The Cooperative Observations Program

Background and Overview

Overview

- History
- Participants
- Challenges
- Future

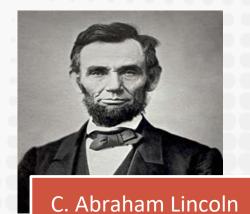


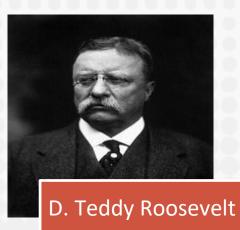
Pop Quiz!

What famous U.S. historical figure first conceived the idea of a volunteer weather reporting network?









Pop Quiz!

What famous U.S. historical figure first conceived the idea of a volunteer weather reporting network?



B. Thomas Jefferson

History

Reverend John Campanius Holm

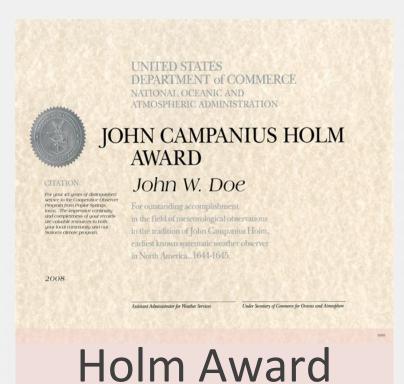
 The first to take systematic weather observations in the United States (1644)

Thomas Jefferson

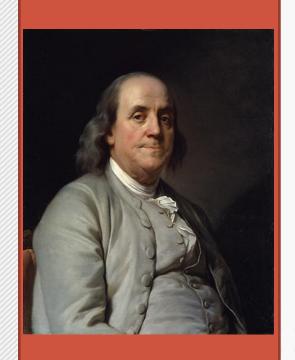
 Jefferson maintained unbroken weather records from 1776 to just days before his death (1776-1816)

History





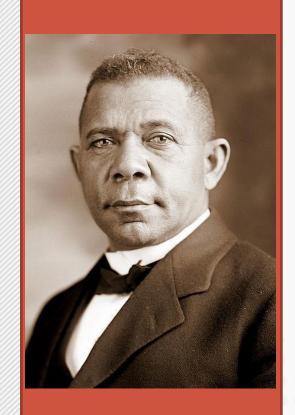
Other Notable Observers



Benjamin Franklin -

Took observations and also used them to make the first hurricane forecasts





Booker T. Washington -

Took routine observations during his life (1856 -1915)

History

1812 - After the War, post surgeons became official observers

1874 - Observers were transferred to the Army Signal Corp

1891 – Observers transferred to the Weather Bureau

1970 - The Weather Bureau became the NWS with approximately 11,000 COOP observers

Now – The National Weather Service has over 8500 COOP observers

History

The Organic Act of 1890 charges the NWS with:

Providing weather and river forecasts and warnings

Disseminating forecasts and warnings

Reporting temperature, precipitation, and river conditions

Recording data to establish records of the climatic conditions of the US



OUR OBSERVERS

Who are they?

Vannevar Bush



Vannevar Bush on COOP

"...is one of the most extraordinary services ever developed, netting the public more per dollar expended than any other government service in the world..." (1933)

Bush was FDR's science advisor, work on the Manhattan Project, and helped develop the National Science Foundation.

Who are they?



Civic Minded

Retirees

Weather Enthusiasts

Agricultural

Farmers

College/County

Ag Extension Svc

Government

USDA

Fish Hatcheries

Local Utilities







WHO ARE WE?

Who are we?

NWS Headquarters

Observing Services
Division
(OSD)

National COOP Program Manager

Climate Services Division (CSD)

National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)

Regional

Regional COOP Program Manager (RCMP)

System Operations Division (SOD)

Scientific Services
Division (SSD)

Data Acquisition Branch (DAB)

Regional Climate Centers (RCC)

Field Offices

Observing Program Leader (OPL)

Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM)

COOP Focal Point

COOP Team Member

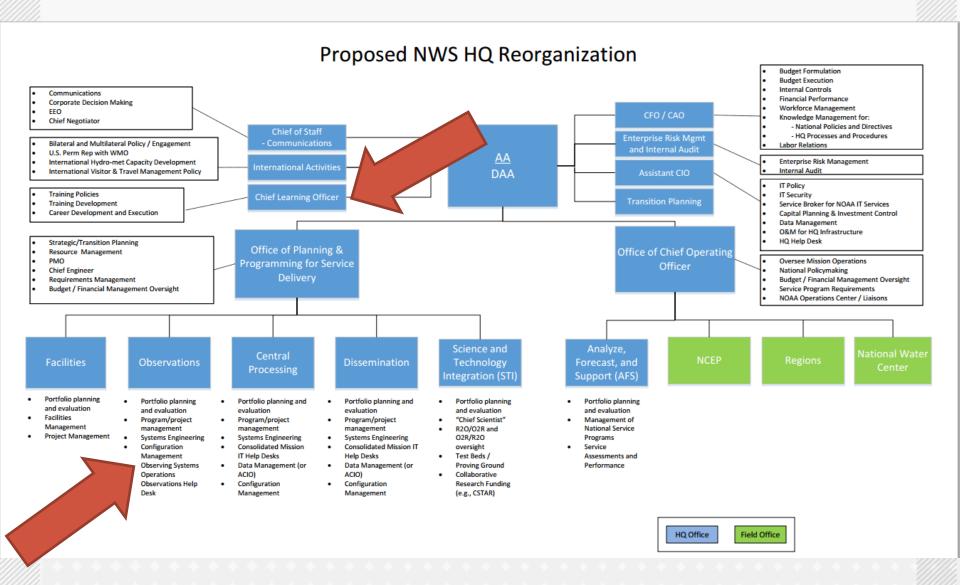
Climate Focal Point

Data Focal Point

Service Hydrologist

Hydro Focal Point

Who are we?



COOP FUTURE



Concerns



Preserving COOP

How do we preserve this valuable resource?

Maintain good communications and customer service

Acknowledge quality of observations and their commitment to the program



Wireless Nimbus





Future of COOP

Occurring/Upcoming Changes

- Station Information System (Electronic Records)
- Wireless Nimbus (MMTS-W)
 - Test system installed at USC.
- Cellular COOP (CCOOP)
 - Transmits temperatures and rainfall via a cellular phone connection.
 - Test system at Sumter Water Plant



CCOOP

McBee 1SE

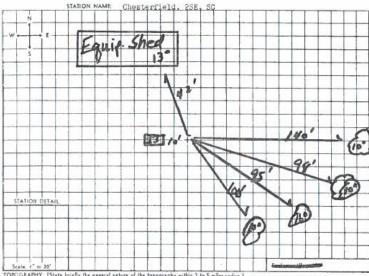
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	5-24-65 (Effective date)	MITNEY WINDOWS CAR.	Prson submitting form) AAM/SC FF/CA		(Date prepared)	
	29101	(© 2018 Google			29593 Google	Earth

History of Observations in the Town of Chesterfield, SC (1965-Present)

- Station was originally located near the town of McBee (McBee 1 SE)
- Chesterfield 2 SE

Moved to the town of Chesterfield on June 1st, 1965
 Observer – Ferris Russell through June 30th, 1980

Observer – Mary Eliza Russell July 1st, 1980



TOPOGRAPHY: (State briefly the general nature of the topography within 3 to 5 miles radius.)

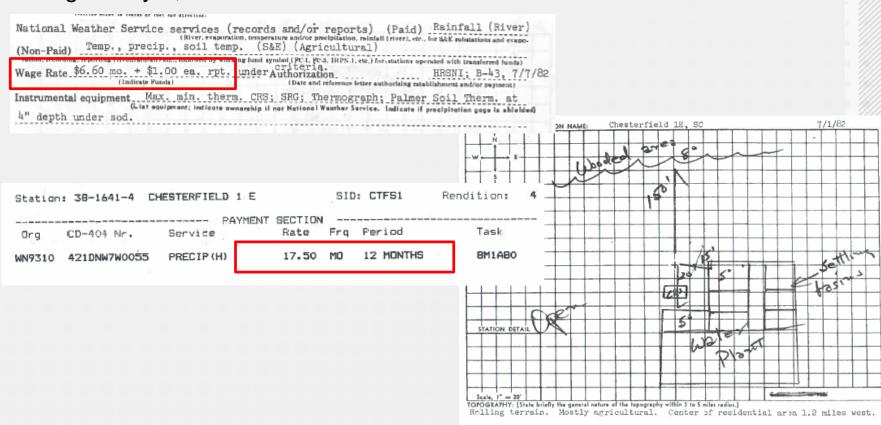
Flat to gently rolling terrain. Mostly agricultural. Town of Chesterfield located two miles NW.

DIRECTIONS FOR REACHING STATION: Give instructions in detail. If outside town or city, give direction and distance, highway assembles an name, and any other pertinent information which will anable the inspector to drive directly to the station without previous knowledge of its location.

From Chesterfield PO proceed E on E. Main St. (Hay. #9) 1.0 mile to JCt. Hwy. 9 and Chesterfield Rd.; take right fork (Chesterfield Rd) proceed 1.2 miles to dirt drive on left, proceed on dirt drive to observers residence and station, 0.1 mile,

Station Move to the Chesterfield Water Plant (Chesterfield 1 E)

Began July 1, 1982

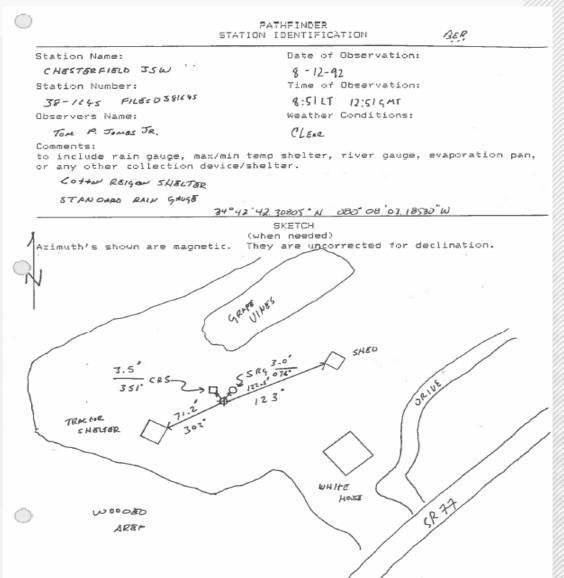


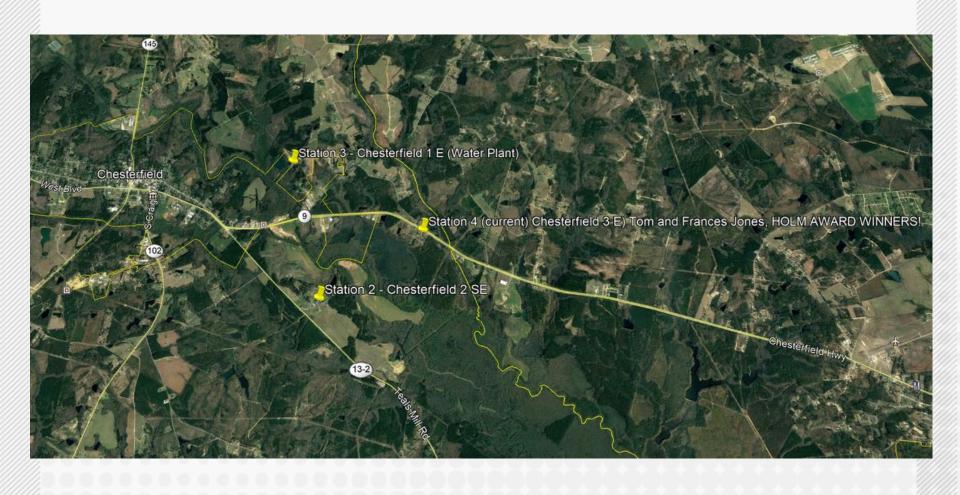
DIRECTIONS FOR REACHING STATION: Give instructions in datail. If outside town or city, give direction and distance, highway number or name, and any other pertinent information which will enable the inspector to drive directly to the station without previous knowledge of its location.

From P.O. in Ghesterfield, SC proceed east on Business Hwy. #9 1.7 mi. (east side of Thompson Creek) to and turn left on SR 23, proceed about 200 feet, turn left on Sec. Rd. 8b6, proceed 0.7 mi. to water plant.

Station Move to (Chesterfield 3 SW)

Began March 1st, 1989,
 Observer Tom P. Jones Jr.





Observer Comments -



(FORM No. 144-1885.)

WAR DEPARTMENT, SIGNAL SERVICE, U. S. ARMY.

Monthly Record of Observations taken at Special Cotton Region Stations. Station Columbia De Month: august 1886

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Monthly Record of Observations taken at Special Cotton Region Stations.

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U. S. Department of Agriculture, Weather Sureau.

Voluntary Observers' Meteorological Record: Month of

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Including rain, hall, sleet, and melted snew. t From maximum and minimum readings.

Monthly Stringery.

Mean max, temperature. . : Mean min. temperature;

Maximum temperature, 84 : date, 8 7

Total precipitation, 3,74 inches

Greatest precipitation in any 24 consecutive hours, (2.441) date, (2.4712)

No. of clear days, 7.3 ; partly cloudy, 7.2 ; clouds,

on which all or more procipitation fell. 6 Prevailing wind direction; East J.

Depth of snow on ground on 15th, Marail inches.

Depth of snow on ground at end of month, All to inches.

Total snowfall during the month, N 1700, inches (Light, 15 Tt 16 77 77)

Dates of frost.

Dates of hail,

Dates of sleet.

Dates of auroras.

Time used on this form (a) 75 %.

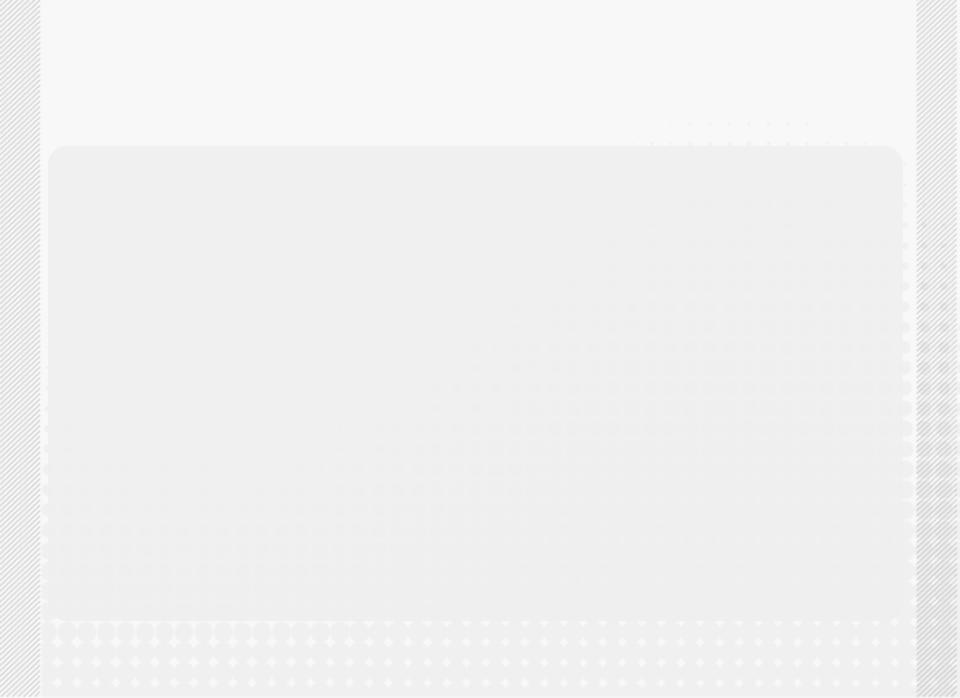
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Remarks.

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_	Obstructed by rough ice.		E. Ice garge		,					Cede								
B. C.	Frozen, but open at gage. Upper surface of smooth is		F. Shore Ite. G. Floating is	66.						SUPERV	HSING	OFFICE			~			STATION INDEX NO.
D.	ice gorge above gage.		H. Pool stage	8.						1			(Ĵ٤	SF	7		38 - 7722-2

Hartsv	ille			100000		d different)		RIVER,	19.		· o.	8	WS F0	ORM E	3-91							U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
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7 AN	BS€RVATIO	N RIVER		I A	M	PHECHPIE	I'M	STANDA	PO TONE	NUSE					F	ECC	ORD	OF F	RIVER	AND	CLIN	MATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS
S to t	が力	XX 32	GAGE ZER	NOF RIVER	cel es	FL000 S	AÜE FL	NORMA	L POOL S	TAGE		FI										
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			24-HR A	MOUNTS	At Ob.	Draw a st	aight line (and a wave) the	ough hours	s precipits	dian was		Mark 'X'	for all ty	pes occ	unning	2 8					
24 HRS. EN	NOING		ed (Ins edths)	pellats,	Sets.	probably o	sccurred un	DOVAROS					each day	1		T	- State		GAGE READING			Ť
OBSERVA	NTION		e, etc. () Aundre	95	Ge p		A.M.	N	NOON	P.I	۷		ste			12	f observed from	TICN	AT	NC.		1
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C. Upper surface of C. Ice gorge above (G. Floating ic H. Pool stage			9.45		2,21		3/-0	8		-	7	AMI		1320	TO	14 14	0		38 399 0
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<u>Date</u> ▲	Station Number	Station Name	<u>Total</u> <u>Precip in.</u>	Comments	
2/13/2010	SC-DC-19	Summerville 1.4 SSE	0.00	At my house, we have 7 inches of snow on the ground, and it is still snowing at 12:18 AM	<u>View</u>
2/13/2010	SC-OR-3	North 0.3 W	0.51	Snowstorm started mid-afternoon with tiny snowflakes that got larger gradually. The temperature was 42.1 degrees and the dew point was 42. The snow started to stick about 4:01 pm. By 4:30 pm, it was really coming down and the temperature was 36.7. It got below freezing after midnight. The snow was 5 inches deep when the snow stopped about 3:3 am. Brought in sample to thaw about 4:00 am. The air was so calm and the snow was so fluffy that the snow piled up over the twigs on the trees 2 to 4 inches deep. On the ground it even piled up on the tops of the wires for my tomato frames. It was a very quiet storm and was pretty. I took lots of pictures.	View

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Date ▲	Station Number	Station Name	Total Precip in.	Comments	
2/14/2014	SC-AK-44	Aiken 9.8 NNE	0.00	Power off since noon yesterday, Had to find an alternate WiFi to send this. I have wood heat and a generator so I am OK.	View
2/14/2014	SC-PC-5	Pickens 1.5 WSW	0.02	Melted snow flurries from yesterday morning.	View
2/14/2014	SC-RC-12	Columbia 6.7 N	0.08	Some snow in the morning, becoming mostly cloudy in the afternoon.	View
2/14/2014	SC-YR-13	Tega Cay 1.6 ESE	0.27	ZL at 7:30am. Change to S- 8:00am. (S 8:15-8:45). S-/S to 12:20pm (2.3" to Noon)(.27"swe). 4.3" on ground this morning. Event Totals: 7.3" snow, 1.49" precip.	View
2/14/2014	SC-AK-39	North Augusta 1.5 WSW	1.25	Day 4 without electrical service and internet. Ice storm caused massive destruction in our community. Many trees down, especially the pines. Several homes with roof damage.	View
2/14/2014	SC-AK-42	Aiken 8.7 E	0.00	Power restored. Without power for 1 1/2 days, although many still without power. Significant tree damage at home. Many roads in Aiken, SC are nearly impassable due to downed trees, limbs, and/or power lines.	View
2/14/2014	SC-AN-10	Iva 5.2 SSW	Т	This trace was early in the morning then the beautiful sun came out.	View
2/14/2014	SC-BF-16	Bluffton 2.4 NNW	0.02	Yesterday, cloudy with clearing late, high 42, this morning clear, 35 degrees.	View
2/14/2014	SC-BF-23	Daufuskie Island 1.7 SW	0.00	Zero rain.	View
2/14/2014	SC-CR-4	Mount Pleasant 1.9 ESE	0.01	just a wee but left over from yesterday's rain after I measured	View
2/14/2014	SC-MB-3		0.29	Ice and snow over much of the ground app 85%	View
2/14/2014	SC-GT-24	Pawleys Island 2.6 N	0.02	TRACE	View
2/14/2014	SC-GV-7	Travelers Rest 8.9 N	т 📩	AFTER MY EFFORT TO GET A CORE VALUE FOR TOTAL SNOW AND MUCH ICE. MY REGARDS AND THANKS TO ALL THOSE OBSERVERS WHO DO IT MANY TIMES EVERY WINTER.	View
2/14/2014	SC-GV-9	Taylors 4.6 N	Т	A few light flurries in the morning of 13th. Extensive thawing in afternoon. Unable to get a core sample, morning of 14th as snow had a thick ice coating.	View

<u>Date</u>	Station Number	Station Name	Total Precip in. ▲	Comments	
9/15/2018	SC-HR-19	Loris 1.4 ENE	8.19	8.19 inches is what I recorded from the gauge but the rain was blowing sideways all day yesterday so it was probably more than that.	View
9/15/2018	SC-HR-73	Myrtle Beach 5.2 SW	6.93	Hurricane Florence-rain all day	View
9/15/2018	SC-HR-33	Loris 2.9 WSW	6.63	6:57 am - a few drops , 8:00 am - 0.03 , 8:03 am - lights in house blinked , 9:00 am - 0.08 , Wind , 10 am - 0.16 , Wind - Rain , 10:30 am - 0.40 , 11 am - 0.49 , 12 noon - 0.61 , Wind - Rain , 12:30 pm - 0.72 , Wind Rain , 1:00 pm - 0.85 , 1:30 pm - 1.03 , 2 pm - 1.21 , 2:15 pm - 1.24 , (walked the dogs) 2:30 - 1.28 , 3:00 pm - 1.58 , 3:15 pm - 1.62 , 3:30 - 1.67 , 3:45 - 1.76 , 4:00 pm - 1.87 , 4:15 pm - 1.94 , 4:30 pm - 2.08 , 4:33 pm - light in house flickered , 4:38 pm - lights flicked again , 4:45 pm - 2.20 , 5 pm - 2.35 , 5:30 - 2.86 , 5:45 - 3.12 , 5:53 pm - lights flickered , 6:00 pm - 3.40 , 6:30 0 3.87 , 7:00 pm - 4.42 , 7:30 pm - 4.90 , 7:45 - 5.08 , 8 pm - 5.19 , 8:30 pm - 5.38 . 9 pm - 5.53 (eye of storm) , 0:00 pm - 5.76 , 10:40 pm - 5.88 , 12:15 am - 6.08 , 3:20 am - 6.46 , 6:00 am - 6.53 , 6:30 am - 6.59 , and finally 7:00 am - 6.63	View
9/15/2018	SC-HR-61	Conway 6.2 E	6.40	Tropical Storm Florence	View
9/15/2018	SC-HR-27	Myrtle Beach 8.4 WNW	6.38	lots of wind no trees down just branches and leaves. less rain than expected	View
9/15/2018	SC-HR-46	Myrtle Beach 5.0 WNW	5.62	Hurricane Florence blew a lot of wind and tore a lot of branches and leaves from trees. No serious damage. My power stayed on also.	View





