

# Whitmel Proctor

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Whitmel Proctor (1829-1884) and Elizabeth Williams Proctor (1838-1895)

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## Mary Hinton Proctor's 1913 Inheritance

Mary Ella Hinton Proctor was rescued from a tragic homelife as a girl by her *mother's* sister and her husband, but it was from her *father's* sister and her husband that Mary received an inheritance.

When she was 9 years old Mary's mother died, her father developed a severe drinking problem, and (as the only surviving girl in the family) she had to keep house and cook. On visiting the house one day, her Uncle Gold Trevathan (who was married to Mary's mother's sister, Mary Della Stallings) told her father to have two dresses made for her, and that he would be back to pick her up. He did, and family history says Mary was raised by her Uncle Gold and Aunt Mary in Pinetops, NC.

The 1910 Census shows the 16-year-old Mary Hinton living with William H. and Malvina Hinton Long (Malvina was Mary's father's sister) in Upper Town Creek, Edgecombe County.

In 1911 Mary married Henry Proctor, and by the end of 1913, after the death, first of Malvina, and then William, she inherited all of her aunt's and uncle's "real property wherever found and [their] household and kitchen furniture, and one hundred dollars." (Malvina Long died 26 Feb. 1913, and William died 19 Oct. 1913. William's will, of which Henry Proctor was named Executor, is reproduced at right. The Longs' estate was valued at the time at \$7,000.)

I once interviewed Henry and Mary's oldest child, Ruth "Sister" Proctor Covert, about the farm property that her parents inherited, where they lived for the first years of their marriage. According to her, Henry prospered as a tobacco farmer, and built a "pretty house" across the street from the farm (on Trap Range Road), which had carbide lights and other amenities that few people in that area had at the time. The farm also had abundant fruit trees, but the house Henry built is no longer standing.

In 1925 Henry let an insurance man named Luther T. Bulluck "talk him into trading homes" — though how he was talked into it, or for what reason, is unknown. On November 27, 1925, Henry and Mary deeded over all 49 acres of the land Mary had inherited from her aunt and uncle (minus two parcels totalling 4.5 acres which had been sold off some years earlier) to Bulluck and M.R. Robbins of Nash County. The purchase price was \$10 and other "valuable considerations not herein mentioned." Bulluck and Robbins also agreed to take up the unpaid portion of "an indebtedness to Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company for an original amount of \$1500."

### William H. Long's Last Will and Testament

North Carolina  
Edgecombe County

I, W. H. Long, being of sound mind and memory do make this my last will and testament as follows:  
Item I — I give and devise to Mary Ella Hinton wife of Henry Proctor all of my real property wherever found and my household and kitchen furniture and one hundred dollars.

Item II — I give and devise to Charlie Hinton all of what he owes me.

Item III — I give and devise to Lewis Hines all of what he owes me.

Item IV — I give and devise to W.P. Mercer all of what he owes me including the note he gave my wife.

Item V — I give and devise to Henry Proctor my horse and buggy and cart and farming utensils and all my hogs and one hundred dollars.

Item VI — I give and devise to George Long one hundred dollars.

Item VII — I give and devise to Hugh Hinton one hundred dollars.

Item VIII — I give and devise the remainder of my personal property and money to my brother Hilliard Long.

Item IX — I hereby appoint Henry Proctor Executor to this my last will and testament.

Signed sealed and declared in the presence of the following witnesses this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 1913.

Witnesses

J. B. Bulluck

B. R. Lancaster

his

W H X Long

mark

### Grandmother's Pralines (candy)

Among myriad papers, photos, and Bibles provided to me by

my cousin Edward

Covert was a hand-

written recipe for

praline candy.

Whoever wrote out

the recipe gave credit

to "Grandmother," but

there's no way to

know who either of

them was. So, since

it was important

enough for someone

to copy out, here's the

recipe, exactly as it

appears.

Take a look at the

scan of the handwriting at

left. Do you recognize

who wrote this? I'd love to hear from you about it!

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2 lbs. light Brown sugar

1 cup milk

¼ lb. butter

1 lb. pecans

Heat sugar & milk over

low heat, stirring until

dissolved. Bring to a boil,

add butter & [stir?] until a

soft ball forms in cold

water. Cool enough to

stand your hand on

bottom of pan. Beat until

it begins to cream then

pour over nuts. Continue

stirring until it hardens

enough to break into

pieces.

