

Saturday 9/3/05

Dear Mr. Sherrill -

In case you are wondering why you are receiving a letter from Florida now I will introduce myself. I'm Addie Caraselli, formally [formerly] Addie Rawlinson Witherspoon and was born where St. John's Methodist Church is now in Rock Hill.

I'm part of the White family where you are in the process of remodeling the house.

My paternal grandmother was Addie White & she married John Witherspoon, a victim of the Civil War. He lost one eye and a leg in the war but still became an attorney. He was from Lancaster, S.C. but came to Rock Hill to practice law. I don't know how long he practiced but died when my father was 11 years old. His wife, I think, was so devastated (?) she died when my father was 18 years old. My father inherited two estates at that time. No 18 year old knows how to handle money. He liked to travel. He stayed on in the house his mother had been given as a wedding present because it didn't cost him anything.

I was born Mar. 5, 1915 & I grew up going every day to see Aunt Mary White, my grandmother's sister.

I had to go over a stile [stile] which was over a Pale fence. I passed a well, they had indoor plumbing but the well water was better. I passed an outdoor kitchen which Pat the cook had. This was for the people working in cotton on some of Aunt Mary's property. He had a large kettle boiling on the fireplace. Also had two holes in the wall that was the bakery.

I went on to the back of Aunt Mary's house. Going in the back door I passed the indoor kitchen for those in the house. Aunt Mary, Lizzy, the nurse, & whoever the housekeeper was.

In the kitchen I saw the huge dishes made for the out-door-help – made out of a slice of wood from a tree.

Aunt Mary's name was Mary Elizabeth and when Hiram White, one of her nephews, inherited the estate he had a street cut thru Aunt Mary's property. A prize was given to someone for naming the street. Annie Clair Bigger Hutchison won the prize. That's Elizabeth Lane.

Hiram had a cleft pallet [palate] & would not go to college. He was Jennings's brother. All her nephews had houses but Hiram, that's why he inherited the place. Hiram was the father of Hiram Jr., Bill & Andy. I didn't know the younger ones. I left in 1940.

Andy fell down steps & became an invalid but stayed in the Apt Aunt Mary build on 1st floor.

Getting back further! George White married Anne Hutchison and had the plantation. He worked on the railroad supervising the help. The railroad didn't need a street to come thru. It came thru

a plantation. They wanted to start a town. He was asked by men if he would sell some of his property. He already had a house. He was so centrally located & he said "yes." He saved four acres for a house for his daughter Addie. Aunt Mary was paralyzed & never married but was an angel and lived til 1925 or so [actually 1923]. She had such a good nurse. She was very generous to the Presbyterian Church & relatives.

I'm sending you a picture of the house as Hiram had it when it was given to him.

Also a picture that came out in "The State" Newspaper (Columbia). One of our relatives worked for The State & put it in.

I'm glad the house is going to be updated, at least to make it strong. I wondered how long the family would try to live there. More power to them as it was. I have wonderful memories of it when Aunt Mary was there. I'm 90 since March.

God Bless you!

Sincerely,
Addie Caraselli

My sister is in Lancaster in a Rehab. Her daughter sent me a clipping from the Charlotte Observer about the White House. I'm glad I never saw it that much in need of paint.

AWC

Transcribed by Stephen Turner 6-18-24