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# McDOWELL COUNTY HERITAGE NORTH CAROLINA



**Editor**

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ing books and answering the phone, sitting with the funerals until she was employed as the industrial nurse at Marion Manufacturing Company. She was the first nurse, and this was her first experience in a setting. She had done private duty nursing in Asheville and this was definitely different. She cultivated many friends in East Marion and has many who ask about her and remember the association there. Beulah Suttle told me this week that she was "Di's" first patient. While I was at Meredith, I met Tom Gibson. He was attending Wake Forest. We were married in 1948 and have 4 children: 2 daughters and 2 sons. The oldest gave "Di" her nickname and it has held through the years. We have 5 grandchildren and they all call her Dad's nickname was Dan and this, too, was the children. After Dad died, I came back to Marion to help with the business. This has been such a wonderful experience. I have told you of you what it has meant to me, but there aren't words to express my feelings. I had the opportunity to get reacquainted with people I knew growing up here, and one I know for sure - you can go home again! It's the same and not many of us would want it after 40 years. The people in this county are wonderful! Thank you. Submitted by: Deedie Tomery and Margaret Gibson

**ROGER WHITE FAMILY**

McDowell County celebrates her Sesquicentennial, the Roger White family will recognize their forty-second year in this community. Through business, church, and neighborhood, we have felt the many blessings McDowell County has to offer her citizens. Although we are of Buncombe County, we regard Pleasant Gardens as our home.



Mary Frances & Roger White

Roger and Mary Frances Rice White, with five month old daughter, Lynn, moved to McDowell County in 1951 to operate Rice & Son Furniture Company in Marion. (The Rice family had prior connections with McDowell County as early as 1935 when Curtis Rice operated Rice Furniture Company until 1945). Local businesses we have been involved in: Jarrett & White Insurance Agency (1957-63), Heritage Insurance Finance Company, Marion Credit Company. We are grateful to the citizens of McDowell County have been supportive of our business ventures. These businesses have provided a livelihood for the family but also have allowed us to become a part of the community. Community service has always been an important aspect of our family life. From its positions in the Chamber of Commerce (1958-1968), the McDowell County Board

of Education (1972-1978), United Fund, to fireman for the Pleasant Gardens Volunteer Fire Department (1959-1984) and Mary Frances' involvement in the PTA, Hospital Auxiliary, Red Cross, and Extension Homemakers Club, we have tried to serve our community in a variety of ways. These are a few of the activities that have provided us with the opportunities to return to the community a small portion of what it has given us.

One of the best aspects of McDowell County for us has been living in the Pleasant Gardens community. We moved to Lake Tahoma Road shortly before our second daughter, Kathryn, was born. Involvement in church activities at Pleasant Gardens Baptist Church and school activities at Pleasant Gardens School (grades 1-12) helped to provide a unified support system for our two daughters. This feeling of community was also enhanced in our neighborhood as families watched their children grow up together. Riding horses in Mr. J. C. Rabb's riding ring, snow sledding on Jameson's hill, and playing and fishing along Buck Creek were some of the activities our children enjoyed. Many lasting family friendships have had their beginnings on Lake Tahoma Road.

Our family also had the opportunity to learn McDowell County history firsthand. The land we live on is adjacent to the site of the old road which led from the old post office, store, and mill to the county's first seat of government - the Carson House. Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Patton, our neighbors who own the property, have shared many memories of when these buildings and road were in use. This old road, which we call Daktari Trail, is still a favorite place to walk along the creek.

We feel fortunate to live in McDowell County. Our daughter, Lynn, is a teacher and lives with her family in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She is married to Dr. John Roach (also from Pleasant Gardens) and they have two children, David and Emily. Our daughter, Kathryn, is also a teacher and lives in Asheville, North Carolina. She is married to Martin Mann (from Whiteville, North Carolina) who is a school administrator. Although our daughters do not live in McDowell County, they still consider "PG" home.

Congratulations to McDowell County on her 150th birthday. Our family has benefitted from your history and beauty. Submitted by: Mary Frances and Roger White

Sources: Personal recollections, family records.

**A.D. WHITLOCK**

A.D. Whitlock was born 6-15-1831 in North Carolina, the son of William Whitlock and Sarah Hall both of whom were born in North Carolina. A.D. Whitlock married Rebecca Ledbetter 4-28-1856 in McDowell County, North Carolina. On 6-5-1859, A.D. Whitlock was bondsman to the marriage of Logan C. Davis and E.M. Davis in Rutherford County, North Carolina. In the 1860 North Carolina Census, A.D. Whitlock, his wife Rebecca, and two children were in the Broad River area of McDowell County. On 1-17-1862, McDowell County, North Carolina Land Entry, Number 1813 showed A.D. Whitlock with 200 acres lying on the west side of Wart Ledbetter on the south side of Crosses Mountain on Duck Branch beginning at a maple on the Ledbetter corner.

In 1870 A.D. Whitlock and family were in Roane County, Tennessee. By 1880 A.D. Whitlock and family were in the 7th District of Cocke County, Tennessee, as a carpenter. In 1900 A.D. (Adolphus) Whitlock with 2nd wife, Elizabeth, and son, Romeo, lived in the 6th District of Cocke County, Tennessee. In 1910, A.D. and Romeo's families were in the 4th District of Cocke County, Tennessee. On 2-20-1917 A.D. Whitlock died of pneumonia fever in Cocke County, Tennessee and is buried at Rankin Missionary Baptist Cemetery in that county.

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A.D. Whitlock's children were: Romeo (1857) and Pinkney (1859) born North Carolina, Telitha (1867) and Amanda (1870) born in Tennessee.

Romeo was a carpenter, photographer, and for several years Postmaster of Rankin's Depot Post Office in Cocke County, Tennessee. Romeo was born 6-5-1857 in McDowell County, North Carolina. On 12-23-1880, he married Nancy Whitlock born 2-6-1860 in North Carolina, daughter of Jackson Whitlock and Harriet Merral. Romeo died 6-23-1927 and both Romeo and Nancy who died 1-27-1941 are buried at Rankin Missionary Baptist Cemetery in Cocke County, Tennessee. Romeo and Nancy Whitlock's children were: Wiley (1881), Lillie (1883), Harriet (1885), Charley (1887), Walter (1890), Ruth (1891), Sallie (1895), Lizzie (1897), and Maud (1902).

Ruth (11-27-1891) first married James Shelton 1-8-1915, and Boyce Shelton was born. Ruth's 2nd marriage was 3-26-22 to William Arthur Cody. Born 1-28-1894, he was the son of Harrison Cody and Martha Rickard. Arthur and Ruth had the following children: John (1923), Clarence (1924), Clayton (1926), Beatrice (1927), Thomas (1929), Grace (1931), Harry (1932), Jetter (1934), and Wade (1937). Arthur died 8-12-1982 and Ruth 1-28-1960; both are buried at Rankin Missionary Baptist Cemetery, Cocke County, Tennessee.

Thomas Harrison Cody (6-3-1929) married Pasty R. Blazer (6-26-1936) daughter of John Phillip Blazer and Lucille Inez Gorrell 4-14-1954. Their children are Pamela (1955), Sharon (1957), and Thomas Jeffery (1963).

Sharon Ann Cody (12-28-1957) married Benny Eugene Hensley (9-15-1955) son of Carmon Eugene Hensley and Evelean Jennings 12-18-1977. Their children are Joshua Carmon Hensley (1-7-1982) and Holly Lucinda Hensley (2-7-1984). The Codys and Hensleys came out of North Carolina into Tennessee. Submitted by: Benny Hensley

**JENKINS - WIECZOREK**

Lynne Anita Jenkins was born June 5, 1956 to Everette Vinson Jenkins and Vernice Erlene Reel Jenkins, in Deaconess Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. I remember our trips to Bob-Lo and Belle Isle and our vacations to North Carolina in the summer. I used to camp out with my cousins and play house in the woods. I would go with my Grandpa (we called him POPPIE) to gather eggs. I was always afraid of the chickens.



Paul, Lynn Wieczorek, Jeff, Joanne Jenkins, Dan, Suzette Newsome, Erlene, Schuknecht, Rachelle Jenkins, George Schuknecht, Adam Piroli, Eric Wieczorek, Michael Piroli 11-24-89

My childhood was spent in Detroit, Michigan growing up as the middle child. I had an older sister Suzette (born 6-1-53) and a younger brother Jeffrey (born 10-22-64). We all attended Macomb Elementary School. I went to Goodale Jr. High and Edwin Denby High School. I married John Wierzenski June 14, 1974, and we were married for a short time. I worked at several restaurants, and continued living in Michigan. My sister gave me a kitten in 1975 (which

we named with us until In 1981 with my sister's restaurant, Andrew Wilson 1955 in De 1982 in Ft. Eric Paul 1983 in Be Florida. In Raton, Flor until Eric employed employed members of St. Raton, Flor November 1

Sources: Family

Maude W former slave Wilkerson's youngest girl James, Tho baby brother were: Mart Michaux, Je Michaux, Ali Glass. Amar Roscoe Mc and Mary Ar Rebecca, Ma

Maude we rience both parents were to take a dif because the owner. Mau McDowell fr er's parents also took th They were t Haywood C Uncles and , Adelaine and All of her m moved to Mc It was not th of his brothe owner in Rict to McDowel Martha, Ann, son and Fran

Maude Wi of life in this community e her "live-in" She attende Elementary s of Gurley Ro which was g schools in the Junior High. I was always c like to have school, but h her because before she fin

After finish while and he while her old provide for th job of her ow she retired. I live with her widow. She because she until her death original memt has numerou nephews whc few nieces an visit her often