

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## Match Made in Heaven (Part 12)

Laurah Wood Swain (1856-1934) of Bucklesberry and Rev. Dr. William Ellis Swain (1856-1923) were advancing in age when he was appointed pastor of the Littleton Methodist Protestant (M. P.) Church Circuit, Halifax County, in 1916. For three years, he ministered to five churches in that charge.

Because of his prominence as the former President of the M. P. Church Conference, there was continued public interest in William, Laurah, and their family after he stepped away from statewide leadership in 1912. Published news items during their time in Halifax County focused on family trips, a visit from Laurah's brother, and the wedding of daughter Lynette Grimsely Swain Moss (1892-1957):

1916, June 23: "Rev. W. E. Swain, Mrs. Swain, Miss Synetta [sic., Lynette] and Mr. John Swain returned from an auto trip to the eastern part of the State." (*The News Reporter*, Littleton)

1917, May 18: "Mr. D[empsey] W[ooding] Wood, of La Grange, his wife [Florence Coward Wood] and little boy [Dee Wooding Wood, Jr.], motored from La Grange to Littleton, Tuesday, and are spending a few days in town. Mr. Wood is a brother of Mrs. W. E. Swain." (*The News Reporter*, Littleton)

1917, June 14: "At high noon June 12 an attractive home wedding was solemnized at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Swain on College Street [Littleton], when their accomplished daughter, Miss Lynette, was given in marriage to Vernon T. Moss, of Wilson. Dr. Swain himself performed the ceremony. Miss Swain graduated from the State Normal College in 1915 and since that time she has taught German in Wilson. She was becomingly attired in a grey suit. Superb pink roses with white and pink sweet peas beautifully decorated the parlors. Bridal presents displayed were handsome and useful. Luncheon was served immediately after the nuptials. The happy pair then left for Washington city and other northern points..." (*Greensboro Daily News*)

1917, August 3: "On the morning of July 13th wife [Laurah] and I [William] left Littleton for Pilot Mountain. Rain had fallen the night before and for the first seventy-five miles driving was a little bad. Then the day cleared up, the roads were better and more pleasure in motoring. Arriving in Greensboro about 4 p.m., we spent the night with friends. Saturday morning at 9:10 we left Greensboro, going by way of Winston-Salem, Bethania, Tobaccoville, Spainhour's Mill, Mt. Zion on to Pinnacle, arriving there 3:30 p.m. At 5:30 there was a terrific thunder storm...for ten

days....After the first three days, however, the spasmodic showers ceased and the rain settled to steady business....Leaving Pinnacle Thursday morning, July, 26, we were forced to come down by way of Dalton to reach Winston-Salem. In crossing Little Yadkin [River] our turnout reminded me of a turtle wading along in the mud in the bottom of a ditch. It really seemed the road was the drain way for the hills on either side of the river. We arrived in Mebane Thursday p.m., remained there Friday and arrived in Littleton Saturday p.m. Crops in the hill country are young and small, but very fine prospects of a bountiful harvest. Tobacco is unusually fine and was turning out well. The cool milk and butter, [and] fine water were greatly enjoyed by us both. W. E. Swain" (*The News Reporter*, Littleton)

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