

The Life and Tragic Death of Ben Enloe

by: Wendy Meyers



Born June 9, 1879
(Oconaluftee)

Died September 8, 1916
(Asheville)



Ben's parents:
William Aesoph 'Ace'
and Margaret
Clarinda (Conner)
Enloe

One of 12 or 13
children.

Ben's early years were spent in the Oconalufty area.



Early Life

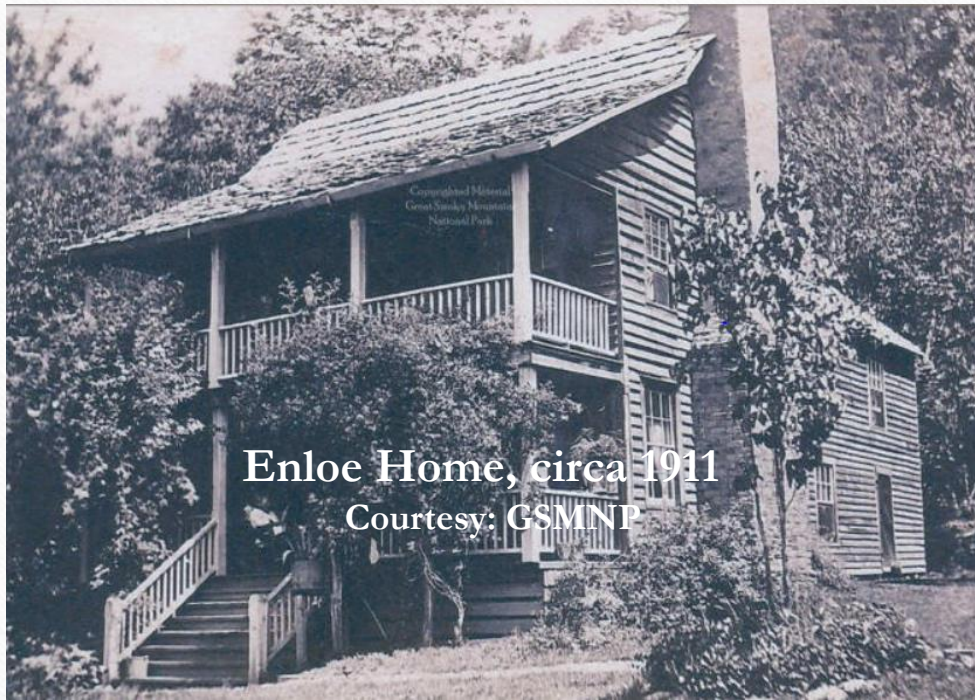
[Edward Clarence Conner](#)

1863-1937

- Schooled
- Church (unknown)
- Worked very hard
- Had a very eccentric uncle
- Moved to Qualla area in adolescence



Move to Judson in the 1890's



Enloe Home, circa 1911
Courtesy: GSMNP



Ashe/Enloe Mill, circa 1907/1908
Courtesy: GSMNP

1900

- Working as a coal miner in Big Stone Gap, Virginia
- A very dangerous profession
- Living in a boarding house



Army Service

Enlistment ~ 1901

Enlistment
Enloe Benjamin Schiddlebros, Capt. Garrard Judson N. Co.

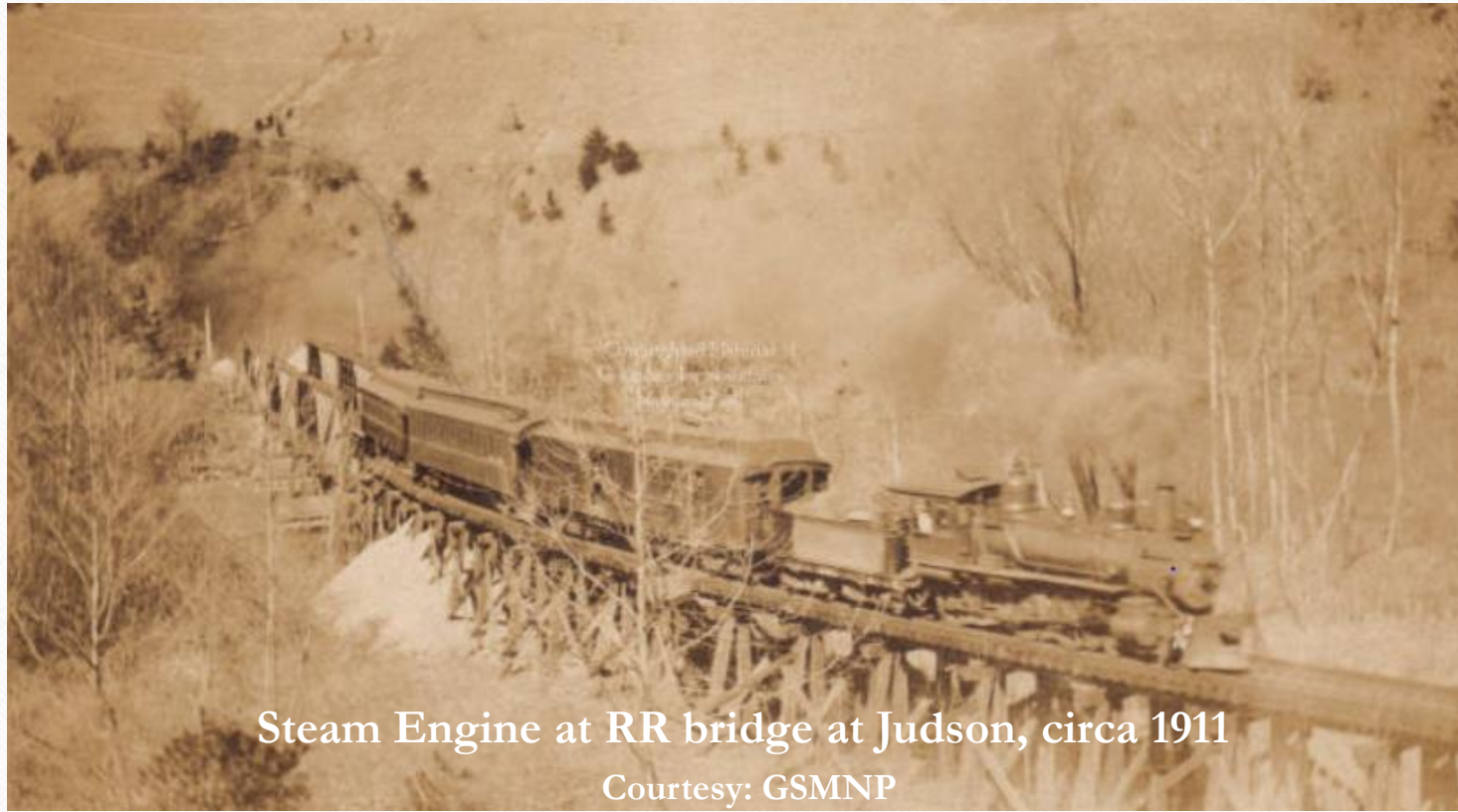
Discharge ~ 1903

Discharged Feb 7. 03 Plattsburg N.Y. S.O. 28 Sep. East Feb 3. 03 Cook Excellent

No service during World War I

1910

- Living in Asheville
- Working as a stoker on the Southern Railway



Steam Engine at RR bridge at Judson, circa 1911

Courtesy: GSMNP

September 8, 1916

- Ben was working as an engineer
- Died in a tragic coal train derailment on a Friday night.
- His body was not found until the next day.

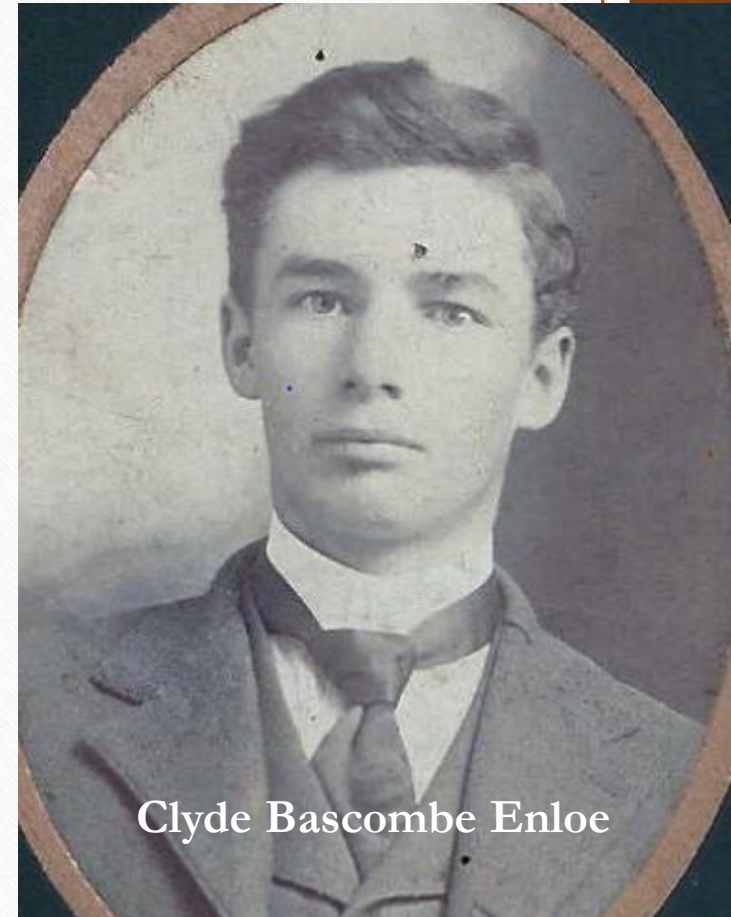


Burial in the Bryson City Cemetery

- ‘Ace’ Enloe and some of his sons arrived on the 9th to accompany Ben’s body home.
- Not buried at Oconalufy or Judson
- Bryson City Cemetery Committee (chaired by DK Collins) [provided plot](#)
- Funeral services and burial on September 10th
- Plot purchased on September 16th

Estate

- Probated in Asheville on September 12th
- Worth \$400 (\$8951 in 2016)
- Executor was Ben's brother, Clyde Bascombe Enloe



Clyde Bascombe Enloe

... years after,
of real estate, stocks, bonds, and credits, which are
and allowed by the terms of the Superior Court, shall be
and if it shall appear that any part will and testament

W. A. Enloe

**Father of Benjamin F. Enloe,
deceased.**



B. F. ENLOE

BORN JUNE 9, 1879

DIED SEPT. 8, 1916

A Sad Epilogue



- Frederick Clarence died 25 April 1917 (buried B.C. Cemetery)
- Clarinda died 10 December 1917 at Judson (buried B.C. Cemetery)
- Outlived at least 4 of her children.



Other Enloes Buried in the Bryson City Cemetery with Relationship to Ben

- [William Aesoph 'Ace' Enloe](#) - Father (1847-1926)
- [Arthur Lucius Enloe](#) - Brother (1876-1935)
- [Clyde Bascombe Enloe](#) – Brother (1881-1966)
- [Leonard Joseph Enloe](#) – Brother (1889-1924)
- [Pauline \(Deweese\) Enloe](#) – Sister-in-Law (1890-1926)
- [Jack Enloe](#) – Nephew, son of Arthur and Pauline (1908-1929)
- [Robert Enloe](#) – Nephew, son of Arthur and Pauline (1921-1926)
- [Mary \(Enloe\) Beck](#) – Cousin (1884-1974)
- [Nancie Elvira 'Nannie' \(Enloe\) Hughes](#) – Cousin (1870-1913)