

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## Match Made in Heaven (Part 11)

Rev. Dr. William Ellis Swain (1856-1923) served as pastor of the Mebane Methodist Protestant (M. P.) Church Circuit from 1913 to 1915. He and wife Laura Wood Swain (1856-1934) of Bucklesberry were well into their golden years at the time. Their three children—Lynette Grimsely Swain Moss (1892-1957), James Wood Swain (1894-1956), and John Paris Swain (1898-1983)—were all young adults.

William's prior five years of service as President of the North Carolina M. P. Church Conference afforded him prominence that continued to fuel public interest in his and Laura's family. The following news reported during their time in Mebane focused on William's preaching ministry, Laura's community service and illness, and the early career paths of their children:

1914, Sept. 10: "Rev. W. E. Swain left Tuesday morning for La Grange where he went to hold a week's service in the M. P. Church." (*The Mebane Leader*)

1914, Dec. 31: "Jas [James] W. Swain, of Danville, VA, spent Christmas with his parents. Mr. Swain is connected with the Danville Bee [now the *Danville Register & Bee* newspaper]." (*The Mebane Leader*)

1915, Jan. 21: "Mrs. W. E. Swain's many friends are glad to know she is very much better." (*The Mebane Leader*)

1915, April 29: "The [Mebane] Civic League furnishes us for publication the following list of Committees recently appointed to serve for this year....Floral Culture Committee, Mrs. W. E. Swain..." (*The Mebane Leader*)

1915, May 27: "Miss Lynette Swain, of Mebane, is one of the graduates of the State Normal College, this week, taking the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Miss Swain is a daughter of Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Swain, who formerly lived in Asheboro when Mr. Swain was pastor of the M. P. Church here, and later President of the M. P. Conference." (*The Courier*, Asheboro)

1915, July 22: "Miss Lynette Swain...will teach in the graded school at Weldon, N.C. Miss Swain graduated with high honors at the State College for women in June, and her many friends in Asheboro hoped that she would come to Asheboro to teach in Asheboro's graded school." (*The Courier*, Asheboro)

1915, Sept. 16: "The many friends of Mrs. W. E. Swain regret very much that she is still confined to her home." (*The Mebane Leader*)

1915, Oct. 14: "The many friends of Mrs. W. E. Swain are delighted to know that she is able to be out again after being confined to the house for several weeks." (*The Mebane Leader*)

More on the lives and family of Laurah Wood Swain and Rev. Dr. William Ellis Swain will be shared in an upcoming Bucklesberry article.