



DYKING - 31FK176



Dictionary look-up for: dike / dyke / dyking

1. a. An embankment of earth and rock built to prevent floods.
- b. *Chiefly British* A low wall, often of sod, dividing or enclosing lands.

LOCATION

Redacted per OSA Request

ACCESS

Redacted per OSA Request

REFERENCES

<https://lynchcreek.com/2008-jan-lynch-creek-journal-by-bob-radcliffe/>

DOCUMENT INDEX

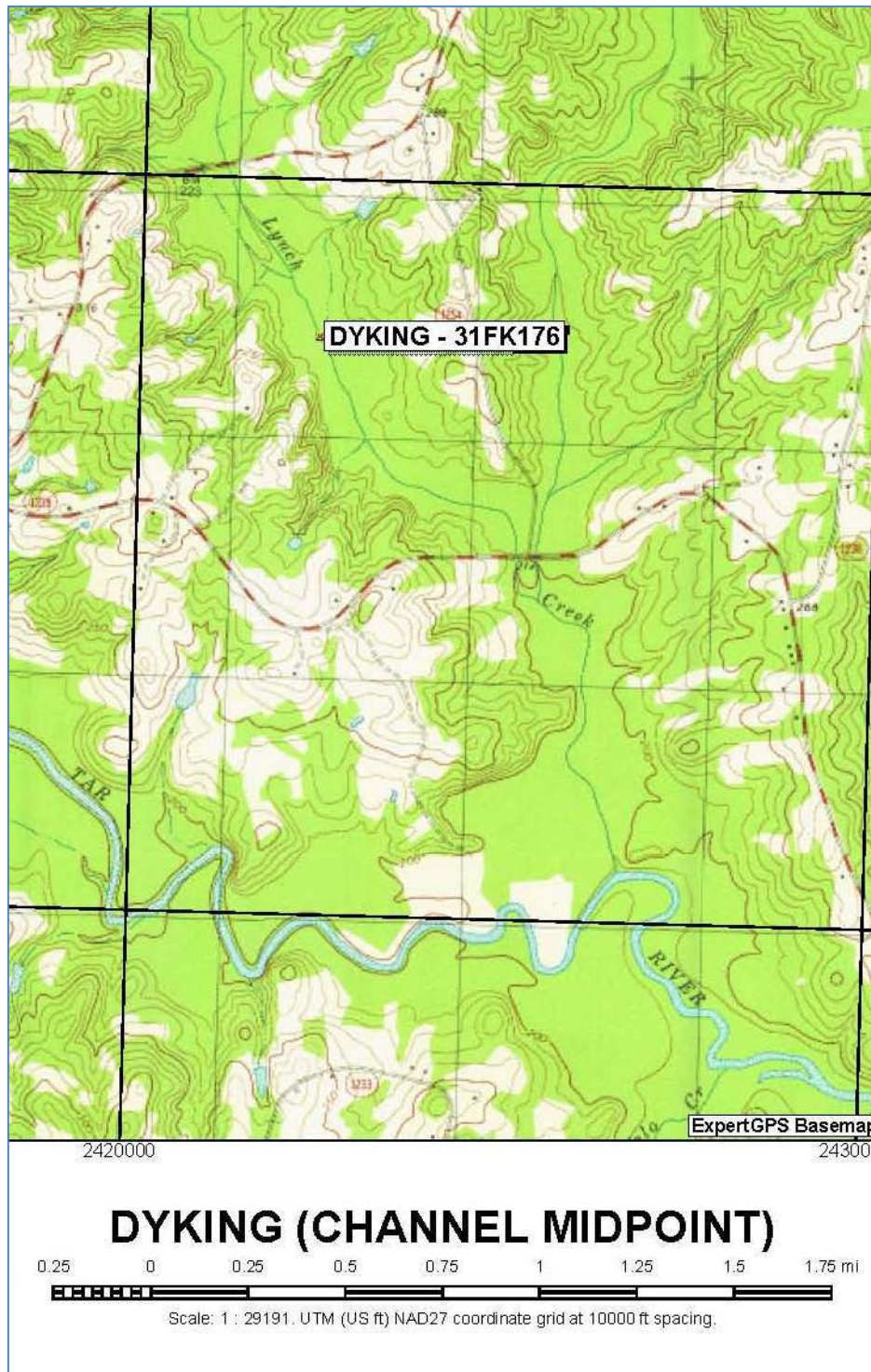
MAPS see PAGE-2

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===== MAPS =====

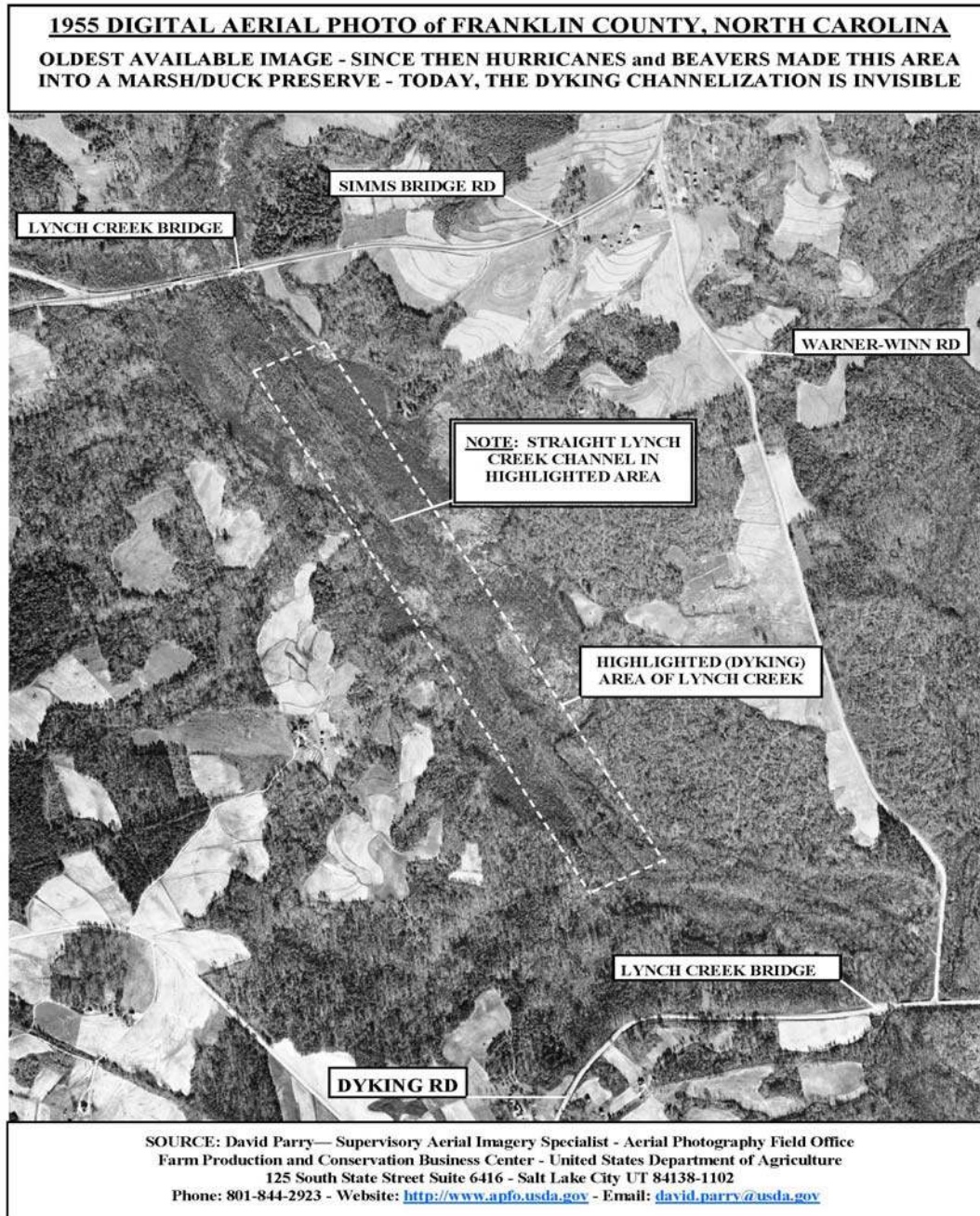
NC OSA SITE: 31FK176 - DYKING

by Robert (Bob) Radcliffe - BEN FRANKLIN SOCIETY (128) – April 15, 2019



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===== REFERENCE MATERIALS =====

DYKING AREA

The area along Lynch Creek between present day Sims Bridge and Dyking Road (that parallels the Tar River) is referred to as the Dyking. Local genealogists confirm that this is not a family name, nor a destination, but rather describes the "dykes" that were built along Lynch Creek in this area by early property owners (late 18th, early 19th century).

Dictionary look-up for: dike / dyke / dyking

1. a. An embankment of earth and rock built to prevent floods.
b. *Chiefly British* A low wall, often of sod, dividing or enclosing lands.
2. A barrier blocking a passage, especially for protection.
3. A raised causeway.
4. A ditch; a channel.
5. *Geology* A long mass of igneous rock that cuts across the structure of adjacent rock.

tr. v. **diked, dik-ing, dikes** also **dyked** or **dyk-ing** or **dykes**

1. To protect, enclose, or provide with a dike.
2. To drain with dikes or ditches.

[Middle English, from Old English *dīc*, *trench*, see [dhīgʷ-](#) in [Indo-European roots](#), and from Old Norse *dīki*, *ditch*.]

Flooding along Lynch Creek in this area – a tributary to the Tar River – has always been a problem. The estimated 3000+ foot- long drainage dyke (canal) is said to have been built to straighten and contain Lynch Creek and make the adjacent alluvial farmlands tillable. Such lowlands were prized for corn production – providing ample water and NO need to fertilize (natural flooding provides the nutrients). It is know that these lands produced corn (and perhaps rice) under contract to support the Confederate Army.

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Dyke construction was a private, not a public, endeavor. This structure is unique and could very well be the largest such man-made structure in the County. It is believed to have been built by slaves in the early 1800's (before the Civil War).

Aerial photography (1955, G8-G9 Photos, Franklin County Soil Conservation Service files) revealed convincing evidence of this significant man-made structure. A Digital-version of these Photos was procured by Bob Radcliffe from the FSA (Farm Service Agency - See PAGE-3).

Individuals (Billy Dement, Ditchie Edwards, Alvin Faulkner, Jeff Pearce) recite stories and claim to have seen and walked along this structure in years past. It has been described to be built with a paved bottom (20'-30' wide) and sides (4'-6' high) made from large cut stone blocks like that of a mill foundation.

No visible evidence of the structure can be found today (2019). The labeled Digital Map segment shows an incredibly straight segment of Lynch Creek where it was located. Due to the presence of beavers and flooding (hurricanes) over time, the area today is a marsh and impounds a large body of water. Further exploration by watercraft could confirm the extent of this forgotten historic feature.