

COMMUNITY NO

Dobson



Hester
Jackson

386-8766

DOBSON MOURNS ALBERTY

Dobson is mourning the death of Thelmore Alberty, who died suddenly last week.

Mr. Alberty had become something of an elder statesman in Dobson because he was of an age at 90 that he was the one people went to to ask what happened when, who was involved and what went on in the community. He always had the answers. He knew the history of Dobson, he knew the people, knew human nature and was just a wealth of information.

Mr. Alberty was deeply devoted to his church, Fairview Baptist Church, where the funeral was held and he was buried. It is a beautiful church and many people say he did quite a bit for his church.

He also had a deep interest in the Masons and put a lot of enthusiasm into that and seemed to enjoy it very much.

He had done a lot for many people, many of whom kept telling what he had done for them.

He and his wife, Alma, were interested in some of the Dobson organizations, especially the senior citizens, where they joined with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Mr. Alberty was born at Fairview and moved to Dobson at some point, where he ran a store and became prosperous. He had other business interests, including fuel oil, seeds and feeds and so forth.

He descends from Frederick Alberti, who was born in 1755 in Italy. There was some kind of insurrection there, so he fled to Austria, then to Germany and then came to Surry County and served in the Revolution. He first had land at Bethania and then came to the Fairview section of Surry.

It is interesting to note that the red hair some of the descendants had came from Frederick.

He had a lot of good tales. One told of his early days in going to school. He walked from Fairview to where Glenn Snow now lives to meet the bus.

Mr. Alberty will be remembered with affection and admiration for all he did for this area.



Fig. Marvin Dockery (Rev. Adams' stepson) seated Rev. N.H. Adams and Elizabeth Setliff Dockery Adams and B.S. Bessie Adams.

he caskets, furniture and mirror frames to

in the early 1900's he built the former Joe H. es home. He handcarved the decorations trimmings for the porch post. This house was in fair condition and is now owned by his grandson, Don R. Adams, who married his youngest daughter.

N.H. made most of his carpentering tools, of which was a plane that he handed down to his son, B.S. This plane is now in the possession of N.H.'s grandson Don R. Adams, who uses it in his trade as a carpenter. N.H. was also a Baptist preacher. In 1910, the Union Cross Baptist Ch. organized its first day School with N.H. Adams as their first superintendent.

N.H. b. May 15, 1849, was the youngest son of John Woodruff Adams (1813-1878) and Catherin Woodruff Adams (1815-1891). His paternal grandparents have been traced back to James Woodruff Sr. born ? — died ca. 1800.

Not much is known about his father's people. N.H.'s son B.S. once said that he was married to Dr. Finney of Boonville N.C. Dr. Finney's mother was Molly Adams. N.H. had a few children named Mahlon who visited them. According to the 1860 Surry County Census N.H.'s brothers were (1) John A. Adams b. 1842, (2) W.H. Adams b. 1843, (3) J.S. (Joel Setliff) b. 1845, (4) C.J. Adams b. 1846, (5) James A. Adams b. 1848. The Census records do not state whether C.J. was male or female.

John A. Adams married Martha Rebecca Hurt, daughter of Joel and Dicey Hurt. Joel d. Aug. 1917, and is buried at Old Hollow Primitive

Baptist Church, Mt. Airy, N.C.

N.H. was married twice; his first marriage was to Louise Burch b. Jan. 1, 1846 and d. Nov. 23, 1897. Their children were (1) Martha Margaret b. April 17, 1869 and d. May 22, 1872. (2) Lilly L. b. April 27, 1871 d. March 26, 1942 married J.B. Holyfield. (3) Nathaniel Chapman (Chap) b. July 4, 1882 d. at age 18. Martha Margaret, Chap and Louise are buried in the Island Ford Baptist Church Cem. in Yadkin County.

N.H.'s second marriage was to Elizabeth (Aunt Bettie) Setliff Dockery. Bettie was b. in 1864, the daughter of John J. and Catherin V.L. Kirby Setliff Jr. (See article John J. Setliff Jr.) Bettie's parents owned several bee hives producing honey to sell. Her mother didn't want the children eating much of the honey. One day Bettie's love for the honey possessed her to slip around and eat a big bait. She got strangled on the honey cone and could not breathe. This ended her love for the taste of honey.

Bettie m. first Hasten (Cal) Dockery May 8, 1881 in Dockery Chapel. Five children: (1) Thomas Luther m. Lovora Stanley, (2) Susan (Susie) m. William Columbus Nicholas, (3) Nelia Melinda m. Thomas Edger (Brother) Stanley, (4) Talmage m. Mary Elizabeth Moncus, (5) Marvin, d. at age 18.

Bettie was a well educated person. Although she did not have a Doctor's degree in medicine, her knowledge of medicine was well known to all in the Union Cross Community. Therefore she was called on to doctor many sick neighbors, friends and family members. She was also a midwife, delivering many

babies.

N.H. and Bettie m. May 20, 1898 by the Rev. R.P. Corum. They made their home next door to the Union Cross Baptist Church. N.H. and Bettie had two children: (1) Bausie Spurgeon b. Aug. 12, 1900 m. Tallie Elizabeth Burton. He d. May 17, 1978. (2) Bessie Euthla b. Aug. 22, 1905 m. Gene Burchette; she d. in 1976. From these three marriages there were a total of ten children, which consisted of his children, her children and their children. It was N.H.'s desire that when his time came to die he would be in a pulpit preaching. This desire came to pass on Nov. 29, 1912, in the Union Cross Baptist Church, where he was holding a revival. Just as he was getting up from kneeling in prayer, he pulled out his pocket watch to check the time and fell over dead from a heart attack. He is buried in the Union Cross Baptist Church Cem.

Bettie was left with two small children to raise. She continued living at Union Cross, rearing her children by herself. After their son B.S. was married, Bettie made her home with him and his family, where she lived until her death on Aug. 13, 1934. She is also buried in the Union Cross Baptist Church Cem.

Sources: Surry County Census; Adams' family Bible; interviews with family members.

— Jo Jones Adams

THE ALBERTY FAMILY

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Frederick Alberty (Alberti) was born ca. 1755 in Italy where he later became a government official. There was an insurrection of some kind there and Alberti fled, first to Austria, then to Germany where he became a Captain in the German Army. There he became involved in a duel in which he killed the other man. Again he fled, this time to America, just in time to serve in the American Revolution.

For this service he received grants of 400 acres of land on Mill Creek (now Forsyth Co.) near Bethania and another 300 acres nearby in the years 1778, 1779 respectively.

Frederick Alberty was married three times. The name of his first wife is unknown, but according to the Moravian Records, Bethania Diary, Alberty asked the Moravian Minister to hold funeral services for his wife who died at "12.00, May 3, 1781."

Frederick married again on March 29, 1788 to Elizabeth Roper. In the 1790 U.S. Census, Frederick had two boys under ten years of age. In 1800 he had two sons under 16 and two sons under ten and two daughters.

The names of these children were: Nathan, Moses, Mary and Frances. Two of the males names are unknown. Mary "Polly" married Robert Marion June 1, 1823. Moses married Mary "Polly" Coe May 26, 1828. Frances married Jacob Trese, Feb. 21, 1817 and Nathan married Rebecca Bray March 15, 1832.

The other two sons of Frederick went to SC where they married Indian maidens. They went with the Indians on the enforced trek to OK and there changed the surname from Alberty to West. One of their children married a Rogers and from them descended Will Rogers. This information came from Mrs. Turner, a librari-

From: Surry Co. NC Heritage Book

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an in Shackleford County, Texas.

It is not known what happened to Moses or Frances, but Nathan Alberty and His sister Polly Marion came into present day Surry and remained the rest of their lives.

Nathan and Rebecca Alberty

Nathan Alberty, born to Frederick, April 11, 1812, came to present day Surry and married Rebecca Bray in 1832. He joined the Primitive Baptist church the same year. He was called to preach in 1846. His ability to preach was attested by Elder Johnny Jones.

Nathan's wife Rebecca Bray was the daughter of David Bray, Jr. and Nelly Wheales. David was the son of David Bray and the grandson of Peter Bray who came to VA from England and married into a wealthy Scott family. Peter and family came in NC in North Hampton Co., then Warren Co. and some of them eventually came to Surry. It was said that Peter Bray had red hair and a somewhat fiery temper. The red hair has shown up in some of his descendants.

Nathan and Rebecca had seven children: Martha Ellen Alberty born July 26, 1839 married Edward Bray May 16, 1857. Emilia Alberty born May 19, 1840. No other information. Lemuel Alberty born May 11, 1842 married Lucinda White Jan. 22, 1864. Jerusha Alberty born Aug. 31, 1844 married King Hiram Bray in 1869. Armita Alberty born Nov. 22, 1846 married Willie White Oct. 8, 1867. Rebecca Alberty born Feb. 20, 1849 married Jim Melton. Naomi Alberty born Dec. 18, 1850 never married.

The tax list of 1884 shows Nathan Alberty with sixteen sheep, eight head of cattle, three sows, two horses and three or four hundred acres of land. Taxes were \$42.00.

Preacher Nathan Alberty and one of his in-laws fell out about something. The in-law took sick and sent for Preacher Nathan to pray for him. Nathan went and prayed and the in-law said, "Now, if I get well, things will still be quarrelsome between us, but if I die, we will be friends forever."

Lemuel and Lucinda Alberty

Lemuel Alberty, born May 11, 1842 to Nathan and Rebecca, married Lucinda White Jan. 2, 1864 who was born Jan. 4, 1842. To them were born seven children: Hewell, Laura, Newton, Winston, Nannie, Nathan, and Etacie.

Hewell M. Alberty born Oct. 15, 1864 married Cleve Snow, Jan. 20, 1889. Their children were: Sherman, Edward, Oscar, Nannie, Armita, Laura Bett and Gertrude Alberty.

Laura E. Alberty born May 18, 1866 married Joseph Gentry in March 1888. Their children were: Letcher, Betty Everette, Esther, Elmer, Corbett, Nannie, Emma and Leo Gentry.

Newton Alberty born July 20, 1870 died at three years of age.

Winston Lafayette Alberty married Elizabeth Holyfield Feb. 29, 1895. Their children were: Ila who married John Pilson, Floyd Alberty who married 1. Lola Stanley, 2. Jessie Jones

and Warren Alberty who married Mary Viola Johnson.

Nancy Rebecca "Nannie" Alberty, born Jan. 10, 1875, married Robert Snow and had one child, Vertie who married Arlis Coe.

Nathan Everette Alberty born May 17, 1877 married Oct. 10, 1906 Nancy Lou, "Nannie" Layne and had children Thelmore born Feb. 6, 1909 married Ida Shackleford and had children Nathan Edward and Nancy Elizabeth Alberty, Pansy Louvena Alberty who married Claude Poindexter and had children Alma Mae, Everette John and Joy Poindexter, and Era Ferris Alberty who married John Allen Snow and had children, Helen Willis and Jonathan Snow.

Sources: Moravian Records, Family Bible, Surry Land Records, VA Records.

— Thelmore Alberty

LEMUEL BRAMLET ALBERTY

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Lemuel Bramlet Alberty was born on 11 May 1842 in Surry County, the only son of Nathan and Rebecca Bray Alberty. He was educated in the local schools and brought up in a religious home.

Lemuel had six sisters: Emilia, Martha Elen, Jerusha, Aramitta, Rebecca, and Naomi. His father Nathan Alberty (1812-1896) was pastor of Cody Creek Primitive Baptist Church for fifty years. Rebecca, his mother, was the daughter of David and Elender Nellie Wheelas Bray of Cody Creek in Surry County. Nathan and Rebecca were married on 15 May 1832.

Lemuel Alberty served in the Civil War as a Private in Company A, 28th Regiment of the North Carolina Troops. He enlisted at the age of 19 on March 18, 1862. He was captured while in the hospital at Richmond on April 3, 1865, then confined at Newport News on or about April 23, 1865. He was finally released on June 30, 1865 after taking the oath of allegiance.

Lemuel married Lucinda White, the daughter of Robert and Nancy Snow White, on January 22, 1864. They lived near Pigeonroost Creek. Their children were: Huel M. (b. 15 October 1864), Laura Ellen (b. 18 May 1866 — 13 June 1948), Newton Winfield (b. 20 July 1870 — 12 October 1873), Winston Lafayette (b. 23 October 1872 — 23 February 1960), Nancy Rebecca (b. 10 January 1874 — 21 March 1965), Nathan Everette (b. 17 May 1877 — 22 March 1925), Lavada Etacie (b. 27 September 1879 — 16 January 1967).

Lemuel Alberty was considered as a model citizen, an honorable and fine Christian man. He is remembered for his kindness to people in need and his gentle and humane ways.

Lemuel's great-grandfather Frederick Alberty was listed in the 1784 Wilkes County tax list and 1790 census records as a citizen of Surry County. Frederick Alberty was in the Continental Line of the Revolutionary War from North Carolina. He saw action in the Battle of Brandywine and Germantown. He was honorably discharged after serving five years and three months in the army and held the rank and commissions of an ensign in the Company of Captain J. Phillips of the 4th North Carolina

Regiment under Colonel Thomas P. received a pension from the United States Government as a result of his service.

According to family legend he returned from the American colonies from Italy in 1800. Through three marriages he had nine children and is reported to be the patriarch of the Albertys in America.

Lemuel Alberty died on May 5, 1923. Lucinda died December 5, 1923. Buried at Liberty Primitive Baptist Church.

Sources: Revolutionary War Pension Application, Frederick Alberty, *North Carolina Troops in the Revolution* by Weymouth T. Jordan, Jr., tombstone records, relatives, and private collections. Money, great-granddaughter of Lemuel B. Alberty.

— Ellen Lowmyer

VINCENZO ALFANO "BIG JIM"

This family history tells the story of Surry County's first immigrant family. In the early 20th Century, as well as in the 19th, the county was affected by economic conditions during those years.

Our story begins in Lanzara, Italy, a village near Naples in the province of Caserta. In 1884, Anthony Alfano fathered a son named Vincenzo, who was later known in Surry County as "Big Jim." This is the Vincenzo "Big Jim" Alfano, as told by his son Ugo, who lives today in Flat Rock in the county in which he was born.

When he was 10 or 11 years old, Vincenzo began his apprenticeship as a stone carver in Lanzara. He trained under local artists doing carving and repair work for churches and cathedrals throughout the region. After completing his apprenticeship in 1895, he went to Egypt to work on a dam. For the next five years he cut and dressed stone for this dam. He did not do any carving. He came to the United States from Egypt in 1907, settling in White Plains, New York. Here he worked as a carver for monument shops, working in marble, sandstone, building stone, and granite.

In 1908 Vincenzo returned to Lanzara to marry Martha Avella, whom he had known since at least three years. He was 24 and she was 18 when they were united in a wedding. Unlike many marriages at that time, this marriage was not arranged by the families, but rather was forged in the devotion and sacrifice required by their long separation. Though not well-to-do, Vincenzo was considered prosperous by Italian standards of the time. Employment prospects were not good in Italy, which had been suffering from a depressed economy for years with no real improvement. By comparison, America had begun to industrialize and offered a better future for those who were willing to work hard regardless of where they came from.

So Vincenzo returned to America in 1908, leaving Martha behind, who by then was carrying their first child Edward, who was born in Lanzara in 1909. He first went to White Plains, but soon moved to Philadelphia.

Dear Lessie:

I hope you can accept my surname information. I was receiving the journal through December of 2001. I am today sending my check for my annual dues for the year 2002 and upcoming 2003. I am in hopes I will receive the previous issues this year, 2002, of the journal.

The names I am researching are Wilmoth, White, Alberty, Laster/Lassiter, Bray, Snow, Riggs & Coe. I have a special heartfelt interest in my great grandparents James Ruffin Wilmoth and Mildred Armitie White, and especially my great-great aunt **Naomi E. Alberty**. She seems to be a somewhat forgotten member of our heritage. She had no children of her own, but she raised my grandmother, Mildred Armitie White, after her mother's death. I am in hopes of piecing Naomi's life together so she will be remembered. She was the granddaughter of Nathaniel David Alberty, a well respected man of Surry County, and daughter of Ida Armitie C. Alberty who married William M. White and died soon after Mildred's birth.

My checks are going out this afternoon in the mail. Also, can you please find out how I might get previous issues of Surry County Journal. I believe your Journal and genealogical association is the best I have ever come across. I thank you all so much for your commitment and great efforts.

Also, I have met with and spoken to Agnes Wells. She has been most helpful to me in my efforts. For the past year I have had to slow down on my research due to a terminal illness in our family. But I so want to get back into my hobby. I do love it so much.

Well, thank you for your time. Let me know if this will be a problem or if you have any questions or concerns for me.

Respectfully, Cheryl Wilmoth Whittle, RN
Gr-Granddaughter of James Ruffin Wilmoth
and Mildred Armitie White

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