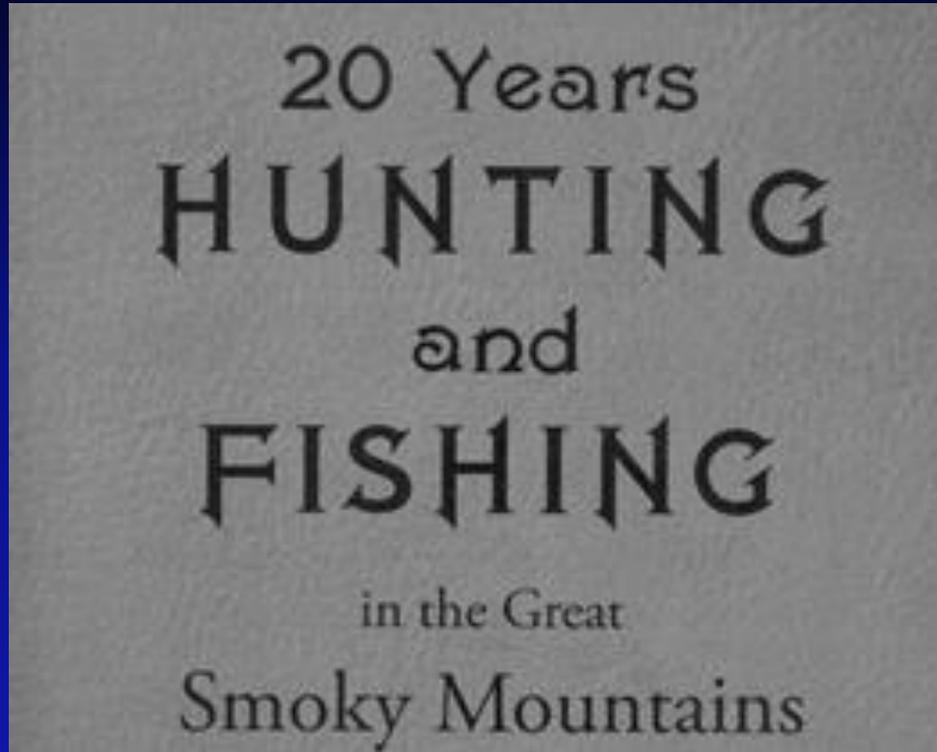


Hunting and Fishing pals of author Sam Hunnicutt who are buried in the Bryson City Cemetery



Recommended reading for serious students of area history and turn of the twentieth century culture

Please note:

In addition to the men discussed here, there are two other men buried in the Bryson City Cemetery who Sam Hunnicutt mentioned (both more than once):

John Everett

Noah Seay

A biographical sketch of John Everett is available on the FBCC web site:

[friendsofthebccemetery.org/files/biographical/John\\_Everett.pdf](http://friendsofthebccemetery.org/files/biographical/John_Everett.pdf)

# A pair of theses to consider as we review some lives well-lived

- ▣ When it came to hunting, fishing, and serious backcountry work in the early 1900s, social class was a distinction without a difference.
- ▣ A thoughtful study of those who called this place home reveals that stereotypes painted of “highlanders” – which were broadly accepted uncritically for decades, and still are by those who will not see – are provably false on virtually every front.

# Words of another early 20<sup>th</sup> century author

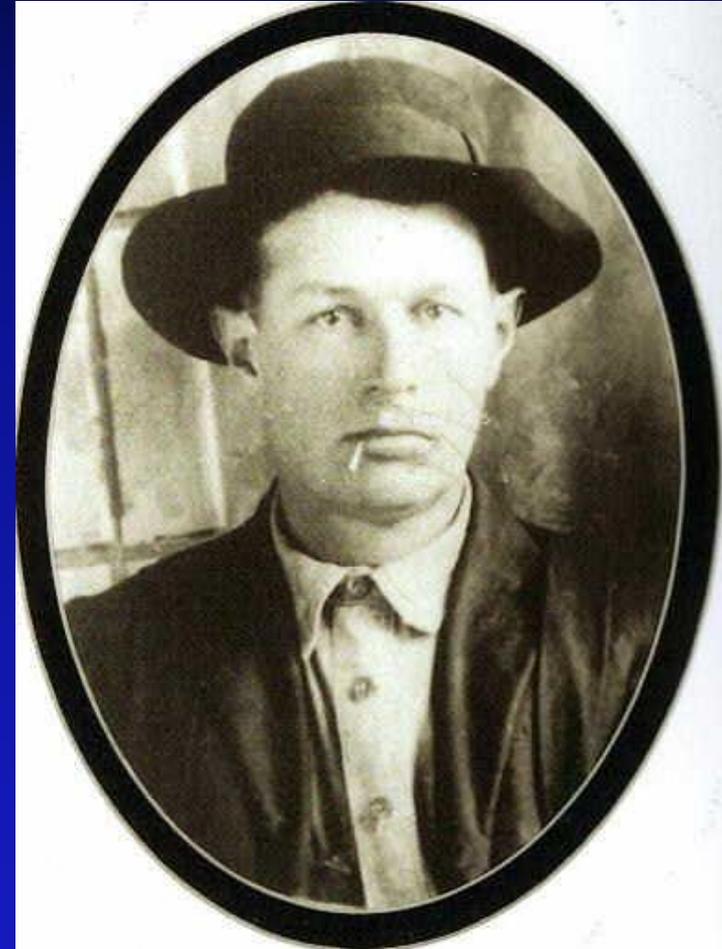
- ▣ “The mountaineers of the South are marked apart from all other folks by dialect, by customs, by character, by self-conscious isolation.”
- ▣ “Our backwoodsmen of the Blue Ridge and the Unakas, of their connecting chains, and of the outlying Cumberlands, are still thinking essentially the same thoughts, still living in much the same fashion, as did their ancestors in the days of Daniel Boone.”
- ▣ “And so, in order to be fair and just with these, our backward kinsmen, we must, for the time, decivilize ourselves to the extent of *going back* and getting an 18<sup>th</sup> century point of view.”
- ▣ “Our typical mountaineer is lank, he is always unkempt....”

# Sam Hunnicutt: “I claim to be a perfect hunter and fisherman for game fish”

20 Years  
HUNTING  
and  
FISHING

in the Great  
Smoky Mountains

By S. J. HUNNICUTT  
Introduction by JIM CASADA



(Source: 20 Years)

(Source: Hunnicutt family) 5

# About Sam....and more

- ▣ Born on Jacks Creek, Yancey County in March 1880
- ▣ According to Sam in “20 Years”, the family moved to Swain when he was three
- ▣ In 1900, the family was living in the Peachtree area of Cherokee County, next door to the family of William Henry Truett....and his daughter, Leah Dora Truett
- ▣ Leah was a first cousin to Rev. George W. Truett

# George Washington Truett

- ▣ Born on a farm in Hayesville in 1867; attended Hayesville Academy 1875-1885
- ▣ Pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, TX
- ▣ President of the Southern Baptist Convention (1927-1929)
- ▣ President of the Baptist World Alliance (1934-1939)
- ▣ First Baptist Church in Hayesville, was pastored by Joseph Henderson Wilson in the years leading up to it being renamed Truett Memorial

# Leah's cousin, George W.

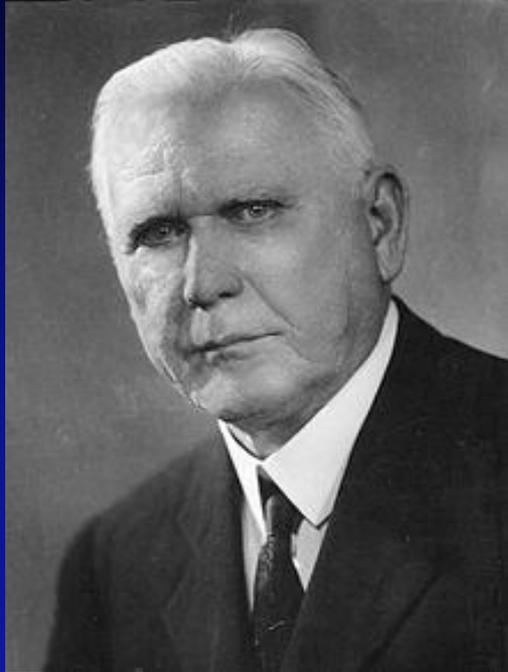


Photo source



**GEORGE W. TRUETT**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# Back to Sam...and his brothers

Superior Court. March Term 1907

State ) Assault  
vs )  
Sam Hoanycutt )  
Sergeant " )  
Coleman " )

The jury heard fore expanded in this case comes into Court and for their verdict say they find the Depts Guilty.

The Judgment of the Court being prayed by the Solicitor for the State, It is considered and adjudged by the Court that Judgment be suspended upon payment of Costs.

# More court interactions

Thursday Morning July 25, 1907,

Court met pursuant to the order of recess and the following proceedings are had:

State  
vs  
Sam Hunicutt  
Surgeon  
Columbus

AWP, W, & Forcible Trespass.

The Jury heretofore empaneled in this case come into Court, and for their verdict say they find the defendants not guilty of forcible trespass, but do find them guilty of an assault.

The Judgment of the Court being prayed by the Solicitor for the State, It is considered, ordered and adjudged by the Court that the defendants pay a fine of one penny each and the costs of the action.

# And some more

Swaan County Superior Court July Term 1907.

State  
vs

A-N-D-N-

Sam Horney Cutt  
Surgeon "  
Calendars "

(It is ordered by the Court, that the judgment heretofore rendered in this case is so modified, that the Defts are to be discharged upon payment of one half of Costs. None of the Defendants allowed to prove their attendance.

# Stones and glass houses.....

102

Superior Court Trial Term 1892.

State

v

J. F. Deague  
Ous Thomas  
Will Cassady &  
Duck Thomas

Appray. A True bill

The Defendants came into Court  
and plead not guilty. The Court then  
following Jury of good and lawful  
men to wit:

1 Mac Woody	7 Jessie Kirkland
2 John Burnett	8 W. E. Mendenhall
3 Charles Wood	9 R. H. Hyatt
4 William Battle	10 James Nelson
5 B. B. Royall	11 J. F. Elnor
6 D. B. Powell	12 W. A. Collins

# The outcome

It is considered ordered and adjudged by the court, that Judgment be suspended on J. H. Dague on payment of his part of cost that Defendant Cas Thomas pay a fine of \$10<sup>00</sup> and his part of cost.

That Defendant Will Cassidy pay a fine of \$10<sup>00</sup> and his part of cost.

That Defendant Dock Thomas pay a fine of \$5<sup>00</sup> and his part of cost -  
to be taxed by clerk.

# Men buried in the Bryson City Cemetery mentioned by Sam Hunnicutt

- ▣ “Golie” Ferguson – native of Swain (Kirklands Creek); parents came from Haywood, Buncombe
- ▣ Dr. A.M. Bennett – native of Haywood
- ▣ John Everett – native of Tennessee
- ▣ Charlie Beck – native of Jackson
- ▣ Rev. O.P. Williams – native of Tennessee
- ▣ Robert Snelson – native of Buncombe
- ▣ Granville Calhoun – native of Swain (Wayside)
- ▣ Noah Seay – native of Swain
- ▣ Mark Cathey – native of Jackson or Swain

# Gola Ferguson

- ▣ Son of David Philetus and Fannie Noland Ferguson
- ▣ Born in a two-room log cabin on Kirklands Creek in 1887
- ▣ Attended public school in Bryson City
- ▣ Tended stock in the Smokies
- ▣ Attended WCTC
- ▣ Married Speedwell postmistress Jerdie Watson in 1911, lived for a short period in Dillsboro, then returned to live on Kirklands Creek when his parents moved back to Buncombe County

# 1901 Mail routes, WNC



# Gola Ferguson (continued)

- ▣ Had multiple real estate dealings throughout the county, including town lots, land at Governors Island, property on Bradley Fork taken at park creation
- ▣ Donated to the NC Park Commission to assist in park land acquisition
- ▣ Gola and Jerdie moved back to Cullowhee ~1937 and lived out the balance of their lives there.

# Gola Ferguson – Renaissance Man\*

- ▣ Bred the Ferguson strain of Plott Bear Dogs – an enterprise in which Jerdie also had a part
- ▣ Sheriff of Swain County
- ▣ County Treasurer
- ▣ School teacher, principal
- ▣ Farmer
- ▣ Maker of violins
- ▣ Like Mark Cathey, held court on the town square, telling tales

\* so-named by Bob Plott in *Strike and Stay: The Story of the Plott Hound*

# Maker of fine instruments

8 C ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, ASHEVILLE, N. C.  
Sunday, March 25, 1956

## Ferguson Constructs Violins As Hobby, Knows No Music

By LILLIAN HIRT

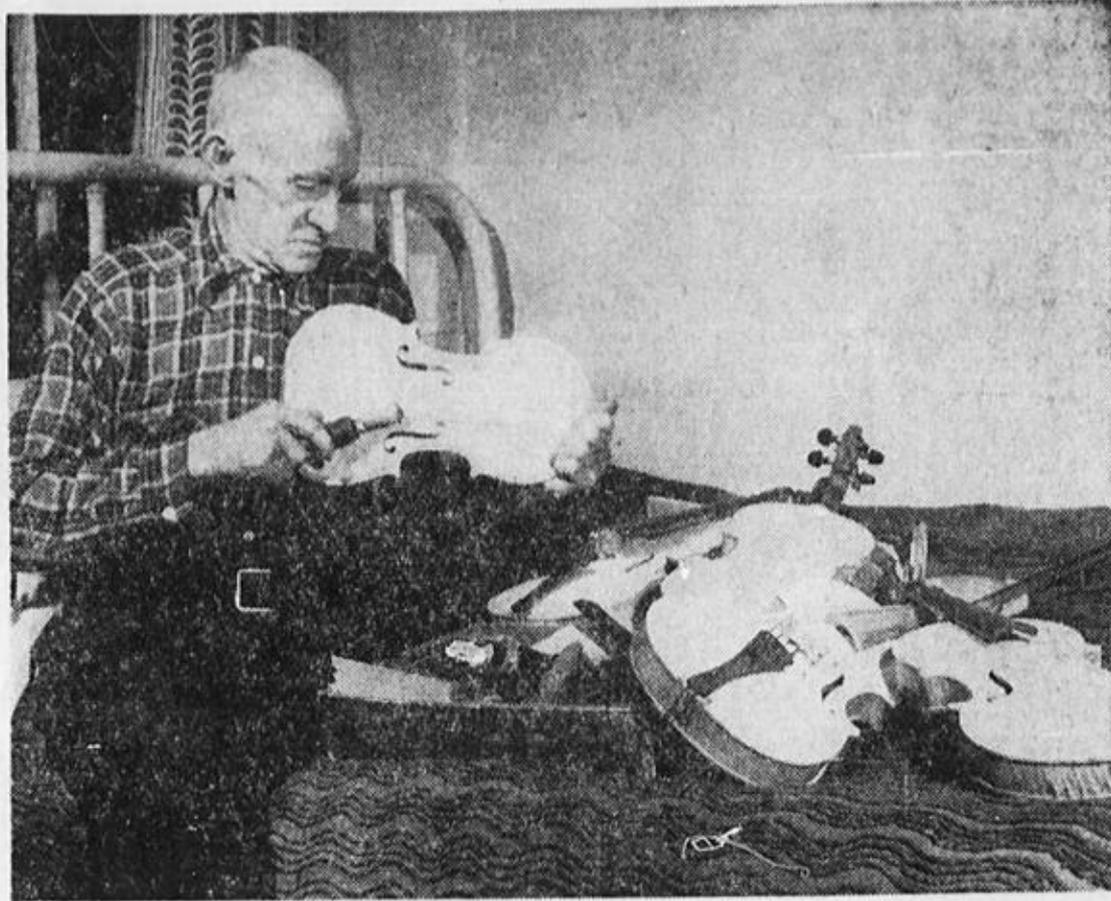
CULLOWHEE, March 24 — You'd think that being a farmer is a full time job. You'd also think that a man who has spent a long and active life in farming, hunting, law enforcement, politics, public service, would be ready to sit down and take it easy for a while. Well, Gola Ferguson wouldn't think so.

At 68 years of age he is still active in farming, but the other activities have given way to one of the most fascinating hobbies imaginable—making violins. Now, it seems that making violins, particularly those that produce any sort of pleasing music, would require infinite patience and a high degree of craftsmanship, plus a better-than-passing knowledge of music. That's true, and Ferguson is well endowed with the first two qualities. As for music, he says he doesn't know one note from another, cannot recognize tunes, and his good wife has to nudge him when it's time to stand up for the na-

has a rare wit and a flair for telling stories. But, to get back to violins.

This being such an unusual hobby, one wonders when and how Ferguson took it up. Some years ago, while he was sheriff of Swain County, he went on business to a place down the Tennessee River where a highway was under construction. He got there just in time to see a man buried in a landslide, and extricated him and arranged a special train to take him to Asheville for hospitalization. In gratitude, the man gave him a violin he had owned for many years, and which was the only thing of value he had to offer in return for his life. Ferguson said he didn't want to accept it, but the man insisted, and later someone told him it was a Stradivarius. This was not true, but a Chicago expert stated that it was a very good copy, valued at about \$700.

Ferguson made no effort to learn to play the violin; but



GOLA FERGUSON . . . doesn't know a note of music

—Citizen-Times Photo.

# 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
- ▣ 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)

# 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.

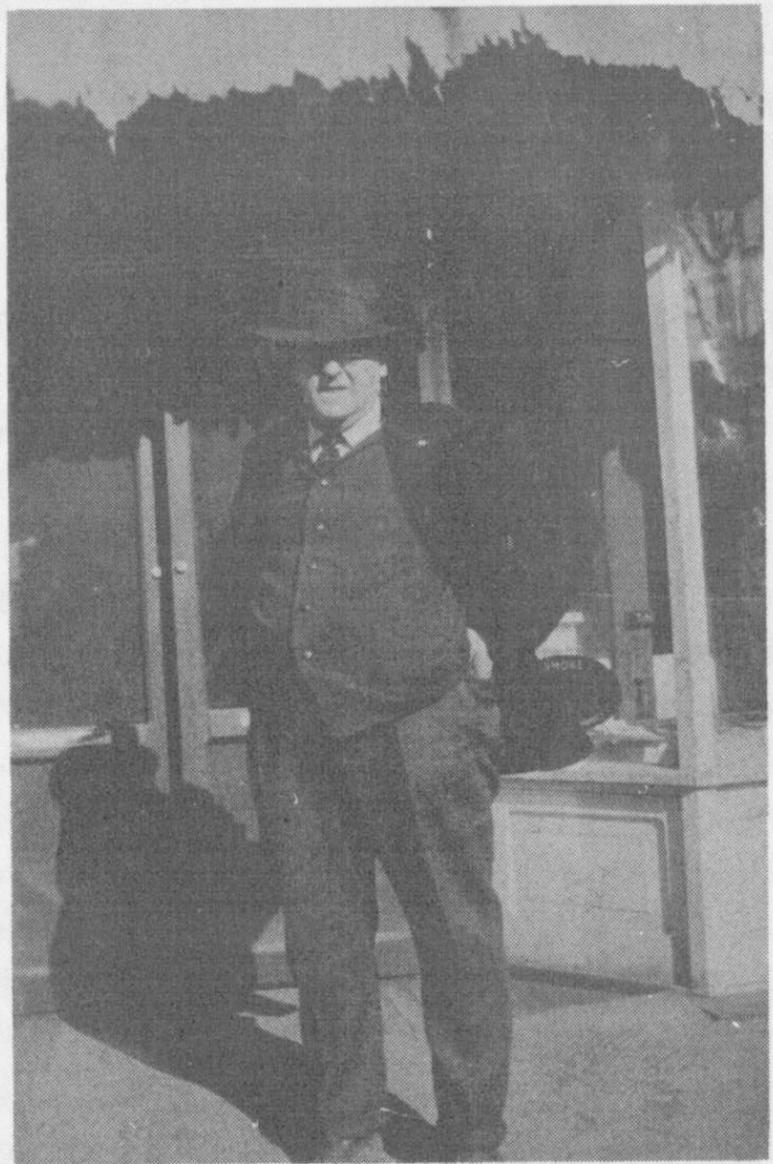
# Bennett home on east Main Street



This was later the location of Bennett's Court (now 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*



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

# Charles Jackson “Charlie” Beck

- ▣ Born to Samuel Thomas and Mollie Long Beck in Webster in 1880, but the family moved to Bryson City when he was an infant.
- ▣ His father was a tenant farmer for years. In 1890, he purchased town lot 27 (~Catholic Church thrift shop); neighbors included R.L. Snelson and O.P. Williams.
- ▣ Completed two years of high school.
- ▣ Enlisted in the 29<sup>th</sup> volunteer infantry in August, 1899 – along with others from Bryson City, including Noah and Benjamin Seay

# Raleigh News & Observer, Sep 29, 1900

## IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE FILIPINOS

Capture of Captain Shields  
and Fifty-one Men.

### GUNBOAT ALSO CAPTURED

These Are the Probabilities MacArthur  
Cables to Washington

### RESCUE PARTY SENT OUT TO MARINDUQUE

This Island, the Scene of the Capture, is About  
300 Miles From Manila. Many of the  
Americans Probably Killed  
and Wounded.

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Sept. 28.—General MacArthur today cabled the War Department from Manila that on September 11th Captain Devereaux Shields with 51 men of Company F, Twentieth volunteer infantry, left Santa Cruz for Torrijos. Nothing has been heard from him since, and it is supposed that the entire party including Captain Shields has been captured with many killed and wounded.

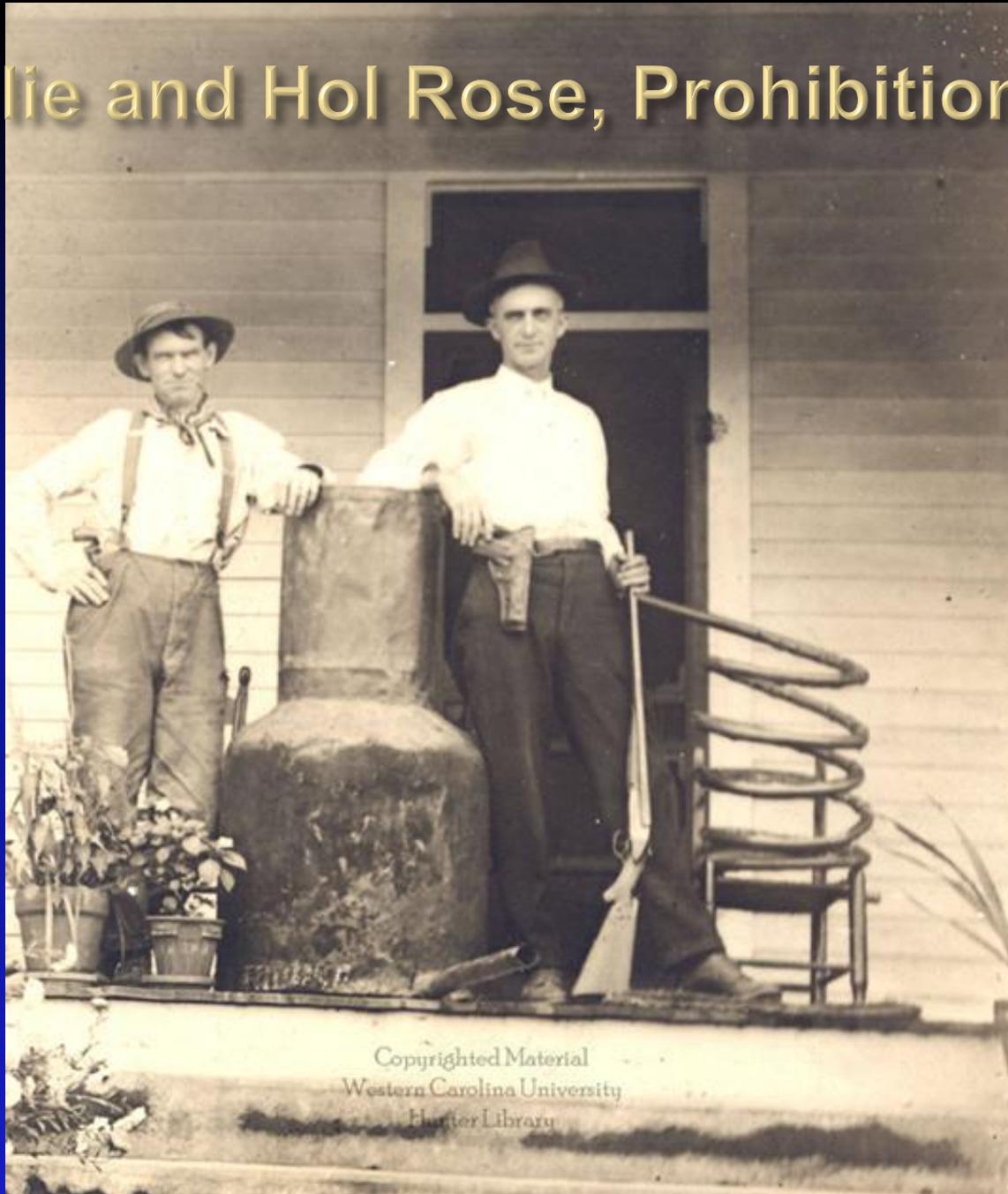
A list of the officers and men of Company F, Twenty-ninth regiment, shows the following names from North Carolina:  
CHARLES J. BECK.  
BENJAMIN J. SEAY.  
NOAH P. SEAY.  
JAMES L. SIMKINS.  
THOMAS J. SPIREY.  
All of these men enlisted at Bryson City.

The Battle of Pulang Lupa was fought on Sep 13, 1900. Forces of Filipino Colonel Maximo Abad, numbering around 200, and aided by hundreds of native bolomen, overwhelmed the 54 men in the 29<sup>th</sup> US Volunteer Infantry. They were taken prisoners of war and held until early 1901, when the effects of retaliatory actions forced their release.

# After the war, Charlie came home

- ▣ Married Nicie Arizona Cathey, sister of Mark
- ▣ Settled on upper Hughes Branch (now Beck Cove)
- ▣ Had two girls – Fern (married Hanley Painter) and Mildred (married DG Fisher, Jr)
- ▣ Farmed (listed as truck farmer in 1930)
- ▣ But also had other jobs

# Charlie and Hol Rose, Prohibition Agents



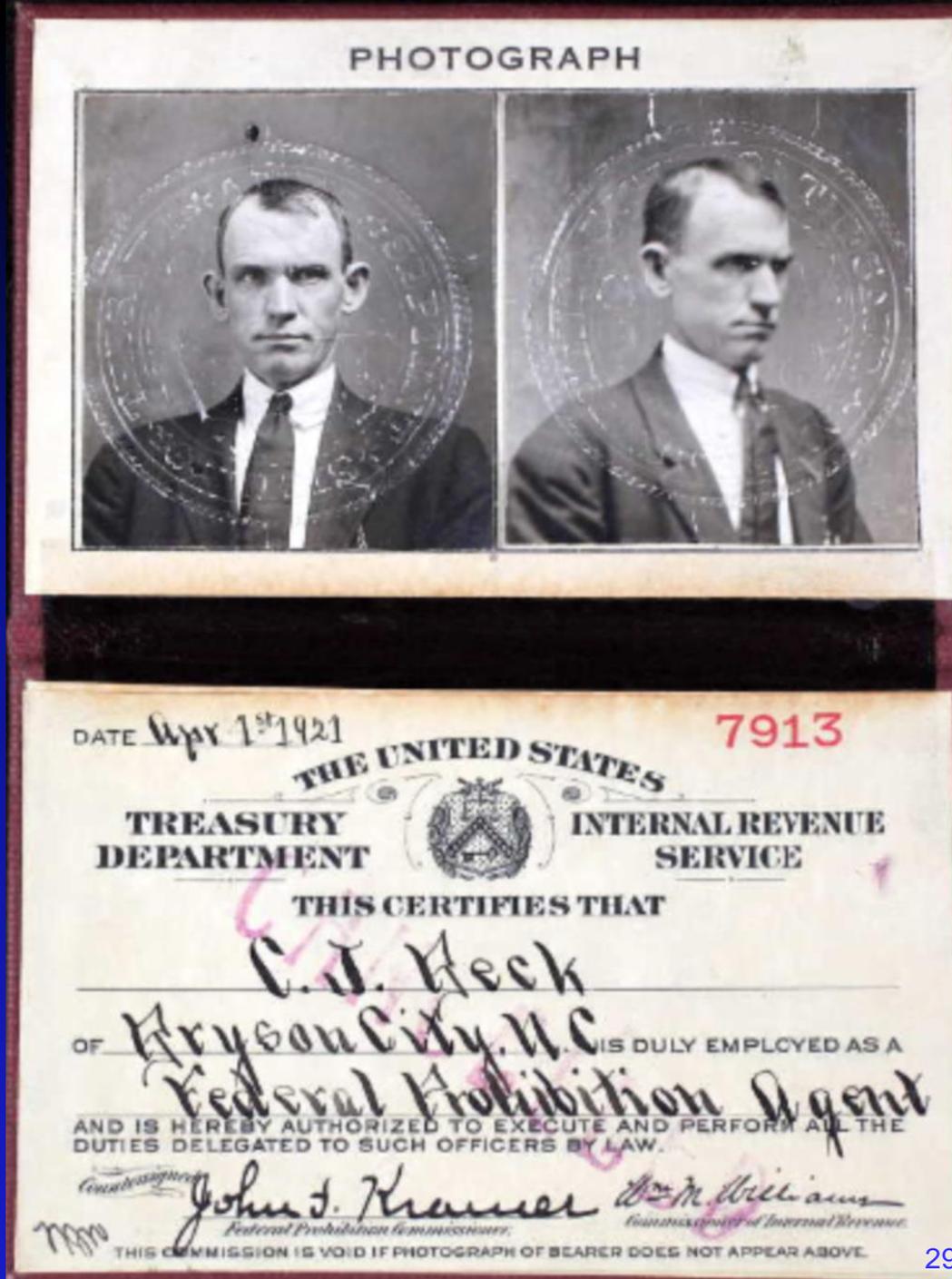
# Charlie's Federal ID badge, courtesy of Tommy Bryant (great nephew)

Note that it is dated April 1,  
1921 – the year after the  
episode involving Charlie,  
Hol Rose and Babe Burnett.

Charlie also had jobs as  
deputy sheriff and in the  
county tax office.

After Nicie died in 1946, he  
married Hazel Barker.

Badge photo courtesy Tommy Bryant  
(great nephew of Charlie)



# Oliver Perry Williams



- ▣ School teacher (Graham, Swain)
- ▣ Clerk of Superior Court in Graham and Swain Counties
- ▣ Postmaster at Yellow Creek
- ▣ Represented both Graham and Swain County in the NC House of Representatives (different terms)
- ▣ School board member in Graham & Swain
- ▣ Mayor of Bryson City (2 terms)
- ▣ BC town alderman
- ▣ Baptist Minister
- ▣ Cashier at Citizens Bank (19 years)

Photo courtesy of  
Karen Neklason  
(kegger3876)

# Timeline

- ▣ Born in 1859, Monroe County, Tennessee
- ▣ The family was in the Cheoah area (then Cherokee County) in 1870; His father William enlisted in Company A, 29<sup>th</sup> NC Infantry (Cherokee County) in 1861, so they'd likely moved to NC in 1860-61.
- ▣ His first school was at age 13 in Yellow Creek, Graham County. It was a 9 mile walk, each way to school. The term was 35 days.
- ▣ Between 1872 and 1876, they moved back to Monroe County (O.P.'s mother died there in 1876).
- ▣ Attended preparatory and normal school in Maryville, finishing in 1880; he then taught school for 16 years, including at the Yellow Creek School he'd attended as well as the Cherokee Indian School in Birdtown.

# Timeline (continued)

- ▣ On September 29, 1887, he and Artie Grant were married in Yellow Creek.
- ▣ They moved to Bryson City in 1901.
- ▣ In 1907, they bought town lot 28 (directly across the street from Samuel Thomas and Mollie Long Beck).
- ▣ Artie died on April 16, 1918
- ▣ O.P. married her older sister, Etta Grant Shope, on October 13, 1918
- ▣ Etta died October 12, 1924
- ▣ O.P. married Jane Calhoun, sister of Granville, February 8, 1928.
- ▣ In 1930, Jane and her mother Susan (Sookie) were living with O.P. at his home on Main Street.

# His son Wayne – as well as Sam Hunnicutt – wrote about one bear hunt

## After Bruin in the Great Smokies

By WAYNE W. WILLIAMS  
Asheville, N. C.

"I was with Hercules and Cadmus once,  
When in a wood of Crete they bay'd the  
bear

With hounds of Sparta: never did I hear  
Such gallant chiding."

*Shakespeare, Midsummer Night's Dream.*

"BEYOND the Alps lies Italy." Beyond Asheville, to the west, stretches that majestic range of hills which forms the state line between North Carolina and Tennessee, and which has been so superbly described by Kephart in his classic on the Southern mountains and mountaineers, "Our Southern Highlanders." This range constitutes one of the most prominent links in the great Appalachian system, and by reason of its hazy, smoky appearance when seen from a distance has been very aptly styled the Great Smokies. In the bosom of these mighty hills I was born and reared. Generations of mountaineer blood (the Williams came from Wales) flow through my veins. No Scot ever loved his native highlands with a greater passion than I do these. Is it any wonder, then, that "when the frost is on the pumpkin and the fodder's in the shock," I should long to go in quest of Bruin, who has made these wilderness fastnesses his favorite haunt since the memory of man runneth to the contrary?

It was on Monday morning, November 9, 1920, that I caught the little Southern train at the Asheville station and headed West, on the Murphy Branch Division, as it is called, for Bryson City (65 miles), my native town, where I detrained. After a sumptuous dinner at the paternal banquet board, my father and brother Claud and I set out on foot for the Bryson cabin, which is situated ten miles North on Deep Creek, western North Carolina's premier trout stream. Hunters, dogs, and provision had already preceded us, and when we arrived late in the evening the old camp was astir. Mark Cathey, Sam Hunnicutt, and several other veteran bear hunters were there, and a score of others who had not yet won their spurs. After a hearty supper, we lay down before the two big fires to listen to thrilling stories of former chases, and to discuss plans for the morrow's hunt.

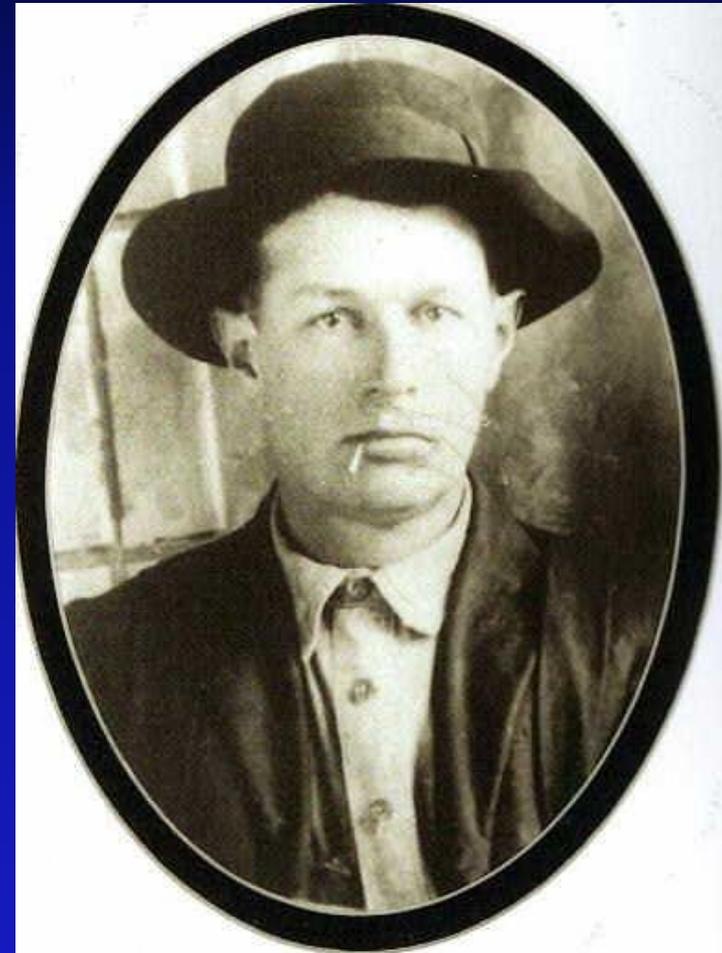
Wayne's story was published in the Asheville Citizen in November 1922 and in National Sportsman magazine in 1923

# Sam had a 7<sup>th</sup> grade formal education, but he did extensive post-graduate work afield

20 Years  
HUNTING  
and  
FISHING

in the Great  
Smoky Mountains

By S. J. HUNNICUTT  
Introduction by JIM CASADA



(Source: 20 Years)

(Source: Hunnicutt family) 34

Photo by Wayne Williams  
at the Bryson Place

- 1: Charlie Hunnicutt
- 3: O.P. Williams
- 5: Noah Seay
- 6: Jeff Hunnicutt
- 7: Mark Cathey
- 9: Claude Williams
- 10: Granville Calhoun
- 12: Sam Hunnicutt



Photo source: Jim Estes

# There were schemes in the works that Wayne wasn't aware of



Sam Hunnicutt,  
(20 Years)



Bob Snelson,  
(Debbie Seay,  
Kelly Carnes)



Mark Cathey,  
(Carl Grueninger, Jr)

# Robert Levi Snelson

- ▣ Phoebe Carnes did a fine job covering Robert Snelson back in August
- ▣ Recall that he:
  - Was a town alderman
  - Supervised the Ela Dam construction
  - Was Chairman of the Board of Deacons of First Baptist
  - and most impressively painted the church steeple at age 72, when he couldn't get anyone else to
- ▣ Formal education: 1 year of high school

# The Snelson home; photo taken ~ 1940



Photo from TVA collection, National Archives (Morrow)

# Dedication of 2<sup>nd</sup> generator, Ela Dam, 1930



Photo from Swain County Centennial

# Granville Calhoun, the Squire of Hazel Creek

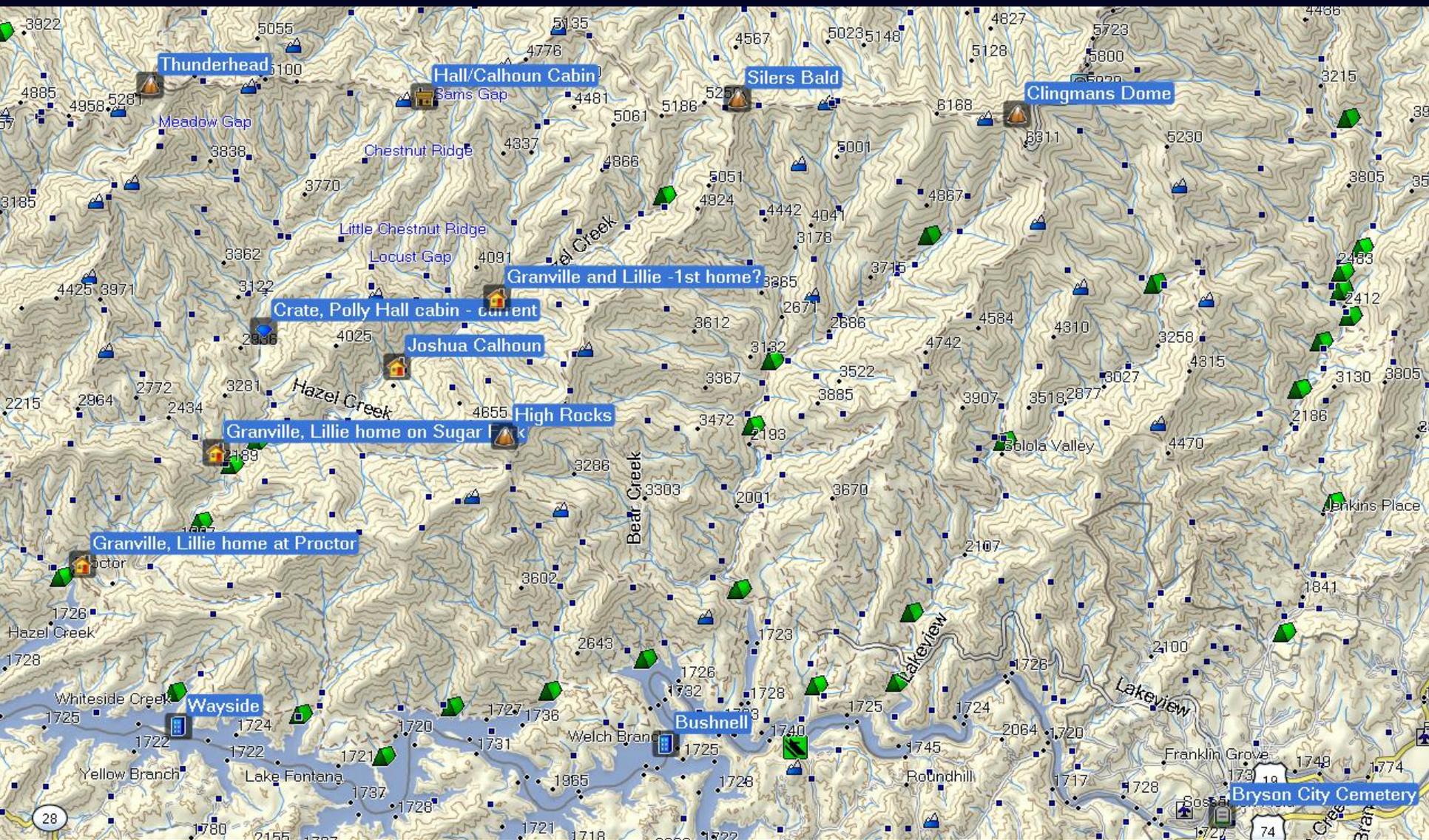
- ▣ Born March 14, 1875 near Wayside to Joshua and Susan Crisp Calhoun
- ▣ The family moved to upper Hazel Creek about a decade later.
- ▣ The older children (Granville was first born) were sent to Wayside during the school year since that was the closest school.
- ▣ Granville, like many others of the time, completed seven grades.
- ▣ Granville's father saw to it that schools were erected near the mouth of Bone Valley (downstream) and on Walkers Creek (further upstream)

# In December 1895, Granville married Lillie Hall, daughter of Crate and Polly Dills Hall



Photo courtesy of Carol Cochran

- ▣ The wedding was at Crate and Polly's home on Bone Valley and was conducted by Granville's uncle and namesake, William Isaiah Calhoun
- ▣ Witnesses were Swain County Sheriff J.F. Teague, Carey Mendenhall, and Jack Coburn



# First entry in Register of Deeds involving Granville was a lease from Crate & Hall Lumber

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Western Carolina University  
Hunter Library



Two-room Hall Cabin; one side in NC, the other in TN  
Used with permission of [Hunter Library Special Collections](#)

# Part of John Parris article, June 27, 1993

## *Second in a series*

**L**ITTLE FORK RIDGE – The word spread like wild fire up and down Hazel Creek and into the coves and hollows that a rich man was coming to open up a copper mine.

For the folks living about this section of the Great Smokies on that summer day around the turn of the century it was a big day filled with hope and promise for a better life in a rugged wilderness where money was scarce as hen's teeth.

W.S. Adams, a New York financier, had arrived the night before, coming by horse and buggy from Dillsboro after traveling there by train from the North.

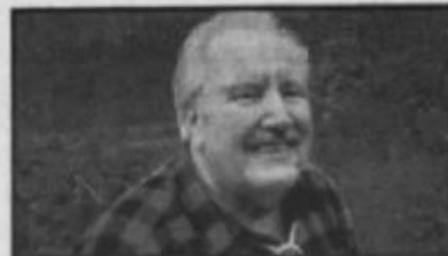
He had come to see with his own eyes the spot where Fonzy Hall, who lived up in Jackson County, had discovered copper while visiting his brother

Crate in Bone Valley.

The morning after Adams arrived, Crate Hall and Josh Calhoun and his son Granville Calhoun and a whole bunch of Hazel Creek

folks set out to show him the place where they had blasted out the copper.

Going up the Little Fork of the creek, Adams'



**John Parris**

## **ROAMING THE MOUNTAINS**

heart got to fluttering and he said, "I'm fainting."

Crate said, "Why, it's just there," and Adams said, "I can't climb any farther."

"You've come this far," Crate told him, "and you ought to see it."

"But," Adams insisted, "I can't take another step."

So Crate and his brother-in-law Granville Calhoun got on one side of Adams and some of the others got behind and they lifted him up the mountain and sat him down where a hole had been blown in the side of the hill here on Little Fork Ridge.

The hole looked like a gold cup. There was about a ton of copper lying about.

Adams got so excited that he put Crate and Granville and all the others to work right then and there without asking who owned the land.

But the next day, after Crate had told him who owned the land, Adams went up to Dillsboro and hired himself a lawyer named Joe Hooker to go see Epp Everett, the owner in Bryson City, and get an option on the property.

Everett told Hooker he had optioned the property two or three times before for cattle ranging and usually got \$25, but since there was so much interest he ought to have more, maybe \$75.

He said he'd option it for \$75 and the going price for the 200 acres would be \$750.

Adams took it.

And Granville Calhoun and some of the other boys on Hazel Creek went to work for Adams. They started work exposing the copper which, Granville recalled some 80 years later, "was on top of the

◆ See Parris on page 15A

# Parts of deed from Everett to Adams

State of North Carolina }  
Swain County }

This indenture, made and entered into this 5<sup>th</sup>  
day of October A.D. 1899 between Everett and Mary E  
Everett his wife of the County of Swain and State of  
North Carolina parties of the first part and Walter S.  
Adams of the City of Boston and State of Massachusetts  
party of the second part. Witnesseth: That the said  
E. Everett and Mary E. Everett his wife parties of the first  
part for and in consideration of the sum of Six hundred and  
Sixty two and 5/100 Dollars to them in hand paid by the said  
Walter S. Adams party of the second part the receipt whereof

and bounded as follows to-wit: First Tract.

Beginning on a Birch on the Waters of Hazel Creek in Smoky Mountains and runs North 160 poles to a stake; thence West 100 poles to a stake; thence South 160 poles to a stake; thence East 100 poles to the Beginning containing 100 acres more or less Being same lands as entered the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Feb'y 1850 and granted by the State of North Carolina to Jonathan Hill by State Grant Number 1546 as dated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 1854 as registered in the office of the register of deeds for Swain County. in Book G. No. 7 at Page 153 and on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of Dec. 1886

Second Tract

Beginning on a Mountain Oak on Little Fork Ridge on waters of Hazel Creek in Smoky Mountains and runs South 45 degrees West 100 poles to a stake; thence North 45 degrees West 160 poles to a stake; then North 45 degrees East 100 poles to a stake; then South 45 degrees East 160 poles to the Beginning containing 100 acres more or less being State Grant Number 1545 as granted by the State of North Carolina to Jonathan Hill dated 10<sup>th</sup> day of Nov. 1854 and entered on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Feb'y 1850 as

# The land in question was a pair of 1850 land grant to Jonathan Hill – for \$10 each

State of North Carolina, (No. 1543-)

Know Ye, That we, for and in Consideration  
State of the sum of ten cents for every acre, lawfully granted  
To: paid to the Entry Taker of Macon County by Jonathan  
Jonathan Hill have given and granted, and by these pres-  
ents do give and grant unto the said Jonathan Hill  
a tract of land, containing one hundred acres  
lying and being in said County of Macon, on the  
Smoky mountain. Beginning at a mountain oak,  
on the Little fork ridge runs South forty five West  
one hundred poles to a stake, then North forty five  
West one hundred and sixty poles to a stake;  
then North forty five East one hundred poles  
to a stake, then South forty five East one hundred  
and sixty poles to the Beginning.  
Entered the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 1850.

# The rest of the story.....



Photo courtesy of Tim Stiles



JONATHAN HILL  
CO.F,  
THOMAS'  
N.C.LEGION  
C.S.A.



LATTIA  
Wife of  
J. HILL  
BORN  
Feb. 26. 1819  
DIED  
June 27, 1898

May 22 1933

Mr. John T. Needham  
Bryson City N.C.

Dear Mr. Needham

I wish to file my application for a forman place to handle the men on the road up Forney Creek. I have had a lot of experience in building all kinds of roads here in this part of the country building trails in the Smokey Mountains wagon Roads and R-Road work. I built the first 5 miles of Railroad up Hazel Creek for the W.M. Ritter Lumber Co. whos head office is in Columbus Ohio. I worked for N. Carolina Mining Co. for most of 2 years and worked for the North Carolina Copper Mining Company and was there agent here for 33 years and am agent here for them now. I dun open cut work and under ground work. I had charge of 125 men for them while the was prospecting for copper and I had 125 men working under me when I was building R-Road for the W.M. Ritter Lumber co. on Hazel Creek in this county. I have had considerabl experience in handling powder and hand drilling with common labor. I can do nice tunnell work under ground. I am 58 years old, way 220# and am in good health. I have had Typhoid Fever in 1908 and bin vaxinated since several times. I have had Small Pox in 1910. I never have had any venereal diseases in my Life. I have had measls mumps. Never have had Pneumonia..  
If any further information is desired would be glad to furnish it.

Yours Truly,  
G. I. Calhoun

# Excerpts

- ▣ Builder of all sorts of roads: mountain trails, wagon roads, railroads, including the first five miles up Hazel Creek (Ritter)
- ▣ Mining: Two mining companies, including open cut and underground
- ▣ Supervised 125 men building the railroad, and 125 men in prospecting for copper
- ▣ Experienced handling powder and building tunnels
- ▣ Weighs 220 lbs, had typhoid fever and small pox, mumps & measles, but no pneumonia or VD

Bryson City NC  
Oct 25th 1933

Mr J.T. Needingham  
Bryson City NC

Dear Mr. Needingham

I was told today that the new camp on deep creek had no Superintendant yet and that the place was going to be given to a local man. one who nows the mountains and who has had experience in these mountains and who nows how to build roads and lay out trails in the mountains. I think I could fill the place and handle the men all right. I would appreciate a chance at the place and if I failed I would wilingly step down and let some other man take my place. I looked for you this evening and did not find you to talk to about this job. I can do the work such as has been dun at Forney Creek just as good as any man, I think and would like chance at the job as superentendant same as Mr. Greer has at Forney. Please let me know if you think I would stand any chance at getting the place.

Yours Very Truly  
*G. I. Calhoun*

For the preceding two letters and other Depression era letters, see [Wendy Meyers' blog](#) (thanks, Spunky!)

Note: For historical accuracy, Wendy's transcriptions (and I filled in my estimate of some words she wasn't able to make out) retain the original spelling, punctuation, etc.

## Places Established By Granville Calhoun And Walt Jenkins

BRYSON CITY, July 30. (Special)  
Two additional camps for persons wishing such facilities while visiting the Great Smoky Mountains National park are now available on the North Carolina side, it was announced here Thursday.

The committee on camps of the Bryson City Chamber of Commerce has been actively interested in the establishment of camps inside and on the edge of the national park.

Persons wishing to enjoy the beauties of the Great Smokies may now do so in comfort at the camp of Walt Jenkins, on Noland's Creek, which is at the foot of the mountain leading to Andrews' Bald and Clingman's Dome.

A trail has been cut by park officials from Jenkins' camp. A guide may be obtained and food supplied for those wishing to camp if they do not choose to board at the camp. This camp is three miles below Andrews' Bald and five miles from Clingman's Dome.

Granville Calhoun, of Proctor, has established a camp where board and lodging may be obtained. This camp is on the edge of the park. Guides may be secured and food for camping trips purchased.

← July 31, 1931 Asheville Citizen-Times

# FISHING PARADISE

and a wonderful  
**CAMP**

Six miles of finest virgin trout fishing in W. N. C. On Hazel Creek, famed for fishing. Finest surroundings, 20 room modern house, also smaller camps. Excellent food. Rates most reasonable. Full information—

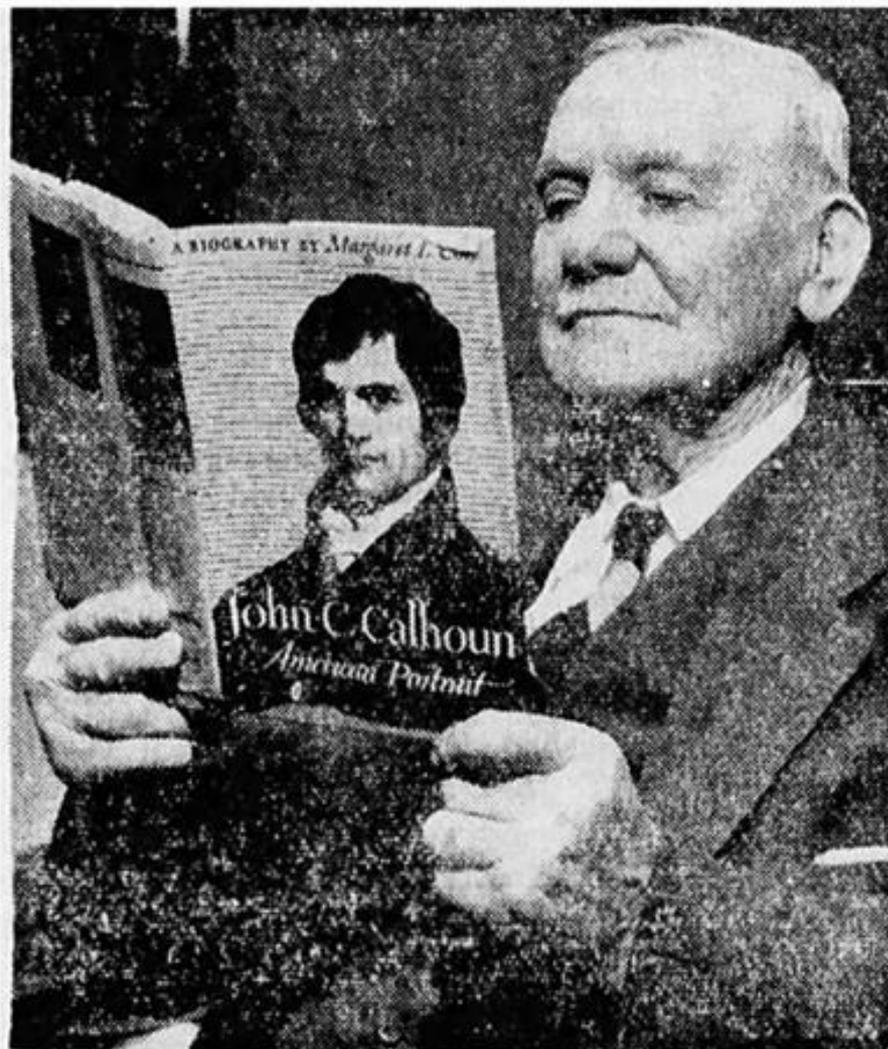
Write or Wire  
**G. I. CALHOUN, PROCTOR, N. C.**

May 15, 1933 Asheville Citizen-Times

From March 9, 1958 article  
Asheville Citizen  
by John Wikle

As he grew older, Calhoun became a renowned hunter and trout fisherman. He went on hunts every fall for 40 years, mostly for bear but now and then for turkey, squirrel and coon. His companions were the famous hunters of those times, among them being Mark Cathey, Sam Hunicutt, John Cable, Doc Jones. These famed hunters were often referred to in the works of Horace Kephart.

Correct with respect to John Cable and Doc Jones, but wrong and wronger re: Mark Cathey and Sam Hunnicutt (more on this later)



—Citizen-Times Photo—Green  
GRANVILLE CALHOUN, well-known mountaineer, sits in the lobby of the Calhoun Hotel at Bryson City and reads a book about John C. Calhoun, a distant relative.

# Calhoun Unlike 'Typical Mountaineer'

# Other things Granville had a finger in

- ▣ School committeeman for Proctor, member of the Swain County Board of Education
- ▣ An incorporator in Citizens Bank in Bryson City, in 1913, along with nine others from Forney, Bushnell, Proctor, and Fontana – including two women, Annie Overly of Proctor and Ida B. Welch of Fontana
- ▣ Bought property in Bryson City as early as 1920; it included property in the vicinities of the GEM Theater and Walgreens.
- ▣ Acquired the Freeman Hotel from the Cordells in 1946

# Uncle Mark Cathey, Our Beloved Hunter and Fisherman

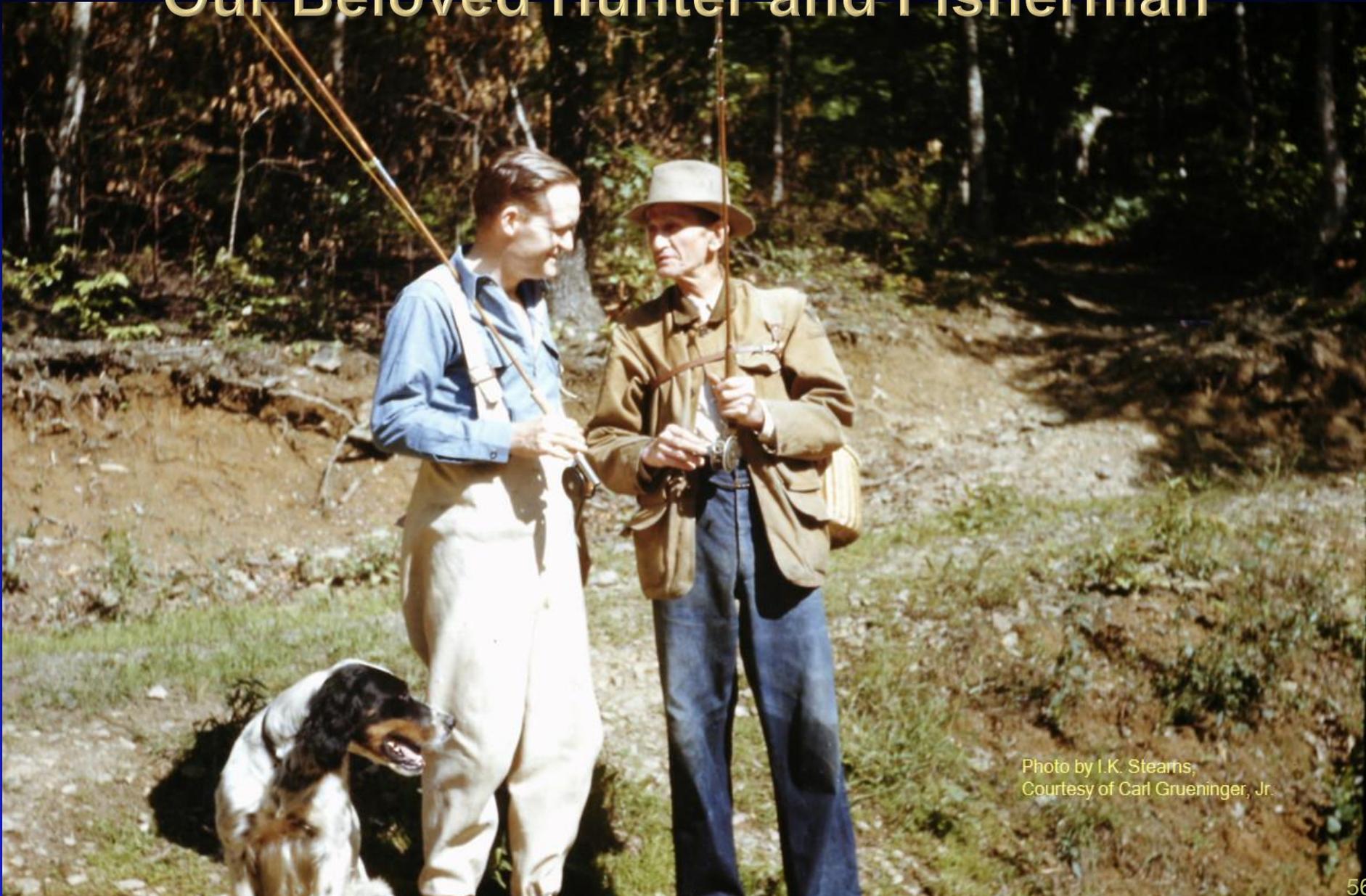


Photo by I.K. Stearns,  
Courtesy of Carl Grueninger, Jr.

# Excerpt from Asheville Citizen-Times article, August 20, 1922

## Bryson City Man Gets First Prize In Trout Contest

“Mark Cathey, of Bryson City, is the winner of all three of the trout prizes offered by M.V. Moore and Company, in the Fisherman’s Contest that was held from June 19 to August 15.

“The first prize won by Mr. Cathey was one Abbey and Imbrie Fontinalis Fly Rod, valued at \$13.50. The trout that won this award was caught, as were all those by Mr. Cathey, in Deep Creek, Swain County. The fish was 19 and three-fourths inches long and weighed 43 ounces. It was taken on a number eight monkey fly. A monkey fly has a green body and guinea feather wings. The second prize, a leather fly hook, valued at \$6, was awarded for the capture of a trout 17 and one-half inches long and weighing 30 ounces. The bait used was a number 10 professor fly. The third prize, one was given to Mr. Cathey for taking rainbow trout reel (sic), valued at \$5, a 15 and one-half ounce trout, 13 and one-half inches long, with a number 10 rubewood fly.”

# For \$1 and in further consideration....

NORTH CAROLINA  
SWAIN COUNTY

This Deed made on this 29th day of August, 1929, by and between L.W.Cathey and wife, Ida Cathey, J. B. Cathey and wife Mary Cathey, S. T. Cathey and wife Pearl Cathey, G. H.Cathey and wife Lula Mae Cathey, J. L. Cathey,(widower), Nicie Beck and husband C. J. Beck, Rebeca McCracken and husband F. C. McCracken, Grady Thomas and wife Ann Thomas, Frank Thomas and wife, Ruth Thomas, Venice Hyatt and husband Ralph Hyatt, Arizona Mehaffey (Widow) hereinafter called parties of the first part to Mark Cathey, hereinafter called party of the second part.

## W I T N E S S E T H

THAT WHEREAS, in the Month~~x~~ of July, 1929 the said parties of the first part did execute and deliver to the said party of the second part a deed for the land hereinafter described, and

WHEREAS, the said deed was lost without having been placed on record and after diligent search the same cannot be found and the said parties of the first part are desirous of conveying the land hereinafter described to the said party of the second part, and

NOW, THEREFORE in consideration of the sum of ONE DOLLAR to us in hand paid and the further consideration, that the said party of the second part provided a home and cared for our mother and grand mother during their life time: the receipt all of which is hereby acknowledged, the said parties of the first part do by these presents do bargain sell and convey and do hereby forever quit claim unto the party of the second part the following tracts and parcels of land:

~~the~~  
On the waters of Deep Creek: BEGINNING at a small dogwood an old corner of 1854 on the South side of Deep Creek and runs North 70 West 50 poles to a Chestnut, crossing a remarkable rock in the small prong of Deep Creek thence North 63 East 278 poles to a stake in Love's line; thence South 128 poles to a Spanish Oak, the Northwest corner of No. 1854; thence South 86 West 201 poles to the BEGINNING, containing 106 acres.

# Words from Rev. Wayne Williams tribute to Mark Cathey

Mark was one of the most original and unique characters I ever knew. He possessed that indefinable thing called personality. He was colorful – that's the word. Physically, he was lean and lank, but not tall, and withal as tough as a mountain hickory. He was the nervous, wiry type. He had piercing eyes. Perhaps his voice was the most unique feature of his make-up. He spoke in a musical mountain drawl. It was a voice one could never forget.

Mark was a gentleman, one of Nature's noblemen. He had character. His living was straight, like his shooting. He was honest as the day is long. He had an innate courtesy and refinement about him. There was nothing of the coarse and common in his nature.

[Click for full piece](#)

# Mark's death, Rev. Herbert Brown

For a few days later Mark heard a squirrel barking up in the cove behind his sister's home. He said to her, "Gimmie my gun. I think I'll go get that squirrel." Searchers found him about ten-thirty that night, sitting at the trunk of a tree with his gun across his lap. His heart had failed.

No more would William Marquis Cathey's bon mots charm his admirers. His many friends would remember to be sure, as Claude Patterson did: "Mark was awful witty. He could always come up with a good yarn." No more would his sister fix his hunting packs of baked beans, jellies, jams and bread. The lean-faced, overalled logger would drive no more oxen. His Redbone bear dogs, Old Jolley and Red, would whine for him. His fox and coon hounds would never again hear his shrill voice directing the chase. Neither would the greatest hunter and fisherman the Smokies ever produced be around to quieten down his dogs when strangers approached the house; "They won't bite you. They know you belong here. I've done told them so." And Dan Fisher would get Mark's turkey caller, because Mark himself had heard a call – to eternity.

After the funeral, the Cathey family asked me to write an epitaph for Mark's headstone. It reads like this:

“Mark Cathey, 1871-1944, Beloved Hunter and Fisherman, was himself caught by the Gospel hook just before the season closed for good.”



# Two men in the BC Cemetery who were never mentioned by Sam Hunnicutt

