angel](#), ran the Cooper House for about five decades. It was razed in the early 1950s. One of their lodgers was [Horace Kephart](#). Jennie's son Petey Angel set up Kephart's Tavern there after Kephart's death.

[Walter Mingus Hughes](#) was in Bryson City High School's first graduating class, along with [Ora Dougherty](#), Nina Gibson and [IK Stearns](#). He purchased the home on Main Street in 1923. He and his wife defaulted on a loan and the Bryson City Bank, with J. Robert Long as trustee, sold the property to [Newell Martin](#) in 1940. She and her husband, [Gomer](#), erected the GEM Theater on that lot. The GEM opened January, 1950.

You can barely make out a spire from the Victorian home of [John Everett](#) and his wife, [Anna Lou Simpson Everett](#), which stood where First Baptist Church stands today. To its right, you can see the steeple of the original First Baptist Church, located on Collins Street on two lots formerly owned by [T.D. Bryson](#). Bryson sold one and donated the other to church trustees [D.K. Collins](#), J.S. Elmore, [J.M. Welch](#) and J.G. Thomas, great-grandfather of Bob Thomas, former FBCC director.

Discussion of buildings 5 and 6 follow the next slide.

The building marked as 7 is the [D.K. Collins](#) store building, which he erected in 1890. He was postmaster of the town of Charleston from its founding until it was renamed Bryson City in early 1889. A strong argument can be made that he was the community's most influential individual from the county formation until his death in 1924.

The county commissioners sold lot 32 to DK Collins in 1877 to erect a multipurpose building, including for the use of the United Baptist Church, public school and Free Masons. It became known as the Academy for which Academy Street is named. Part of the Marianna Black Library now occupies the former Academy grounds.

Looking SW from the town square, 1933

Photo from Open Parks Network (GRSM13608)



Comments on the slide 35 and today's view

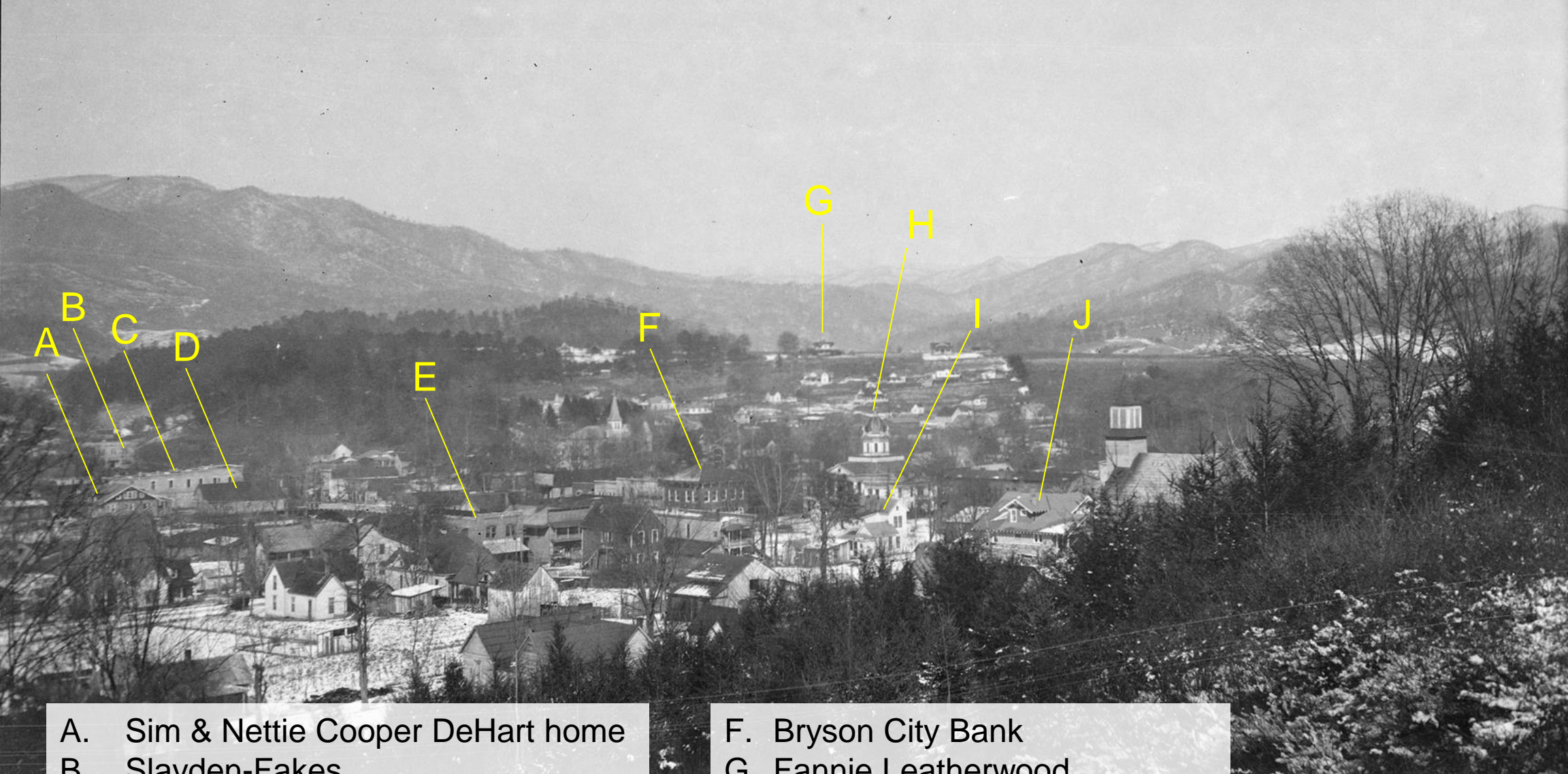
The preceding photo is from the Open Parks Network site.

[Stanley Black](#) and [Marianna Fischer Black](#) acquired the lot on which buildings 5 and 6 (and the one in between) stood from [JH Ditmore](#) in 1924. [RG Coffey](#) purchased the building at the right from JH Ditmore and leased it to a succession of automobile-related businesses. RG Coffey's heirs sold the property to his brother, [Hill Coffey](#), in 1941.

The Blacks sold their property to [Charlie Branton](#) and his wife, [Annie Fortner Branton](#), in 1945. The Brantons had the two adjoining brick buildings (below, left) erected. They served as homes to the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, Mashburn's Grill (later Deep Creek Grill, operated by Ray Wright), medical office for Dr. Harold Bacon and his nurse, Annie Grant. The Omer Buchanan VFW post installed a 6-lane bowling alley which was managed by Ray Wright. The buildings have been home to a number of businesses since, including the current Cornerstone Café & Grill. The GEM Theater, a part of which is seen at the far right, was erected by [Newell Martin](#) and her husband, [Gomer](#). It stands on the property formerly occupied by the home of [Walter Mingus Hughes](#) and his wife, [Myrtle Dean Hughes](#) (building 2 on the preceding slide).



View to the northeast across Bryson City from Fryemont Inn area, around mid-1920s, with a few still-existing structures marked



- A. Sim & Nettie Cooper DeHart home
- B. Slayden-Fakes
- C. Snelson-Franklin block building
- D. DeHart store
- E. T.I. Hughes store

- F. Bryson City Bank
- G. Fannie Leatherwood
- H. County courthouse
- I. Elmore/Ditmore/Branton
- J. Harwood home

Comments on slide 37

The Sim and Nettie Cooper DeHart home and store were, and still are, located just north of the Everett Street Bridge. They bought the property in 1905, but I am unsure when the home and store were erected; my guess is that the home was built in the 1920s, and suspect that it, like many other homes in town, was a Sears-Roebuck kit home. Nettie Cooper was the daughter of [Dr. Joel Cooper](#) and [Laura Ledford Cooper](#), who are buried in the BC Cemetery, as are three of her siblings. The Dehart store is now Smith's Dry Goods.

The Slayden-Fakes building was erected around 1920. It was managed by [John Dowtin](#); [Ora Dougherty](#) also worked there in its early years. John Dowtin's daughter, Olive, married Dr. P.R. Bennett, the brother of Kelly Bennett.

The building labeled as the Snelson-Franklin block building was erected by [Bob Snelson](#) and "old man" [Jack Franklin](#) between 1915 and 1924. It was where the Swain Hotel had been built in the late 1880s. When the August 1940 flood came, it was owned by Wayne Battle and operated as Swain Furniture. In 1943, [Leroy Sossamon](#) and his wife [Ora Lee Dougherty Sossamon](#) purchased it and ran Sossamon Furniture store for decades, then leased it to long-term employee Frank Burnett, who operated Burnett Furniture there. It is now McClanahans or some such.

The T.I. Hughes store was built by [Thomas Irvin Hughes](#) in 1911. It is now Clampitt Hardware, but in my own mind, I think of it as MC Close Hardware. [Max Close](#) and his wife [Lois Brooks Close](#) never owned the building, but leased it for decades.

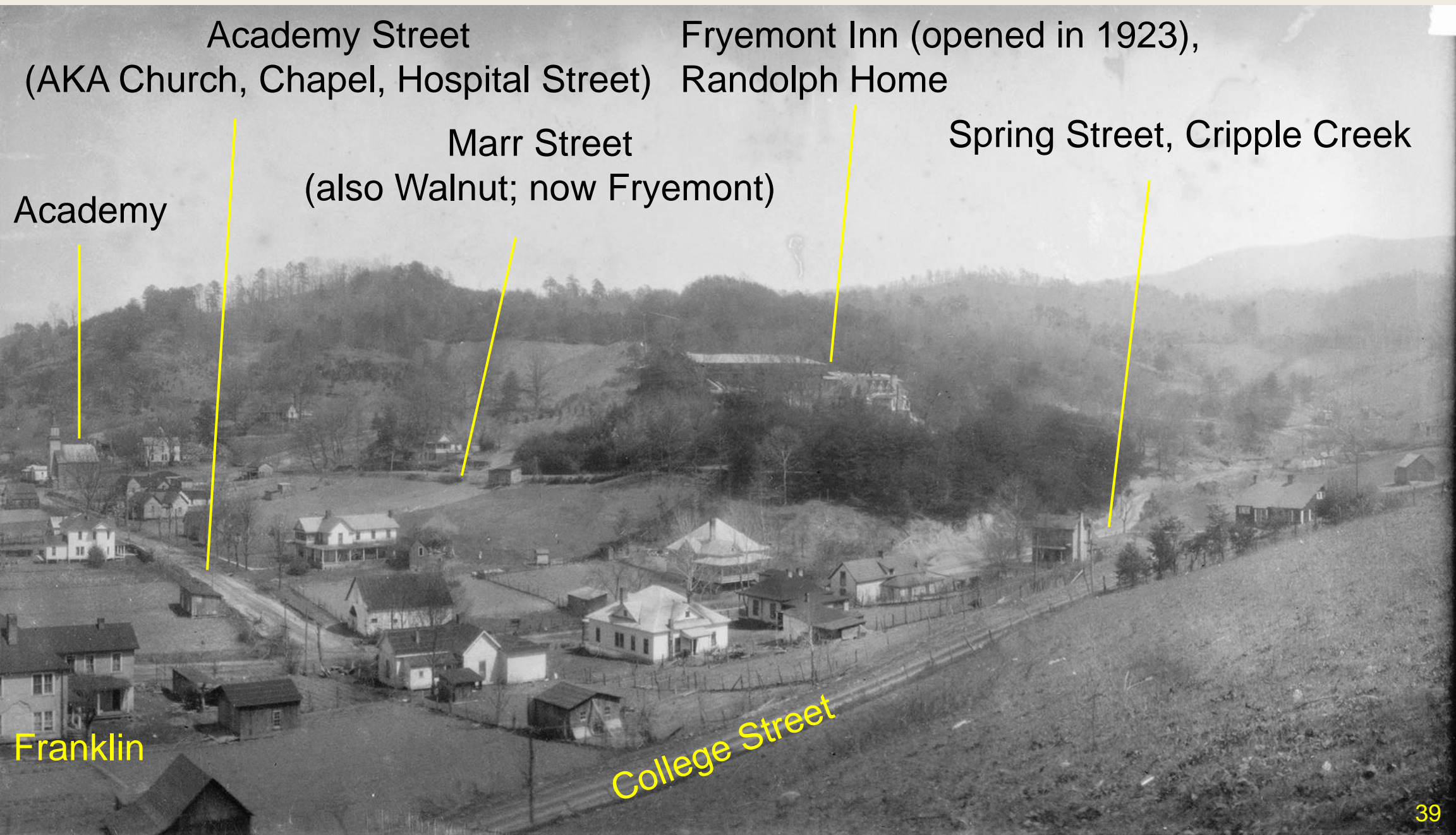
The Bryson City Bank building was likely erected in 1907-08, after Lee and Thomas Marr sold the property to the Bank in May, 1907. The Bank had incorporated in 1904, with stockholders [DK Collins](#), GW Maslin, [Stanley Black](#) and [Alec Elmore](#). DK Collins was the original bank president; he and Stanley Black were the only two presidents in the more than six decades that the bank operated. It first operated out of DK Collins' store. His store was also the location of the town's first post office. He was the postmaster of Charleston from February of 1872 until March 27, 1889, shortly after the name was changed to Bryson City.

The home of [RL Leatherwood](#) and [Fannie Simpson Leatherwood](#) (twin sister of John Everett's wife, [Anna Lou Simpson](#)) was built in the 1890s, and the hill we now know as Hospital Hill was called Leatherwood Hill and also Pine Hill for decades. That is now the home of Jonathan and Callie Sutton Mattox and their new baby, Reed.

The Courthouse was completed in November of 1908 after its predecessor burned in January of that year. DK Collins was one of the overseers of the new construction effort.

The Harwood home stands just across Academy Street from the library. That home was likely a new one when [John Hendricks Ditmore](#) and his children, [Harry](#), [Lula](#), and [Ralph](#) sold a 120 ft by 108 ft section on the back side of lot 4 to John Harwood in 1923 for \$2,742.50.

A perpendicular view from the Bryson City Cemetery 1923-24



Academy Street
(AKA Church, Chapel, Hospital Street)

Fryemont Inn (opened in 1923),
Randolph Home

Marr Street
(also Walnut; now Fryemont)

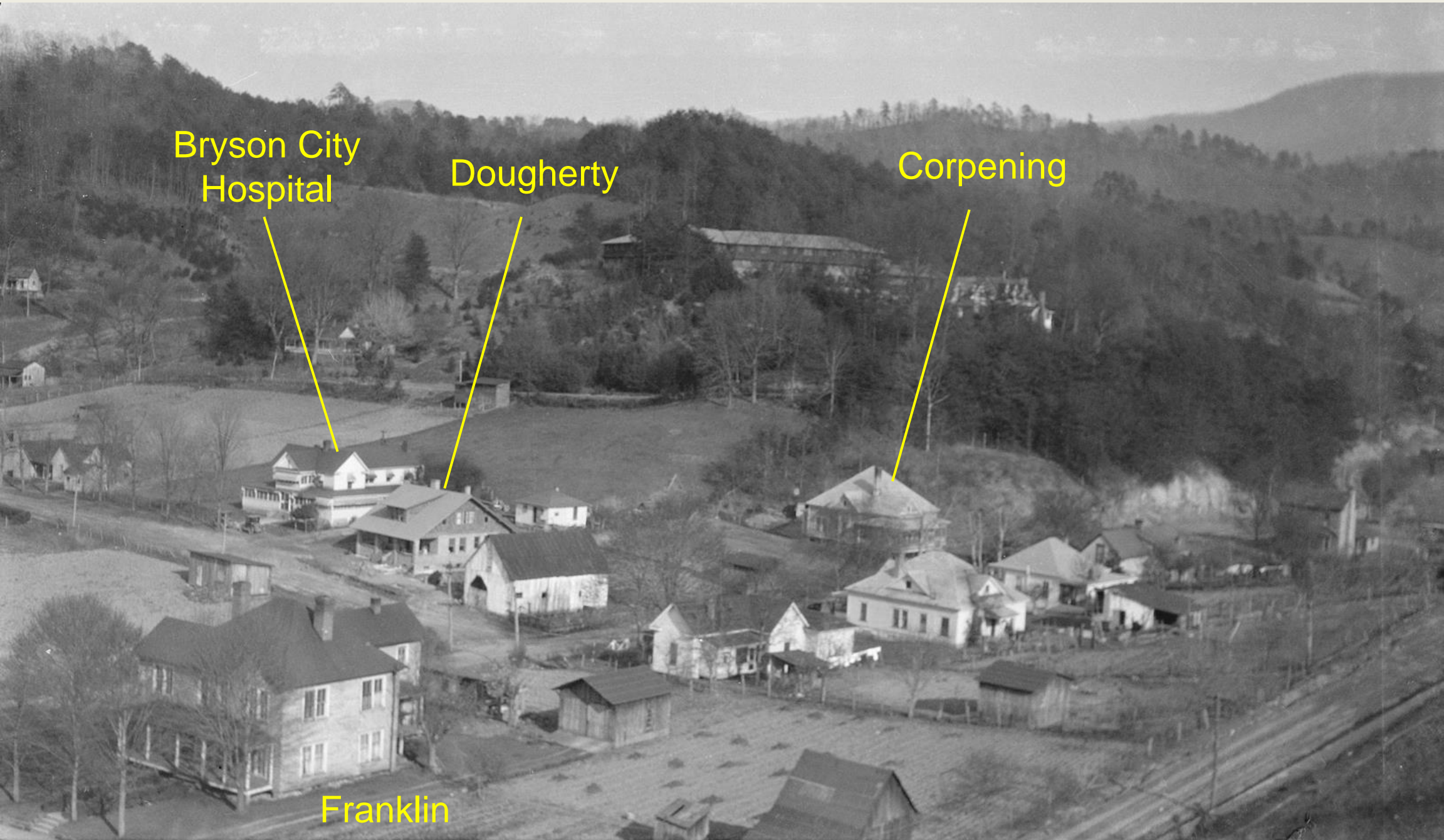
Spring Street, Cripple Creek

Academy

Franklin

College Street

A similar view, later in the 1920s



Bryson City
Hospital

Dougherty

Corpening

Franklin

Comments, notes on slides 39-40

In December, 1924, Drs. H.W. Tidmarsh and J.L. Reeves purchased the tract where the building labeled as "Bryson City Hospital" is located. Over the next few years there were multiple newspaper references to people in the Bryson City Hospital.

GUN DISCHARGE INJURES YOUTH AT BRYSON CITY

(Special To The Citizen)

BRYSON CITY, N. C., Jan. 7.—Troy Nations is resting as comfortably as could be expected following a serious accident of a few days ago. He was sitting at the barn at the home of his father, Alan Nations at Wilmot, with his gun on his knees, after returning from hunting, when in some way the gun was fired. The entire shot entered the left arm and shoulder causing a terrible wound. He was hastened to the Bryson City hospital, where it was found necessary to remove the arm at the shoulder joint. Nations is 18 years of age. Though his condition is still considered serious he will probably recover.

Miss Florence Sawyer of Deep Creek, was operated on at the Bryson City Hospital, for appendicitis Saturday. She is making a good recovery.

ROBBINSVILLE MEN WOUNDED IN BATTLE

Prominent Merchant In Bryson City Hospital Not Expected To Live

Robbinsville, March 7—(AP)—Walter D. Wiggins, 42, prominent Robbinsville merchant, is in a Bryson City hospital not expected to live and Dr. W. Oscar Patton, 63, is in a hospital at Murphy with bullet wounds in his chest and thigh as a result of a battle this afternoon at 2 o'clock on the main street here.

According to eye-witnesses, Dr. Patton shot Wiggins with a double barreled shotgun after the store keeper had ordered the physician from his store.

Following the shooting, the doctor ran from the building into the street, where he was shot by Zam Eller, town marshal. Both men were rushed to hospitals in nearby towns, following the battle.

Dr. Patton, who at one time represented Cherokee county in the lower House of the State Legislature, told officers who took him to Murphy that ill feeling had developed about two weeks ago between him and Wiggins over a horse trade, Sheriff Birchfield said tonight. When he entered Wiggins' store, the Sheriff quoted the physician as saying the merchant ordered him out with an oath.

The physician declared he would have shot Eller, the Sheriff said, if a shell in his gun had not "snapped". Men who carried Wiggins to Bryson City declared that the merchant said that Patton was drunk and had used profanity in the presence of women while in the store.

Bryson City Man in an Unconscious Condition

W. M. Calhoun, 45, of Bryson City, foreman of the wood mill of the Champion Fibre Company's operations at Smokemount, is the hospital at Bryson City in an unconscious condition as a result of being struck in the head from behind by a heavy piece of timber.

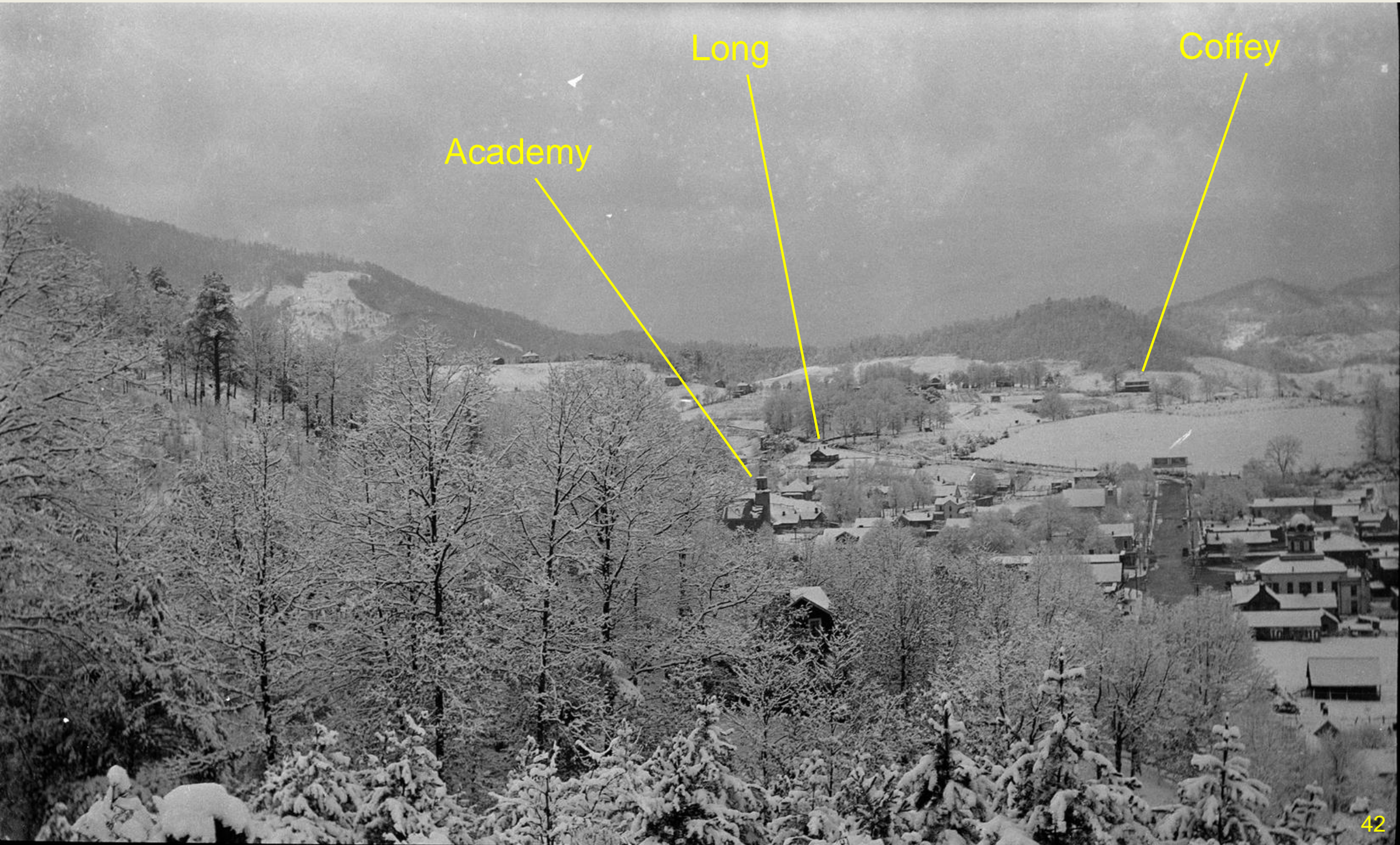
The blow is said to have been inflicted by Andrew Collier, 22, who, it is said, was discharged by Calhoun a few days ago. Calhoun was injured Monday and has been in a critical condition since. Little hope is held for his recovery. Collier is said to have escaped and efforts to locate him have been unavailing.

Misses Anna Henry was operated on at the Bryson City Hospital on Wednesday, following an acute attack of appendicitis. Her mother who had returned to her home in Waynesville on Monday after the week end here returned to be with her daughter. She will stay with her kinsfolks Rev. and Mrs. David Harrell.

Ora Dougherty's home was built between the time of the first photo above (slide 20) and that of the next slide (21). The home was mostly constructed while owned by Carroll and Bessie Gibson, but they apparently did not want to live next door to a hospital, and so sold it to Mrs. Dougherty on December 31, 1925 for \$6,500.

The Corpening home was acquired by Ed "Shorty" Corpening from [James Robert Jenkins](#) and his wife, [Hettie Cooper](#) in 1920 for \$3,000, so the home was already standing at the time of purchase. The Corpenings moved to Brevard in around 1949-50. Part of their property was sold to [Garfield Penland](#), who in turn sold it to his daughter and son-in-law [Mildred Penland](#) and [Dan Wood](#). The balance was purchased by [Ora Dougherty](#). Today, Bojangles occupies the Dougherty/Corpening home places.

View to southwest from Bennett Hill



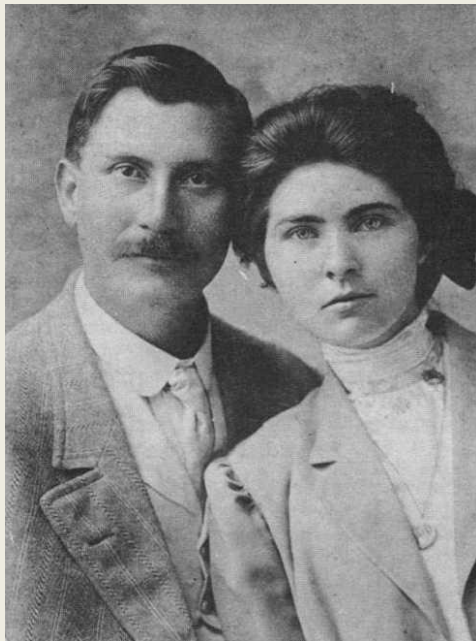
Slide 42 comments

On slide 23, the Academy building is at the center, with the roof of the Harwood home seen to the right, across Church/Academy Street.

On the right, atop Schoolhouse Hill, the Bryson City Cemetery can be seen surrounded by a fence, with a barren hillside below. The trees on the cemetery grounds are noticeably smaller and less dense than those on the school grounds toward the center. No school buildings are visible; this is probably because the trees block the view of the central school structure, first used in 1923. The high school building, erected in the late 1920s, would have been visible; the fact that it is not suggests a mid-1920s or earlier photo date.

The home of [R.G. Coffey](#) and [Minnie Welch Coffey](#) stands out beyond the cemetery grounds. The Coffeys purchased the land upon which the house was built from [John Patton Gibson](#) and [Jane E. Henderson Gibson](#) on February 3, 1915 for \$800. The home was unoccupied and had fallen into disrepair before being demolished in recent years, about a century after it was built.

Another “bungalow”* home is visible just below the school grounds, near the center of the photo (a little right of the steeple of the Academy). That was the home of [Ethel Smith Long](#) and [J. Robert Long](#), their daughter Mary and young Margaret Wilson, who they fostered after the deaths of her parents, [Grover Wilson](#) and [Exie Reeves Wilson](#). Both Mary and Margaret taught music in the Bryson City School.



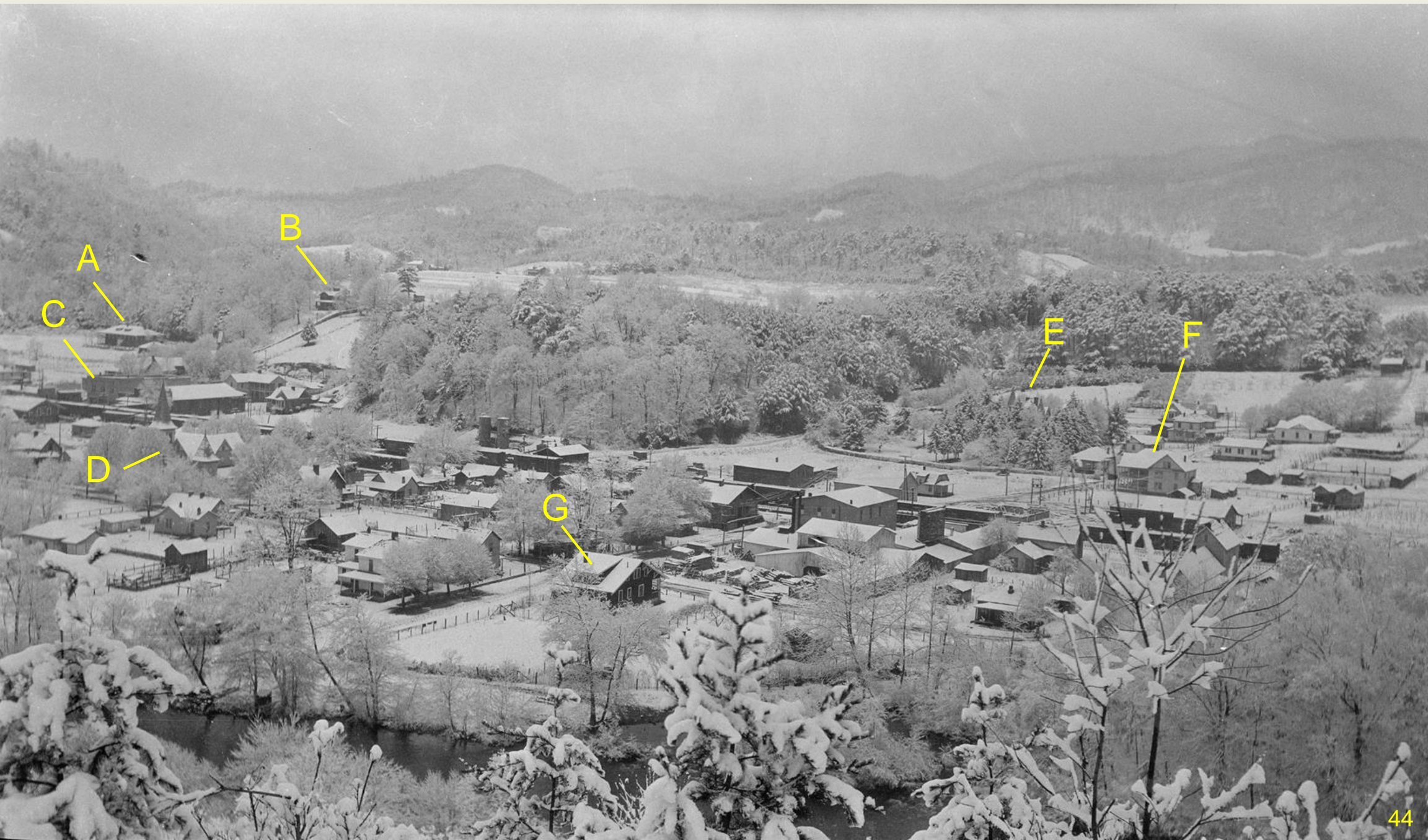
[R.G.](#) and [Minnie Welch Coffey](#)



[Cora Wilson Woody](#), [Ethel Smith Long](#), [J Robert Long](#), [Ora Dougherty](#)

* The home was referred to as a bunglo (sic) in the deed transferring ownership to the Longs in 1910

View from Bennett hill to the northwest



A
B
C
D
E
F
G

Slide 44 comments

A was originally the Calhoun Hotel. In November and December of 1919, brothers William and John Calhoun purchased ten lots in the Yona Springs subdivision for \$2,200. In February of 1921, John and his wife Pearl Davis sold their interest to [William Calhoun](#), whose wife Nora Lee was Pearl's sister. It is unclear when the building was completed; the first record I can find of its operation was a newspaper account in the Carolina Mountaineer and Waynesville Courier noting that the former neighbors of the Calhouns on Hazel Creek, Wesley Laney and Mary Cook, were married at the Calhoun Hotel on September 16, 1922. It was operated as a hotel until William died in 1929. His widow, [Nora Lee Davis Calhoun](#), then converted the hotel into apartments, with a considerable portion retained for the use of her and her daughters, [Verayle](#) and [Inez](#).

B was the home of [Marianna Fischer](#) and [Stanley Black](#) from when they first purchased the core of the home in November of 1902 (for \$500) until Mr. Black's death in 1965. The couple made substantial additions to the home over time; all four of their children who lived to adulthood were born in the home.

C is the Slayden-Fakes building. Slayden-Fakes purchased the land the building occupies from JL and Duggie Gibson on January 6, 1920. Building construction presumably started right away. An advertisement in the March 28, 1920 Asheville Citizen made mention of "Sladen, Fakes & Co., Bryson City." The business was managed in its early years by [John Dowtin](#).

D is the original First Baptist Church. On December 27, 1888, twenty five days before the town of Charleston's name was changed to Bryson City by an act of the NC General Assembly, [T.D. Bryson](#) sold town lot 35 to First Baptist Church Trustees [D.K. Collins](#), J.S. Elmore, J.G. Thomas and [J.M. Welch](#) for \$125, and adjacent lot 34 "for and in consideration of the respect and love he has and holds for the cause of religion." The church was completed around 1890 and served the congregation for over 60 years.

E is a Victorian mansion, which had been erected by Epp Everett for his son [John Everett](#) and John's bride, [Anna Lou Simpson Everett](#), stood on the grounds. A close look will reveal spires from the mansion among the evergreens. After John Everett went bankrupt, the property was sold to Dr. C.T. Sisk by Sheriff [R.M. Thomasson](#) in 1919. The Sisks sold the property to Dent and Nora Ensley in 1943. In 1951 the Ensleys sold the property to trustees of the First Baptist Church. The home was torn down when the current First Baptist Church sanctuary was built later in the 1950s.

F was built by [James F. Teague](#), known first as the Teague Hotel and as "The Big House." See the next slide for more on the home.

G was the home of [Alec Elmore](#) and [Minnie Welch Elmore](#), who purchased the property from [Maude Shelly](#) and [Noah Seay](#) in 1921. They made this their home from its construction (date not known), through the remainder of the life of Alec and then until 1954, when Minnie moved to be near her daughter, Mattie Mae, in Fort Lauderdale. She died there in 1957 and was brought back to lie alongside Alec, just east of the Bennett family plot.

“The Big House”



This impressive structure erected by Jim Teague after he and Laura Cunningham purchased the property from Dr. R.M. and Hattie Waldroup in 1912 was located just southeast of the John and Anna Lou Everett home. Teague and Cunningham sold the property in 1917. In that and succeeding transfers, it was called the Teague Hotel.

In 1921, [Sarah Jane Garrett Penland](#), her daughter-in-law [Stella Jenkins Penland](#), recently widowed, and Stella’s minor children, including her oldest daughter, Willa Belle, acquired the property and lived there for several years and gave it the name “The Big House.”

Jean Sandlin Douthit says that her family moved up above the Penlands when she was an infant, and lived two homes up above “The Big House” throughout the 1930s. Jean’s folks, like most people, kept chickens, but her mother was not a keen fan of killing and cleaning the chickens for the pot. Sarah Jane would take care of both chores for a dime. Jean also recalls that any time she went by Mrs. Penland’s house, there was always a cookie for her.

The family clearly retained an affinity for the location. It was sold to Ed and Roberta Whitaker in 1945. [Willa Belle Penland](#) married [James Don Blankenship](#); they were parents to [Donna Jane Blankenship](#), who posted the photo of the home and family members to her ancestry.com account before passing in 2013. The Blankenships bought the property in 1959, perhaps with fond memories and restoration in mind, but his construction work took them to California the next year. Four generations – [Sarah Jane](#) and [Mark Penland](#), their son [Benjamin Harrison Penland](#), his wife, [Stella Jenkins](#) and her second husband, [J.F. Shepherd](#), [Willa Belle](#) and [James Don Blankenship](#), and their daughter, [Donna Jane Blankenship Bentley](#) – take their rest alongside one another. From their graves, one can look across Bryson City to where the Big House once stood.

Home of Dr. A.M. and Mary Charlotte Hyatt Bennett



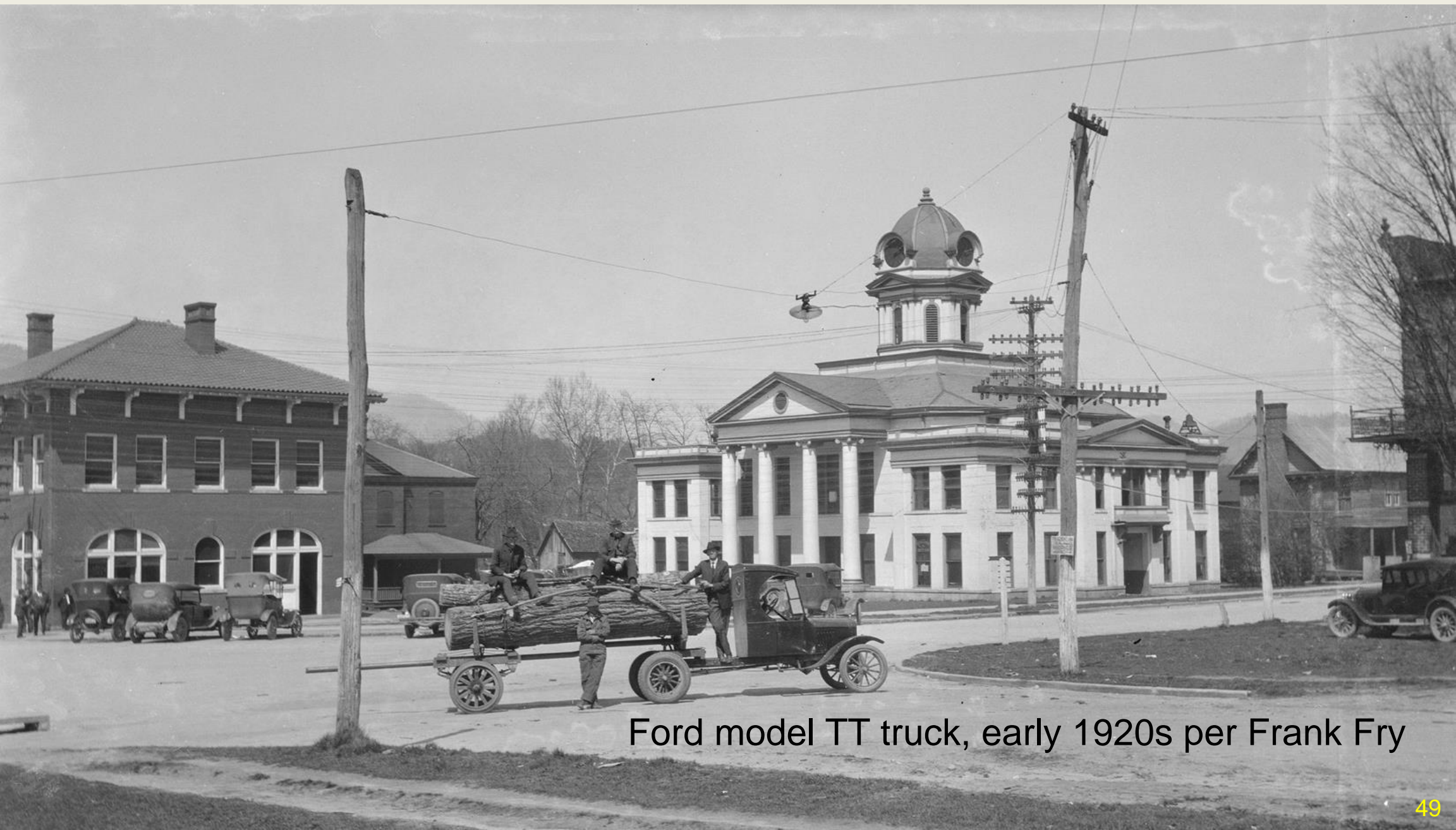
Sandidge Chevrolet; around 1923-24 (vehicles identified by Frank Fry)



1923 Sedan

1924 Touring car

Logs bound for Bryson City Pump Works (or Carolina Wood Turning) on the town square, 1920s



Ford model TT truck, early 1920s per Frank Fry

Looking east on Main Street to Bennett Hill from the Bryson City Cemetery

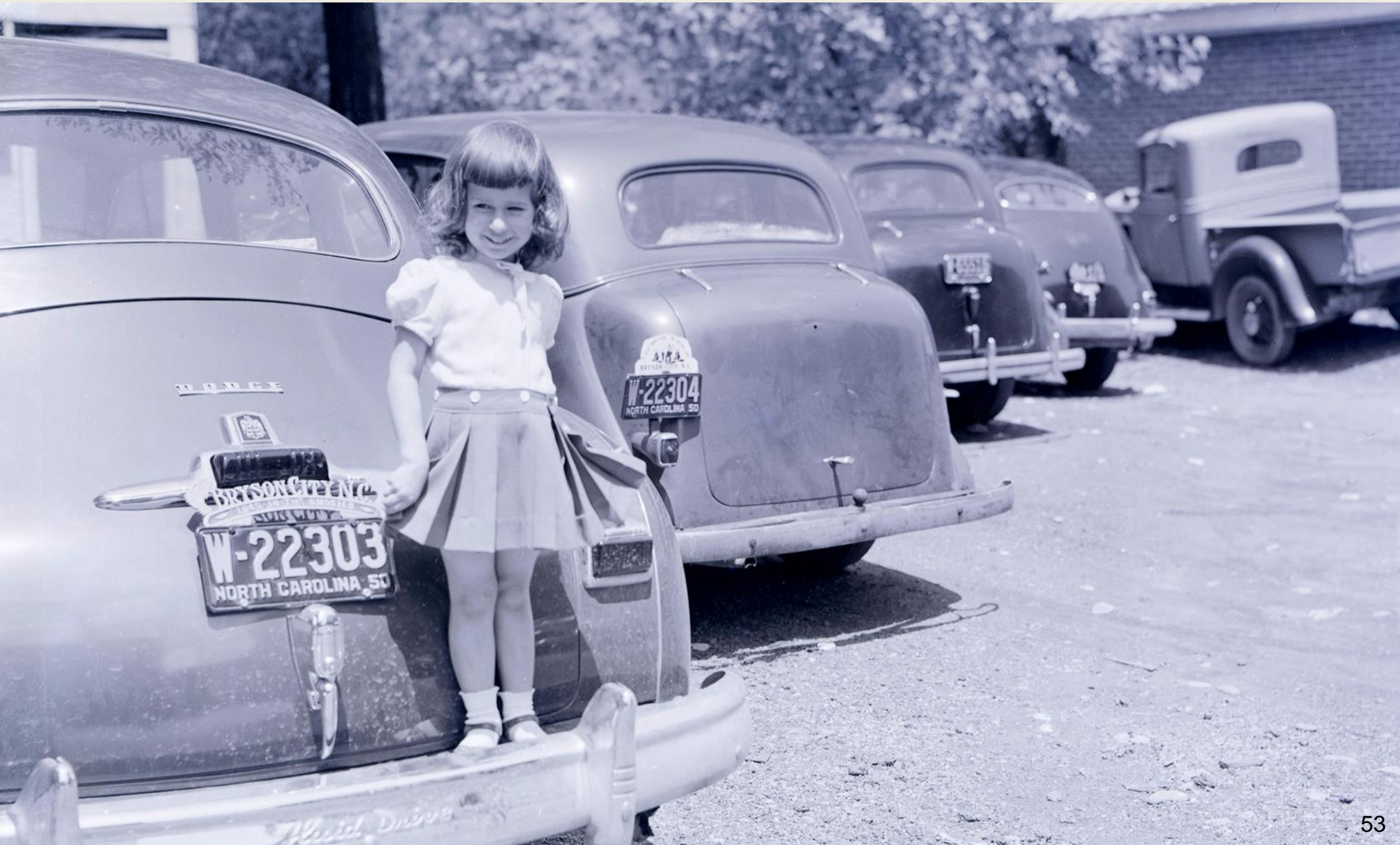


Bryson City Presbyterian Manse, Church, Hut



People and homes

Is this cute little girl present?



Kelly and Tela Bennett home on Bennett Hill



Southward view from around the Fannie Leatherwood home on Leatherwood (Hospital) Hill

Kelly, Tela Bennett home



Zachary home in the Norton section of Jackson County



Zachary home with Shortoff Mountain in background



B426,

Jean Bennett, Ora Lee Dougherty, Mary Alice Bennett, Mary Charlotte Hyatt Bennett on Kelly, Tela Bennett porch



Tela & Jean Bennett (left); Mary Hyatt Bennett with Mary Alice & Gwen Bennett (right); around 1925



Mary Alice, Jean, Gwen Bennett and friends



L-R: Joe Stearns, ?, IK Stearns, ?,
Lauree Nicholson Stearns, Tela Bennett, ~1930



Bennett collection photo which was almost certainly taken by IK Stearns

Clockwise: Joe “Sparky”
Stearns, Tela Bennett, Kelly
Bennett, Lauree Nicholson
Stearns, Mary Alice Bennett,
Gwen Bennett; mid-1920s (Joe
Stearns born in 1917, Gwen
Bennett in 1916, Mary Alice in
1914)



Children of Stanley and Marianna Fischer Black – 1918

At this point, this is the earliest datable photo



Berlin, Lillian Thomasson home, around 1930
Later it was the home of McKinley, Annie Edwards



Bennetts, L-R: Dr. A.M., Tela, Gwen, baby Sam, Kelly, Mary
in 1939 (Sam born on Nov 30, 1938)



Home of Dr. Harold, Isabel Bacon 1938 Chrysler, per Frank Fry

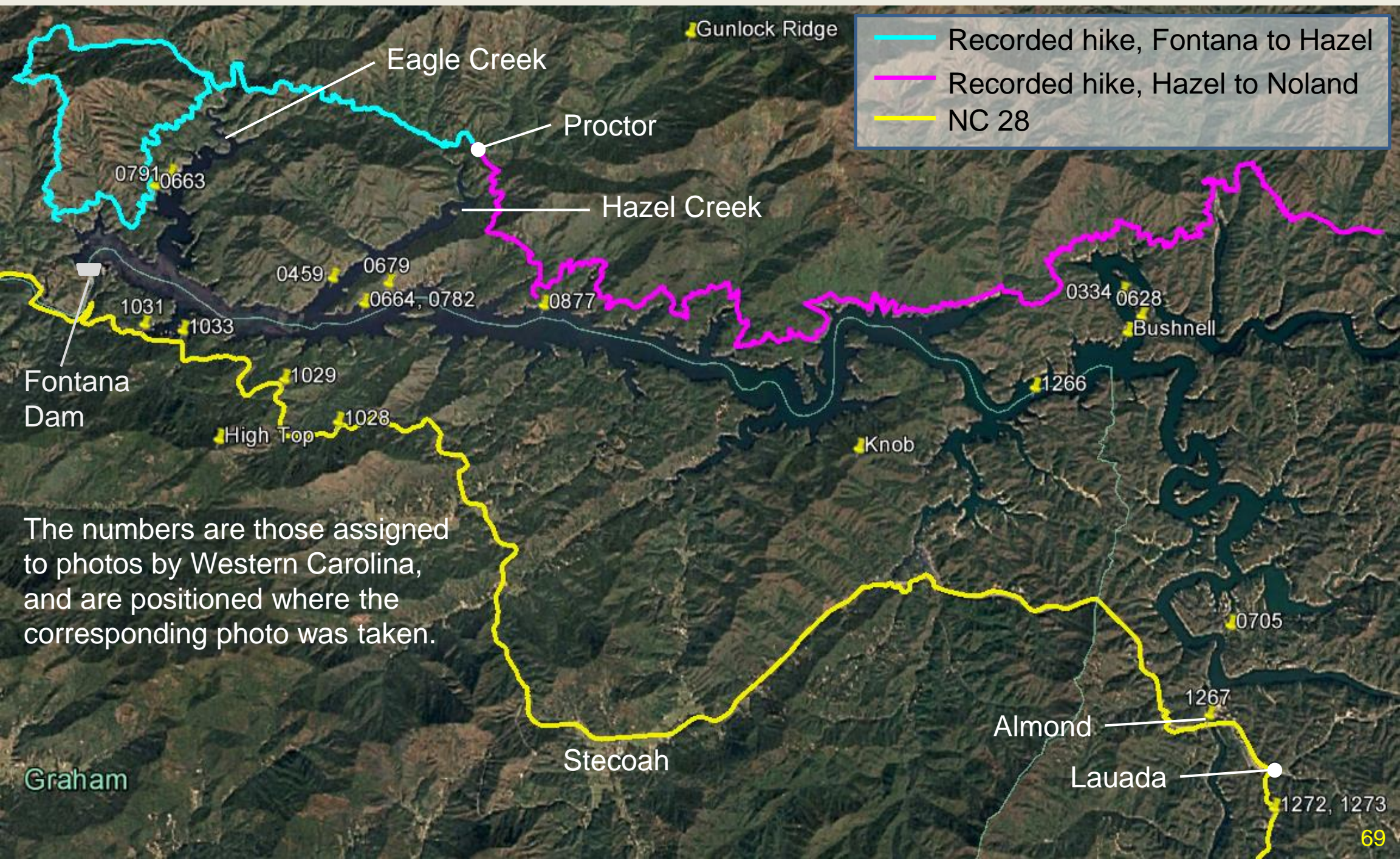


Unknown woman of the hills at her home



Roaming the area roads

Some roadside (and water) photo spots in western Swain & Graham



- Recorded hike, Fontana to Hazel
- Recorded hike, Hazel to Noland
- NC 28

The numbers are those assigned to photos by Western Carolina, and are positioned where the corresponding photo was taken.

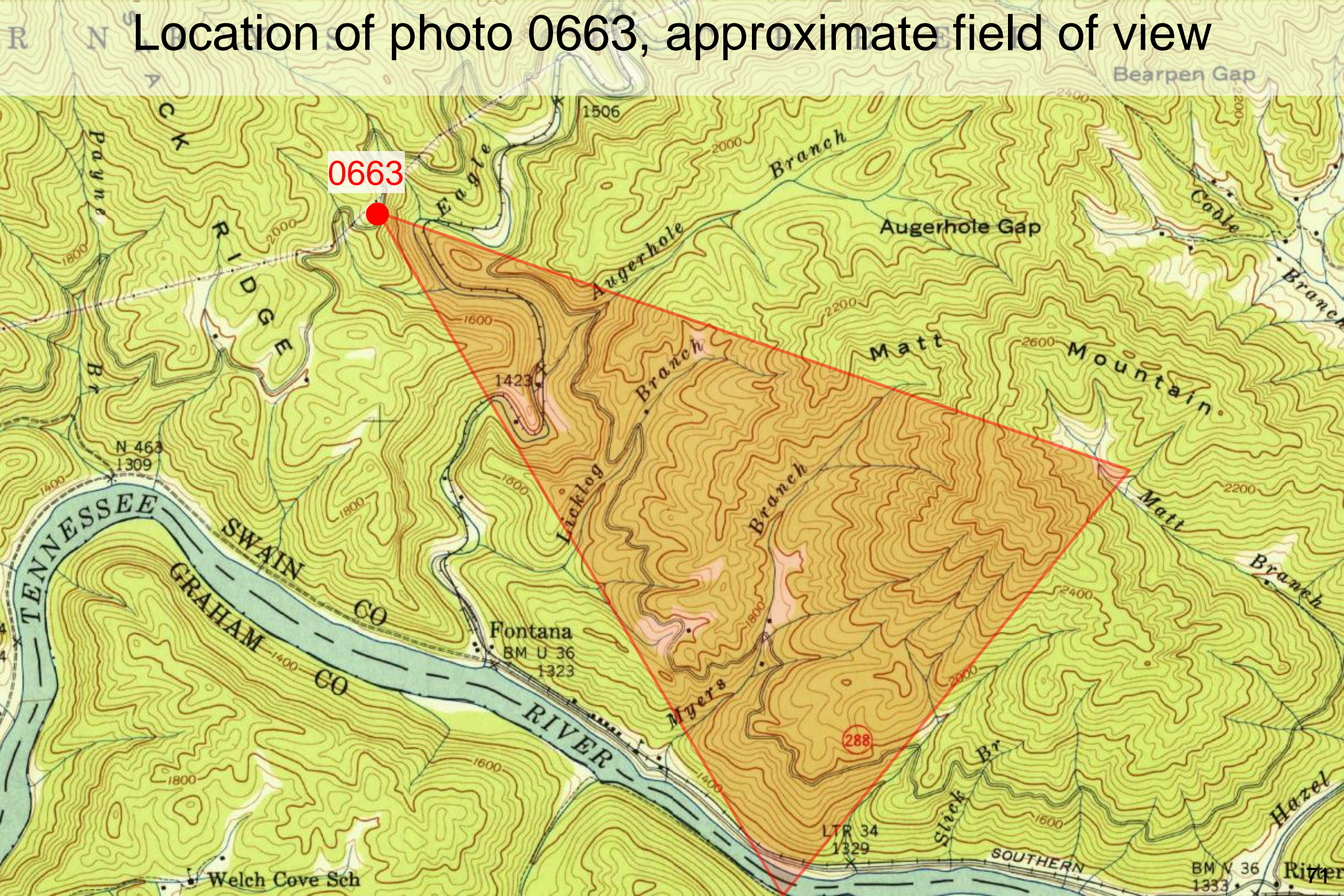
Looking southeast from a section of NC 288 which is now part of the Lakeshore Trail on lower Eagle Creek; probably 1930s

Photo 0663

High Top



Location of photo 0663, approximate field of view



NC288, looking up Hazel Creek, probably 1930s

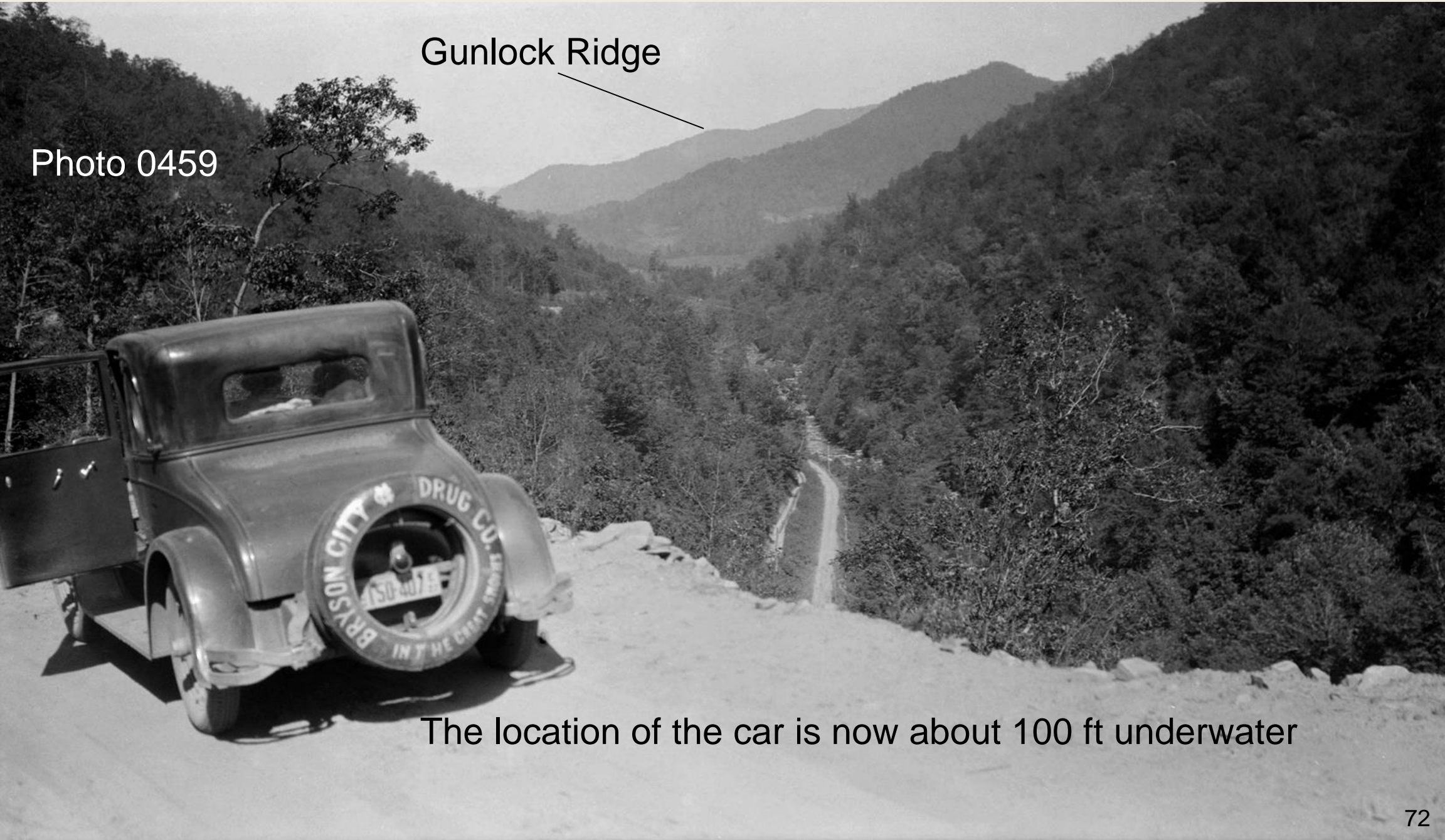
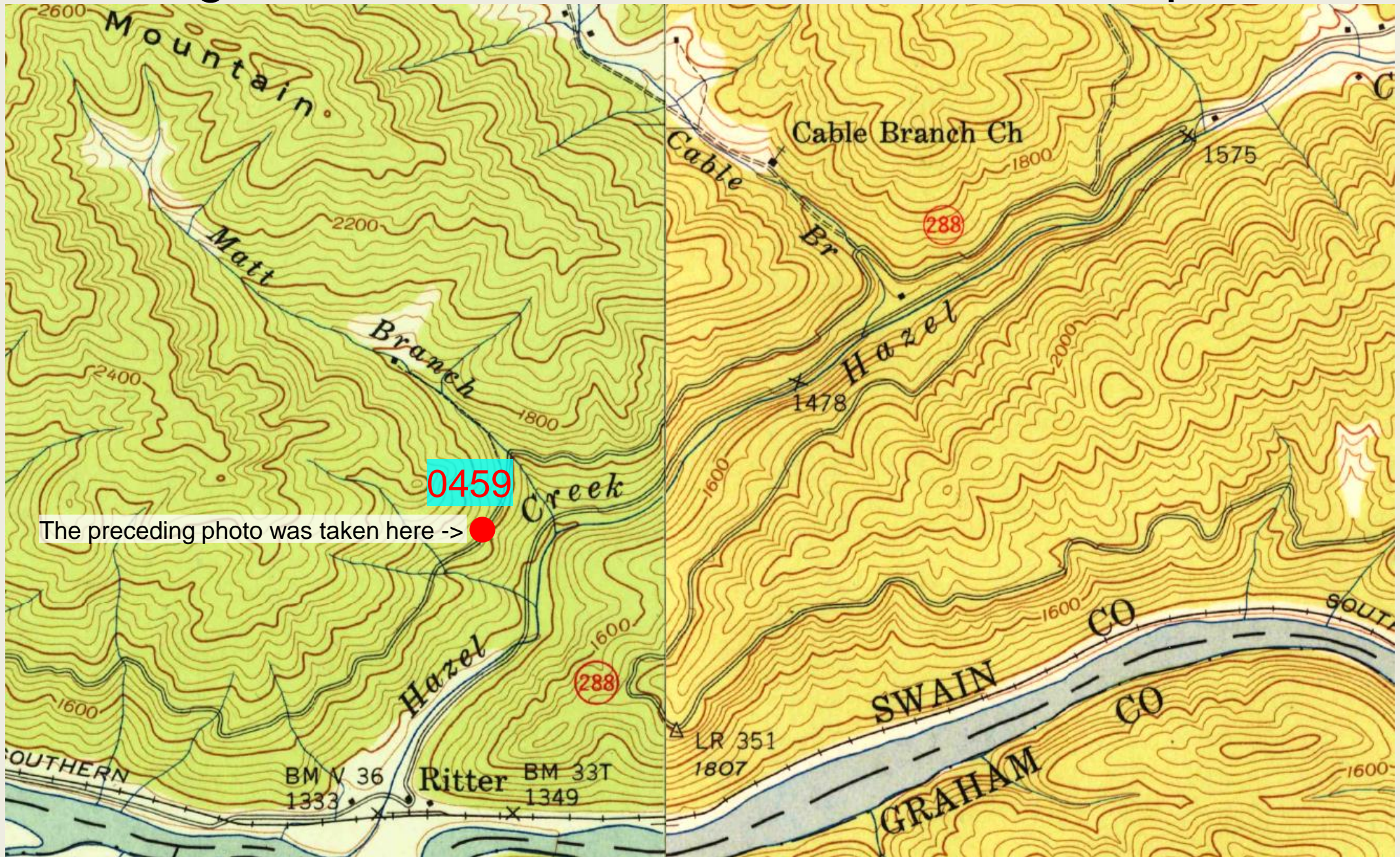


Photo 0459

Gunlock Ridge

The location of the car is now about 100 ft underwater

Segments of 1941 Fontana and Proctor topos



A number of his photos were taken alongside old NC 288

Old NC 288

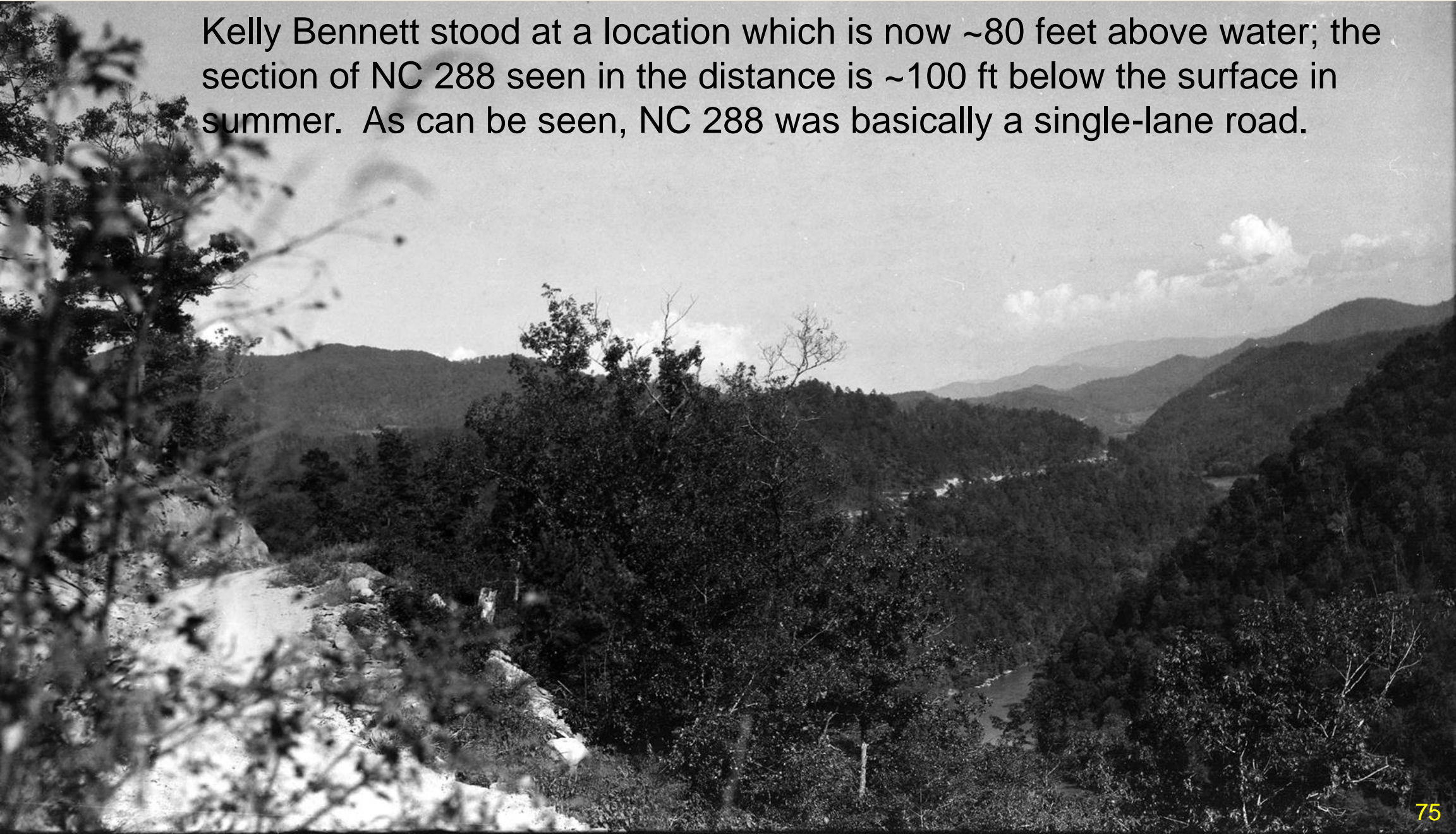
0679

0877



Looking up river from NC 288, a short ways above the mouth of Hazel Creek

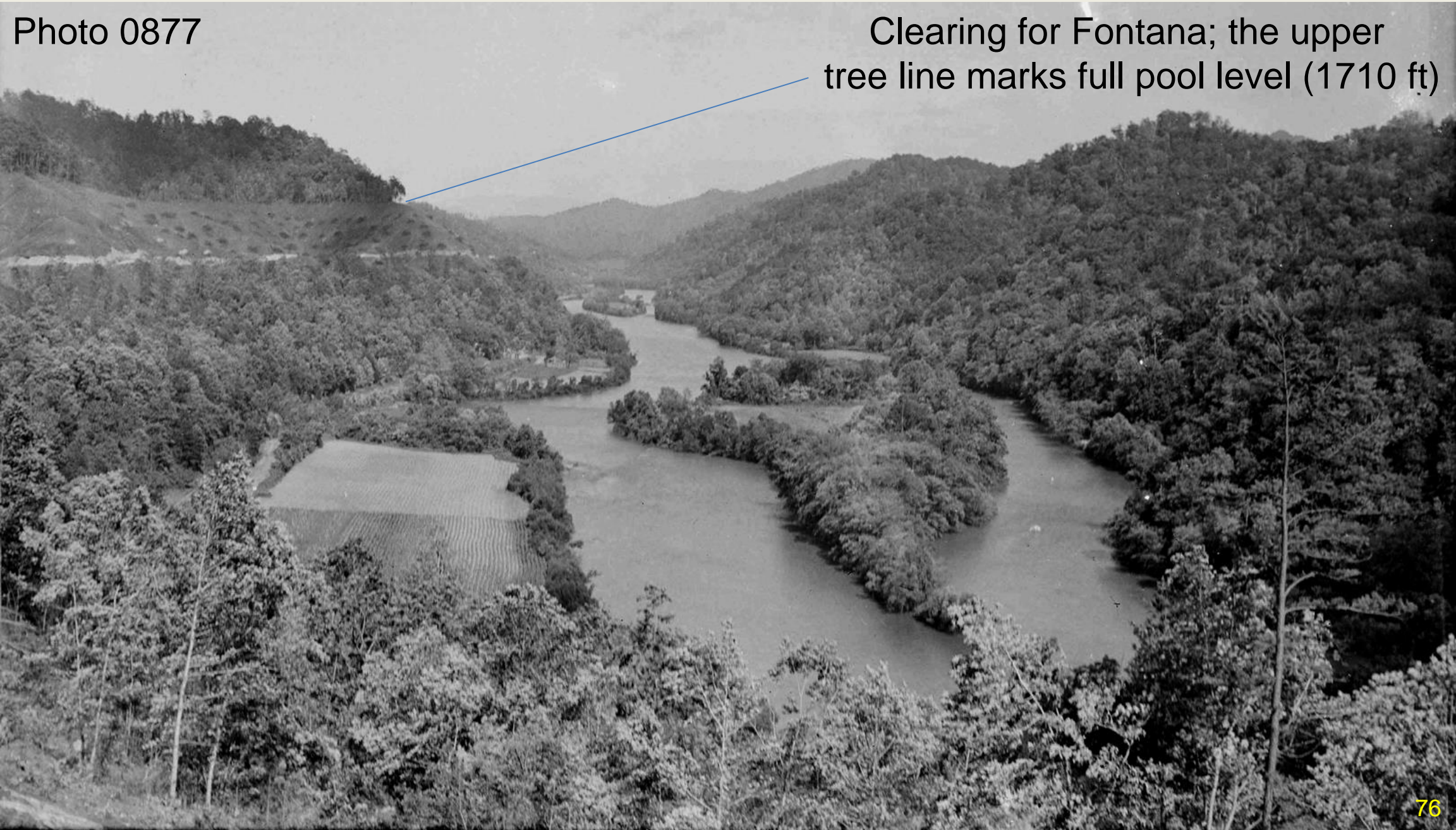
Kelly Bennett stood at a location which is now ~80 feet above water; the section of NC 288 seen in the distance is ~100 ft below the surface in summer. As can be seen, NC 288 was basically a single-lane road.



Looking up river from NC288 just below Calhoun Island; photo probably taken in 1942-44

Photo 0877

Clearing for Fontana; the upper
tree line marks full pool level (1710 ft)



View of old NC 286 (now NC 28), from just south of the gap coming from Lauada, looking up Sawmill Creek



NC 129, near the gap between Nantahala River and Tululah Creek
(Road from Topton to Robbinsville)



Horseshoe Bend area, Little Tennessee (NC 28)



Photo taken in July from the same location



View to the east from Shuler Road

Ela Baptist Church steeple



Same view in June



Drone shot by Heath Hyatt from well above

Ela Baptist Church



There are many road shots which I've not figured out, such as this one



Gatherings

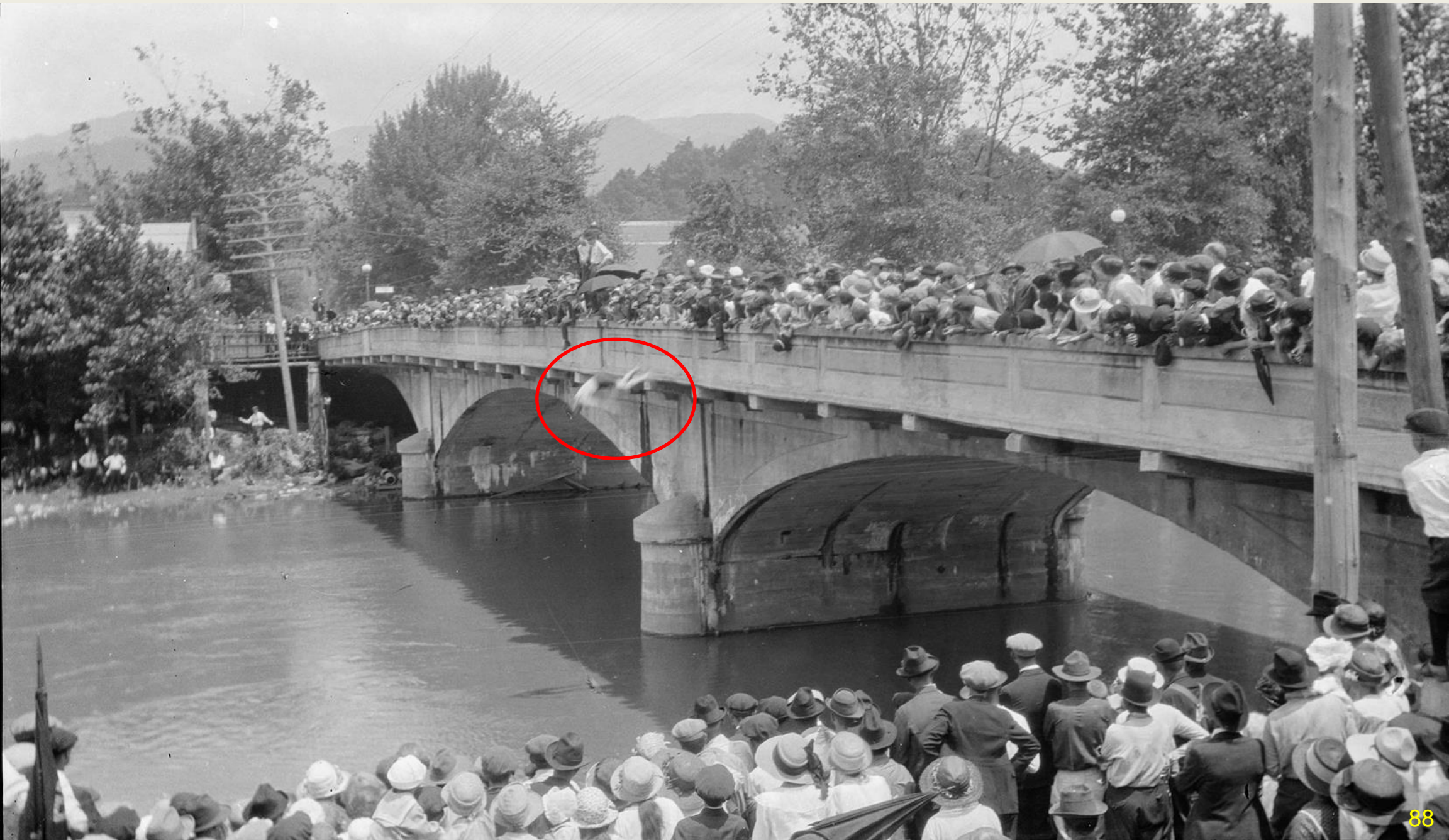
Bryson City School, 1923 - 1928



Town Square and Everett Street



Diving for a crowd from the bridge



Diving for a crowd from the bridge



Watermelon on Tuckasegee ice



Man in the middle is Stanley Black, Jr.

Shriners parade, likely in Asheville



Unknown gathering; includes Marianna Black, Stanley Black at left and Stanley's father, John Edwin Black at far right



IK Stearns with an unknown group of boys



Ladies on the lawn of the BC Presbyterian Church ~ 1946



L-R: Mary Nell Leatherwood, ?, Marianna Black, ?, Maggie Sandlin, Martha Kathryn Sandlin

School teachers who boarded with the Bennetts, 1926



L-R: Misses Kincheloe, Polaty, ?, Clinkscales, Eliza Palmer Robertson; names courtesy of Jim Gray, son of Eliza Robertson, who married Andrew Gray in October, 1927. ID's come from FBCC member Jim Gray, son of Eliza and Andrew.

Fontana Village, probably 1945



Salvation Army at the county courthouse, 1940s



Group of young men, some in time, marching on Everett Street, 1942



More young men on Everett Street



Scrap metal drive assembly, 1942



Scrap metal drive assembly, 1942



Kneeling, R-L: Phil Brintnall, Bill Moody, ? Andrew Gray, probably Ted Hyams, others not known. Two boys behind are Bruce Williams on left and Jim Gray. To Jim's right is Police Chief Ed "Shorty" Corpening. Dr. J.L. Woody is at the right with white shirt and tie.

Scrappy bunch of young'uns, 1942



Cherokee and Cherokees

Main entrance to the Cherokee School grounds



Young students



Cherokee couple with sacks of baskets, archer



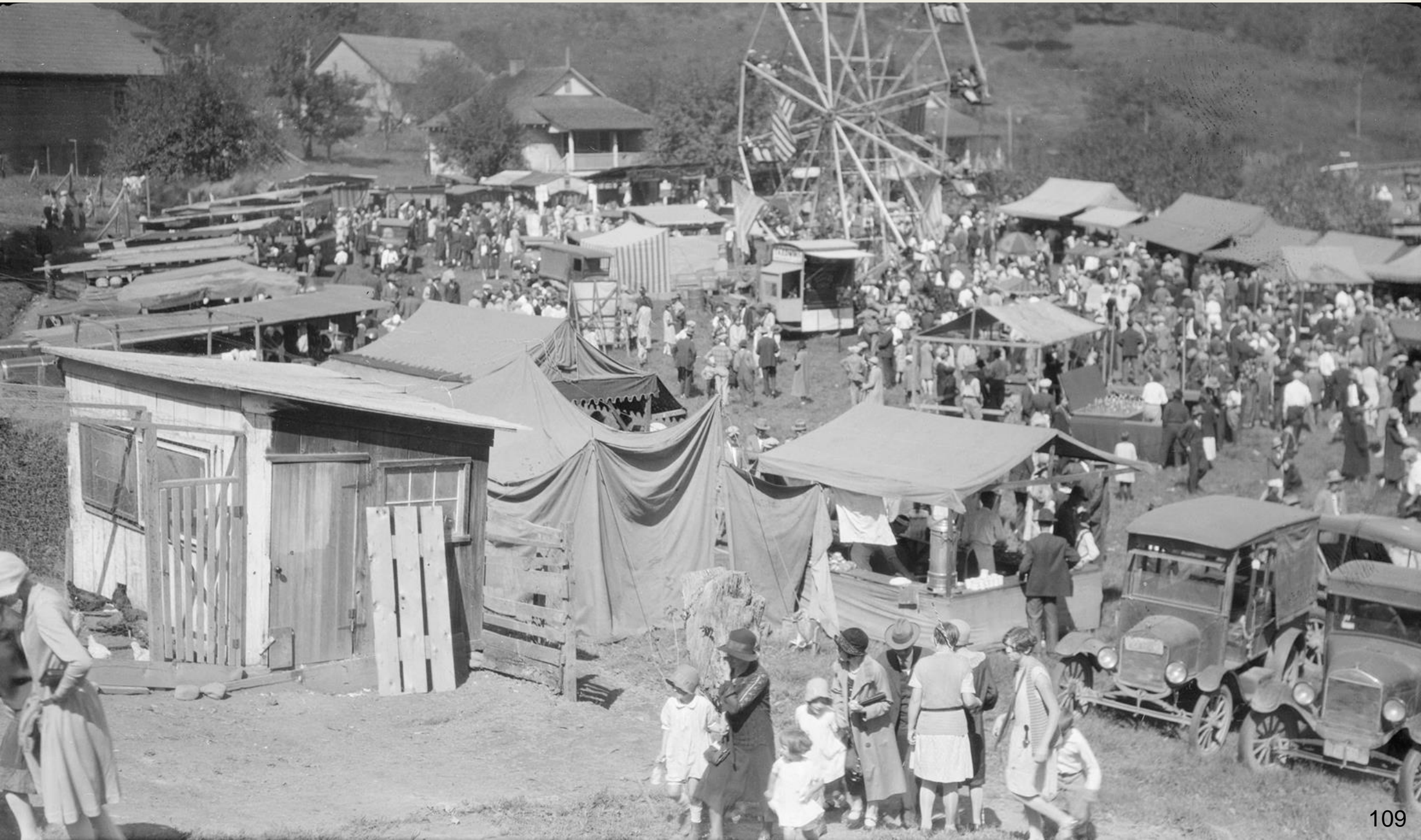
School stickball team



Adult stickball



Cherokee Fair



Gourd rattles at Cherokee Fair



Cherokee fair parking, rides



Sporting venues

Football below town also note the baseball field at left



Track and field meet: Bryson City and Almond High Schools



Lead runner on the right: Petey Angel

Basketball – on what was later the football field



The Bryson City Cemetery is on the other side of the fence at the left. The tree behind the backboard was cut down about ten years ago. Part of the stump is still there, and about 6-ft in diameter. Player with #1 on jersey is Bill Medford.

High jumper from Almond High School



1927-28 Bryson City High School boys basketball team (Smoky Mountain Conference Champions)



(L-R) Front: Clyde Wolfe, H.H. Welch, Denning Woodard, Commodore Casada and Carroll Wright; Back: Jack Enloe, Fischer Black, and Ronald Eller

1926-27 Bryson City High School girls basketball team



Unfortunately, none of the girl's team members are known. Hopefully having the photos publicly available will lead to at least some being recognized.

Bryson City's 9-hole sand green golf course
Hole in foreground is #1, behind it is #8, in distance is #6



Grading the Swain football field; probably early 1940s



Rural life

Tom Ferguson's farm at Kituwah/Governor's Island



Gathering hay; location unknown



Shuckstacks and Haystacks at an unidentified location



Clearing new ground, unknown man, location



Unknown farm



Unknown man, location



Unknown Church or school; possibly Deep Creek School



Hoeing crew - unknown



Cooling off



Looking up Deep Creek from farmed Leatherwood Hill;
likely in the mid-1920s (before golf course)



Some notable folks

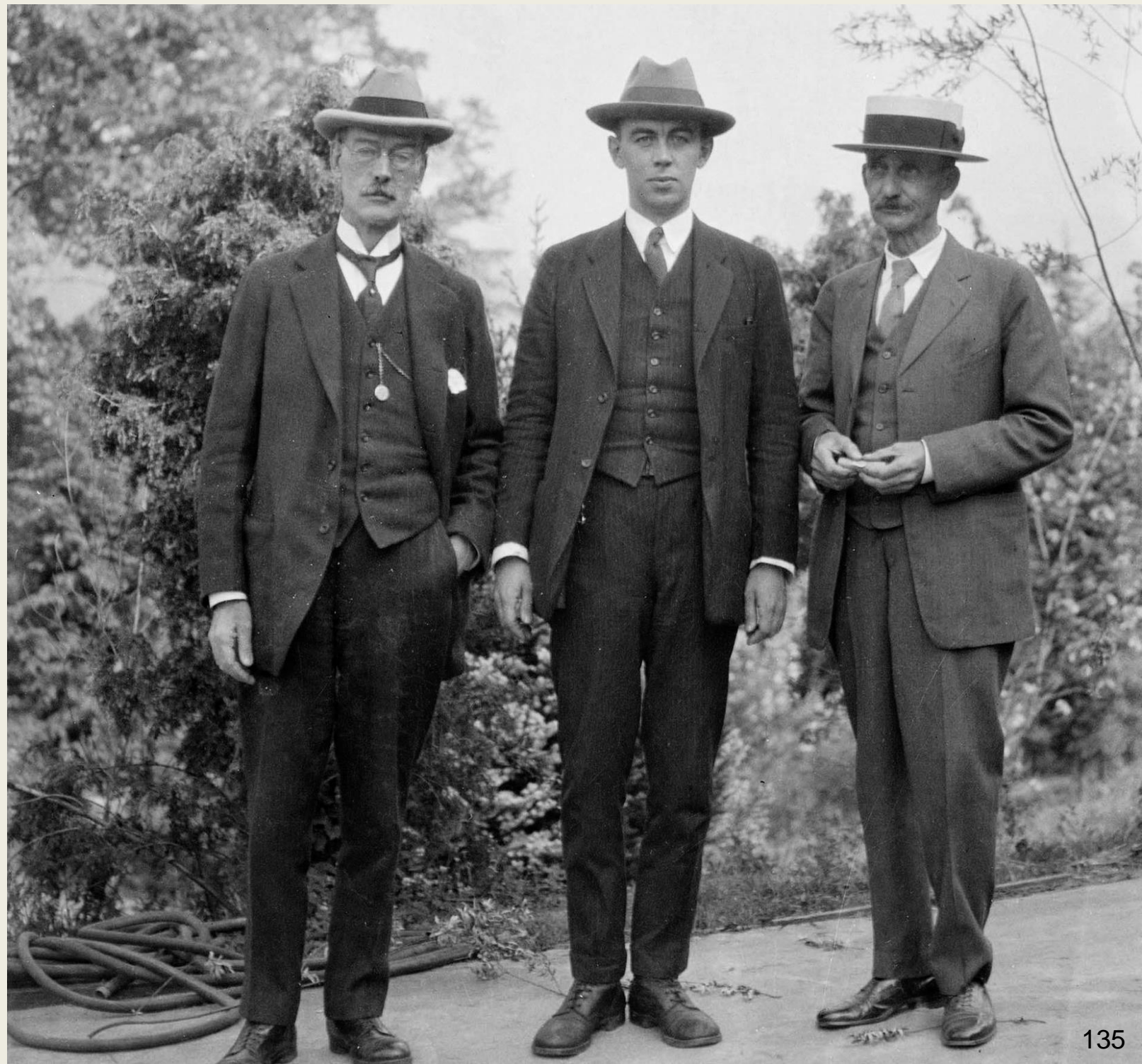
Roscoe Marvel, Horace Kephart at Kenilworth Inn mid-to-late 1920s



Same fellows, same setting



Two unknown
men, Horace
Kephart



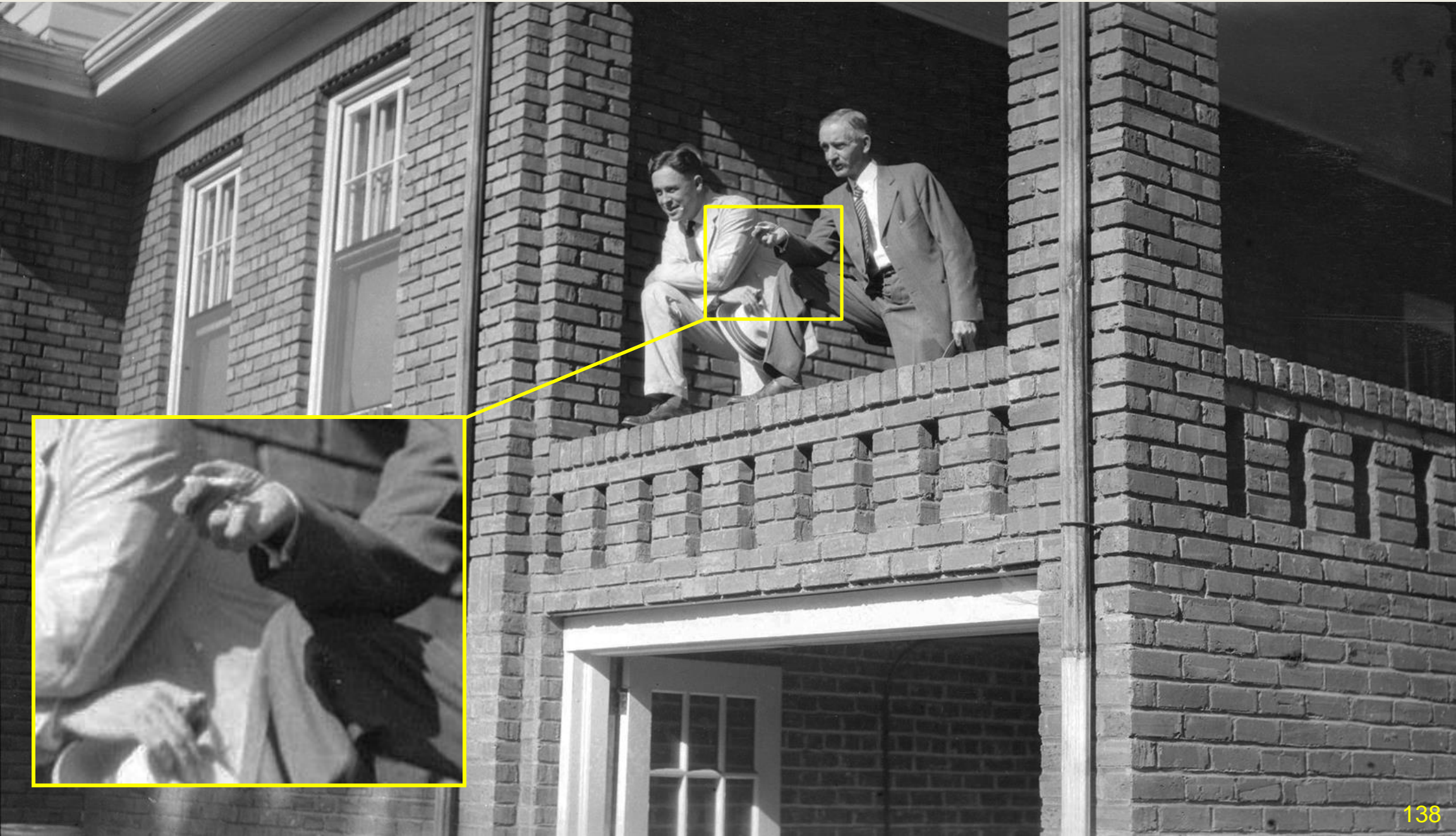
IK Stearns on viewing platform



Looking down from IK's platform



Jack Coburn, Horace Kephart; location unknown



Horace Kephart, Jack Coburn



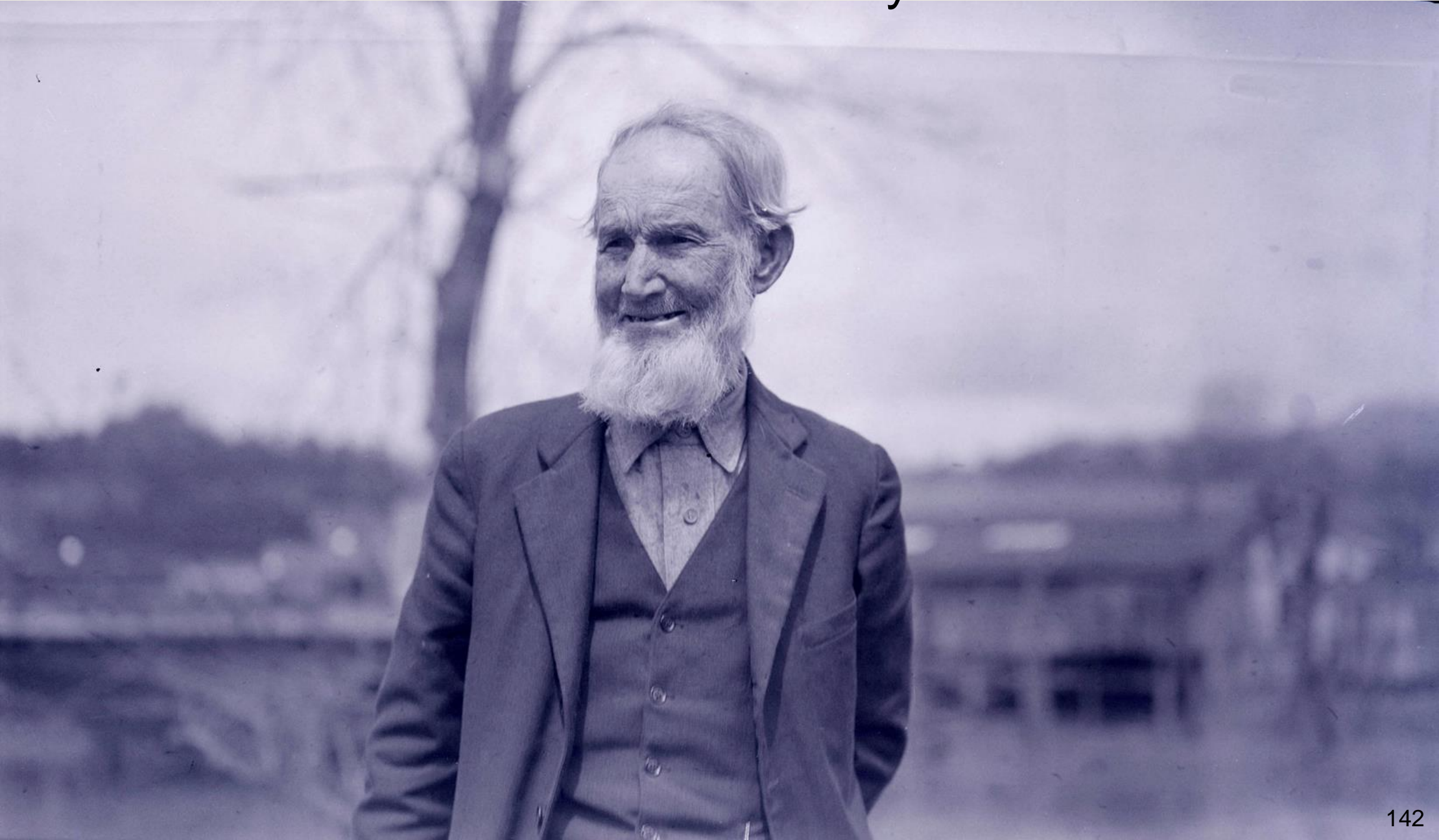
Horace Kephart, IK Stearns, two unknowns at early stages of construction of Carolina Wood Turning mill site



Front: James G Stikeleather;
Roscoe Marvel at left; Others unknown



John Sadoc Smiley, first Superintendent of Schools in Swain County



Children of John Sadoc Smiley



Brothers Arthur Lee, Elias Carroll, Samuel Baxter, and John Madison Smiley in rear. Arthur Lee's son was Bluegrass Hall of Fame musician Red Smiley. John M. Smiley, like his father, served as school superintendent.