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OF THE

Southern Industrial Educational Association

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Southern Industrial Educational Association (Inc.)

(NON-SECTARIAN)

Organized to Promote Industrial Education of the
Children of the Southern Mountains

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The Battle of King's Mountain, October 7, 1780.

From the 15th Chapter of The American Revolution.

By JOHN FISKE.

Before leaving South Carolina, Cornwallis had detached Major Patrick Ferguson to scour the highlands and enlist as large a force of Tory Auxiliaries as possible, after which he was to join the main army at Charlotte. Ferguson took with him 200 British light infantry and 1,000 Tories, whom he had drilled until they had become excellent troops. Ferguson undertook to entrap and capture a small force of American partisans, and while pursuing this bait, he pushed into the wilderness as far as Gilbert Town, in the heart of what is now the county of Rutherford, when all at once he became aware that enemies were swarming about him on every side. The approach of a hostile force and the rumor of Indian war had aroused the hardy backwoodsmen who dwell in these wild and romantic glens.

Accustomed to Indian raids, these quick and resolute men were always ready to assemble at a moment's warning; and now they came pouring from all directions, through the defiles of the Alleghanies, a picturesque and motley crowd, in fringed and tasselled hunting shirts, with sprigs of hemlock in their hats, and armed with long knives and rifles that seldom missed their aim. From the south came James Williams of Ninety-Six with his 400 men; from the north, William Campbell of Virginia, Benjamin Cleveland and Charles McDowell of North Carolina, with 560 followers; from the west, Isaac Shelby and John Sevier, whose names were to become so famous in the early history of Kentucky and Tennessee. By the 30th of September 3,000 of these "dirty mongrels," as Ferguson called them,—men in whose veins flowed the blood of Scottish Covenanters and French Huguenots and English sea-rovers,—had gathered in such threatening proximity that the British commander started

in all haste on his retreat towards the main army at Charlotte, sending messengers ahead who were duly waylaid and shot down before they could reach Cornwallis and inform him of the danger. The pursuit was vigorously pressed, and on the night of the 6th of October, 1780, finding escape impossible without a fight, Ferguson planted himself on the top of King's Mountain, a ridge about half a mile in length and 1700 feet above sea-level, situated just on the border between the two Carolinas. Perched with 1,125 staunch men on this natural stronghold, Ferguson looked about him exultingly, and cried, "Well, boys, here is a place from which all the rebels outside of hell can not drive us."

He was dealing, however, with men who were used to climbing hills. About three o'clock in the afternoon, the advanced party of Americans, 1,000 picked men, arrived in the ravine below the mountain, and tying their horses to the trees, prepared to storm the position. The precipice on the north was too steep for the enemy to descend. Divided into three equal parties the Americans ascended the other three sides simultaneously and thus effectually cut off their retreat. Thus dreadfully entrapped the British fired wildly and with little effect, while the trees and boulders prevented the compactness needful for a bayonet charge.

The Americans, on the other hand, sure of their prey, crept on steadily toward the summit, losing scarcely a man, and firing with great deliberateness and precision while hardly a word was spoken. As they closed in upon the ridge a rifle-ball pierced the brave Ferguson's heart and he fell from his white horse which sprang wildly down the mountain-side. All further resistance being hopeless, a white flag was raised and the firing was stopped. Of Ferguson's 1,125 men, 389 were killed or wounded, 20 were missing, and the remaining 716 now surrendered themselves prisoners of war with 1,500 stand of arms. The total American loss was 28 killed and 60 wounded.

This brilliant victory at King's Mountain resembled the

victory at Bennington in its suddenness and completeness, and was also the harbinger of greater victories at the south, as Bennington had been the harbinger of greater victories at the north.

The backwoodsmen who had dealt such a blow soon dispersed and returned to their homes.

Summary of a Statistical Study of the Public Schools of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, by Norman Frost.

A few months ago the United States Bureau of Education published a pamphlet (Bulletin, 1915, No. 11), giving the results of studies of the public schools of the Southern Appalachian mountains, made by Norman Frost. In this bulletin Mr. Frost bases his report upon educational conditions, upon data taken from the Federal Census of 1910, and from the school reports of the States of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. His studies cover 216 counties known as Appalachian counties, of which 98 are referred to as "Mountain counties," the other 118 counties being included because they lie partly within the Appalachian region. The conditions spoken of in the following paragraphs relate solely to the 98 mountain counties.

Mr. Frost writes interestingly of the geographical features of the region, of the people and their characteristics, facts which are more or less familiar to the readers of the QUARTERLY, but his statements in regard to illiteracy, school enrollment, and school attendance should impress every reader of the QUARTERLY that the Southern Industrial Educational Association will need to continue its work for years to come.

In the entire Appalachian region there are approximately 1,500,000 children between the ages of 9 and 20. In the 98 mountain counties 72 $\frac{3}{10}$ per cent of the children of school

age are reported as enrolled in schools. The average attendance is 61 and 3-10 pupils per hundred enrolled. The average length of the school year is 104 days, a little less than twenty-one school weeks. Mr. Frost estimates that less than one per cent of all these children are out of reach of schools. Now all these statistics read very well when one considers that the average school year for 1910 was only 137 days; but Mr. Frost adds that in the 98 mountain counties the average attendance per child per year is only 46 days. He says: "The average 20-year-old person in the mountain region has attended school only long enough to complete the fourth grade of the city school. Making allowance for poor teachers, poor equipment and the irregularity of attendance, the average mountaineer actually has not had schooling equivalent to that of a child who has completed the fourth grade of a city school. This is true of the present generation of the young people in this region; the older people have received even less."

The annual expenditure per capita of school population in the 98 mountain counties is \$4.79. In two counties it is less than \$2.00. The school expenditure per child in the United States in 1911 was \$16.09.

Many people are under the false impression that there are numerous private elementary schools in the mountains. Private school statistics are available only from Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia, but these four States represent 139 of the 216 Appalachian counties. 75 of these 139 counties have private schools. The percentage of pupils enrolled in these private schools varies from 3-10 of 1 per cent to 16 and 6-10 per cent. 54 of these 139 counties have no private schools; this indicates that these schools are not doing as much educational work as people often suppose. They certainly can not take the place of the public school. These private schools can be of the greatest use when they carry out any or all of the following suggestions made by Mr. Frost.

"1. To work in communities where public schools can not be maintained.

2. To do work better than the public schools are doing, or to do work of a kind that public schools are not doing.

3. To supplement the public schools in such a way as to induce the people themselves to demand better schools."

The Southern Industrial Educational Association endeavors to aid as much as possible the schools which are known to be making an effort to carry out the above suggestions.

Mr. Frost thus summarizes educational conditions in the Appalachian region.

Conditions vary from the very worst to very nearly the best, and are constantly improving.

Teachers' salaries are low, even when the low cost of living is taken into account. Most of the teachers have little or no professional training. Supervision is inadequate. The curriculum is often haphazard, and the texts are a painful misfit.

The expenditure for education is very much less than it should be. Nowhere is it as much as the people can afford,

Public sentiment in favor of good schools is developing and is the most hopeful aspect of the education situation.

The way to help these people is to help them to help themselves.

There is a fascination about a life where the people themselves make what they need. It returns us in imagination to an age of peace and plenty for everybody, to an era of happiness free from hurry, worry, and sordid ideals, and if the reality falls short of the poet's fancy, there yet clings a touch of romance about the home-made chairs, baskets and pottery of the Southern mountains.

(From "The Carolina Mountains," by Margaret Morley.)

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OF THE

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEPTEMBER, 1915

All communications relating to the QUARTERLY MAGAZINE should be addressed to the Editor, Mrs. C. David White, Room 331, Southern Building, Washington, D. C.

A New Departure.

Ever since the Southern Industrial Educational Association was organized its work has been mainly confined to giving assistance to mountain schools along industrial lines, but with the coming year it is to enter upon a new departure.

At the June meeting of the Board of Trustees an urgent appeal from Captain Sharp, president of the Tyron Industries Association of Tyron, North Carolina, was presented, asking for a field worker in that locality who should visit the mountain homes and assist the women in the only industries with which they were really familiar—weaving and basket making.

After an earnest discussion as to the feasibility and worth of the undertaking, which would involve a considerable money outlay, Miss Clara Wilson, a trustee, was appointed to visit Tryon in order to investigate the advantages of the location to ascertain the possibilities of increased and better work in the future, and to engage a teacher capable of filling the position of field worker, if it seemed a place where such work was needed and could be favorably prosecuted.

The Trustees are glad to inform the friends of the Association that Miss Wilson having reported favorably, they

have secured the services of Miss Mary H. Large, of Chicago, a woman of excellent training both here and abroad, and of much experience with mountain conditions, and they consider themselves fortunate in having obtained so competent a worker. Such training as Miss Large can give to the dwellers in the mountains will result not only in developing higher standards of workmanship, but will also stimulate the younger generation to perpetuate these useful arts and to improve upon them as well.

The Trustees of the Southern Industrial Educational Association hope that by liberal gifts, their friends who believe in this enterprise will make it possible to enlarge the work so auspiciously begun.

Workers in the Cabin Homes.

It is with much satisfaction that we inform our readers of a new agency that is at work for the purpose of encouraging the mountain people to revive and perfect the industries that are peculiarly their own.

A few years ago some of the citizens of Tryon, North Carolina, realizing the fact that unless some encouragement were held out to the mountain workers their industries would soon be classed among the lost arts, undertook an interesting experiment whereby the outside world should be linked with the remote, isolated mountain cabin homes.

This undertaking crystallized into an organization known today as "The Mountain Industries Association of Tyron, North Carolina," whose avowed object is, "To help the dwellers in the secluded, almost inaccessible parts of the mountains; to open the door of opportunity to them; to give them sympathy and enlightened help; to lessen the burdens of their twilight existence; to awaken their ambitions, and encourage their efforts at betterment; to give these shy, proud, uneducated people an opportunity to help themselves."



CORNER OF BED SPREAD OF HEAVY WHITE COTTON WITH ELABORATE DESIGN IN WHITE FRENCH KNOTS, COPIED FROM ONE KNOWN TO BE 103 YEARS OLD

In the three years of its existence the Mountain Workers Association has put into the hands of the mountain people through the sales of their products no less than \$4,000.00, a sum which has been an incredible help to many a mountain family.

"Today the interesting old looms, themselves hand-made, which for more than a century were the only means that the housewife had of clothing her family, have come into a renewed activity; they now, under her skilled and patient industry, bring forth things that find a place in the world's market. The money that comes to the home is spent in better food, in enlightened comforts, in education of the younger members of the family, and in the decencies and necessities of hygienic value. In fact this money creates an appetite, a desire for civilization and in the creating of the desire, the road is opened for progress."

Those who desire the handwoven rather than machine made products will find at the Mountain Industries House the old time linsey-woolsey, dimity table covers, fringed bedspreads, with knotted or tufted designs, towels, coverlets of quaint patterns bearing names brought from the old country by the first settlers in the mountains, splint and willow baskets of superior workmanship, fans made from peacock, turkey, guinea and duck feathers, and hit or miss fast color cotton rugs.

To the Daughters of the American Revolution and Other Patriotic Societies.

Again the Association makes its appeal to you for funds to continue the work that has grown steadily with each year since its founding ten years ago. The children of the mountians are more eager than ever for a chance to go to some of the settlement schools where they learn things that a little day school with almost no equipment and a poor teacher could never give them. Hundreds of them are waiting to go but unless help can be given them they can never make the start.

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More than ever does the Association need your help since it has begun the new policy of sending field workers who shall assist the women of the mountains in their homes to bring to perfection the few industries that are open to them in their restricted environment.

Will not each Chapter make some contribution to this Association for the work that is doing so much to make good citizens of the mountain children.

The Annual Bazaar will be held in November, in preparation for which many of the mountain workers have been busy during the summer making baskets, rag rugs, and weavings of many sorts.

We are glad to report a constantly increasing demand for the very beautiful bedspreads and coverlets that only the mountain women can make. The bedspreads are for the most part of heavy white or unbleached cotton, linen being rarely used, and have for ornamentation exquisite designs sometimes worked out in French knots and sometimes in tufting. On page 10 is given a corner of one of the knotted spreads from which one may gain some idea of the beauty of the pattern and the superior quality of the workmanship.

The woolen coverlets are usually blue and white, although some of the weavers use other colors, such as black, light and dark blue, sometimes green, and rarely red. We are glad to report that there has been steady improvement in the quality of the work, as it has been the policy of the Exchange to refuse articles of poor or careless workmanship.

The establishment by our government of the parcels post has been a strong factor in the revival of the mountain industries, as it has enabled the workers to get their wares to the outside world as they could not possibly have done prior to this system of inter-communication.

Activity of the Philadelphia Auxiliary.

The Philadelphia Auxiliary of the Southern Industrial Educational Association will give a Bazaar at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, November 6, 1915, to exhibit the products of the mountain schools which have been and are under the patronage of the National Association.

From the farm schools will come corn and various field products, also, samples of mica from the mines on the farm at Plumtree, North Carolina.

The various girls' schools will send evidences of their acquired skill in sewing, weaving, rug-making, canning, photography, knitting and every branch of domestic science as taught them. The equipment for these schools was established by or through the co-operation of the Southern Industrial Educational Association. Among the schools that have been assisted by the Association are the following:

- The Berry School for Girls, Floyd Co., Ga.
- The Berry School for Boys, Floyd Co., Ga.
- Berea College, Berea, Ky.
- Lees-McRae Institute for Girls, Banner, Elk, N. C.
- Lees-McRae Institute for Boys, Plumtree, N. C.
- Prout School, Foscoe, N. C.
- Patterson School, Legerwood, N. C.
- Morganton Missions, Morganton, N. C.
- Rutherfordton Mission, Rutherfordton, N. C.
- Blackwell Hollow, Ivy Depot, Va.
- Blue Ridge Industrial School, Dyke, Va.
- Pine Mountain Settlement School, Pine Mountain, Ky.
- Mission Home, Simmons Gap, Va.
- W. C. T. U. Settlement School, Hindman, Ky.
- Southern Industrial School, Camp Hill, Ala.
- Downing Industrial School, Brewton, Ala.
- Nacooche Institute, Sautee, Ga.
- Rabun Gap, Rabun Gap, Ga.
- Highland College, Guerrant, Ky.
- Christ School, Arden, N. C.

Oneida Institute, Oneida, Ky.

Besides the schools whose work will be shown and sold, many women and children who work at home during the shut-in days of winter will send their goods, and orders will be taken from the samples shown. Among these will be goods woven by the weavers who filled Mrs. Wilson's order so acceptably for the President's room in the White House. Photographs of this room will be shown and sold.

For the entertainment of visitors to the Bazaar there will be a changed program of music, folk and fancy dancing, skits, sketches, etc., every hour, from 12 noon to 7.30 P.M. At 3.30 Mrs. Gielow will give a mountain story talk to young people and children with folk songs and musical numbers, creating and sustaining the true atmosphere of these mountain homes which she knows so well.

At 8 P.M. Mrs. Gielow will address the invited guests of the Auxiliary and patrons and demonstrate, as only the talking moving picture can do, the life of these mountain people and the necessity for the "Light on the Hill" in each of these nine States that the three million souls therein may see to read their title clear to a Nation's privileges and be able to give their country intelligent citizenship in peace and service in time of need.

Over two thousand complimentary invitations have been issued to Church and Mission Workers for admission to this Bazaar.

A dance will close the day's program.

ELIZABETH O. LEWIS,
President of the Philadelphia Auxiliary.

"The Carolina Mountains," by Margaret Morley, is written from the view point of one who not only understands and loves the mountain people, but who also feels the wonderful natural beauties of the region in which they live. She sees

Nature with the poet's eye and interprets the lives of the people as a sympathetic and understanding friend.

The book which is one of rare charm and of great literary merit contains nearly 400 pages and is enriched by about twenty-five excellent illustrations. It is published by Houghton Mifflin Company and costs \$3.00.

The August number of *Harper's Magazine* contains an article by William Aspenwall Bradley entitled, "In Shakespeare's America" in which he indicates by numerous illustrations that the language of the Kentucky mountaineer is very closely akin to that of Shakespeare, and even of Chaucer. He writes that the language of these people instead of being merely an uncouth dialect, has preserved in many respects, the obsolete idiom of their ancestors and he quotes many interesting and significant proofs thereof. Not only in the language but in many of the customs and superstitions of these mountaineers does Mr. Bradley find abundant proof of their old-world origin and of their existence in Merrie England in the days of Shakespeare and King James.

Not even in England itself can there be found today so many survivals of language and customs, hardly altered from their original forms as brought over with the first settlers in the mountains a century and a half ago, as in these mountains where life has remained for so many years spared from the intrusions of the outside world.

It is said that when the mountaineer begins to read at all, he displays so marked a preference for Shakespeare that it is invariably the works of that poet that have most frequently to be rebound in any library to which he has access. The reason he himself gives for this predilection is that the things Shakespeare makes his character do always seem so "natural."—WILLIAM ASPENWALL BRADLEY.

Subscriptions are:

- \$1.00 a year for a Member.
 - 5.00 for a Sustaining Member.
 - 25.00 for a Patron.
 - \$100.00 will place a child for eight months in one of the better-equipped, remote settlement schools.
 - \$50.00 will place a child for eight months in one of the smaller schools where industrial training is given.
 - \$10.00 will give industrial training for eight months to a day pupil who does not live in the school.
 - \$600.00 will pay the salary of an industrial teacher or nurse.
- Official receipt and the QUARTERLY MAGAZINE will be sent to all subscribers.

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Southern Industrial Educational Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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