

Likes His Work

Doctor, 72, Going Strong

By Jeanette Reid

Staff Reporter

MOUNT AIRY — Dr. Robert Jones Lovill can't find a hobby he likes as well as his work.

So he continues to practice medicine, although at 72 he has passed the usual age of retirement.

For 49 years he has been a general practitioner, having had his office at Mount Airy for the last 38 years.

"I started practicing in the days when you were lucky to get 50 cents for an office call and five dollars for delivering a baby," he said.

Bringing babies into the world has brought Dr. Lovill some of his more memorable moments.

Delivered Triplets

He delivered triplets in 1944 to Dolly Hite, the only triplets born in the county in his memory.

Another woman, giving birth to her 23rd child, told the physician, "My only regret is that I can't have 24 and round out an even two dozen."

Another new mother, who sounded as though she didn't need a doctor, said she'd rather have a baby than a cold.

Dr. Lovill was born July 4, 1887, in the Fisher River section several miles from here to Martha Jones and Walter W. Lovill.

A great-great-grandfather, Edward Lovill, who came to this country from Cornwall, England, opened an iron mine on Tom's Creek near Pilot Mountain. The mine was the first in this area.

Another great-great-grandfather, John Taliferro, was a physician and a preacher, serving in the Revolutionary War.

And his grandfather, James Lovill, served in the Confederate army but died of measles after the battle of Appomattox.

Dr. Lovill grew up on his father's 100-acre farm, often working for 25 cents a day. He attended Surry County public schools, Dobson High School and Woodlawn (Va.) Academy.

He took a two-year medical course at the University of North Carolina, then studied two more years at the University of Maryland, where he graduated in 1910. He served his internship during his senior year.

He immediately started practicing medicine with Dr. J. D. Edwards at Siler City.

A year later he married the daughter of a Siler City physician. She was Lucill Kirkman.

Dr. Lovill then moved to Dobson, and a little later to Mount Airy where he was associated with Dr. Henry B. Roe. He and Dr. Roe performed the first operation in the former Irvin Memorial Hospital here.

Still not settled for life, Dr. and Mrs. Lovill lived for a while at Fairmont and then Wingate before he went on active duty and served overseas during World War I. He was a first lieutenant in the 82nd Division.

After his discharge in 1919, Dr. Lovill practiced at Kittrell before finally coming to Mount Airy permanently in 1921.

Remodeled House

He now has his medical office in the interesting old Joyce house on Rockford Street. He finds its solid brick walls and sound construction comfortable. And he has remodeled and modernized the interior to meet his needs.

During his years he has been a member of Central Methodist Church, the American Legion, the Kiwanis Club, the N.C. Medical Society and the American Medical Assn. He was also presidential elector for the state's Fifth District in the States Rights Democratic Party in 1948.

He lives in an interesting and

attractive home built during the 1880's by the founder of Mount Airy's first bank. The address is 723 North Main Street.

And Dr. Lovill enjoys showing it to guests.

But he also wants to take them there to meet his family.

"They are so much of my life," he explained.

They include his wife, a gracious hostess; his only son, Robert J. Lovill Jr., an attorney who also owns the county's largest tobacco farm and his wife; and Dr. Lovill's grandchildren, Robert Lovill III, 15, who attends Episcopal High at Alexandria,

Va., and Barbara, 13, a junior high student.

The Lovills have modernized the interior of their home but have retained its original charm and unique design.

They also enjoy many summer hours at their Fancy Gap, Va., home.

A fellow member of the medical profession here described the amiable Dr. Lovill as a true gentleman interested in honesty and his fellow man.

And he has found a hobby which interests him very much—geology. He is president of the Mount Airy Mineral Club.



DR. ROBERT JONES LOVILL
... hobby comes second ...

FOR 50 YEARS SERVICE

Well-Known Local Physican Presented Certificate And Pin At Dinner Meet Of Medical Association Last Night

Local and area physicians honored one of their own last night.

Dr. Robert Jones Lovill Sr., one of Mount Airy's best-known and respected physician, received a certificate and pin commemorating his 50 years of service to the medical profession.

The presentation was made at a dinner meeting of the Surry-Yadkin Medical Association last night at 7 o'clock at the Blu-Vue Restaurant.

The pin and certificate were awarded by the North Carolina Medical Association. The presentation was made by Dr. Ralph J. Sykes, vice-president of the Surry-Yadkin Association.

Dr. L. R. Littleton is president of the Surry-Yadkin Association. He was out of town and unable to attend the meeting.

Dr. Lovill, who will be 73 years old Monday, has had his office in Mount Airy for the past 38 years. It is located in the old Joyce house on Rockford Street.

Dr. Lovill was born July 4, 1887, in the Fisher River section, a son of Martha Jones and Walter W. Lovill. He grew up on his father's farm, attended the Surry County public schools, Dobson High School and Woodlawn, Va. Academy.

He took a two-year medical course at the University of North Carolina, then studied two more years at the University of Maryland, where he graduated in 1910. He served his internship during his senior year.

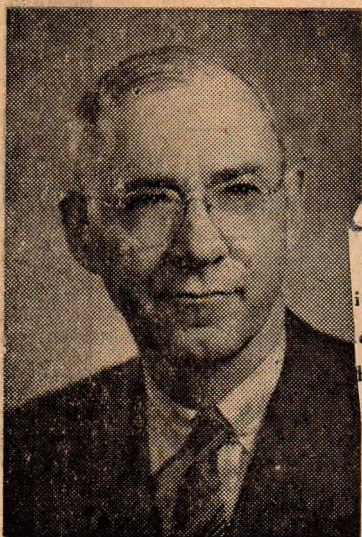
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Dr. Lovill then moved to Dobson and, a little later, to Mount Airy, where he was associated with Dr. Henry B. Rowe. He and Dr. Rowe performed the first operation in the former Irvin Memorial Hospital here.

Dr. and Mrs. Lovill lived for a while at Fairmont and then Wingate, before he entered the Army, serving overseas during World I as a first lieutenant in the 82nd Division.

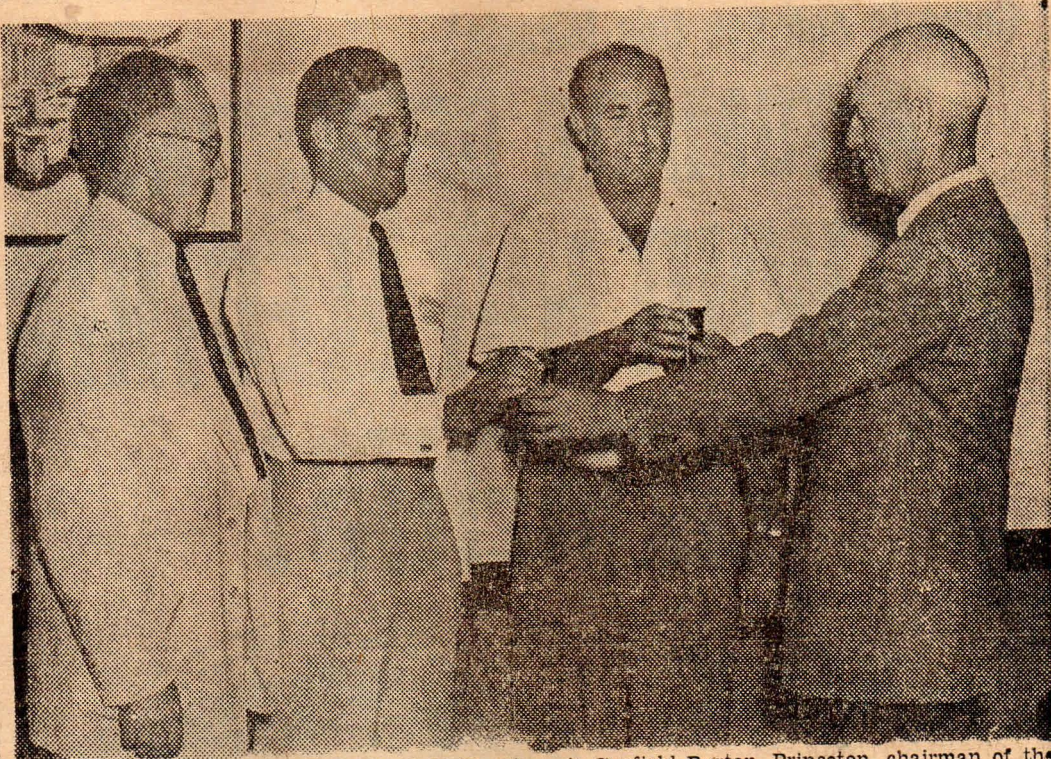
After his discharge in 1919, Dr. Lovill practiced at Kittrell before coming to Mount Airy permanently in 1921.

During his active life in Mount Airy, the general practitioner has been a member of Central Methodist Church, the American Legion, Kiwanis Club, N. C. Medical Society and the American Medi-



DR. R. J. LOVILL SR.

Some Of The Winners



First place winners in the Men's Pair Event of the Black Diamond Sectional Bridge Duplicate Tournament held here are center left, W. B. Woodson, Greensboro, N. C., and center right, R. J. Lovill Jr., Mt. Airy, N. C. At left

is Garfield Burton, Princeton, chairman of the tournament, and J. Dodd Martensen, secretary of the Bluefield Chamber of Commerce who presented the awards.

Salisbury Paper —

POST, Sun., May 12, 1957

nts Are Gained In Bridge To



LIFE MASTERS — Bridge has its light moments too as the smiles attest. Pictured at the sectional tournament held at the Yadkin Hotel are five Life Masters around a table. From the left, they are Mr. and Mrs. William Holderness of Greensboro, John Crawford of Philadelphia, Bob Lovell of Mount Airy and Joe McCabe of Columbia, S. C. Looking on from the rear is Charles Wallace of Salisbury.

Extending A Deserved Honor

Dr. Robert Jones Lovill, an individual as familiar to most Mount Airy citizens as the granite a goodly portion of this Granite City rests upon, was honored by his profession Thursday night of last week. We say that Dr. Lovill is familiar to most Mount Airy citizens. Well he should be, for he delivered many hundreds of them into this world.

Occasion for the honor was commemorating Dr. Lovill's 50 years of service to the medical profession and thus to his fellow man. Dr. Ralph J. Sykes, vice-president of the Surry-Yadkin Medical Association, presented Dr. Lovill with a pin and certificate awarded by the North Carolina Medical Association at a dinner meeting at the Blu-Vue Restaurant.

Fifty years of service to one's fellow citizens is an extremely long period of time, even when it is spoken fast. A half century of love of one's chosen profession! Dr. Lovill has been—indeed, he has been a part of—the progress Mount Airy has made from a thriving village into a prosperous little city. Looking back over those years, Dr. Lovill must feel a sense of accomplishment that so much has been done to better his city, and that he has

played a part in it.

During the half-century the well-known Mount Airy physician has been in medical practice, civilization has made great strides. The airplane has become more than a toy, automobiles have become bigger and better, jets streak across the sky, and even the heavens have lost their immunity to man's inquisitiveness.

As a layman as ignorant as most ordinary people concerning medicine, we yet feel that the fifty years Dr. Lovill has been practicing medicine were probably the most important years in medical history. Greatly improved surgical techniques and forms of medical treatment, modern hospitals, X-ray coming into its own, sulfa, penicillin, antibiotics, all the so-called "wonder" drugs, the Salk poliomyelitis vaccine: all these and more advances have been made in the half century Dr. Lovill has been practicing medicine.

Truly, we feel that that is a real "golden" anniversary. We congratulate Dr. Lovill on his accomplishments in the past, the recognition he has received, and on future accomplishments, for Mount Airy without Dr. Lovill practicing medicine is about as hard to imagine as anything we know.

FEBRUARY 12, 1942

WINSTON-SALEM

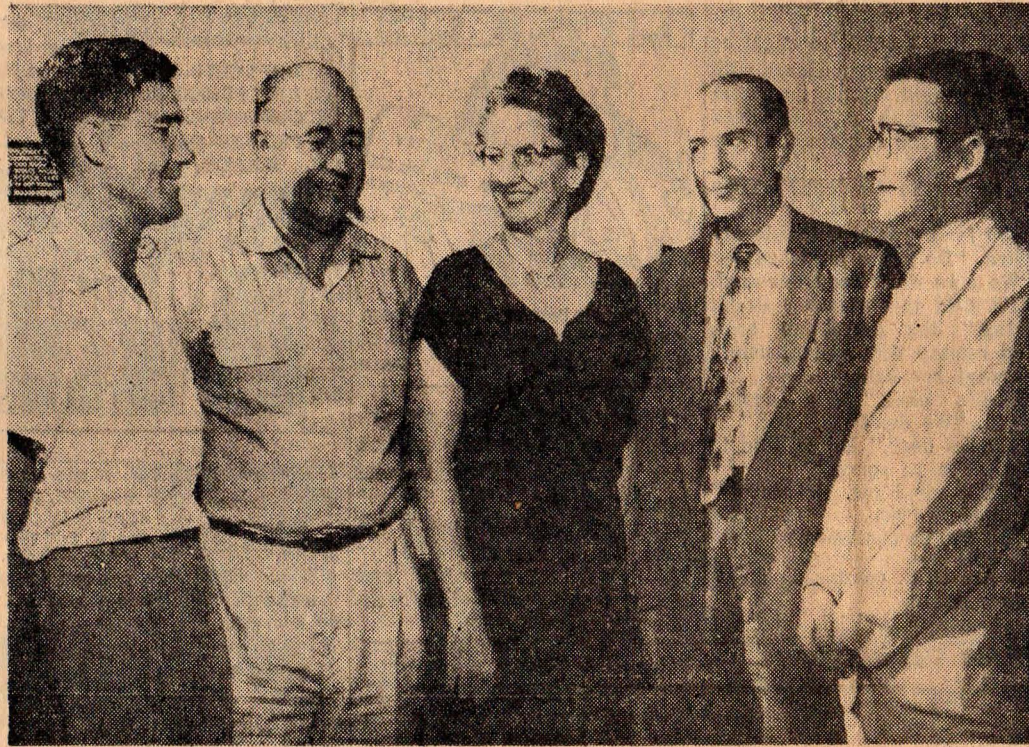
Mount Airy Farewell Banquet



Many outstanding citizens of Mount Airy and Surry county attended a farewell banquet given by the American Legion post honoring boys leaving for the army from Surry county. Among those attending were, front row

seated, left to right: Raymond Smith, Mount Airy businessman; Mrs. R. J. Lovill, president of the American Legion Auxiliary of Mount Airy; A. E. Tilley, Mount Airy attorney; Judge William G. Bobbitt, Charlotte;

second row standing, left to right: Marion Allen, Elkin attorney; W. E. Woodruff, Mount Airy, toastmaster; Ralph Scott, solicitor, Danbury; Kellock Hale, chairman of the Mount Airy Red Cross.



BRIDGE WINNERS— Bridge cup winners in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Bridge Tournament, which ended here last night, are shown in the picture above. They are (left to right): W. B. Woodson of Greenville, S. C.; R. J. Lovill Jr. of Mount Airy; Mrs. Frank Weisbach of Cincinnati, O., national tournament director; David Murray of Falls Church, Va., and Lt. Ray Fetzner of Arlington, Va. The tournament began Friday and included play in the following divisions: Men's Pairs, Women's Pairs, Mixed Pairs, Open Pairs, Teams-of-Four, and a special pair event.

A TRIBUTE
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WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.
FEB 4 1964

Memorial Obituary

Entered Into Eternal Rest
Monday, Feb. 3, 1964



DR. R. J. LOVILL

R. J. Lovill; Mount Airy Physician

MOUNT AIRY — Dr. Robert Jones Lovill, 75, of 723 N. Main Street, a physician here for more than 40 years, died at 4:50 a.m. yesterday at Northern Surry Hospital. He had been ill since suffering a heart attack Friday at his home.

He was born in Surry County to Walter Wiley and Martha Jones Lovill and was a member of one of the county's earliest families.

He grew up on his father's farm in the Fisher River section and attended Surry County schools, Dobson High School, and Woodlawn (Va.) Academy.

He took a two-year medical course at the University of North Carolina, then studied two more years at the Medical School of the University of

Maryland, graduating in 1910. He served his internship during his senior year.

Practice

He then opened practice in Siler City for a year. He moved to Dobson and a little later to Mount Airy where he was associated with Dr. Henry B. Roe. He and Roe performed the first operation in the old Irvin Memorial Hospital here.

He then practiced for a while at Fairmont and Wingate before going overseas during World War I. After his discharge in 1919, Lovill practiced in Kittrell before returning to Mount Airy in 1921. He had his office here in the old Joyce House on Rockford Street.

He liked to discuss his more than 50 years of practice and once said, "I started practicing in the days when you were lucky to get 50 cents for an office call and five dollars for delivering a baby."

Delivered Triplets

He said that bringing babies into the world brought him some of his most memorable moments. In 1944 he delivered triplets to Mrs. Dolly Hite. They were the only triplets born in the county in his memory.

He was a member of the Surry County Medical Society, the American Legion, the N.C. Medical Association. He was also a member of Central Methodist Church.

Surviving are his wife, the former Miss Lucille Kirkman whom he married in 1911; a son, Robert J. Lovill Jr. of Mount Airy; two grandchildren; and a sister, Miss Betty Lovill of Mount Airy.

The funeral will be conducted at 3 p.m. today at his home by the Rev. Edward Lovill and the Rev. D. D. Hodges. Burial will be in Oakdale Cemetery.

The body was taken home yesterday from Moody Funeral Home.

Dr. Robert Jones Lovill

Last week, yet another name was added to the roster of prominent and/or pioneer Mount Airy citizens who have been victims of the Grim Reaper's scythe this year when Dr. Robert Jones Lovill, a member of the medical profession for well over fifty years, was claimed by death. Dr. Lovill sustained a heart attack at his home on North Main Street and died on the third day at Northern Surry Hospital.

The name of Lovill should be a familiar one to every Surry Countian. It has long been associated with various business, farming, orchard, church and civic pursuits in Mount Airy and vicinity. And Dr. Lovill, in his chosen career, added further to a family with traditions stretching as far back as any in this county.

Fifty-three years—nearly 54 — in the medical profession is an achievement to point to with pride. As the TIMES said in Dr. Lovill's obituary last week, his career "spanned the era from horse and buggy to space rockets and saw some of

medical science's marvels." It stretched from businesses, by and large, to the present, to the present, and with the progress of medical science.

We suppose it could be said that Dr. Lovill was an old-fashioned doctor in that he knew his patients and their families well. He brought his knowledge to the world, and that was before them. His attitude: he knew his patients, warm, personal relationship, a physician and patient. His attitude was that he always sought his patients, no matter whether they were in a regular office or visiting at night.

By his service to his patients, he did honor to himself and his home. We are all proud of his efforts: we are all proud of his passing.



MISS ELIZABETH LOVILL Nearing Retirement

Miss Lovill To Retire As Librarian

"Miss Betty" Lovill, who has had several careers since graduating from Meredith College 52 years ago, will retire next Thursday as librarian of the Mount Airy Public Library.

The Mount Airy Library Board has appointed Mrs. Bruce Tharrington as the new librarian.

Miss Lovill, a tiny friendly woman who has lived in the Mount Airy section all her life, has held the librarian's post for seven years, having succeeded the late Mrs. C. M. Ball.

A native of the Pine Ridge community, off Highway 89 west of the city, Mary Elizabeth Lovill is the last of eight children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Lovill.

She had six older brothers, including Dr. Robert J. Lovill Sr., James, Grover, Will, Frank and Joe Lovill, all of whom were well-known Granite Citians. She had one younger sister, Sally, who was married to Dr. H. B. Rowe and later to John Deering.

Asked how tall she is, Miss Lovill replied with a laugh: "Barefooted, I'm about five feet. I used to be five-one, but I think

I've gone down a little."

Earlier in her career Miss Lovill was in the insurance business here for about 10 years.

Later on she was a secretary for 18 or 19 years at the G. C. Lovill Company, a wholesale grocery firm formerly in operation on North Main Street.

Miss Lovill has no plans on retiring as she looks back at her work at the library on Rockford Street.

"I've enjoyed my work very much," she said. "You meet a lot of people. I've met so many I never would have come into contact with otherwise.

"I've always loved books," she continued. "In the last few years we have had so many new things since we became a part of the regional library."

Miss Lovill said she is interested in many things. "I love to garden, particularly flowers and vegetables. I'd like to knit and do home work if I had the time. And I love to travel, of course.

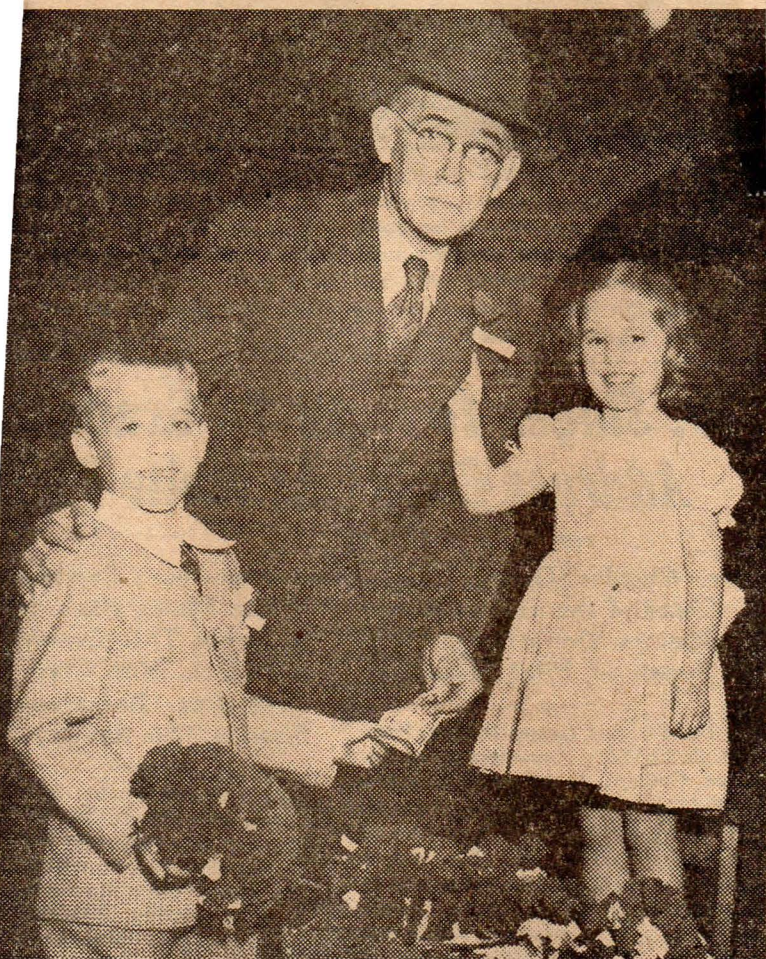
"I don't think I'll be bored; there are so many things to do."

RY TIMES

Mount Airy and Surry County

DAY, MAY 26, 1950

PURCHASES FIRST POPPY



Shown above are Robert Lovill, III, and Barbara Lovill, children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Lovill, Jr., of this city, as they are selling Mayor W. Frank Carter, Jr., the first American Legion-V.F.W. poppy. The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars are co-operating in the selling of the miniature poppies this year, the proceeds of which will aid disabled veterans and their families. These poppies are made by disabled veterans, and will be sold tomorrow by a number of high school girls. Mrs. R. J. Lovill, Sr. has been in charge of selling American Legion poppies in Mount Airy since the Auxiliary was organized in 1924. (Photo by DeCleve)