

# Timeline of the History of the Clemson Experimental Forest



## Year

## Event

1785

Treaty of Hopewell negotiated in General Andrew Pickens' front yard. His plantation becomes known as Hopewell Plantation.

1789

Pendleton County is established and contains the lands of the present day counties of Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson.

1800

Transportation lines are established. Wagon roads followed Native American paths. The remnants of the old stage road named the Keowee Trail are located within the Experimental Forest.



Fants Grove Church (1930s photo)

1888

April 6<sup>th</sup> - Thomas Green Clemson dies and his will gives \$80,000 and Fort Hill Plantation to South Carolina for the establishment of Clemson College.



The Ezekiel Pickens Home built in 1788. Note the similarities in design with the house originally built by General Pickens, now called the Cherry Farm House. Photo taken in late 1930s before it was razed.

1889

Governor Richardson signed the bill accepting Thomas Clemson's gift which established the Clemson Agricultural College, with its trustees becoming custodians of Morrill Act which set the framework for the establishment and operation of the Clemson Experimental Forest.

1893

Clemson College opens.

1860 to 1930

Land owners ruined the land through mass clearing of hillsides due to the lack of land rotation, contour plowing, fertilization, and a general attitude that land was expendable, cheap, and easily purchasable. Cotton was first dominant agricultural crop.



1909 to 1930

Corn dominated. Bad erosion problems led to land's vast decline.

1911

Farm Loan Act passed providing for the establishment of federal land banks under Treasury Department supervision.

1914

World War I begins.



1916

Federal Farm Loan Act passed, providing low interest credit to farmers.



1929

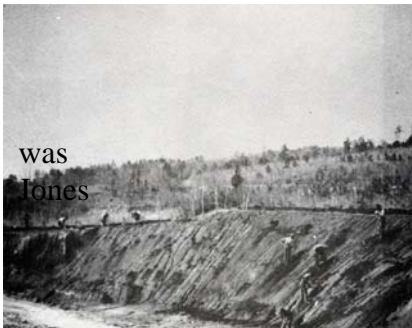
October 29th, "Black Tuesday," recorded sales of shares hits 16,410,000. *New York Times* index of industrial stocks drops nearly forty points, the worst drop in Wall Street history to that point.

1930s

Farms were abandoned.

1933

The Roosevelt Administration begins the "New Deal" programs. These new initiatives included agricultural programs and enabled visionary Dr. George Aull to improve land conditions and assist in improving the lives of others.



1934

The federal government began to establish a program that was focused on the purchase of nearly 75 million acres of sub-marginal farmland throughout the country. This farmland to be purchased under the provisions of the Bankhead-Farm Tenant Act.

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1934 – Dr. Aull's proposal to the federal government is accepted under the condition that future ownership and management of the land be guaranteed.



September, 1934 – Over 200+ parcels of land were acquired totaling nearly 30,000 acres at \$13 per acre.

1939

Clemson College officially took over supervision of the property under a 95 year cooperative and license agreement with the federal government.

1946

The College hires its first forest manager, Norman B. Goebel.



1954

The Clemson Land Utilization Lands (27,400 acres) were deeded to Clemson College for \$1 with the help of Strom Thurmond and Charles Daniel, both S.C. Senators.

1955

Public Law 237 passed which provided a means to sell or exchange lands within the forest property boundaries.

1956

The Army Corp of Engineers proposed to construct Lake Hartwell and the Hartwell Dam. Clemson harvested \$167,000 worth of timber from the proposed lake bed and the Army Corp compensated Clemson \$73,000 for the project.



1970

Beginning in the 70s and continuing through the 90s, equestrian, mountain biking, and hiking trails were established throughout the Forest.

1976

National Forest Management Act and Federal Land Policy Act are passed.



1978

Dr. Bob Allen requested that the Land Utilization Committee “...explore the possibility of how to best develop the overall management of the Forest in such a way that management is a research project in itself.” Dr. Allen’s ideas were put into policy under the leadership of Mr. Larry Reamer and helped create the Management Alternatives Research Project (MARP), which contains the primary guidelines for the management of the Forest.



1998

The Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT) was established to monitor the CEF Trail System.

1999

Under the supervision of Mr. Knight Cox, Dr. Gene Wood, using current GPS technology, remapped the existing trail system. This data was then plotted on GIS maps to create existing trial maps.



**ISSAQUEENA  
FALLS**

COE  
2002

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