

Friday 1, 20, 06

Dear Mrs Kutz -

You may be surprised to hear from a lady you never heard of or had anything to do with.

I am Addie Rawlinson Witherspoon and I was born where the Methodist Church is now on White St. in Rock Hill.

Aunt Mary White was my paternal grandmother's sister and was paralyzed when my grandmother was young. When the house I was born in was given my grandmother, the bedroom on the first floor was built for Aunt Mary to come with her nurse to visit her sister for a few days.

A friend of mine (one of the few friends I had as I grew up, most of others of that group have gone to a better place) sent me a column about you and & all you are doing in connection with the restoration of the White House in Rock Hill. Bully for you! Rock Hill will always have a wonderful place in my heart as I lived there til I was 25 years old & I thought I'd like to drop a few memories I had that may be different than any you have heard about from other people of my experience with W. H.

When I was three years old, I began going over the style [stile] to Aunt Mary's house every day. As I went that way coming into the back yard by a well (They had indoor plumbing but they seemed to like the well water better) I had to pass the outdoor kitchen presided there was Tight? (Tiglet?) who was the cook for the people who worked out doors. He had a large pot on the fire that he had food for the people picking cotton or anything else they ate. In the chimney was two oven places where loaves of bread was made. He was one of my special friends. He was blind in one eye & wore a patch over it. I always had to visit with him before seeing Aunt Mary.

As I went in the back door I passed the indoor kitchen where a housekeeper worked as she cooked for Aunt Mary & Lizzy Campbell, the wonderful trained nurse, and herself.

Once I wandered into the parlor & was told by the House Keeper Aunt Mary's room was my limitation.

Most of the time I saw Aunt Mary she was in bed. All I ever saw her wear when she was dressed was a navy skirt just below her knees, a white blouse & and a blue sweater. She had red hair, as I did, & she said I was all she had left of her own dear sister, so I had a special place with her. All the other children were children of her brothers.

Lizzy was a wonderful nurse & kept Aunt Mary alive til about 1924 or 5 I think [actually 1923].

We moved when I was 6 years & I only saw Aunt Mary one time after that. If I had known how to get to her house from Central School I sure would have gone to see her.

She left me her wonderful Chiciring [Chickering] Piano with the idea I would study music

She knew my father would see it I studied music or she assumed I would. I studied one year. She knew my father didn't know how to handle money so she left him a monthly income that Jennings White (lawyer) dealt out from Main Street rentals. The family never told me what amount we received.

When Aunt Mary died she left Hiram White the home place. He was born with a problem for speaking so refused to go to college. He was a wonderful man tho! The other nephews already had their own homes. He was renting.

I guess Jennings White, his brother, had him put a street through her property. A contest took place as to what to name it. It turned out to be Elizabeth Lane. Aunt Mary's name was Mary Elizabeth and Annie Clair Bigger won the prize of \$25.00.

As I used to go see Aunt Mary the front was completely different. Hiram was the one who started azaleas. Before that there was a Magnolia tree close to her house. It had limbs all the way to the ground I use to try to climb. Also there were Snow Drops close to the house.

Funny, I wonder if Hiram changed the floor plan of the house. I grew up hearing there were 19 rooms & only 4 children.

I'm so glad there's an interest in preserving this house. I don't know as much about the Whites as I did about my Maternal Grandmother's background. Did you ever know Addie Stokes Mayfield? She would know about them & Joe Rawlinson's Real Estate was dealing with the Rawlinson family.

I hope I've said something worthwhile for you. God Bless you in all your adventures.

Sincerely,
Addie W. Carrselli

P. S. I happen to be almost 91 years so I date back a lot in Rock Hill.

AWC

Transcribed by Stephen Turner 6-17-24