

MEMORIES AND MUSINGS

BY DAN W. WILLIAMS

No. 3.—I wrote that my first visit to Oak Hill was perhaps in 1869. I now think that this visit occurred in 1868. There lies before me a letter written by my grandfather Joshua Evans to his brother-in-law at Llanio in South Wales, on July 9, 1869 and in it he mentions that we attended church at Horeb in a two horse express, bought in the Spring of 1869. He also mentioned that this express cost \$180. Our visit to Symmes Creek was during the harvest before that, in a wagon.

Abel Williams and perhaps one or two others living in Jackson viz: George O. Williams and David Rees Williams may remember our visit, but of course it did not make the same impression upon them as it made upon me.

A note in one of my old Journals is to the effect that Abel Williams and I rode his father's horses to water in Sweet Bit one day during that visit and he showed me some minnows swimming in the little run. It was the first time that I saw a fish.

Will Williams, younger brother of Abel Williams showed me some tricks in wrestling on this visit. A leading citizen of Lima called at my office (Oct. 20) and told me that he had two neighbors named Ed and John Williams who are prosperous citizens. They are the sons of my cousin Will Williams named above. Morris, brother of G. O. Williams, was about the same age as these two other cousins but all were older than I. In later years Morris Williams lent me the diary kept by my uncle David G. Williams while crossing the Atlantic in the summer of 1839. I made a copy of the diary and then returned it.

My grandmother Hannah Williams had been an invalid for a while before we made this visit, and she was walking on crutches. I was a bit afraid of her at first, but soon came to like her. She lived to a ripe old age dying March 22, 1870 in her eighty-third year. Her husband George D. Williams lived longer dying on Dec. 30, 1871 aged nearly eighty-seven years. I was taken to her funeral and remember that her four sons David, George, William and Benjamin were the pallbearers. Two of them had black hair like their father, while the other two, William and Benjamin had red hair like their mother. Oddly enough a grandson of Benjamin G. Williams bearing the same name has red hair. He is living in Columbus.

My grandparents lived in a two story log house. It was standing, a new house when they came to America in 1839 and they bought it of a man named Stewart according to a tradition in the family. Stewart was a man of color. I have been told that a branch of the Underground railroad ran near his house, and that negroes from Kentucky often sheltered there at night on their way to the interior of Ohio and Canada. I have heard my father tell of one such runaway that he saw. This underground railroad followed the old Guyan trace from the Ohio river to old salt works at Jackson, and the runaways found refuge in the gorge of Salt Creek on the lands now owned by David Nichols, Herb Trago and Rahe. I have heard that Stewart was a preacher, and was invited to speak in a Baptist church not far from Gallia. This congregation consisted of people of both races. The building stood on a hill east of the residence of D. H. Evans near the old Faulkner mill, the first built on Black Fork.

Returning from our visit to the Williams settlement, we came through Gallia Furnace, and stopped on the hill north of it at the home of my uncle William G. Williams where we spent the fourth night of our visit.

The oldest son David was dead. He was a soldier in the Fifty Sixth. I have a vague recollection of his last visit to our home. The boys at home then were Arthur, Ben and Edward, who died last year at Toledo but was buried at his old home in Sawnee. Arthur is still living. I think he is now at the home of W. W. Jones where we made a stop for dinner. Mr. and Mrs. John P. Jones were living then, also their children, Ed. and W. W. Jones were at home and I remember the older daughter, afterward the wife of George E. Williams. I do not now recall Mrs. Evan Parry but it may be that she had not been born then. After leaving the Jones home we came to the Faulkner home, I think it was, where there was a spring gushing out of the coal vein showing under the sand rock. It was the first time that I saw coal in situ. Father took me up to the spring to see the actual coal. The farm was owned for many years afterward by John D. Jones Yr Ynys. His son lives at Oak Hill.

ROUTES 3 AND 4

James Grow of Kentucky is visiting his father, G. W. Grow this week.

Messrs. John and Jacob Weese, Mrs. W. C. Weese, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Richards, Mrs. Mary Jane White, Mr. J. C. White and Miss Elva Whaley of Richmondale attended the Pumpkin Show at Circleville last Saturday and while there they also visited Rev. M. R. White and family.

There will be a pie supper at Hartley school house Thursday evening, Oct. 30. Miss Pauline Fitzpatrick is teacher.

Among the teachers from Liberty township that attended the Southeastern teachers' Association at Athens last Friday and Saturday were: Mrs. Kate Johnson, Mrs. Allen Weese, Miss Mabel Lesser and Mr. J. S. Shields. Dr. Tigert, U. S. School Commissioner gave a splendid talk Saturday morning to the teachers.

Mrs. Anise Bryan will hold a public sale at the Bryan home near Valley Chapel church Nov. 12. Mrs. Bryan and daughter, Miss Edie Bryan have decided to go to Springfield.

Miss Elva Whaley and Mrs. L. G. Richards of Richmondale attended the pie supper at Coen school house Thursday evening and were the overnight guests of Mrs. W. C. Weese.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Gramm were the Saturday night and Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Shields of near Jackson.

Miss Della Wildman of Fairview is visiting Mrs. H. B. Smith.

Mr. Leedy Sr. and friend Mr. Grubb of Virginia have been visiting Mr. and Mrs. William Leedy Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Vance and three daughters of Chillicothe were the week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Weese.

Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Cramblitt and Mr. Cramblitt's sister of Battle Creek Michigan are here visiting Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Cramblitt of Rock Run.

We have just received the copy of the "Jackson County School News", the new school paper and the first of its kind in the county, published quarterly during the school year under the direction of Mr. Lloyd H. Wharton, County Superintendent of Schools. We find it to be an excellent little paper and hope the parents throughout the county will read the paper carefully and know just what many of the schools are doing. We are sure that the staff will try to have a better paper next quarter and we suggest that the teachers of the different schools send any items of interest to the members of the staff for their township, thereby helping to make the paper interesting and we are sure it will be a success.

Jackson County has the best apples in the State. See that at the Apple Show.

IN MEMORY

Standard-Journal, Oct. 29, 1924

JAMES STEPHENSON HORTON

James Stephenson Horton, the subject of this sketch was born in Jackson County, Ohio, on February 10th, 1842, departed this life in the same county and township in which he was born, on October 5th, 1924, at eleven o'clock A. M., being 82 years, seven months and twenty-six days old at the time of his death, being the oldest man in Oak Hill.

He saw five living generations of his own family, grand father, father, self, son and grandson. Few men are permitted to have this very uncommon experience.

He was always interested in his own family history, he had in his home direct history of six generations of his family.

His great-grandfather Joseph Horton, was born in Hartford England, in 1759, died in America in 1833, aged eighty-four years. He served as a Revolutionary soldier. He being one of six brothers, four of whom emigrated to America.

His grandfather, John Horton, was born in 1787 and died in 1869, aged eighty-two years.

His father, Joseph Horton, was born in 1812, died in 1865, aged fifty-two years.

These four men in time span a gulf of nearly three hundred years, such a record is seldom to be found.

His parents, Joseph and Mary Stephenson Horton, were the parents of ten children, four sons and six daughters, one of whom was James Stephenson.

In July 1863, when but twenty years old, he enlisted as a soldier for his country. He served with Company H, first Ohio Heavy Artillery. Two years later, at close of war he received his honorable discharge and returned to private life in his home county.

On Sept. 14, 1865, he was united in marriage with Maria Davis, and to this union were born eight sons and two daughters, four of whom preceded him to the spirit world, twin sons and one daughter died in infancy, and one son in young manhood.

The surviving children are Dr. J. Davis Horton, Plevna, Kansas; W. D. Horton, Abbyville, Kansas; A. B. Horton, Sylvia, Kansas; Edward O. Horton, Oak Hill, O.; Everett, at home and Mrs. Estel Dempsey (Estella Horton), Ravenna, Ohio.

Their marriage life lacked but eleven brief years of spanning the allotted time of man's full life, for fifty-nine years they journeyed in life together, these years are outnumbered by but few.

He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and always attended its meetings when possible. He was a believer in law and order, he always stood for what he thought was right.

He was a good citizen, had a large circle of friends and acquaintances, and enjoyed the friendship of many men. To know him was to appreciate him. He was a great reader all through his long life and kept it up until but a few days before his death. He kept well informed on current events and was well able to intelligently discuss any up to date subject.

He was a lover of nature and its laws, and but a few days ago he said to his wife, "This is a good old world if men treat it right." This is but a brief interpretation of Paul's declaration that, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

He will ever be remembered by his friends as a man of good principles and high ideals.

He leaves to mourn his going a wife, a daughter and five sons. Also eight grandchildren, one sister, Mrs. Robert Parks, of Oak Hill, rural, two brothers, Samuel Horton, Jackson rural, Josephus Horton, of Sterling, Kansas; and a large circle of friends.