

Whitmel Proctor

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

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Ruth Proctor Covert (1914-2013)

Last year, this family lost one of its most remarkable members with the death of Ruth Proctor Covert on July 30, just days before her 99th birthday. She was always called "Sister" by her siblings, and so she became "Aunt Sister" to all us nieces and nephews.

As this is a genealogy newsletter, here is her family story. She was the oldest of four children of Henry Proctor and Mary Ella Hinton Proctor; the granddaughter of John William Proctor (1862-1928) and his first wife Laura Brown Proctor (1862-1893); and the great-granddaughter of Whitmel Proctor (1829-1884) and Betsy Williams Proctor (1838-1895).

She was born in the family farm home her father built on Trap Range Road in Edgecombe County, NC, and lived there until she was 11, when they moved to Lee County in 1928. As she was the source for much of the oral history I have on our family, I obviously asked her about this move, and she told me this: Their "pretty house," as she described it, in Edgecombe County had carbide lights and other amenities that few people in that area had

at the time. Her father farmed tobacco, and also kept abundant fruit trees. In

1925, her father 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. A total of 49 acres were deeded to Bulluck and M.R. Robbins of Nash County. Henry moved his family to what Aunt Sister described as a "very ordinary house" in Lee County, "on the lower road to Sanford."

The family later settled in Moncure, where she would live out most of the rest of her life. In November 1933 she married Otis Martin Covert (1909-1980), and they had one child, Edward Martin Covert in 1944.

No one who knew her has ever had anything but the finest things to say about Ruth Proctor Covert. A truly remarkable woman in so very many ways during her life (her 100th birthday would be this August) he is deeply and lovingly missed.



OBITUARY

Ruth P. Covert, 98, died Tuesday at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation, where she had been a resident for the past five years.

She was born August 24, 1914, in Edgecombe County, N.C. and moved to Lee County at an early age with her parents, Henry and Mary Proctor. She graduated from Moncure High School and attended Sanford Business College.

She was predeceased by her husband, Otis M. Covert in 1980.

She is survived by a son, Edward M. Covert of Fort Defiance, Va.; two grandchildren, Claudia Covert of Cranston, R.I. and James M. Covert of Charlottesville, Va.; and two great-grandchildren.

— *Sanford Herald*, 4 August 2013



Photo above middle: "Aunt Sister," as she was known, enjoying a restaurant meal with my wife and me some years back.

Above right: A detail from a 1943 photo of the four Proctor siblings, Ruth, Grover, Henry, and Doris.

Left: The family's two Ruth Proctors – Ruth Proctor Covert (left) and my mother Ruth Hooks Proctor (right). They were sisters-in-law, and died seven months apart. (The very lucky guy in the middle is me.)