

Along The Way



By Emily Killete

Many times a family doctor is more than professional to his patients, he is a friend. Dr. Ransom Lee Carter who practiced medicine in Rose Hill was more than a medical professional to his patients.

Dr. Carr practiced medicine in Duplin for more than 30 years before he died and is remembered as much for his medical treatment as his friendship. An article written about Dr. Carr's career was published in the February 24, 1955 issue of the DUPLIN TIMES. The author is unknown. The following is a reprint of that article.

The Story of Dr. Ransom Lee Carr of Duplin County

After three years of practice in Magnolia, Dr. Ransom Lee Carr moved to Rose Hill in 1911 where he practiced medicine day and night until his death in 1940, being for most of these years the only physician serving the village and countryside. He was considered an eminent diagnostician and a specialist in pneumonia and other acute diseases, and conducted the first typhoid clinic ever held in Duplin County, years later serving two years as Duplin County Health Officer.

Dr. Carr was much loved by the people in general for his kindly and friendly nature and various incidents and public sayings gave to this original Scotch-Irish personality the character of a legend.

Many males in the southern section of Duplin have "Ransom" or "Lee" or "Carr" as part of their name. It isn't just because Dr. Ransom Lee Carr brought them into the world, along with some 6,000 others — it is because their father and mother could wish for nothing finer than their boys grow up to be like him.

A good name is something to live up to, but it takes more than a name to create a character. It takes breeding and training — and then a lifetime of being true to the things that have been bred into you. Dr. Carr practiced medicine at Rose Hill for 30 years but he practiced a great deal more than medicine. He was the legislator, the editor, the representative at many a meeting, counselor, father-confessor, and friend of his people.

The people of this section will always remember him because he would kneel beside their sick beds and ask advice of the Great Physician, because he shouldered their misfortunes and helped them carry on, because he was never mercenary and because he believed and practiced, "He that is greatest among you shall be your servant." He owned one of the first automobiles to come to Southern Duplin, a carbide-lighted, tank-under-the-hood, chain-driven Reo, with the crank on the side instead of the front and long before a self-starter was known and before they began to build bridges over creeks. He sewed up injured persons lots of times with a horseshair pulled on the spot from some horse's tail, and kept premature babies alive with bricks warmed in the fireplace

Tolerate Shading

Those boxwoods you may be planning to plant this fall or winter will do better if they are located where they will receive at least a small amount of shade.

Boxwoods are tolerant of shade and ideally should be located where they receive full sunlight during part of the day and mottled shade at other times, North Carolina State University extension horticulturists say.

Best growth is in fairly heavy clay soil that is well supplied with organic matter. The boxwood will grow in a wide-range of soil types, including sandy loam. But whatever the soil, it should be well drained.

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"What ails him, Doc?" The doctor had to diagnose in those days, and his ability rose and fell with his diagnostic accuracy.

Heart and soul a physician, he also felt the pull of politics. A Democrat, he represented Duplin County in the General Assembly in the regular sessions of 1911, 1915, 1923, 1935 and in the special session of 1924. In the regular and special sessions of 1919-1920, Senator Carr represented the Ninth Senatorial District. He was an official delegate to the Chicago Convention nominating Franklin Roosevelt and was for many years

chairman of the Duplin Democratic Executive Committee. He was Food Administrator during World War I.

Dr. Carr and D.S. Hines of Faison established "The Duplin Enterprise," a weekly newspaper and mailed the first issue at Warsaw on March 12, 1911. They later moved the paper to Rose Hill, and finally changed the name to "The Wallace Enterprise" and mailed it from that point on January 23, 1923, later selling the paper to the present publishers of that semi-weekly.

He was an elder in the Mount Zion Presbyterian Church and was for

many years superintendent of the Sunday school. Fraternally he was a Mason, Woodman and Pythian.

This distinguished Duplin citizen was born September 1, 1878, four miles west of Wallace, his parents being the late Gabriel Boney and Isabella Johnson Carr. His great-grandfather, Joseph Carr, came to this country prior to 1725 on the ship of one Captain Beverly. Captain Beverly was lost at sea and Mr. Carr married his widow, Barbara Beverly, and settled on Maxwell Creek near Kenansville. It is said that Mrs. Carr dug with her hands the famous court

house spring at Kenansville.

Dr. Carr graduated from Rockfish Academy in 1897, attended Davidson College, the North Carolina Medical College, the Medical College of Virginia, and was graduated from the University of Maryland in 1907.

He was first married to Miss Victoria Patterson of Taylorsville and they had three sons: Murphy, George and the late Victor Carr. After the death of Mrs. Carr in 1914, Dr. Carr was later married to Miss Mary Estelle Moore of Wadesboro and to this union were born Mrs. Stella Carr Bland and Charlton Carr.

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