

Granite City Man Has Watched Boys March to Wars

By Luther N. Byrd
(Special to The Journal and Sentinel)

Mount Airy - Joseph H. Fulton, 88, one of Mount Airy's pioneer businessmen and one of the Granite City's oldest living citizen's, watched his grandson, Joe Fulton Norwood, leave here last week for service in World War II, and he recalled that he had watched Mount Airy's young men go away for service in four of America's major wars.

"I am one of the few, and perhaps the only one living, who watched the Mount Airy and Surry county boys march away to the Civil War in '61," he declared, and he recalled that the Boys in Gray went away on foot when they left here to join Lee and his army of Northern Virginia.

All Volunteered

"There were three or four companies of those boys who left here in 1861, and they had all volunteered and joined their comrades at the old muster ground on Lebanon Hill. They camped and drilled for several weeks near the old Lebanon Methodist Church, their camp being about where the home of G. L. Simmons now stands," Mr. Fulton recalled.

He told of the boys drilling with all types of guns, old flint-lock muskets, shotguns and other weapons, and he further told of the making of their uniforms by their wives and mothers, stating that "the first sewing machine I ever saw was at Parson William Rawley's home, where several women were busy making the uniforms for the companies of Surry men."

He further recalled the great barbecue and picnic for those Civil War soldiers on the day before they marched away to battle, telling the hundreds of friends and relatives who gathered from all over the section at the old muster ground, and he recalled, too, how he as a very small boy awoke early the next morning and walked from his father's home north of Mount Airy to see the departure.

Left Their Guns

"The boys left their old guns here and marched away on foot, down through Mount Airy and out the old Westfield road toward Danville, Va.," he said. The Mount Airy companies were issued guns and full equipment in Danville and later joined Lee in time to participate in the first battle of Manassas in the summer of 1861.

Mr. Fulton did not recall all the leaders of the Mount Airy companies, but data from "The History of Surry County," compiled by Jesse Hollingsworth, reveals that four companies were formed here in the spring of 1861, the four companies combined including 295 men when they were mustered into service. All four companies were strengthened by later additions, and a total of nearly 500 men from this section saw service in them during the four years of the Civil War.

Four Companies

The Hollingsworth history reveals that the four Mount Airy companies were company "A," 28th North Carolina infantry, commanded by Captain Richard E. Reeves and later by Captain Romulus S. Folger; company "C," 21st North Carolina infantry, commanded by Captain B. Y. Graves and later by Captain Boyd Snow; company "H," 21st North

Carolina infantry, commanded by Captain J. R. Waugh and later by Captain Andrew P. Shores; and company "I," 21st North Carolina infantry, commanded first by Captain John C. Gilmer and later by Captain M. L. Patterson.

The county history and recollections of older citizens show that no organized companies left for the Spanish-American War in 1898, although there were many individual volunteers who left Mount Airy and Surry county to serve with the American troops in Cuba and the Philippines and on other tropical battle fronts.

These recollections stir similar memories for hundred of persons in Mount Airy who can recall seeing the Granite City's old company "I," of the North Carolina national guard, leave here by train for service on the Mexican border in 1916 and later in 1917 for service with the A. E. F. in World War I.

Andy Key

Mount Airy. - Andy Martin Key, 82, of the White Plains community, died at the Martin Memorial Hospital here Saturday morning.

Mr. Key was born January 3, 1860, the son of Rans and Nancy Edmunds Key. His wife died in 1930.

He is survived by six sons, two daughters, 25 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. The sons are Richard Key of the Hawaiian Islands; Stoneman Key of Richmond, Va.; Walter Key of Chula, Va., and John, Rufus and Wilson Key all of Mount Airy, Route 4; the daughters are Mrs.

Charles Thiel of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. James Stede of Boydton, Va.

Funeral services will be held from the White Plains Friends Church at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, with Rev. D. D. Hodges and Rev. L. W. McFarland officiating. Burial will be in the Dover Primitive Baptist Church cemetery.

Willis W. Hodges

Mount Airy. - Willis Ward Hodges, 72, of Mount Airy Route 3, died last night at 7:30 o'clock at a Winston-Salem hospital after a long illness of a heart ailment.

The funeral will be held Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at Antioch Baptist Church. Rev. Hubert Hawks will conduct the services. Burial will be in the church graveyard.

Surviving are the widow, the former Miss Tabitha E. Sutphin; six sons, Floyd Hodges of Galax, Va.; Major, Ward, John Jahue and Gurney Hodges of Mount Airy; one daughter, Mrs. Leonard Shaw of Mount Airy; 18 grandchildren; one brother, Wiley Hodges and one sister, Miss Mattie Hodges, both of Mount Airy.

(The Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel dated August 16, 1942)

(Typed by Wilma J. Hiatt)

Daughter of Col. Fulton Has Seen Five Wars, Sadness

Mrs. E. K. Byrd, of Bristol, Va., looked back across a lifetime that has spanned five wars and much of the sunshine and sadness that are the lot of mankind as she celebrated her 97th birthday Wednesday, June 25. Though nearly deaf, her eyesight failing and her step infirm, Mrs. Byrd still takes pleasure in the little everyday things around her.

Two nephews, Edward McKinney and Charlie Fulton, of Mount Airy, went to Bristol to share her birthday cake with her, though she left the candles off this year. She insisted on being assisted upstairs as birthday "dissipation."

Mrs. Byrd and her brother, Joseph Hollingsworth Fulton, of Mount Airy, who is 94, are the only surviving members of a family of ten children.

Mrs. Byrd was born in Mount Airy on June 25, 1850, the daughter of Col. Winston Fulton and was a child of eleven when the manhood of the South rallied round the "bonny blue flag" and marched away to defend the cause of the Confederacy.

"I remember when the men met in the square at Mount Airy and left for the battlefields," Mrs. Byrd said. "I couldn't understand why everyone was crying because I was too young then to know what war meant. I learned something of its meanings before the South laid down its arms. Mount Airy was taken by the Federals, though there wasn't even a railroad there, and there was much fighting in the vicinity.

"My father was a farmer and when the Yankees were near he sent all the slaves to the mountains and hid our

meat and everything else of value by burying it in the fields. The Yankees took everything in sight when they came through but our own men were almost as bad. My mother had a saddle horse, "Mike", which had been harnessed to plow the garden but when the Yankees saw him they demanded that he be unhitched, a saddle provided and then rode away on him.

"Soldiers of both sides were continually coming and going through the town and my father often took them in when they were footsore and weary, regardless of the uniforms they wore. Many times a Yankee or a Rebel repaid his hospitality by stealing everything in the room they occupied that could be carried away."

Moravian Taught Her

Educated at the old Moravian school at Winston-Salem, 40 miles from Mount Airy, she became the bride of E. K. Byrd on February 17, 1874, and went with him to Bristol two months later. Mr. Byrd established the Fulton-Sparger-Byrd cotton factory, an early industry no longer in existence, and continued to operate it for a number of years.

After closing the cotton factory project, Mr. and Mrs. Byrd traveled extensively in every state in the union and made their home for a period of time on a ranch in New Mexico, which she liked very much, and in Texas. They returned to Bristol when Mr. Byrd's health began to fail.

Forty-seven years ago they built the home in Bristol Mrs. Byrd now occupies. "Rose street was just a lane then and it was on the outskirts of the city," she recalls. "It didn't even have a name at that time but soon became known as Rose Street because of the

many wild roses that grew all around.
The name has stuck."

Mother of Four Children

Mrs. Byrd became the mother of four children, three of whom died in infancy. Her husband died April 13, 1923, at the age of 83. Her only surviving daughter is Mrs. Kemble. She has two grandchildren, Mrs. Evelyn Kemble Pharr, of Charlotte and Billy Kemble of Bristol, and two great-grandchildren.

A member of a Bristol Methodist Church for 63 years, Mrs. Byrd is no longer able to attend services though she is a devout woman. She can no longer enjoy reading her Bible because of failing sight but she strains to hear the words of the Scriptures when her pastor and other friends read to her. She likes to listen to broadcast sermons and news programs on the radio but has difficulty hearing unless the volume is turned very high.

(Mrs. E. K. Byrd is the daughter of Col. Winston Fulton and sister of two well known Mount Airy citizens, J. H. Fulton and the late J. M. Fulton)

(The Mount Airy News dated July 11, 1947)

(Submitted by Esther Johnson, typed
by Wilma J. Hiatt)

Bristol Loses Prominent Aged Citizen

Funeral services for E. K. Byrd, aged 88 years, one of Bristol, Va.'s oldest and most highly respected citizens was conducted from the residence last Saturday afternoon the Rev. J. Stewart French, D. D., in charge of the services.

Mr. Byrd was reared near Burnsville, N. C., and located in Bristol in the summer of 1878 following his marriage to Miss Nannie Fulton, of Mount Airy, in February of the same year. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary four years ago.

Mr. Byrd was descended from the prominent Byrd family of Virginia and was also a descendant of General Hampton. His grandfather was one of the first settlers of what is now Avery and Mitchell counties of this state. He was a successful business man retiring from active business only about ten years ago. He was a Confederate veteran serving throughout the entire war making a gallant record and participating in many of the fiercest struggles of the conflict between the states.

His widow, a sister of Messrs. J. M. and J. H. Fulton of this city, one daughter, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild survive. He was the last survivor of a family of fourteen children.

(The Mount Airy News dated April 19, 1923)

Household Record 1880 United States Census Bristol, Sullivan, Tennessee

Household:

**Name Relation Marital Status Gender Race Age Birthplace Occupation
Father's Birthplace Mother's Birthplace**

E. K. BIRD Self M Male W 39 NC Drummer NC NC

Nannie BIRD Wife M Female W 35 NC Keeps House NC NC

Mary BIRD Dau S Female W 2 TN NC NC

