

Page 2 - 200 - 73 - 42
Facts from Eliza Gladden Powell made by Maud Coleman

Minor Gladden and his wife Jane Tidwell Gladden were born and raised in a farming section near Wateree Presbyterian Church (now Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church) which is about ten miles northeast of Winnsboro.

Henry Walker Powell and his family lived on the old Winnsboro road going north from Columbia to Winnsboro about twenty miles North.

Minor Gladden had fiery red hair and was possibly English extraction. His wife was possibly from Ireland for her daughter, Eliza who is the main character in these "Facts" was of the traditional Irish coloring, dark brown hair, glittering dark blue eyes and a typical clear white skin.

Minor Gladden's farm spread across these red hills, hundreds of acres, as at this period land was not an item of wealth. A main road ran through his plantation and his "Big" white house was on this road and faced south.

Sitting on the front porch one day, Eliza remarked about a road turning directly in front of the house said that it led to Ridgeway, which was only eight miles away. This gives us the position of this Gladden settlement.

This white house was surrounded by many buildings. A few yards from the main house was another two-story house occupied by the "overseer." Then there were many stables, stalls, cribs for hay in the lot. There was a tool house and blacksmith shop, gin-house, hen-houses, pens and houses for hogs. Pastures of acres and acres covered with beautiful green grass as far as you could see spread over this hills. There was also a carriage house and sheds with wagons and buggies. And do not leave out the smoke house with many, many hams, sides of bacon, sausage crowded with good things to eat.

For not only the Gladden family had to eat, but all on the plantation were fed by Minor Gladden. There were rows of slave houses and all these houses were well built, finished off beautifully inside and one good feature was a large fire place at one end of all the houses which made for comfort. The loom house must not be left out for every piece of clothing had to be woven for the Gladdens and the slave for many years. The lumber in the big and all these houses was sawed from the best timber. The long leaf pine and the big house is still standing though part have been taken away.

The pine forest over these red hills and hollows are not equaled by any other tree in beauty as they are very tall, evergreen, and a beautiful glistening green.

Minor Gladden did not begin housekeeping in this nice big house. Their first was one-room "log" house in the same yard and on this large plantation. One of the jokes that was told on Minor was about the first time he took his bride Jane T. to live in it. For some reason he did not have the hinges on the door so when they spent their first night they had to prop the door with a pole.

The families of both Minor and Jane Tidwell lived in the same neighborhood adjoining this farm. Elizabeth Gladden, Minor's mother lived to be 107 years old and is buried in the family graveyard which is full of graves today and has a high fence around it and very close to the big house in the pines. P9

The Gladdens had many children, boys, Adlai, Daniel, Havis, Lashah, girls Kesiah and Eliza. Adlai moved to Columbia and lived on Lady Street in the block across the street from the First Presbyterian Church.

His wife Mary died and is buried in the Presbyterian church yard right in front to the right of the church. Her grave is marked by a beautiful tomb.

Adlai fought in three wars--the Seminole war in Florida, the Mexican War and the Confederate War. In the Mexican War and the Confederate War. In the Mexican War he came back from the war as Colonel of the S. C. regiment so in honor of this war record he was elected mayor of Columbia. When the Civil War came along he was in service as a Brigadier General and was killed at the Battle of Shiloh.

Mrs. Chestnut mentions him in her book on the war and tells of her outfit overtaking the struggling Southern Army on its way to the battle of Shiloh, and that she took Gen. Gladden up in her carriage and he rode to Shiloh--and to his death.

Daniel Gladden married Frances Powell. She was poisoned by a slave. Then Daniel married the second time a Miss McMeeking.

Havis married a young lady from Columbia where they lived. His wife seemed to be from a fine and wealthy family but Havis was wild and adventurous. He went to Mexico and brought back a slave which was strictly against the law. The consequence was that this cost old Minor Gladden \$17,000 and at this time the amount of money was a fortune.

Havis Gladden faded from the picture at this point as the family was evidently ashamed of him. Minor was a long time paying this debt but when he did finally pay all, he was surrounded by a crowd at the court house in Columbia acclaimed loudly.

The main character in this account of true events at this period is Eliza, Minor's youngest child who married Henry Walker Powell and left many descendants.

Eliza was a very pretty girl, the Irish type, dark hair, deep blue eyes and white skin, as smooth and flawless as satin. She never had a mole or dark spot as are commonly seen and she lived to be one hundred years old. She was a hundred in August and died in October of that year. She was surrounded with plenty her whole life and lived well. Eliza never did any work but sewed beautifully and went to the best schools of the day until she married. And then after marriage she often taught and occasionally helped her husband Henry Walker Powell who taught his whole adult life. After Henry's death Eliza taught in the public schools for thirty years or more.

As the schools in the rural sections were scarce almost all families able had a governess to teach their children, many of these governesses came from Virginia. But since Eliza's brother Adlai lived in Columbia she was sent to stay with Adlai and "Sister Mary" as Eliza called Adlai's wife. Eliza's first school in Columbia was Mr. Muller's school and was on the same corner where the city High School is now situated. Eliza told many things about herself that happened when she was living in this Lady Street residence with brother Adlai and "Sister Mary."

She told of going around with several children to the Baptist Church. This was not their church. It was then situated on Sumter Street, the same lot now owned by the First Baptist Church. She said they all sat in one pew together. After a little they began to sniff and whispered to each other, "I smell Cinnamon. Now cinnamon was the poor people perfume at that time so they crept out. Was this the only time cinnamon was ever said to be perfume?"

When Eliza was older she went to Barhamville College located out on the edge of Columbia. We asked her if she graduated and she said the girls just went on and on and stopped when it suited them.

She must have started to Barhamville when quite young for she married when she was eighteen years old. She went for three years and she

Now you young ones hear this thing that she said happened to Dr. Marks, the president of the college and Eliza admired Dr. Marks so much. Barhamville was in beautiful grounds with many high trees. Of course the girls were much admired by the many Columbia boys who would drive by in buggies and carriages on occasion, back and forth before the gate.

One day Dr. Marks took it upon himself to hurry down the walk in front and order the boys away. One boy jumped out of his carriage with his buggy whip and whipped Dr. Marks flying back at full speed into the college. Eliza said his coat tails were flying straight behind him in his swift flight. Oldsters maybe should be reminded of such escapades when they are too hard on the young now.

Eliza Gladden married Henry Walker and they had nine children, only five living to maturity. Now the Powell place was twenty miles directly north of Columbia and they also, as well as the Gladdens, had a large and prosperous farm. Of course, cotton was the money crop of all the south before the Confederate war. The old Powells came to America from London. Call Powell first, and next his son Aaron Henry Powell. Aaron Henry Powell married Miss Walker and they lived on this farm and had a large family, the oldest Henry Walker Powell was the husband then of Eliza, our central figure, and they spent most of their married life in the city of Columbia as he was a school teacher. He taught the Odd Fellows school for boys until the Public school first established and then he taught the boys. This school was on the corner Lady and Assembly street.

Henry Powell had two brothers John and Edgar. Henry finished college at Furman, possibly where this institute was in Fairfield county near Winnsboro. P5

John graduated at the medical college and his father sent him to Paris to continue his studies in medicine. Evidently they must have made a good amount of money for they also sent daughters off to school. Lucy, one of the girls graduated along with the first class of girls that were graduated at "The Columbia Female College" which at first was in the cultural part of Columbia.

Eliza is still our central figure in this article. The people and the setting in this confederate story are as a background.

The Powell home was on Assembly Street when they taught school for a long time, but Henry Powell bought a tract of land about two miles from Assembly street in Columbia straight east. The boundaries of this tract of land are now Millwood Avenue on the southwest and Trenholm Road on the north, these two roads joining and coming to a point at the west. The eastern boundary was Gladden Street and was named in honor of Eliza Gladden Powell, who at her husband's death, Henry Walker Powell, fell heir to this large tract of land; After living for years up town they built a home on this large tract on the high hill which overlooked the city of Columbia. Their oldest son, Aaron, was about sixteen and was away in the war when Sherman burned this house and all their life's savings along with Columbia. They prized their books, and furniture was very costly as it had to be brought by wagon or boat all the way from Charleston.

They prized a fine and costly piano, too, very much, but all was burned. A friend's piano was not burned, but it must have taken a crowd of "jolly" Yankees to lug a barrel of molasses into the house and pour it into their piano -- how funny. how funny.

~~Turning backward to their first years of marriage Their oldest child was named Aaron Henry and the next was a girl little Jane and they lived in Columbia. Railroads were a thing new in this world but one was now running from Charleston through Columbia to Charlotte, N. C. So, of course when Henry and Eliza were going up to the old home, Minor's home for Christmas, they chose the train instead of their carriage and horses. Christmas eve day they got on the train with the four-year old son, Jane, the small baby and a colored nurse girl to go to Winnsboro. Eliza in telling years after about this trip said, there were two coaches, and an engine, the coaches were like small busses. When they were about twelve miles north of Columbia the train had to cross a pond on a high trestle and they moved slowly over this high trestle the coach began to sway and just toppled off the trestle about 65 feet into the pond underneath. But the engine did not fall off the track. There were many tree stumps sticking up out of the pond under the trestle and the coach caught on a stump or all would have been drowned. Aaron the 4 year old boy did fall into the water and had to be pulled out with hooks or he would have been drowned. Little Jane was found in the nurses arms but was dead, only a small scar on her head. One grown colored person also was found dead, this being only two deaths. It was Christmas eve~~