

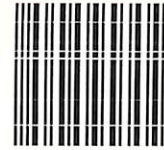


Mr. Thomas L. Buckner
 4732 Banview Ln
 Apex, NC 27539-9383

WILLINGHAM



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*Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples
 8 Moonshell Rd.*

Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928

May 5, 2009

Dear Cousin Robert,

Thank you so much for putting me in touch with cousin Carmen Hiatt. We spoke by phone today and I was delighted to converse with her.

I am sending you a few things. My brother Gene tried to e-mail Neal, but he said it wouldn't go through. But we can get the information we need from Mrs. Hiatt. Thank you! Gene had in his possession an old Peebles family obituary given him by an acquaintance. We met lots of people when the court reporters traveled more to other court houses before the budget cuts. I'm enclosing a photo of him from a newspaper article from Conway.

Also enclosed is a photo of some of Mrs. Phoebe Lawton Willingham's grandchildren and their mother, some family poems that I like, and an obituary of mother's 2nd cousin, Dr. Henry Tipt of Macon.

yours sincerely,
your multiple cousin and your Christian
brother, Tommy



Photo (cir 1907) - Wife of Thomas J. Willingham

Mrs. Cecilia Baynard Willingham and 10 of her children. Given names are exactly as written in family Bible record. Some had only one name there, but may have had more complete names on birth certificates.

Front Row - left to right

① Margaret Catherine (Mrs. Thomas O. B. Wood) Her husband died early and she was a widow for a long time. She and Thomas Wood are buried in Tipton. One of her daughters, Mrs. Waring Lawton, is buried with her husband in Lawtonville Cem., SC

② Sarah Jane, wife of Dr. E. W. Bacon, whose brother, Dr. W. W. Bacon of Albany, Ga. married her sister Julia Baynard Willingham (not pictured here, and possibly deceased). Aunt "Sallie" took in the four orphaned children of her only older sibling Thomas, who died in Atlanta at age 44. The Bacons and the 3 youngest of the 4 are all buried in Eastman, Ga. The Sallie Bacon Sunday School class at the Baptist Church in Eastman was named for her and I saw her picture on the wall when I visited there a few years ago. (J.L.B.) She died tragically when a train struck her horse drawn buggy in downtown Eastman

8. Susan, middle or 9th child (Mrs. Henry H. Tipt) was wife of Tipton Ga. founder and became namesake of her alma mater in Forsyth Ga. after the Tipts became major benefactors. Her widowed mother lived here with her for 25 years before her death at 86. She reared 3 sons and four orphans herself. Two were her grandchildren after a son died in an auto accident, and two were her younger sister Belle's children.

9. Anna Cornelia (Mrs. Cornelius S. Daniel) She was the namesake of her paternal Aunt Anna Cornelia Willingham (Mrs. A. B. Cate) and both were called by the same name, "Fatie." She was the 5th child, and the only married child to be buried, with her family, in her parents' plot in Albany, Ga. She was called "angel aunt Fatie" by Grand Daddy on a photo he had of her. My mother Anna Lucille and her twin Bessie Neil were named for her, though my aunt was also named for Bessie Tipt. Both parents were in Mrs. Daniel's home when they died, and she may have been a favorite.

10. Belle Tipt (Mrs. Will Lawrence) was 15th child in Bible record. She died quite young and Bessie then took in her children to live with her until grown.

2nd Row left to right

(1) Pearl, Mrs Irvine Myers, was 17th and youngest child. She had only 2 children herself, and only 1 grandchild. Her son Lt. Col. Henry Tipt Myers, became the first U.S. presidential pilot in U.S. history. He flew Pres. Roosevelt in "The Sacred Cow". He was the Yalta pilot in W. War II in this plane. He flew Eleanor Roosevelt, Sir Winston Churchill, Mrs Chiang Kai Shek and others. He continued as Truman's Pilot in both the Sacred Cow and later, in "The Independence". His mother outlived him and he is buried in Tipton in the plot with his parents.

The T. O. B. Woods and "Uncle William" (I have visited all their graves, including the Tipts), DRB

(2) Baynard, 14th child, lived in College Park, Ga. I know little about him, but he appears in many other family group photos.

(3) Cecilia Matilda Baynard lost her husband Thomas Henry Willingham III and her first born child, Thomas (as he was simply named in Bible Record) both in 1891. She was called "Telle". Her daughter Bessie often hosted family reunions here for her birthdays in January. This same Tipt house here has been restored and is in a historical theme tourism park called "Agrirama" in Tipton, Ga. It may be seen on line by browsing Agrirama, then history

Biographical sketches of Telie and her husband may be read in the "History of Tift County, Ga."

- (4) Winborn Joseph, 13th child, was only one of the grown siblings known to have been divorced (to my knowledge). All others who married are buried with spouses. He seems to have been a favorite of Telie's, for in all family group photos I've seen, he is pictured beside her with his arm around her. He became quite wealthy. Mother described him as a "millionaire several times over," (Real Estate). He was a patron of my grandfather and supported him in the ministry. "Papa" sometimes received large checks from him. He is buried in Tifton, Ga. in plot with 2 sisters and their families.

Top Row

- (1) William Baynard, 8th child. "Uncle Will" seems to have been closest brother to my great grandfather Thomas. They once were in law practice together, and Thomas, terminally ill, named him as his executor and financial guardian of his 4 children, in his will.
- (2) Benjamin Lawton, 7th child. He and Will are buried with their wives in Westview Cem., Atlanta, beside their brother Thomas who died long before them (at age 44).

Obituary.

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF OUR DEAR SISTER, MRS. MAUDE PEEPLES BUCKNER.

It was a sad, sad day in Lawtonville; a gloom had settled in the hearts of the entire country. For from earth to heaven a dear spirit had passed away, whom we loved so dearly. On the beautiful afternoon of April 30th 1902, our dear sister, after an illness of only a few days, our Heavenly Father saw fit in His all wise providence to take to himself above. After a few words of love and affection to her dear husband, she passed safely into the arms of her dear Lord, where she now abides forever. On Monday afternoon at the appointed hour we slowly and solemnly passed along to the dear old Lawtonville cemetery, where in the presence of weeping friends and heart broken loved ones, we laid our dear Maude. Her resting place was indeed made beautiful with the flowers as tokens of love and remembrance of her many dear friends from her late home, in Waycross, Ga., and also the garden spot of her childhood.

"To give her up it wrung our heart,
But Oh, from us she had to part,
But meet her, yes, we must, we can,
We'll meet her in a better land.

We try to wipe our tears away,
And look up to a better day,
For this old earth is full of woe,
And did not hold her worth below.

But how ever come with sorrow when we
think how happy and young she was taken
from earth to heaven, "Thy will be done."

"The twilight fairy fingers
Drew night's grey curtain down,
And lit the stars of evening,
Across the mountain town,
And in the Holy silence
That filled the eventide,
The angel crossed the threshold,
And darling Maude died.
Oh, angel, darling Maude,
Beyond the Jasper sea,
Keep bright the star lamb burning,
That guides us home to thee.

SISTERS.

A. Freeman's Close Call.

Obituary.

[MRS. ANNIE HAINES.]

Died at her home in Colleton Co., November 22nd, 1901, Mrs. Annie Haines, after an illness of forty-eight days.

One precious to our hearts has gone;
The voice we loved is stilled.
The place made vacant in our home,
Can never more be filled.

Our Father in His wisdom called
The one His love had given,
Although on earth on the body lies,
The soul is safe in Heaven.

We miss thee from our home, dear mother,
We miss thee from thy place,
A shadow o'er our life is cast,
We miss the sunshine of thy face,

We miss thy kind and willing hand,
Thy fond and earnest care,
Our hearts are dark without thee,
We miss thee everywhere.

Yet again we hope to meet thee,
When the day of life is led,
And in Heaven with joy to greet thee,
Where no more well tears are shed.

DAUGHTER ALICE

[MAUDE PEEPLES BUCKNER.]

When the redeemed soul of Maude winged its flight Heavenward earth lost one of its highest types of Christian womanhood. The bird had given a beautiful promise, which was fulfilled in the fragrant blossom, and it was a glorious life that went from scenes of usefulness here to enjoy the reward of Paradise. Her childlike faith, her sweet simplicity, her hopeful nature made her a safe example. It was the saddest news the wife ever bore for many ages when it flashed the intelligence, "Maude is dead." So young, so robust, we could not associate her with mortality. In mute agony we can only say a loyal wife, a dutiful daughter, a true sister, a dear friend and earnest Christian is gone Home. Death loves a shining mark and in this instance he could have selected none brighter.

"Cold in the dust the perished heart may lie,
But that which warmed it once can never die,

And life were not worth the living
If no one were the better,
For having met you on the way,
And known the sunshine of stay."

Maude was born May 30th, 1881 and died March 30th, 1902, only 20 years and 10 months old. She was the child of Chas. L. Peebles and Catherine L. Peebles. On father's side she inherited the ambition and energy of Capt. E. H. Peebles, and the sweet, quiet graces his wife, Charlotte Lawton Peebles. On mother's side the good qualities of Dr. N. H. Johnston, who has been a prominent worker with us for 55 years and no one can surpass his wife in a life which has been devoted to make a beautiful home. There was also a Scotch Irish element from the Loughlins, and these various characteristics went to make a noble woman planned on heroic scale. She was reared in Lawtonville, educated there, converted there and joined the old church, which is 127 years old, and when she entered she might well say, the House of God is indeed the home of my fathers. To fully prepare for life she graduated at Osborn's Business College in Augusta. The plans of her life were changed when R. W. Buckner won her heart and three years ago they were united in matrimony. They resided at Waycross, Ga., and the Baptist pastor of that city wrote, surpassed by none in Christian zealous work and the Female Missionary Society of the Church passed beautiful resolutions as to her stewardship among them. In the new and bustling city she made a deep and lasting Christian impression. Thus, with a long measure of life in anticipation and wide ways of usefulness, death came.

"Lost in our wayward hearts we should forget Him.

And forfeit so the mansions of our rest,
God leads our dear ones forth and bids us seek them

In a far, distant home among the blest,
So we have guides to Heaven's Eternal City,
And when our wandering feet would backward stray,

The faces of dead arise in brightness
And loudly beckon to the holier way."

No one knows but Christ and parents what it is to bury a child born of our bone, flesh of our flesh. But when our children have lived honored lives and are deplored in their death and large processions accompany their dust to the grave and bury the mortal amid tears and lamentations above all, when they have lived lives with Christ here this thought should cheer:

She is in Heaven! That thought alone
Should chase the grief that clouds thy brow,
'Twas said from her Redeemer's throne
Into my joy now enter thou!

"She is in Heaven! How sweet the phrase!
Yet in its highest import who can tell,
Here like a glimmering beam it plays,
Of light, of joy, ineffable."

She is in Heaven! to form a link
Between thy heart and worlds unseen,
That thou, when nature's powers must sink
Faith's holier virtue may be seen.

She is in Heaven! When thou art faint
And wouldst thy weary race were run,
Think that the voice of that loved spirit
Whispers, "The prize will soon be won."

A volume might be written about this beautiful woman, who has just passed from us. She endeared herself to all classes and when it was asked in the school where she had been pupil and then teacher, who is the most loved in the assembly? The answer was, Maude, she is so sympathetic, gentle, that all love her. She has left a light behind her, and

"We cannot say, we will not say
That she is dead, she is just away!
With a cherry smile and a wave of the hair

2-1-06

Gene,

These Maude Buckner,
obituaries were found in an
old Dean family Bible.

My great grandmother was
Emma Peoples daughter of
Henry Peoples

Warren



COURTESY PHOTO

Gene Buckner and Holli Heart (right) find their romantic dining experience hampered by a less-than-attentive waitress (Kelly Callahan) in "Date Night," opening Feb. 14 at the Cypress Inn.

note: Minnie's epitaph reads "after life's fitful fever, she sleeps well." TB

To my Husband

Two years since we've been together love
We've mutual sorrows shared.
Perhaps they were sent by God above
To make us more united.

How well do I remember
Ours that we met long ago
Twas the daughter of November
We were wed for what we were.

God added to our happy lot
Our blessing and our joy
Twas in our lives the happiest spot
For there our baby boy.

Now even our blessings fade away
Six happy months he has been given
God took from us our brightest ray
To brighten his in Heaven.

O my dearest Husband laid in earth
We'll climb the hill of life with thee
And in that bright and radiant land
We'll ever sleep our Angel Lee.

Composed by his wife, Hannah L. Willing

Poems of a mother and her son. of Macon, Ga. Minnie is buried in W.J. Lawton family plot in Rose Hill Cemetery, Macon.

My darling
Macon
Where purest breath of willowood
flows,
Macon, dear old Macon,
Love's "sunshine" lights her happy
homes,
Macon, dear old Macon,
In her shady nooks so cool
Play the children of the school,
Healing as "Siloam's pool"
Macon, dear old Macon,
True are hearts as heaven above,
Macon, dear old Macon,
Bosoms warm with tender love,
Macon, dear old Macon,
Famous for her daughters' fair,
Her sons are reared in faith and
prayer,
Brave they are to do and dare,
Macon, dear old Macon,
From the earth's grey bosom deep,
Macon, dear old Macon,
Springs her fountains pure and sweet,
Macon, dear old Macon,
For thirsty man, with sun-kissed glow,
Her crystal waters ever flow,
God in blessing doth bestow,
Macon, dear old Macon,
Health and happiness so sweet,
Macon, dear old Macon,
And flowery carpets neath her feet,
Macon, dear old Macon,
Famous for her grand old trees,
Zephyrs floating on the breeze,
Brightest spot between the seas,
Macon, dear old Macon.
— Thomas Lawton Willingham.

DUBLIN NEWS NOTES.

Thomas was orphaned when his mother died when he was 13 and his father a year later. He and 3 younger siblings were then taken to Eastman. He later became Baptist minister.

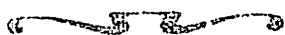
Thomas Lawton Willingham, Sr.
was their 2nd child, but was
5th in a direct line of Thomases
Papa Willingham (Granddaddy)
is buried with his wife in
Rock Hill, S.C. where he
last held a pastorate.

He and his 3 surviving siblings
were reared in Eastman,
Ga. by their aunt Sallie
Bacon, as directed in their
father's will. The 3 (all
younger than Papa) are
buried in Eastman, Ga.
where I discovered the
newspaper clipping of Papa's
song after my 60th year,
never having known of
it. The Bacon's are buried
in the same town cemetery, as
are the "Stuckers" of the
highway business claim named
for them. TLB

Mrs. Thomas H. Willingham IV

"Minnie" Lawton
was my great grandmother
she was namesake of
her mother's sister, Mrs.
Mildred Royster Lawton.
Minnie is buried in
Macon with her father
Col. Winborn Joseph
Lawton, and her two
infants, Lee and Willie
Stockton Willingham.
(The Richard Furman
Lawton family shares
this plot there.) Her
husband, who died cir.
a year later, asked
in his will to be
buried here as well,
but he was buried in
Westview at Atlanta,
where he resided. Two
brothers + families were
buried with him much
later.

note, I handed out copies of the other side of
this sheet to folks attending "Rose Hill Rambling" a town
cemetery tour where minnie's grave is.



Understanding

A friend is that rare person
In whose company one can think aloud,
That soul one can trust completely
In sunshine or darkest cloud,
That one to whom our innermost thinking
Is ever an open page,
That one who causes no shrinking,
Their wisdom is that of a sage,
For, without criticism or censure,
In silence they trust to the end,
In joy, in pain, or sorrow
So knit are the souls that blend.

--Elizabeth Tesh Willingham, 1908

THE ANSWERED QUESTION

ELIZABETH TESH WILLINGHAM

By Courtesy

For by Mrs. David Ruckner

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Cassells

Oh who will watch by the lonely grave
On the battlefield of France,
Oh who will watch by the lonely grave
Where the silvery moonbeams dance—
The stars above, and mother's love
Eternal watch will keep,
The eyes of God doth mark the sod
Where these noble heroes sleep.

Oh who will watch by the lonely grave
On the battlefield of France,
A future race shall lilies place
And tender eyes will weep--
Where flowers grow and breezes blow,
There the fallen heroes sleep.

Then who can say that the soldier's grave
On the battlefield of France
Is a lonely grave, a forgotten grave—
While the silvery moonbeams dance.
Where the God above and mother's love
Doth ever a vigil keep,
While the flowers grow and our flag doth blow,
None can disturb their sleep.

CLASS NOTES

Harris Gift to Fund Annual Dinner

By Andy Peters

Two of Tift College's most dedicated supporters wanted to make certain there would always be funds available to have the yearly Tift College Scholars Recognition Dinner.

Wink and Mary Jane Harris have done just that. Harris, who likes to call himself a Tift alumnus and is known as "Mr. Tift" for his dedication to the college, and his wife, Mary Jane, made a gift to establish an endowment for the dinner. The ceremony is held every spring to recognize Tift Scholars for scholastic and academic achievement.

"Hopefully I'll live a little bit longer and the endowment fund will continue to grow," said Harris, who served on the Mercer University Board of Trustees when his wife, Mary Jane Williams Harris, served on the Tift College Board of Trustees.

The endowment will begin funding the dinner upon Wink Harris's death, and he has already started paying into the new fund.

Virgil "Wink" Harris, who attended Mercer in the 1950s, and Mary Jane Williams Harris, a 1944 Tift College graduate, are active in the Tift College Alumnae Association and in Tift College Scholars events. During their participation in past years in the selection of Tift College Scholars and in the yearly Recognition Dinner, Harris said he learned of the importance of the scholarship program, not only to the students, but to all of Mercer University. "I learned how much heritage there is at Tift and how much this college means to the people who went there," he said.

In particular, the Recognition Dinner, which is scheduled to take place this year on April 1 in the University Center Arena, holds great meaning to the Harrises.

"When these girls walk down the aisle with the blue and gold metalion around their necks, you can tell it means a lot to them," said Harris.

The Tift College scholarship is awarded to young women who embody the ideals of Tift and perpetuate the rich heritage of Tift on Mercer's campus.

"To me, the Tift College scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship given by Mercer," said Harris, who lives in Winder, Ga.

Harris recalled the days when he served on the Mercer University Board of Trustees and the University was considering the merger of Tift College. While some trustees, himself included, were not immediately sold on the idea, he eventually was persuaded by former trustee Lamar Pinkett that it was the best option for both Tift and Mercer.

"There was a lot of tension from people who thought Tift College would go down the drain if it were sold," he said. "But President Kirby Godfrey promised the endowment of Tift from the sale of the college would go to support bright young women, and it has."

WANTED: Distinguished Alumnae

Do you know a Tift College Alumna who has accomplished much since her graduation from Tift College? If so, the Tift College Alumnae Association Board of Directors would like to know. Nominations for the 2006 Distinguished Alumna Award are currently being accepted. If you would like to nominate a Tift Alumna, please write a nomination letter, indicating the name of the alumna you wish to nominate, as well as why you believe the alumna is deserving of the Distinguished Alumna Award. Mail nomination letters to:

Tift Alumnae Association Board of Directors
Alumni Services
Mercer University
1400 Coleman Avenue
Macon, Georgia 31207

1944

Betty Jo Franklin received the Honorary Alumna Award from Brewton-Parker College in April. This award is presented to outstanding friends of Brewton-Parker who offer their loyalty and support to the college.

1974

Rozine Sheets married Don Bickel August 20, 2003. She also retired from Crawford County Elementary

School in summer 2004 after 30 years of teaching.

1981

Cathy C. Adams was promoted from group vice president to senior vice president of Human Resources and Administrative Services at The Federal Home Loan Bank of America.

1983

Karon M. Welch is working as the coordinator of records and gifts for

the Alumni Affairs Office at the University of West Alabama in Livingston, Ala. Her husband, Rev. Richard D. Welch, is the pastor of Livingston First Baptist Church. Her son, Russell, married Jennifer Glenn in May. Her son, Daryl, is a freshman at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

1988

Debra Hawk Gourley and her husband, Bruce, recently moved to

Warner Robins, Ga. Bruce is the new associate director for the Center for Baptist Studies at Mercer. Debra teaches at Heard Elementary School in Macon.

2001

Anna V. Broome Davis, Tift College Scholar, married Chad Davis on Dec. 20, 2003.

in sympathy

1930 Thelma Lacey Linginfelter of Alcoa, Tenn., died Oct. 14, 2004.	1937 Wynona H. "Nona" London of Kenneth City, Fla., died Nov. 4, 2004.	1939 Grace Q. Crowder of Emery Circle, N.C., died Oct. 13, 2004.	1942 Theresa R. Kirby of St. Simons Island, Ga., died Aug. 12, 2004.	1952 Anne I. Graham of Milledgeville, Ga., died Aug. 1, 2004.
1934 Mabel Kitchens of War- renton, Ga. died July 16, 2004	1938 Anne H. Watson of Thomson, Ga., died Sept. 6, 2004.	1940 Lula Williamson Stitt of Jacksonville, Fla., died Dec. 1, 2004.	1943 Elmina A. McKneely of Valdosta, Ga., died May 11, 2003.	1962 Mary Ann Sims Waller of Augusta, Ga., died Oct. 28, 2004
1936 Rebecca C. Clarkston of Winnboro, S.C., died Dec. 14, 2003.	Josephine B. Craig of Thomasville, Ga., died Oct. 20, 2004.	1948 Mary B. Wilson of Lynch- burg, Va., died Sept. 8, 2004.	1972 Doris Grayson Wellborn of Macon, Ga., died Dec. 12, 2004.	

Henry Tift III, Grandson of Bessie Tift, Dies

By Nancy R. Fullbright

Dr. Henry Harding Tift III, one of Bessie Willingham Tift's last surviving grandchildren, died on June 30, 2004, after an extended illness. He was 87.

Dr. Tift was born in Tifton, Ga., on Feb. 4, 1917, to Henry Harding Tift Jr. and Virginia Pound Tift. He was raised by his grandparents, Bessie and Henry Tift, after becoming an orphan at age 13. According to Dr. Tift's daughter-in-law Ann Tift, Dr. Tift flourished under the Biblical guidance of his grandmother.

"Like Bessie Tift, he was a big believer in education, piety and good work habits," recalled Tift.

In a videotape from the dedication of the Tift-Willingham House in Tifton, Ga., Dr. Tift recalled his years spent living with "Grandmother Tift."

"The railroad tracks were across the road from us, and a lot of bums riding the rails would come to our house because they heard that Grandmother would feed them," he said. "She told them she would give them some food, but she was going to read the Bible to them first!"



Dr. Tift graduated from Harvard School for Boys in Los Angeles, Calif., attended Georgia Institute of Technology for one year, and then finished his college education at Harvard University. He received his M.D. from Tulane University in 1942, and then served as a physician

in the Army Air Corps at Maxwell Field in Montgomery, Ala.

In 1947, he and his wife, Christine, moved to Macon where they raised their four sons. For more than 40 years, Dr. Tift practiced internal medicine in Macon. He was active in a variety of community organizations, including First Baptist Church, Kiwanis Club, United Way of Central Georgia, Ocmulgee Little League, Bibb County Medical Society, Medical Association of Georgia and the American Medical Association.

Dr. Tift is survived by his wife of 64 years, Christine Lee Tift; sons and daughters-in-law, William Lee Tift and Sherry Tift; Jerome Pound Tift (Associate professor of pathology in Mercer's School of Medicine) and Carol Tift; Thomas Nelson Tift and Jana Tift; daughters-in-law, Ann Tift, grandchildren, Jeanne Tift, Kippy Tift, Myrae Tift, Hal Tift, Lori Tift Palmer, Toby Tift, William Tift, Jay Tift, Scott Tift,

Frank Tift, Madison Tift, and Nelson Tift; four great-grandchildren, Tift Palmer, Andrew Falboer, Will LaFarge, and Thomas Tift; and sister, Virginia Tift Brunby. His oldest son, Henry Harding Tift IV preceded him in death.