

EDWIN M. HOLLINGSWORTH, M.D.

Few families have contributed more capable members to the medical profession than the Hollingsworths. For a period of at least seventy years the name has been identified with the medical profession in Surry county. Dr. Edwin M. Hollingsworth of Mount Airy has practiced medicine in that community over thirty years and was in a sense successor of his father, who did the work of a pioneer physician, beginning many years before the war. The ancestor of this widely dispersed family in the southern states is believed to have been born in Scotland and on coming to America lived out the rest of his life in Virginia. *came to America with Mr. Penn settled in Maryland*

His son James Hollingsworth, a native of Virginia and grandfather of Dr. Edwin M. Hollingsworth, grew up on a farm and when a young man came to North Carolina and bought a large tract of land on *Toms* ~~Town~~ Creek in Surry county. He had a number of slaves to perform the duties and offices of the farm and household, and he lived in that community prosperous and influential until his death. James Hollingsworth married Elizabeth Golding, who was born in that part of Surry now Stokes county. They *had six* ~~reared five~~ sons, named *James* Joseph, Edward, John, William and Isaac, and also five daughters, Mary, Eliza, Sally, Martha and Nannie. The sons Joseph, Edwin and William were all graduates of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia and were all widely known and successful physicians.

Dr. Joseph Hollingsworth, father of the Mount Airy physician first named above, was born on a plantation ten miles southeast of Mount Airy February 27, 1820. A finer type of the hard working, high minded and conscientious physician the annals of North Carolina medicine does not afford. As a youth he attended the schools at Germanton, and he began his medical studies under Dr. Beverly Jones. From Dr. Jones office he entered Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia, where he completed the course in 1847. Returning to Mount Airy he began the labors which were continued with little interruption for nearly forty years. Mount Airy was then an isolated country community, no railroads having yet been constructed into this section of North Carolina. The only highways were rough trails over the hills, and Dr. Hollingsworth went through all the fatiguing duties and hardships of the old time country practitioner. He wore out many horses in the course of his long rides and drives, and in the saddle bags he carried all the medicines and was apothecary as well as physician. Not long after the war broke out he was commissioned on August 31, 1861, second assistant surgeon of the Eleventh Regiment, North Carolina Troops, then stationed at Manassas. He rode his horse from Mount Airy to Manassas, and at once began his duties among his fellow North Carolinians. His first commission was signed by Henry T. Clark, governor ex officio. On January 11, 1862, he was commissioned surgeon of the Seventy-

third Regiment, Eighteenth Brigade, North Carolina Troops, also by Henry T. Clark, who by virtue of his office as speaker of the Senate was also ex officio governor and captain general and commander in chief of the state troops. In May, 1862, Dr. Hollingsworth was commissioned surgeon of the Eighteenth Brigade, with the rank of major. This commission was signed by Governor Z. B. Vance.

He went through the war, giving all the aid and encouragement he could to the Southern army, and when hostilities closed he resumed his arduous work as a country practitioner at Mount Airy. This work was continued practically until his death, at the age of sixty-seven. He was an influential man in the Democratic party, always did his duty at the polls, and served one term in the State Legislature, but refused a second nomination.

Aug. 1847

Dr. Joseph Hollingsworth married Mary Banner, who was born in Stokes county, North Carolina, February 5, 1827. Her ^{Charles} grandfather, Elisha Banner, was a planter and a man of prominence in public affairs, representing his county in the State

Legislature. John E. Banner, her father, was also a planter and slave owner, and for a number of years manufactured tobacco,

sending his products to the southern markets. John E. Banner died

at the age of eighty-seven. He married ^{Virginia} Jennie Moore, (whose ^{May Martin, sister of Gen. Alex. Martin} mother was a Hughes. Mrs. Joseph Hollingsworth died in her

of Henry Banner who came to Stokes Co. - North Carolina

seventy-ninth year. She reared six children: Virginia, Mary

Letitia, John ^B W., Annie E., Joseph M. and Edward M., the last

two being twins. Virginia became the wife of Joseph Bitting.

Mary married Richard ^{Gwynn} Swinn. Annie is the wife of W.F. Carter.

Mary ^{Mr. Moore}

Joseph M. also chose medicine as his profession, graduated from

~~Jefferson Medical College~~ ^{Physicians & Surgeons at Baltimore}, practiced in New Mexico territory

four years, and then returning to Mount Airy was associated

with his brother Edwin until his death at the comparatively

early age of forty-seven. He married Corinne Peyton, who

survives with their two children, Joseph J. and Mary.

Dr. Edwin M. Hollingsworth grew up in a home of substan-

tial comforts and of high ideals. Besides his education in

the public schools of Mount Airy he prepared for college under

Professor Coltrain and then entered the College of Physicians

and Surgeons at Baltimore, where he was graduated M.D. in 1886.

He at once took up practice at Mount Airy, and succeeded to most

of the business which had been enjoyed by his father. He has done

his work under greatly improved conditions as contrasted with

the experiences of his father, and is a thoroughly able physician

as well as a cultured gentleman. He is a member of the Surry

County and State Medical Societies and the American Medical

Association.

Dr. Hollingsworth was married in 1898 to Cora Holcomb,

who was born at Huntsville in Yadkin county, North Carolina,

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daughter of Blum D. and Rebecca (Kirkman) Holcomb. Her father served in the Confederate army and is now a retired farmer at Roanoke, Virginia. Dr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth have a son named Zeb, a student in the Mount Airy high school. His early inclinations have been manifested chiefly in the direction of agriculture and poultry. Dr. and Mrs. Hollingsworth are members of the First Presbyterian church. He is affiliated with Granite City Lodge No. 107, I.O.O.F., Magnolia Camp No. 109, Woodmen of the World, and Blue Ridge Council No. 73, Junior Order of United American Mechanics.

Granite Lodge
#322 A.F. & A.M. Mt Airy.

*Sketch of
Dr. J. S. Hall's worthier life
found in North Carolina History*

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