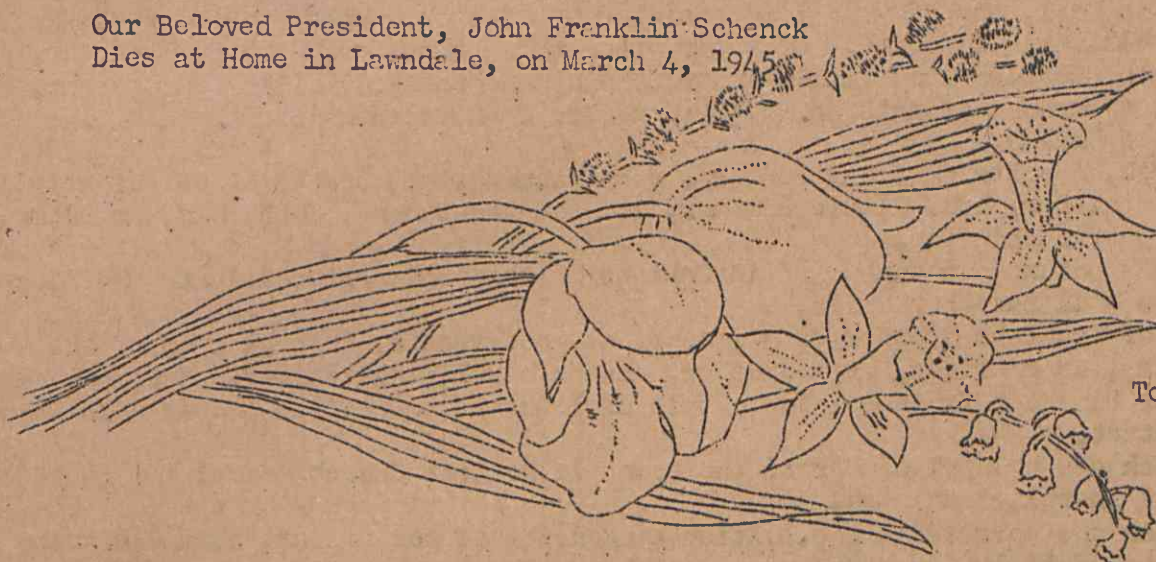


Our Beloved President, John Franklin Schenck
Dies at Home in Lawndale, on March 4, 1945



By
Tom Forney

We who live in Lawndale and who work for the Cleveland Mill and Power Company are made sad in the realization that no longer will we see about the office, the mill, the Dye House, the Machine Shop or in the Store the beloved figure of our President and friend, Mr. John F. Schenck, Sr. There is, however, consolation in the fact that in the hearts of all the community and in continuation of the works he has fostered and fathered, he lives on.

The people here loved him for his sense of humor, for his fair dealing, for his vigor in attacking what he believed to be wrong. There were many who disagreed with him in point of view. Yet many, too, agreed either in whole or in part with his views. Regardless of whether one agreed or disagreed with him, he would have to admit that Mr. John Schenck, Sr. was firm but fair in expressing his opinions while allowing the other to be equally as expressive either for or against that point of view.

Sunday, March 4, 1945, Mr. John F. Schenck, Sr. passed away. The funeral service was held at the home at 11 A.M., Tuesday, March 6, 1945. He was laid to rest in the Sunset Cemetery in Shelby. Active pall bearers were Ticy Ledford, Johnny Elmore, Shannon Blanton, J. B. Brackett, Tal Wallace, Cliff Wallace, Burgin Southard and Burt Brackett. The service was conducted by Rev. J. W. Suttle and assisted by Rev. Zeno Wall and Rev. C. G. Isley. Many beautiful flowers expressing the regards of friends and employees were sent. A long list of honorary pall bearers consisted of many of his employees and associates of long standing as well as many of his out of town friends.

Mr. John Schenck, Sr. had lived a rich, full life. He was born almost 80 years ago, the son of Major and Mrs. Henry Franklin Schenck in Lawndale. He attended Captain Bells Preparatory School at Kings Mountain and later attended Wake Forest College and the University of North Carolina. He received the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy at the latter school, after which he studied law and was admitted to the bar.

After a short period of law practice Mr. Schenck returned to Lawndale to help his father in the operation of the cotton mill. The textile industry then was in its infancy and needed the help which Mr. John Schenck could give to it.

The first cotton mill south of the Potomac was erected by his great-grandfather, Michael Schenck. His father, Major Henry F. Schenck, in 1871, built a small cotton mill about 2 miles above the present site of Lawndale. The mill was called "Cleveland Cotton Mills". Later the mill was moved to its present site at Lawndale and the name became "Cleveland Mill and Power Company."

Mr. Schenck continued to help his father in the operation of the mill until, when the Major died in 1915, he took over the Presidency of the company and since then has determined its policy. Mr. John Schenck, Sr. also was President of the Lily Mills Company, named in honor of his first wife, Mrs. Lily Moore Schenck.

In 1892 Mr. Schenck married Miss Lily Moore of Texas. She died in 1940. Mrs. Lily Schenck is remembered with love and tenderness by the people of Lawndale.

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