Western North Carolina
A Glimpse at the time of
Serena
A view of Waynesville, North Carolina
A street view in Waynesville with the Hotel Gordon resort on the right
Scenes on Main Street, looking North, Waynesville, N. C.
The Waynesville Courthouse until the early 1930s

“As she passed the courthouse, two women stood outside Scott’s General Store.”
Jackson Hardware store in Sylva

“She tethered Dan in front of Donaldson’s Feed and Seed . . . .”
“Outside of Waynesville the dirt road merged with the old Asheville Toll Road.”
Biltmore Estate was constructed 1890-1895

“Asheville is only fifty miles away . . . you’ve no doubt of George Vanderbilt’s estate.”
A train operated by a timber company in the Great Smoky Mountains
A railroad depot along the Murphy Branch of the Southern Railway, early 1900s
“The conductor shouted ‘Waynesville’ as the train shuddered to a halt.”
A rural road in Jackson County in the 1930s as automobile came into frequent use
“The automobile sputtered past leaving its wake of gray dust.”
Measuring a “monarch” of the forest
In Haywood County, early 1900s

Chestnut tree, Great Smoky Mountains

“Pemberton pointed to an immense tree . . . the upper branches were withered, unveafed. ‘Chestnut blight.’”
Cutting down a tree
Hauling logs out

“Some of the men wore bib overalls, others flannel shirts and pants.”
Shay engine #8 that operated out of Sunburst
“The loggers passed the Shay train engine they called a sidewinder . . . .”
Train going to a sawmill

“When a new piece of track was set down, the Shay engine lurched forward immediately . . . .”
Mill in present-day Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 1920s
The mill at Waynesville in the 1920s

“Outside of Waynesville, Pemberton slowed as they approached the saw mill’s five-acre splash pond . . . .”
Blackwood Lumber Company operated south of Cullowhee 1922-1945
Bandmill at Sunburst N.C.

Sunburst
Lumber mill workers

“Not just axes but eight-foot cross-cut saws and steel wedges and blocks and pike poles, the nine-pound hammers called go-devils . . . .”
Lumber camp

“At the valley’s center was the camp, surrounded by a wasteland of stumps and branches.”
Blackwood Lumber Company’s mill and lumberyard
Mt. Mitchell along the Motor Road
Mt. Mitchell along the Motor Road
Logging on Mt. Mitchell, 1910 – 1920s
Logging on Mt. Mitchell, 1910s – 1920s
Horace Kephart (1862 – 1931),
Great Smoky Mountains
National Park advocate

“Kephart would no doubt know. . . .
Have you heard of him . . . our local
Thoreau?”
Settlement of Medlin, Kephart’s home 1904-1907, now in the park
The “old mill” south of Cullowhee near Glenville
The High Falls of the Tuckaseigee, 1930s, in Jackson County

“Kephart knew where an especially impressive waterfall was, so he took some photographs.”
The High Falls of the Tuckaseigee, 1930s, in Jackson County

“Kephart knew where an especially impressive waterfall was, so he took some photographs.”
The Chimney Tops, now in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park