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HISTORY OF LITTLE YADKIN AND ITS HOSPITABLE FOLKS

Rich in History, Natural Resources, Original Beauty and Good People. They Need More Roads

By The Editor

It is called "Little Yadkin" because it is cut off from big Yadkin by the lucid streams of the Yadkin river, but all that there is of Little Yadkin is all right; it is 100 per cent hospitality, and getting more so every day. It is a small township with some 50 odd voters before the "better half" begun to figure in this voting business, but it is full of life and activity; it is progressive and rich in the history of this entire country. Many of the important families of the South can trace their blood back to Little Yadkin as it is now called, which was time a part of Rowan county but was added to Surry county about 1746 in order that certain congressional districts might be balanced in favor of the powers.

The writer, together with Mr. John H. Myers, who was visiting here, accepted an invitation to visit the home of Mr. Smith Williams on Sunday, August 29, and, accompanied by Mr. Fred Mackie, we arrived there about noon, and the remainder of the day was a continuous round of pleasure and entertainment, because Mr. Williams is a prince at entertaining, and so is his entire household, which consists of his good wife and several bright children, his mother, Mrs. Lillington, and her husband, Capt. Nick Lillington, who are making their home with Mr. and Mrs. Williams since they have become feeble. In fact this same place has been the home of Mrs. Lillington for more than 55 years when she was the wife of Col. Lewis Williams, who died several years ago.

This home is located on a beautiful site overlooking the rushing waters of the river to the west. It is a typical old homestead, although the present home is comparatively new and is built on the exact spot where the old Williams mansion was burned some years ago. The present home is almost a mansion, rich in colonial furnishings and all modern conveniences.

It had been in possession of the Williams family of five generations for more than 200 years.

This old homestead, without doubt, has produced more history for this country than any other in this section. The house was built and settlement made before Salem was inhabited and when the nearest general store was at Fayetteville. Many of the famous men of this country can trace their ancestry back to this old homestead and dozens of illustrious Southern gentlemen who have held the highest offices in the gift of their people and who have served to make this Southland famous in many ways owe their sterling manhood and chivalry to the brawn and brains as produced on the old time plantation where the younger generations are now growing to manhood and womanhood. They have been Governors, United States Senator, Congressmen, Judges and all the lesser officials of this as well as other Southern states, more particular Tennessee and Mississippi.

Taking the settlement from the beginning, the present home place of Mr. Smith Williams

was settled about 200 years ago by Mr. Joseph Williams who came south from Virginia and later was a hero of the Revolutionary war, and fought until its end in 1784. Joseph Williams had two sons, Lewis and Nicholas, the latter being known as Nick Williams, and one of the greatest men this country has ever had. A postoffice, known as Panther Creek, was established at the Williams home.

Nick Williams was a broad minded, kind hearted man who numbered his friends by his acquaintances and among his intimate friends were many of the great men of his day. It is said of him that no man ever went to his home for a favor who did not get it if he deserved it, and all men received prompt and courteous treatment at his hands. He had at this time the most beautiful country estate in western North Carolina and frequently entertained as his guests members of the United States Senate, Congressmen and Judges, who were always glad of an invitation to visit the hospitable Williams home here or at "The Cabins," another estate of his.

The Williams estate as it now stands, the home of Mr. Smith Williams, still maintains a great deal of this ancient beauty, although in changing hands it has been allowed to grow up considerably. Its present owner intends to weed it out and bring it back to its old time beauty and vigor, with its magnificent large box-bushes, English elms, flower gardens, cedars, and so on, set out in beautiful arrays, one row of improved boxwoods which stand about 28 feet high goes around the front yard while in the center there is more than 400 others of all sizes, covering a lawn of some two acres, set in rows, crosses and other popular figures, a thing of beauty and magnificent splendor, standing as sentinels, a silent testimony to the artistic taste of the ancestral owners.

"Old Nick Whiskey"

It is here that the beginning of the famous "Nick Williams Whiskey" was inaugurated. They made it here, of the best and purest rye, and its name was handed down generation after generation until it received its first blow when Aus Watts started thinking of things while in the legislature, and its final knock-out came when the prohibition question was voted on in May, 1906. However, the name will long in the minds of the people of this country, but the name is all that remains; the product is gone and in its place we have everything that the minds of a lawless class can imagine.

The Cabins

Not only was the hospitality and good nature of Nick Williams known in this immediate section, but he had a large estate at what was known as "The Cabins" on top of the Blue Ridge Mountains, about seven miles beyond Roaring Gap, at Cherry Lane. Long before, Mr. Williams had entered land from the government, hundreds of acres of it, and had erected a

number of fine cabins on the place and in the summer he would take his family, a few slaves, and some guests, and go to this delightful spot to hunt and fish for the season, then leave about two slave darkies there with the cabins to take care of them until the next season came around. The cabins, as they were called, became famous throughout the South with travelers under this name and they stood there for many years until they were burned down, supposed to have been done by some tramp.

Lewis Williams

Nick Williams had one brother, Lewis, who was like his brother in many respects and was liked as well by the people of this section. This is shown by the fact that he was elected to congress fourteen times, served 28 years without a single defeat, and this at a time when North Carolina only had three congress members for the entire state. When he died in Washington in 1847 he had been a member of that body longer than any other man there, and was known as the "Father of the House," the first man ever to attain that name.

While a member of congress he became owner of the fine estate of his brother Nick, and an incident which shows how proud he was of the place is related. While in Washington he had seen some English elms and determined to bring some home with him, although he made the trip on horseback. He brought two small bushes along and when he reached home and received the greetings of his family in the yard he went straight way and set out his elms before he entered the house. One of them died and the other grew to be a beautiful large tree. It is also said that from this tree sprung all the English elms in North Carolina, small sprouts being carried away by practically every visitor who came to the place.

While in congress Mr. Williams made many fast friends, one of whom was Henry Clay, the same Henry Clay that every school boy has read of and when congress had its recesses the two would start south on horseback and Clay would stop over and spend awhile with his friend in Little Yadkin, then Panther Creek. He also entertained many other distinguished men at his fine and hospitable home.

These two brothers were gentlemen of the old school, full of Southern chivalry and hospitality, big hearted and big men in every way. And this article would not be complete if we did not say that these gentlemen were at all times good and kind to their slaves. It is so often said that we feel it should be related here. Negroes were always happy in Williams' ownership.

Col. Nick Williams had a son named Lewis and one Joseph. The latter married Miss Lou Glenn, a daughter of the late Tyree Glenn, of Enon, then known as Glenwood, and her sister married Judge Settle, of Asheville, father of the late Thomas Settle. This Joseph Williams was the father of the late N. Glenn Williams whose family now resides at the old Joseph Williams home place. They have now about 1,500 acres of the original tract of Williams land. N. Glenn Williams, at the time prohibition came, was one of the largest manufacturers of whiskey in the

country and his brands, of which "Old Nick" was the leading one, were known throughout the United States.

Mr. Lewis Williams was named for his uncle, Congressman Lewis, and he was younger than Joseph. He was married to Miss Sallie Smith, of Anson county, whose family has also been famous in that section. A brother, Major Smith, now lives in a fine country home in Anson county. He was an honored Confederate soldier and from the day the war closed until this day he honored the lost cause by wearing absolutely no other color than that his wartime suit of Confederate gray.

The fine country home finally reached the hands of this Lewis Williams, who had several children, among them Mr. Smith Williams, present owner and occupant. After the death of Lewis Williams his widow married Capt. Nick Lillington, who is now nearing his 75 birthday and is slowly recovering from a fall he sustained last winter.

The Lillingtons

The history of this family is rather romantic. Mr. J. A. Lillington, of Lillington, N. C., was making his way back and forth from his home to Judge Pearson's law school, near Rockford, and found it convenient to stop at Panther Creek. It was here that he fell in love with Miss Bettie Williams, daughter of Nick Williams, and they were married. He afterwards became one of the great lawyers of this state and in his old days moved to Mocksville, where he died. This couple had two sons, Alec and Nick Lillington, both of whom are yet in Little Yadkin. Alec is living with his daughter, Mrs. McBride, and is extremely feeble.

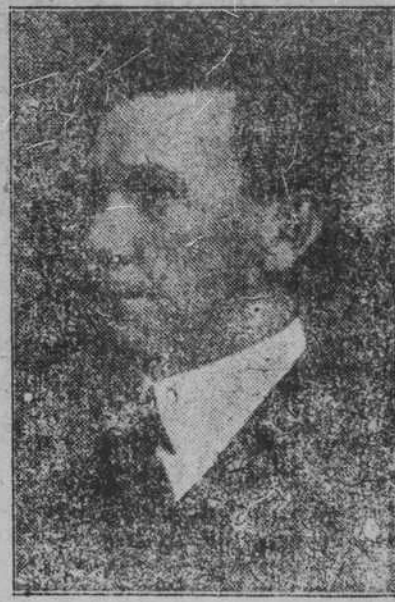
Capt. Nick Lillington and his wife, as we have said, live with Smith Williams. Capt. Nick, as well as his brother, is a well educated man of fine intellect, a graduate of the University of North Carolina and licensed to practice law, but preferred the quietness of farm life to that of a public career. These two brothers have been in the public life and spirit of Yadkin county for many years; its politics, its progress and advancement have all been of interest to them and received their support. Capt. Nick was a member of the old time Ku Klux Klan when it was first organized and he himself organized this part of the state and he can tell many interesting things connected with that ancient order, which was, perhaps the salvation of the white race in the south.

Connellys and Moreheads

Mr. Nick Williams had a niece and nephew who he reared and educated the tenderest care and attention. His niece, Miss Lillie Connelly, at the age of 21, married Mr. Turner Morehead, a son of, then, Governor Morehead, an honored family of this state, and of whom Hon. John M. Morehead, of Charlotte, is a descendant and nephew of Turner Morehead. Her brother, John K. Connelly, carried the first company from Yadkin county to the Civil war, and Miss Lou Glenn, whom we have spoken of above presented the company its flag when it bade good bye to loved ones and went off to fight for a cause that was already lost. Connelly was later made colonel of the 55th N. C. Regiment and was badly wounded in the battle of Gettysburg, but recov-

DESpondent YOUNG LADY PLUNGES TO HER DEATH

New U. S. Marshall of Western District



BROWNLOW JACKSON.

Dr. G. G. Bryant is Deputy Marshal

The first Republican officer to be appointed in Yadkin county came Thursday when Dr. G. G. Bryant, of Jonesville, was appointed a deputy marshal by Marshal Brownlow Jackson of the western district. Dr. Bryant is assigned to Yadkin, Forsyth and Stokes counties with headquarters at Winston-Salem.

Dr. Bryant has been a leading Republican in this county for a number of years and has twice been elected to the general assembly. The appointment is well merited and we congratulate him on his good fortune. He has not yet resigned from the office of representative. It seems that two other members, Doughton and McBee, have been members of the State Highway Commission for several months and have not resigned and all will take action along the same line.

ere-d and after the war was over became a Baptist minister. History shows that at the battle of Gettysburg Connelly's company lost 76 per cent of her men, this being the greatest company, with perhaps the exception of one, the 26th N. C. Regiment.

The Roads

Although the people of this section are progressive they have been unable to get more than three miles of good roads in the township. This one goes from the river bridge to the Forsyth line. They need at least one more road, running from West Bend south to the line, which would put them in good shape and give an outlet. People living in this end of the township have to leave their automobiles three miles and more from home during the winter in order to use them at all.

Our Hosts

But back to our hosts. Mr. Smith Williams and his good wife are great entertainers; no time grows dull around them and there's no half way ground; you must be happy when under their roof. For them we wish all the good things of this world; may they be visited by entrancing dreams by night and sweet realities by day. They deserve much and we hope they live long and happy, and may their tribe increase.

Despondent over a love affair, Miss Lillian Mitchell, 23 years old, jumped from the top of the new Robert E. Lee Hotel at Winston-Salem last Sunday afternoon and was crushed to death on the cement 110 feet below.

She had gone to the top of the hotel with a couple of friends and, while on top of the hotel climbed, unnoticed, over the parapet, forty inches high, and plunged downward. She was terribly crushed. Mrs. F. W. Smith, who lives near the hotel, is the only person who saw her as she fell.

According to her room mate she was in love with a young man who is now in a tubercular hospital and could not marry. She went to Winston-Salem from Stokes county last spring. She is survived by her parents and several brothers and sisters.

State News Items

The Durham Public Utilities Co. has asked the state commission to allow it to increase its street car fare to 10 cents. The fare is already 8 cents.

Judge W. B. Alton, associate justice of the Supreme court of North Carolina, died suddenly Thursday at his home in Goldsboro.

Iredell county's first bale of new was sold in Statesville last week and brought 20 cents per pound.

NOTICE

Application will be made to His Excellency, the governor of North Carolina for the pardon of Colonel Haynes, convicted at the March term, 1921, of the Superior court of Yadkin county of store breaking and larceny, and sentenced to the state prison for term of one year. This September 12, 1921. Williams & Reavis Attys.

NOTICE

North Carolina Superior court Yadkin county before the clerk, William Kirk and Susie Smith vs. Sarah Phillips, John Kirk, Frank Kirk, Wade Bynum, Cora Bynum, Odell Bynum, and Son Bynum and James Kirk.

The defendants above named, John Kirk, Frank Kirk and Pearl Morgan will take notice that a special proceeding entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Yadkin county, which is for sale of lands described in petition, the proceeds from which to be divided among the tenants in common; and said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear before the Clerk of Superior court of Yadkin county, at his office in Yadkinville, on the 17th day of September, 1921, and answer or demur to the petition filed, or the relief therein demanded will be granted. This Aug. 17, 1921. J. L. Crater Clerk Superior Court

The Ripple goes to press at noon on Wednesday. Advertisers should send in their ads so as to reach us not later than Tuesday. All the work in a newspaper office is not done in one day. The sooner you send in your advertising copy the better service we can give you.