

G. G. McLAURIN  
AND  
SOME OF HIS KIN

Sketches and Genealogy

*By*

G. G. McLAURIN

NANCY DELLA McINTYRE McLaurin  
(daughter of Archibald McIntyre, Jr.)

It would, of course, be impossible for me to write objectively of my mother. To me she was a dynamic bundle of love, understanding, and compassion. Her name is not carved on any towering marble shaft. Her portrait does not grace the walls of any hall of fame, but her innate goodness, her love, her dedication, and sacrifices, carved themselves deep in the hearts and souls of five small children, and that seemed to be all that she asked of life.

She guided her children with a firm but gentle hand. She was not a strict disciplinarian. There were rules, of course, known to all of us and we infringed one at our peril. Retribution, while not severe, was sure and quick, and, like most children, we learned very soon just how far we could go without incurring any penalties.

Early in life we were taught to think and act for ourselves. She would let us make decisions even when she knew we were making mistakes. We would fall, she would help us up and point out just why we had fallen. As we grew older she left decision making strictly to each of us. She would discuss questions with us, insist that we examine the matter from all sides, and then the final judgment had to be ours, and when once made, she never questioned it or interfered.

Mother was a rather quiet unassuming person. She had a happy disposition, an optimistic outlook and a keen sense of humor. If she worried in those early days she kept it from her children. But no one could so completely hold the destiny of five children in her hands without worrying, even agonizing over what the future might hold for her and them. We were far from wealthy. In fact we were poor but not poverty-stricken. We had all of the essentials and some few of the luxuries of that day. There were many people, perhaps a majority, good, honest, hardworking, substantial, highly respected citizens who were in no better financial circumstances than we were. Wealth and poverty are relative. We can determine the level of one's affluence only by comparing with others at a stated time in a given community. No living person today is capable

of making a just a  
dards of seventy-  
a part of that gen

Necessity cor  
early of the scar  
were many depriv  
openly a demonst  
Our feelings and  
touched one of us  
throughout life. V  
acted the part. V  
quarrels, spats an  
Mother to really v

When I was  
a joke and a sec  
us were "in on t  
was a woman na  
to wash and iron  
Nancy failed to s  
piling up". One  
to school. Mothe  
was going to "w  
completed, the ch  
when the children  
remarked that sh  
washing. Then s  
hesitation Mothe  
up, ready to bro  
washing — with  
she was smiling,  
side. I said nothin

Later I asked  
had done the wa  
it. She said that  
since they didn't  
that she had misl  
had actually don



of making a just and understandable comparison of the living standards of seventy-five years ago and those of today, unless he was a part of that generation.

Necessity compelled us to live within our means. We learned early of the scarcity of money and the value of a dollar. There were many deprivations and many compensations. We were not openly a demonstrative family but we were extremely "close-knit". Our feelings and affections ran deep and strong. Anything that touched one of us was felt by all of us, and that closeness continued throughout life. We were, I think, normal children and lived and acted the part. We had our differences, our disagreements, our quarrels, spats and fights, but I don't think our conduct ever caused Mother to really worry about us.

When I was about five years of age I was permitted to share a joke and a secret with Mother. The fact that only the two of us were "in on the joke" magnified its importance to me. There was a woman named Nancy who came to our house each week to wash and iron the clothes. We were having rainy weather and Nancy failed to show up. Mother began to fret about "dirty clothes piling up". One morning the sun came out. The children got off to school. Mother told me to build a fire around the pot that she was going to "wash out a few pieces of clothing". The job was completed, the clothes on the line drying and dinner on the table when the children came from school. We were eating dinner. Virgie remarked that she was glad Mother had found someone to do the washing. Then she asked - "who did it?" Without a moment's hesitation Mother said Nancy did it. I was busy eating but looked up, ready to broadcast the information that Mother had done the washing - with my help of course - but I glanced at Mother; she was smiling, but was slowly shaking her head from side to side. I said nothing.

Later I asked Mother why she had told the children that Nancy had done the washing when she knew full well that she had done it. She said that she expected them to "catch on" immediately, but since they didn't she saw no use in upsetting them. Then she added that she had misled them but had not told an untruth since Nancy had actually done the washing. I am not sure whether I grasped

the situation, or had to have it spelled out for me. Mother was called DELLA, not NANCY, and that combined with the one fact that the "wash-woman" was named Nancy was likely to cause a little confusion. It was sometime thereafter before the other children were let in on the joke.

On Mother's seventy-fifth birthday I went up to McColl to see her. She had not been feeling well for several days. When I went into the room she was lying down, fully clothed. She started to get up. I stopped her, leaned over and asked her how she was feeling. With a broad grin she said: "I think I am feeling every one of those seventy-five years today."

When I was a small boy I heard Mrs. Walter Pate speak of Mother as follows: "She doesn't have a lazy or selfish bone in her body." It has been a long time since I have heard any one use that expression, but I believe it was an accurate description.

Clarence McLaurin was in my office a short time before he died. He was talking about conditions when he was a boy, and incidentally about some of his kin folks. In speaking of my mother he stated: "A better woman never lived". He then added: "She was my favorite aunt." He went on to say that she was always cheerful, kind, considerate, that all of the young people felt at ease in her presence, which was more than he could say about some of his aunts. Another first cousin, May McLucas, recently made the remark that "Aunt Della was a saint". She then stated that her mother always thought so much of my mother. I quote these statements, though exaggerated they may be, merely to give an idea of the respect and affection in which she was held by nieces and nephews, as well as others.

Mother was, we might say, a very busy person. Until the years began catching up with her she was always busy at some task, always "on the go". When she would sit down she was sewing, mending, darning. Only at night, usually when the children were studying, she would settle down and catch up with her reading.

JAMES ALEXANDER McLaurin and his wife, NANCY DELLA McINTYRE McLaurin were the parents of five children.

VIRG  
1957

n  
MAR  
2, 196  
n

JAME  
n

FRED  
1956

n

GROV  
n

VIRG

dren of Ja  
Intyre M  
the old M  
school at  
simmee, I  
She enter  
lowed it  
class to gr

After

(now Dill  
that her  
years she  
ous, dedi  
the "born  
personalit  
the impor  
but she in  
to study, t

When

schools cl  
was held  
activities  
of her inf  
through h



VIRGINIA LEE (Virgie) McLAURIN, April 6, 1876-Jan. 7, 1957

not married

MARTHA PEARL (Mattie) McLAURIN, April 19, 1878-Sept. 2, 1966

married Roberson S. Fletcher, Oct. 21, 1874-Oct. 4, 1949

JAMES OSCAR McLAURIN, Jan. 15, 1881-Dec. 11, 1958

married Eloise Lake, Aug. 9, 1892-

FREDERICK BAYARD McLAURIN, May 6, 1883-Nov. 6, 1956

not married

GROVER GORDON McLAURIN, Jan. 30, 1887-  
married Inez Beatrice Ragsdale, July 27, 1891-

VIRGINIA LEE (Virgie) McLAURIN, the oldest of the children of James Alexander McLaurin and his wife, Nancy Della McIntyre McLaurin, was born in the home of her Grandmother, in the old McIntyre plantation home, April 6, 1876. She attended school at Beaverdam, Marlboro County, South Carolina; Kissimmee, Florida; Sylvester, Georgia; and McColl, South Carolina. She entered Winthrop College while it was in Columbia and followed it when it moved to Rock Hill. She finished with the first class to graduate from this college.

After graduation she taught school for two years in Marion (now Dillon) County. She returned to Marlboro County and made that her home for the balance of her life. For more than forty years she taught in the schools of the county. She was a conscientious, dedicated teacher. She seemed to qualify, in every way, as the "born teacher." A bright, vigorous, creative mind, a pleasing personality, firm but gentle, she not only drove home to her pupils the importance, the absolute necessity of mastering the "three R's" but she instilled in them the ambition, the determination, the desire to study, to learn, to achieve.

When she died, although she had retired years before, the schools closed. Flags were flown at half-staff. A memorial service was held in all of the schools and a brief history of her life and activities was read. It would be impossible to measure the extent of her influence on the lives of the several generations that "passed through her classes," nor even on later generations, not seen, not

even known to her, but who were touched and influenced by those whose lives she had, in some measure, helped to mould. We could, I believe, with great validity, paraphrase and apply to her the eloquent tribute paid his brother by Robert Ingersoll — If everyone for whom she did a loving kindness would lay a bloom upon her grave, she would sleep tonight beneath a wilderness of flowers.

There were resolutions, newspaper articles, cards, letters, all expressing, each in its own way, the affection they had for her as a teacher and mentor, and their personal loss in her passing.

I had thought of reproducing a number of these letters, but shall use only one. It is, I think, unique in its presentation, but it carries the thought that seems to flow through all of the letters. I have eliminated the formal beginning and ending. The letter, just as written, follows:

"I was a lousy student. I don't think I was exactly stupid, just dull and hated to study. Miss Virgie worked on me overtime. I know she got discouraged, and many times would have liked to kick me out of school, but she never gave up. I guess she had more faith in me than I had in myself. When I left school I drifted around from one menial job to another, interested in doing as little work as possible and getting all I could for it. But something was always nagging at me. It was what Miss Virgie was always telling all of us, and kept trying to beat into my thick head. That if we would study, prepare ourselves, work hard and really try, we could accomplish just about anything we cared to undertake. After drifting around for several years I got a job with this company. It was not much of a job and paid very little. But it was about like I had been accustomed to. And then I got to looking at the top men in the company, and I would say to myself that they didn't look too bright, why couldn't I be holding one of those easy jobs with big pay. Then I would remember what Miss Virgie said. I started learning the business, working hard at it, and now I have one of those EASY jobs. I am vice-president in charge of sales. We do ten million dollars worth of business a year. And do you know what I tell my salesmen? If they will work hard, learn the business, and really try, they can go just as far and high as they wish. Easy Job? I work twelve to eighteen hours a day no time off for good behavior.

"All of the above leads me to just two thoughts. I am no howling success. I am no bright example to be held up before the school

ch  
ach  
me  
we  
an  
wo  
en  
tha  
for

M  
was b  
Road.  
Florid  
Kissim  
comm  
what  
it was  
it was  
a pict  
she w  
was o

T  
in Syl  
death  
S. C.  
finish  
serve  
1900,  
eral t  
morn  
seen  
have

S  
turing  
tracti  
old, a  
those  
throu



children of this day, but whatever I am, whatever I have achieved, is due to the untiring efforts of Miss Virgie to make me, all of us, feel that we had it in us to do almost anything we wanted to, if we just wanted to do it bad enough. Second, and this is what hurts, I never took the few minutes that it would have required, to write her and tell her how much her encouragement, her faith in me, had meant to me. God knows that was the least that I could have done, and I will never forgive myself for not doing it."

MARTHA PEARL (Mattie) McLaurin, the second child, was born April 19, 1878, in the farm home on old Rockingham Road. When she was a small child the family moved to Kissimmee, Florida. It was there that she first entered school. I was born in Kissimmee, left there as an infant and had never returned to the community until a few years ago. After my visit Mattie asked me what I thought of Lake Tohopekaliga. I told her that I thought it was a very beautiful lake. She said that as a child she thought it was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen, and that was a picture she had carried in her mind throughout the years. That she would hate, now, to have some one tell her that its beauty was only in her childish imagination.

The family moved to southwest Georgia. Mattie entered school in Sylvester. We stayed in Georgia about two years, and after the death of our Father the family came to McColl, Marlboro County, S. C. It was here that Mattie finished her formal education. After finishing High School she was appointed assistant Post Master and served in that position for a number of years. On January first, 1900, a polite businessman, who usually visited the Post Office several times a day, came in early in the morning. He said: "Good morning Mattie, I am glad to see you. This is the first time I have seen you this year." Mattie replied: "and this is the first time I have seen you this century."

She later became office manager of one of the textile manufacturing companies of McColl. She was a very bright, efficient, attractive, pleasant young woman. She was very popular with the old, as well as the young people of her generation and she carried those qualities that made her respected, loved and admired throughout a long and fruitful life. She was very much interested,

and actively participated in all church and civic activities in her community and never neglected an opportunity to render service where she saw the need. In later years her sight and hearing were somewhat impaired but her mind was clear, her memory excellent, even as she approached her eighty-ninth birthday.

As a young woman she married Robeson S. Fletcher, a native of Marlboro County, S. C., and a graduate of the University of North Carolina. A man of exemplary character, a bright mind and fine personality. He was a farmer, a businessman, who was vitally interested in his county and community and gave much of his time to the betterment of both. He stood for all of the time-honored virtues and was a tremendous influence for good in his community.

To this union were born two daughters, Sinah McLaurin (Maxie) Fletcher and Martha Fletcher, both of them unusually bright attractive young women. Maxie, after finishing High School at the Robert Fletcher Memorial High School, graduated from Columbia College and taught school for a number of years. She married Brooks Usher of Bennettsville, Marlboro County, a merchant and planter. A businessman who has taken time out from his many interests to serve his city and county. Their home is in Bennettsville. They have no children.

Martha, (as was her sister Maxie), was reared in the Pine Grove or Fletcher community of Marlboro County, and like her sister stood at or near the summit in scholastic attainment throughout her school years. After finishing High School at the Robert Fletcher Memorial School she graduated from Winthrop College. Soon thereafter she accepted a position with the Tennessee Valley Authority and has continued with this company for a number of years. She married Hollis Hendrick Nichols who for years has held the responsible position of cost accountant with Cherokee Mills of Sevierville, Tenn. Their home is in Knoxville, Tenn. They have no children.

JAMES OSCAR McLAURIN, the third child and first son, was born in the farm home on the old Rockingham Road on January 15, 1881. He attended school in McColl and graduated at or near

the h  
He v  
the i  
trou  
high  
a bu  
he es  
cous  
was  
appe  
this  
busin  
he e  
it wa  
dispe  
suits  
for a  
time  
timb  
nour  
about  
his l  
com  
of th  
then  
as w  
goin  
and  
indu  
with  
buil  
Like  
the  
the  
Flor  
to li



the head of his class. He was a very bright but restless young man. He was not studious. He studied when interested or when he saw the immediate necessity for doing so, but even so, he had little trouble keeping his standing near the top of his class. He finished high school but had no interest in college, but did graduate from a business school in Augusta, Georgia. Upon his return to McColl he established a small mercantile business. Soon thereafter his first cousin D. L. McLaurin, became a "silent-partner" and the business was enlarged and expanded and began to grow and prosper. It appeared that he had settled down to a career as a merchant, but this lasted only a few years. He disposed of his interest in the business and went to Florida. I have never known, I don't think he ever knew, whether he thought he saw "greener pastures" or it was the urge of that restless disposition that prompted him to dispose of a small but prosperous business and undertake new pursuits in a new environment. He secured a position as bookkeeper for a large lumber company. He changed positions a number of times before going into business for himself. He began dealing in timber, timber lands and timber products. His success was pronounced. By 1927 he had accumulated a sizable fortune. It was about this time that his health became impaired. He sold all of his holdings and deposited the proceeds in several banks in his community. Then came the "Bank Holiday" when practically all of the banks in the Nation were closed, and the vast majority of them never opened again. His savings were practically wiped out, as was true with many others, and his health prevented him from going back into business on anything more than a very modest and limited scale. But he had married Eloise Lake, a talented and industrious young woman who pooled her energy and resources with his, and between them they began recouping their losses, and building for themselves a modest but sound and rewarding life. Like all of us he had his faults, his shortcomings, but in all of the essentials, all of the basic fundamental elements that go to make the man, he was abundantly endowed. They were living in Archer, Florida when he died, December 11, 1958. His widow continues to live in that town. They had no children.

FREDRICK BAYARD McLAURIN, the fourth child and second son, was born in the farm home on the old Rockingham Road, May 6, 1883. He was "the baby" when the family left Marlboro County for Florida. Fred first attended school in McColl, and there graduated at or near the first in his class. He was a good student steady, dependable, and a near genius in mathematics. When graduating from high school the superintendent of the school stated that he was by far the most brilliant mathematical student he had ever taught. That he was not sure whether he had taught Fred or Fred had taught him the last year of their association. He entered Clemson College, now Clemson University, and continued to display aptitude for mathematics, graduating among the first few of his class.

Upon graduating he accepted a position with a textile machinery manufacturing company in Taunton, Mass. Here he began at the bottom and worked through every phase of the manufacturing processes. After about two years the company sent him out to supervise the proper installing of the machinery they sold. This was what he had worked for and wanted. He was enthusiastically happy with his job. He continued in this work for several years. He had just completed the installation of machinery in a plant in Texas when he was ordered to Liberty, S. C. to install machinery that was then being shipped. Upon his arrival in Liberty he found that the machinery was not there. He had been having trouble with his eyes. He wired the company that he was going to his home in McColl and remain there until he was needed in Liberty.

His eyes grew worse. He went to a number of doctors. He finally wound up spending many months in a semi-dark room, fearful that he would completely lose his sight. It was more than a year before he was able to get around in a normal way. He had, in the meantime, resigned from his job. Without good eyesight he could not do the required work. The career that he had prepared himself for was gone. He was morose, discouraged, unhappy.

At this time he was urged to fill out a term of teaching in Florence County. He took this job without any enthusiasm, but soon became interested in teaching. He accepted a position as principal of a school in the lower part of the state. He stayed there

for several  
eral scho  
spent a  
Louisian  
ceived h  
extensive  
school te  
their kno  
a position  
until his  
1956.

Whi  
sitions. F  
city scho  
down.

Whi  
strong be  
scholarly  
in his yo  
a friend  
salt of the

Oscar  
Fred we  
caught h  
under the  
he was a  
under the  
and then  
again, ve  
out but  
shingle in

GRO  
Alexande  
was born  
after the  
timberlan



for several years. His teaching career had begun. He taught in several schools in this state, transferred to college level teaching and spent a number of years in colleges and universities in Alabama, Louisiana, and West Virginia, both studying and teaching. He received his Master's degree from West Virginia Wesleyan and did extensive work leading to a Doctorate. He always preferred high school teaching. He said that here he could watch his pupils grow, their knowledge increase, their understanding expand. He accepted a position in the schools of Lynchburg, Virginia, and remained there until his retirement some years before his death, November 6, 1956.

While in Lynchburg he was offered a number of excellent positions. He was urged to take the superintendency of at least two city schools but was happy in his work and turned them both down.

While Fred was a man with well thought out opinions and strong beliefs, he was not the aggressive type. He was calm, steady, scholarly, dependable. He seemed to have many of these qualities in his youth and they continued with him throughout his life. As a friend recently remarked, that he and his kind were truly "the salt of the earth."

Oscar used to tell of an incident that occurred when he and Fred were very small boys. They got into some mischief. Mother caught him, Oscar, and gave him a spanking. Fred ran out and under the house. He refused to come out. When Father came home he was advised of the situation. He went out, kneeled down, looked under the house at Fred and told him to come out. Fred hesitated, and then asked if he would get a spanking if he came out. Father, again, very sternly told him to come out. Fred said, "well I'll come out but I know you are going to spank me because I can see a shingle in your hand."

GROVER GORDON McLAURIN the youngest child of James Alexander McLaurin and his wife, Nancy Della McIntyre McLaurin was born in Kissimmee, Florida, January 30, 1887. Very soon thereafter the family moved to southwest Georgia; Father had bought timberlands near Sylvester. He was unable to find a suitable resi-

dence in Sylvester so he moved into a satisfactory house in the little village of Polson, two or three miles from Sylvester.

At that time there were certain persons living in that community, and elsewhere, who were called "Georgia Crackers" or just "Crackers" by their fellow Georgians. It is probable that they were very good people but were far from the top rung of the social or economic ladder. Mother said that Father would often pick me up, play with me and call me his little Georgia Cracker. My sister, Mattie, was about nine years old. It was her time to take care of me. Mother said she went into the room and found Mattie leaning over the cradle gently rocking it and repeating over and over, "you are so beautiful, I am so sorry you are a little Georgia Cracker."

Soon after our arrival in Georgia the Governor, General John B. Gordon, paid a visit to that section of the state and while there "dined" with our family. It is probable that I had already been named (I never thought to inquire) but if not I am sure that visit would have settled the matter. We lived in that community for about two years. The children went to school in Sylvester. After the death of Father the family moved to McColl, S. C., at that time a country village hardly old enough to stand alone.

We moved into a house on what is now Church Street. The house was situated between the railroad and the Presbyterian Church. The church was on the north side of East McLaurin Avenue facing Church Street, (neither street nor avenue was named at that time.) The school house stood just across the avenue from the church. Back of our house, the church, and the school was a pine thicket. A short distance back in the woods Uncle John F. McLaurin had a turpentine still. Everything about it was exciting and intriguing and every chance I got I slipped off and paid it a visit.

"Uncle Gabe", a colored man, was the cooper. My admiration for him was boundless. I would watch him perform what to me was a miracle as he shaped, with skilled and deft motions, boards into staves, iron bands into hoops, and the combination into barrels into which was put the turpentine and resin.

We lived in that house for something more than a year. Mother bought a house and lot on Main Street (which at that time we

called  
that  
Virg

still  
Oscar  
came  
was  
friend  
him  
repe  
youn  
could  
close  
that  
let m  
I wa

than  
scala  
wrou  
no p  
woul  
muni  
of th  
to-do  
erty  
and r  
indep  
one, v  
in th  
could  
ernm  
quere  
War  
foreig  
the V



called the road.) The original house burned, another was built and that was "The Home" for years, until after the death of my sister, Virgie.

We had lived in McColl a short time. I was a very small boy still wearing dresses. I was sitting on the front steps at our home. Oscar and Fred were in the yard close by. Uncle "Bud" McIntyre came up bringing with him a man I had never seen before. He was stout and had a very red face. I imagine he wanted to seem friendly so he leaned over me and asked my name. I gave it to him in full: Grover Gordon McLaurin. He, presumably trying to repeat after me, said "Little Gola Gustin." I was very small, very young, and I know my enunciation was not perfect, but it just couldn't have been THAT bad. The incident would have been closed then and there and immediately forgotten had it not been that those mischievous brothers of mine heard it all and wouldn't let me forget it until I was big enough to put up a fight when I was called "Little Gola Gustin."

The War between the States had been ended a little more than twenty years. The occupying armies, the carpet-baggers and scalawags had been gone about ten years, but the wreckage wrought by them was still painfully evident. There was little or no prosperity at that time but there was hope that a better day would eventually dawn. There were no rich people in that community and few in the State. Probably ninety-five percent of all of the people including those whom we considered relatively "well-to-do", could have qualified for assistance under some of the "poverty programs" of today. But there was one big difference in then and now. Those people still harbored a fierce spirit of pride and independence. All they asked of the Federal government, or any one, was to be let alone that they might work out their own destinies in their own ways. Those in the direst of poverty knew that they could look only to their neighbors for assistance. The Federal government of that day, even as now, looked upon the South as conquered territory to be exploited at will. After the second World War this country poured billions of dollars into various war-torn foreign countries to relieve suffering and rehabilitate them. After the War between the States, instead of offering help, or even a



kind word, it applied to the entire South, in its most virulent form, that portion of the parable of the talents which says "FROM HIM WHO HATH NOT SHALL BE TAKEN AWAY EVEN THAT WHICH HE HATH."

Conditions just at this time, compared with those of today were rather bleak and primitive. I think some of my grandchildren really believe that I lived in "the dark ages." They cannot understand how any one could exist in a country or a society in which there were no electric lights, screened houses, running water, inside plumbing. No telephones, radios, televisions, or automobiles. Those were the "horse and buggy days". But it seems to me that we had something that is not so evident today — the closeness of the family relations. There were relatives, friends, acquaintances. Time to visit, to make and keep friends. There was much hard unrewarding work, but life moved at a slower pace and the leisure time was spent with congenial friends and neighbors.

My life as a small boy was much like that of any boy at that time and in similar circumstances. I worked, played, went to school; at that time we had two or three months "free school". After that we paid or quit. When very small I picked cotton in a field just across the road in front of our house. My greatest achievement was that of picking 110 pounds of cotton in one day, and that never happened but once. As I recall there were a number of people picking, both white and colored. There was a half grown colored boy who talked incessantly. I realize now that he was something of a nuisance, but I liked him and enjoyed hearing his wild tales. He evidently appreciated this for he would always get the row of cotton next to mine, and for a time this created quite a mystery. We would pick cotton along together, come out at the end of the row at the same time, but when the cotton was weighed up in the afternoon I would have from fifty to seventy-five pounds and he would have twice that amount. It finally dawned on me that he was picking his row and getting half the cotton from my row, in order to keep me along with him.

When I was a small boy, hardly tall enough to see over the counter, I began my clerking career. I worked on Saturdays and some parts of the summer. I worked for Lane and Bristow for twen-

ty-five ce  
erating a  
a day ar  
month.

I wa  
morning,  
his busin  
start look  
said none  
store of M  
remark w  
I then tra  
C. Keels  
and on, un

My f  
me appoi  
months. A  
carrier." T  
examinati  
advised, b  
not get th

Possi  
job for al  
so. There  
I, possibly  
with matt  
was reflect  
first on th  
from rece  
rin, was ap

A run  
had to fur  
in those d  
a horse a  
in all kin  
two years.  
with what

ty-five cents a day. I worked for my brother, Oscar, who was operating a small store. I gradually moved up the scale to a dollar a day and finally to top wages of forty or forty-five dollars a month.

I was working for Mr. Joe Bennett. He came in the store one morning, called his clerks together and advised us that he expected his business to be closed in a short time and suggested that we start looking for jobs. I asked how much notice he wanted. He said none. I put on my hat, crossed the street walked into the store of Mr. Bob Bennett. I told him I wanted a job. His only remark was "hang up your hat." I worked for him for some time. I then transferred to Keels Department Store, owned by Mr. E. C. Keels (the best salesman I ever knew.) I worked for him, off and on, until I began the practice of law.

My first cousin, Arch Bunch, was rural mail carrier. He had me appointed as his substitute. I served as substitute for some months. Arch resigned and went to Florida. I was appointed "acting carrier." This proved to be a regular job for nearly a year before examinations were held to select a permanent carrier. I was not advised, but possibly should have known, that one under age could not get the appointment.

Possibly I thought that since I had been doing an acceptable job for all those months that I might be able to continue doing so. There were seven or eight of us who stood the examination. I, possibly, had a slight advantage as some of the questions dealt with matters that I was having to contend with almost daily. This was reflected in our marks or grades. I was notified that I stood first on the list but the fact that I was not of age prevented me from receiving the appointment. My first cousin, David C. McLaurin, was appointed.

A rural mail carrier received a hundred dollars a month. He had to furnish his own transportation. But that was a good salary in those days and the job much sought after. I admit that driving a horse and buggy or riding horseback twenty-five miles a day in all kinds of weather was no picnic, but I wanted the job for two years. I thought that in that time I could save sufficient money, with what I had, and what I could earn in other jobs, to see me



through college. But when I look back upon the realities of the times and situation I rather believe that had I received the appointment I would have continued with it until old age retired me.

During this time I had another part-time job. Our telephone exchange had two operators. A lady in the day, a man at night. The lady served until five o'clock in the afternoon. My friend, Benton Stubbs, was the night operator, but he had a regular job with McColl Sash & Door Mfg. Co., so he couldn't get to the office until seven p.m. I filled in those two or more hours. I might mention that the night operator had practically nothing to do after about ten o'clock at night. He could count on getting a good night's sleep.

I entered the University of South Carolina. I graduated from law school, LL.B. the first of June, 1909. On the 9th day of June 1909, I was admitted to the Bar, licensed by the Supreme Court to practice in all of the Courts of the State. I left Columbia, arrived in McColl about eleven o'clock at night, helped open up Keels Department Store the following morning. I worked there until the late fall or early winter.

Dillon County was in the process of being launched. Even before leaving college I had investigated, to some extent, the prospects for a young lawyer in that new county and had about decided that it would be an acceptable place for me to "try my wings." Uncle Daniel, who had made his home in the upper part of Marion County the greater part of his adult life, urged me to thoroughly investigate the prospects. He felt sure that I could do no better than launch my career in this new county.

Soon after leaving college I visited the town of Dillon. There were three resident lawyers, but Dillon County was taken entirely from Marion County, and the greater part of the legal work was being done by Marion lawyers. But the county was new, the town of Dillon, busy, progressive, growing; I made up my mind promptly that I would make this my home.

A month or two after leaving college I received an offer of a co-partnership from Congressman Finley of York. He stated that



he was making the offer on the basis of a recommendation received from Mr. Herndon Moore, Dean of the Law School at the University. I appreciated the offer and would have given it more consideration had it not come shortly after I had decided to settle in Dillon.

In the late fall or early winter I entered the law offices of Townsend & Rogers in Bennettsville. I was anxious to get some exposure to the practical side of the law before venturing out on my own. C. P. Townsend, a former Circuit Judge, and a very able lawyer, and Mr. T. I. Rogers, at that time Senator from Marlboro County, an able lawyer and unusually effective advocate, made up the firm. During the winter Judge Townsend received a letter from a Mr. Moore, an old friend, a former native of Marlboro County, who had been practicing law in Oklahoma for more than twenty years. He wanted to add a young lawyer to his firm and told the Judge that he would prefer getting one from his old home county.

His offer seemed fabulous to me. He would pay a salary the first year, an amount much larger than I expected to be making after years of practice. At the end of the year if the relationship had proven satisfactory the newcomer would become a partner. The Judge recommended me without even asking me, and then urged me to accept. That was a new country and held unlimited opportunities. He even stated if he were a young man he would go out there himself. That was the hardest decision I had to make. I had already committed myself to Dillon in a number of ways, but I pondered it for some time. I talked with my Mother. She told me to do what was best for me, but she added that she then had one son in Florida, another in Massachusetts and if the other was in Oklahoma she would get to see very little of any of them.

In the early spring of 1910 I was offered a place with the firm of Townsend & Rogers. That I thought was the most flattering offer I had received, not because of the money I would make, but that two such distinguished lawyers thought that I might bring something of value to the firm. I refused this offer for two reasons. First, I had, by that time rented office space in Dillon and arranged for a boarding place. I had bought certain furniture and books that I would need. Second, I was a little afraid that I might become something like a glorified office boy in that office. That I might

grow too dependent and rely too much on my abler and more experienced partners. When that was settled they suggested that we open the Dillon office as a co-partnership. That suited me fine. I would have their prestige to help bring in clients and their assistance when I needed it. Our agreement was verbal and very simple. I should be responsible for all office expenses and have all of the fees earned by me without their assistance or participation. When they assisted the fees were divided.

With that agreement I "hung out my shingle" in Dillon on the 22nd day of March, 1910. Offices over McLaurin Drug Store, on the corner of Harrison Street and Railroad Avenue. Townsend, Rogers & McLaurin.

That arrangement lasted for years and was dissolved by mutual consent. I continued in the practice as G. G. McLaurin until I was joined by my son, G. Gordon McLaurin, Jr., and the firm name became McLaurin & McLaurin and has continued until this time.

After graduation and before leaving Columbia I ran up with Uncle Daniel (D. W. McLaurin) on the State House grounds. We had met and talked many times, but on this occasion he delivered what might be termed his first and only lecture. He said in effect that I was going out on my own. That I would have to make my living from the public. That I should really know the public that I wished to serve. He stated that some people would hire a lawyer whom they didn't like for a specific job if they thought he was the best available. But the majority of the people would go to a lawyer they liked. That I should make it a point to meet and mingle with people, all kinds of people. He said I am telling you to do something that will come hard for you. For generations our people have had a tendency to go their own way, making little effort to mingle with or please others. And then he added the clincher. "In our family your father was the worst in that respect, and they tell me that in yours you are the worst."

He was right and I knew it. I had always been too independent, too diffident for my own good, just one illustration, my last year in law school: It was Christmas, the entire family was at home. I announced that I was going to work, I would not return to college

after  
then  
Oscar  
mon  
send  
Ther  
to re  
the c  
gine  
offer

tice  
But  
but  
recoi  
the s  
feel  
up th  
back  
tere  
part

depo  
colle  
Uncl  
I fel  
to th  
the  
and  
inter

law  
Trus  
Cou  
Mut  
Pres



after Christmas, but would go back later. There was a silence and then all wanted to know why. It was simple, I had run out of money. Oscar, who was working in Florida said he would lend me the money. After considerable discussion it was agreed that he would send me a check for an agreed amount on the first of each month. Then he added that he might forget it some times, but for me to remind him. I told him I would never remind him. As long as the checks came I would stay, if they stopped I would leave. Imagine any one taking a position like that with a brother who was offering to help.

I opened my office. I had ample opportunities to put into practice what Uncle Daniel had told me, and what I knew I must do. But it was a difficult assignment. It may have been partly timidity, but I must admit that there was something in my nature which recoiled at approaching people, engaging in small talk, merely for the sake of saying something, acting free and friendly when I didn't feel that way. I had always been civil and polite, I was brought up that way. But it was hard for me to go beyond that. But looking back from the vantage point of more than four score years, I flattered myself that I haven't done so bad in the public relations department, considering the "raw material" I had to work with.

When I came to Dillon I had one hundred dollars which I deposited in the old Bank of Dillon. I had borrowed money for college expenses from my sister, Virgie, my brother, Oscar, and Uncle Daniel McLaurin had advanced money for some books that I felt I must have. The combined indebtedness, although owed to those who would not press me for payment, looked almost like the national debt to me. But I applied every dollar I earned, over and above living expenses, to those debts until the last dollar with interest was paid.

Since I have been in Dillon I have, in addition to practicing law and operating my farms, served as Mayor of the City, School Trustee, Chairman County Board of Education for many years, County Supt. of Schools, President and executive officer of Dillon Mutual Building and Loan Assn. for seventeen years, Director, Vice President and President of The Federal Savings & Loan Association



for twenty-five years, President Dillon County Bar Association for more than twenty-five years.

On November 12, 1919, I married Inez Beatrice Ragsdale of Winnsboro, South Carolina, the daughter of Glenn W. Ragsdale, one of the outstanding lawyers of his day, and his wife, Inez McMeekin Ragsdale.

When fourteen years of age she went with her older sister to Columbia College. She was accepted as a student. After one year there she and her sister transferred to Greenville Female College (later a part of Furman University) from which she graduated with an A.B. Degree two months before her eighteenth birthday. She taught school until our marriage. Since then she has unselfishly devoted her time to being a wife and mother, the focal, the pivotal influence, the mentor and guide of a profoundly appreciative family. We are the parents of five children:

1. GROVER GORDON McLAURIN, JR., born September 10, 1922. Graduated from Dillon High School. A. B. Degree from the University of South Carolina. Volunteered. Entered Army Air Corps, World War Two. Fighter Pilot, "P-51". First Lieutenant. Decorated twice: "For exceptionally meritorious achievement in aerial flights over Germany". At end of war returned to University of S.C. Entered Law School. Graduated, highest honors, LL.B. Was offered Rhodes Scholarship, but decided to immediately enter the practice of his profession. A young man of many interests and several hobbies, the most enduring being tennis. Since his graduation has been practicing with his father under the firm of McLaurin & McLaurin.

2. NANCY DELLA McLAURIN born February 5, 1924. A.B., M.A., PH.D., Phi Beta Kappa. Graduated from Dillon High School. A.B. from Coker College. M.A. from University of North Carolina. PH.D. from University of South Carolina where she taught English for some time. Now head of the English Department at Pfeiffer College. Has done post doctorate work at Duke University. But nothing, (absolutely nothing) is permitted to interfere with her present hobby — needlepoint.

3. INEZ GLENN McLAURIN, born January 29, 1926. Graduated from Dillon High School. A.B. Degree, majoring in elemen-

tary edu  
Married  
Fountain  
Air For  
of top  
most ve  
a home  
is an e  
painter  
arise. S

a P

in C

Sch

4.

Dillon  
uate w  
James  
Beta K  
awarde  
Furman  
the car  
and ci  
of whic  
a delig  
childre  
fancy.

in

Au

tary education, Furman University. Taught school for several years. Married Louis Blanding Fowler, born August 16, 1924. Graduate Fountain Inn High School, A.B. Degree from Presbyterian College. Air Force World War II, Gunner on Bomber. For some years one of top salesman, Nation-Wide, I.B.M. "Glennie" is, possibly, my most versatile child. She has many capabilities. In addition to being a homemaker and taking care of social and civic activities she is an expert seamstress, interior decorator, electrician, carpenter, painter, and says she could do plumbing if the necessity should arise. She and her husband are the parents of three children:

a. Louis Blanding Fowler, Jr., born October 9, 1950. Now a Pre. Med. student at Wofford College.

b. Edith McMeekin Fowler, born August 15, 1952. Now in College.

c. Glennie McLaurin Fowler, born April 21, 1956. High School.

4. ETHEL LOUISE McLAURIN, born July 3 1927. Graduate Dillon High School, A.B. Degree from Agnes Scott College, graduate work at Vanderbilt University, majoring in history. Married James Tate Stewart, born April 20, 1923, A.B., M.A., Ph.D., Phi Beta Kappa. Veteran U. S. Army World War II in which he was awarded Bronze Star Medal. Head of the English Department Furman University. In addition to her responsibilities for her home, the care of five children and the performance of certain church and civic activities her chief hobby is pen and ink artistry, all of which is enhanced and enlivened by a charming personality and a delightfully unique sense of humor. They are the parents of six children, one of whom, Gordon McLaurin Stewart, died in infancy.

a. Nancy Louise Stewart, born February 22, 1952. Student in music at Pfeiffer College.

b. James Tate Stewart, Jr., born August 10, 1955.

c. Gordon McLaurin Stewart, born August 15, 1957, died August 18, 1957.

d. Eleanor Ragsdale Stewart, born November 19, 1958.

e. Bain McLaurin Stewart, born September 10, 1962.

f. Grover Glenn Stewart, born November 4, 1963.



## RAGSDALE

IN THE FOLLOWING SEVERAL PAGES MAY BE FOUND ALL OF THE PERTINENT INFORMATION THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER THAT DIRECTLY RELATES TO THE ANCESTORS, AND OTHER CLOSE RELATIVES OF MY WIFE, INEZ RAGSDALE McLAURIN.

JOHN RAGSDALE. The first of the Ragsdale ancestors of whom we have any definite knowledge was John Ragsdale. He came to this country from England some years before the Revolutionary War and settled in Virginia. The given name of his wife was Mary, the surname, probably Harrison. We were not able to prove this, but there are facts, circumstances and tradition that are very persuasive. G. W. Ragsdale, in 1906, wrote some sketches and made a number of notations relating to some of his ancestors and other kindred. He stated that he had been told, by those in whom he had confidence that the wife of John Ragsdale was of the Harrison Family of Virginia that had given the United States two of its presidents. This was supported by an incident that occurred some years later. His brother, E. B. Ragsdale, while attending Court in Newberry was told by the Honorable Silas Johnstone (son of Chancellor Johnstone, and half-brother of George Johnstone, one of South Carolina's most able and distinguished lawyers) that the Johnstone and Ragsdale families were related. He produced documentary proof that carried the family back, in a direct line, through the maternal side, to this famous Harrison family.

There is very little authentic information covering the life and activities of this John Ragsdale. It is known that in 1770 or soon thereafter he moved to South Carolina from Virginia, and settled in Fairfield County. Tradition says that he fought in the Revolutionary War but the name (apparently his) is improperly spelled in the Historical Society records in Columbia and it would be difficult to prove that which tradition says is true. None of his descendants seem to know the number of children this couple had, however, all know that there was one son, SAMUEL RAGSDALE.

Rather late in life John Ragsdale left South Carolina and settled in Alabama. His son, Samuel Ragsdale, followed him to Alabama some years later, as will be noted hereafter.



SAMUEL RAGSDALE was born in Fairfield County, South Carolina, and lived there until middle-life. As a young man he married Hannah Estes, a daughter of William Estes, one of Fairfield's larger land and slave owners. They were the parents of a son whom they named Robert. When Robert was only a small child his mother, Hannah Estes Ragsdale, died and sometime thereafter his father married again and with his new wife moved to Alabama. So far as is known he never returned to South Carolina. Mr. G. W. Ragsdale, his grandson, in the sketches heretofore referred to, was far from complimentary in his remarks about the conduct of his Grandfather. He stated that Samuel Ragsdale and his new wife turned his son, Robert Ragsdale, a boy nine years old, over to the care of the Rev. Joseph Holmes, a Methodist minister, and so far as is known never saw him again. This boy was given the name Robert by his mother. The preacher with whom he lived thought that he should have a Biblical name, so he called him Elisha. The boy accepted this new given name but retained that given name by his mother and always signed himself Elisha Robert Ragsdale.

ELISHA ROBERT RAGSDALE was born in Fairfield County on April 12, 1825. He died November 17, 1862. He married Nancy Angeline (Nannie) Stanton, born October 29, 1834, died November 25, 1922. They lived for a time in Richland County, South Carolina. It was there that their first child, Edward Bernard Ragsdale was born. Soon thereafter they bought a farm or plantation in Fairfield County, "above and below the confluence of Little River and Jackson Creek". It was on this plantation that the other two children, Glenn Walker Ragsdale and John Knox Ragsdale, were born.

South Carolina seceded. Elisha Robert Ragsdale, although he had a wife and three small sons, immediately volunteered (3rd. Battalion, S.C. Volunteers). He died of pneumonia in a Confederate Hospital in Richmond, Virginia, and was buried in Hollywood Cemetery in that city.

When her husband went off to the War "Nannie" Stanton Ragsdale with her three small sons moved into the home of her father, John D. Stanton who was then a widower living alone on a large plantation. John D. Stanton, by all accounts, was a man of high ideas and exemplary character and contributed much to

the upbringing and training of his three small grandsons. He was a highly respected citizen and up until the end of the War Between the States was a relatively wealthy man. Mr. Ragsdale (Glenn W.), a small boy at that time, watched Sherman's soldiers set fire to the plantation buildings and destroy more than a hundred bales of cotton that were stored in the gin-house and other buildings. He said this was the biggest, the most awe-inspiring fire that he had ever seen, up until that time. After the army moved on little was left other than the scorched land. He quoted, as applying to his Grandfather, what Ben Hill had said about others: "He stood neck deep in the ashes of his own poverty".

The early lives of these three boys, Edward B. Ragsdale, Glenn W. Ragsdale and John K. Ragsdale was much like that of other farm boys in that community following the War. They attended school, at Shiloh Academy, worked on the farm, and each in turn attended Furman College, later Furman University.

Edward, the oldest, after leaving Furman taught school for two years. He studied law under Col. Ryan and Judge Melton. After being admitted to the Bar he opened an office in Winnsboro, South Carolina. He was becoming reasonably well established in his profession when he was joined by his brother, Glenn who had followed the same pattern set by his older brother. After he left Furman, Glenn also taught school for two years, in the meantime studying law under the direction of Col. Ryan and Judge Melton and upon being admitted to the Bar joined his brother under the firm name of RAGSDALE & RAGSDALE. John broke the pattern set by his two older brothers. He farmed for a time and then entered the mercantile business at Blairs, South Carolina.

#### EDWARD B. RAGSDALE AND GLENN W. RAGSDALE

They were young men, young lawyers, ambitious to succeed in their chosen profession. They possessed in abundance the essentials for success. Character, ability, integrity, personality and the energy, drive and determination that carried them to their objective. They made an excellent, well balanced, team. I am told that Ed was the more gregarious, the more loquacious, the speaker, the advocate, the "mixer". He was undoubtedly an extrovert with un-



bounded confidence in himself and his ability to achieve. Glenn bordered on the introvert. Though equally able, talented and popular he was more at ease in the office doing the essential research and preparing the cases for trial. Their success was almost immediate. Their reputation spread throughout Fairfield County and into adjoining counties, and ultimately throughout the state. As was well said: "In the multiplicity of affairs the firm attained fame throughout the state — Glenn for his pleading, Ed for his advocacy."

Ed, the advocate, the orator, played the more spectacular role. It was he who stood before the Courts, the juries, the public as a living symbol of law and justice. But it was Glenn who did the more mundane, the unseen, but the absolutely essential task of preparing the cases for trial with meticulous care, and ever sitting by the eloquent advocate to make sure that not one essential fact or point of law was overlooked in the presentation. Both tasks were equally important if there was to be any outstanding success.

Until the death of Ed, he and his brother Glenn were so closely associated in their personal relations, their profession, their business ventures and activities until I have found it next to impossible to write of one without mentioning the other, during the years of their association. It is seldom one finds brothers, or other business associates, who so completely trusted each other and had such respect for and admiration of the ability and integrity of the other.

In talking with Mr. Ragsdale (Glenn) in later years I got the distinct impression that he considered his brother one of the ablest lawyers of his day, and I am informed that many others, lawyers and laymen, shared that opinion. But I am firmly convinced that Ed was no more accomplished, no more erudite, no abler, and certainly no more broadly grounded in the fundamentals of the law, than was his brother Glenn. We may praise either one without detracting from the other — there was talent enough to go around.

I believe it was in 1896 that Ed was first elected to the State House of Representatives, and at the same time his brother, Glenn, was elected to the State Senate. Ed served two terms of two years each and was elected to a third term but died before taking his seat. Glenn served two terms of four years each and refused to

stand for re-election. He did, however, serve in the Senate again in the nineteen twenties.

While serving in the Senate, in the dawn of the twentieth century, I am told that he wrote, sponsored and against great opposition, drove through an Act of far-reaching importance, not only to the legal profession, but to the entire public. It revolutionized court pleadings and procedure by abolishing the complicated and antiquated system of court pleadings required at that time. Under the old system a lawyer must not only be learned in the law but had to be a craftsman of unusual technical skill to prepare, for instance, a complaint that could not be thrown out of court on an unimportant technicality. Mr. Ragsdale was such a skilled technician, but he saw the necessity for simplification.

He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1895. Mr. W. W. Dixon told a story that he said created much amusement at the time. Senator Tillman and Senator Earle were members of the convention. John Gary Evans was elected chairman and he ruled that each member must take an oath of office before taking his seat. For some reason, or for no apparent reason, Mr. Ragsdale objected to the members taking the oath. This brought on heated debate. Mr. Ragsdale sat back in amused silence. But when it appeared that the ruling of the Chair would stand, Mr. Ragsdale again got the floor, and, Mr. Dixon said, "with a twinkle in his eyes", said, "Mr. Chairman, there are two United States Senators in this convention. If they take the oath of office here, will that not vacate their offices as United States Senators?" Senator Tillman, who it was believed had favored the oath, immediately got the floor and announced, in effect, that he saw no reason for taking any oath and he had no intention of doing so. That ended the matter of the oath, but brought broad smiles to the faces of many of the convention members.

I knew Mr. Ragsdale from 1919 until his death. I had ample opportunity to assess, as my capacity to judge would permit, the profundity of his legal knowledge, the unusually broad scope of his reading, his familiarity with history and the classics. It was said of him that: "He was the same commanding figure whether in the Constitutional Convention, the State Senate, presiding over



the Circuit Court, or consulting with clients in his office." But I knew him best as a rather gentle, compassionate, friendly man of great charm. A dignified man without being "stiff" or "stuffy". A man of firm convictions who expressed his opinions freely but diplomatically. A man who, as one said: "had a perfervid hatred of shame and hypocrisy." Perhaps a few words written by Mr. W. W. Dixon soon after his death expressed well what many felt.

"When night draws down its curtain it is not to conceal but to reveal the great stars. When death lays its pall on a great man it brings out the strength and the beauty of that life."

EDWARD BERNARD RAGSDALE, March 16, 1856-Sept. 18, 1901

not married.

GLENN WALKER RAGSDALE, June 3, 1858-Sept. 11, 1931  
married Inez Eppes McMeekin, Nov. 1, 1866-March 10, 1932.

JOHN KNOX RAGSDALE, Feb. 21, 1860-Jan. 8, 1915  
married Minnie Calhoun McMeekin, Sept. 30, 1861-Jan. 20, 1952.

Glenn Walker Ragsdale and his wife, Inez Eppes McMeekin were the parents of five children: Ethel Louise, Inez Beatrice, William Glenn, Robert Walker, and Edith McMeekin.

1. ETHEL LOUISE RAGSDALE, b. 4/16/1889. After finishing High School in Winnsboro she attended Columbia College, transferred to Greenville Female College (Furman University) where she graduated with an A.B. Degree. She taught school for several years before marrying John Hugh (Jack) McLaurin, b. 3/29/1883, d. 1/3/1950. Jack was a son of Duncan McLaurin, a large planter and the first settler, the first merchant, the first mayor and the first postmaster of Dillon. Jack attended The Citadel. Was graduated from a Pharmaceutical College. In addition to his large farming operations he, for years, owned and operated the largest and most prosperous drug store in the county. He was a prominent and highly respected citizen. They were the parents of five children: Ethel Craig, John Hugh (Jack) Jr., Inez, Sara and Glenn Duncan.

a. Ethel Craig McLaurin, b. 9/23/1916. Married Lt. Colonel Daniel Townsend Rogers, b. 5/18/1915. They are the parents of three children; Daniel Townsend Rogers, Jr., b. 9/18/1945

(married Geannine Gaines, b. 10/2/1947). Ethel Louise Rogers, b. 7/5/1948, Glenn Duncan McLaurin Rogers, b. 7/10/1956.

b. John Hugh (Jack) McLaurin, Jr., b. 1/24/1918. World War Two Veteran. A successful farmer and business man. A worthy son of worthy parents. A man who in his own right has earned for himself, and highly deserves, the respect and affection in which he is held. He married Virginia McKiever, b. 12/5/1920. They are the parents of three children: John Hugh McLaurin, III, b. 5/30/1946 (married Susan Jane Warren, b. 9/26/1948), Virginia McLaurin, b. 4/26/1949, David Duncan McLaurin, b. 2/22/1954.

c. Inez McLaurin, b. 5/14/1921, d. March 1922.

d. Sara McLaurin, b. 1/21/1923. Married Morgan Todd Milford, a distinguished physician and surgeon, b. 4/30/1920. They are the parents of four children: Morgan Todd Milford, Jr., b. 9/15/1945 (married Jane Ellison, b. 9/17/1948) Jack McLaurin Milford, b. 3/14/1948, Robert Charles Milford, b. 5/21/1951, d. 12/14/1969, Jane Milford, b. 8/11/1955.

e. Glenn Duncan McLaurin, b. 3/29/1928, d. July 1954. A bright, attractive, popular young man of great promise.

2. INEZ BEATRICE RAGSDALE, b. 7/27/1891. Married Grover Gordon McLaurin, b. 1/30/1887. They are the parents of five children. See McLAURIN.

3. WILLIAM GLENN RAGSDALE, b. 12/<sup>20</sup>/~~20~~/1894. A graduate of Clemson College (now University). A World War One Veteran. A rural mail carrier, a lawyer, a business man. Extremely bright and intelligent and one of those rare individuals with the charm, personality, and magnetism that, throughout the years, has provided him with innumerable devoted friends. He and his wife, Ella Little Smith, b. 5/15/1905, are the parents of two children, Virginia Little Ragsdale and Elinor Glenn (Bob) Ragsdale.

a. Virginia Little Ragsdale, b. 11/20/1923. A graduate of Columbia College. She married Jacob Coleman Stevenson, b. 2/26/1923. They are the parents of three children: Jacob Coleman Stevenson, Jr., b. 12/23/1946 (married Emily Merrell Grice, b. 4/25/1951), William Glenn Stevenson, b. 2/20/1949, Virginia Ragsdale Stevenson, b. 11/26/1951.

b. Elinor Glenn (Bob) Ragsdale, b. 2/17/1926. A graduate of Converse College. She married William Lindsay Wylie, b. 4/26/1926. They are the parents of two children: William



Lindsay Wylie, Jr., b. 5/20/1951, Elinor Ragsdale Wylie, b. 1/29/1953.

4. ROBERT WALKER RAGSDALE, b. 11/6/1897. After attending Furman College (University) he entered the business world. A keen incisive mind with unusual business acumen and managerial skill guaranteed the success that he attained in the several business fields that he entered. He married Hazel Ellis, b. 7/14/1916. They have no living children.

*d. 6/25/1971*

5. EDITH McMEEKIN RAGSDALE, b. 11/2/1899. After graduating from High School she attended Winthrop, was graduated from Peabody with an A.B. Degree. She has devoted the greater part of her life to teaching, and in that field she has been eminently successful. Not married. Now retired, living in Durham, N. C.

*d. 1/22/1981*

JOHN KNOX RAGSDALE, Feb. 21, 1860-Jan. 8, 1915

married Minnie Calhoun McMeekin, Sept. 30, 1861-Jan. 20, 1952

John Knox Ragsdale, the youngest member of that trio, Ed., Glenn, and John, did not follow in the footsteps of his older brothers and enter the legal profession. He chose a business career and by the exercise of sound business judgment proved the wisdom of his choice. As a farmer on the plantation of his maternal grandparents, which plantation he later owned. As the owner and operator of a large and successful mercantile business at Blairs, in Fairfield County, and his later outstanding success in business in the city of Greenville bear witness to his business perspicacity. He and his wife, Minnie Calhoun McMeekin were the parents of eight children, two of whom died in infancy. The others:

1. Ruby Lucille, b. 2/4/1883. Married Claude Mauldin Graham. They were the parents of one son, Laurens Ragsdale Graham, b. 5/7/1923.

2. Claude Hunter Ragsdale, b. 5/23/1887, d. 1/10/1961. Married Alice Ruth Coward. They were the parents of eight children:

a. Claude Hunter, Jr., b. 8/8/1910. Married Eileen Coleman. Their children: A son, Claude Hunter III. (Pete) and two adopted daughters, Linda and Dianne.

b. Marjorie Calhoun, b. 5/11/1912, d. 4/6/1946. Married Chester Arthur Weeks. They had two sons (names not given).

c. Virginia Burrell, b. 1914. Married Daniel Beasley Davis. They had three daughters (names not given).

d. John Knox, b. 11/5/1918. Married Dorothy Cromer. They were the parents of 2 sons and a daughter (names not known).

e. Beverley Burrell, b. 6/17/1916. Married Graham F. Rice.

f. Edward Vernon, b. 6/29/1921. Married Antoinette Sease. They had one son (name not known).

g. Helen Cubbison, b. 11/7/1923. Married James W. Counts. They had two daughters (do not have names).

h. James William, b. 9/30/1926. Married Sylvia Boozer. They have four daughters (do not have names).

3. John Rogers Ragsdale, b. 7/17/1890. Married Mary Catherine Ladd, b. 11/19/1890. They had one child, Dorothy Elise who married James U. Watts, Jr. They were the parents of John, James, Catherine.

4. Helen Elise, b. 8/1/1893. Not married.

5. Edward Stanton Ragsdale, b. 12/27/1895. Married Wynette Adamson, b. 5/22/1944. They have one son, Edward Stanton, Jr., b. 2/3/1948.

6. Nancy Elizabeth, b. 4/19/1899. Married John Dean Isbell, b. 11/3/1897. They were parents of three daughters:

a. Martha Elizabeth (Betty) b. 12/12/1923. Married Allen Dotson Steele, b. 1/1/1914. They had two children, Elizabeth Dotson, b. 3/2/1959 and Allen Dean, b. 2/13/1961.

b. Carolyn, b. 6/18/1927. Married Glenn Herbert Henderson, b. 11/25/1950. They have three children: John Glenn, b. 8/19/1952. Carey Elizabeth, b. 10/27/1954. Judith Ann, b. 9/18/1957.

c. Frances, b. 4/20/1929 d. 12/16/1965. Married George Beaver III. They had one son, George Beaver IV., b. 2/17/1964.

#### McMEEKIN

JAMES DEXTER McMEEKIN, the first of this McMeekin line of whom we have any knowledge, and his wife, Elizabeth Parker, came to this country from Antrim County, Ireland, in 1787, bringing with them their two year old son, Andrew McMeekin. They settled in the Jenkinsville section of Fairfield County, S. C. where many of their descendants made their homes.



ANDREW McMEEKIN, married Clarissa Priscilla Gibson, daughter of Jacob Gibson, a distinguished teacher and Baptist preacher. Family records indicate that there were at least twelve, possibly fourteen or more children born to this couple. Several died in infancy. Four boys, Robert, Thomas, Andrew and William lost their lives while serving in the Confederate Army, possibly in the company of Capt. Haynes McMeekin. Three of the others who reached maturity, Joel, Elizabeth and Albert did not marry. Eddie married Salley Wallace but they had no children. The other four, and their families are as follows:

1. Dr. Jacob married Henrietta Jones. They had three children, Ida, Allie, and Talley. Ida did not marry.

a. Allie married Miss Thommie (Tom) Hayden. They had four children: Maude, Mary, Bess and Bruce.

b. Talley married a Miss Bell. They had three children. Henrietta, Alice and Edwin. Henrietta married A. Lee Scruggs; they had one child, Etta Lee. She married Gus Mason and had two children, Henrietta, who married Fred Gantt and Augusta who married King Dixon. Alice married John Wallace. No children. Edwin probably not married.

2. Joseph, or Joe, married Rebecca Douglas. Their children were Lula, Eloise, Evelyn, Willie, Florence, Raymond, Maxie, Jodie and Emma May.

3. James married Sallie Douglas. Their children: James, Lucius and probably several others.

4. John Wesley, b. 8/5/1828. He was an enterprising, energetic, industrious man of sound judgment who accumulated what was considered a fine fortune in those days. He owned a large plantation in the Jenkinsville section of Fairfield County and was known throughout that entire area as "Mars John". He married Elizabeth Louise Hunter, b. 3/8/1835. She was a granddaughter of Gen. Burrell, chief surgeon on the staff of Gen. Lafayette, in the Revolutionary War. It is interesting to note the number of their descendants bearing the name Burrell or Lafayette. They were the parents of at least eleven children. Ella Alberta, Alice Gertrude and Carrie died as infants. James Hunter died a young man. The other seven and their families were as follows:

a. Mary Aurelia, b. 12/8/1853. Married P. M. Butler Holley. They had three children, Ernest who did not marry. Essie

d. John Knox, b. 11/5/1918. Married Dorothy Cromer. They were the parents of 2 sons and a daughter (names not known).

e. Beverley Burrell, b. 6/17/1916. Married Graham F. Rice.

f. Edward Vernon, b. 6/29/1921. Married Antoinette Sease. They had one son (name not known).

g. Helen Cubbison, b. 11/7/1923. Married James W. Counts. They had two daughters (do not have names).

h. James William, b. 9/30/1926. Married Sylvia Boozer. They have four daughters (do not have names).

3. John Rogers Ragsdale, b. 7/17/1890. Married Mary Catherine Ladd, b. 11/19/1890. They had one child, Dorothy Elise who married James U. Watts, Jr. They were the parents of John, James, Catherine.

4. Helen Elise, b. 8/1/1893. Not married.

5. Edward Stanton Ragsdale, b. 12/27/1895. Married Wynette Adamson, b. 5/22/1944. They have one son, Edward Stanton, Jr., b. 2/3/1948.

6. Nancy Elizabeth, b. 4/19/1899. Married John Dean Isbell, b. 11/3/1897. They were parents of three daughters:

a. Martha Elizabeth (Betty) b. 12/12/1923. Married Allen Dotson Steele, b. 1/1/1914. They had two children, Elizabeth Dotson, b. 3/2/1959 and Allen Dean, b. 2/13/1961.

b. Carolyn, b. 6/18/1927. Married Glenn Herbert Henderson, b. 11/25/1950. They have three children: John Glenn, b. 8/19/1952. Carey Elizabeth, b. 10/27/1954. Judith Ann, b. 9/18/1957.

c. Frances, b. 4/20/1929 d. 12/16/1965. Married George Beaver III. They had one son, George Beaver IV., b. 2/17/1964.

#### McMEEKIN

JAMES DEXTER McMEEKIN, the first of this McMeekin line of whom we have any knowledge, and his wife, Elizabeth Parker, came to this country from Antrim County, Ireland, in 1787, bringing with them their two year old son, Andrew McMeekin. They settled in the Jenkinsville section of Fairfield County, S. C. where many of their descendants made their homes.

ANI  
daughter  
preacher  
possibly  
in infancy  
their lives  
company  
reached  
married  
and their

1. D  
Ida,

four

Hen  
they  
had  
gust  
No c

2. J  
wer  
Jodi

3. J  
and

4. J  
ic, i  
was  
plan  
was  
ried  
dau  
Laf  
the  
Laf  
Ella  
Hur  
wer

ley.



ANDREW McMEEKIN, married Clarissa Priscilla Gibson, daughter of Jacob Gibson, a distinguished teacher and Baptist preacher. Family records indicate that there were at least twelve, possibly fourteen or more children born to this couple. Several died in infancy. Four boys, Robert, Thomas, Andrew and William lost their lives while serving in the Confederate Army, possibly in the company of Capt. Haynes McMeekin. Three of the others who reached maturity, Joel, Elizabeth and Albert did not marry. Eddie married Salley Wallace but they had no children. The other four, and their families are as follows:

1. Dr. Jacob married Henrietta Jones. They had three children, Ida, Allie, and Talley. Ida did not marry.

a. Allie married Miss Thommie (Tom) Hayden. They had four children: Maude, Mary, Bess and Bruce.

b. Talley married a Miss Bell. They had three children. Henrietta, Alice and Edwin. Henrietta married A. Lee Scruggs; they had one child, Etta Lee. She married Gus Mason and had two children, Henrietta, who married Fred Gantt and Augusta who married King Dixon. Alice married John Wallace. No children. Edwin probably not married.

2. Joseph, or Joe, married Rebecca Douglas. Their children were Lula, Eloise, Evelyn, Willie, Florence, Raymond, Maxie, Jodie and Emma May.

3. James married Sallie Douglas. Their children: James, Lucius and probably several others.

4. John Wesley, b. 8/5/1828. He was an enterprising, energetic, industrious man of sound judgment who accumulated what was considered a fine fortune in those days. He owned a large plantation in the Jenkinsville section of Fairfield County and was known throughout that entire area as "Mars John". He married Elizabeth Louise Hunter, b. 3/8/1835. She was a granddaughter of Gen. Burrell, chief surgeon on the staff of Gen. Lafayette, in the Revolutionary War. It is interesting to note the number of their descendants bearing the name Burrell or Lafayette. They were the parents of at least eleven children. Ella Alberta, Alice Gertrude and Carrie died as infants. James Hunter died a young man. The other seven and their families were as follows:

a. Mary Aurelia, b. 12/8/1853. Married P. M. Butler Holley. They had three children, Ernest who did not marry. Essie

who married Leroy Hollaway. Their children, Ernest, Carl, Inez, Coralie who married Hamilton Carl (Hal) Bland. They had two children, Coralie who married George Miller and Ray who was killed in an airplane accident.

b. Minnie Calhoun married John Knox Ragsdale. For their descendants see Ragsdale.

c. Inez Eppes married Glenn Walker Ragsdale. For their descendants see Ragsdale.

d. John Calhoun, b. 6/12/1869, married Bessie Glenn. Their children: Glenn, Clara, John (called Dick) Willie, Roy, Jeremiah, Kitty and Margaret. Clara married Everett Pool. They had two children, Elizabeth who married Ralph Fuller and Margaret who married a Mr. Littlejohn. Kitty was married twice. Do not have names of husbands.

e. Thomas Lafayette married Ida Eloise Ruff. Their children: Thomas Lafayette, Jr., Silas Calhoun, Mamie, Louise, Ruby, Robert Plexico. Thomas Lafayette, Jr. married first, Nell Wemberly, second, Helen May Hesse. Silas Calhoun married Mattie Tidwell. Their children: Ann who married Ladson Hunter Boyle and had two children, Ann McMeekin and Ladson Hunter, Jr. Silas Calhoun, Jr., married Frances Simril. They had two children: Silas Calhoun III and Thomas Preston. Mamie married Paul Durham. They had one child, Paul Jr., Louise married Douglas Chappell. They had three girls, Douglas who married Gene Miller, Louise who married George Mosely, and Judy, probably not married. Ruby married John Stone. They had one child, Ida Ruff. Robert Plexico probably not married.

f. Carrie Owens married David L. Glenn. They had seven children: Annie Bell married Charles Lee Brooks, Arthur married Letitia \*\*\*, Douglas married a Miss Aiken, Katherine married Jack Meadors Cooper, Hunter, Tommy, Edward, probably not married.

g. Ida May married William Thompson Glenn. They had three children: William Thompson, Jr., married Jessie Dunlap; Elizabeth married Walker Chappell; Vivian Eugene married Flo. Hollingsworth.

#### OWENS

BENJAMIN OWENS. The family records disclose practically nothing about this ancestor. The name of his wife is not known. It is possible that he was born in Fairfield County, S. C. but even



this is not certain. We do know that he was living in this county in 1747 when his son, Benjamin Owens, Jr., was born.

BENJAMIN OWENS, JR., born in 1747, died in 1823. It might be mentioned that it is through this ancestor that members of the family have qualified for membership in the D.A.R. The records in the Historical Commission show that Benjamin Owens, Jr., was paid "four pounds fifteen shillings and eight pence, half penny" for 67 days service "Footmans duty. General Sumters Brigade at Orange Burg and Four Holes." A notation in handwriting on this record is as follows: "Date July 26 - 1785. Benj. Owens, Junr. for 67 days private in Malitia, amount £. . . 4 - 15 - 8½" Benjamin Owens, Jr., married Elizabeth Dunkley who died in 1815. They were the parents of two sons, Thomas and William.

WILLIAM OWENS, born, 1773, died 1839. He married Mary Oxner who died in 1842. They were the parents of at least one child, Elizabeth Owens who was born in 1798 and died in 1845.

ELIZABETH OWENS married John D. Stanton, born in 1799, died in 1886. They were the parents of Nancy Angeline (Nannie) Stanton, born Oct. 29, 1834, died Nov. 25, 1922 . . . She married Elisha Robert Ragsdale, born April 12, 1825, died Nov. 17, 1862. They were the parents of three sons Edward B. Ragsdale, Glenn W. Ragsdale and John K. Ragsdale. See RAGSDALE.

#### STANTON

This ancestral line came to Pennsylvania from England sometime before the Revolutionary War. The first of this name to appear in the family records is John Dunkley Stanton. The name of his wife is not given. They came to Fairfield County, South Carolina from Chester Pennsylvania in 1790. In 1799 their son, John Dunkley, Jr., was born. It is entirely possible that there were other children, but we find no record suggesting this.

JOHN DUNKLEY STANTON, Jr., was born in Fairfield County, S. C. August 18, 1799. He died July 7, 1886. He married Elizabeth Owens born in 1788, died in 1845 (one record states that she died Sept. 13, 1852). They were the parents of two children, a son William and a daughter Nancy Angeline.

NANCY ANGELINE (Nannie) STANTON was born in the Jenkinsville section of Fairfield County October 29, 1834, died in Winnsboro November 25, 1922. She married Elisha Robert Ragsdale, born April 12, 1825, died November 17, 1862. They were the parents of three sons, Edward Bernard Ragsdale, Glenn Walker Ragsdale and John Knox Ragsdale. Soon after her husband entered the Confederate Army she left her plantation home and lived with her parents. Her father, John Dunkley Stanton, Jr., was an industrious man of high moral character and by precept and example assisted in moulding the characters of his three grandsons. See RAGSDALE.



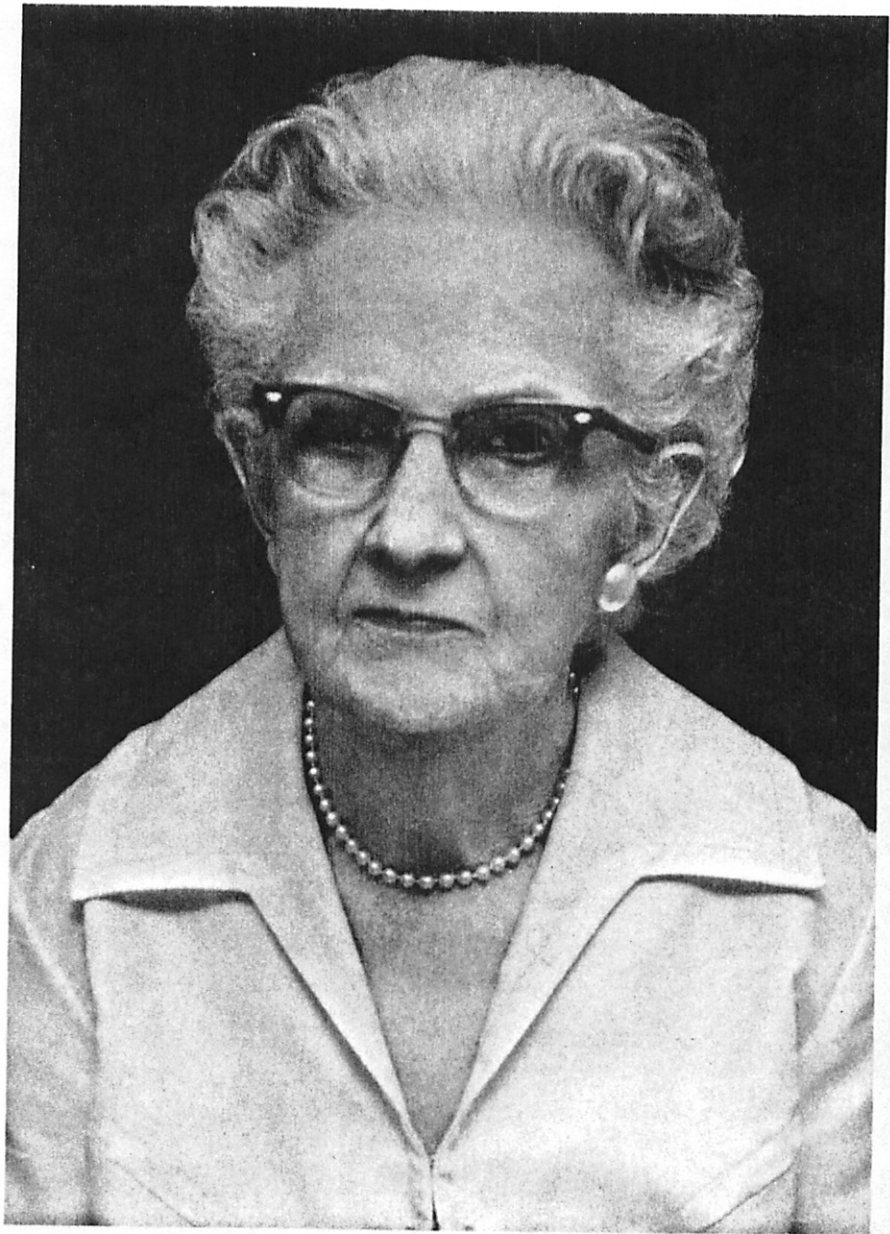
B



GLENN WALKER RAGSDALE  
June 3, 1858 - September 11, 1931



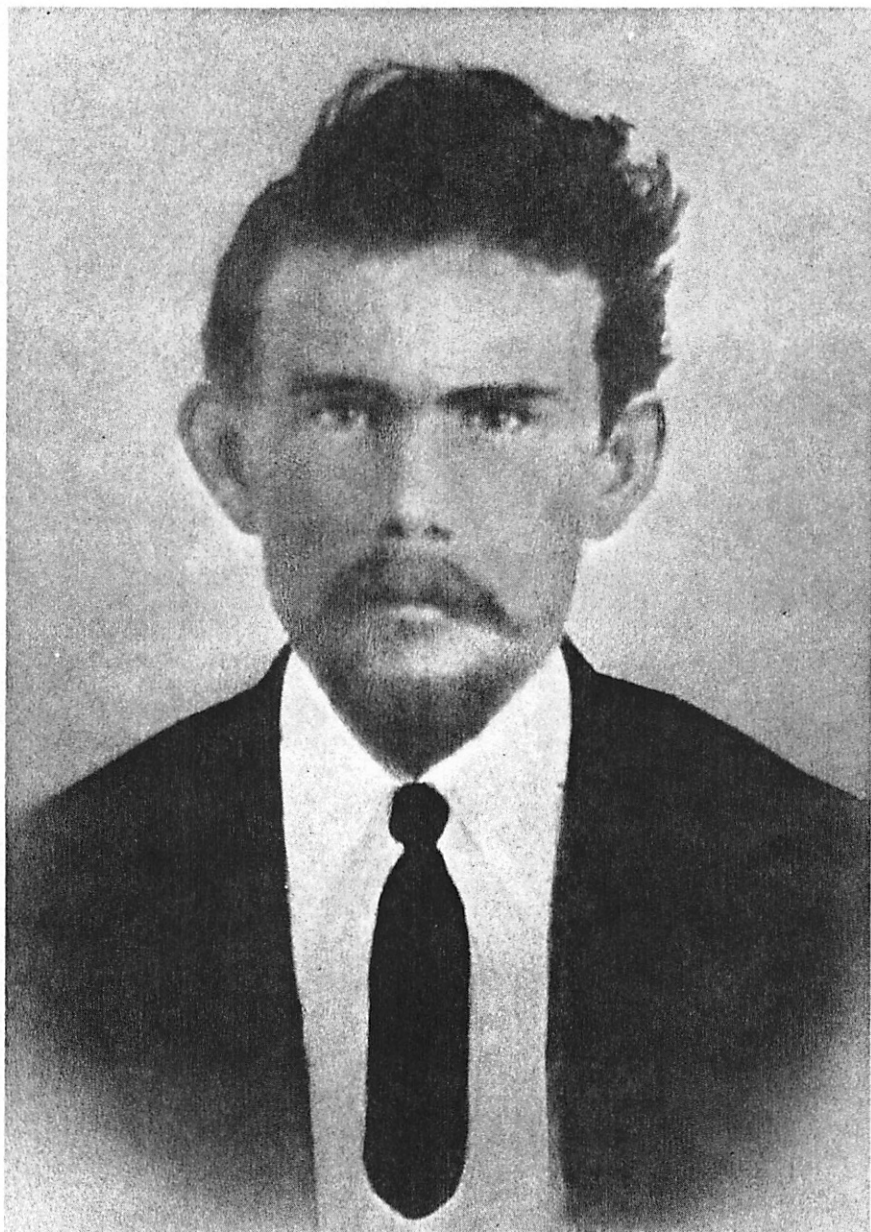
INEZ McMEEKIN RAGSDALE  
November 1, 1866 - March 10, 1932



INEZ RAGSDALE MCLAURIN  
Age 79

L





JAMES ALEXANDER MCLAURIN  
March 11, 1848 – January 9, 1889

M

Rough drawing of eastern Marlboro County—not scaled, not exactly accurate. It includes streams, creeks, often mentioned and indicates approximate residences of named ancestors. McColl and Clio are added solely for orientation.

