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By HERMAN W. SMITH, Librarian, Weather Bureau.

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SEISMIC NOISES.

[During the past three years public attention has been frequently called to the noises known as "mistpouffers" on the coast of Holland, "barisal noises" in the Delta of the Ganges, and by various names on many other coasts. In this country, also, there are recorded the "moodus" noises in Connecticut, the rumbling and shaking preliminary to landslides in North Carolina and Pennsylvania, and the noises that prevailed for weeks in South Carolina after the Charleston earthquake. Occasionally noises are attributed to earthquakes that are really due to the passage of meteors overhead, but the two following articles certainly refer to noises issuing from the ground. In general, all such phenomena are worthy of investigation, and the Editor thinks it not improper to publish the two following papers, since it may well be that the phenomena here recorded are sometimes due to the action of frost and rain in the rocks beneath us.—C. A.]

EXPLOSIVE NOISES AT FRANKLINVILLE, N. Y.

By Dr. J. W. KALES (dated September 18, 1897).

About 9 o'clock a. m., October 10, 1896, the writer was driving on the Cuba road (see Chart VI) toward Franklinville, N. Y. At the point marked 1 on the map a loud explosive sound was heard which appeared to come from the center of East Hill. When point 2 was reached a similar sound was heard, also at point 3. These sounds succeeded each other at intervals of about five minutes. They closely resembled the sounds produced by coarse black powder used in blasting rocks in the construction of tunnels. The same sounds were heard at the same time by Mr. McStay at his residence, marked McStay. McStay attributed the sounds to the firing of cannon at Cuba, but there was no cannon at Cuba, 13 miles distant. East Hill lies between McStay's and Cuba. The dotted lines on the map all run through the center of East Hill. This hill is about 500 feet high, i. e., using the valley at Franklinville as a base. This region is covered with deep drift. The valley at Franklinville is filled with "till" 100 to 150 feet deep. The underlying rocks belong to the Chemung group, dip to the southwest, and are formed of thin lamellæ of sandy shale and thick beds of sandstone. The surface of the soil is strewn with quartz and limestone pebbles, sandstone, and granite boulders. Many moraines extend along the hillsides, showing that this section was once covered with glaciers. On the summit of East Hill is a large sandstone boulder in which is a depression—a mortar—said to have been formerly used by the Indians for grinding corn. Single sounds, like those described, are heard in the hills about here, but so far as the writer knows no series of sounds have been so closely located as those of October 10, 1896, in East Hill; they appear to be due to breaking of the strata of underlying rocks.

SEISMIC NOISES IN NORTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA.

By BARRY C. HAWKINS, Voluntary Observer (dated October 8, 1897).

There are several instances of sounds in nature, for which no reasonable or proved explanation can be found and, probably, the most remarkable of these is the phenomenon known as the "barisal guns." The facts relating to these seem to be as follows: At a certain point near the seacoast in India, sounds are heard resembling distant cannon firing. These sounds have been extensively studied, but no reasonable hypothesis has been advanced which accounts for the "guns."

Mention has been made in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW of certain sounds heard on Black Mountain, N. C., in 1876, and obviously caused by the slow falling or sliding and crushing of rocks. But I am going to describe a phenomenon which *seems* to be *very similar* to the famed "barisal guns," and located right in the United States. No account of these sounds has ever been published, and no scientist has ever taken the slightest interest in them, or paid any attention to them, so far as the writer knows.

In northern Georgia, in the extreme north of Rabun County, close to the North Carolina State line and thirty-fifth parallel of latitude, is Rabun Bald Mountain, forming one of the highest peaks on the very crest of the Blue Ridge. This mountain has the same bulky shape and long rambling ridges running for miles in all directions as are spoken of by Hugh Miller as characterising the gneissic mountains of Scotland. On the east side there is a small cliff over which a small stream falls in wet weather, and from the ranges to the east the peak appears in form exactly like a brace, viz, ~~~. The entire mountain is of gneiss.

Now, on this mountain are heard mysterious sounds resembling distant cannon firing, and these sounds have been heard for many years, probably at least fifty; they have been heard in all kinds of weather and at various points on the mountain.

Numerous observers have noted the sounds, and two reliable gentlemen once spent a night on the summit. About 10 o'clock p. m., sounds were heard which were supposed to be
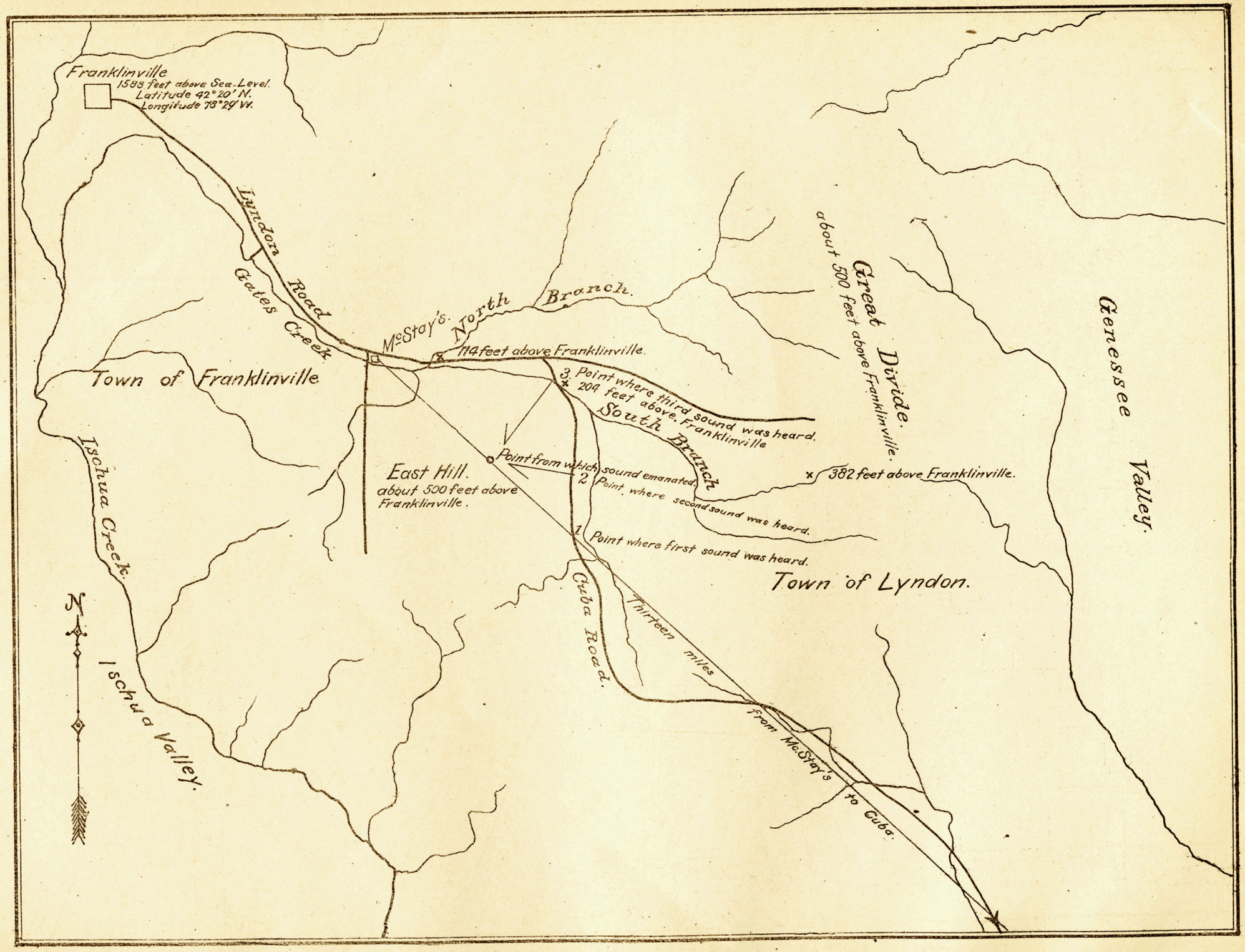
Chart VI. Map of East Hill, Cattaraugus, County, N. Y.