### Remembering the Brysons Part 2

Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery

Don Casada

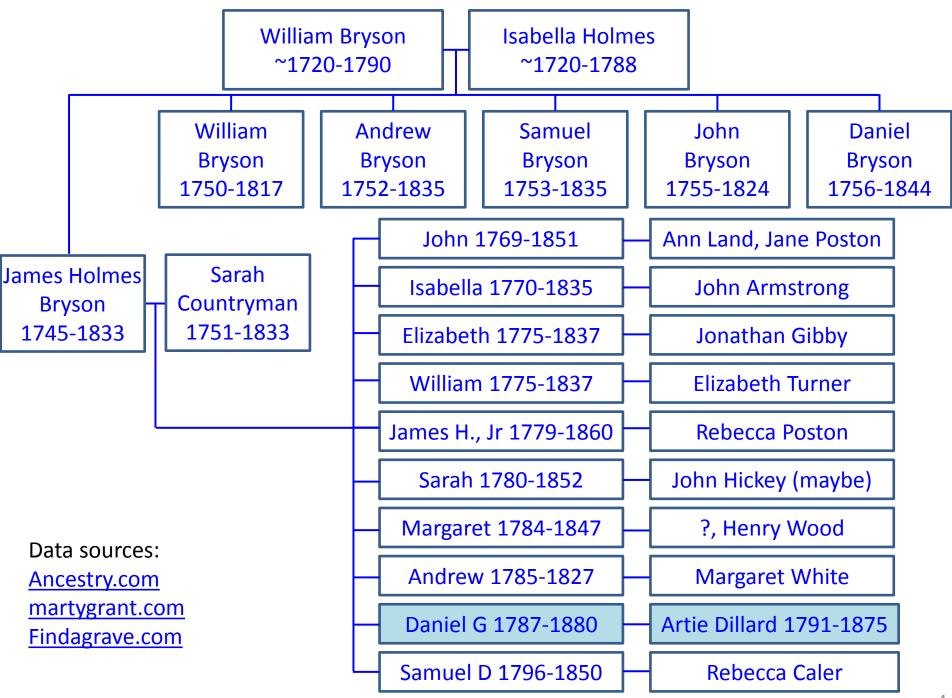
January 2019

### Outline: The Bryson family, as seen through lenses of

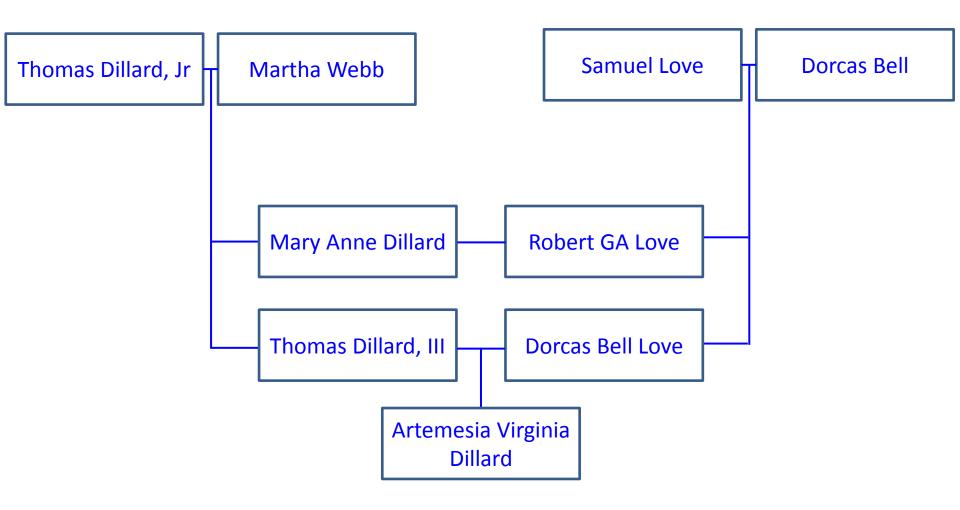
- Family heritage
- Travels
- Land
- Community
- (as well as some odds and ends)

### Individuals in six generations of our primary, but not sole, focus

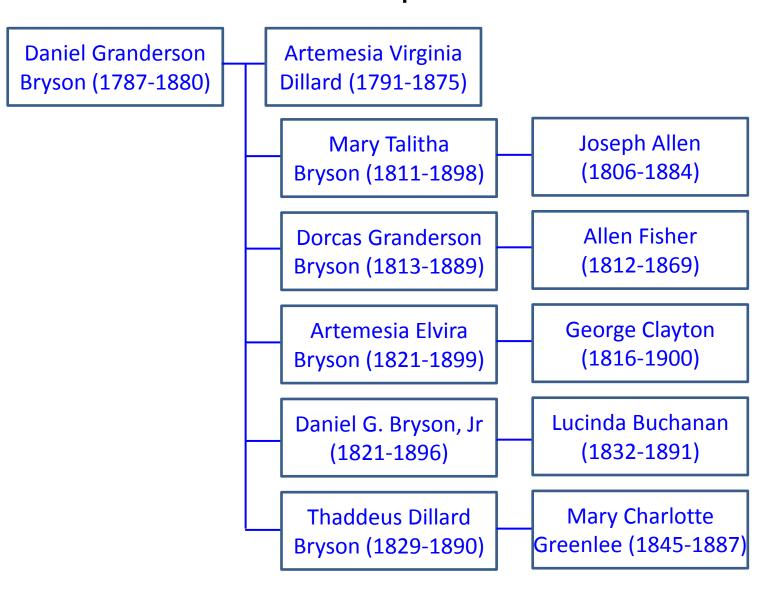
- William Bryson (~1720-1790) & Isabella Holmes (1720-~1788)
- James Holmes Bryson (1745-1833) & Sarah Countryman (1751-1833)
- Daniel Granderson Bryson (1787-1880) & Artemesia Dillard (1791-1875)
- Thaddeus Dillard Bryson (1829-1890) & Mary Charlotte Greenlee (1845-1887)
- TD's & MC's children:
  - Harriett Artemesia Bryson (1872-1887)
  - Thaddeus Dillard II Bryson (1873-1950) & Amabel Black (1872-1920);
     2<sup>nd</sup> wife Zulia Ella Ketchie (1892-1986) and offspring
  - Dr. Daniel Rice Bryson (1875-1955) & Anne Dunbar (1875-1952)
  - Mary Greenlee Bryson (1878-1953) & William Tipton (1875-1950)
- Other selected descendants

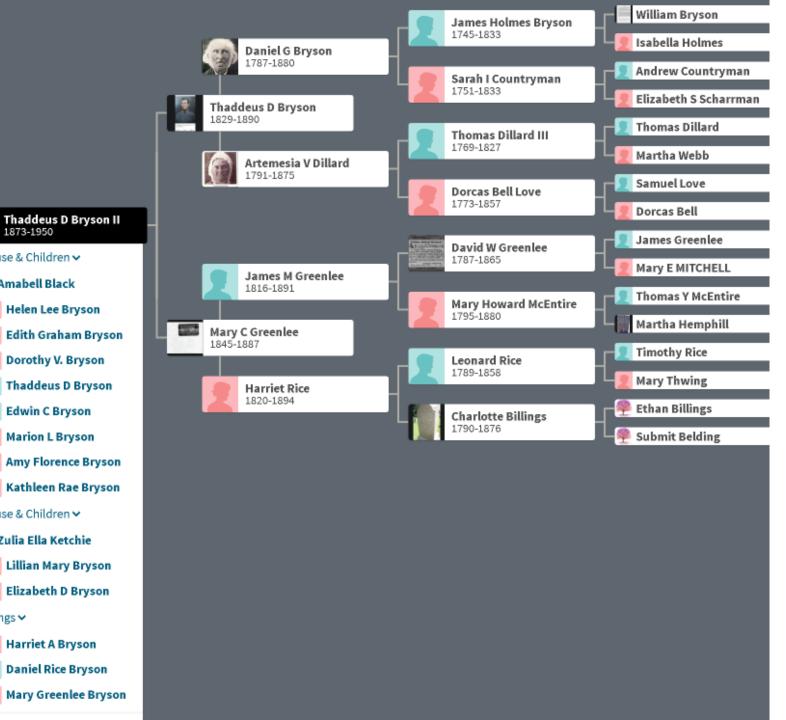


### Artie's parents were members of the Dillard and Love families



#### Children and spouses of Dan and Artie





Edith Graham Bryson Dorothy V. Bryson **Thaddeus D Bryson** Edwin C Bryson Marion L Bryson Amy Florence Bryson Kathleen Rae Bryson Spouse & Children > Zulia Ella Ketchie Lillian Mary Bryson Elizabeth D Bryson Siblings ∨

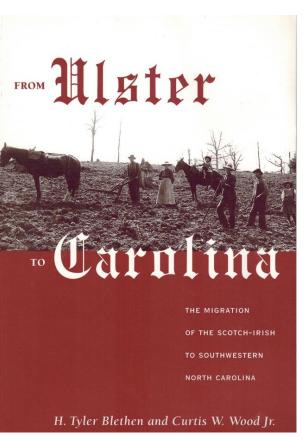
> Harriet A Bryson Daniel Rice Bryson

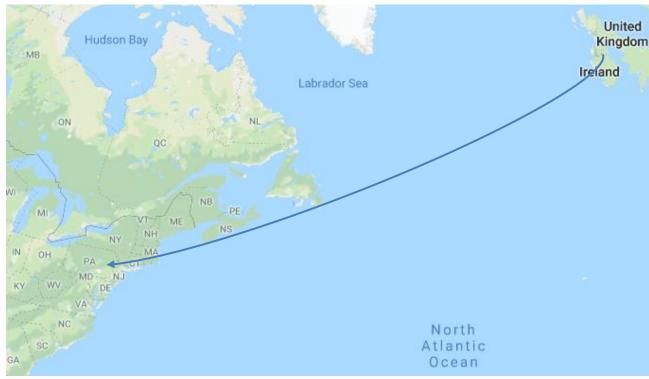
Spouse & Children >

Amabell Black

Helen Lee Bryson

### The Brysons, like many of their WNC neighbors, have a Scotch-Irish heritage

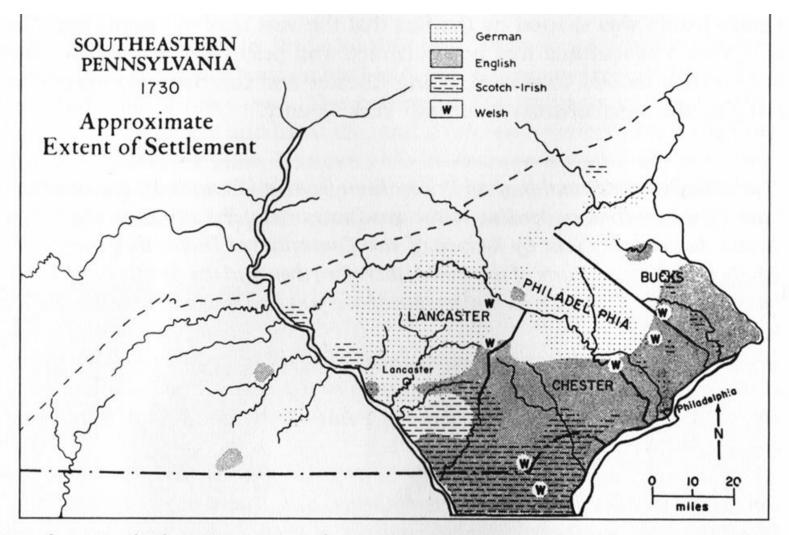




It is generally agreed by family researchers that William Brison/Bryson (~1720 - 1790) emigrated from County Antrim, Ulster Province to Lancaster County, PA.

#### Map indicating ethnic settlement areas

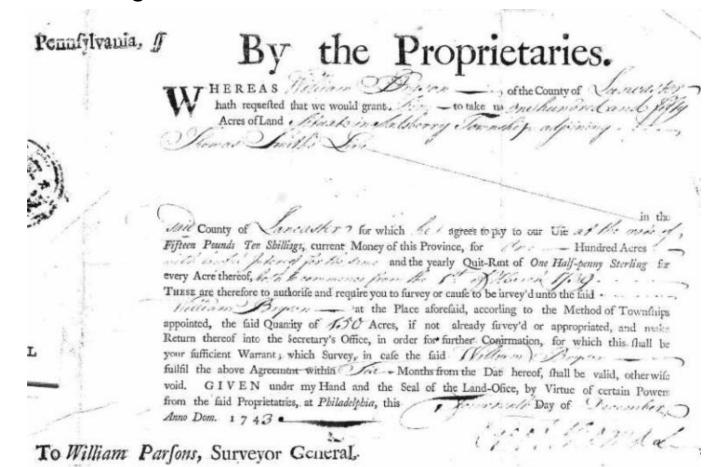
(Source: From Ulster to Carolina)



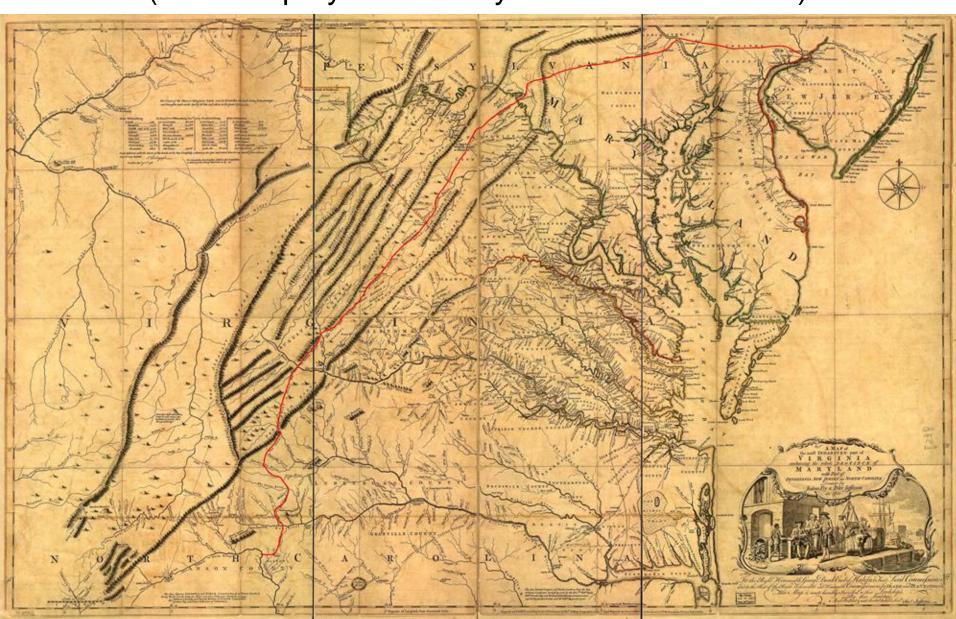
Newly arrived Ulster immigrants found themselves among a rich variety of ethnic groups that had come before them to southeastern Pennsylvania. Map from James T. Lemon, *The Best Poor Man's Country* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972), 49.

### Early years

- William acquired 150 acres of land in Lancaster County in 1743
- By 1749, he was married to Isabell(a) Holmes, daughter of James Holmes (William and Isabell Brisson are named in the 1749 will of James Homes\*). The name Holmes would be passed along as a middle name to the next generation, and more afterwards.



The Brysons almost certainly followed the Great Wagon Road (1751 map by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson)



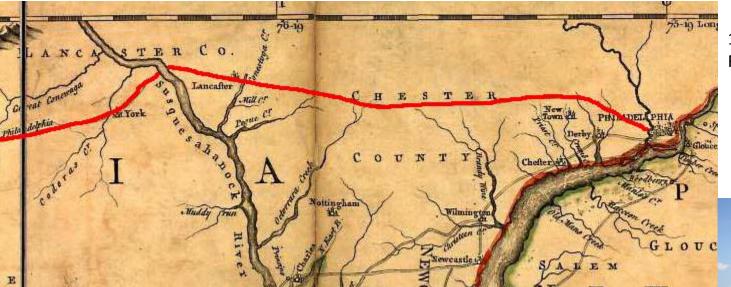
#### Children of William and Isabella who made the journey

- James Holmes Bryson (~1745-1833) m. Sarah Isabella Countryman (1751-1833); Revolutionary War soldier, graves marked at Sugarfork Baptist Church Cemetery in Macon County
- William Bryson (~1750-1817) m. Susannah Bogle (~1755-1811); graves marked in neglected Bryson Family Cemetery in Henderson County, near the junction of the North and South Forks of the Mills River
- Andrew Bryson (~1752-1835) m. Agnes Naill (1753-1796); then married a Cherokee lady named Sally.
   Andrew and Sally are listed on the 1817 Cherokee
   Reservation request roll. See the letter from Andrew to Return Jonathan Meigs on later slide. Probably buried in the vicinity of Cullowhee.

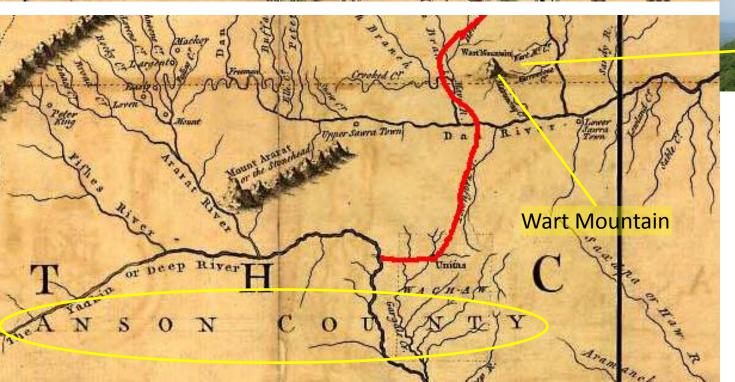
### Children of William and Isabella (continued)

- Samuel Bryson (~1753-?) m. Martha Bogle (~1755-?) 14
   June 1776 in Rowan County. He moved with most of the
   rest of the family to Pendleton District (now Anderson
   County, SC) and was there in 1790. He moved to
   Buncombe County by 1800. Served in the Revolutionary
   War (pension record in Wilson County, TN in 1835).
- John Bryson (~1755-1824) m. Jane Malone (~1755-?);
   both apparently died in what is now Anderson County,
   SC.
- Daniel Bryson (1756-1844) m. Jenny Jane (1755-1804), then Martha Morrow (~1780-1863); Daniel and Martha's graves are marked at Sugarfork Baptist Church; Served in the Revolutionary War.

#### Places of the Bryson beginning and ending – if just for a while



1751 map drawn by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson



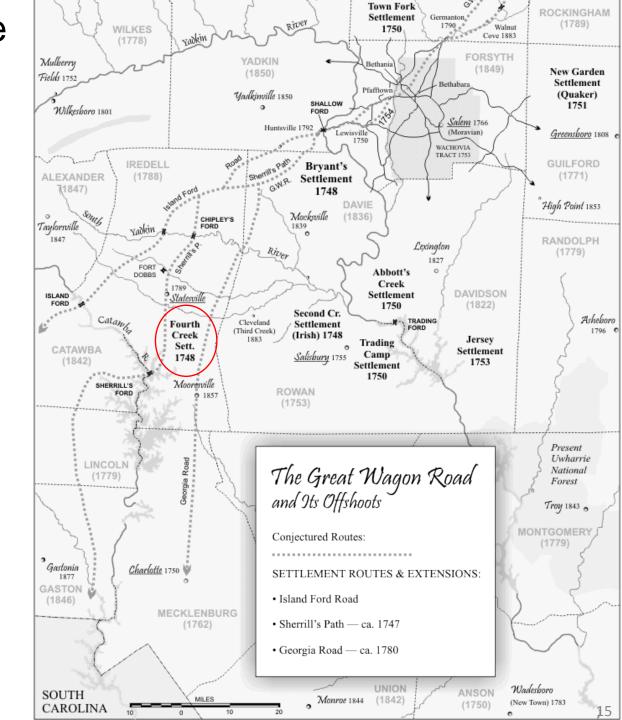
aka Pilot Mountain (wikipedia photo)

Rowan County was formed from part of Anson County in 1753;

# Extensions of the Great Wagon Road and early NC Settlements

The areas near the terminus of The Great Wagon Road were settled before areas to the east. Unlike the more blended society around Lancaster, the settlers here were predominately Scotch-Irish.

Map author: Mark Anderson Moore The Way we Lived in North Carolina

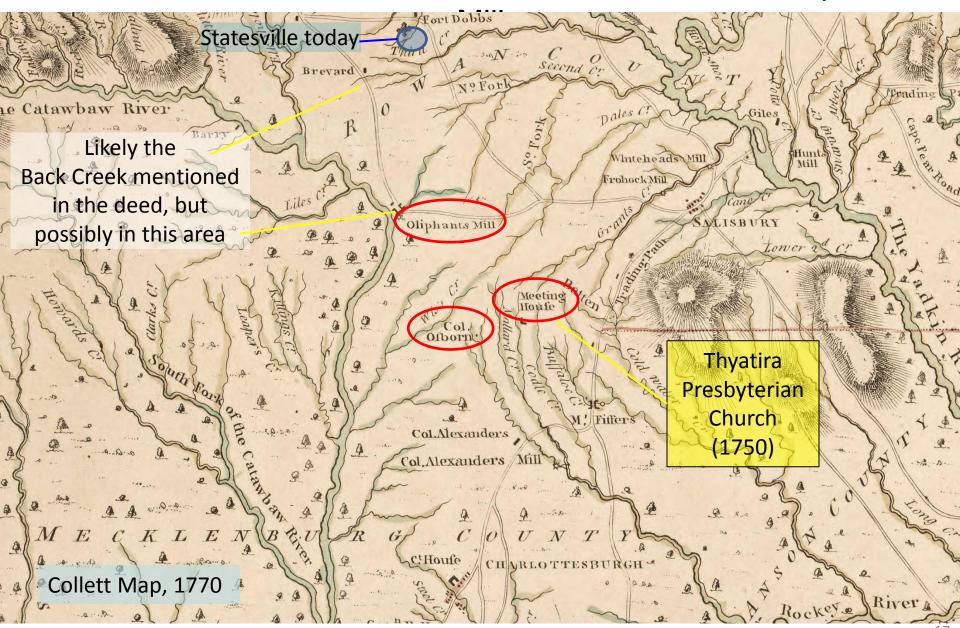


### First known Bryson land transaction in NC: In 1763, William Brison acquired 554 acres from Alexander Osborn

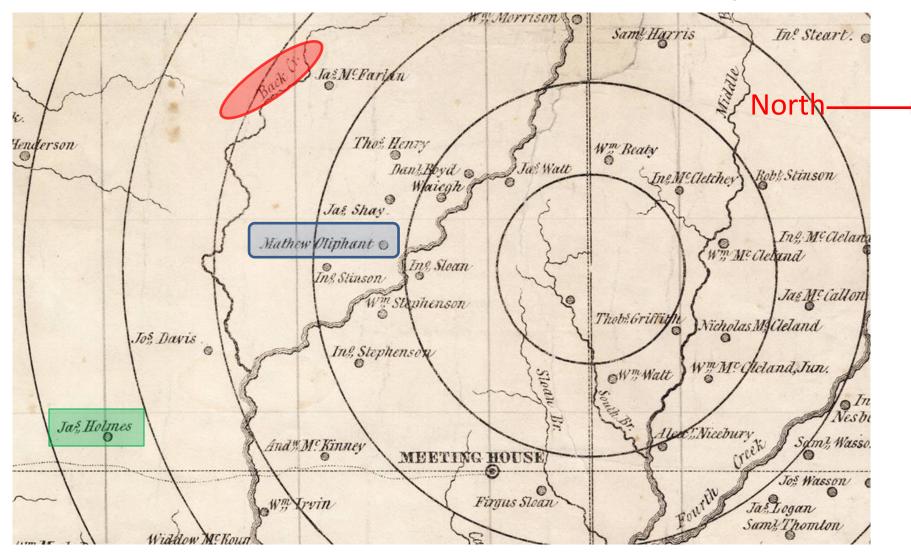
- The land lay on both sides of Back Creek, a feeder of Third Creek in Rowan County, and was purchased for 70 pounds sterling; the deed noted it was five miles downstream of Oliphant's mill
- Alexander Osborn (1709-1776) had spent his early years in Lancaster, PA, coming to NC around by 1753; so may very well have known the Brysons and Holmes families; he was commissioned colonel of the Fourth Rowan Foot Company
- Osborne and his wife, Agnes McWhorter, are buried at Centre Presbyterian Church in Mooresville, NC (about 8 miles from Back Creek)

Sources: Rowan County deed book 5 pp 370-371, NCPedia.org biography

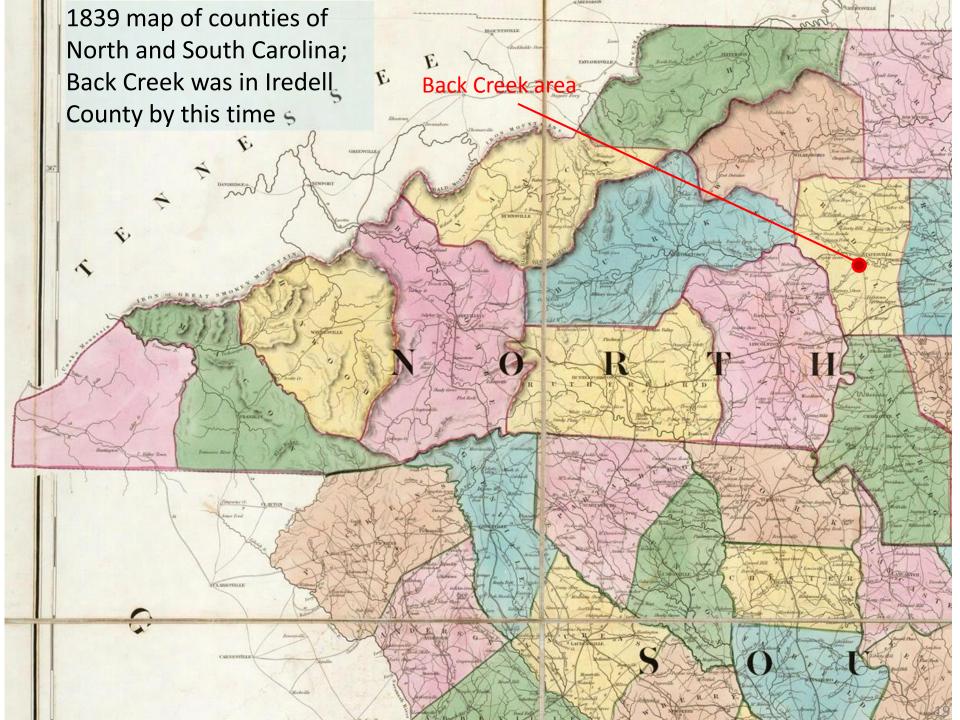
The deed indicated that the land purchased from Osborne was on both sides of Back Creek, about five miles below Oliphant's



### The mouth of Back Creek (1) is a few miles south and a bit west of the Fourth Creek Meeting House



Note that north is to the right on this map of the Fourth Creek Congregation by William Sharpe, Esq. 1773. Could the James Holmes (outlined in green) be related to Isabella?

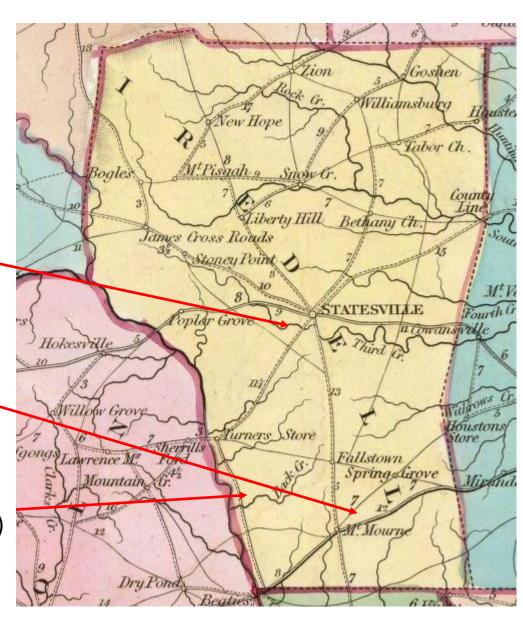


### Iredell County in 1830s

Back Creek empties into Third Creek at about here

Mooresville is located about here

Another Back Creek (this one is under Lake Norman now)

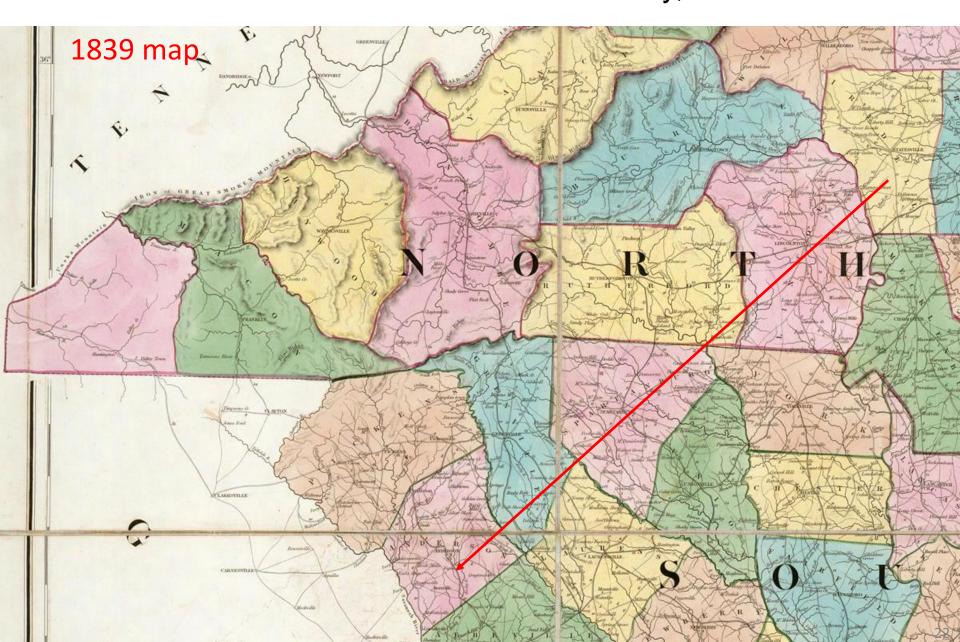


### Subsequent Bryson land transactions in Rowan and Iredell County (Iredell created from Rowan in 1788)

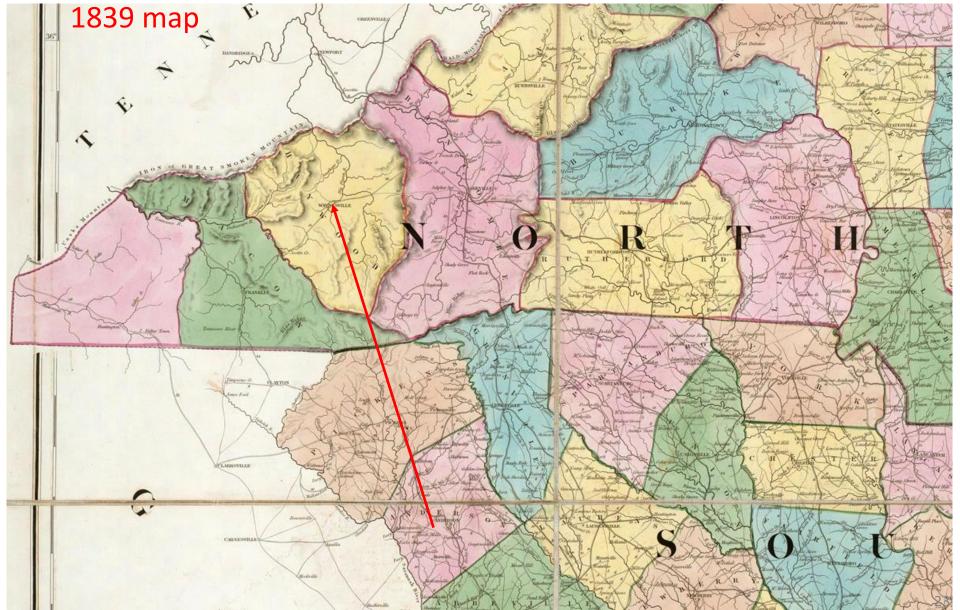
- 1765: William and wife Izabel sold 300 acres to John Bryson, presumably William's brother, for 5 shillings
- 1773: John Bryson sold the 300 acres to James Porter
- 1788: William Bryson (only; no mention of Isabella) sold 254
  acres to James Porter; the deed is dated 2 Nov 1788, and both
  Bryson and Porter are listed as Rowan County citizens;
  however, the deed wasn't registered until 1789, by which time
  the relevant land was a part of Iredell County (formed in Dec
  1788)

Sources: Rowan County deed book 6 pp 221-222, Iredell County deed book A, pp 99-100, book A pp 529-531

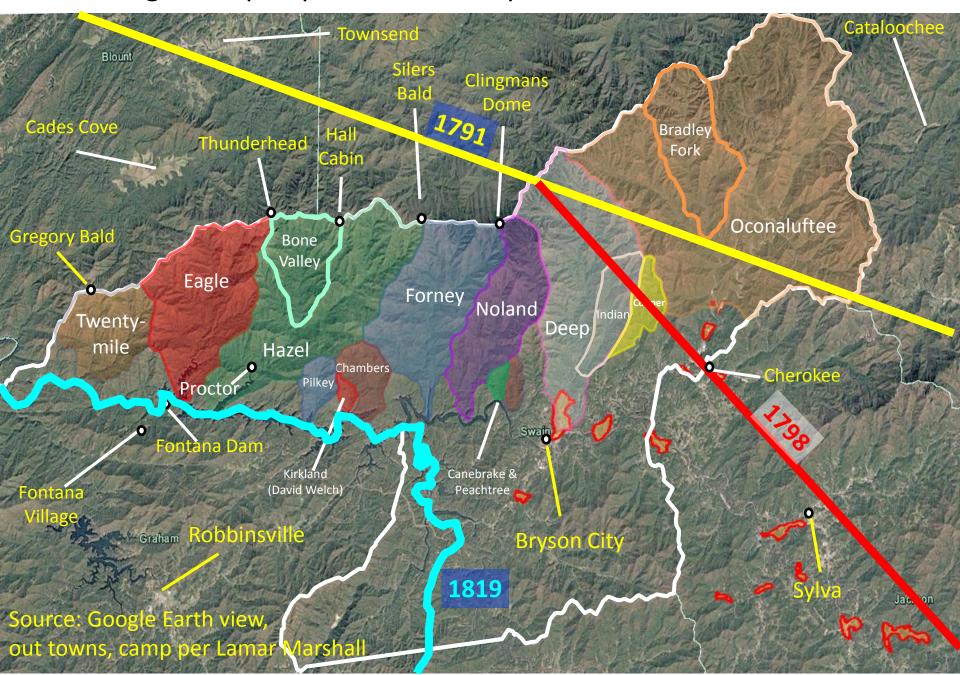
By 1790, William and family (presumably not Isabella) were in what is now Anderson County, SC



By 1800, several members of the Bryson family, including James Holmes Bryson, had moved from South Carolina to old Buncombe, which included modern Buncombe and everything to the west



Getting some perspective with respect to Cherokee Boundaries

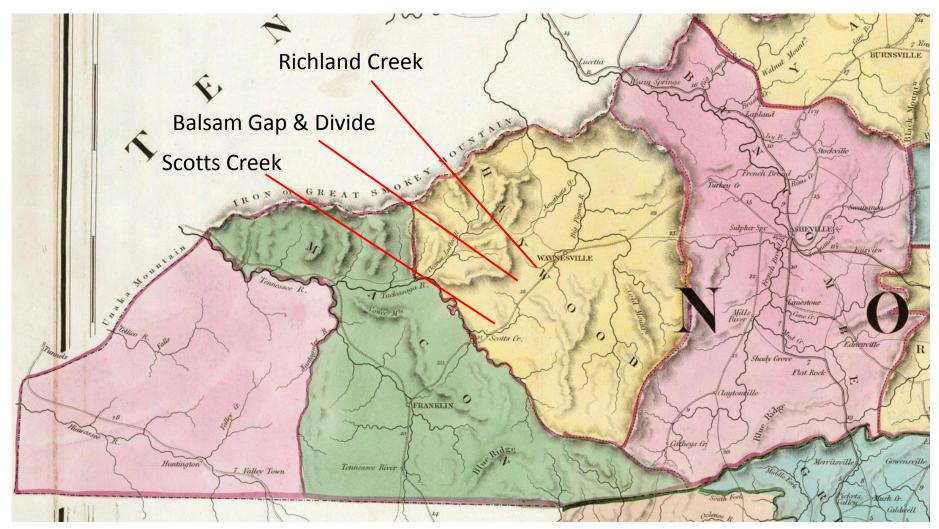


#### April 1, 1804

#### J. Brison – Overseer

Ordered by court James Bryson Oversee the road from the public road between Captain Wolff's and Edward Hyatt's to the <u>top of the ridge</u> <u>between Richland Creek and Scotts Creek</u>; All the hands from the mouth of Raccoon Creek down Richland Creek including the waters of said Richland Creek and all the hands from the mouth of said creek up the west side of the Pigeon to the head thereof to work under said Overseer.

## Scotts Creek and Richland Creek have their headwaters on the west and east sides of Balsam Gap – the modern dividing line between Jackson and Haywood Counties



Buncombe County deed: 100 acres, Joseph Dobson to John Bryson, oldest son of James Holmes Bryson: Richland Creek, 10 October 1800

64) This Indenture made this 10 Lay of october in the year of our Lord one Mausand Eight hundred between Joseph Dobson of the County of Bushe & state appropriatione of the first part & John Bry son of the County of Buncombe & State aforesaid of the other park wheelthat for thin bonsideration of the sum of him hounds to one in hand hard by John Welch for John Bryson & the recept is hereby acknowledged tath Confeoffo & convey of unto John Bryson & his hiers all and certain him of Land containing one Sundred laires lying in the boundy of therement to one one of the west forks of Michland but the same bing one hunder are out of a four hundred are survey in harlowership with Liber -Carsure & said Dabson being the lower and of said survey beginning is--dred & swenty aire holes to a dorked while oad to Debsons corner then

"one hundred acres on one of the west forks of Richland Creek...beginning on a buck eye in the fork off the creek & runs south one hundred and seventy nine poles to a forked white oak..."

### NC State Land Grant 1023 to Will Bryson, 7 Jul 1805 for 150 acres on the Tuckasegee River – in Buncombe County

State of Malarolina No10232 to all to Whom these presents Shall barne fruiting Hnow ye that we for and in Cancideration of the Sum of Fifty Shellings for long Hunds - at deres hereby franted hard ents our Treasury by Milly Bry con have gonen and granted and by These hreves to fine and Grant unto The Said William Bryver a alrast of Land Containing and hundred and lifty acres bying and heing in the County of Burcomde on a large brech about a large mile above ordiandom Said bruk emitying into the Incharige wer in the reluding an Elm Tree Marked WB and the forksay Book: 9 Page: 279 Page 1 of 2

Depending on exactly where this was on the Tuckasegee, this land could have transferred to Haywood, then Macon, then Jackson – or even Haywood, then Macon, then Jackson, then Swain. This Will Bryson was James Holmes's son.

#### Letter from Andrew Bryson to Return Jonathan Meigs, the U.S. Government's Cherokee agent in Tennessee

Background: A white man named James Wood killed an Indian child and wounded his father. The Secretary of War told Meigs to look into the matter and offer a \$500 reward for the capture of Wood.

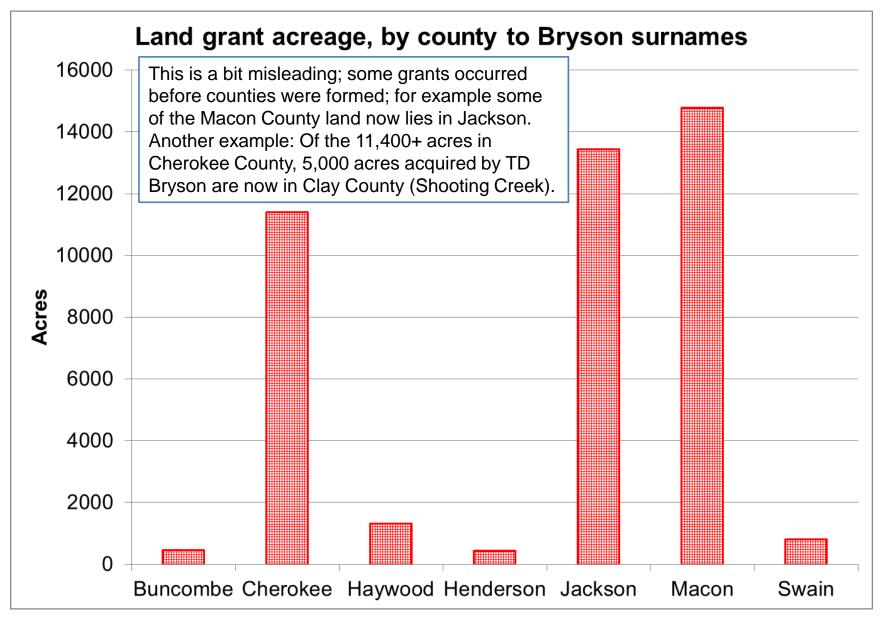
Sir I take the liberty of informing you that James Wood that is blaimed for wounding the yalow Bere and ciling his childe have been taken in South Carolina and been committed to Burk jail and his friends of the name of Welshes his bail him out and he is in the settlement that the murder was don in and the Welshes have told their friends that lives on the frontteres if wood is changed or that for them to move in for the are under oath to kill sum of the Cherikkees sir the people is at a lose to now what to do in the meter if he is to be tried at the bond or ware.

Sende riten ansers to William Cathes on Richland Creek this is the voise of the well wishers in generl to the Laws of our cuntry July the 25<sup>th</sup> 1804 Andrew Bryson to Mr. J. Meggs at South West Point

Sources: <u>www.martygrant.com</u> and

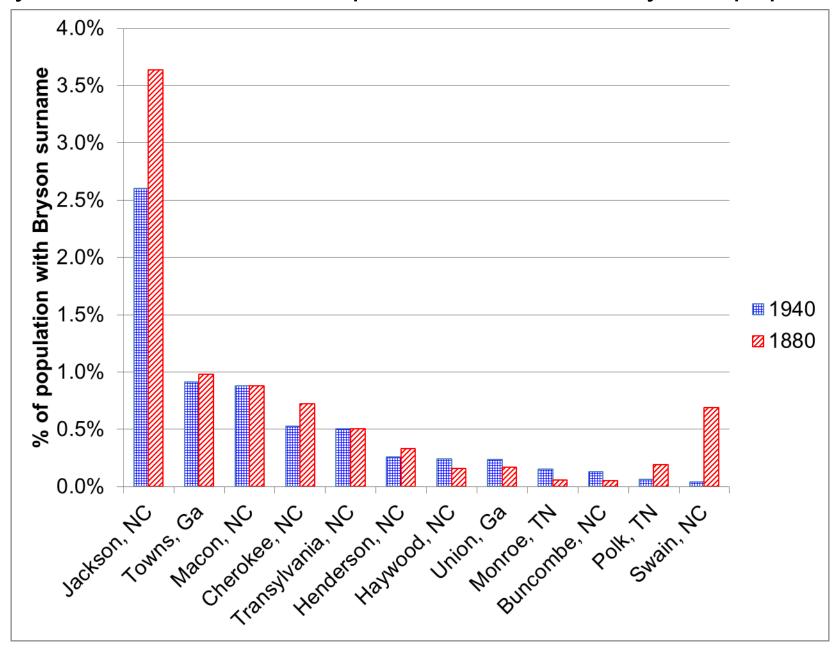
freepages.rootsweb.com/~janelle/genealogy/Intruders.htm#page3

### After arriving in WNC, the Brysons quickly spread

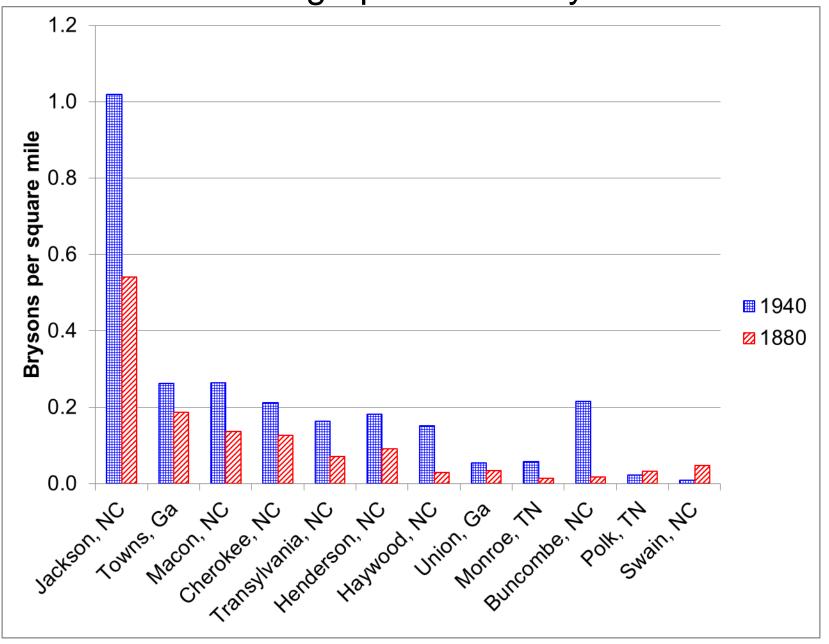


Much of the area was acquired by 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generations down from William & Isabella

#### They were fruitful, and multiplied: normalized "Bryson" population



### Geographical density



#### Bryson is widely found in place names in WNC (and beyond)

- Nine different Bryson Branches in Cherokee, Jackson, Macon, Swain and Monroe (TN) Counties
- Bryson Cove (Macon County)
- Bryson Creek (Cherokee, Henderson, Transylvania Counties)
- Bryson Gap in Cherokee (NC) and Fannin (GA) Counties
- Bryson Knob (Jackson County)
- Bryson Lead (Macon County)
- Roads and streets (Buncombe, Henderson, Transylvania, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Swain, Cherokee Counties)

### Now let's have a closer look at some of the land acquired by "the Colonel" in Swain County

### Agreement between William H. Thomas and Thaddeus D. Bryson, 21 Sep 1868

I agree to let Col Thadeus (sic) D. Bryson have the unimproved Martin tract of land on Deep Creek including one hundred acres to be run in a square or oblong square to include the Martin improvement for the sum which the land and improvements may be valued to be worth at green back prices by John Millsaps, Wm Cathe & Lt Wm Morris or a majority of them.

And I agree to make a bill for said land to the said Bryson or his Assignee upon credit being given on own contract. Green back rates Sept. 21 1868

We the undersigned referees have examined the Land and value the same at one hundred and fifty dollars in Green Back.

Oct. 24 1868

Wm. L Morris John A. Millsaps Wm H. Cathey

### Deed from Love, Battle, Welch heirs to TD Bryson: Bryson Place tracts, registered 4 Nov 1879

The undersigned do this day sell to TD Bryson one thousand acres of land on Deep Creek in Swain County and adjoining lands lately purchased from Wm H. Thomas and now occupied by Samuel Elliott at 33 1/3 cents per acre and also one hundred acres adjoining Geo. Shuler on Deep Creek where Joe Feather lives at one dollar and fifty cents per acre and we authorize E. Everett to make deeds in pursuance to a power of attorney now effected reserving ¾ of the minerals in the lands this 23 of May 1878 the said parties acknowledge the payment therefore by a credit of one hundred and twenty dollars on RV Welch's note and three hundred and sixty three on Samuel L. Loves note – to be surveyed at the costs of the undersigned this 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1878.

Signed
RV Welch RG Love WL Hilliard Saml L Love
Attest
E Everett

The execution of the foregoing instrument was this day duly proven before me by the oath and examination of E Everett one of the subscribing witnesses there to let the Deed with this certificate be registered Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 1879. Sam B. Gibson, Probate Judge

Also registered on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 1879 was 100 acres which included another iconic place on Deep Creek. TD Bryson paid the same grantors \$150; the land was deeded to Nelly Chis-e-li Martin

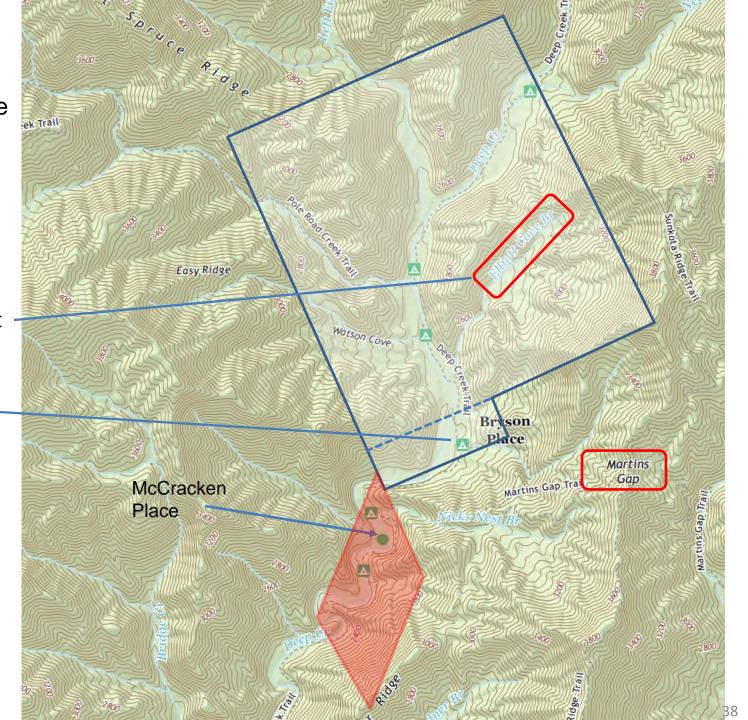


Photo source: National Park Service Archives

The Bryson Place was just inside the southern boundary of the smaller of the two tracts purchased by TD Bryson

**Elliott Improvement** 

Martin
Improvement;
The cabin was
where the
backcountry
campsite is today.
The CCC's later
erected some
barracks at the site.



This is for size and remoteness perspective. It is 6 miles from the Deep Creek trail head to the Bryson Place, which is almost squarely in the middle of the Deep Creek drainage. With the exception of minor holdings near the lower end of the Park land on Deep Creek, the balance of the drainage was owned by Champion Fibre – as was the bulk of the adjacent drainage to the west, Noland Creek.

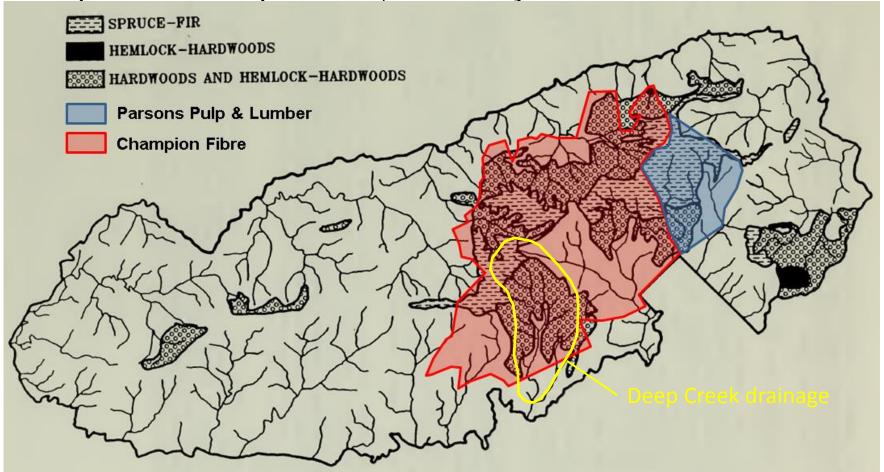
**Newfound Gap** Clingmans Dome Deep Creek drainage Bryson property **Noland Creek** drainage Cheroke McCracken Place **Bryson City** 

Source: Enhanced Google Earth image

### Timber dealings of Bryson Place land

- On January 1, 1890, an agreement to sell the marketable timber on up to 600 acres of the Bryson Place land was struck between TD Bryson and the firm of McDonald and Fensom; for each acre cut, \$4 would be paid
- The area cut would be one contiguous body within the 1110 acres
- Cutting would be done one acre at a time, and payment for each acre would be made as soon as the timber was cut and on the bank of the creek
- Given three years, with at least a third to be removed each year
- TD Bryson, Sr died the following day

As it turns out, while some timber was cut on Deep Creek which, in part, found its way downstream by splash dam operation, relatively little was harvested



Map source: Report SER-77, Vegetation Disturbance History of Great Smoky Mountains National Park: An Analysis of Archival Maps and Records, Charlotte Pyle, National Park Service, October 1985 (my sketches of timber ownership and drainage boundary).

Bryson Place (looking south), circa 1910, with a family living there



The size of the fruit trees suggest that this had been a home place for decades. This photo was almost certainly among the earliest photos taken by Kelly Bennett; notice "No. 15 Bryson City Drug Co. at the lower left.

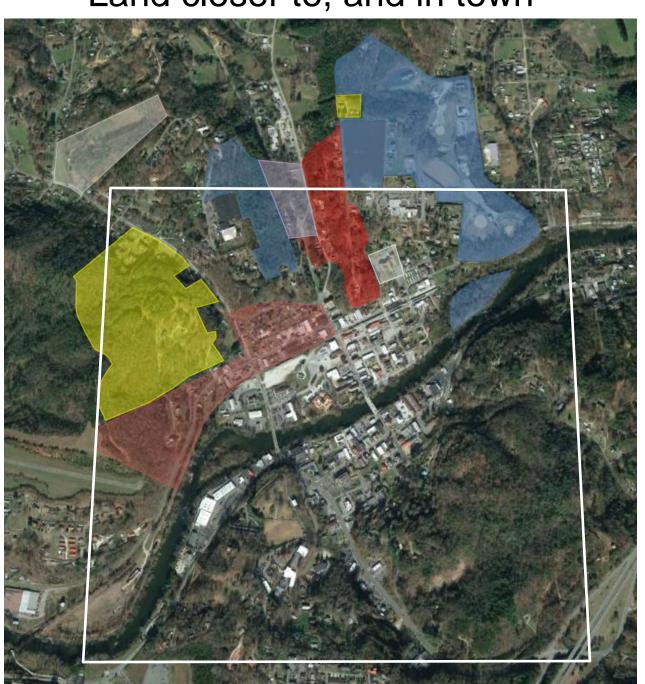
### Bear hunters at the Bryson Place, early 1920s



### One last bit on Nellie Chis-e-li Martin



### Land closer to, and in town



Reservation of Yonah Equi, acquired from John Bell Love,1<sup>st</sup> cousin of Artie Dillard Bryson by John Shuler in 1841. The north side wasn't sold as a single tract.

Where John Cargile lived in 1870 (per Shuler to Clines deed). In the 1870 Jackson County census, John Cargile was 95 yrs old. There are deed references to Cargile's mill. Perhaps it was forerunner of **Jenkins** Mill?



Alfred
Cline
former
residence
area
(per 1870
deed from
John F
Shuler to
Clines)

### Donated, or essentially donated land

- One of two original First Baptist church lots (1888, TD, Sr)
- First Presbyterian Church lot (1889)
- Morningstar Baptist Church lot (1904, by Amy and TD Bryson II)

### Land made available (at no cost) to the community

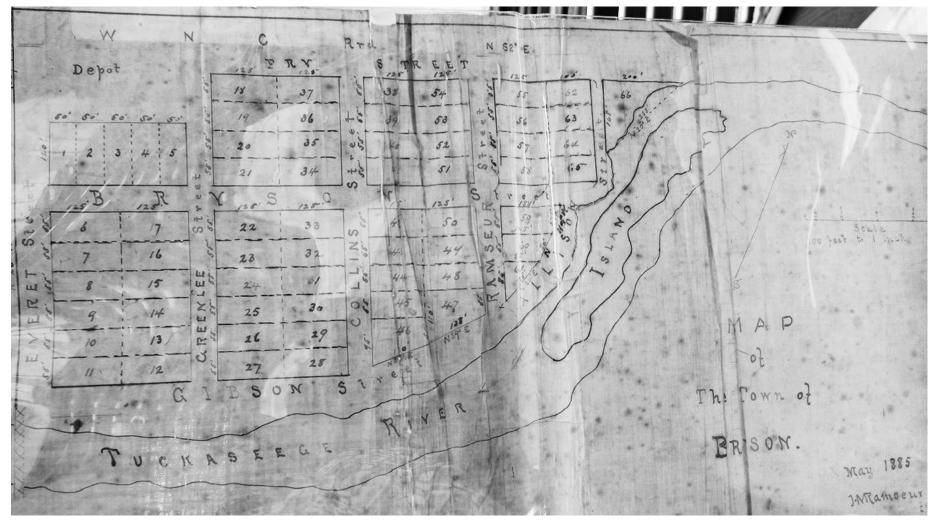
- Ball field on Black Hill 1940s to 1960s (circuses and carnivals also held there)
- Golf course 1920s to 1967
- Ball field in the Bryson Bottoms 1960s until ??
- And of course, the Bryson Place

# The Fullcream Flour Falcons, around 1960 on the Black Hill ball field



FBCC members Bob Thomas (back row, far left), Dan Welch (back row, far right), and Don Casada (front row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left)

## TD Bryson had the property on the north side of the river and East of Everett Street divided into tracts to sell



In some cases, where the lots were financed by TD Bryson, a stipulation was included to require improving the value of the property by a stated amount.

### Selections from TD Bryson's will

May the love of our Heavenly Father be with us, amen.

I will and bequeath to my beloved children Thaddeus Dillard Bryson and Daniel Rice Bryson and Mary Greenlee Bryson, all of my property both real and personal, of every description; and it is my will that my two sons, Thaddeus Dillard Bryson and Daniel Rice Bryson, shall graduate at the University or some good college, and that my daughter, Mary Greenlee Bryson shall graduate at some good school or college.

It is my will that my home farm, including the several tracts of land shall not be sold, but when my youngest child arrive at the age of twenty one shall be laid off and divided equally between my children.

I authorize my executors to sell the lots laid off in the Town of Bryson including those laid off in the addition to the Town of Bryson except lot no. one in the said addition and the bottom east of said lot no. one lying along the branch, and if they think it best to lay off and sell some lots for the benefit of my children but not to sell any lands lying west of the street leading from the bridge in the bottom in which my dwelling house is situated, but shall have the right to lay off and sell to the Presbyterian Church without pay a lot in the upper end of the field that my stable is in and adjoining the street.

Done at my house on this the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 1888.

Witnessed by Andy B. Allison and R.L. Leatherwood

### The Baptism of TD Bryson

Swain County, N.C., Sunday, August 22, 1880

The undersigned, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte N.C., and also Evangelist of the Presbytery of Mecklenburgh for the Mountain Country, during the summer months did, this day, after examination, receive into membership in the Presbyterian Church and subsequently, the same day, baptise, in the (old) Courthouse, Charleston, in presence of a large congregation,

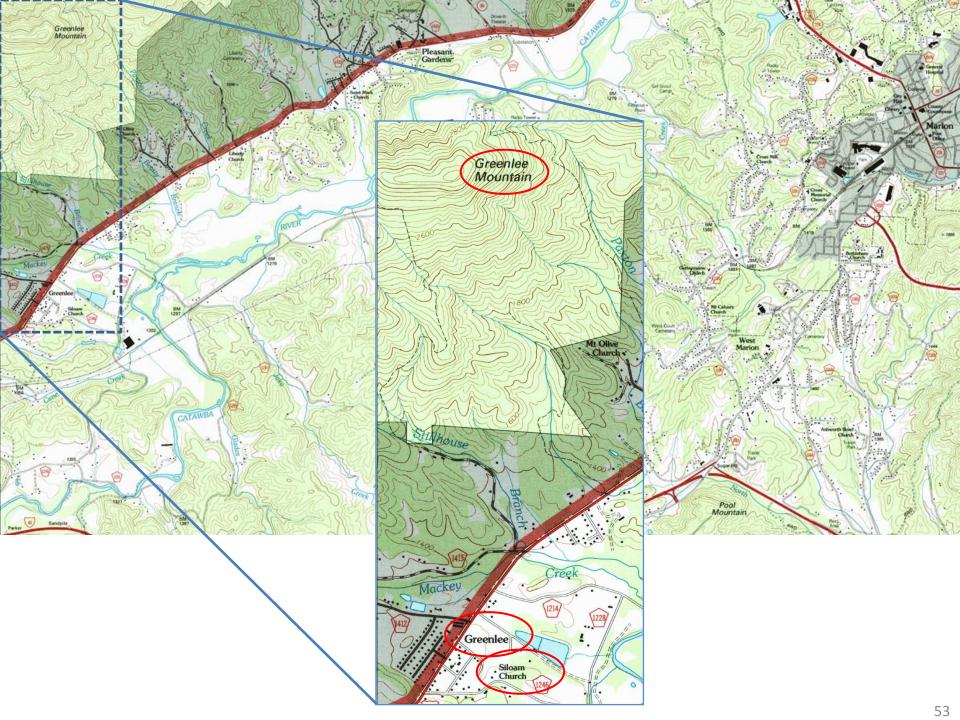
#### Colonel Thaddeus Dillard Bryson

And requested the Session of Franklin Church, Macon County, N.C., to place his name upon their roll until an organization can be effected in Charleston, Swain County, which was accordingly done.

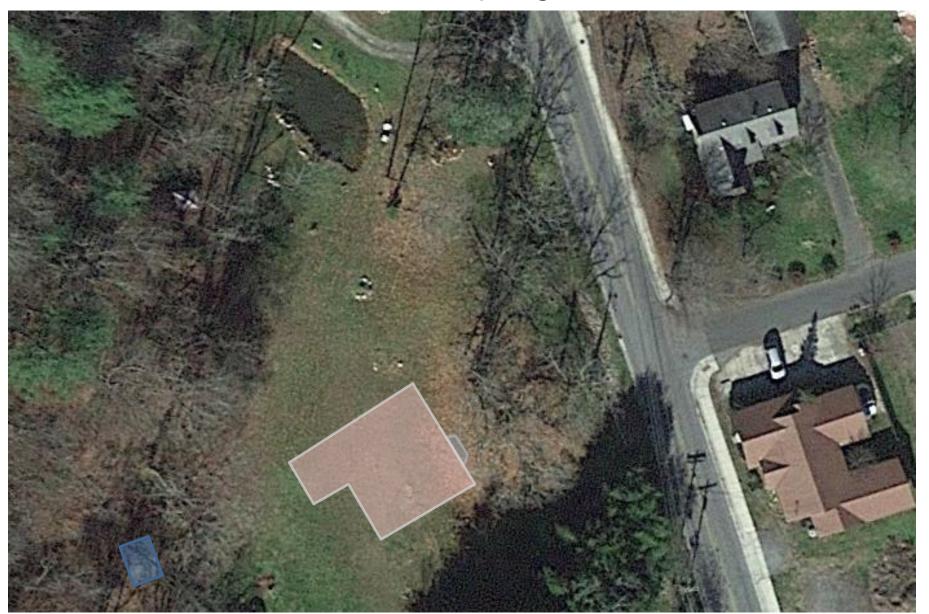
A.W. Miller, Evangelist

### First page of Presbyterian membership records

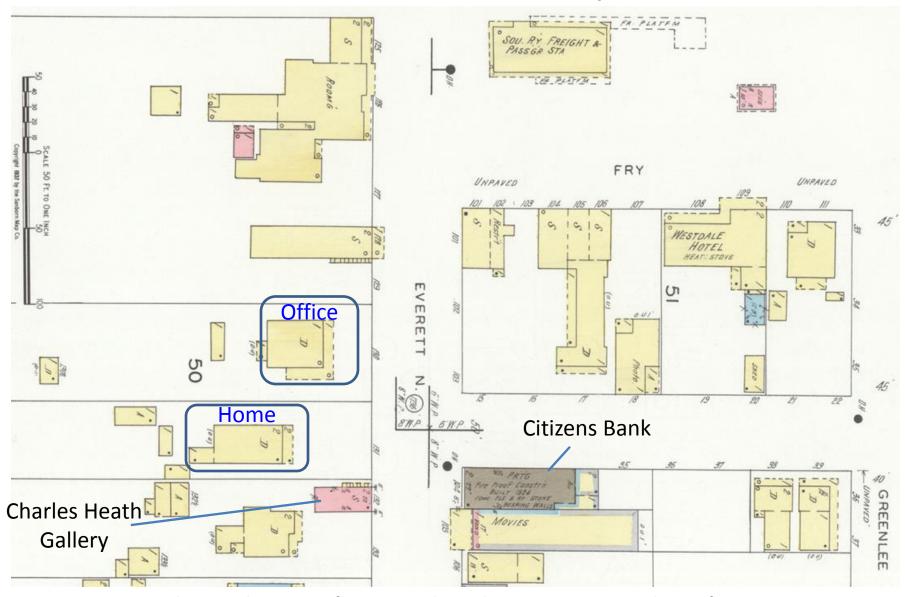
	01-101 0.11 08	25 Sept. 1881	Franklin, N. E. Church
1.	Col. Thudders Willard Brysm		
2	Mrs. botitos Hill	do	do
	Mrs. Leura Hill	do	do
	Mrs Caledonia Hill	do	6
	Dr. E.M. Scruggs	10	Transfer from the located partialing, minister from the
6	Mrs M.C. Brysm	90	Thanster from the
7	" I P		Si loam Church
/	"and her	do	
8	tour	do	
9	Baptized	do	
10	tour Suptinged Children"  Mr. Jonathan Hill	do	
11	Mr. Lona than Kill	1	2 0 4
12	Mr. Lausing PoHs Miss Lane Lanning		By Examination
13	Miss Jane banni	do	do
THE RESERVE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY.		do	do
Note	The above no 111		
	Prosbyteria Pl	to form	the first organized
	done or 25 5 5 1	later Brown	St) NO H
	Jept. 1881. (M.R. Kir)	t putich and	y), IIIC, + IMIS IMIS
	The above gorsons united togethe Prosbyterian Church in Charleston ( done on 25 Sept. 1881. (M.R. Kir.)	/ Was	the organizing evengelist



# Location of the original Bryson family home place and Yonah Spring

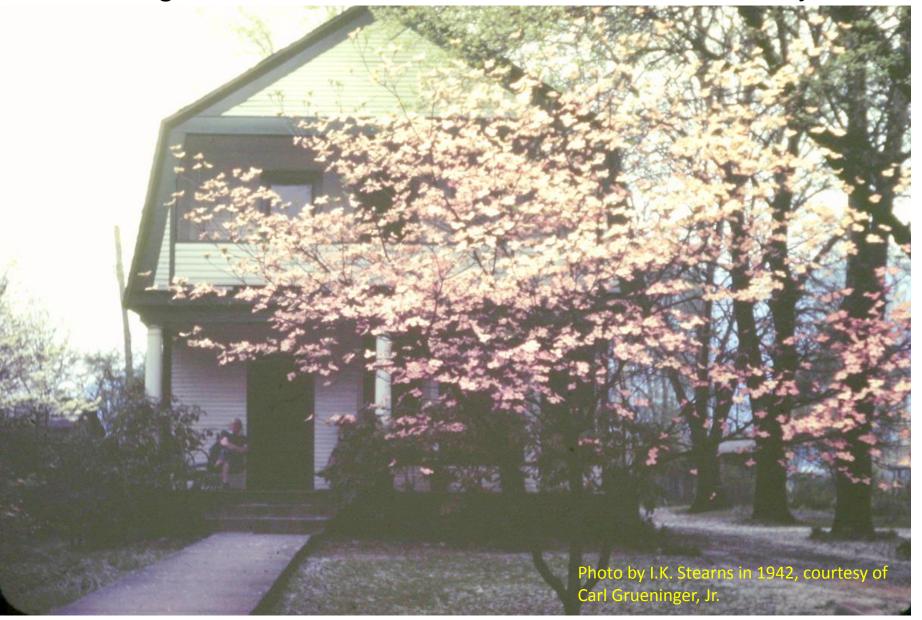


The Dr. D.R. Bryson home was where Mitchell Street now runs into Everett Street; his office was just to the north



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



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

Poplar logs bound for Bryson City Pump Works on the bridge at the mouth of Deep Creek; the Bryson grist and saw mill structure is in the background



