

WILLIAM REVERE WELLBORN, M.D. Born December 17, 1882. Died May 24, 1943. Married December 29, 1908, to Miss Corrie Henderson of Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, North Carolina. Dr. Wellborn was a native of Ashe County, North Carolina, but his family shortly after his birth in Ashe, moved to Wilkesboro. His home at that time was in a grove of mighty Oak trees which still stand today near the highway leading to the Wilkes dam and is a short distance from the present location of the processing plant of Holly Farms. Through a portion of the old homeplace there is a street named Wellborn which can be identified easily at this time. Dr. Wellborn attended Davidson College and graduated from North Carolina Medical College, Davidson-Charlotte, May 15, 1905. He was licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina on June 16, 1908. He was an excellent student and after graduation took an internship and later took post-graduate work at the Post-Graduate Hospital, New York City.

Dr. Wellborn practices for a short time in Coleridge, Randolph County, and then came to Elkin in 1909 where he built up a successful practice as a General Practitioner. He was the son of Mr. J. M. Wellborn who was the owner and operator of a harness shop in North Wilkesboro for years. The original building with the name "J. M. Wellborn" is still visible in North Wilkesboro near the depot. His mother was Silas Rudd, her family being originally from Texas. Dr. Wellborn was a charter member of the Elkin Kiwanis Club, a member of the Masonic Fraternity, and on the staff of Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital in Elkin. He was a member of the Surry County Medical Society, the North Carolina Medical Society, and the American Medical Association. Dr. Wellborn originally belonged to the Baptist Church, but became active in the Presbyterian Church and joined

this church and later became an elder. He was one of the members who was instrumental in the erection of the new Presbyterian Church on North Bridge Street in Elkin. Dr. Wellborn was a member of the Isaac-Walton Club and for years enjoyed hunting and fishing and raised bird dogs as a hobby. His prime interest was his patients and their health, and he was keenly interested in them as individuals, friends and neighbors, and not just in a professional manner. He was keenly interested in all phases of medicine and kept up-to-date in the advances in medicine.

After long years of arduous and difficult practice in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Elkin and the surrounding area, first in the "horse and buggy days" and later in the "Model-T" Dr. Wellborn developed a heart condition from which he suffered for several years. Within this period of time he was unable to do heavy work but because of his love for medicine and for his fellowmen he built a small office attached to his home to continue to do office work. In fact, it was actually during the practice of medicine while seeing a patient that he suffered his final heart attack and died on May 24, 1943.

At his death, Dr. Wellborn was survived by his wife, Corrie Henderson Wellborn; two daughters, Mrs. Catherine Wellborn Reece, of Greer, South Carolina, and Mrs. Edwin Duncan, Sr., of Sparta, North Carolina; one son, William Revere Wellborn, Jr., M.D. who was in internship and military service at that time. Since that time Mrs. Reece is deceased, Mrs. Edwin Duncan is living in Sparta, and Dr. Wellborn, Jr., is a specialist and a diplomat of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is practicing in Morganton, North Carolina.

The esteem and love with which Dr. Wellborn was held by friends, patients, and the community is best expressed by one of his practicing colleagues, Dr. James W. Davis, of Statesville, North Carolina. A copy of this memoriam is included.

WILLIAM R. WELLBORN, JR. M. D., F.A.C.S.  
OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY  
MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA

OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT

October 21, 1968

TELEPHONE 437-2720

Mrs. Flora Johnson  
Oakland Drive  
Elkin, North Carolina

Dear Flora,

Bessie Lee forwarded me a request for information on Daddy and his active practice and life in Elkin. I am not sure that I can give you exact information or the type of information that you want, but I shall attempt to get this together and send it to you in the very near future.

You mentioned that you would like to have a photograph if possible. Some of these are available but I am not sure if they would be the best type to use. Prior to Mother's death there was a movement by the hospital staff in Elkin to get together some information in reference to the previous physicians in the area and to obtain photographs which I assume were to be copied and placed possibly in the lounge or in the hospital. Mother obtained and gave one of the best pictures available to Dr. Beal. Prior to her death she stated that he still had this picture and that it should be available if he could find it. If you would try to follow through on this suggestion I would be most grateful since I believe that the picture that she had at that time would be more suitable.

I will let you hear from me or Bessie Lee in the near future.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

William R. Wellborn, Jr., M. D.

WRWjr/cgs

*What size photograph do  
you desire??  
B*