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My humble tribute to a true friend and
wonderful citizen.... William M. Johnson

Fifty five years ago I was a student in the Mount Airy School, also that year Mr. J. E. Johnson with his family moved here and took over the Mount Airy News. It was then his son Will became a member of the same class with me, and since that time, so long ago, we have been friends.

I remember Will as a good student, and he helped me with some of the subjects which to him were easy, but to me, quite a problem. To know a man for 55 years - to be friends through it all, and never remembering him say a harsh word against anyone, and yet take a decided stand always for what he believed to be right; to me it is so very fine.

Today, Mount Airy pays tribute to a man who gave over half a century in the publication of the Mount Airy News, with the primary motive being toward making this a better community in which to live. How many times I have talked with Will about civic and public affairs; he always would tell you what he believed and why. He wanted Mount Airy to be the best and finest, this he worked for.....this he printed in his paper.

Today, because he was one of us, and did so very much in his quiet and honorable way through the half century now gone, we will always cherish and pay tribute to his memory.

I am sure I speak for all our community to say to the family of William M. Johnson, "always remember and cherish the high esteem and regard that we all had and have for such a grand citizen".

W. F. CARTER, JR.
Mayor