

# Medical professionals & healthcare workers in the Bryson City Cemetery (part 2 of X)

Don Casada, August 2019

Convention: Names in blue letters are buried in the BC Cemetery

# Individuals identified with medical/health profession experience (sorted by date of death)

Name		Birth			Death		
First	Last	Year	Month	Day	Year	Month	Day
J.E.	West	1853	9	24	1881	3	19
E.M.	Scruggs	1829	9	8	1895	3	12
George W.	Ward	1803		0	1900		0
J.E.T.	Welch	1848	1	2	1921	4	12
R.L.	Davis	1855	1	18	1921	7	15
J.A.	Cooper	1847	10	20	1932	2	11
James	DeHart	1873	12	30	1932	10	18
A.M.	Bennett	1861	6	9	1941	1	20
Sue	Lee	1867	8	3	1946	6	1
D.R.	Bryson	1875	12	26	1955	12	22
Ophelia	Dorsey	1907	3	29	1967	10	5
Berlin	Thomasson	1897	10	22	1970	9	17
Kelly	Bennett	1890	2	8	1974	6	28
Harry	Ditmore	1902	1	6	1978	10	0
Bertie Beck	Sigmon	1888	8	31	1983	1	25
Glenn	Conley	1901	5	22	1988	5	27
Thomas Grady	Conley	1903	1	25	1988	7	3
William E.	Mitchell	1922	2	1	1998	6	7
Mary Alice Bennett	Greyer	1914	11	22	2001	9	12
Verayle	Franks	1908	5	18	2006	1	14
Deborah	McDonald-Welch	1951	7	13	2018	3	15

# Joyce Cooper covered her great-grandfather and family in 2017

[Joel Cooper lineage](#)

[More on Cooper family](#)

[Mendenhall and Cooper family land transactions](#)

## Other notes

- During WW1, Dr. Cooper volunteered to examine and treat, without charge, men who were deemed physically unfit to serve in the military; he was practicing at Almond at the time; he had also practiced in Judson.
- Served in Company H of the Thomas Legion
- Medical training is unknown

## Dr. James DeHart (1873 – 1932)

- A Swain County native, his roots date back to pre-Swain days; he is the great-grandson of Nathan DeHart and Catherine Ramsey, early settlers in the Needmore area (then Macon County)
- Son of William Joseph DeHart and Eliza Ann Gibson
- Per WW1 draft registration card was tall and slender with grey eyes and black hair
- Married [Emma May](#), Macon County native
- Practicing physician in Bryson City from at least 1900 until his death in 1932
- The first death certificate he signed as a physician, in June 1913, was that of his two month old daughter, [Bana](#)
- The following month, he signed the death certificate of infant [Gibson Carter](#), son of his first cousin, [Vinnie Lee Gibson](#)

# Some James DeHart family connections

## Immediate family in the BC Cemetery

- Wife [Emma May DeHart Jones](#), Children [Edna Lenora, Bana](#), and [Samuel Clint DeHart](#) and [Gladys Jane DeHart Leonard](#)

## Through his mother's Gibson line:

- [William Alfred and Palestine Owen Gibson](#) are his uncle & aunt
- [Vinnie Gibson Carter](#), [Joel A Gibson](#), [Mattie Gibson Marr](#) (wife of [L. Lee Marr](#)) and [John Patton Gibson](#) are 1<sup>st</sup> cousins; [Gibson Carter](#), [Earl Gibson](#) and [Leonard Gibson](#) are 1<sup>st</sup> cousins 1x removed, [Grayson Gibson](#) is 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 2x removed
- He is 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 2x removed of [Helen Gibson](#) and [Mary Evelyn Nichols](#), [Lexie Gibson Trawick](#) and 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 3x removed to [Judy Gibson Revis](#)

## Through the DeHart line:

- He is 1<sup>st</sup> cousin of [Emma DeHart Hyatt](#) and [Minnie Anna DeHart Womack](#) and 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 1x removed to their children, [Ethel Hyatt Patton Ashe](#), [Dallas Eugene Hyatt](#), [Frank Hyatt](#), [Sallie Hyatt](#), [Charles](#) and [Stephen Womack](#). He is the great uncle of [Doris DeHart Casebolt](#), 1<sup>st</sup> cousin 4x removed to [Casada](#) siblings, and almost certainly related to other FBCC members. Through the combination of two ubiquitous lines - Gibson and DeHart – he is likely kin to more than half of the folks in the county whose roots predate 1950, particularly those from the southwestern part of the county.

## Dr. James involved himself in other arenas

- He served twice in the NC House of Representatives (1923-24 and 1931-32)
- Founding member of Modern Woodmen of America in Bryson City in 1913. Others included [Rollins Thomasson](#), [Clyde Meadows](#) and [Willard Wheeler](#). MWOA was the largest non-secret fraternity in the country in 1907 with over 800,000 members. By comparison The Independent Order of Odd Fellows with 1,330,000 members and Freemasons with 1,220,000 members were larger, but secret, societies.

# His death was one of the more unusual ones of folks in the BC Cemetery

The death certificate read:

- Bronchial pneumonia
- Edema of glottis (swelling caused by fluid accumulation in the soft tissues of the larynx).
- Cause: “Sucking gas out of a gas line on car and breathed it into lungs – accident.”

Died at Angel Brothers Hospital in Franklin; attending physician was Furman Angel, first cousin of Ras Angel, the father of Clarence, Helen, and Petey. Furman’s grandmother was a 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin of T.D. Bryson

## Aurelius McDonald Bennett

- Born in Cataloochee
- Father Archibald (or Archer) Lafayette Bennett (son of Young Bennett) enlisted as a Sergeant in Company E, 29<sup>th</sup> NC Infantry Regiment. He died from a gunshot wound in Murfreesboro, TN
- His mother, Elizabeth Angelina Rogers died when he was 17
- Apprenticed medicine under his Uncle “Dock” (Adolphus Manuel Hugh) Rogers on Fines Creek, then attended medical school at Louisville.



## Aurelius McDonald Bennett (continued)

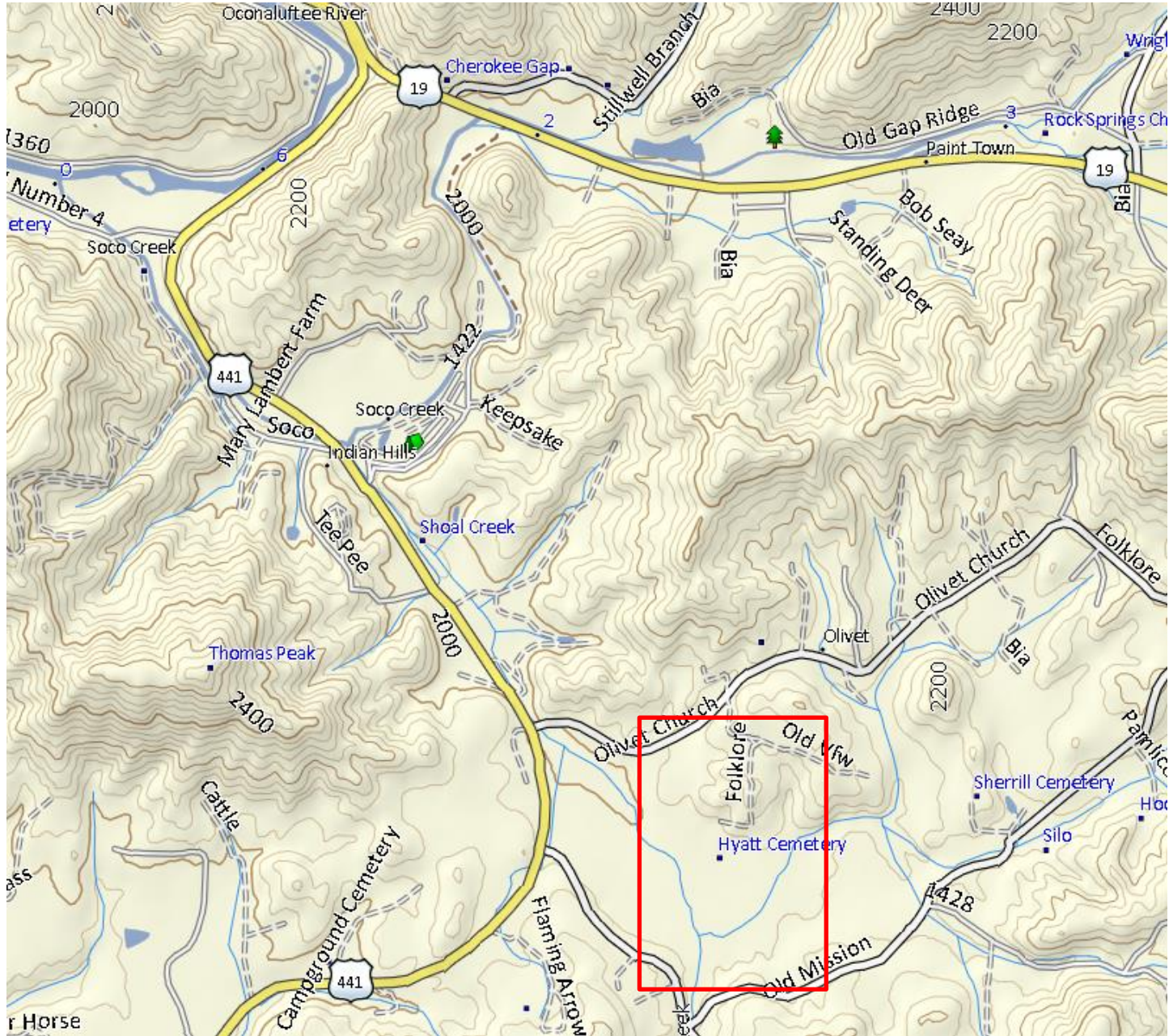
- Moved to the Whittier area, where he was licensed to practice medicine in 1885 by the NC Board of Medical Examiners
- First mayor of Whittier
- Married [Mary Charlotte Hyatt](#) on January 1, 1889; their home was on Shoal Creek (see next slide)
- Advertised in the Swain County Herald as “Practicing Physician” in Bryson City in 1890
- Free Mason, Knight of Honor, Democrat, Roads advocate, Presbyterian Church Deacon, Elder
- In 1899, named Dispensary Commissioner, along with [AH Elmore](#) and [DG Fisher, Jr](#), with [JF Teague](#) as manager (legislative bill submitted by [RL Leatherwood](#) in NC House)

# The Bennetts lived on Shoal Creek early in their married life



“Beginning on a large black oak in a hollow above a spring, corner of Sec. No 47...”  
(from 1905 Jackson County deed from Mary C. and husband A.M. Bennett to D.W. and Mary Lee Owen.) The map comes from the 1820 Robert Love survey.

# Same general area as on Love map snippet



# Aurelius McDonald Bennett (continued)

- Erected a “handsome residence” in Bryson City in 1890



What has been, since 1941, the Casada family home, was likely used as overnight lodging and medical office for Dr. Bennett.

# Bennett home on east Main Street

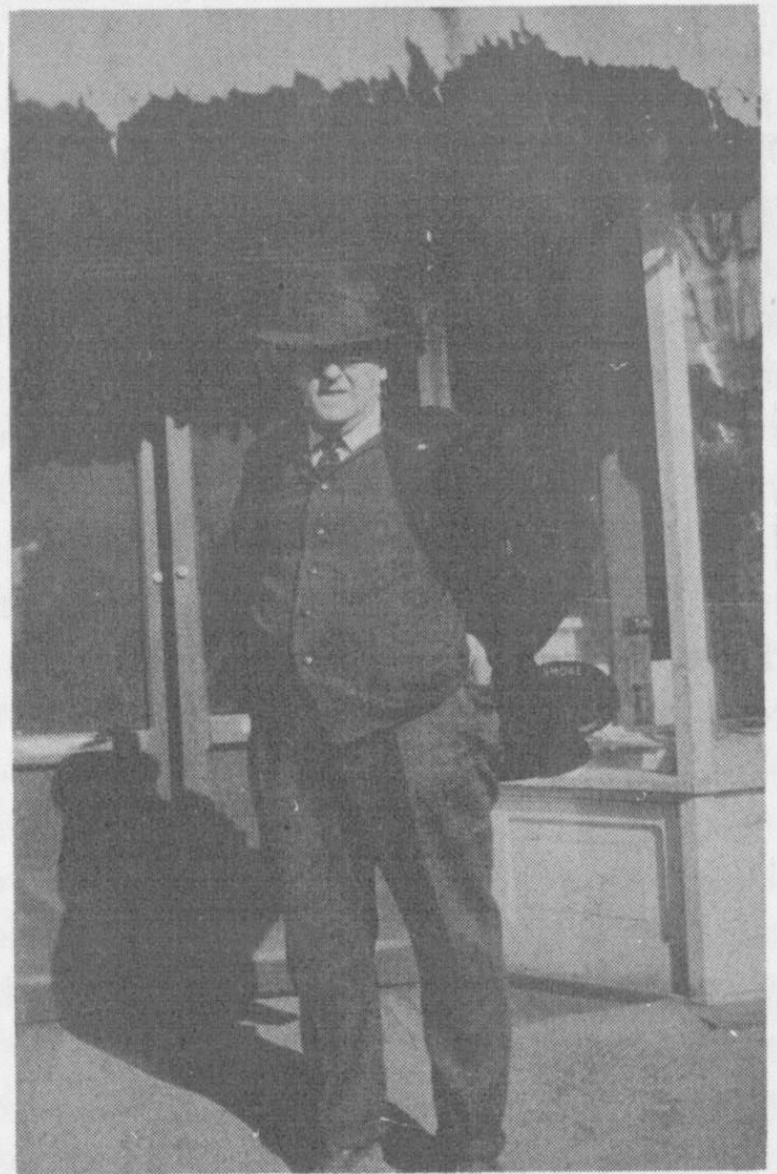


This was later the location of Bennett's Court (later Gracey Manor)

Source: Bennett family

“Dr. Aurelius Bennett, the man who taught Mr. Hunnicutt much of his knowledge of hunting.”

Source: Second edition of *20 Years of Hunting and Fishing in the Great Smoky Mountains*



Dr. Aurelius Bennett, the man who taught Mr. Hunnicutt much of his knowledge of hunting.

# Susan Savannah Wilhide Lee

- Born in Virginia in 1867
- Traveled with parents Henry and Mary Heffner Wilhide to Washington County, TN (Jonesborough is county seat, Johnson City is largest town), where her father worked in a sawmill as a sawyer
- A bit of trivia: Washington County has existed in three different states – North Carolina, the lost state of Franklin, and finally, Tennessee

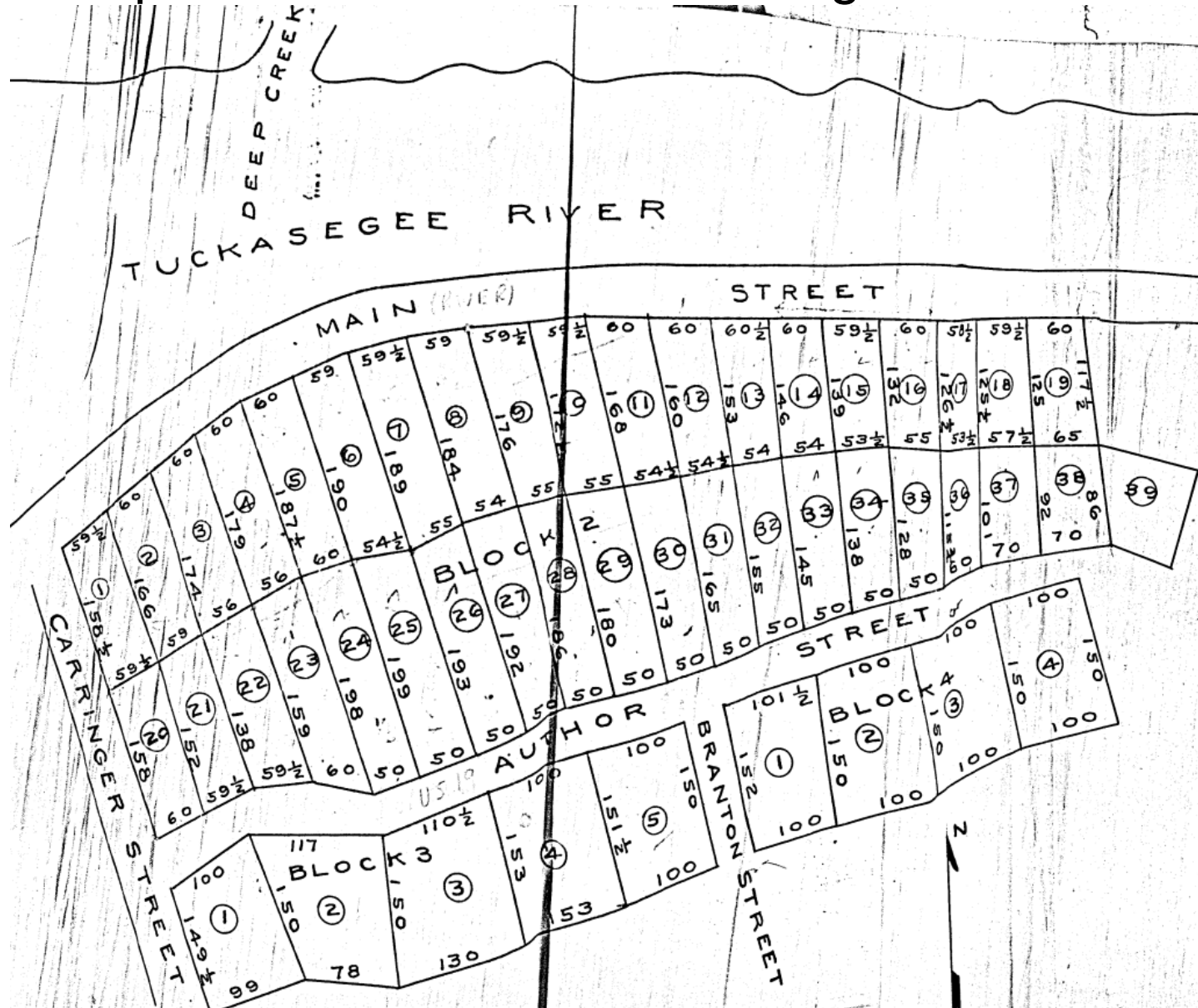
According to Casada family oral history, Sue was a neighbor and midwife for the Casadas and other families

PLACE OF ABODE.				NAME of each person whose <u>place of abode</u> on January 1, 1920, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Includes every person living on January 1, 1920. Omit children born since January 1, 1920.	RELATION. Relationship of this person to the head of the family.	TENURE.		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.					CITIZENSHIP.			EDUCATION.			Place of birth of each person  PERSON.  Place of birth.
Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number or farm, etc. (See instructions.)	Number of dwell- ing house in order of vis- itation.	Number of family in order of vis- itation.			Home owned or rented.	If owned, free or mortgaged.	Sex.	Color or race.	Age at last birth- day.	Single, married, widowed, or di- vorced.	Year of immigra- tion to the United States.	Naturalized or alien.	If naturalized, year of naturaliza- tion.	Attended school within year pre- ceding Sept. 1, 1918.	Whether able to read.	Whether able to write.	19	
9m 229	232			Casada, Joseph H	Head	M	W	41	M					yes	yes	North Carolina			
✓				— Mimmie	Wife	F	W	39	M					yes	yes	North Carolina			
✓				— Julia S	Daughter	F	W	15	S				yes	yes	yes	North Carolina			
✓				— Leticia Kate	Daughter	F	W	17	S				yes	yes	yes	North Carolina			
✓				— Annie M	Daughter	F	W	12	S				yes	yes	yes	North Carolina			
✓				— Andrew S	Son	M	W	10	S				yes	yes	yes	North Carolina			
✓				— Ambrose H	Son	M	W	8	S				yes			North Carolina			
✓				— Jessie	Daughter	F	W	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	S							North Carolina			
✓				— Emma M	Daughter	F	W	18	S							North Carolina			
9m 230	232			Lee Joseph H	Head	M	W	55	M					yes	yes	North Carolina			
✓				— Lusia	Daughter	F	W	47	M					yes	yes	Virginia			
✓				— Samuel W	Son	M	W	22	S				no	yes	yes	North Carolina			
✓				— Mina	Daughter	F	W	14	S				yes	yes	yes	North Carolina			
✓				— Harry	Son	M	W	12	S				yes	yes	yes	North Carolina			

This is from the 1920 census on Deep Creek; daughters Jessie and Emma Casada were born in 1915 and 1918 on Juney Whank Branch of Deep Creek.

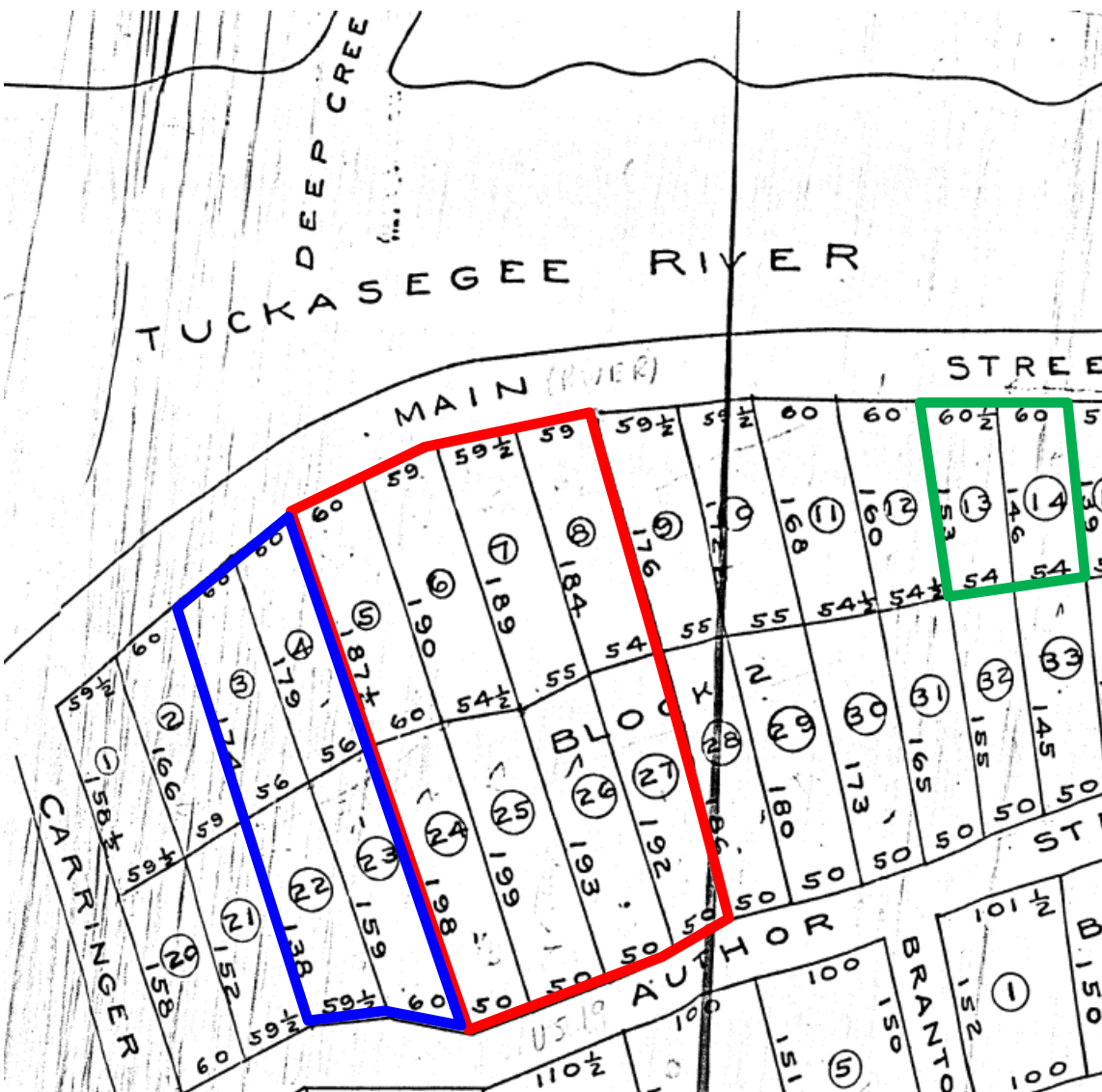


# A preface: the Franklin Sandidge Addition



In November 1912, J.B. and Hettie Carringer sold their property above town, which included their home to [A.J. Franklin](#) and [R.L. Sandidge](#); they subdivided it into lots.

# The Lees would later move to Carringer Street above town, and lived next to [Vernon](#) and [Lillie Quiett](#)



In 1919, [Joe](#) and [Susie Lee](#), their son Robert and his wife Bertha (Burt) bought 8 lots of the Franklin-Sandidge addition above town. Lots 24-27 were later transferred to [Oscar](#) and [Pearl Martin](#), who owned lots 13 and 14 in 1930, and built a home on lot 14.

For a time, their former Casada neighbors on Deep Creek rented the home just to their west. That home was purchased in 1941 by [Vernon](#) and [Lillie Quiett](#).

Lots 5,6, and 7 are still owned by Lee heirs.

## Dr. Daniel Rice Bryson

- Born and raised in Bryson City (before it was known by that name)
- Undergraduate work at Chapel Hill where he was two time school tennis champion, MD from University of Maryland in 1898
- First practiced in Charlotte
- Married [Miss Annie Dunbar](#) of Winslow, Maine on Oct 29, 1902; they lived on North Church Street in Charlotte
- Charter member of the Mecklenburg Branch of the Audubon Society
- Member of the Elks, Knights of Pythias, and the Charlotte Gun Club
- Returned to Bryson City in March, 1904 and remained here for the balance of his life.
- Member of the North Carolina Park Commission and active promoter of Park establishment.
- Charter member of the BC Rotary Club
- Presbyterian Church Elder

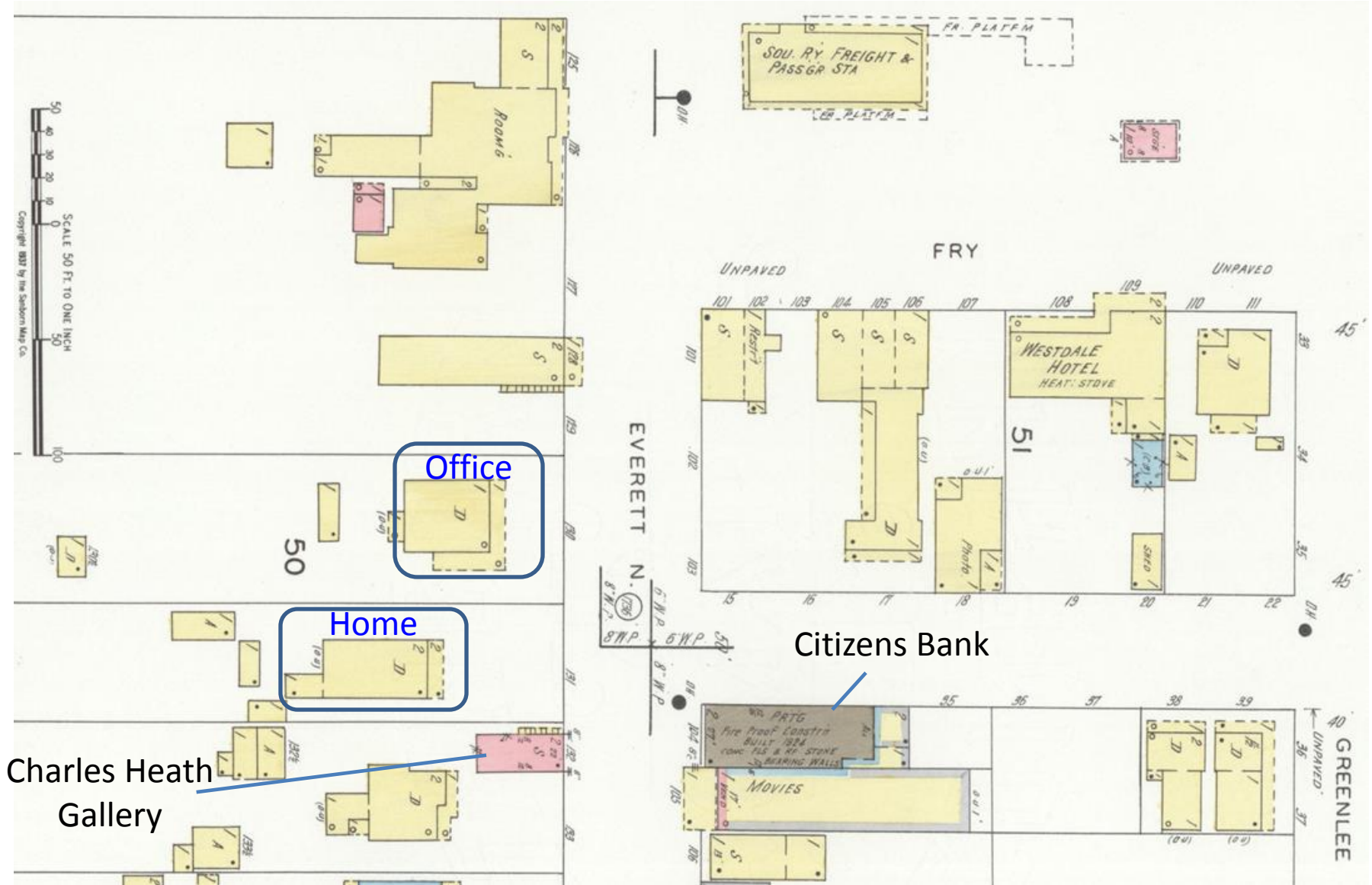
# He remained an avid outdoorsman his entire life



Doc Bryson afield with Kip (named for his owner, Irving Kip Stearns). The double barrel shotgun is now a proud possession of his namesake nephew, FBCC member Dan Bryson, who also owns Doc Bryson's watch (below), given to him by his parents.



The Dr. D.R. Bryson home was where Mitchell Street now runs into Everett Street; his office was just to the north



Source: 1937 Water and Fire Facilities map of Bryson City by Sanborn Map Company, Library of Congress

# Pink dogwood in bloom at the Dr. Dan and Anne Bryson

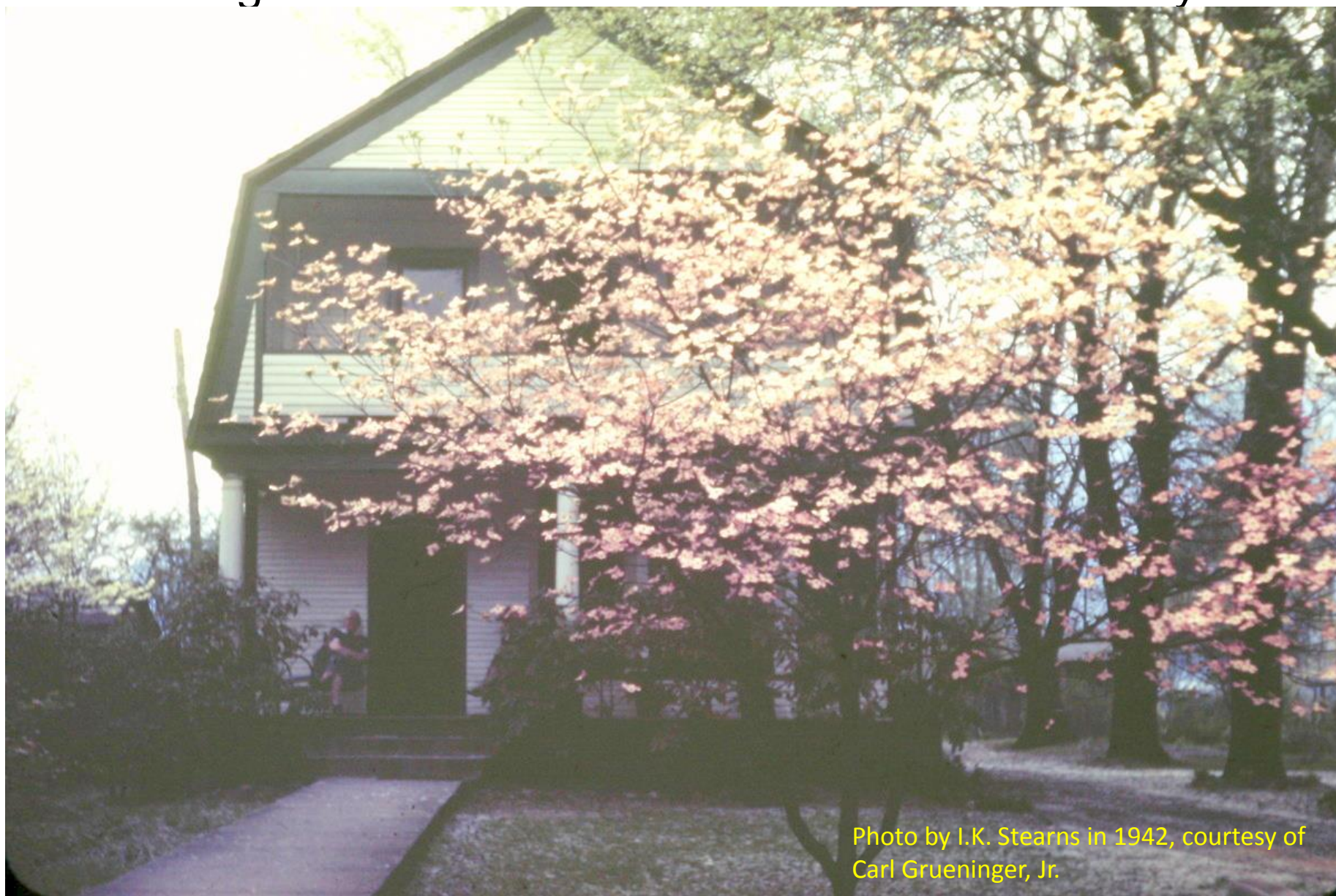


Photo by I.K. Stearns in 1942, courtesy of Carl Grueninger, Jr.

That's likely Anne Bryson sitting on the front porch; the porch columns were almost certainly made by Bryson City Pump Works or its successor, Carolina Wood Turning