

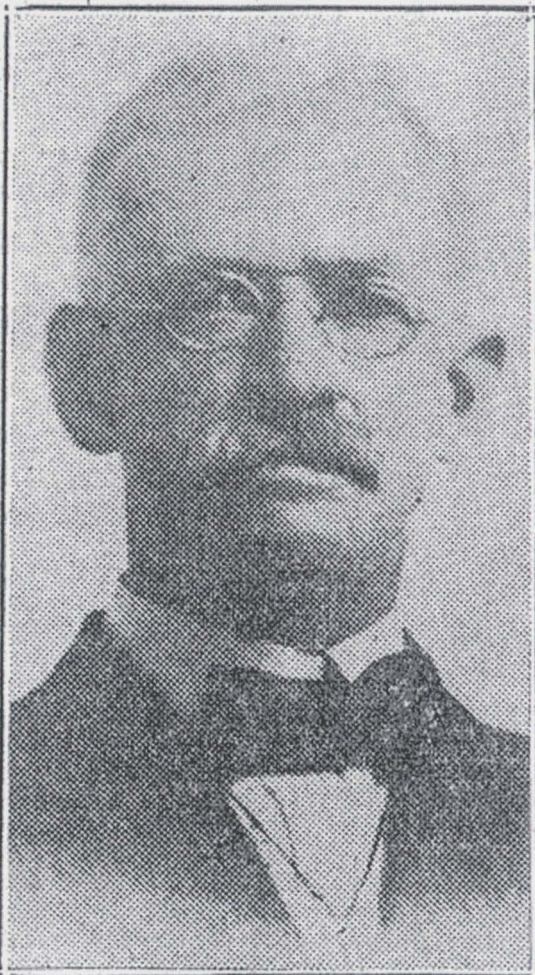
# First Appendix Operation Performed By Dr. Royal in Yadkin Home in 1895

Dr. M. A. Royal, mayor of Elkin, and state Senator from his district from 1892 to 1896, still practicing his profession of medicine, is accorded the distinction of having performed the first operation for appendicitis in North Carolina.

Dr. Royal was born in Yadkinville in 1872. A brilliant student, he graduated from Baltimore Medical College in 1885, the year the Twin City Daily began publication, and began the practice of his profession at Hamptonville. He rode mud-fested roads, braved storm-swollen streams, braved snows and bitter cold to provide relief for the suffering. In his unerring loyalty to his patients he spent many nights with patients in precarious condition, and watched at the death bed when medical science could offer no aid. He was loved throughout the country side. Later he moved from Hamptonville to Yadkinville. There in 1895 he performed the remarkable feat of an appendix operation—the first in the state. It was in the early spring that he was called to the home of one of his closest friends, Charles A. Cozart. The patient was suffering from an unnamed malady, which had cost the life of many—later known as appendicitis. A famous surgeon, Dr. John B. Deaver, had discovered an operation which would relieve a large percent of the patients, and Dr. Royal went immediately to this surgeon, after administering the usual treatment to Mr. Cozart. Returning from the North, where he had attended a polyclinic and learned the essentials for a successful operation.

Returning to his friend at the Cozart home at Lone Hickory in Yadkin, he prepared for the operation. And what a setting! A kitchen table for an operating table and only the dim light of a dining room lamp to aid his nimble and sensitive fingers. Dr. Dan Holcomb, Dr. Bob Hauser and Dr. Peak were there to help and to witness the remarkable treatment. The operation was suc-

Dr. M. A. Royal



Dr. Royal performed the first operation for appendicitis in the Charles Cozart home in Yadkin county in 1895.

cessful and Mr. Cozart returned to excellent health.

Dr. Royal kept abreast with the progress of medicine and surgery, and in 1913 changes were so rapid that much had changed in the practice. So he returned to "school" and returned, removing to Elkin, as an eye, ear and nose specialist.

**Twin City Sentinel dated May 4, 1935**

ROYAL, James Dewitt  
MOUNT AIRY TIMES - Fri., March 10, 1939

*Royal*

*(family file)*

## James Royal, 24, Interred Monday

Funeral rites for James Dewitt Royal, 24, employee of the Chatham manufacturing company of Elkin, resident of the State Road community, who passed away at his home on Sunday morning after an illness caused from pneumonia, were conducted from the Mountain Park Baptist church at eleven o'clock Monday morning.

Mr. Royal is survived by his wife, Mrs. Louise Shore Royal; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Royal, of Thurmond; one brother, C. M. Royal; and three sisters, Mrs. Houston Wilmoth, of Thurmond; Mrs. Paul Harris, of Mountain Park; and Mrs. Clarence Darnell, of Elkin.