

Amanda Jane Pickett and her older sister, Martha Catherine Pickett, attended Limestone College, Gaffney, S. C. Martha is listed as the 1st graduate of Limestone College. Amanda at this time was very much in love with Billy Yongue (Wm. Ellison Yongue) who lived in Winnsboro while Amanda lived nearer Great Falls. When the time came for the two girls to ride back to Limestone, their father saw that their coachman was reliable, their luggage was on top and that they were comfortable. About 15 miles out, Amanda began to cry loud and long and so hard that Martha ordered the coachman to turn back. Imagine how angry their father was when he came back that night from a business trip to Chester to find them back at home. Of course the next morning early he started them off again with dire threats.

Amanda married her "Billy". In 1861 she had a little son named Alex William. He was just a baby in arms when "Billy" left to enlist. They lived near the Old Eagle house, her father's home in the Durham neighborhood. Amanda left with little Alex and her numerous nieces and nephews and her slaves. These extra children were running from the Yankees. Imagine her surprise one morning to find the Yankees swarming over the yard and neighborhood. She talked to the northern major and told him how frightened she was all alone and with so much responsibility with the many children. He promised her that he would put two guards always around her house. How comforting it was to hear the guards say "Two o'clock and all's well". The home of her father had a widespread eagle over the doorway. It was burned by the Yankees.

Martha Catherine, the older sister, married Dr. Henry Gibson. They had no children and they too lived in the neighborhood of the Durhams and right down the road from the younger sister Amanda Jane. Early in the morning the Yankees arrived at Martha's house. They quickly swarmed all over the yard and houses looking for loot. Martha was expecting them and had stationed two little negro girls to watch and report their reaction first in the front hall where she had placed her husband's masonic apron on a little round mahogany table. Racing back to Miss Martha the little girl screamed her report. A soldier had cut it to pieces with his sword. The other little girl too raced in. They had just set fire to the carriage house. Martha fainted, regaining consciousness she found the house quiet, herself on her bed and in the hall she glimpsed a pair of leather boots. The owner was pacing back and forth before her door. Hearing her moving about he knocked gently on the open door and begged permission to enter. He apologized for his men's intrusion and had ordered them from her yard and premises - the fire had been extinguished.

The round mahogany table is still in the family and is now owned by Mr. William Yongue Buchanan of Winnsboro, S. C.