

## Surry Man's Work Finally Is Published

Almost 100 years ago a Surry County man wrote his adventures that now appear as "A Portion of My Life" by William M. Norman.

This autobiography, written in 1865 by Norman, a Confederate soldier while he was imprisoned on Johnson's Island in Lake Erie, was published last week by John F. Blair of Winston-Salem. The hitherto unpublished manuscript, brought to the publisher by a great-grandson of the author Gorrell E. Bass of Winston-Salem, has been a valued family possession since its author walked home with it from Ohio after the war.

It records the way one western North Carolinian grew up: his adventures, his study of law and his career as a captain in the Army. His career as a lawyer was soon interrupted and never again resumed when Norman decided to enlist in the Surry County militia to "fight for the liberties" of his country.

He was in three of the major battles of the Civil War and describes in detail what he saw and felt during the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. After being captured, Norman began his autobiography, hoping that his family would one day see it, and glossing over some of the hardships of prison life so that he might be permitted to take it away with him.

This is a book of details, not generalizations. Norman says he had with him for reference his diary of the Pennsylvania Campaign. His description of army life: the short rations, the sea-saw marching through swamps and mud, the battlefields covered with wounded and dead, give details which help to fill in the picture of events taking place during the years 1861 to 1863.

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## W. Norman Dies, Cumberland

### Well Known Merchant Passes On Dec. 14

CUMBERLAND, Dec. 19—James Watson Norman, 69, well known citizen and merchant, died at his home near Cumberland Friday, December 14, following several months illness with heart disease. He was born at Rockford, N. C., March 3, 1865, the son of Capt. W. M. and Mrs. Lettie Norman. He married Miss Almedia Casteaus, of Mt. Nebo, N. C., on October 8, 1885, after which they made their home at Dobson, N. C., about fourteen years ago, he lived with his family to Cumberland where he has taken an active part in church and civic affairs. He was a faithful member of Oak Grove Baptist church.

A man of cheerful disposition, Mr. Norman had many friends in this section.

He is survived by his widow, three daughters, Mrs. Sam Hicks, Adkinville, N. C.; Mrs. J. L. Atkins, Cumberland; Mrs. G. M. Emerson, Dobson, N. C.; two sons, W. T. Norman, Cumberland; Sgt. R. W. Norman, Ft. Hancock, N. J.; four sister, Mrs. J. H. Holyfield, Dobson, N. C.; Mrs. J. C. Bass, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Mrs. Matthews, Siloam, N. C.; Mrs. C. W. Key, Pinnacle, N. C.; brother, S. J. Norman, Pinnacle, N. C., and 24 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Dobson, N. C. conducted by Rev. S. T. Draughan, assisted by Rev. J. W. Calloway, V. M. Swain, of Winston-Salem, N. C., and Rev. [unclear] Interment was in the [unclear] at Dobson, N. C.

November 16, 1976

#### NORMAN

Mrs. Letitia Norman Norman, age 97, of 2259 Marble Street, the widow of Joe R. Norman, passed away Mon-

day morning at the Winston-Salem Convalescent Center. She was born in Surry County to Captain William M. and Letitia Holyfield Norman. She was a member of Mountain Park Baptist Church. She taught school in Surry County during her early years. She was the daughter of Captain William M. Norman the author of "A Portion of My Life". She made her home with her niece, Mrs. Lola Bass Jones of 2259 Marble Street, since 1962. Surviving are three stepdaughters, Mrs. Maggie Wall of Pinnacle, N. C., Mrs. Ruby Norton of Clear Water, Fla. and Mrs. Ruth Howell of Elkin, N. C. and a number of nieces and nephews. A prayer service will be held Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Vogler's Main Street Chapel and funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday at the Rockford Baptist Church with burial following in the church cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 7 until 9 p.m. Tuesday evening.

WANT ADS

## Obituary

#### FLOSSIE N. ATKINS

Mrs. Flossie (Norman) Atkins, 90, of 2 Bel Aire Avenue, widow of Jesse Atkins, died July 4, 1983, in a Nashua hospital following a long illness.

She was born in Rockford, N.C., February 9, 1893, a daughter of the late James W. and Almedia (Casteaus) Norman.

She was a former school teacher in North Carolina. Mrs. Atkins had been a resident of Merrimack since 1956 having resided in Virginia and Washington, D.C., before moving to Merrimack.

She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

Members of her family include two daughters and son-in-laws, Mrs. Jessie A. (Peggy) Paolucci, wife of Felix J. Paolucci, of Merrimack, with whom she made her home, Mrs. Percy Dunham, wife of Jimmy Dunham, of Fairfax, Va.; one step-grandson, Capt. Donald C. Paolucci, U.S.N. Retired of San Diego, Calif.; two brothers, W.T. Norman, of Cumberland, Va., and Rush W. Norman, of Dobson, N.C.; also several nephews, nieces and cousins.

Funeral services were held July 6, 1983 in the Chapel of the George R. Rivet Funeral Home.

Rev. John Evans, Pastor of the First Congregational Church, officiated.

A committal service and encryption were held July 8, 1983 at the Fort Line Cemetery Mausoleum, Idenburg, Maryland.

Bladensburg, July

FVI  
Helena's death  
(Daddy's widow)  
was  
1-20-99