

# Mrs. Marshall Williams Celebrates 85th Birthday



MRS. WILLIAMS AND HER ADMIRING SONS, GRANDDAUGHTER—no mother ever had more admiring or more affectionate children and grandchildren than Mrs. Williams. She's shown here with her two sons, Captain I. R. Williams of Dunn, standing directly behind her and Virginius Williams of Washington, D. C. Standing beside her father is Miss Lenoir Williams of Faison, who teaches school at Whiteville.

## Hundreds Pay Tribute To Noted Artist

On last Sunday afternoon, a steady stream of cars rolled into the big grove surrounding the beautiful 97-year-old ancestral home of Mrs. Marshall McDiarmid Williams of Faison. They started coming at 3 and they came until after dark.

More than 500 friends came to say "Happy Birthday" to Mrs. Williams, one of North Carolina's most distinguished women, noted artist and mother of Captain I. R. Williams, prominent Dunn attorney and civic leader.

Mrs. Williams was celebrating her 85th birthday. Actually, as friends put it, she was the "youngest" person in the crowd. She doesn't appear to be even three score and ten in age, to say nothing of the other 15 years.

She still leads a busy life, spends hours each day at the easel, writes newsy, interesting letters to her friends, and takes time out to keep up her civic, social and religious work.

Mrs. Williams is the former Mary Lyde Hicks and was born in Faison. Her ancestry runs through prominent families back to colonial times. She's a real "blue blood."

### Many Notables Present

The guest list looked like a "Who's Who" in North Carolina. They came—Superior Court judges, Supreme Court Judges, former Superior Court Judges, mayors, city officials, legislators, a former United States Senator and Congressman and other notables too numerous to mention.

But none came because of who they were or their position. They came because they were old friends of Mrs. Williams and her family. They came to pay tribute to this "young" woman on a birthday that she won't soon forget.

And every person who came took time out to inspect and admire the beautiful portraits and other paintings which hang in every room of the house. Every one is a tribute to her artistry.

It was also a great day for her two sons, Captain I. R. Williams of Dunn, and Virginius Williams of Washington, D. C. and her granddaughter, Miss Lenoir Williams of Dunn and Whiteville. The Dunn attorney and his daughter handled most of the arrangements.

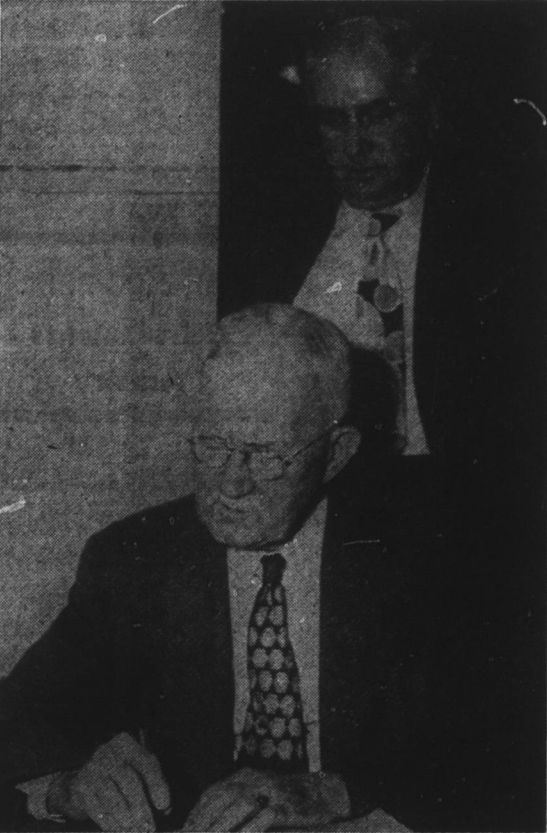
The Daily Record photographer, John Lewis of Lewis Studio, was on hand to record scenes of the momentous occasion. Some of them are pictured here.



THE OBJECT OF AFFECTION—Mrs. Williams, looking as pretty as a young bride, received showers of congratulations, praise and compliments on her birthday. Shown here extending their best wishes are: Superior Court Judge Clawson L. Williams of Sanford, and Former U. S. Senator W. B. Umstead of Durham. They're old friends of the family and among Captain Rody Williams' closest friends.



HONOREE WITH THREE OLD FRIENDS—Mr. and Mrs. Nathan M. Johnson, Sr. of Dupn, left, and Supreme Court Justice Jeff D. Johnson right, of Clinton, are shown here as they chatted with Mrs. Williams. Nathan Johnson is a man who has made a tremendous success in business and Jeff Johnson is a man who has made a success in politics. Mrs. Johnson is a lady who ranks high among the civic, social and religious leaders of the State.



"MR. RAY" SIGNS THE GUEST BOOK—One of the oldest guests who called, but also one of the youngest in spirit, was Raymond L. Cromartie, Sr. of Dunn. He was 79 on Easter Sunday. He is shown here signing the guest register as Jim Driver, another Dunn resident, awaits his turn.



"HE PUT ME BACK TOGETHER"—That's the way Mrs. Williams referred to Dr. George L. Carrington when she greeted him. Critically injured in an automobile accident 14 years ago, it was Dr. Carrington's lot to attend Mrs. Williams. Members of the family, friends and other doctors gave up hope, but Dr. Carrington pulled her through. They've been good friends since.



THOUSANDS YEARS IN THE AIR, 1940—It was the day before Dunn's 75th anniversary and the social calendar was packed, along with enough other political notables to stage a State convention. Former U. S. Senator William E. (Bill) Umstead of Durham, whom some people are already calling "Governor" was the center of attention in this group. Left to right are: Joe McCullers of Dunn, Judge Clawson Williams of Sanford, Judge Franklin T. DuPre, Sr. of Angier; E. L. Gavin of Sanford, Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in last summer's primary; Senator Umstead; Mayor Ralph E. Hanna, Mr. Williams and Johnnie Welton, all of Dunn; Frank L. Fuller of Durham, one of Mr. Umstead's law partners; and Mayor Protem Joe A. Wilkins of Dunn.

## One Hurt In Auto Wreck

An Erwin soldier was slightly injured Thursday night when a car driven by another Erwin G. I. went out of control and overturned three miles east of Dunn.

Joseph Vann, 20, of Erwin was treated at Dunn Hospital for lacerations and bruises of the left arm. Three other occupants of the car, including the driver, 18-year-old Franklin D. Turnage of Erwin, were not injured.

The other passengers were Jennings Holcomb of Headquarters Company, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg and Thomas Johnson, also of Fort Bragg.

No charges were preferred against young Turnage, who is also attached to the division's headquarters company.

According to Patrolman David Mathews, who investigated the accident, Turnage was driving toward Dunn in the rain around 10:45 p. m. Thursday when he lost control of his 1949 Ford. Turnage estimated his speed at the time at about 45 to 50 miles per hour. Damage to the machine was estimated at \$700.



ADMIRING HER PAINTINGS—All of the guests found their way into the library and into the rooms to admire the many paintings done by Mrs. Williams and hung all over the big house. Shown here admiring this portrait of one of the Williams family's old servants are: C. J. Thompson, Earl and Preston Parker, prominent Dunn business men.