



MYRT LONG about 1910. "We come here from Cabarras County in 1905 and I was 14 years old." (Photo courtesy of Myrt Long)

## Myrt Long

My father and mother come here from Cabarras County. My father was supervisor of the cloth room there, then he came down here and went to work in the cloth room. That came down here and went to work in the cloth room. That was in 1905 and I was fourteen years old. We come to Catawba Junction on the train, then we come on a wagon to Edgemoor and come to Lando on the "dummy". We shipped all of our furniture by freight. Wasn't long after that that I went to work, in the spinnin' room, I think. I worked with Mildred's mother. I was just a young girl, but it wasn't hard work and I enjoyed it very much. It was long hours though, about ten hours a day.



CRITTENDON FERNANDO CLINGMAN MILLER, father of Myrt M. Long. (Photo courtesy of his great-granddaughter, Vicki Mitchell Hamilton.)



MARTHA JO FAGGART MILLER, mother of Myrt M. Long, taken about 1910. (Photo courtesy of Myrt Long)

There was two company stores and a right good many houses here when we moved here. And they were puttin' up that schoolhouse when we came here. That was 1905 I reckon. When we first started to school, we started in the old church. Then when they finished the school building, we moved into that. Mrs. Gaston, Dr. Gaston's wife, was a teacher then. I went off to school one time, but I got homesick and come home. That was a school out from Shelby.

There weren't no automobiles here then. If you went to town, you went in a buggy. In town you could get hats and

dresses ready made. You couldn't get that too much here. Mama sewed and made most of our clothes though. When we went to Chester, we spent the day. I remember one time we went over in a horse and buggy, me and Lela, and when we come home, the water in the creek was up. It was up in the buggy — running in the buggy. But we come on through. They didn't have no high bridges then the branch just spread out. It had rained while we were in Chester. We were afraid at first, but we knew we had to get across. When people got automobiles, they started going to Chester and Rock Hill more. Why even then, if you went to Monroe, the only way you could get there was to go on the ferry — the car and everything went across on it.

We couldn't go nowhere much then, so we played baseball and croquet and we walked a lot. And I remember, we used to have a big celebration on the fourth of July. It was a big thing for Lando. They had a picnic and dinner on the ground, and at first they really had it on the ground. The company would furnish the hams and have them sliced. Later on they made big long tables across the yard, and they spread all the food out, and everybody went by and got what they wanted. The children enjoyed that day running around and playing games in the yard. After dinner, the men would play baseball and sometimes the girls would play too, long skirts and all.

They had a band then and they played music on Sunday evening and most any other time they wanted to. People from round over the hill would go over to hear them. We thought it was pretty good music. Big groups of us would walk over together. And people visited a lot more then than they do now. After they'd get the dishes washed and everything cleared up, well, they'd get out and go visit then.

I was twenty-nine years old when I married. Luke come from Waxhaw down here. I went with several boys 'til I met him. Then I thought I better latch on to him. I got married in a coatsuit. Dr. Loomis married us in his home. He was the preacher at the ARP church in Edgemoor. We didn't have a preacher livin' at Lando then. He married all our family — all of 'em. We went in the horse and buggy and one man, John McCorkle, went with us. He stood up with us when we had the ceremony, and we paid the preacher and got out. We didn't have a honeymoon then. We went across the creek over here to Mildred's Aunt Jane's house and honeymooned there.

For a long time after that, we stayed with my parents and then we moved across the road in that little three room house where Homer lives now. We lived there until they built them new houses near the schoolhouse, and then we moved over there.

Luke was fixin' looms then, but after a while, he went to the army and was gone a long time. That was World War I. The mill made blankets and sent them to the men in the army, and it kept running all that time. Then the workers went on strike during the depression and the mill closed down for a short while. Luke run the barber shop then in that little old house that set beside the store — they done tore it down now. Later he run a show in the lower store for a while, and then they moved it into the schoolhouse. I worked too for a while. I worked in the store and in the Post Office.



MYRT MILLER, center front. "I could shoot a rifle too."  
(Photo courtesy of Myrt Long)

The first car we ever had was a old DMF, and we didn't have to have a license either. Didn't have to have no license to drive with, and didn't have to have no license for the car. Mr. Perry had the first car that I ever seen. It was a little car. It didn't have no doors on it. We weren't afraid of it. We was too glad to see it. It made more noise than these today do, but it wasn't too noisy. I remember one time after we got a car, Luke wanted me to learn to drive it and I went and got in it. I got it started all right, but I couldn't get it stopped. So I run into a tree. I was going slow though. Luke walked over where I'd stopped and made me get back in it and try again. Women didn't drive as much as men then. I reckon I was a tomboy. I could shoot a rifle, too. I tried to do most anything anybody else did. ■



MYRT M. LONG: "I tried to do most anything anybody else did."