

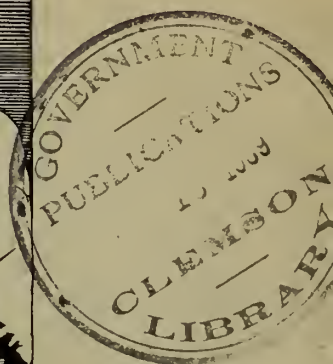
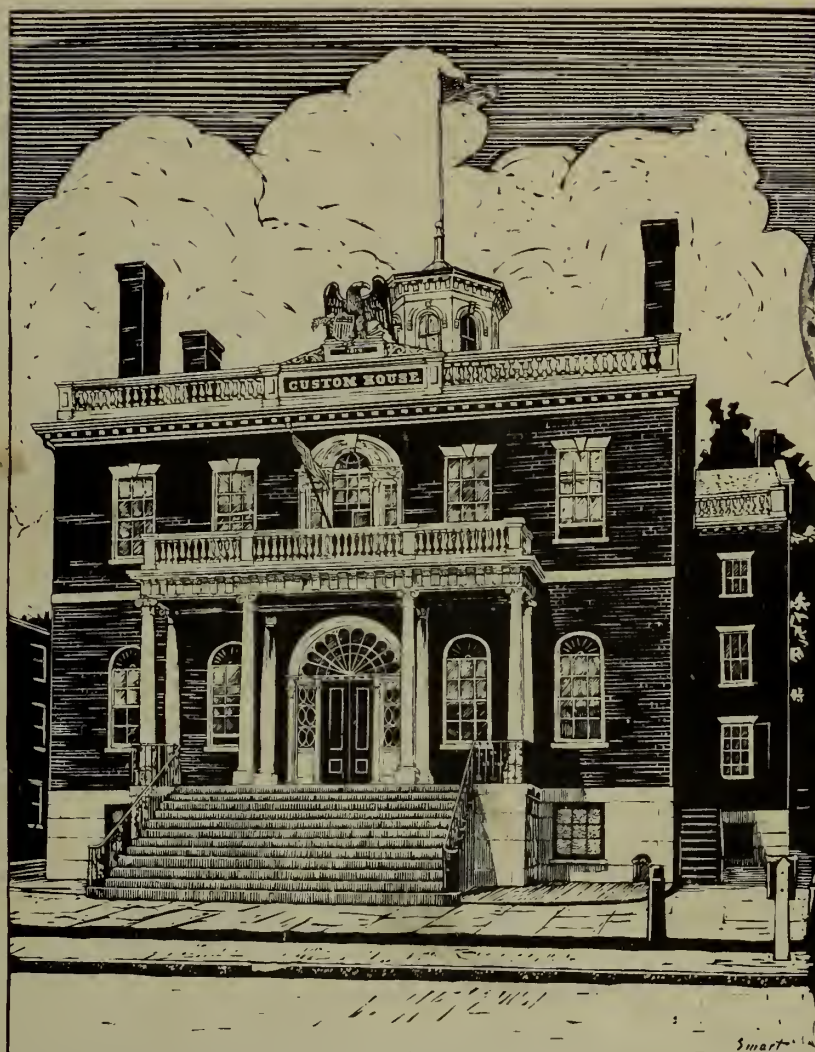
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# THE REGIONAL REVIEW

Clemson University



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Salem Maritime National Historic Site --- Massachusetts

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
REGION ONE  
RICHMOND VIRGINIA

DECEMBER 1939

VOL. III - NO. 6



# THE REGIONAL REVIEW

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## THIS MONTH

A SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS AT MORRISTOWN IN 1779 By Russell Baker . . . . .	Page 3
WHARF BUILDING OF A CENTURY AND MORE AGO By Edwin W. Small . . . . .	Page 8
WALL PAPER NEWS OF THE SIXTIES By Hugh R. Awtrey. . . . .	Page 15
ARTS AND CRAFTS IN NON-URBAN PARKS By Jesse A. Reynolds and Weston O. McDaniel. . . . .	Page 21
KINGS MOUNTAIN, A HUNTING RIFLE VICTORY By Rogers W. Young. . . . .	Page 25
ANCIENT TORTOISE RESTORED By H. S. Ladd . . . . .	Page 30

Editorial Message from the Regional Director

Publications and Reports : : : : Cumulative Index

Miscellany

THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
· NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ·  
REGION ONE ~ RICHMOND, VIRGINIA





George Washington's Christmas Dinner of 1779 May Have Been Prepared at This Fire Place in the Ford House, a Morristown Residence Which Served as Continental Army Headquarters. The Restored Building is a Part of Morristown National Historical Park.

# A SOLDIER'S CHRISTMAS

## At Morristown in 1779

By Russell Baker,  
Junior Research Technician,  
Morristown National Historical Park,  
New Jersey.

---

"Half rations again! By Christmas we'll be on no rations at all!"

---And when we came to Morristown they told us the people were all in sympathy with the cause; very few Tories among them, and that this was a land of plenty.

"Yes, plenty of cold and snow. Sam, if this cold continues there won't be one of us left to live in these damned log huts. Why did General Washington pick such a place for our winter encampment?"

---Washington knows what he's doing, Henry. We're safe from attack here at Morristown. The British can never get over the mountains east of here. I, for one, am willing to go any place Washington says; I'm willing to suffer along with the rest, but I've stood all any human being can stand. We've been for weeks on half-rations; half-naked and not enough blankets to go around, and the coldest winter of the century. If we could only get more grog, that would keep out the cold.

"I haven't had a drink of grog for days. The only way we can keep warm is in building these huts. When do you think we'll be in our hut, Sam? This tent is as good as nothing at all."

---About three days more. Perhaps we can make it by Christmas, then we'll celebrate in our new log mansion. But Captain Ashmead won't be in his hut by Christmas. He says he'll see all the privates under cover first.

"I heard that General Greene is attempting to get most of the officers in private homes, but is meeting with great opposition. No one wants an officer in their home, I guess, because they're afraid the British will attack most any day and burn their place down. If the British do get through, we certainly can't offer much resistance."

---Sam, some of the other boys ate a good meal last night -- even had a chicken. What do you say we do the same tonight? Down this road, not very far, lives a farmer by the name of Wick. His yard is full of chickens and his barn is overflowing with grain -- more than he and his family can ever use.





1

"Wick's farm! That's where General St. Clair is staying. If he ever caught us there we'd be up for court martial in the morning."

---I'd take a good lashing for a square meal. Anyway we deserve something to eat for Christmas, and we may not get caught.

"But haven't you heard General Washington's orders. No more of this pillaging, he says, and calls us a band of robbers rather than disciplined troops."

---That's easy for the General to say, but does he understand what we are going through out here?

"They say he is going to visit camp tomorrow. Let's wait. Perhaps he'll bring us some news -- news that the French fleet is going to arrive, or that we can borrow some of the 5,000 barrels of flour collected for the French to use when they come. Then at least our bellies will be full on Christmas."

This imaginary conversation between two Continental soldiers encamped in Jockey Hollow, near Morristown, New Jersey, was probably typical of hundreds of others which took place during the memorable Christmas season of 1779. Both from a military and political standpoint, the winter was an extremely critical period. Soldiers were compelled to live on half and sometimes quarter rations, which made it impossible for Washington to prevent pillaging and marauding. An attempt on his part to prevent ruthless stealing of supplies from the farmers in the vicinity caused a complete famine in camp, making it necessary to order regular foraging and marauding expeditions which went from house to house and took everything not absolutely essential to the inhabitants.<sup>2</sup>

Christmas of 1779 found the ragged, half-starved men of the Continental Army busily engaged in building crude log huts, which were to be their homes until the opening of the next year's campaign. Just before Christmas there began the extreme cold which was to characterize the winter of 1779-80, the worst of the century. Some of the men were under cover by Christmas, but others still were in the open two weeks later when a sudden blizzard brought a five-foot snow blanket to most of New Jersey, and froze the Hudson and other rivers solid.

Most of the officers were even worse off than the ordinary privates, yet had to wait until all the men were under cover before beginning construction of their own quarters. Quartermaster General Greene attempted to obtain quarters for the officers in private homes, but found that the people offered determined resistance to the idea. Greene

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(1) The Wick House, as well as Washington's Headquarters (the Ford House) mentioned elsewhere in this article, are now units of Morristown National Historical Park.

(2) Letter from the Chevalier de la Luzerne, the French Minister, to his government.

appealed to the civil magistrates for help, but their sympathies were with the populace. Greene, exhausted in his patience in providing what he deemed absolute necessities for the officers, finally appealed to Washington. Washington then threatened to obtain accommodations for his officers by the exercise of martial law, if necessary, but he never carried out his threat.

The following letter, written by Brigadier-General Samuel H. Parsons, Connecticut Line, to General Greene, illustrates the difficulties encountered in housing even general officers:



Reconstructed Private Soldiers' Hut,  
Morristown National Historical Park

"Dear Sir: I beg you to order me a large markee and a stove as the last resort I have to cover me; I cannot stay in this Trophet a day longer nor can I find a House without going four miles from camp into which I can put my Head. The Room I now have is not more than Eight feet square for six of us; and the family worse than the Devil; and the Justices threatening you and me if I continue to occupy this Hutt.

"I beg you not to fail to send me the Markee and Stove to Day; or send me somebody to drive away the Evil Spirits who inhabit this House.

Your Obedt Servt  
Samuel H. Parsons"

What did the Continental soldier eat for his Christmas dinner? While we have no record of any special food's being rationed for the day, the following general order illustrates the kind of food he must have had -- perhaps only a half or even a quarter of the prescribed ration:

A pnd. of hard or soft bread & 19 Pound of Indn. Meal or a pound of flower, a pound of Beef or 14 oz. Pork to be daily Ration untill further orders<sup>3</sup>.

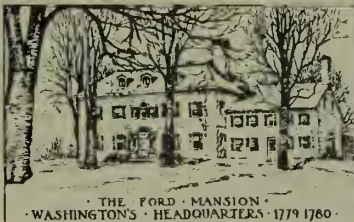
(3) General orders, January 18, 1870, Morristown Orderly Book.



Some of the officers, at least, were able to escape the hard times prevalent about the camp on Christmas Day. A letter written by Lieutenant Erkuries Beatty, of Hand's Brigade, illustrates a celebration in splendid style:

Camp near Morristown  
Christmas Day  
Dec.<sup>r</sup> 25th [17]79

. . . I am just done dinner about half Drunk, all dined together upon good roast & boiled, but in a Cold Tent, however grog enough will keep out cold. . . tomorrow we all dine at or with the Colonel, which will be another excellent dinner and I think you may call that fine living, but oh! I am afraid it won't last many Days - We hutt about four miles from Morristown. . . in about one week we will be in our hutt & a fine lay out it is. . .<sup>4</sup>



Even the Commander-in-Chief, living at the Ford Mansion in Morristown throughout this Christmas season of 1779, could not have been very comfortable. The official family was much crowded even though most of the spacious mansion was placed at its disposal. As late as January 22, 1780, Washington wrote:

. . . I have been at my prest. quarters since the 1st day of Decr. and have not a Kitchen to cook a Dinner in, altho' the Logs have been put together some considerable time by my own Guard; nor is there a place at this moment in which a servant can lodge with the smallest degree of comfort. Eighteen belonging to my family and all Mrs. Fords, are crowded together in her Kitchen and scarce one of them able to speak for the colds they have caught. . .<sup>5</sup>

Besides the dearth of personal comforts, this Christmas was one of the most disheartening of the entire eight years of the war. Up until November, high hopes had been held that the powerful French fleet under Count D'Estaing, which was operating in the West Indies, could arrive on the coast in time to cooperate with the Continental Army in a siege of New York City. But D'Estaing failed to grasp the opportunity and chose instead to assist General Lincoln in an unsuccessful attack on Savannah, Georgia. Thus, at Christmas time, Washington found it necessary to weaken his own force to give assistance to the defeated Lincoln. Besides this, Washington and his staff became alarmed at the indications of a possible attack by Sir Henry Clinton, the British Commander at New York. Clinton had called in all his outlying detachments and had the entire army concentrated on Manhattan Island. Preparations were being made to embark a large fleet, which, Washington thought, may have been a feint for an attack on Morristown. Not to be caught unawares in such a situation, Washington gave orders to place all the troops in a position to defend themselves. A system of alarm signals was organized, each

(4) Written to his brother, Dr. Reading Beatty.

(5) John C. Fitzpatrick, *Writings of Washington* (United States Government Printing Office, Washington, May, 1937), Vol. 17, p. 432.



brigade being directed to its proper place in the line of battle, and Duportail, chief of the engineers, and General Greene were instructed to prepare a plan for a defense of the position. Such an attack, however, never occurred.

Four days before Christmas, Washington wrote to Governor Livingston of New Jersey concerning his apprehensions in regard to the plans of the British. He wrote that Clinton could not be ignorant of the small number of men left in the Continental Army, the distress of the military magazines, and the want of forage. "The loss of our huts at this inclement season," he pointed out, "would be a most serious calamity. This loss would be accompanied by that of a great part of our baggage, and a number of our men by desertions<sup>6</sup>."

The general orders on Christmas Day, 1779, make no mention of the festiveness of the occasion, only the prosaic grind of military routine. One order dated December 24, 1779, calls for a court martial on December 25 at 10 o'clock in the morning, for a trial of the non-commissioned officers and privates who were in confinement<sup>7</sup>. Another<sup>8</sup> announced a small supply of shirts had arrived and would be delivered<sup>9</sup>. Still another, dated December 25, is in the form of a reprimand for the "shameful waste of forage" in camp<sup>9</sup>.

But what must have added most to this disheartening Christmas season, at least to Washington, was the court martial of Benedict Arnold, who was tried for permitting a Tory vessel to enter the port of Philadelphia without acquainting other officials of the fact, and other charges. The trial was held in the old Dickerson Tavern in Morristown and the occasion made it one of the most important gatherings ever held in America up to that time. Arnold was summoned December 19<sup>10</sup>, and further sessions were held at the same place at 11 o'clock on the morning of December 24, 25 and 26<sup>11</sup>. Even on Christmas Day the trial continued! As evidence in his favor Arnold placed before the court complimentary letters from the Commander-in-Chief which bore out the fact that he was one of the bravest generals of the army. A sad Christmas, the first of many which Benedict Arnold was to have! But sadder still it must have been to Washington who put implicit faith in Arnold.

So, it may be wondered, could there have been a Christmas at Morristown in 1779? These "times that tried men's souls," as Thomas Paine wrote, were never more in evidence than during that season.

Today, 160 years later, when the ageless Christmas message is said and sung again to the sound of bells and the twinkle of candles, when the firelight burns brightly on the hearths of 1939, Americans still may keep green the story of Morristown's Christmas in 1779. For that story, in the great realities of the present, well may remind us of an ancient sacrifice whereby we now are afforded, as Scrooge's nephew said, "a good time, a kind forgiving charitable, pleasant time."

(6) *Ibid.*, 292.

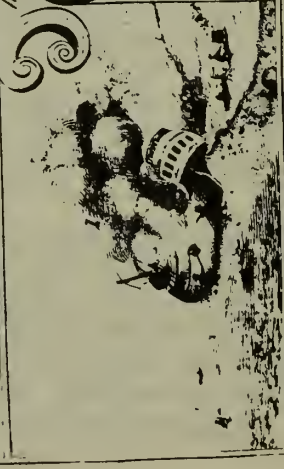
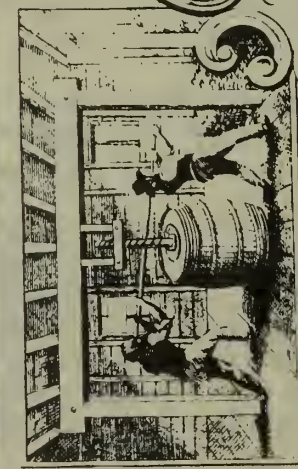
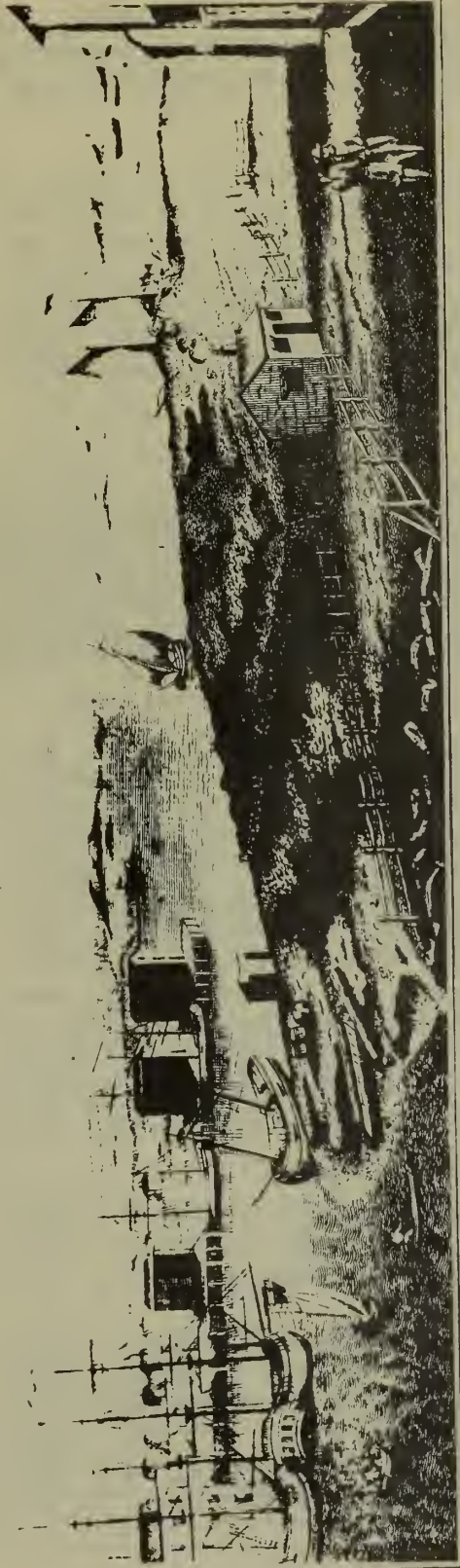
(7) *Ibid.*, 309.

(8) *Ibid.*, 310.

(9) *Ibid.*, 320.

(10) *Ibid.*, 286.

(11) *Ibid.*, 302, 312.



Salem. 1847

These are to certify that Daniel Saunders

was by a Majority of Votes regularly admitted a

Member of the Salem Marine Society at a Meeting

held the 28 day of June 1842 Given under my hand & the

Seal of this Society this 26 day of Oct. 1. 1847

Jon<sup>as</sup> Mober Secy

West

Matter

This 142-year-old certificate of membership in the Salem Marine Society shows a view of Salem Harbor as of 1796. Part of Derby Wharf, with warehouses, is seen at the left and the end of Central Wharf, then Forrester's Wharf, appears at the extreme left corner.



# WHARF BUILDING

## Of a Century and More Ago<sup>1</sup>

By Edwin W. Small,  
Superintendent,  
Salem Maritime National Historic Site,  
Massachusetts

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Wharves appear to have been regarded as common place by our predecessors and their construction as an ordinary occurrence. It is much more difficult therefore to obtain information about them than to find that concerning the more exceptional things, for, when compared to the building of such a direct means to a livelihood as a ship, the construction of a wharf must have appeared incidental and definitely of less concern and interest. Yet wharves were essential to the use of ships and today their ruins are sometimes the only physical indication of past maritime activity. The ships which brought wealth and prosperity to Salem disappeared long ago, but here and there along the waterfront the remains of old wharves survive as witnesses to the heyday of sailing ship commerce.

Notable survivals on Salem Harbor are Derby Wharf and Central Wharf, now part of the area of more than six acres comprising Salem Maritime National Historic Site. During the last year and a half extensive repairs have been made to both these wharves. In that connection attention has been directed in general to old-time wharves and every effort has been made to get as much information as possible from the scanty sources bearing upon them.

The first detailed reference to wharf building which has been found appeared in 1840 in the Merchants' Magazine and Commercial Review, edited by Freeman Hunt<sup>2</sup>. It is an article describing the manner of constructing wharves along the New York waterfront. Briefly, the type described is a pile bulkhead formed by rows of wooden piles driven close to each other, then backfilled with earth and covered with plank. Wood appears to have been used to the exclusion of other building materials, the explanation being offered that "Wood is so plentiful in America that to repair, or even construct works, in which timber is the only material employed is generally regarded as a very light matter. . ." The same type of pile-lined wharf, with "more attention . . . by the builders to the durability of the work," is attributed to Boston. But Boston also

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(1) Adapted by the author from a paper presented August 28, 1939, before the Peabody Museum Marine Association, Salem, Massachusetts.

(2) April 3, 1840, 313-314, 316.



had wharves constructed of timber cribs, timber bulkheads and walls of stone. In fact, wharves using these structural devices may have been the rule rather than the exception. A paper published in the Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1923 <sup>3</sup>, which touches on the early wharves of Boston, includes descriptions of timber cribs, timber bulkheads and granite walls, but makes no mention of close-set piling as a prevailing type of bulkhead or wall construction.

The type of wharf made of timber cribs or more specifically described in the above cited technical paper as "built of stone-filled timber cribs enclosing areas which were filled with earth," it is thought, corresponds to what Dr. William Bentley, the indefatigable diarist, knew at Salem in 1819 as a "cobb" wharf. Bentley says that stone wharves which were beginning to be built about that time were a great improvement over "our other wharves of Cobb & liable to be hurt by every sea." <sup>4</sup> The "other wharves", he relates in another connection, "are built of wood, and sunken by rocks." <sup>5</sup> How the name "cobb" came to be used to connote a wharf of timber cribs held down by rocks cannot be explained readily, unless it was derived from the use of cob or cobble stones to sink the timber cribs.

Although Dr. Bentley observed that stone wharves were being built at Salem by 1819, they most likely were constructed of beach or cobble stone and not quarry cut stone. Wharves with walls of quarry cut stone were not built much before 1830 at the earliest. Up to that time the stone used even in building construction appears to have been worked only from rock which lay on the surface of the ground. The deposits of Quincy granite had not been touched. All stone taken from Quincy or Braintree until then had come mainly from glacial boulders in the town commons. Quarries had not yet been opened because artisans had not devised tools that would work into the rock effectively. Charles Francis Adams, in his History of Quincy, says this problem was solved in 1803 when three men in the North Precinct of Braintree succeeded in splitting a large stone by using iron wedges. <sup>6</sup> After the effective use of the iron wedge had been demonstrated, quarries were opened in Quincy, but the new age of stone did not begin in a big way until the Granite Railway was built in 1826.

The Derby Wharf in existence during the business career (1762?-1799) of the great merchant, Elias Hasket Derby, was without doubt one of the "cobb" wharves Dr. Bentley said in 1819 were the common type at Salem. A good part of Derby Wharf and the end of Central Wharf, then called Forrester's Wharf, are depicted in a scene dating from 1796. Both wharves (as shown in the upper illustration on page 8) appear to be entirely of wood, with fender piles resting against a facing of timber cribs.

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(3) "Shore Protection and Harbor Development Work on the New England Coast," LXXXVI (1923).

(4) Diary, IV, 625-626.

(5) "Description of Salem," Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1st series, VI (1799), 228.



Derby Wharf as Painted by Porter Brown in 1879. The Arrow Indicates a Timber Platform Built over a Dislocated Sea-Wall.

Although this pictorial evidence points to a structure with facing built completely of wood, there are indications that stone also was used as facing on Derby Wharf before the days of granite quarries. In 1784, for instance, Bentley says Derby employed Joshua Phippen to finish the east wall of his wharf in stone at bottom for a distance of 667 feet and again, in 1800, 569 feet of the western side was repaired and faced with that material.<sup>7</sup> If these figures are correct, most of the length of the wharf that existed in 1800 had some stone on both sides, for an inventory of the estate of Elias Hasket Derby taken the previous year gives the total length of the wharf as only 760 feet and the width as 52 feet.

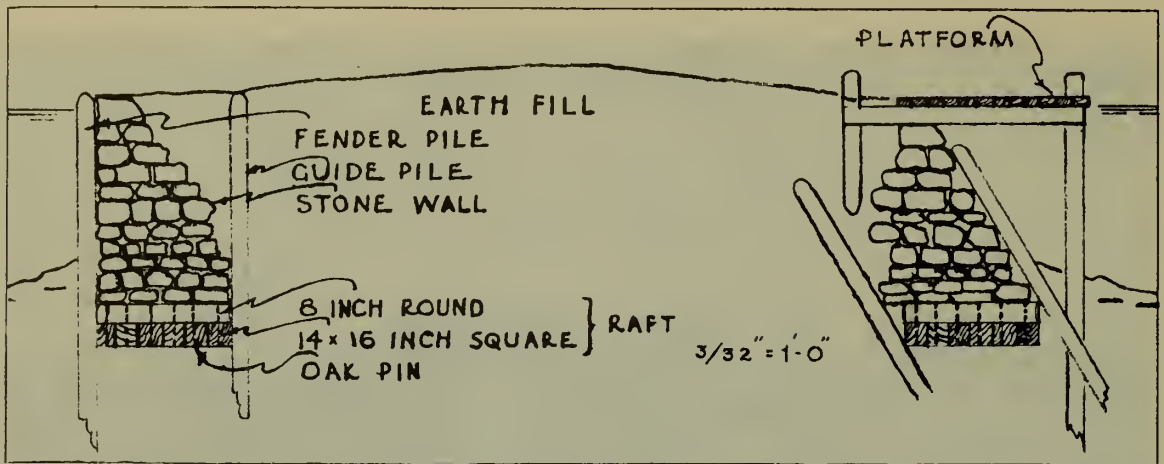
After the death of Elias Hasket Derby in 1799, the wharf came into the possession of his seven children. A plan of the lots on Derby Wharf drawn in 1805 shows the line of a pier running 1,124 feet from the south end of the wharf to the channel of the South River. Between 1806 and 1809 the proprietors of the wharf replaced this pier with a solid wharf at a cost of \$45,000, thus making the wharf almost three times as long as it had been before. The reason for extending it, as explained in a petition from the proprietors to the General Court, was "want of sufficient depth of water", and the expectation that the extension "would be highly beneficial to the trade of Salem and probably would lead to other important improvements."<sup>8</sup>

It is in the extension made between 1806 and 1809 that original walls, if any, survive in the wharf today. For a distance of 200 feet

(7) Diary, I, 128; II, 469; Derby Family Papers, IX, 51.

(8) Massachusetts Archives, Resolves - 1805, Ch. 118.





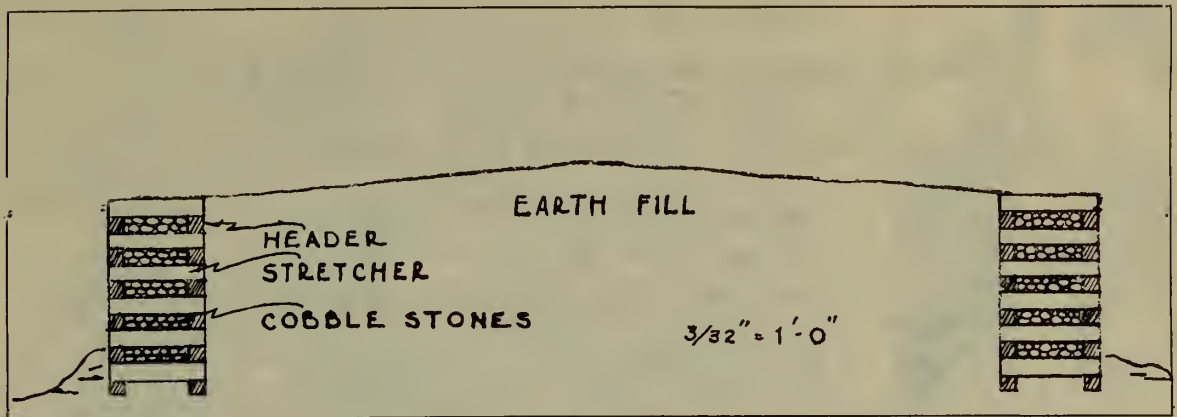
Cross Section of Stone Wall on Sunken Raft and (at right) a Platform Built over a Dislocated Wall.

or more in the base of both the east and west walls, pieces of split boulders and beach rock still are to be found. These boulders were split by fire or by wetting down wooden pegs or wedges inserted into the crevices of the natural rock. The stone obtained in this manner is distinguished readily by masons and keen observers from the irregular blocks of quarried granite that were introduced later to build up the sea-walls and as materials for other repairs.

Study of evidence uncovered during the late reconstruction operations sheds some light on the methods of construction used when facing walls of stone were introduced. For the foundations of the walls large rafts were made of hewn timbers, 14 to 16 inches square and 30 to 50 feet long, fastened together with cross pieces of oak pins. The rafts were then decked over with eight-inch round timbers laid transversely and floated into position at high tide. Guide piles driven into the mud flats held the rafts in proper alignment and wall construction was started, the rafts settling into the mud as the wall increased in height and weight. The operation necessarily was slow and fortunately so, for by the time the wall had been built up to final grade, settlement of the foundation rafts most likely had ceased or reached a point where the burden of the wall could be borne safely.

It was not always possible, however, to hold in line the foundation rafts and the walls resting upon them. In some cases they floated away from their guide piles and settled out of position. Occurrences of this sort, it is believed, account for much of the irregularity now evident in the line of the Wharf. Sometimes, also, after a section of wall had been completed and the filling of earth placed behind it, the foundation slid outward because of the pressure of the fill against its back. A wall damaged by such movement was unsatisfactory as a berthing wall for ships, it being impossible to lay a vessel close enough to the top of the wall to load or discharge a cargo conveniently. To correct this condition, piles were driven just outside the dislocated foundation and a timber platform erected, one side resting on the wharf wall and the other carried by the piles. Two sections on the west wall, each more than 100 feet in length, were affected by movement of their foundations in the above manner and, as indicated in a painting of the wharf done by





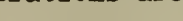
Cross Section of a Cobb Wharf.

Porter Brown in 1879 (see page 11), they were planked over in the way described. The type of structure thus evolved was not in any sense the product of planned construction, but of Yankee ingenuity faced with a bad situation.<sup>9</sup>

Timber cribs, formed by laying up timbers in alternate rows of headers and stretchers, have been mentioned as typical of the "cobb" wharves of Dr. Bentley's time. They were used in Derby Wharf and during reconstruction operations a year ago their remains were found frequently as buried obstructions back of the sea-walls. Evidence was found to indicate the stone used to sink these cribs was sometimes secured to the bottom of headers by nails or wire, but probably it more often was simply loaded on top of the headers as fill back of the stretchers. After the face of the wharf was laid up in quarried stone, much of the old timber cribbing disappeared from view, but new cribbing was used in many locations as capping for new sea-walls. This "cap cribbing" was less durable but lighter than stone and was, therefore, preferable as capping where walls rested on unsteady foundations or were not strong enough to carry a heavier capping. Unlike the earlier cribs, the later cap cribs were not always sunk with rocks but were nailed down with spikes and partly covered with the backfill of earth.

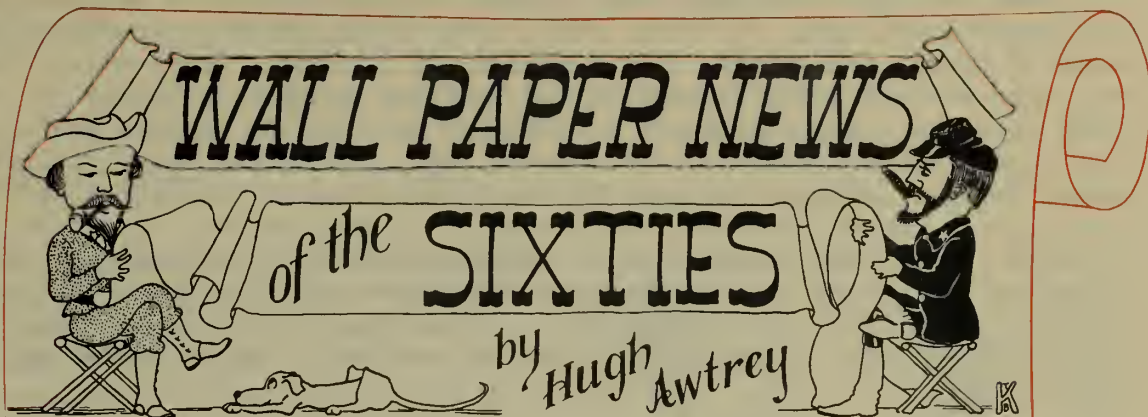
Central Wharf, built originally by the merchant, Simon Forrester, in 1791, offers none of the complex problems of construction and later changes of Derby Wharf. Disintegrated timber cribs lie buried behind the present wharf's timber bulkheads and beneath the heaving of earth. It was without doubt one of the "other wharves of Cobb" in Salem to which Bentley made reference in 1819. Like Derby Wharf, it did not escape changes and improvements, but instead of receiving sea-walls of granite, it was given a facing of planks laid up against piling and held in position by tie rods running from side to side.

(9) For conclusions reached in the above and preceding paragraph the writer is especially indebted to Completion Report, Derby Wharf, F. P. No. 706, prepared December, 1938, by Associate Engineer Oscar S. Bray.

[illegible]

At the right above is seen the single-paged Vicksburg Daily Citizen, issued on wall paper July 2, 1863, by a Confederate editor, and reissued July 4 by Federal soldiers who inserted a note at the bottom of the right hand column. At the left is a sample of the wall paper design on which the journal was printed. Both illustrations are of originals in the Library of Congress.





**H**ISTORICAL units of the National Park System include fields of battle, birthplaces of famous men, memorials of superlative contributions to human progress, and physical mementoes of many another episode that illuminates the career of a nation. Whether they recite stories of war or of peace, of a single individual's impress upon the centuries' record, or of the collective achievement of America as an astonishing crucible of the world's races, they usually embody a central historical theme. Such fundamental narratives are familiar enough, for they are phasic chapters of national history and form the principal outline of the expanding chronicle of man's endeavors west of the Atlantic Ocean.

Increasingly diverting today, therefore, are the growing footnotes which project revealing spotlights on the skeletal story. Humble second-thoughts, they clothe the stark silhouettes of the bony frame and provide the meatier upholstery of romance for the gaunt ribwork of common fact. Paradoxically, the lower-page fine print day by day is making more entertainingly readable the capital letters of the text. An ancient rifle may speak more eloquently than wordy tomes of George Washington at Fort Necessity; a primitive kitchen sometimes may excel the historian in recounting the struggles of frontier life, or an old wharf may evoke, far better than a multi-degreed researcher, the glories of Yankee ships that defied Britannia's seas. All these are but modest annotations of a greater work, but they afford refreshing pauses which encourage the reader to keep his book open.



Such a footnote to America's history is to be found in the museum of Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi, where a rectangular scrap of paper symbolizes, with a sparkle of ironical humor, one of the many grim battles which journalism has survived on this continent in its climb from the lowly station of a tolerated evil to the happier position of a public necessity. It is a copy of The (Vicksburg) Daily Citizen, issued July 4, 1863, at the end of the 47-day siege of the famous river port during the War Between the States. It relates, by suggestion, a far more significant story than is told literally in its meager columns. It was printed first by a beleaguered Confederate editor and then, with pointed emendations, by Union victors. The back of the single sheet is not printed at all in the usual sense --- because it is befigured wall-paper.

The occurrence is a trifling but instructive episode of the vicissitudinous development of paper, that all-powerful instrument for the diffusion of knowledge, which had its traditional origins nearly 20 centuries ago in the inventions of Ts'ai Lun, an ingenious Chinese who lived in what now is war-torn Hunan Province<sup>1</sup>. Paper has been made from an almost incredible variety of substances ranging alphabetically from asbestos, cabbage and dandelion roots, through potatoes, thistles and wasps' nests. In such contempt was it held in the twelfth century, as opposed to parchment (from sheep and goats) and vellum (from calves), that documents written upon it were held to be without legal authority<sup>2</sup>.

Wood pulp paper, the staff of life of the voracious press of today, did not reach the experimental stage until 1800, and the mass production sulphite process was not devised until 1874<sup>3</sup>. There have been many periods of paper scarcity and, consequently, of price fluctuations which often took their roots in frank and homey soil. The growing ascendancy of linen over woolen underwear in France during the fifteenth century provided cheaper rags for paper-makers and nurtured the timid growth of printing<sup>4</sup>. The resulting premium placed on the casual remnants of one's more personal garments must have been transplanted in America by early colonists, for John Holme, who wrote in 1696 A True Relation of the Flourishing State of Pennsylvania (said to be the first metrical composition of that Quaker region), admonished his fellow citizens:

Kind friend, when thy old shift is rent  
Let it to th' paper mill be sent<sup>5</sup>.

More earnest still was the poetic entreaty of an upstate New York

(1) André Blum, On the Origin of Paper (Harry Miller Lydenberg, trans., R. R. Bowker Company, New York, 1934), 17.

(2) *Ibid.*, 23.

(3) H. A. Maddox, Paper, Its History, Sources and Manufacture (Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, London, n. d.), 64.

(4) Blum, *op. cit.*, 35.

(5) Dard Hunter, Papermaking through Eighteen Centuries (William Edwin Rudge, New York, 1930), 36. This author explains (p. 232) how a fifteenth century mosquito is preserved in a sheet of his collection of paper.

paper-maker of the eighteenth century, who published a notice to fair householders of his day:

Sweet ladies pray be not offended,  
Nor mind the jest of sneering wags;  
No harm, believe us, is intended,  
When humbly, we request your rags<sup>6</sup>.

Scarcity of paper was not uncommon in later Colonial days and particularly during the Revolutionary War when importations ceased and several of the 40-odd American mills halted production<sup>7</sup>. Even near the end of the century, so hard beset with printing woes was John Scull, founder of The Pittsburgh Gazette (1786), that he had to procure from the fort commandant the material upon which to publish his journal: "... twenty-seven quires of cartridge paper<sup>8</sup>," a notable instance which



conceivably may be the substantiating exception to the rule that the pen is more potent than the side-arm. The first mill "beyond" the Alleghenies was not established until 1793, and the West suffered shortages throughout the period of its early expansion.

Confronted by this somewhat forbidding historical background in which the role of paper was often conspicuous by its dearth, the South was warned in 1860 by The New Orleans Bulletin that it should temper its opinions on secession until it became independent of Northern ink, type, presses and paper<sup>9</sup>. In 1852 the United States was importing rags from 32 countries, and its consumption of paper already had equalled that of England and France combined<sup>10</sup>. Yet, by 1860, with 555 paper-making plants in the country, only 24 were operating in the South.

The admonition of The Bulletin probably was soon forgotten, but the fulfillment of its implied prophecy was not long delayed. The outbreak of war, with the resulting cessation of paper shipments from the North, was reflected quickly in a shortage of printing stock. As early as September 1, 1861, The Charleston Courier, a leading mouthpiece of the Confederacy, was compelled to reduce the size of its pages. Progressive shrinkages followed periodically throughout the lengthening years of the struggle until, by February, 1865, that journal appeared as a four-columned sheet of 10 by 15 inches.

(6) Mary E. Wheelock, Paper, Its History and Development (American Library Association, Chicago, 1928), 7.

(7) James Melvin Lee, History of American Journalism (Houghton Mifflin and Company, Boston and New York, 1917), 69, 97.

(8) George Henry Payne, History of Journalism in the United States (D. Appleton and Company, New York, 1920), 203.

(9) Lee, op. cit., 305.

(10) Wheelock, op. cit., 8.



Some newspapers collected their own rags, some raised subscription prices as high as \$120 a year, some rejected orders for any period exceeding 60 days, and some led a peripatetic existence, publishing here today and there tomorrow (even in railroad freight cars), as they fled approaching invaders and sought new sources of printing supplies. Many suspended publication altogether. Among those which managed to survive the famine of paper and other misfortunes of war, several were forced to resort to heroic measures. Long established organs appeared on wrapping paper, tissue paper, writing paper, ledger paper and, in final extremities, on odds and ends of wall paper of many hues and patterns. Dainty bedroom designs featuring the interwoven tendrils of vague and unbotanical plants often vied, in the same edition of a journal containing the affrighting news of battle, with the more formal geometric whimsies of the living room and library.

At least thirteen newspapers, all of them published in Louisiana and Mississippi, are known definitely to have been printed on wall paper. Of these, 31 different issues have been found in the larger repositories of the country by Clarence S. Brigham, librarian of the American Antiquarian Society, who believes that many others may have appeared, only to be discarded as of trifling value because readers were interested in the stirring news of victory or defeat rather than in the stop-gap fashion by which it was disseminated<sup>11</sup>. Institutionally catalogued specimens include Louisiana organs edited in both English and French, such as Le Courrier des Opelousas; the Unconditional S. Grant, an army sheet published in 1863 by Federal troops stationed at New Iberia, and The (Alexandria) Southern Sentinel. The harassed sponsor of the latter journal, in his issue of March 21, 1863, lamented editorially:

Even the apology for paper which we are forced to use to print one page on, and which we will change for the better as soon as possible, costs four or five times as much as a full sheet of four pages would have done two years since. . .

Most interesting of all the wall paper press, however, is Vicksburg's Daily Citizen, edited by J. M. Swords in an easy-going town seated comfortably on the river bluffs where, for 47 days, Confederate forces made a last stand for control of the lower Mississippi. In the pre-war days of 1860 The Citizen was a four-page newspaper of full dimensions. Even by June 13, 1863, after 26 days of a siege whose encircling fetters General Grant drew ever tighter, Editor Swords' daily account of the progress of war appeared on genuine newsprint. But the thin fingers of scarcity already had begun to pinch. The Citizen that day was a single sheet, two columns wide. Yet, however modest the format of the journal, it must have enjoyed a demand sufficiently brisk to inspire street-corner profiteering. That became evident five days later when the hard-pressed Swords explained to his readers:

The price of our paper at the office is twenty-five cents. Newsboys who charge fifty cents on the streets are not authorized by us

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(11) "Wall-paper Newspapers of the Civil War," Bibliographical Essays, A Tribute to Wilberforce Eames (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1924), 203-209.



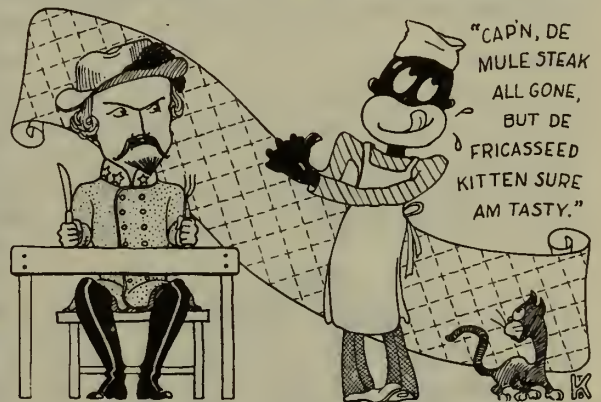
to sell at that price; and those who object to the extortion should call at the office and get their papers at first cost. We cannot control the trade nor the prices of newsboys and can only sell our papers to them at the same prices that we get from those who call at the office.

He must have read the handwriting on the wall paper, because that issue, June 18, 1863, is one of the six numbers of The Citizen now known to exist which were published on that medium. Like those of June 16, 20, 27 and 30, it was a single sheet of four columns printed on the blank side. The series reached a noteworthy climax a few days later. On July 2, just before the capitulation of the imprisoned city, The Citizen appeared again on wall paper. Its columns, shown on page 14, relate with hopeful nonchalance the news of local casualties and food profiteering, praises mule steak as "sweet, savory and tender," and reports cheerfully:

On Dit. - That the great Ulysses --- the Yankee Generalissimo, surnamed Grant --- has expressed his intention of dining in Vicksburg on Saturday next, and celebrating the 4th of July by a grand dinner and so forth. When asked if he would invite Gen. Jo. Johnston to join he said, "No! for fear there will be a row at the table." Ulysses must get into the city before he dines in it. The way to cook a rabbit is "first catch the rabbit," &.

It was then that the beleaguered Swords, despite his airy taunts, gave up the editorial ghost. On July 3, Pemberton and Grant met on a mound in what is now Vicksburg National Cemetery and agreed on the terms of a truce. Next day Blue soldiers marched into a city whose reserves of food were as depleted as was its paper.

Printers may not be ubiquitous, but certainly they are present in every army. Some of those under Grant soon found the offices of The Citizen, with its type still standing in the lone "form" of the issue of July 2. Two observations are supported readily by the evidence: (a) the contents of the paper were read carefully, and, (b) there were some easy-humored typographical warriors among the conquerors of Vicksburg. By recourse to the abandoned type cases the newcomers composed a 14-line rebuttal. Its unanswerable repartee appended a good-natured postscript to one of the most arresting journalistic episodes of the American Civil War:



#### NOTE

July 4th, 1863.

Two days bring about great changes. The banner of the Union floats over Vicksburg. Gen. Grant has "caught the rabbit;" he has dined in Vicksburg, and he did bring his dinner with him. The "Cit-

izen" lives to see it. For the last time it appears on "Wall-paper." No more will it eulogize the luxury of mule-meat and fricassed kitten --- urge Southern warriors to such diet never-more. This is the last wall-paper edition, and is, excepting this note, from the types as we found them. It will be valuable hereafter as a curiosity.

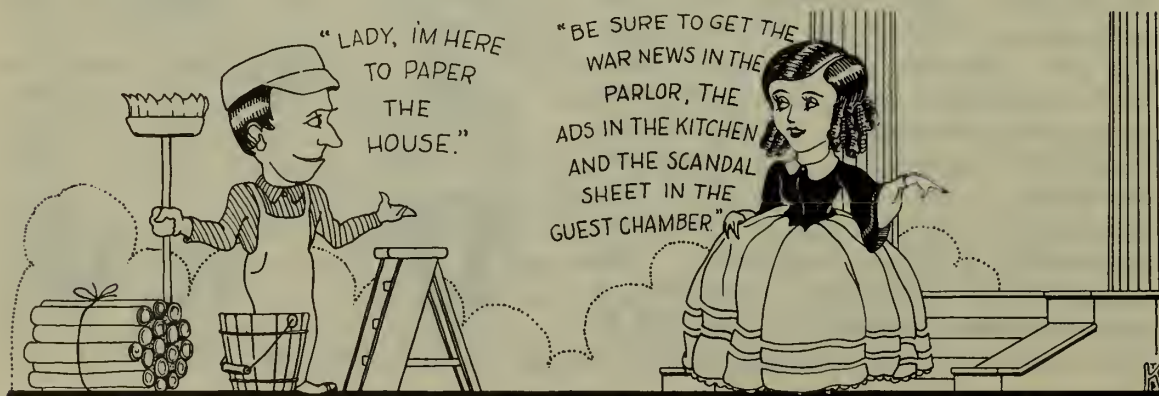
Using precious scraps of Swords' paper remnants, the visitors printed an undetermined number of copies of a "July 2-4" edition, one of the most novel "replates" ever run through a press. Three designs of paper are found among the known originals, but more than 30 reprints have appeared since 1863. Henry S. Parsons, Chief of the Periodical Division of the Library of Congress, has made a searching study of them<sup>12</sup> in order to establish nine unerring typographical tests for distinguishing the genuine from the various souvenir copies. Exuberant collectors, he explains<sup>13</sup>, still send "discoveries" to him for examination, only to learn that they are somewhat unfaithful imitations. Supplementing typographical clues are those provided by the design of the paper itself. That of the original in the Library of Congress (see page 14), is described with studied precision by Mr. Parsons:

A large brocade pattern in faded red-purple over a scroll design in faded rose on a cream background.

Altogether, the historical record appears to uphold the forecast made July 4, 1863, by the waggish Federals who predicted that The Citizen "will be valuable hereafter as a curiosity." It is even more valuable, however, as a revealing footnote to an interesting page of America's national record, for it substantiates the validity of the warning sounded in 1860 by The New Orleans Bulletin that ink and paper, as well as guns and swords, are indispensable items in the matériel of war.

(12) "Wall-Paper Editions of the Vicksburg 'Daily Citizen,'" Antiques, Vol. XXV, No. 3, March 1934, 97-98.

(13) Personal interview, November 9, 1939.





# ARTS AND CRAFTS

## In Non - Urban Parks

By Jesse A. Reynolds,  
State Supervisor of Recreation, Virginia,  
and  
Weston O. McDaniel,  
District Recreation Supervisor,  
Work Projects Administration

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Although arts and crafts as a distinct group of activities are an innovation on non-urban parks, they have formed a part of the nature study program almost from its inception. The nature student makes specimen cases, mounting boards, signs and markers, animal cages, bird houses, terraria, aquaria, and other such needed articles and facilities; he preserves and mounts specimens, and he sketches, paints and photographs natural objects and scenes. To a limited extent, then, he becomes both artist and craftsman. This has led to a gradual expansion of the nature study program into other fields of creative endeavor.



Many of the more popular present-day arts and crafts, such as pottery, wood carving, basketry, and sketching and painting landscapes and wildlife, all are associated closely with the environment provided by non-urban parks. They originated out of man's efforts to live and express himself more satisfactorily in primitive surroundings. Those who participate in such activities must become students of nature. They must know natural materials and be able to use them creatively, and they must study nature's designs at first hand. The realization of this close relationship of arts and crafts to the natural environment has been a factor in their introduction as features of the park activities program.

Hand Made Pottery,  
Swift Creek, Virginia

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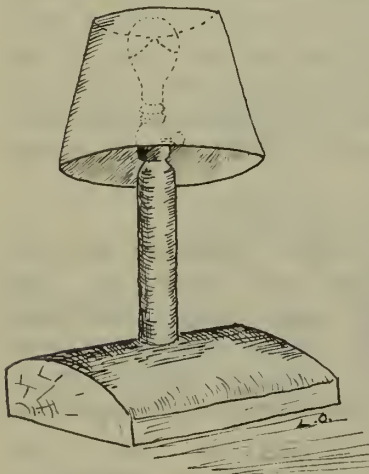
Probably the most important factor, however, has been the rapidly increasing popularity of arts and crafts as leisure time pursuits. The average person likes to use his hands and his mind creatively. He likes to make things. The modern industrial system no longer affords him an opportunity to satisfy this urge through his job. Even many of those engaged directly in productive enterprises are little more than robots. They certainly are not creative workmen. Their occupations have been reduced to such tasks as the use of one finger in stamping a number on an article. To compensate for these restrictions on creative endeavor, people have turned to arts and crafts during their spare time.

Park leaders have taken note of this expanding interest in ancient

skills and have seen its possibilities in making their areas more popular and serviceable. A craft shop was established at Pokagon State Park in Indiana as "a happy solution to the problem of what to do after hiking, riding, fishing, or just loafing." Its establishment received an enthusiastic response from park visitors, particularly those who came to the area to spend a vacation. "Many of the men and women who frequent the craft shop are craftsmen, glad to have found a vacation place where they can ply their art," according to the author of an article in Outdoor Indiana (November 1937), organ of the State Department of Conservation.

Arts and crafts fill a most important place in the activities program at Swift Creek Recreational Demonstration Area which is being developed by the National Park Service near Richmond, Virginia. This program was started as an experiment in the promotion of a wider and more fruitful use of non-urban parks through leadership supplied by the Work Projects Administration. A craft shop and pottery kiln were made available in the early stages of the program and both proved immediately popular with a growing number of visitors. Assistance to participants in the gathering of native materials for craft uses and in the working out of designs, and instruction in workmanship have been regular services provided by the area program staff. [The illustrations which accompany this article show objects made and sketched by program participants.]

In the beginning, efforts were confined to the better known arts and crafts, such as pottery, wood carving and free hand drawing of natural objects; but as interest and participation increased, the scope of the program was expanded until it now includes, among other things, the making of novel bird houses, ornaments from knots, twigs, and the bark of trees, baskets from honeysuckle vines, broom grass, pine needles, willows and white oak and hickory splits, pottery from clay, mountings for insects, leaves and flowers, rustic furniture and fixtures, stone mountings in rings and bracelets, and the burning, carving and painting of wood.



Rustic Table Lamp

Unusual scenes are painted or sketched in oil, water color, crayon, charcoal and other media selected by the individuals who participate. Designs from nature, such as leaves, flowers, birds, insects and scenes, are used often for decorating pottery, leatherwork, wood carving, woodcraft, and metal and other crafts.

It should be noted that activities of the sort offered at Swift Creek are exceptionally rich in carry-over values. The incentive for making an article is aroused by the participant's experience in the park. The design is worked out and construction begun at the craft shop to be completed at home. Later, as the participant gains in knowledge and skill, nature, wherever found, becomes a source of in-

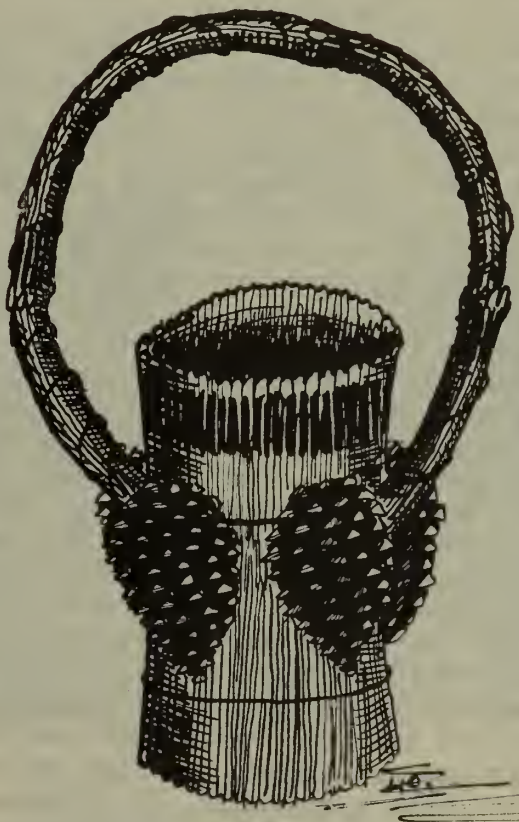


spiration to him. The trees, shrubs, grass and soil of his own yard have a new and stimulating significance; the landscape along the highway reveals an exciting story to him.

From January 1 to August 31 this year a total of 91,151 visitors came to Swift Creek and 6920 of that number participated in the crafts program as follows:

Archery equipment from raw materials	30
Pottery, clay modeling and molding (native clay)	1,469
Weaving and braiding (leather, cord, paper, etc.)	111
Wood carving (using native wood)	782
Rustic woodcraft (using native wood)	2,136
Basketry (pine needles, broom grass, willow, honeysuckle, reed, hickory and oak splits)	246
Creative Art (sketching, water coloring, oils)	588
Splatter printing, leaf printing, etc.	770
Hobbies (collecting, mounting, etc.)	79
Indian bead craft (Indian lore)	26
Leathercraft (stressing designs from nature)	481
Metal craft " " " "	65
Paper craft	63
Amberol craft	17
Finger painting	57
Total	6,920

While any natural type of area offers the incentive and background for an arts and craft program, it is of course not feasible to attempt these activities on all non-urban parks. Continued or repeated participation is necessary for the best results. This means that the area should either be located within frequent reach of the using public, or possess extensive vacation accommodations. Like Nature Study, too, interpretative leadership is needed. The average park visitor in unacquainted with his natural environment. For him to understand its many interesting and exciting manifestations someone must stimulate and guide his perception. If he is offered such a service, his natural curiosity will be aroused and his responses sharpened. Nature will become a common medium for the expression of a growing range of interests rather than just a beautiful and awe-inspiring art gallery for all except a selected few.



Pine Tag Basket



## THE REGIONAL REVIEW

ISSUED MONTHLY  
BY THE  
REGION ONE OFFICE  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Vol. III December 1939 No. 6

### WITH BEST WISHES

The Christmas-New Year season scarcely requires a letter of recommendation. Almost everyone seems to approve it and apparently, with many centuries of tradition to uphold it, the annual observance of this period, wherein friendly sentiments and good will prevail, is here to stay.

I am happy to acknowledge, officially and personally, the inevitable recurrence of Yuletide, because it is a moment when the more urgent demands of regional business rightfully may give way before those pleasant tasks which are associated so closely with a happy season.

Among other satisfying things which this New Year's Eve will bring to us is the climax of a year which, I sincerely believe, has been abundantly fruitful in physical accomplishment and in cooperative progress throughout our Region One. As was reasonable to expect, not all our endeavors were crowned with complete success, but the small percentage of partial failures gives to 1939 a record which is not only gratifying in retrospect, but also prophetically encouraging as a foreview of 1940.

The growing esprit de corps evidenced by all employees, whether Regular, CCC or ERA, technician, clerk or laborer, in carrying forward the varied duties required for the advancement of a work program extending into the large number of states and park areas embraced by our regional lines, has made possible the surmounting of numerous difficulties which must arise necessarily out of the complexity of

responsibilities that devolve upon the Service.

I am grateful for the opportunity afforded by a page in this closing issue of the third volume of The Regional Review to express my appreciation of the conscientious labors and the whole-hearted loyalty of the regional staff, both field and office, throughout the year; and I wish also to make plain that, in view of the demonstration of 1939, I shall feel no uneasiness respecting the success of our program in 1940. I repeat now what I have sought to say as often and to as many employees as circumstances permitted: that I am always ready personally as well as officially, to offer my own services in any case where they may be helpful in the solution of office or field problems.

And, finally, I cannot close this brief message without giving expression to a sincere wish which, however ancient it may be, still seems somehow never to become too trite for repetition. That wish is that every worker of the region may find in the Christmas of 1939 the merriest of all possible merry seasons, and in each of the 366 days of 1940 a maximum of happiness, health and prosperity.

*W. H. C. C. C.*

Regional Director.





# KINGS MOUNTAIN,

## A Hunting Rifle Victory

By Rogers W. Young,  
Assistant Research Technician,  
Washington.

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Kings Mountain, the fierce attack of American frontiersmen on October 7, 1780, against Cornwallis' scouting force under Ferguson, was an unexpected onslaught carried out in the foothills of South Carolina. This sudden uprising of the stalwart Allegheny mountaineers, for the protection of their homes and people from the threat of Tory invasion under British leadership, was relatively isolated in conception and execution from the main course of the Revolutionary War in the South.

Clearly un contemplated in the grand British design to subjugate the South in a final effort to end the Revolution, this accidental encounter in the Southern Piedmont delayed incidentally, but did not alter materially, the movement of Britain's Southern Campaign. Kings Mountain is notable chiefly perhaps as supplying the first definite forewarning of the impending British military disasters of 1781. It was decisive to the extent that it contributed the earliest distinct element of defeat to the final major British campaign of the Revolution.

The extraordinary action occurred during one of the bleakest periods of the Revolution. A major change in British military strategy had again shifted the scene of action to the South in 1778. Faced by a discouraging campaign in the



Memorial Erected by Federal Government in 1909 at Kings Mountain National Military Park

North, and assuming that the reputed Loyalist sympathies of the South would be more conducive of a victory there, the British war ministry had dictated the immediate subjugation of the South. With the conquered Southern provinces as a base of operations, the war office planned to crush Washington's armies in the North and East between offensives from North and South, and thus bring the defeat of the more stubborn Revolutionary Northern colonies.

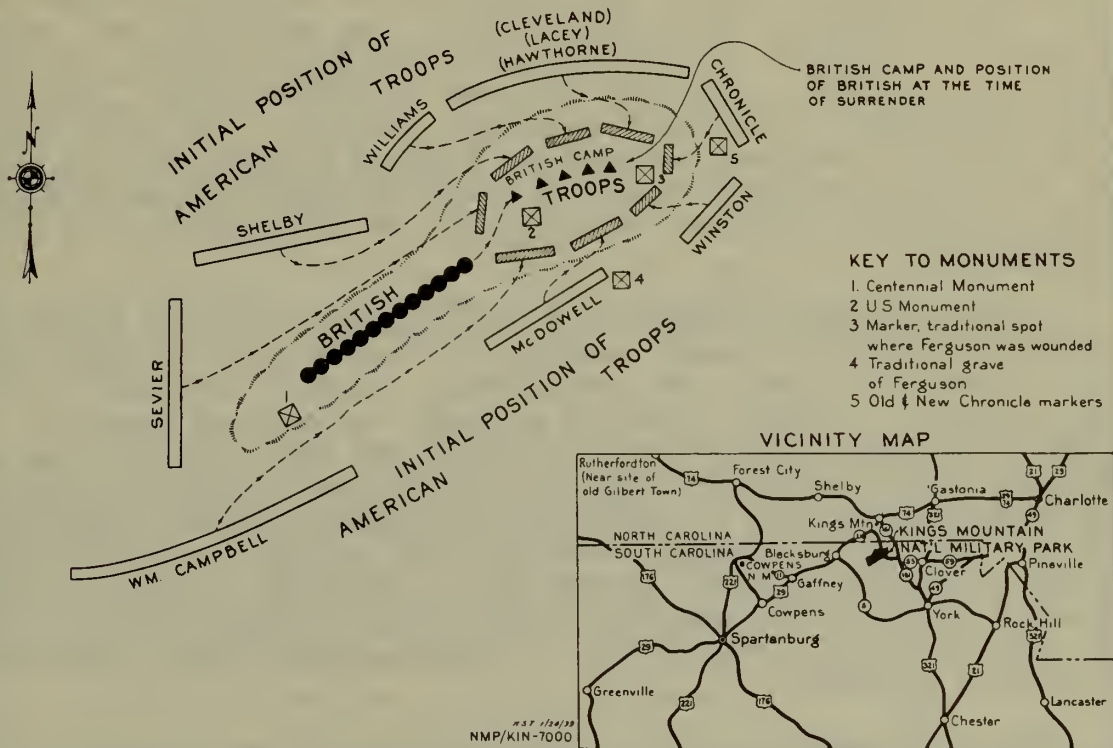
Unimpeded by effective resistance, this Southern Campaign swept unchecked through Georgia and part of South Carolina during 1778-1779. The surrender of Lincoln's American army at Charleston, in May, 1780, greatly strengthened the British hold on South Carolina. Encouraged by the British successes, the Royalist and Tory elements of the Georgia and South Carolina lowlands rose in increasingly large numbers to the support of the Royal cause. Soon most of South Carolina, except a few districts in the Piedmont, were overrun by British and Royalist forces directed by Cornwallis, and he was maturing plans for the invasion of North Carolina. His designs were upset temporarily by the advance of a new American army under Gates. Meeting Cornwallis near Camden, August 16, 1780, Gates suffered a disastrous defeat, again leaving South Carolina and the route northward open to the British. By September, Cornwallis again had undertaken the invasion of North Carolina, gaining a foothold at Charlotte, a center of Whig power, after a skirmish there late that month.

The sole Southern region in the path of Cornwallis' northward march which had remained undisturbed by the course of the war lay in the foot-hills and ranges of the Alleghenies stretching through northwestern South Carolina, western North Carolina, and into the present eastern Tennessee. Only here, among the frontier settlements of the independent mountain yeoman, could the patriotic Whigs find refuge, late in the summer of 1780, from their despised enemies, the propertied Royalist and Tory forces aroused by Cornwallis. Occupied with establishing a new frontier and protecting their rude homes from the nearer threat of the border Indians, the mountain men had been little concerned with the war on the seaboard. The influx of partisan Whig forces seeking sanctuary first brought the effects of war vividly before them. But from the free and comparatively peaceful existence, the backwoodsmen were soon to be aroused to the protection of their homes and possessions by a threat of direct aggression.

That threat came from Major Patrick Ferguson, of Cornwallis' command, who, after Camden, had been ordered to operate in the South Carolina Piedmont to suppress the Whig opposition remaining there and to arouse the back country Tories, organizing their strength in support of the British cause. Encountering little organized Whig resistance, and having rapidly perfected the Tory strength in the Piedmont, Ferguson in September, 1780, undertook a foray against a Whig outpost in North Carolina, near the present town of Morganton. Fearful of such an invasion, the border leaders, Isaac Shelby, of Sullivan County, and John Sevier, of Washington County, North Carolina, (both now in Tennessee), had hurried to the Watauga settlements and called for volunteers to defeat Ferguson. They also forwarded urgent appeals for aid to Wilkes, Surry, Burke and Rutherford Counties in North Carolina, and to Washington County in Virginia.



## KINGS MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MILITARY PARK SOUTH CAROLINA



From Morganton, early in September, Ferguson dispatched his famed invidious threat over the mountains to the backwoodsmen, warning them "that if they did not desist from their opposition to the British arms and take protection under his standard, he would march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders, and lay their country waste with fire and sword." Actually this was but an empty gesture from Ferguson who was then preparing one final foray across the border in South Carolina before making a junction with Cornwallis at Charlotte. Yet, to the freedom-loving frontier leaders the threat became a challenge which strengthened their determination to destroy the invader. Thus spurred, they assembled quickly, each in hunting garb, with knapsack, blanket and long hunting rifle, most of them mounted, but some afoot. They were united by a strong resolve to destroy Ferguson and his Tory force, even though they had many a brother, cousin, or even a father among the back country men in his command. In fact, the partisan and internecine warfare which raged during the Revolution through the southern highlands and along the Piedmont with members of the same family arrayed against each other as Whig and Tory, reached a climax in the Kings Mountain expedition and engagement.

Assembling near the present Elizabethton, Tennessee, late in Sep-

tember, the mountaineers circled southeastward into upper South Carolina, in swift pursuit of Ferguson. Joining the forces of Shelby and Sevier were the Virginians under Campbell, and as the expedition marched southward it was augmented by the border fighters under McDowell and Cleveland. Though characterized by daring impulse, the purpose of this strategic frontier uprising had been conceived coolly by these leaders, and its execution, in pursuit and assault, was to be brilliantly carried out. At the Cowpens in upper South Carolina, the expedition was joined October 6, by further volunteers under local Whig leaders, including Chronicle, Williams, Lacey and Hawthorne. Recruits brought definite word of Ferguson's whereabouts near Kings Mountain. And there, in a final council of war, were selected 910 stalwart fighting men, all mounted, who immediately moved through the night upon the position of Ferguson's Provincial Corps and Tory militia, now encamped atop the Kings Mountain spur.

Despite the added discomfort to their already fatigued bodies and mounts, the expedition pushed determinedly through the cold night rain, and en route the leaders, now commanded by Campbell, devised a final plan of attack. Having agreed to surround the spur and gradually to close in upon its defenders from all sides, the Whig attackers engaged the 1104 British Provincials, Tories and Loyalists at about 3 o'clock on the afternoon of October 7, 1780. In the sanguinary one-hour engagement that ensued along the heavily wooded and rocky slopes, the backwoodsmen, veterans of countless border clashes even if untrained in formal warfare, gained a complete victory, killing or capturing the entire British force. The most illustrious casualty was, of course, Major Patrick Ferguson, the British commander.

The extraordinary action is memorable primarily as an example of the personal valor and resourcefulness of the American frontier fighter, particularly the Scotch-Irish, during the Revolution. It demonstrated the proficiency with which he took advantage of natural cover and capitalized upon the ineffectiveness of the British downhill angle of fire in successfully assaulting Ferguson's position. The resulting casualties clearly exhibited the unerring accuracy of the long rifle used in skilled hands, even when confronted with the menace of Ferguson's bayonet charges. The engagement also afforded one of the most interesting demonstrations during the Revolution of the use of the novel breech-loading Ferguson rifle. The Kings Mountain expedition and engagement illustrated the characteristic vigor of the untrained American frontiersman in rising to the threat of border invasion. It recorded his military effectiveness in overcoming such a danger and his initiative in disbanding quietly upon its passing, especially when guided by strategy and tactics momentarily devised by partisan leaders of the caliber of Shelby, Sevier, Campbell, Cleveland and Lacey.

To the long standing local strife between Whig and Tory, the results of Kings Mountain were direct and considerable. It was an unexpected blow which completely unnerved and undermined the Loyalist organization in the Carolinas, and placed the down trodden Whig cause of the Piedmont in the ascendancy. Kings Mountain was a climax to the social,



economic and military clashes between democratic Whig and propertied Tory elements. In a sense it epitomized this bitter struggle and its abrupt ending on what then was the southwestern frontier. Heartening to the long repressed Whigs, the engagement placed them in the control of the Piedmont, and encouraged them to renewed resistance.

The disintegration of Loyalist power in the Carolinas after Kings Mountain temporarily proved a real obstacle to Cornwallis' hitherto unchecked northward movement. The demoralization of the Loyalist forces, which were the main reliance for local support in the prosecution of his campaign, left Cornwallis precariously situated in hostile North Carolina territory with a renewed Whig threat to the rear in South Carolina. Momentarily discouraged, he halted his North Carolina offensive and retired from his foothold at Charlotte to a defensive position at Winnsboro, in upper South Carolina. Here he remained inactive, with his campaign at a standstill, until the approach of reenforcements at his rear, under Leslie, enabled him to resume his invasion of North Carolina early in January, 1781.

This time Cornwallis' march was more cautious in its initial stages. For the enforced delay of the major British advance occasioned by Kings Mountain and lengthened by indecision, had enabled Greene, the new American commander in the South, to reorganize his shattered and dispirited army and launch a renewed and two-fold offensive upon the main British movement. It was this offensive in 1781, which first successfully struck the British at Cowpens, then rapidly withdrew through the Piedmont, further dissipated Cornwallis' energies at Guilford Courthouse, and prepared the way for the American victory at Yorktown.

By providing an unexpected American victory on the South Carolina border, Kings Mountain prevented the immediate subjugation of the Carolinas and temporarily deranged the British campaign to establish a completely conquered southern base of operation. By producing a feeling of patriotic success at the inception of the final major British campaign, Kings Mountain contributed to the renewing of American resistance which resulted in the British disasters of 1781.



### ANCIENT TORTOISE RESTORED

#### More Excavations Planned in Florida State Park

By H. S. Ladd,  
Regional Geologist,  
Richmond



Front View of Shell. Light Area on Right is Original Material. Darker Portion on Left, Being Scraped By Mr. Simpson, is Plaster.

Early in 1933, while excavating a ditch in Highlands Hammock State Park, Florida, workmen uncovered a deposit of vertebrate fossils lying only three to four feet below the surface of the ground. The first fossils found were pieces of large tusks which, unfortunately, were not given immediate treatment and disintegrated quickly upon exposure to the air. Directly beneath the tusks

was found a nearly complete shell together with some of the bones of a giant land tortoise. Under supervision

of an anthropologist from Rollins College, the unique specimen was excavated carefully, still partly embedded in a matrix of marl. Exposed parts of the shell and bones received a protective coating of shellac.

Remaining portions of the marl jacket were removed recently and the missing parts of the shell restored in plaster. The work (see photograph above) was done by Clarence Simpson, of the Florida Geological Survey. The tortoise is perhaps the second most complete large fossil yet found in Florida, according to Herman Gunter, State Geologist, and that fact is considered ample justification for an attempt to find additional material. Arrangements accordingly have been made for geological reconnaissance and investigation by Civilian Conservation Corps forces with Mr. Simpson supervising all field work. Excavations will be started close to the spot where the tortoise was discovered --- a point adjacent to Tiger Branch Drive, about one-half mile west of the park entrance. It is hoped that enough material will be obtained eventually to warrant construction of a small park museum. Meanwhile, the giant tortoise will be placed on exhibition in a glass case in the park and the State Geological Survey plans to make a plaster cast of the specimen for its collection.

The Highlands Hammock tortoise is one of the giants of its race. Its dome-like shell is nearly three feet high, individual plates in the shell measuring five inches in diameter. More than half of the original shell was found intact, but several plates had become separated from the



shell either before or during excavation. In the restoration, these loose plates have been carefully put back in their proper places. Missing parts of the shell were built out with ordinary screen to which plaster was applied to form the desired shape.

In life, this giant tortoise probably weighed more than 500 pounds. Its exact age has not been determined because, so far as known, no absolutely identical specimen has been found elsewhere. If the tusks found with the tortoise were Mammoth tusks, it is probable that the tortoise lived during the Ice Age that closed about 25,000 years ago. If, however, the tusks were those of a Mastodon, they may indicate a much greater age (Miocene). It is hoped that additional fossils will be found so that the age of the tortoise can be determined more accurately.

A giant fossil tortoise similar to the one found in Florida has been unearthed in Cuba, but reptiles of this type have long been extinct in both places. Living relatives are found only on the Galapagos (Tortoise) Islands off the coast of South America and in certain islands of the Indian Ocean. In all places the tortoises were hunted relentlessly for food in the early days and more recently for scientific purposes.

In 1924, Dr. William Beebe, of the New York Zoological Society, published a beautifully illustrated popular account of the natural history of the Galapagos Islands<sup>1</sup>, in which the living giant tortoises are the subject of a lengthy and most interesting chapter. Beebe's expedition found only one live tortoise, but his book contains numerous quotations from the works of earlier visitors, including Charles Darwin.

According to early accounts, tortoise meat is a delicious food and the thick layers of tortoise fat can be rendered to a most satisfactory substitute for butter. During the nineteenth century, many whaling vessels stopped at the Galapagos, each loading hundreds of tortoises. They were ideal food for sailing ships because they could be stored alive in the hold without food or water for months at a time. One ship is said to have loaded 14 tons of tortoises in four days. The largest taken in the Galapagos exceeded 300 pounds. They walked slowly and heavily, with the body nearly a foot off the ground. Some specimens were capable of carrying two men. These large tortoises were probably several hundred years old. Only a few survive and they will leave no descendant for now-a-days all young tortoises are promptly eaten by wild dogs. Living giant tortoises have become as rare as the fossils in the rocks.

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(1) Galapagos, World's End, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London.



## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### HAZLETT REPORT SUMS 'NEW DISCOVERY' IN MAMMOTH CAVE

Descriptions of the chief features of the vast new subterranean section of Mammoth Cave National Park (discovered October 10, 1938), and comments concerning the means for making it accessible and for preserving its geological beauty, are contained in Assistant Inspector Donald C. Hazlett's outstanding Preliminary Geologic Report on the "New Discovery" in Mammoth Cave (38 typed pages, photographs and map. Nov. 10, 1939).

After tracing carefully the route which he followed in gaining access to the newly found area, Mr. Hazlett describes in detail the principal phenomena encountered there. "Perhaps the most unusual feature," he writes, "is the large travertine dam, already erroneously called the 'Onyx Wall'. . . This dam extends completely across the avenue, measuring 42 feet, 3 inches long and a little more than 4 feet high. . . Deposition of calcium carbonate at the dam site probably began because of an irregularity in the floor of the avenue which caused a rippling of the water which, in turn, caused a liberation of carbon dioxide. With this loss of carbon dioxide from the water, calcium carbonate was precipitated. In this manner the deposit of travertine was gradually built up and formed the dam." He cites the possible former presence of air currents, favoring temperature changes, as potential factors in inducing deposition.

"The abundance of the various forms of gypsum," the report continues, "is the outstanding mineral feature in the newly-discovered section. . . These deposits are certainly far superior to any previously found in this or any other cave in this area, and I believe they will prove to be the best display in the entire United States."

Mr. Hazlett points out also that, although his survey of the new area was subject to time limitations, he observed several interesting forms of animal life. Blind fish, blind crawfish, tiny Synpleonia clantonii, the blind cave beetle (Neaphaenops tellkampfi), bats, and the so-called "cave cricket," which is in reality a type of cave grasshopper or katydid, all were recorded. "The presence of bats," says the writer, leads me to believe that there is an opening, near at hand, to the surface."

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### NEW VOLUME MAKES STUDY OF NATURAL LANDSCAPES

An Introduction to the Study of Landscapes is the subtitle given to Armin K. Lobeck's profusely illustrated volume, Geomorphology (McGraw-Hill, New York, 1939). The book will prove invaluable to students and teachers of geography and geology, and it likewise will appeal to any serious reader who has a real interest in natural scenery. Although containing more than 700 pages, the book devotes only one-third of them to printed text, the remainder being filled with photographs, sketches and diagrams. At the head of each chapter there is a concentration of



photographs which is followed by a brief synopsis. Next come the text and explanatory illustrations; these are placed on the same page or opposite each other. Then come maps illustrating the subject under discussion, and a series of questions. The questions are intended to suggest additional ideas and, as the author predicts, ". . . will probably be found exasperating and occasionally unanswerable." Lists of topics for investigation and references complete each chapter.

The reader will be amazed at the variety of subjects shown in the photographs. In addition to the usual types of physiographic features (mountains, valleys, glaciers, caves, etc.), there are photographs showing all sorts of erosion gullies, pasture furrows, dust storms and their results, advancing sand dunes, sand fences, close-ups of breaking waves, prairie dogs, flamingo nests and termite nests, shell craters, meteor craters and craters on the moon. A large number of the most impressive scenes relate to the national parks, but all types of areas and all parts of the world are represented.---H. S. Ladd.

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#### APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE REVISES GUIDE

A second edition of the Guide to the Appalachian Trail in New England (Appalachian Trail Conference, 901 Union Trust Building, Washington, 1939, 260 pp., six maps, \$1.25) has just been published to complete the series of five guides relating to the 2,049-mile footway from Maine to Georgia.

The original edition, comprising 85 pages, was issued in 1933 but has been out of print for two years. The new edition constitutes a greatly amplified description of the New England section of the Trail (reflecting conditions as of November, 1939), and includes also a more general chapter which traces the development of the entire Mount Katahdin-Mount Oglethorpe route.

Some 30 publications concerning the Trail are embraced in a bibliographical chapter, and there is a convenient index to the volume. The Regional Review has been informed by the Conference that subscribers who received early copies containing a minor typographical error on the cover will be sent a revised copy if an exchange is requested.

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#### YORK RIVER SALVAGE OPERATIONS DESCRIBED

How the submerged historical treasures dating from the Revolutionary War were raised from York River, Virginia, through cooperation of Colonial National Historical Park and the Mariners' Museum, is recited in Salvaging Revolutionary Relics from the York River, extracted from an article by Homer L. Ferguson in William and Mary College Historical Magazine (Series 2, Vol. 19, No. 3, July 1939), and reprinted for the Museum (Clyde W. Saunders & Sons, Richmond, September, 1939).

The article, Mr. Ferguson explains, "attempts to present a résumé

of the activities jointly effected by the Mariners' Museum and the Colonial National Historical Park in the reclamation of objects from British warships sunk off Yorktown in 1781. In addition to describing the actual operations used to recover the relics which are now displayed by these two organizations, mention was made of the naval side of the historical background of the siege." There are a careful inventory of the objects salvaged, photographs of the recoveries, an original plan of the frigate Charon, and a selective bibliography.

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#### NEASHAM TO WRITE HISTORY OF SERVICE

Aubrey Neasham, Regional (III) Supervisor of Historic Sites, will compile a history of the National Park Service, covering the 22-year period since it was established in the World War days of 1917. The task will be carried forward as time permits aside from routine duties of office work at the Santa Fe headquarters.

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### PEOPLE

ALVIN C. YORK, famous sergeant hero of the American Expeditionary Force in France during the World War, has entered on duty as CCC Project Superintendent at Cumberland Homesteads State Park, Tennessee. Until recently he had been president and business manager of the York Agriculture Institute, Jamestown, Tennessee. On his Service application papers he shows, with a simple check mark under "Army," that he served in that branch of the armed forces. He confines the statement of his military record to the notation that he enlisted as private, 328th Infantry, on November 14, 1917, and was discharged as a sergeant on May 30, 1919.

DANIEL T. BLANEY and EDOUARD N. DUBÉ, Inspectors, and EDWARD L. BIKE, State Supervisor, Recreation Study, have been assigned to headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Blaney was transferred from Concord, New Hampshire, and Messrs. Dubé and Bike from Salem, Massachusetts.

LEON E. ASHLEY, formerly of Region III, has entered on duty as Supervisor of Safety and Project Training, with headquarters in Richmond.

THOR BORRESEN, formerly Junior Research Technician attached to the staff of Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia, has been transferred to the Richmond regional headquarters as Assistant Research Technician.

F. D. NICHOLS, Junior Architect, Washington, is on detail in Richmond as a result of the recent establishment of a regional unit of the Historic American Buildings Survey. W. T. RAMSEY, R. C. NEALE and D. F. CIANGO, all Junior Architects, have entered on duty with Richmond headquarters in connection with the same work. (See The Regional Review, Vol. III, No. 3, September, 19-22).

STUART M. BARNETTE, Assistant Architect of the regional office staff, is on special assignment at San Juan, Puerto Rico, relating to architectural restorations and to business of the Historic American Buildings Survey.



### CAPE HATTERAS SEASHORE COMMISSION FORMED

Nine persons have been appointed by Governor Clyde R. Hoey of North Carolina to serve as a special commission authorized to obtain lands intended for inclusion in the proposed Cape Hatteras National Seashore on the "Outer Banks". The members are R. Bruce Etheridge, director of the Department of Conservation and Development, Raleigh; J. C. B. Ehringhaus, former governor, Raleigh; Mrs. James H. R. Cromwell (née Doris Duke), Sommerville, New Jersey; Mrs. J. A. Buchanan, Durham; Sanford Martin, Winston-Salem editor; Josh Horne, Jr., Rocky Mount editor; R. Wahab, Ocracoke and Baltimore; Coleman W. Roberts, president of the Carolina Motor Club, Charlotte, and Van Campen Heilner, sportsman and author, New York City.

Commenting on formation of the new body, Congressman Lindsay C. Warren of North Carolina expressed the opinion that "this is one of the most outstanding commissions ever named in North Carolina and I think all of them will take an enthusiastic interest in the proposed Cape Hatteras National Seashore."

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### PULASKI REARMED WITH CANNON OF SIEGE

Two Blakely cannon which were brought into the Savannah River in 1861 aboard the British vessel Fingal, one of the earliest instances of blockade running during the American Civil War, have been returned to Fort Pulaski as authentic mementoes of the epochal siege of April 10-11, 1862. Seized by Federal forces after surrender of the fort, the two English-made guns later were placed on Trophy Hill at the United States Military Academy, West Point. The recent transfer was effected after definite identification of the pieces had been made. One of the guns (possibly both of them) saw service on the terreplein during the 30-hour siege.

A third cannon was acquired by the National Monument through donation from the Catholic Community Center of Savannah and city officials. The piece, which had served for many years as a hitching post, is believed to have been a part of the Fort Pulaski armament but identification is not yet positive.

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### NATCHEZ REPORT DESCRIBED ERRONEOUSLY

Harry Clemons, librarian of the University of Virginia, has directed attention to an error (made presumably in transcription of handwritten notes) which occurred in the last issue of The Regional Review under "Bibliographical Notes." Sponsorship of Andrew C. Albrecht's report, Natchez, Mississippi, and Its Aboriginal Inhabitants, was ascribed to the University of Virginia. The notice should have read: "111 typed pages with bibliography. Louisiana Statewide Archeological Project, Works Progress Administration, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge." Inquiries should be directed therefore to Louisiana State University and not to the University of Virginia.

## Cumulative Index, Volume III

### A

- Abbott, Stanley W., biographical note, back cover, July; The Blue Ridge Parkway, 3-6, July.
- Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, redesignated, 16, August.
- A New Day for Fishermen on the C. & O. Canal, 19-21, August.
- Ancient Tortoise Restored, 30-31, December.
- Animals, predatory, National Park Service policy, 8, September.
- Appalachiana, bibliography, 30, October-November; new guide to New England Section, 33, December.
- Archeology, Indoor, 9-13, September.
- Architecture, HABS Records, 19-22, September; wharf building, 3-13, December.
- Arts and Crafts in Non-Urban Parks, 21-23, December.
- Arthur, the Rat, 18, October-November; footnote, 5, October-November.
- A Soldier's Christmas at Morristown in 1779, 3-7, December.
- Awtrey, Hugh R.: Wall Paper News of the Sixties, 14-20, December. (See editorial comments).

### B

- Baker, Russell: A Soldier's Christmas at Morristown in 1779, 3-7, December; biographical note, back cover, December.
- Beard, Daniel B.: The Shark River Wilderness in the Everglades, 3-10, August; biographical note, back cover, August.
- Bibliography, Appalachiana, 30, Oct.-Nov.
- Birds, Peruvian Studies, 31-32, July.
- Blue Ridge Parkway, The - A New Element in Recreational Planning, 3-6, July; closed during winter, 25, October-November.
- Bodie Island Ship Remains Described, 17, Aug.
- Borresen, Thor: Father Millet Cross, 20-26, July.
- Botany, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 31, October-November.
- Brandon, William P.: Thanksgiving Day in Summer and the Glorious Fourth in December, 25-27, August.
- Building Survey, HABS, 19-22, September; 34, December.
- Bullock, Orin M.: Preserving Our Architectural Heritage, 19-22, September.
- Burns, Ned J.: Preservation of the Mammoth Cave Mummy, 22, 34, October-November.

### C

- C. & O. Canal, A New Day for Fishermen on the, 19-21, August.
- Camping, group, substantial gains in organized camp use, 26-27, October-November.
- Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, 11-16, August.
- Cape Hatteras National Seashore, lighthouse, 11-16, August; Bodie Island Ship, 17, August; commission formed, 35, December.
- CCC - applicants, 26, September; militarization, 26, September; progress report, 29, August.
- Chalmette National Historical Park, redesignated, 16, August.
- Christmas at Morristown in 1779, A Soldier's, 3-7, December.

- Christmas Message, 24, December.
- Colonial National Historical Park, salvaging operations, York River, 33, December.
- Commission formed, Cape Hatteras National Seashore (proposed), 35, December.
- Cox, Elbert C.: If I Were a Temporary Ranger, 24, August.
- Crafts and Arts in Non-Urban Parks, 21-23, Dec.
- Crater, Battle Of, 27-28, July.

### E

- Earth Dam, Insurance for the, 15-19, July.
- Editorial Comments: Regional Review birthday, 30, July; Wanted, a Book, 22, August; Object Lesson; Sleep Embargo Repealed, 14, September; Poor Arthur, 18, October-November, Christmas Message from Regional Director, 24, December.
- Emerson, Ralph Waldo, at Mammoth Cave, 23-25, September.
- Everglades National Park Project, Shark River Wilderness, 3-10, August.

### F

- Fairbanks, Charles H.: Indoor Archeology, 9-13, September; biographical note, back cover, September.
- Father Millet Cross National Monument, 20-26, July.
- Fort McHenry, bombardment, 34, July; redesignated, 16, August.
- Fort Pulaski National Monument, acquisitions, 30 September; cannon returned, 35, Dec.
- Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, library acquisitions, 30, Sept.

### G

- Geology, Mammoth Cave "New Discovery", 32, December;
- Geomorphology, reviewed by Dr. H.S. Ladd, 32-33, December.
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park, botany, 31, October-November; Recording Speech, 3-8, October-November; travel record broken, 8, September; Natural History Survey, 28, September.
- Green, Edwin L.: A New Day for Fishermen on the C. & O. Canal, 19-21, August; biographical note, back cover, August.
- Guide to Appalachian Trail (New England Section), 33, December.

### H

- H<sub>2</sub>O, 19-21, October-November.
- Hall, Joseph S.: Recording Speech in the Great Smokies, 3-8, Oct.-Nov.; biographical note, back cover, Oct.-Nov.
- Hazlett, Donald C.: Report on New Discovery at Mammoth Cave, reviewed, 33, December.
- Hawkins, Stanley M.: Substantial Gains Recorded in Organized Camp Use; 26-27, October-November.
- Historic American Buildings Survey, compilation of records, 19-22, September; regional unit, 34, December.



Historic Sites: Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, redesignated, 16, August; C. & O. Canal, fishing, 19-21, Aug.; Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, 11-16, Aug.; Cape Hatteras National Seashore, lighthouse, 11-16, Aug.; Bodie Island Ship, 17, Aug.; commission formed, 35, December; Chalmette National Historical Park, redesignated, 16, Aug.; Colonial National Historical Park, Salvaging Operations, York River, 33, Dec.; Father Millet Cross, 20-26, July; Ft. McHenry, bombardment, 34, July; redesignated, 16, August; Fort Pulaski National Monument, museum acquisitions, 30, Sept.; cannon returned, 35, Dec.; Fredericksburg National Military Park, acquisitions, 30, Sept.; Kennesaw Mountain, dedication, 34, July; Kennesaw Mountain and the Atlanta Campaign, 9-12, Oct.-Nov.; Kings Mountain, anniversary observed, 31, Oct.-Nov.; Kings Mountain, a Hunting Rifle Victory, 25-29, Dec.; Morristown National Historical Park, Christmas, 1779, 3-7, Dec.; Petersburg National Military Park, crater, 27-28, July; Twelve Thousand Men for a Sixty-Mile Railroad, 15-17, Sept.; Salem Maritime National Historic Site, wharf-building, 8-13, Dec.; Vicksburg, wall paper news, 14-20, December.

History and Status of Interpretive Work in National Parks, 7-14, July.

How a Monument Differs From a Park, 28, August.

Hunting Rifle Victory, A, 25-29, December.

# I

If I Were a Temporary Ranger, 24, August.

Indoor Archeology, 9-13, September.

Insurance for the Earth Dam, 15-19, July.

# J

Jones, M.D.: Living Museums of Norway and Sweden, 23-25, Oct.-Nov.; biographical note, back cover, October-November.

# K

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, dedication, 34, July; Kennesaw Mountain and the Atlanta Campaign, 9-12, October-November.

Kiener, Tyler B.: Insurance for the Earth Dam, 15-19, July; biographical note, back cover, July.

Kings Mountain National Military Park, anniversary, 31, Oct.-Nov.; award sponsored by Kings Mountain chapter of the D.A.R., 29-30, Oct.-Nov.; A Hunting Rifle Victory, 25-29, Dec.

# L

Ladd, Harry S.: Land Animals from the Sea, 3-7, Sept.; Our Amazing Earth (review) 27-28, Sept.; Ancient Tortoise Restored, 30-31, Dec.; Geomorphology, (review), 32-33, December.

Land Animals from the Sea, 3-7, September.

Libraries and Museums, acquisitions, 30, Sept.

Lighthouse, Cape Hatteras, 11-16, August.

Living Museums of Norway and Sweden, 23-25, October-November.

# M

Mammals, Land Animals from the Sea, 3-7, Sept.; predatory control policy, 29, Oct.-Nov.; 8, September; wolf proves No. 1 rule of, 31, August; object lesson, 14, September.

Mammoth Cave National Park, news of in 1817, 18, Aug.; Ralph Waldo Emerson at, 23-25, September; preservation of mummy, 22, 34, Oct.-Nov.; report on "new discovery", 32, December.

Maps - Blue Ridge Parkway, 3-6, July; portion of rail system of Confederacy, 15-17, Sept.; Capture of the Weldon Railroad, 15-17, Sept.; Shark River Wilderness, Everglades, 3-10, Aug.; Great Smoky Mountains, 4, Oct.-Nov.; National Parks and Monuments of Region One, 16, Oct.-Nov.; Route of C. & O. Canal, 19, Aug.; Kings Mountain National Military Park, 27, December.

McDaniel, Weston O., and Jesse A. Reynolds: Arts and Crafts in Non-Urban Parks, 21-23, December.

Militia Hat of 1812 Preserved at Morristown, 23, August.

Morristown National Historical Park, militia hat, 23, Aug.; Christmas, 1779, 2-7, Dec.

Mummy, Preservation of Mammoth Cave, 22, 34, October-November.

Museum and Libraries, new acquisitions, 30, September.

Museums, Living, of Norway and Sweden, 23-25, October-November.

# N

National Monument and National Seashore, difference between, 14, July.

National Park Service, administration, difference between national monument and national seashore, 14, July; difference between national monument and national park, 28, August; predator control policy, 8, Sept.; 29, October-November.

National Parks of the Northwest (review), 32, July.

Natural History Survey of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 28, September.

News of the Sixties, Wall Paper, 14-20, Dec.

# O

Object Lesson, 14, September.

Ocmulgee National Monument, Indoor Archeology, 9-13, Sept.

O'Neil, W. E. Jr., H<sub>2</sub>O, 19-21 October-November.

Organized camps, substantial gains, 26-27, October-November.

Our Amazing Earth, (reviewed by Dr. Ladd), 27-28, September.

# P

Parks, Arts and Crafts in Non-Urban, 21-23, Dec.

Parkways, Blue Ridge, 3-6, July; closed for winter, 25, October-November.

Paper, Wall News of Sixties, 14-20, December.

Past Still Lives in Us, The, 20, September.

Peruvian Bird Studies, 31-32, July.  
Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, Capture of, 15-17, September.

Petersburg Crater - Then and Now, 27-28, July.

Picnicking - It's More Than Eating Deviled

Eggs, 13-15, October-November.

Poor Arthur, 18, October-November.

Poster Competition, Safety, 29, July.

Preservation of Mammoth Cave Mummy, 22, 34, October-November.

Preliminary Report on "New Discovery", Mammoth Cave, 32, December.

Preserving our Architectural Heritage, 19-22, September.

Publications - Region III Quarterly, 30, July; wildlife, 32, July; Romance of the National Parks, 32, July; National Parks of the Northwest, 32, July; National Parks of Belgian Congo, 30, August; Jefferson (New Orleans) Parish Yearly Review, 31, Aug; Journal of American Military Institute (Service articles) 30-31, Aug.; Problemcyne Administration Ochrony Przyrody, 27, Sept.; Travel and Recreation, 28, September; Our Amazing Earth, 27-28, Sept.; Natural History Survey of Great Smoky Mountains, 28, Sept.; History of Service to be compiled, 34, Dec.; William and Mary College Historical Magazine (Salvaging operations, York River) 33, Dec.; Geomorphology, 32-33, December.

## R

Ranger, Temporary, If I Were a, 24, August.

Recording Speech in the Great Smokies, 3-8, October-November.

Recreation, picnicking, 13-15, October-November; planning, 3-6, July; group camping, 26-27, Oct.-Nov., riding, 31, Oct.-Nov.; arts and crafts, 21-23, December.

Recreational Demonstration Areas, gains in camp use, 26-27, October-November; arts and crafts, 21-23, December.

Regional Review, first birthday, 30, July.

Region III Quarterly 31, July.

Reynolds, Jesse A. and Weston O. McDaniel: Arts and Crafts in Non-Urban Parks, 21-23, Dec.

Riding, horseback, Shenandoah National Park, 31, October-November.

Robinson, R. C.: Picnicking-It's more than eating deviled eggs, 13-15, Oct.-Nov.

Romance of the National Parks, 32, July.

Russell, Carl P.: The History and Status of Interpretive Work in National Parks, 7-14, July.

## S

Safety Poster Competition, 29, July.

Salem Maritime National Historic Site, wharf building, 8-13, December.

Sentinel of the Atlantic Graveyard, Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, 11-16, Aug.

Shark River Wilderness in the Everglades, 3-10, August.

Shenandoah National Park, 5 days on horseback, 31, October-November.

Sleep Embargo repealed, 14, September.

Small, Edwin W.: Wharf Building of a Century and More Ago, 8-13, December.

Smart, Samuel O.: Covers for Regional Review.

(1) Ft. Matanzas

(2) White Ibis

(3) Falls, Mt. Katahdin

(4-5) Federal Hall

(6) Customs House, Salem.

Soldier's Christmas at Morristown in 1779, 2-7, Dec.

Speech Recording, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 3-8, October-November.

## T

Tapscott, Kenneth A.: died, 30, September.

Taylor, Raleigh C.: The Petersburg Crater - Then and Now, 27-28, July; Twelve Thousand Men for a Sixty-Mile Railroad, 15-17, Sept.; biographical note, back cover, Aug.

Thanksgiving Day in Summer and the Glorious Fourth in December, 25-27, August.

Tillotson, Miner R.: Christmas message (editorial), 24, December.

Tortoise, Restored Ancient, 30-31, December.

Travel bureau, New York, new bulletin, 28, September.

Travel, annual travel records, region one, 17, October-November; Great Smokies, record broken, 8, September.

Twelve Thousand Men for a Sixty-Mile Railroad, 15-17, September.

## W

Wall Paper News of the Sixties, 14-20, Dec.

Wanted, a Book, 22, August.

Water Supply, 19-21, October-November.

Wharf Building of a Century and More Ago, 8-13, December.

Whitehouse, Frank R.: Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, 11-16, August; biographical note, back cover, August.

Wildlife Publications, new series recommended, 32, July.

Wolf Proves No. 1 Rule of Predation, 31, Aug.

## Y

Yates, Bowling C.: Kennesaw Mountain and The Atlanta Campaign, 9-12, Oct.-Nov.; biographical note, back cover, October-November.

Young, Rogers W.: Kings Mountain, a Hunting Rifle Victory, 24-29, December; biographical note, back cover, December.





#### THE CONTRIBUTORS

RUSSELL BAKER has been a member of the staff of Morristown National Historical Park since 1934, the year he entered the Service. A native of Ohio, he is an alumnus ('23) of the state university. He studied also at Pennsylvania State, Oberlin and Ashland Colleges, and taught American history for five years in Ohio high schools.

ROGERS W. YOUNG, a graduate of the University of Florida, entered the Service at Fort Pulaski National Monument in 1934 as Junior Historian. He remained there for four years with periods of detached assignments at Kings Mountain and Guilford Courthouse National Military Parks. In 1938 he was transferred to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Restoration Project as Assistant Research Technician.

H. S. LADD (Vol. II, No. 1); HUGH R. AWTREY (Vol. II, No. 6)

