
Whitmel Proctor

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The Periodic Newsletter on Family History and Genealogy of
Whitmel Proctor (1829-1884) and Elizabeth Williams Proctor (1838-1895)

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The Home of John William Proctor

Just off of Pleasant Hill Road, in rural Rocky Mount, Edgecombe County, stands the house built and lived in by John William Proctor (1862-1928), the fourth child of Whitmel Proctor (1829-1884) and Betsy Williams Proctor (1838-1895). Constructed sometime around the turn of the twentieth century, the house was where John William, his widow "Miss Dora" (d.1945), and his daughter "Aunt Bet" (d.2000) lived until their deaths. It sits immediately adjacent to the residence of Donnie Jackson, John William's grandson.

Elizabeth Proctor Storey, John William's great-granddaughter, remembers the big dinners and celebrations she attended in the house when she was a child. "Miss Dora" had a player piano in the house, and there was a stereopticon viewer with 3D pictures, which provided entertainment. Elizabeth recalls that both the kitchen and the dining room were in a separate building, no longer standing, which was connected to the main house by a walkway.

The grounds had scuppernong grape vines, pecan trees, and hazelnut

bushes; and there was an old barn close by in which there was a Star car, built sometime between 1922 and 1928 by the Durant Motors Company, which the kids used to climb over.

John William had four wives, and eight surviving offspring:

① Laura Brown (mar.1885) → John R. Whitman ("Whit") Proctor (1886-1948);

Henry Proctor (1889-1968).

② Joanna Summerlin (mar. 1896); no issue.

③ Lucille "Lula" Taylor (mar. 1898) → Rufus Stephen Proctor (1899-1972).

④ Dora Mae Joyner (mar. 1905) → Elizabeth ("Aunt Bet") Proctor (1905-2000); George Luther Proctor (1908-1972); James Perry Proctor (1911-1962); Maggie Mae Proctor (1916-2004); Charles Russell Proctor (1920-1982).



Note from Grover: If anyone has any photos of the house from back when it was lived in, please let me know. I would love to feature them in future issues of the newsletter. Thanks!

Photo-artist and Beaufort County, NC native

Liz Patrick has become a specialist in the photography of rural Tar Heel residential and commercial structures, which have seen their better days. A dear friend of our family, and formerly our financial advisor, Liz was

most receptive to my request to capture the spirit, history, and current condition (alas) of my great-grandfather's home.

Thanks, Liz – you're the best!



Photos ©2012, Liz Patrick; used with permission. Permission for photo shoot by Donnie Jackson. Thanks to both.