



Hampton D. Williams

Now retired, Hampton Durant Williams, lawyer, legislator, banker, town official, farmer and citizen of Duplin County, lives quietly at his more than a century-old home in Kenansville. With the attitude of the true philosopher, Mr. Williams observes the world that has grown out of the one he knew as a boy on his father's plantation near Kornegay's Bridge in Smith township, where he was born 72 years ago on July 23, 1877.

Mr. Williams, whom one might call a "crusading individualist" as well as a "philosopher", believes that the opportunities and the system of government that his generation knew was the greatest that the world has ever known. Out of it, he feels, came our wonderful modern inventions, electricity, the flying machine, radios.

In a nation where opportunities for individual starts are limited, the man who we take for granted here in Duplin County, and throughout the world every day would never have been developed. Mr. Williams looks askance at some of the trends in modern government in our country today. He fears that eventually they will lead to limitations of the opportunities of the individual.

Forty-nine years ago, in February 1900, Mr. Williams, who had just graduated in law at the University of North Carolina, opened an office to practice law in Kenansville. For many years until he retired from the practice of law, his name stood for integrity and the proper professional conduct of the office of an attorney at law in Duplin County.

He was schooled in the public schools of the county and later went to Thompson's Preparatory school at Siler City, in Chatham County. Paying tribute to a former teacher of his, Clay Stanford, and to a man to whom many in Duplin County owe much of their knowledge, Mr. Williams said when he was growing up he learned as much from his association with Mr. Stanford, as from any other source. At the University of North Carolina where he studied law, he was under Prof. James C. McRae. During the years of his active law practice in Kenansville, Mr. Williams had a large practice in both civil and criminal law. He had his own law office on the courthouse square.

He is the son of Durant and Elizabeth (Kilpatrick) Williams. He traces his ancestry back to Richard Williams, being a great-great-grandson of Richard. The family trace their ancestry back to a Williams family in Wales, who came to America in Colonial days. Jacob Williams, preacher, lived in the vicinity of Kenansville. He was a great-grandfather of Mr. Williams. He was a Baptist preacher. He established Island Creek Baptist Church. He is buried in Rutledge cemetery.

There were nine children in the family who reached maturity, two died in infancy. Of the family today only two brothers are living, Willie D. Williams at Coral Gables, Fla., and John A. Williams of Elloit, S. C. Brothers and sisters now deceased: Amos, Barbara E., Cassius, Robert, Annie and Mrs. Cora V. Gooding.

of 1905 and 1907 and in the special session of 1908, and again in 1933. He was a member of the electoral college in North Carolina in 1909 when William Jennings Bryan was a candidate for the presidency. Mr. Williams has always been a democrat.

He was mayor of the town of Kenansville for ten years, and county attorney when the present courthouse was built. He was president of the bank of Magnolia, which, though no longer in existence, paid off all its depositors when closed. He is a Mason, being a member of the Kenansville lodge and former worshipful master of the Kenansville Methodist church.

Mr. Williams was married on June 26, 1901 to Miss Erma I. Williams, of Kinston. She is the daughter of James Robert and Elizabeth Purvis Williams. Mrs. Williams attended Greensboro College for Women and the North Carolina College for Women, both at Greensboro. Mr. and Mrs. Williams have is now married to the Rev. Murrell K. Glover, Methodist minister of Kenansville. Also a foster daughter, Sue Lee, now married and living in Charleston, S. C.

It is fitting that this man, who is from pioneer stock and who has done his share to carry on his generation, should live in one of Duplin's historic old homes. The house built around 1760, faces the courthouse square, and Kenansville's spring, famed in story and history. Surrounding the home is a forty-acre farm, all in the corporate limits of Kenansville.

The old home is now being repaired. Mr. Williams is taking a special pride in repairing the old home in such a manner that the original lines and simple beauty will be preserved, while at the same time it will be made beautiful and comfortable to live in.

Over in Smith's township he still owns the old home place where he was born. The marl pits on the farm are known throughout the county. Mr. Williams commutes almost every day from his home in Kenansville to his farm in Smith township.

Mr. Williams has aided Author Sam Byrd in supplying information for "The Duplin Story", but also he loaned the amphitheatre site.

"THE DUPLIN STORY"

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT)

land, Ohio, and the Nashville Community Theatre. Last summer he was guest director at the Colorado University School of the Theatre in Denver.

Works in Courtroom
While at Charleston, Rife designed and drew the plans for the vast amphitheatre at Kenansville and is directing its construction. When he began in Kenansville the difficult task of painting the scenery, the Duplin County court room was found to be the only place large enough for his gigantic sketches, so the county authorities are permitting him to use that large hall. To prove the interest and cooperation of the county, Superior Court was held there recently, while in the rear of the auditorium Rife worked on a huge painting of the Battle of Rockfish.

Microphones and amplifiers will carry the voices of the actors and accompanying sound effects directly to the audience, even those on

The characters will speak their own lines.

Just a year ago, on September 17, 1948, plans were started for the production as the central feature of the County Bi-Centennial Celebration. Byrd was engaged for \$2,500 to write the play around the history of his neighboring county. Since July 18 he and Rife have been at Kenansville, residing in the Presbyterian manse, one of the many architectural gems for which the ancient village is far famed.

Women Lend Hand
With them there, assisting with detailed preparation, are Mrs. Rife and Pat Bolam, an English girl who is Byrd's legal ward. Both will have parts in the play. Pat will be a "natural" in the role of Jennifer Carrington, who, with her brother, Tony Carrington, in the drama will inquire of Johnny Lambert, an American chief petty officer in London all about America. Byrd will play the part of Lambert.

Mrs. Rife has appeared in musical comedies at the Cain Park Theatre in Cleveland and received theatrical training at the Cleveland Playhouse. She studied under Lila Robeson of the Metropolitan Opera.

The first scene of the play opens in complete darkness. The night is September 22, 1949, and the place is a London park near the Houses of Parliament. The voice of a tobacco auctioneer is heard. Lights dim up to reveal a fountain with water playing from the top, an unlit street lamp, and the Naval chief petty officer seated by the fountain, staring absently into space. Distant traffic noises may be heard, beyond Lambert's auctioneering chant.

British commuters and shoppers pass by, all authentic types. Some of them glance curiously at the sailor, then hurry homeward. A newsboy advertises his papers. Tien a girl of about 13 and her ten-year-old brother enter, the girl concentrating on the rhythmic strokes of her yo-yo, the lad suspiciously counting each stroke. They stop by the chief and ask him questions. He says he is from "the most wonderful place in the world," and its "Horn of Plenty," Duplin County.

Frying Pans Make Music
Other puzzled questions follow, and Johnny tells them about Duplin's "music in the air," its name honoring a Scotch Lord, its halcyon early beginnings, its musical names of places and people, its democratic practices, its colorful products, its prize cucumbers, its hush puppies, whose grease sizzling in frying pans makes music "like Beethoven's," and its luscious barbecue, which he describes as "what they serve in Heaven for Sunday dinner."

The Faison market is next seen through the eyes of the homesick officer and the children, as the lights center on a facsimile reproduction at the center of the stage. The boy asks about American Indians. Johnny tells also about Henry McCulloch, who came up the North East Cape Fear River in 1755. In that scene the pioneer landowner is welcomed by costumed townspeople and children in period clothes dance for him.

Not like the customary battle scenes, the Battle of Rockfish is portrayed. Johnny informs his young listeners about George Washington and the Revolutionary War, working up to the slavery question and States' Rights with the result-

ing mansion, "Liberty Hall," with its several hundred slaves, its fine English furnishings and its hospitable motto: "Who enters this open gate never comes too early and never stays too late."

Battle Depicted
The eighth scene changes to the stage, an open field "Somewhere in Duplin County," on a Spring night during 1863, at the headquarters of Capt. James Kenan and the Duplin Rifles. From the distance on a rolling hillside the first campfire has been lighted, and troops are singing, "We're Tenting Tonight on the Old Camp Ground."

A sentry brings to Captain Kenan a middle-aged Negro, recognized as Charlie Prince, a slave owned by a Duplin friend, who had been caught in a skirmish with the enemy. Humorously the Negro describes the fight, with a frank admission that "courage ain't in my line, cookin's my profeshun." A loyal Negro woman slave brings the captain his supper, with late reports on his family's health, while they hear the distant roar of cannon.

His mother arrives, and as the captain kisses her goodbye, the campfire is extinguished, the troops "fall in," with a wild Rebel yell, and march in front of their leader singing, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Kenan mounts his horse and rides off with his men. Suddenly from the darkness there is a blinding flash, an explosion and the piercing wail of a Negro woman's voice.

A Story of Defeat
The closing scene of the first act transpires on an afternoon in June, 1865, at Liberty Hall. The Negro's wail sets the key for a Negro chorus, whose voices rise in sorrowful chant from the direction of the terrifying explosion. The musicians file in pilgrimage fashion and turn to watch a procession of tattered Duplin Confederates returning from the war.

Colonel Tom Kenan tells his father, Major Owen Kenan: "The war has ended, Papa. We have buried our hatred in the below 1 graves. . . The hearts of my men are too full of sorrow, too full of honor for hatred. The guns have been stacked. Our duty is peace. We have come home to rebuild, to cultivate, to revive our industries, to raise patriots and Christians to take the places of those who are gone."

"North Carolina and Duplin County have wept over their devoted sons. The sword has settled the quarrel. We are a united country now, Papa. May the blood of Dick Carr and all the others cement forever its bonds."

While he is talking, the choir and Negro chorus hum, "I Cannot Sing the Old Songs." As he finishes, a voice from the chorus chants, "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory." The chorus, the choir and the people gathered in front of Liberty Hall sing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Lighter Side
Act 2 begins with a lighter touch, a political barbecue in 1908 during the heated Taft-Bryan campaign, and Duplin's participation with a Third Political Party. There are a brass band, a square dance and political speeches replete with typical humor of that unique era.

Commencement exercises at James Sprunt Institute in Kenansville on May 10, 1910, are re-enacted, with the graduation address and some of the descendants taking the parts of their fathers and grandfathers.

A later stage scene is in 1917 at the railroad station at Warsaw when World War I soldiers left to fight in the conflict "to make the world safe for Democracy." The train comes in, with modern lighting effects. The name of one of the soldier characters is Charles R. Gavin, who in the real war was killed overseas on November 10, 1918, the day before the Armistice. The local American Legion Post is named for him. Relatives and friends have provided the playwright with actual descriptions, so that he and other characters in the drama may be depicted just as accurately as possible.

Story Includes Present Day Era
To conclude the performance, there is an inspiring patriotic and religious scene about the American Flag, tracing the unity of England and the United States, and the principles for which the Star-Spangled Banner has stood through the years and will continue to stand in the future.

The background for this scene is unusually impressive. It portrays a beautiful stained glass window in a cathedral or church, representing Christ on a rainbow. The action is supposed to be on V-J-Sunday in Duplin County during 1945. A minister delivers an inspirational address.

The stained glass window was designed by Stephen Bridges and would grace any church. Bridges had an early ambition to be a designer for the stage. Most of his life, except for the war years, however, has been spent in stained glass shops. As a soldier, he made windows from beer bottle bottoms for a regimental chapel in New Guinea. He is now viewing medieval windows in France and England, and upon his return this month will be associated with the Rambusch Studios in New York. He is editor of the Stained Glass Quarterly, published by the Stained Glass Association of America. His windows are in an Archbishop's private chapel, a Presbyterian minister's

in story, not all the fine portions of the play can be mentioned. Nor should they be. Only a few to show the type of production which may be expected. To appreciate its worth and enjoy its entertainments value to the fullest extent, it must be seen.

All residents, schools, officials and civic clubs of the county are cooperating with the production. For instance, the Lions Club met to build a packet fence. Other groups have accepted other assignments. Men through the region are growing beards for roles in the play.

J. R. (Bob) Grady, editor of The Duplin Times, has been one of the chief spark plugs from the beginning. County Commissioners, headed by A. C. Hall of Wallace, as chairman, last fall appointed two or three citizens from each township to draft plans.

Historical Society Organized
These township representatives met and organized the Duplin County Historical Society. Their officers are Gilbert E. Alphin, Jr., of Kenansville, president; Mrs. John D. Robinson of Wallace, vice president; Mrs. J. D. Sandlin, Jr., of Beulaville, secretary; Mitchell F. Allen, Jr., of Kenansville, treasurer; L. P. Wells of Route 2, Mount Olive, chairman of the finance committee, and G. E. Alphin, chairman of the executive committee.

Some of them went to Washington recently to invite President Truman to see the play. Whether or not he comes, its success seems assured, judging from the whole-hearted interest of the entire county. It is slated as a non-profit enterprise, but if there should happen to be profits, they will go towards the Kenan Memorial Auditorium, already under construction at Kenansville.

The amphitheatre is being rapidly cleared, parking space is being arranged, the stage has been set, posters have been distributed, rehearsals of players and choirs are under way, and all other preliminary work is being elaborately and carefully planned.

Depends on Enthusiasm
"We have no money, no union, perhaps no talent, though we hope the play will develop talent that will take Duplin County to Broadway," says Sam Byrd. "But we do have enthusiasm. Lots of enthusiasm. And enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world. We'll put it over with our enthusiasm."

Speaking of his purpose in writing history so differently from the way it has usually been written, he declares, "The play is not a narrative, nor should it be retrospective. It is real action. A drama is history in the making. Most people don't write a book or a drama or a history. They write about a book or about a drama or about an historical event."

"History is more exciting in the making than in the reading, so I have written to portray history as it is being viewed or reviewed. The telling of history can be made just as interesting as at the time it occurred, if the listener is made to feel that the is a part of it."

A Personal Story
"Of course, under the surface, we want to call attention to the outstanding record Duplin County has written through its two centuries and to the real contributions it has made in every war in which our country has been engaged. But, more than that, we are endeavoring to depict the lives of its citizens, their every day bravery and their human interest affairs."

"If I can just bring to the stage those heart-warming days, those days of struggle and hardship, mixed with laughter and gaiety, when our forefathers built Duplin County; when the beginnings and development of Sarecta, Kenansville, Faison, Calypso, Warsaw, Magnolia, Rose Hill, Wallace, Beulaville and all the places in between were laid, I will be satisfied."

"And if I can re-enact the spirit of a pioneering people to show to those of the present generation why they should be proud of their county and their predecessors, if I can show to our neighbors some of the things that took place in the growth of Duplin County I will feel that I have shown what took place in each and every county, in spirit at least, from the days long before the Revolution down until this present day. If I can just do this in some successful way, I think that our efforts this year will not have been in vain."

"One of my chief aims is make people like history, especially the story of their own region and of their own ancestors. If this, my new method of presenting history works well, and my friends here believe that it will, it will serve first to prove that history can be taught interestingly, not just a mere chronology of dates or a dull dull naming of outstanding men, but a moving, living spirit of historical drama; and second, it should set a pattern and example for all other counties to follow, if they choose, for Duplin is typical of all areas and each and every county has a great background that should be studied and appreciated as a stimulus for ever greater progress in the present and inspiration for future advance."

"Carolina Jubilee For Sale At Pageant And Drug Stores In County

"CAROLINA JUBILEE" so-called theme song of Duplin's Bi-Centennial celebration is now on sale at the following places: Kenansville Drug Store, C. E. Quinn's Store; Warsaw Drug Store; Faison Drug Store; Rose Hill; Gowen's and Wallace Drug Stores in Wallace; Aarons Pharmacy in Mt. Olive; Beulaville Soda Shoppe in Beulaville; and Turner's Store in Pink Hill.

"Carolina Jubilee" was written by J. R. O'Daniel, Tommie Haas and Robert Grady and dedicated to Duplin's celebration. It has been

played and sung in all the schools in Duplin and was the theme song for the pageant's radio broadcast for months. The music sells for 50c per copy. Only a limited number of copies are left. Also it will be on sale at the amphitheatre during the showing of "The Duplin Story."

Other music on sale at the Kenansville Drug Store by Mr. O'Daniel and Mrs. Haas are "Maytime in Caroline" and "Dreaming Along in My Dream Plane," both songs about North Carolina.

You may order any of the above from the Duplin Times, numbers 50c each.

Traffic Directors



EARL WHITAKER
Patrolman of Warsaw



JOSEPH COKER, JR.
Patrolman of Kenansville

MRS. L. K. ALDERMAN
of Rose Hill, Pianist for "The Duplin Story" Choir.



J. L. ("Les") WILLIAMS
Kenansville Post Master. Sponsor of the street dances and a director of "The Duplin Story" square dance.

Mrs. N. Y. Pickett have an interesting display in the large window of L. M. Sanderson's store. It is attractively arranged and is worth going to Magnolia to see. Miss Macy Cox fell in line and has a display in her store window. She has several items more than 200 years old; a little chair made by her great grandfather Cox, and a bed spread made by her grandmother Carroll; a beautiful quilt made by her mother, Mrs. J. W. Cox about 95 years ago; spinning wheel and cards. Also many other things of interest. Among them there is a beautiful white dress made by herself for Miss Minnie Lee Herring's graduation at James Sprunt Institute forty years ago. The dress will be loaned to Kenansville for display for a few days. Miss Minnie Lee was born and raised in the home now owned by Ben Stroud and never went to any school other than James Sprunt.

Mayor of Kenansville, to extend a cordial invitation to the people of Duplin County and our friends everywhere to visit our Town for the showing of "The Duplin Story" on September 22nd, 23rd and 24th. It is the desire and aim of all the people in Kenansville to make your visit a pleasant one and you may be assured that a hearty welcome awaits you.

We, the people of Kenansville, are as proud of the historic yester-years of our County as we are determined to mould for it a glorious future. Come to Kenansville on either September 22nd, 23rd or 24th and see past in review through "The Duplin Story" the two hundred years of our County's glorious past.

In the name of the people of Kenansville, N. C.



Mayor Brinson Says Welcome

It gives me great pleasure, as

Injured thru Sept 12 this yr. 6,979
Injured thru Sept 12, 1948 4,979

A. C. L. SCHEDULE CHANGE

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 25

TRAIN No. 49

Arrive Warsaw 11:35 AM

Leave Warsaw 11:40 AM

TRAIN No. 48

Arrive Warsaw 4:50 PM

Leave Warsaw 4:55 PM

Interesting Display
in Magnolia

THE ATLANTIC COAST LINE