

N. Hallman

SOME OF THE THINGS I REMEMBER FROM THE
YEARS WE LIVED ON FLINT STREET.
1920 ---- 1938 ca.

Prepared for the

CENTRAL SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOOD GANG

BY

J. Thomas Williams, Sr.
April 8, 1994

SOME OF THE THINGS I REMEMBER FROM THE YEARS WE LIVED ON FLINT STREET

J. THOMAS WILLIAMS, SR.

May 30, 1993

During the summer of 1920 we moved from a two-room apartment of Miss Mattie R. White, 426 East White Street to 354 Flint Street into a house which had been built by Mr. E. L. Barnes, Sr., who at that time owned the Rock Hill Telephone Company.

During a period of time after we moved my parents rented out one of the front rooms to two of the Telephone Company's operators. One was named Janie Drennan who later married a Mr. Dulin from Clover, S. C. The other was Miss Addie Dellinger who married Earle B. Ferguson, former magistrate with an office over the old Central Union Bank.

After they married my aunt, Emma Williams, who married Claud L. Bennett, came to live with us. She worked at first with the Woolworth Ten-Cent Store making about \$9.50 or \$10.00 per week. Later she worked with A. Friedheim and Brothers. Emma lived with us about the year 1925.

One of the houses I remember when we first moved was occupied by a black family named Henry Toole. Their house was on the corner of Flint Street and Saluda Street, in a frame house facing Flint Street on the west corner. Mrs. Nettie Miller and her son, Alvin, lived in a two-story house across the street facing Saluda in the eastern corner.

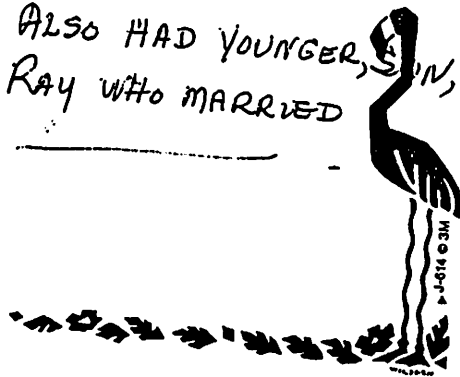
The Toole house stood on the site on which later a two-story brick apartment house was built by a Mr. and Mrs. Ashe. I don't remember where Mr. Ashe worked but his wife worked in one of the stores on Main Street.

Incidentally, Mr. Ashe was the nephew of Mr. W. N. Ashe, a bachelor, who owned Ashe Brick Company. The story goes that Mr. W. N. Ashe gave each one of his nephews and neices enough brick with which to build a home for themselves.

According to a book titled "A City Without Cobwebs" written by Mrs. Douglass Brown, wife of the minister of the First Presbyterian Church, the Toole family was highly respected by the people of Rock Hill. During the Civil War Mr. Toole had been suspected by Major Merrill's men of being a member of the Ku-Klux-Klan

EDWARD'S FAMILY'S YOUNG-
EST DAUGHTER WAS JANIE
G. WHO MARRIED LELAND
GARDNER.

ALSO HAD YOUNGER, SON,
RAY WHO MARRIED



and was arrested. He was thrown into the same jail cell along with Captain Iredell Jones a well-known family and highly respected plantation owner.

The next house on the west side of Flint Street located immediately behind the Ashe home was occupied by the Schultz family. Mrs. Schultz was a widow (I believe her name was Harriett) and worked at A. Friedheim and Bro. as a seamstress. She had two children, a daughter named Madeline, who was very vivacious and energetic young lady. I don't know who she married. The son, Rudolph P. Schultz was a Claim Adjuster for the Southern Railway Company. He married a Miss Nancy Simrill and they lived on Oak Drive which was just off College Avenue here in Rock Hill.

After the Schultz family moved away the family of Mrs. J. E. Edwards, Sr. occupied the house. Mrs. Edwards husband was called "Mr. Eb" but was seldom seen. Their children were: James E. Edwards, Jr., called "J. E." worked for many years at the Bleachery. He married Miss Ruth Neely, a Registered Nurse; the next son was Ralston Edwards who married Margie B. _____. After they married they lived on Glenwood Drive; a third son was called Alex G. "Doc" and married Marjorie TRULL ?; "Doc" did not own a automobile and always rode a bicycle often carrying his wife-to-be on the cross-bar; the oldest daughter, Mary E. married Roy B. Hart and insurance man and at one time lived at 227 Johnston Street; the youngest daughter, Louise M. married Leon G. Garner and lived at 543 Flint Street. Later he owned and operated an electrical shop on East White Street.

Directly across the street from the Edwards house lived a Hammond Family. I believe his name was Edward R. Hammond and was self-employed making harness, saddles and bridles. They had a daughter, Thelma, who later taught school in the Rock Hill Public Schools. Their son, Edward R. Hammond, Jr. worked for The Charlotte Observer as district supervisor. Edward turned his job over to Mrs. Ella Christmas who lived further down Flint Street and she became supervisor.

Newspaper routes were very much sort after by young boys during those times. These carriers were very jealous of their paper routes and simply did not tolerate any interference with their work. I remember two of Edward's carriers. One was

MRS HULL SOLD STOCK
TO MR + MRS H. M. DUNCAN
& DAUGHTER, NANNIE, WHO
LATER SOLD TO T. FANT
STEELE.

HULLS HAD ANOTHER
SON WHO WAS NOT
MARRIED AT TIME
STORE OWNED BY
STEELE FAMILY.



S. Curtis Hunsucker, Jr. who later married Helen Cornwell, the daughter of Mr. Richard A. Cornwell, the rural mail-carrier at Catawba Junction. The other was Claude A. Drennan, Jr. the son of Mr. C. Agurs Drennan, a cotton buyer for Cutter manufacturing Company. For some reason a dispute arose between Claude and Curtis and I do not know what the reason was. I do know that Curtis Hunsucker was a very quiet young man and very easy to get along with. His parents had raised him with a very strict code of never getting into trouble unless it was forced upon him. In this instance it apparently was very serious. The end result was that Curtis removed one or two of Claude's front teeth with his fist which put an end to this argument.

I don't remember but I think there was another small house between the Hammond's and the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Hull.

The Hull's had three children. The oldest was, Louise, who late in life, married J. P. Warrnefeltz who owned a nursery out on Saluda Road. They lived in the old Poag house located across from the Rambo house. The second daughter, Josie B. Hull, married Dr. Wm. E. Simpson, a beloved family doctor and they lived at 303 Marion Street; their only son, William M. Hull married a Miss McDowell, who lived next door to Miss Mattie R. White, and became the Purchasing Agent for the Bleachery.

As I remember, Mr. F. E. Hull's first store was a small shot-gun type store with two steep steps up from the street into the store. As the area grew so did Mr. Hull's business. A larger more modern store was erected with new show-cases, large shelves and a very large refrigerator. This was a respected business and the ladies from around the area purchased their groceries there. Some of the ladies around the neighborhood would come by about 3:00 p. m. each afternoon for their daily Coca Cola. Mrs. Irene Neely, "Big" Bill Neely's mother, was one of the regulars.

Mr. Hull had a delivery man named, Walter Blake, who delivered groceries on a bicycle in the neighborhood for Mr. Hull. Very often at noon he would come to our house at 354 Flint so my mother could give him his lunch.

Following Mr. Hull's death his wife, Mrs. Flora M. Hull, sold their stock to

Mr. T. Fant Steele. He changed the name and operated under the name of T. Fant Steele Grocery No. 2.

Since I have been recounting the families who lived on the eastern side of Flint Street I will continue on down the street until we reach the "Big Ditch". Later I will move back up the street and come down the west side.

I am not sure just who lived in the house below Mr. Hull's Store. However, at 327 Flint Street was the Charlie L. Williams family. He was a paint contractor and some years later he opened a new store on Elks Avenue next door to Dr. J. T. Dickson's Veterinary Office. Mr. Williams' wife was named Maymie; a son, Carlos L. Williams and another son named Ralph assisted him in the business. They had a daughter named, Nannie, who was a student at the time. It was said that this family of Williamses had come down from the mountains somewhere.

Behind Dr. Dickson's office Heyward Merritt ran a Radiator and Battery Repair Shop. Across Black Street was the Henry Neely Livery Stable.

Next door at 331 Flint Street lived the family of Wm. Brown Ferguson, a furniture repairman, Later he moved his shop over to Green Street and went into the antique business. At one time the family of Jess H. Elliott lived in this area.

Bryan Clinton and his family occupied 335 Flint Street. He was a mail-carrier. He married Miss Irene Mackey, a Registered Nurse, from Heath Springs or Kershaw and they had three children: Irene Mackey Clinton who married a Mr. Turner; Bryan Clinton, Junior, and another daughter, Anette Clinton. W. Bryan Clinton, Sr. was a relative to Mrs. Cora Fudge Gordon who married Sam T. Gordon who worked for the City Market. They lived across the street from each other.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Harrison lived at 339 Flint Street. He was a linotype operator for an out-of-town firm and was usually at home on weekends. After Mrs. Harrison's death he opened a printshop in the basement of his home. They had a son, Hutchinson W. Harrison, who had followed his father in the same trade. Later "Hutch" and his wife/^{Mabel} built a home two houses below his father's house and he joined his father in the business of printing and repairing print equipment.

The Robert J. "John" Gordon and his wife, Edna Goines Gordon, lived at

351 Flint Street. Mr. John was the manager of the Mount Gallant Ice and Coal Company. Mount Gallant was owned by the J. L. Phillips Family. The Gordon's had two children: Robert, Jr. and Thelma. Thelma married Duncan Roach the son of Mr. and Mrs. Palmer Roach.

An interesting thing happened one winter afternoon to the Gordon and Williams families. We lived just across the street at 354 Flint Street. The Williams family had been out somewhere, I do not remember where, and when we got home the house was cold. To get the house warm in a hurry my father put a big scuttle of coal on the fireplace. Then we all sat down to have our evening meal. About halfway through the meal Little Robert Gordon came running into the house saying, Mrs. Williams I hate to bother you but your house is on fire. That got our attention. The fire department was there in a hurry and not a lot of damage was done. If it had not been for Robert we could have had real trouble.

Just below the Hutch Harrison home and the Wright home was the "Big Ditch." Had it not been for this ditch which began from an artesian well located in the middle of Black Street and ran between the properties of the Sanders and Dr. W. R. Simpson the neighborhood children would have had no place to play. In addition, the area between the houses on Black Street and Flint Street was pretty well grown over with honeysuckle vines and weeds and made a wonderful place for young boys to play cowboys and indians. With these young renegades running all over the place even the snakes couldn't be found.

Most all of the children of families who lived up and down the "Ditch" played in the area. Ropes were tied to many of the tree limbs and used for swinging back and forth across. I don't know where they came from but steel pipes were layed from one bank to the other at places up and down the ditch to practice tight-rope walking. As many kinds of games the mind could conceive were played along its banks.

Some years later somebody further down the branch asked the City of Rock Hill to cover the entire ditch. If they had the children in the neighborhood would not have had a place to play.

Recently I found a old newspaper article about Friedheim's Store and it contained information on the three Neely girls. They were the daughters of Mr. A. L. "Alf" Neely who died on April 10, 1905, lived near Ogden, S. C. and was a farmer. He married a Miss Ella Wright. The three girls were Cora Neely who married Robert "Bob" L. Garrison. She worked at A. Friedheim & Bro. for 30 years. Later she helped Bob with his ice cream shop near the Rock Hill High School. Maggie Neely married Clyde Thomas (he worked at the Bleachery) and she worked at A. Friedheim & Bro. for thirty years. The third girl is listed at Annie but I believe this may be wrong. She was called "Ammie" Neely by her friends. She married James "Jim" Adkins and she worked at A. Friedheim & Bro. for 23 years.

Next:

I ran into Leonard C. Williams at a local cafe several weeks ago. He was the son of Charles L. Williams and Mamie Pope. She says she was the sister to Ode "Odie" Pope. There is a J. Boyce Pope. He may be a brother. I am enclosing copies of the Rock Hill City Directory which may be of help. He says there was eight (8) boys and three (3) girls. Here is the list of names he gave me along with their wives name. He says they lived next door to Mr. F. E. Hull's store.

Carlos	married	Maudelle
Ralph	married	Mildred
Charles	married	Mary
James	married	Jessie Mae
Leonard C.	married	Bernice
Robert	married	Jean
Richard G.	married	Linda
Heyward	married	Rachael
Nannie	married	Gene
Kathleen	married	a Grayson
Thelma	married	James Oneal

As mentioned earlier across the street from our house and back of the other houses there was an open field where boys would often play cowboys and indians. Also, there were some very nice trees for climbing and climbing was one of my favorite sports. One day I climbed a wild cherry tree.. Almost to the top a limb I stepped on broke with me and I fell down landing on another boys head. He was hiding in a ditch lined with rock placed there to keep it from washing. He was so frightened he jumped up and dumped me onto some of the rocks crushing my left wrist and punching a hole in my cheek. I was carried to our front porch where the good neighborhood women looked after me until Dr. J. E. Massey arrived and put me to sleep while he reset my wrist. The bone was so badly damaged he had some doubts if it would heal properly. With the exception of having one arm about an inch and one-half short and a hole in my cheek it turned out alright.

Now back up Flint Street and crossing over to the western side in front of Mr. Hull's store.

This is where the Thomas Cleveland Branson family lived and we do not have much information. We do believe Mr. Branson was a mail-clerk on the Southern Railway train. Listed below is the names of this family:

- Thomas Cleveland Branson, born, May 2, 1884; died, July 1, 1942.
- Lillie Miller Branson, his wife, born Nov. 8, 1883; died, March 24, 1967.
- Elizabeth Jane Miller, her mother, born, May 31, 1852; died, Oct. 16, 1936.
- Miss Kate H. Miller, her sister, born, Oct. 21, 1875; died, Feb. 8, 1958;
she worked in alterations at Belk's Dept. Store.
- Their children:
 - Thomas C. Branson, Jr., S.C. PVT. Engr. TNG Center, WW I,
born, Oct. 9, 1905; died, Nov. 6, 1959.
 - George C. Branson, S.C. Major Air Force, WW II,
born, Sept. 25, 1911, died, July 28, 1945
- All buried in Laurelwood Cemetery, Rock Hill, S. C.

Mr. S. Jack "Uncle Jack" Bell lived at 330 Flint Street. He owned Bell's Shoe Repair located near Main Street on the southside of Elks Avenue. I don't know if he was ever married. When he retired he sold his business to Roy G. Baker, a longtime employee. After Uncle Jack left the business Roy moved the shop to Caldwell Street.

Uncle Jack Bell was the only man I have ever known who could put a chew of tobacco in one cheek and a batch of tacks in the other and keep working on a shoe sole. Next to "Uncle Jack's" shop was the office of Mr. S. H. White, a Federal Marshall and Private Detective. Incidentally, Mr. White had a son named Bert who worked as a "movie stuntman" in Hollywood. He and Bob Bryant were good friends. One of his sisters married J. Wylie Moore and another a Mr. Sims.

For many years Bert held the World's Record for the highest altitude parachute jump. At times during the summer he would come to Rock Hill on vacation to visit his family. He made several jumps while here to entertain his friends.

There were two young couples who lived with Uncle Jack in his home. The girls were sisters and the daughters of a Mr. and Mrs. Neely who lived on Highway No. 324 near Ogden, S. C. He was a well-known farmer.

Cora, the oldest married Robert "Bob" L. Garrison who ran a Ice Cream Shop across the street from the Rock Hill High School playground on East White Street.

Amy married James "Jim" Adkins, she worked at A. Friedheim and Bro., and he at the Bleachery.

"Maggie", another sister, married Clyde Thomas and they at one time lived at a house on Jones Avenue. Maggie worked somewhere downtown and Clyde worked at the Bleachery. South of the Bell house lived another Williams family. We don't have any information about them except he was a policeman.

At 338 Flint Street lived the family of George W. Bailey. Just to the rear of their house lived the George W. Holler family. Mrs. Holler was a sister to Mrs. Ayden Blanks.

A Mr. J. F. Bailey, the father of George W. Bailey, according to an old newspaper owned a tin-shop on the lot where the Belk's building now stands. His son, George W. Bailey was, also, a tin-smith and had a shop further out West Main Street.

Late one night his house burned to the ground which created some excitement in the neighborhood. Mr. Bailey kept a small safe in his house in which to store his important papers and surplus money. It was several days before the safe had cooled down enough to be opened. When they did open it everything seemed to be in good shape. However when they tried to remove the contents everything he touched would immediately turn to ashes.

This is the reason that safes are rated on the basis of how long they can withstand fire rather than burglars.

Two of Rock Hill's young men at that time were co-workers of Mr. Bailey. They were Henry G. Cronister and Martin Giles who lived on Academy Street.

Just below the Bailey's lived the W. A. Blanks family. He was a cotton buyer for the T. L. Johnston Cotton Company located on Oakland Avenue in The Peoples Warehouse Building. He married Miss Kate Collins and had two children. Their children were: Jack who married Pauline Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brown who owned and operated a dairy on McConnell's Highway. Doris married John W. "Dub" Moore, a metal smith at the Bleachery. Dub's father was a gun-repairman on East White Street. His shop was located in front of where Wall's Store was located at one time.

An interesting story. Mr. Brown's Dairy was located a short distance from where several members of the Roach Family had settled. The road leading to their place was rather steep uphill until being graded down for paving. In the early days of automobile, salesmen and prospective buyers would take their autos out to Roach's Hill for testing. If it could climb this hill in high-gear it was considered to be a fine automobile.

The next house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Sam T. Gordon. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fudge. Mr. Fudge was a much recognized Confederate Soldier. Mr. Sam was a meatcutter for the City Market located at the intersection of Main and Trade Streets. He and "Miss" Cora raised Wilbur N. "Bill" Clinton after his mother's death. Bill and I were very good friends for many years.

The house just below the Gordon Family was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Edward Steele, born, April 2, 1872; died, August 16, 1946. He married Mary Minter Steele, born, Aug. 7, 1860; died, April 17, 1939. The Minters lived on the corner of Green and Johnston Streets just back of where the J. C. Hardin family lived on Saluda Street.

Mr. Ed worked for the Rock Hill Police Department usually on the night-shifts. He seemed to be a very nice man and got along with everyone. His wife seemed to be overly protective of him. In addition, since he was away working at nights and sleeping in daylight she apparently became very lonely. She would spend much of her time in daylight on the front porch calling on the people walking or playing up and down the street to be quiet and not wake Ed. It was very noticeable. That may be the reason he wanted to work at night when it was quiet and slept in daylight to keep from listening.

354 Flint Street was very good to the Williams family. We had good neighbors, good friends, close to town, close to school and close to church. Sometimes things happen that brings sadness and then happiness. We never can figure out why things happen this way but only THE GOOD LORD KNOWS. We are not put here on this earth to question his WISDOM.

One Sunday afternoon my mother, father and myself got into our Essex Tudor automobile to go for a ride. This Essex had been the personal automobile of Mrs. W. R. Blackmon, wife of Dr. W. R. Blackmon, a well-known doctor. She had traded it in for another car and my father purchased it for us.

This writer had no idea where we were going except to take a Sunday afternoon ride. We finally stopped at a home on the southwest corner of College Avenue and the "River Road" now known as Cherry Road. What happened after this was pure sadness and joy.

The sad part was that my mother's brother, Ira T. White, had lost his wife some weeks before. However, before her death she had given birth to a little girl on February 18, 1925 and had named her Dorothy Estelle White. At the time they were living in Mount Holly, N. C. During the ensuing weeks the mother had developed axotemia, a kidney infection. On May 13, 1925 her mother lost her battle with this disease leaving two small daughters.

By agreement between the two families Mary Evelyn, the oldest, would go to live with Mr. and Mrs. C. Agurs Drennan. The youngest, Dorothy Estelle who was six weeks old at the time, would go to live with Ethan and Minnie Williams.

The writer cannot express the excitement, although dampened with sadness, my mother felt as we drove home with our precious cargo.

My mother and father had been cautioned that Dorothy's health was not the best and she was woefully underweight refused to be intimidated. My mother called in Dr. J. E. Massey for help and direction. He first took a silver dollar and used it along with adhesive tape to support Dorothy's navel. She was provided other necessary support. As days went by she began the long slow march to being a healthy little girl. Kin, friends and neighbors all shared in the excitement of having a new baby on the street.

My parents brought in a black lady named, Chastize or Chastine, (I have never known which) to help with the housework. I always felt a little sorry for Chastize because my mother could always think of more things to be done than she could keep up with. Chastize was one of the most humble and patient people I have ever known. She walked about three miles from Steele's Crossing every morning and back in the afternoon.

I will have to say that cooking wasn't one of her best accomplishments. Even though she would try to start for her home about 2:00 p. m. in the afternoon she would, at the same time, leave me something on the back of the old woodstove to eat. One time I will always remember. She tried to make me some tomato/soup. By the time I got home from school it was cold and there was no way to eat it with a spoon. It had to be sliced like a pie or custard.

Now comes the "Spoiling Time". As mentioned earlier my aunt "Emma" was living with us. If there was ever a new way invented to spoil a child she figured it out. Then came the Wright family from next door. Two sisters, Miss Bertha and Miss Lucy, added their talents to the effort. There just wasn't any end to the process. Dorothy held up well and made sure to encourage the process.

When I got out of school that summer my mother drafted me to help look after her. By this time Dorothy was able to get about and into just about everything. If I dared paddle her for getting into something I could rest assured my mother would follow it up by giving me one. I washed clothes; I ironed clothes, at least the flat-work, I kept house, ran errands, did babysitting all rolled into one. But in the final analysis it was all worth the effort.

On weekends James, Emma's youngest brother, would come by to take her home in the country and I would go along.

That was jumping out of the fire into the frying pan. James and I would have to hoe-out the corn patch or various other chores around the farm.

The house next door, 358 Flint Street, was occupied by Mrs. Eliza Ellen "Tom" Wright, (a widow) and her family. The "Big Ditch" was just below their home. The writer has never been able to learn where they lived before moving into this house. In our research we have been unable to locate where her husband is buried. The other members of the family are buried in Laurelwood. Listed below is their family as we know it:

Mrs. Eliza Ellen Wright, born, Nov. 12, 1854; died, Jan. 31, 1933. (See death notice.
Miss Bertha Armeecy Wright, born, June 19, 1888; died, May 1, 1962, never married.
Lucy L. Wright, a seamstress, made dresses and alterations for the public;
born, July 13, 1881; died, Feb. 26, 1971, never married.
William Frank Wright, born, Dec. 2, 1884; died, Sept. 4, 1962, never married;
was a carpenter by trade.

Tom Wright, born, _____; died, _____; married _____
Mrs. J. M. Porter, born, _____; died, _____; married J. M. Porter.

Mr. Porter operated an earth-moving operation and other heavy material. Their son "Buster" married a Miss Parrish; their daughter, Beulah married a Mr. Craig; their youngest son Oliver Porter, worked at the Bleachery and married Betty PARRISH / who for many years worked at the First Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n.

The story is told that when the old Peoples National Bank added and addition to their building on Main Street in 1925 Mr. Porter was given the contract to haul the new vault door from the Southern Railway Freight Depot to the back of the Bank for installation. The vault was built by the Mosler Safe Company. Mr. Porter had big wagons with wide-rim wheels designed for hauling heavy loads. However, this door was so heavy it caused the wagon wheels to sink down into the earth even though the ground was hard and dry.

THE HERALD JAN 31, 1953

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(above), 74-year-old owner of the Montclair, N. J., Times and former trade journal publisher, who was reported to have disappeared from his winter home at St. Petersburg, Fla. Taylor was said to have been in ill health for several weeks.

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MRS. WRIGHT IS CALLED BEYOND

Funeral For Esteemed Rock Hillian Is Held Today

Mrs. Eliza Ellen Wright, 78, highly esteemed Rock Hill resident, died at her home on Flint street at 2 o'clock this morning after a lingering illness.

Funeral services were conducted from the home at 4 o'clock this afternoon with Dr. A. S. Rogers, pastor of the A. R. P. church, officiating, in the absence of Rev. D. M. Sanders, pastor of the First Baptist church, who is confined to bed with influenza and unable to officiate. Dr. Rogers was assisted by Rev. D. E. Vipperman and Rev. Mr. Pope, of Charlotte. Burial was in the family plot in Laurelwood cemetery. Pallbearers were grandsons and nephews, with deacons of the First Baptist church as honorary pallbearers.

Surviving are three daughters, Misses Bertha and Lucy Wright and Mrs. J. M. Porter, and two sons, Tom and Frank Wright, all of Rock Hill.

Mrs. Wright was a member of the First Baptist church and was a woman of upright character, and possessed with a quiet, unassuming manner. She had a wide circle of friends in this city and section, who were grieved to learn of her passing.

A BAD HABIT

Los Angeles.—H. J. Mulharron, 62, had a habit which recently proved fatal. Mulharron was troubled with insomnia. He often would inhale a small amount of il-

THE HERALD MAY 19, 1953

Mrs. J. W. Lesslie

Dies in Hospital

Mrs. Mary Gettys Lesslie, 76 of Lucas St., Rock Hill, died at 10 p.m. yesterday at York County Hospital after an illness of several months.

Funeral will be held at the First A. R. Presbyterian Church at 11 a.m. Saturday by the Rev. W. P. Grier, Dr. A. S. Rogers and the Rev. W. J. Wylie. Burial will be in Neely's Creek A. R. Presbyterian Church Cemetery near Rock Hill. The body will be at Bass Funeral Home until the hour of the funeral.

Mrs. Lesslie was born and reared in the Lesslie community of York County, a daughter of the late J. Robert Gettys and Martha Roddey Gettys. She attended and taught in the York County schools. On Dec. 12, 1900 she was married to James W. Lesslie of Lesslie. She was a member of the First A. R. Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, and was active in church work for many years. She moved to Rock Hill 39 years ago.

Survivors are her husband; one son, James W. Lesslie Jr., Rock Hill; six daughters, Mrs. Roy L. Cameron and Mrs. Paul A. Braswell of Rock Hill; Mrs. Joe Connolly of York; Mrs. Clayton Bradshaw of Jennings, Fla.; Mrs. J. J. Dodds Jr. of Chester and Mrs. L. A. Givens of Anderson; two brothers, Roddey E. Gettys of Greenville and Robert A. Gettys of Rock Hill; three sisters, Mrs. J. D. Lesslie Sr., Mrs. John T. Walker, and Mrs. C. E. Williams, all of Rock Hill, and 19 grandchildren.

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THE HERALD JAN 5, 1929

CRASH OF BIKE AND AUTO FATAL TO LOCAL YOUTH

Roddey Miller Leslie, 13, Succumbs Early Thursday

DRIVER CLEARED

Coroner's Jury Decided Collision Was Unavoidable

Injuries received early last night when the bicycle which he was riding and an automobile driven by Henry W. McCorkle collided on East White street were fatal to Roddey Miller Leslie, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Leslie, of 380 Flint street. Death resulted at 1 o'clock this morning in Fennell Infirmary from concussion of the brain. The boy's right leg also was broken.

A coroner's jury early this afternoon after hearing testimony of four witnesses, exonerated McCorkle of responsibility. The jury agreed the accident was unavoidable.

Tell of Accident

J. H. Elliott, of Moore street, was the first witness. He testified that he drove up White street a short distance in his automobile after leaving a filling station, passed the youth on the bicycle and a moment later heard a crash. He stopped his car, ran back and drove McCorkle's car to the hospital, while McCorkle and Ansel Hunter, one of McCorkle's companions held the youth in their arms.

Oscar L. Funderburk, battery shop employe and a companion of McCorkle, said that McCorkle had turned his car on East White

street and had checked his speed to drive up behind Elliott's car as it left the filling station. He said McCorkle had just speeded up to about 15 to 20 miles an

hour to pass Elliott's car when the youth on the bicycle dashed in front of the car and reached into the path of McCorkle's running. He said McCorkle put on his brakes and that he (Funderburk) closed his eyes. A moment later the crash and in a moment McCorkle and Ansel Hunter had the boy in their arms with Elliott under the steering wheel of McCorkle's car and had started to the hospital. He said he drove Elliott's car to the hospital. The car was at a standstill or almost at a standstill when the collision came, he believed.

Corroborates Version

The story of Ansel Hunter, the third occupant of McCorkle's car, corroborated in all essential details with that of Funderburk. All three witnesses agreed that there was no indication that McCorkle had been drinking.

The jury empaneled by Coroner Paul G. McCorkle comprised H. M. Dunlap, Jr., R. M. Anderson, A. B. Fewell, J. E. Burns, J. J. Robinson and B. H. Deas. Dr. W. B. Walt, of Fennell Infirmary, testified as to the nature of young Leslie's injuries. When the boy was taken to the hospital some time before his identity was known. It was only after letters he was carrying to mail on a northbound train were discovered that authorities were able to notify his parents. No report of the accident reached police until this morning when McCorkle himself informed them.

Funeral Friday

Funeral services for the dead boy will be conducted at 1 o'clock Friday afternoon from the home by Rev. W. O. Carmichael. Interment will be in Neely's Creek churchyard.

Young Leslie was a popular member of the eighth grade at

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On down the street two or three houses immediately in front of where Orange Street intersects Flint Street, lived my great grandfather, Charles Hayes Williams. After his wife's death he moved into this house. They had formerly lived near Neely's Creek A. R. P. Church. Following his death it was occupied by a Elliott family for a short time. Still later by the J. Kilgo Williford family; and still later by the T. Fant Steele Family.

Next door sometime during the early 1920's the house at 374 Flint Street was occupied by the James Wylie Lesslie, Sr.'s family. Mrs. Lesslie prior to her marriage was Miss Mary Gettys. She along with my mother's half-sister, Miss Mattie R. White were the first teachers to teach at the Catawba Baptist Church School located south of Rock Hill on what is now known as the Catawba Baptist Church Road.

The Lesslie's had a large family of two boys and several girls. (living):

ANNA LESSLIE MARRIED ROY CAMERON

Mattie Lesslie married Joe Connelly of York, S. C.

Leila Lesslie married BRADSHAW

Jennie Lesslie married DODDS

Polly married GIVENS

Lavenia married Paul A. Braswell

I do not remember the name of the sixth girl.

James W. Lesslie, Jr. married _____

Rodney Miller Gettys, the youngest son, was killed in an auto accident on the way to mail a letter for his brother at the Southern Railway Depot. See article attached.

We were told it was a rainy and foggy night and he was riding his bike about where the old A. & P. Tea Company store was located. He was hit by a Mr. H. W. McCorkle who drove one of Mr. G. K. Dickert's delivery trucks. He died the next morning at 3 a.m.

Early Monday morning my father, Ethan T. Williams, who normally went to work at the old Dixie Oil Company at about 7:00 a. m. delayed going to work for about an hour so he could tell me about the accident. He took me to the Lesslie home to view the body.

Apparently the shock and fear on seeing the truck coming toward him frightened him so much and his grip on the handle-bars was so strong the undertaker could not get his hands relaxed enough to open. Those two hands went to the grave with him still in the grasping position.

I had lost a friend. One I will never be able to forget.

There is a large house located at the corner of Flint Street and Academy Street (now known as Confederate Avenue) which has always been occupied by large families. In this instance it was occupied by Mrs. Walter M. White, a widow, and her large family. She was known in the neighborhood as Mrs. Bess White. Her house was located south of the James W. Lesslie, home. Incidentally, Walter M. White was my mother's half brother. Her children consisted of the following: Margaret Elizabeth White, born, in 1902 and worked at the Rock Hill Telephone Company in her later years. She married Warren H. Ownen who worked for Metropolitan Life Ins. Co. Eva Mae White who was born in 1904 and worked for King C. Tolles Lumber Company. She never married.

James Everard White, born, in 1906 and married Nancy Elizabeth "Betty" Neely a nurse. He worked for The Peoples Trust Company, Rock Hill, S. C. for many years.

Mary Frances White, born, and married Otto Albert Hemleb a Purchasing Agent for Daniel's Construction Company while building Bowarters Plant.

William Melvin White, born, 1911, married Mary Ann Westbrook and they owned The White Printing Company.

Joseph Hayes white, born, 1913, married Virginia Ray McCreary of Lexington, N. C.

(Cecil Hayes)
where he worked with his uncle in the insurance business. They are buried in Lexington, NC

Ruth Gill White, born, 1916, married James Baron McNinch and lived in the western part of South Carolina.

This story concerns the night their house caught on fire in the middle of the night. It was said that ~~Eva Mae~~ and Mary Frances was so desperate to save their piano that they rolled it down the front steps and onto the street. The next day they tried to move it back into the house but could not move it an inch.

After the White's moved away from this house it was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. C. Marshall Sibley. They, too, had a very large family whose names may be found in the Fudge Family History. Mr. Sibley owned and operated a grocery store in a brick building located in the southeastern corner of Stewart Avenue and White Street.

Across Confederate Avenue from Mrs. White's house was a small store which was patronized by many of the Central School children during the morning recess and lunch time. It was originally owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Duncan and their daughter, Nannie. The Duncan family lived in a house on Chestnut Street. Later this store was owned by Mrs. Ruth Holler Funderburk.

After some reflection during the writing of this article I realized this area consisting of seven or eight blocks probably had more widowed mothers raising families than any I have ever known. I will define the area by going back to the corner of Flint Street and Saluda; going east up Saluda to Black Street; south down Black Street to Spruce Street; turning onto Spruce and down to Chestnut, turning back to Confederate Avenue; turning north on Flint Street and back to the beginning.

I doubt if I can name them all but I will give it a try: Mrs. Nettie Miller and her son Alvin who taught school in the lower part of the State; Mrs. Essie Bridges with two daughters: Anna married Bill Campbell and Caroline married a Mr. Drennan: down Black, Mrs. Sandifer who had three daughters: Mrs. Beckham who had two daughters, Amelie and Fannie: Mrs. Sanders who had two daughters and maybe a son, Alice and Earline; Mrs. J. Marion Moore with a daughter, Marian: Mrs. Holler who was an artist: Mrs. Phillips and her daughter who married John Holler: Mr. J. E. Pope with a son, Robert (Bob) and grandson, Elbert: Mrs. Dunlap who was the mother of M. C. Dunlap, Jr.; (Bob and M. C. Dunlap remodeled an old tenant house so boys after school should have some place to go.) turning onto Chestnut a Mrs. Fudge with several children: the Huey children who lived by themselves: Mrs. Buddin who had one daughter and three sons: and Mrs. Bess White (Walter M.) who raised a family of four girls and three boys, which brings us back to our starting point.

There ^{were} many occasions when the people living on Orange Street seemed like a part of Flint Street. Two things happened to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Pinckney Ferguson who lived on Orange Street directly across the street from Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Burts. Dr. Burts at the time was Superintendent of the Rock Hill Public Schools. The Ferguson's had a son named Wade whose responsibility was taking care of the family cow. He had to milk her in the morning and take her to pasture before going to

school. Reverse the whole procedure at night.

Practically every family owned a cow and one of the boys in each family had the responsibility to taking care of her. I was lucky we didn't own a cow. My job was cutting four-foot wood for the fireplaces and cooking stove.

Almost every boy in the neighborhood would make, for himself, a platted leather whip. The strips of leather could be easily obtained since this was an agricultural town and plenty of places to get the throw-aways. These whips were about six or seven feet long and a loop to slip over the wrist.

Many of these boys were so proficient with these whips they could easily kill a fly crawling on the wall. One day, Wade was taking his cow to pasture and practicing while they walked along when he accidentally put out one of his cow's eyes. He certainly didn't want his father to find out what had happened to his cow. Father's of boys in those days were a little more stern than now. From then on Wade always took his cow to pasture before daylight and didn't bring her back until after dark.

On Sunday afternoons after working all week it was a custom for neighbors to stand around on the sidewalk in front of their houses exchanging the happenings of the week and what to expect for the next week. Someone in the group noticed a small blaze of fire developing on the roof of the Ferguson home. When first seen it was very small but by the time the fire trucks and fireman arrived the entire roof was ablaze. In a period of twenty to forty-five minutes there was nothing left but the ashes and brick pillars. The Ferguson's had to move elsewhere.

Later the house was rebuilt with a more modern design. It was then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Stutts, a District Representative for the Old Standard Oil Company. The house on the west side of the Stutts home was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Frel Boyd. Mr. Boyd owned the Gulf Oil Corporation franchise and the plant was located on Pendleton Street next to the Standard Oil Company Plant. Two neighbors living side by side and working side by side for similar companies.

Mr. Boyd owned a new 1929 or 1930 Ford Tudor. They had several children always wanting to go riding in his new car on the hot summer evenings after their evening

meal. Mr. Boyd would be tired after a hard days work and didn't want to take them joy-riding. They knew I could drive and being a friend and close neighbor, they persuaded their father to let me drive for them.

We rode all over Rock Hill and any other place they could think of. The one place they liked best was riding over the humps of the street intersections on Oakland Avenue in front of Winthrop College. (I didn't mind either.) You would think we were the "Dukes of Hazard" the way those kids screamed. They probably could be heard for blocks around.

On hot summer nights many of the children would gather at the corner where Orange Street intersected with Flint Street under the street light to catch up on the happenings of the day. Sometimes arguments would get started but not finished because everybody had to be home by 8:30 p. m. and not later than 9:00 P. M. leaving the unfinished arguments for the next day. On one occasion two of the neighborhood girls had a real "donnybrook" going. When they met the next morning they resumed their argument. It became so violent a fight erupted with one of the girls literally tearing the other's dress completely off. Naturally the looser ran for home crying. I am very sure their mother's finished this argument but I am unaware just how it ended.

Earlier I mentioned about Dr. R. C. Burts being the Superintendent of the Rock Hill Public Schools. This brought to mind another incident which had a very sad beginning but finally ended up on a brighter note.

I was ten years old when I entered the fifth grade at the old Central School and our teacher was Miss Elizabeth Yarbarough. Her family was a well-known and prominent family in Chester, S. C.. She received her education in the Chester Schools and at Winthrop College.

Two people occupied each desk space in our class. My desk-mate was R. F. Milholen, brother of Mrs. Margaret Plexico and her sisters. One was Estelle Garrison.

Following her graduation from Winthrop College she went to Camden, S. C. to begin her teaching career. From the description we have heard it was a typical old country schoolhouse--classrooms and office downstairs with classrooms and

a large auditorium upstairs. It was customary for all community functions to be held in the school auditorium.

On this particular night in the fall some type of public function was being held. Miss Yarborough along with her date were in attendance. The heating system in those old schoolhouses usually consisted of one or more pot-bellied stoves. At some point during the night the old schoolhouse caught fire. People were running around frantically trying to escape. For one reason or another, panic or otherwise, the exits were blocked.

Miss Yarborough's date noticed an old touring car with a canvas top parked just below one of the windows. He picked her up and dropped her out of the window onto that top. She was badly shaken but not seriously hurt. Her date lost his life in the fire.

She would not go back to Camden, S. C. the next year to teach but came to Rock Hill, S. C. and the Central School. Our class did not find out about this until later.

It took her some years to get over this traumatic experience. She finally married D. Johnson Lesslie who in addition to being a rural mail-carrier, assisted his father in running a cotton gin at Lesslie, S. C. and also acted as the installer and repairman on the local electrical system.

They built their home on the Neely's Creek Church Road and raised one daughter.

I know I must have missed many of the remaining families on Flint Street but I will list the ones I remember.

The W. L. Pope family. He worked for Williams Paint Company.
412 Frank Y. Polk and his family. He worked as an auto mechanic.
432 Willard R. Randall and his family on the corner of Flint and Spruce.
530 D. Glenn Williamson family. He sold fertilizer to farmers and she was a nurse.
535 Ira B. Hall family. I believe he worked in the Electrical Dept. for the City/
548 Heyward M. Robertson family. His daughter is getting up some information on this family and I will attach it.
555 The Ella Christmas family. Her family delivered The Charlotte Observer.
556 Lorenze Buddin. He and his family owned Buddin's Whol. Confectionary.

See Page No. 18 for some additional information I did not remember while writing the above.

535 should be IRA B. HALLMAN.

After writing Page No. 17 there are several families I should have remembered. and the Randall's

About half way between the Frank Y. Polk family/there lived a Tipton Family. Mr. Tipton, Senior, I remember as being a Mail Clerk on a Southern Railway train. They had two sons; one named, Hoke and another, as I remember, was named, Nash. Both boys played football on the old Central School Field. After graduation Hoke went on to West Point and played football. Nash went on to Annapolis and, also, played football.

One thing I do remember. They would come home on leave and walk back and forth to town in bright uniforms. They would walk ramrod strait and make several trips a day.

Another family was the Jones Family who lived on the corner of Spruce Street and Flint. They had a son named Young Jones. That is about all I remember on them.

Further down Flint and almost across the street from your family lived Frel M. Johnstone(I even remember the spelling) who married Alberta Garison. She taught school somewhere. Also, Frel's nephew, LeRoy, lived with them. Frel for many years was Assistant Manager of Mr. Wyche Elder's Piggly Wiggly which was located almost directly across Main Street from the Post Office.

Also, at the same time there was a Ferguson who had bright red hair, worked there as a meat cutter. They lived on Chestnut Street if my memory serves me right.

After nearly 55 years, RH businessman closes doors

By WALTER WELLS
Herald Staff Writer

ROCK HILL — Heyward M. Robertson, for many years Rock Hill's oldest individual businessman, has closed the doors of his sporting goods store on Hampton Street after 54 years and six months.

Robertson, a venerable white-haired gent of 71, was "forced into retirement," as he explains it, by a mild stroke late in November.

He had repaired bicycles and sold sporting goods in Rock Hill since 1910, when he was 16 years old. "I began my business in a little metal building on Main Street where the Smart Shop is now," he said.

"The building leaked so bad that one day when Mayor Blankenship came in out of a shower he said he didn't see how I stood all the drips. He insisted on building a shop for me on the corner of Elk and Black and I moved in there in 1914.

"There were livery stables in that part of town so it wasn't a good location for me. In 1916, when I moved down Hampton to the corner of Black. I stayed in that building from then until I closed the shop last month — 54 years and six months."

Robertson, a veteran of World



Heyward M. Robertson

War I was away from his business in 1918 and 1919, while in the army. His brother Gilmore Robertson ran the business for him during that time.

Robertson had high praise for many of his friends who helped him get his shop closed. "They have all been marvelous," he said, "and I really want to thank them for their help."

About Rock Hill, Robertson said, "This is a thriving little

city now. It's no longer the little country town it was when I started."

"When I started in 1910 there were no paved streets. There was a mule-drawn street car and the girls from Winthrop used to ride it back to campus. There were so many of them that when the car got to the overhead bridge, the mules couldn't pull it over. So the Winthrop girls would get off until the car was over the bridge, then they'd get back on and ride on to campus."

Robertson is a member of First Baptist Church in Rock Hill. "I don't live a Christian life one month out of the year. I try to live it every month, every day."

He lives with his wife, the former Eulalie Polk of Statesville, N. C. at 548 Flint Street. He has a son who is in the sporting goods business in Charlotte, a daughter in Gastonia, and another daughter in Connecticut. Another daughter died several years ago.

And how does he plan to spend his time now that he is retired? "Fishing and football. I'm going fishing every chance I get and I'm going to see all the football games I can, either on TV or the local ones here."

B- 9-10-1893
D- 6-2-1976

Heyward M. Robertson

ROCK HILL — Heyward Miller Robertson, 82, of 548 Flint St., died Wednesday at York General Hospital.

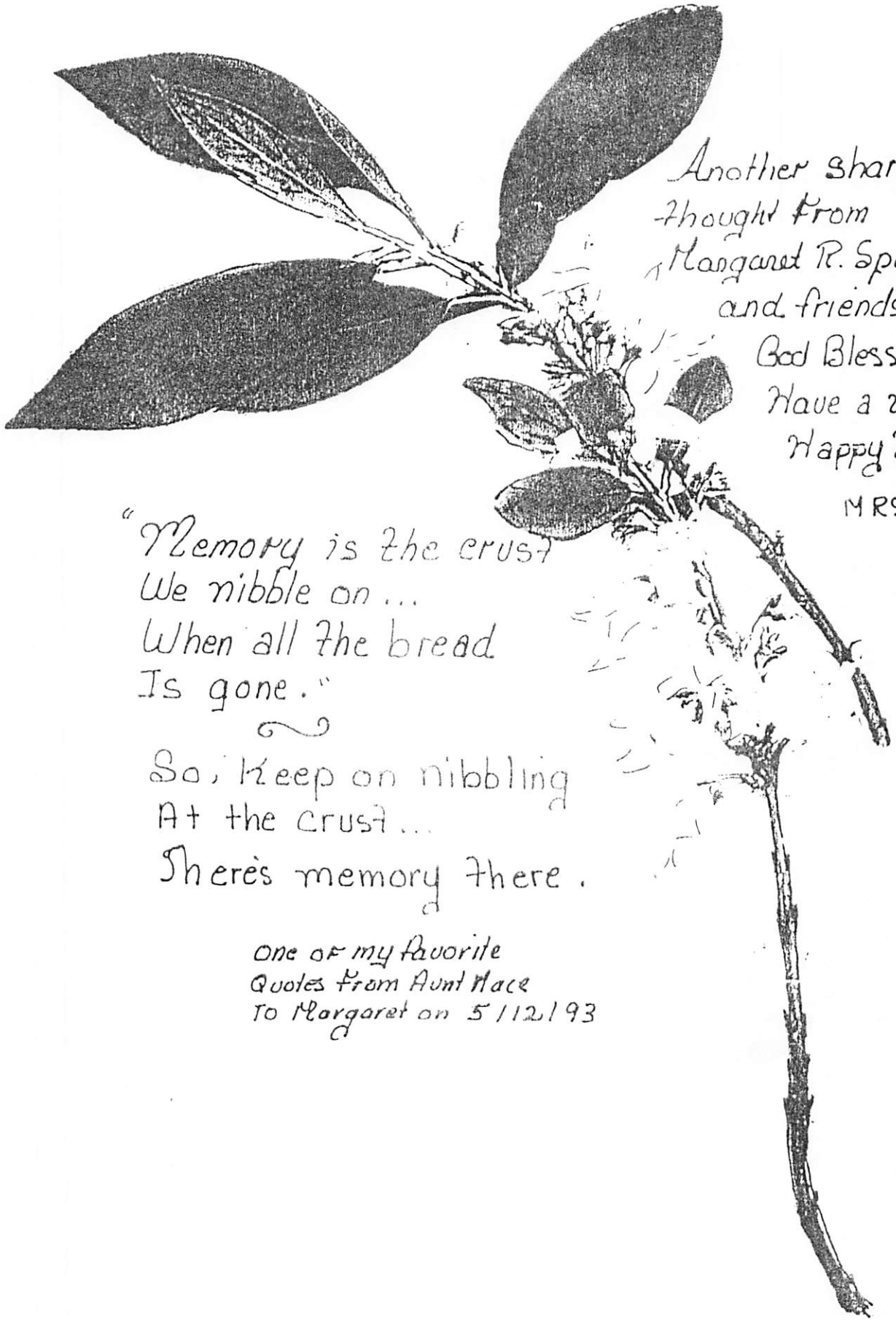
Funeral services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Bass Funeral Home with the Rev. T. Richard Davis and the Rev. Robert Robinson officiating. Burial will be in Laurelwood Cemetery.

Mr. Robertson was owner and operator of Robertson Sporting Goods in Rock Hill for 54 years before his retirement in 1964.

He was a veteran of World War I and a member of American Legion. He was a member of Masonic Lodge No. 111.

Surviving are the wife, Mrs. Cora Eulalia Pope Robertson; a son, Richard E. Robertson of Charlotte, N.C.; two daughters, Mrs. William Spargo of West Haven, Conn.; Mrs. Eugene Purpley of Gastonia, N.C.; five grandchildren; a great-grandchild; two sisters, Mrs. T.M. Wright of Rock Hill and Mrs. Bethel Rush of Dallas, Tex.

The family will receive friends tonight from 7 to 9 at Bass Funeral Home and at other times at the residence.



Another shared
thought from
Margaret R. Spongo
and friends.

God Bless &
Have a veru
Happy Day
MRS

"Memory is the crust
We nibble on ...
When all the bread
Is gone."

So, keep on nibbling
At the crust ...
There's memory there.

One of my favorite
Quotes from Aunt Haze
To Margaret on 5/12/93

June 15, 1993

Mrs. Mace R. Fursley
1016 W. Mauney Avenue
Gastonia, N. C. 28052

Dear Mrs. Fursley:

First, I ask you to please excuse my typing. Second, I want to thank you and your sister for all of the good information on "Mr. Hey", your father.

In 1920 we moved from the country to Rock Hill into a house at 354 Flint Street and next door to the Wright's. On July 1, 1929 I went to work for The Peoples National Bank as a Messenger Boy after school each day.

At first I walked from the Rock Hill High School to town in the afternoon until my father bought me a used Western Union bicycle from Mr. H. B. Ewart for me to ride.

Your dad, "Mr. Hey" as we called him, did the needed repairs. You probably don't remember a Mr. Fesperman who owned the Battery Shop in the back of the same building.

Many years later after Pearle and I had a family of our own we lived on Ebenezer Road several blocks above the old York General Hospital. Our oldest son purchased a new Schwinn bicycle from your Dad on which he delivered papers.

I want to apologize if I gave anyone the impression I was writing a book. A writer I am not. What I was trying to do was preserve some memories in an article very similar to the one Mrs. Spargo was doing called "548 Flint Street."

Mine is called "SOME OF THE THINGS I REMEMBER FROM THE YEARS WE LIVED ON FLINT STREET" and written for my sister and me. Since we all seem to share the same interest I am going to take the liberty of enclosing a xerox copy. I had no idea when I started this project anyone else would be interested.

Most of the people we grew up with during those years have either moved away or passed on. I am delighted to know you folks are still around.

Recently while doing some research on old cemeteries I ran across the Robertson Family Cemetery and still later found the records made by Wade B. Fairley, Mr. T. J. Caldwell and Joe E. Hart, Jr. made Jan. 14, 1981. I have no idea whether these families are any kin of yours or not. At any rate I am enclosing a xerox copy for your information.

After you have finished reading this material or copying please pass it on to your sister for her information.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Williams, Jr.
2026 Welborn Street
Rock Hill, S. C. 29732-1130

INFORMATION ON THE FAMILY OF HEYWARD MILLER ROBERTSON, PVT. U. S. ARMY, WWI
AND CORA EULALIA POPE

Heyward Miller Robertson b. Sept. 10, 1893 d. June 2, 1976 buried Laurelwood	Wife	Cora Eulalia Pope b. April 16, 1896 d. Feb. 28, 1979 buried Laurelwood
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Their children:

Joe Heyward Robertson
b. May 22, 1920
d. Nov. 18, 1920
young child

Virginia R. Robertson b. Nov. 19, 1924 d. July 10, 1955	Husband	George Norman Quick b. d.
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Their sons:

Terry George Quick
b. Feb. 11, 1949
d. Dec. 17, 1987
buried Laurelwood

Richard E. Robertson b. d. living Lives at 65 Blackberry Lane, Lake Wylie, S. C.:	Wife	_____
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Owens Sporting Goods Store
Charlotte, N. C.

Margaret Robertson b. d. living They live in West Haven Conn.	Husband	William Spargo b. d. living
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Mace Robertson b. d. living Lives at 1016 W. Mauney Avenue Gastonia, N. C. 28052	Husband	Eugene Pursley b. d. living son of M. G. Pursley
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SISTERS OF HEYWARD MILLER ROBERTSON:

Rhettie E. Robertson	Husband	Thomas M. Wright b. d. married June 6, 1911
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Bethel Robertson (Myrtle Beach, S. C.)	Husband	Talmadge Rush b. d. married Oct. 12, 1914
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(Question:) In one place Cora Eulalie's name is shown as Pope and another as Polk.
Which is correct? Also, whose daughter is she?