

Along The Way



By Emily Killete

There are many factors which combine to make Duplin the progressive and people-oriented county that it is today.

One of the major factors contributing to the present Duplin is the county's knowledge and respect for its past. Liberty Hall, the Liberty Cart and the Cowan Museum come to mind as ways Duplin citizens are preserving the local heritage.

And, if further study is done, Duplin's history will be found preserved at the local newspapers through the binding of annual volumes of the weekly edition. In the case of THE DUPLIN TIMES, the office has books dating back to 1934. Within the books are stories which have become Duplin's history.

Along the Way has been reprinting the history of the medical profession as published in THE DUPLIN TIMES during 1955. Duplin General Hospital was dedicated in February of 1955 and histories were written of practicing physicians within Duplin's many communities. This week Along the Way will feature a physician from northern Duplin, Dr. James M. Grady, as published in the February 24, 1955 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES.

Dr. James M. Grady

Doctors who have lived or practiced in northern Duplin County, Dr. Cobb, Dr. Hill, Dr. Grady, Dr. Ira Davis, Dr. Howard, Dr. Jarman and Dr. Maxwell.

Dr. James M. Grady was born in Albertson township, Duplin County, 1824. One of the sons of Alexander and Charity (Outlaw) Grady. His first wife was Elizabeth Howard, a daughter of Thomas Howard, by whom there were born Solon, Augustus, James and Edward. He second married Mary Grady of Duplin, by whom one girl, Myrtle, was born. His third wife was Penelope, a sister of his second wife. No child was born in the third marriage. Dr. James M. Grady was an honest, upright, industrious, Christian gentleman.

He lived most of his life in Duplin County but lived a short while in Lenoir and for a few years in Wayne. In 1890 to 1893 he wrote up a family sketch of the Grady, Whitfield, Outlaw families in America and did this by going from home to home in Duplin, Wayne and Lenoir and getting the family date from these connected families. Few doctors, if any, were more beloved and sought after by all classes of people any more than Dr. James M. Grady. He was grandfather to the editor, J.R. Grady of the DUPLIN TIMES.

The following sketch of Dr. James M. Grady was penned by him before he died.

"Heired the old homestead where he was raised -- This is where W.W. Maxwell now lives -- "He had acquired a very good education for that day. Taught school a good deal. Married Elizabeth Howard, daughter of Thomas Howard of Duplin. After spending a year or two on his farm he went to Georgia. There he engaged in teaching, lost his health, stayed there about five years during which he read medicine under old Dr. St. A. Man of Georgia (A Mass. Yankee). But his health being so very poor, he finally gave up the idea of medicine. He did not go to college but returned to his native home of North Carolina which he had never sold.

"After about year's stay in North Carolina he went back to Georgia and Florida on business and was gone a few weeks. After being home about 12 days he was taken sick and sent for a doctor who came and pronounced the case of measles. After a few days a second doctor was sent for and he pronounced it Erysipulas; it turned out to be

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1853-1854.

"After that J.M. Grady stayed on his farm two years, then he and some other man went into a steam mill enterprise -- the other parties were some of them pretty badly in and after a few years some of the others made deeds of trust and put this property on their own debts and Grady paid the company debts which broke him up completely and in the wind-up his property was sacrificed and a good many of his own debts were left unpaid. This conclusion left him railroaded in Wayne County. He then farmed and taught school until

the war broke out. About this time there was an epidemic of diphtheria devastating the country. The doctors generally were a failure in treating it. It broke out among Grady's family and his neighbors and he treated the cases himself and saved everyone. From this people commenced sending a considerable distance for him and soon he had treated 200 cases or more of this disease and had not lost a single case.

"The small-pox made its appearance frequently, being scattered by the soldiers. Grady was called in and his success was marvelous, never

losing over five percent of his cases under any circumstances and always hedging in and stopping the disease and not suffering it to spread. The people (and a good many doctors) seeing his success and finding out that he had read medicine several years under a good physician did not hesitate to call him in (no matter what the case was) and from then until now (about 30 years) he has never been without a pretty good practice. Near the close of the war the conscript law reached him (as he was not a graduate) and he was ordered to enter the Army. His

neighbors, the neighboring doctors and militia Colonel and others all sent petitions to the headquarters begging the authorities to release him and let him stay at home for the good of those left at home but the authorities would not hear them. They retained him in service until the surrender (about six months) during which time he was in a few fights. Part of the time he was sick and not able to do service. Since the war he has raised a family, worked and paid nearly all the old debts he was bound for. He raised four sons to be grown by his first wife."

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